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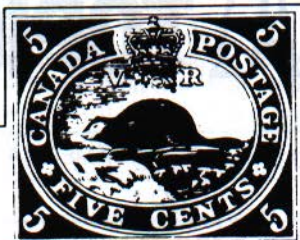
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BNA TOPICS



 OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY LTD.

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(continued on page 76)

I find following Vic Willson and Mike Street, as "editorial consultant" for *BNA Topics*, a rather intimidating task. The position has been well tended for many years, so any deficiencies or mistakes on my part will likely be very obvious. That said, the content of a magazine such as *Topics* tends to reflect the nature of the material submitted, and the editorial philosophy of the editor. Thus, some change is inevitable.

If I am to succeed, I will need articles from BNAPS members. At the present, my backlog is very small, although a few authors have kindly provided several articles for continuing series. In addition to the longer "research" articles that are the backbone of a magazine such as *Topics*, I need smaller pieces. These may be tidbits of information, or short descriptions of work in progress with a request for information from other members. I will also be scanning the study group newsletters for items that may be of wider interest.

Many years ago BNAPS was primarily a group of general BNA collectors who specialized to some degree in stamp issues of a particular period, and perhaps in some other areas such as revenues or perfins. Gradually it has been transformed into a society where there are fewer general BNA collectors, but many specialists in very narrow areas. Many of these specialties overlap, and I would particularly welcome articles for *Topics* that touch on these overlap areas.

As a former editor of a study group newsletter, I am well aware that the details of small areas of philately may be of very limited interest to many members of a study group, let alone the more general readership of *Topics*. That said, I have never ceased to be amazed at what apparently obscure areas suddenly interest a broad cross-section of members. Thus, I will on occasion take a chance and publish articles with the specific intent of challenging the membership.

There are a few (but only a few) guidelines I ask prospective (and current) authors to keep in mind:

- 1) Be gentle with your readers; write a simple introduction. BNAPS has a large membership, but probably very few members who are specialists in the area you wish to discuss. If you provide some background information early on in an article, your message will be accessible to more collectors.
- 2) Remember philately is basically a "visual" hobby. Look for good items to illustrate your articles, or ask others if they can help.
- 3) Give references. You undoubtedly would like others to refer to your article; give the same courtesy to those whose writings you have used.
- 4) If you need more information, ask for help. Generally, people like to feel they can contribute. If you have an idea for an article, but are not sure it would be suitable (or that you are the person to write it) contact me.
- 5) If you have already done some careful new research, write it up. Don't wait for the very last piece of information that you might uncover some day. Few

articles are "the last word" on any subject. From the point of view of other collectors, until you have published your research, it does not exist.

Letters to the editor are always welcome, however, publication of such letters will occur only if the writer expressly gives permission and if, in the editor's judgment, publication would be useful. Letters may be edited before publication.

The Mechanics:

Articles, letters, books for review etc. should be sent to Robert Lemire, Box 1870, Deep River, ON, Canada, K0J 1P0.

Submissions can be accepted in many forms: (a) typewritten (double spaced); (b) 3½" or 5¼" diskettes for IBM compatible computers together with a printed version of the text (ASCII files or files as prepared using most major word processing programs – WordPerfect is preferred). Please do not right-justify the text, nor use special features including automatic footnoting, and column and table modes. Details such as underlining can be marked in pen on the printed version; (c) neatly handwritten; (d) by e-mail to 102124.1304@compuserve.com (either ASCII files or UUENCODED files for WordPerfect or Microsoft WORD).

The best way to submit your illustrations is as good photographs. If you wish help in obtaining photographs for an article, please contact me. Photocopies can be used in some cases, but then good photocopies are essential. Usually, photocopies cannot be used for the *Topics* cover. If preparing a photocopy of a large item, think about the size the illustration will be on the finished page of *Topics*, and carry out the required photoreduction or enlargement using the original item. Poor photocopies will still look like poor photocopies when they are in print.

With your submission, please send me your (evening) telephone number. I can (usually) be contacted by telephone in the evenings at 613-584-1574. A detailed "help sheet" on manuscript preparation will be supplied on request.

Please do not send any material by courier (including U.S. Post Express Mail) without contacting me first by telephone to obtain my street address. Courier mail cannot be delivered to a Canada Post Office box (except if sent by Canada Post Priority Post), and Canada Post does not provide home delivery in Deep River.

I will telephone or send out acknowledgements of receipt of all manuscripts (allow at least three weeks, the postal services and I tend to be a bit on the slow side). The length of time prior to actual publication will vary. *Topics* appears every three months, and a detailed layout is done about three months in advance of publication. Thus, it is unlikely a full length article will appear sooner than six months after submission. There can be exceptions, especially for short items. If extensive editing is required, I will be in contact with the author and a **tentative** publication date will be discussed. The editor may also inflict delays in the interest of maintaining content balance in a particular issue.

Let's work together to make certain *BNA Topics* is interesting and useful for all members of BNAPS.

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The British American Bank Note Company: Additional Information Concerning Its Formation

Christopher D. Ryan

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Since the preparation of this writer's previous paper on the British American Bank Note Company (BABN), several more significant documents concerning its formation have come to light. Some of these were discovered in a collection of W.C. Smillie's papers held by the National Archives of Canada. Amongst these papers were two key documents. The first document is a contemporary (June 1866) first-person account of Smillie's negotiations with the Canadian government. The second document is a copy of the merger agreement between Smillie's and Burland's competing groups. These documents clearly show that Smillie's group had — on the strength of an oral promise of a Finance Department official — made extensive acquisitions in terms of both equipment and personnel prior to the forced merger with Burland/Lafricain.

Other documents, as discovered in the Records of the Provincial Secretary, give further details of the competing applications for incorporation under the title of BABN. These papers show that not one but two distinct companies were granted legal existence in the very same month of June 1866. Examination of these documents raises questions as to the strict legality of the charter granted to Burland's group which thereafter became the charter under which the merged groups operated.

In February of 1865 — shortly after the preliminary discussions between the Canadian government and Burland/Lafricain — William Cumming Smillie wrote to a Dr. Marsden of Quebec City asking him to canvass government and banking officials for their views with respect to the establishment of a full-fledged Canadian steel-engraving company. Marsden reported that the Finance Minister, A. T. Galt, and the Premier, Etienne Taché, had expressed support for such a venture. However, nothing more came of this initial inquiry and Smillie subsequently visited Galt in Quebec during the first week of August 1865. With the recent death of Premier Taché and the impending August 8th opening of Parliament, Galt had very little time for Smillie's presentation and the engraver returned to New York without any consideration being given to his proposals.[1] Following this, on September 7th, Smillie wrote to Galt and, according to a September 12th response, this letter was referred to the Board of Customs, Excise and Stamps (hereinafter referred to as the "Board").[2]

However, once again no action was taken and Smillie returned to Canada where he met with the new Premier, Narcisse Belleau. According to Smillie, Belleau advised him that "the only certain mode of calling the attention of the Govt" was to compose a "circular" describing his proposals and to send it "to each member of the Executive Council".[1] On November 29th, Smillie did send such a circular to the council members. This communication was acknowledged by the Finance Department via this December 15th, 1865, letter:

"W.C. Smillie, New York.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ulto. and to inform you that the subject referred to is now under the consideration of the Government.

W.A. Blackmore, Secretary"[3]

It appears that it was at this time that George Matthews of Montreal was recruited by Smillie to assist him in his hitherto futile efforts. In his June 1866 memorandum Smillie noted:

"Some time in Jany. 1866 I visited Montreal in the hope of seeing Mr. Galt, and exhibiting specimens of Stamps or models for such, in company with Mr. Matthews I waited on Mr. Galt, it was a hurried and unsatisfactory interview, occasioned by the Hon. gentleman's pressure of official engagements connected with the then intensely interesting subject of Reciprocity and his return from Washington. At [the] interview I was cautioned against counting to [sic] confidently on the Govt. patronage as to run into expenses. This kind suggestion was occasioned by remarks of Mr. Matthews on the fact that I had been experimenting for a length of time in bringing my Geometric Lathe to perfection, and at considerable cost. About this time at the request of Mr. Galt an offer was made to Burland Lafrican [sic] & Co. to join our Co., which was declined by the said gentlemen on the ground of their being for two years from that time the agents of the American Bank Note Compy."[1]

It was not until March of 1866 that any concrete action was taken by the Canadian Government with respect to Smillie's proposals. On the 6th of that month Matthews and Smillie appeared before the Board to present formal written proposals. The Board accepted the proposals and recommended them to the Minister of Finance for approval. The Board's report was given approval by the Minister and this was made known to Matthews and Smillie.[1,4]

However, this approval was not deemed by Smillie to be a sufficient assurance of the government contract. In his June 1866 memo Smillie described the events following Galt's approval as follows:

"This paper was submitted to and favorably reported upon, but as I had made a number of visits to Canada without any very obvious advantage being gained and the season in which it would be absolutely necessary to decide on moving into the Province [illegible word] being near at hand, I begged, having been informed the Council had not met for 10 or 12 days that some moral assurance might be given me. I was promised an interview with Mr. Galt; the day and hour were fixed. I waited the arrival of the Hon. Minister, but it so happened that a telegram from Montreal requiring his immediate presence there, prevented the interview, the Hon. Minister expressing regret, requested me by the means of his private secy. to see Mr. Bouchette with which he had conferred on the subject of our contract, and saying that, whatever Mr. B. said, that was his mind.

"I at once proceeded to Mr. Bs. room, who informed me the Minister desires him to say, our proposition as reported on by the Bd. of Customs "had his entire

concern and that the paper wd. be acted upon at the next meeting of Council. That the way was entirely clear for collecting together the men and machinery necessary for our enterprize [sic], and as soon as we had a suitable vault constructed for the safe keeping of the plates eng'd for the gov't by the Am. Co., they shd. be called and put in our charge." [1]

Smillie evidently considered Bouchette's assurances to be a guarantee that the contract would be granted in the very near future. With this verbal promise, Smillie and his associates then proceeded to purchase and commence renovations of a building and to import the equipment required for the anticipated work. According to Smillie's June 1866 memo this equipment included: one geometric lathe, nine printing presses, one hydraulic press, one numbering press, two perforating machines, as well as "a full stock of stamp, bond, india & printing papers, gums, inks and oils". [1] The great extent of Matthews, Smillie's preparations were likewise noted in a June 11th, 1866, report of the Board. [4]

However, at the same time as Matthews, Smillie were assembling their equipment and staff, Burland/Laficain in conjunction with certain members of the government were taking steps to redirect the venture in their favour. Details of these events were presented in this writer's previous BABN paper. [5] Burland/Laficain's machinations followed a second invitation by Matthews, Smillie to form a part of BABN. This renewed offer — made at the behest of the Board — had been once again rejected by Burland. [4]

It appears that Smillie's group may have first become aware of Burland's machinations after the May 19th, 1866, publication of their own May 15th notice of intent to apply for a Letter Patent of Incorporation. In a May 21st, 1866, letter to the Provincial Secretary Smillie noted:

"The undersigned on behalf of the parties embraced in the accompanying advertisement begs leave most respectfully to call your attention to the fact that other parties under publication in the Canada Gazette of April 23 have usurped the title under which we have been negotiating with the government for some months back, proof of which fact are in possession of the honorable Members of the government." [6]

On May 26th the Provincial Secretary replied with:

"I have the honour to ackl. the rect. of your letter of the 21st Inst. & in reference thereto, to inform you that no official inform'n is possessed by this Dept. of the intention of the parties refered [sic] to in the advertisement enclosed in your letter, to apply for a Charter of Incorp'n under the Act 27&28 Vic. ch. 23.

"It will be necessary, therefore, for any Company which may have been legally incorp'd under the name of "The British American Bank Note Co." previous to the date of the appln. of the parties who are now in a position to be incorp'd under that name, to file immediately in this office evidence of the fact of such previous incorp'n, as otherwise the Letters Patent will [be] issued in favor of those parties as prayed for by them." [7]

On May 28th Smillie clarified his inquiry:

"... Neither of the applicants for Charter under the name of "British American Bank Note Company" assume to have a legalized existence as yet. The object of

our addressing you on the former occasion was simply to state the fact that Burland and associates (representing an American Company) having appropriated the title under which we have for months back been negotiating with the government (proof of which are in possession of the Board of Customs) have under such usurpation anticipated us in their advertisement and consequently in their application for Charter.

"We fear therefore that from such accident they may obtain an advantage over us as regards a grant to them, until we have the opportunity of a hearing." [8]

In a May 30th response the Provincial Secretary advised:

"In reference to your remarks resp't the proposed applns. of two distinct parties to be incorp'd under the name of "The British American Bank Note Co." it is only necessary to state that so long as any particular name is not appropriated by any incorp'd Co. there does not appear to me to be any thing to prevent any parties otherwise entitled to be incorp'd from assuming that name & being incorp'd under it." [9]

Based on the advice of the Provincial Secretary, Smillie's group then sought to preempt Burland's application by applying for incorporation as a "Joint Stock Company". [10] This method of incorporation did not involve the issue of charter by Letters Patent. The formation of a joint stock company simply required that the interested parties make a formal declaration containing specified details of the proposed company. Such a company came into official existence upon the registration of the declaration in the local registry office and the filing of a copy with the Provincial Secretary. Unlike companies chartered by Letters Patent, joint stock companies existed for only a limited period of time not exceeding fifty years. [11]

Matthews, Smillie's declaration was signed on June 6th by George Matthews, William Smillie, Henry Earle, Francis Bourne, and William Gillelan. The paper was witnessed and registered by the Deputy Registrar of the City of Ottawa on the afternoon of that same day. The declaration was then registered at the Carleton County Registry Office on the morning of June 7th and filed with the Provincial Secretary's Office on that same day. [10] Receipt of the declaration was acknowledged by the Provincial Secretary on June 11th. [12] An official certification of compliance with the requirements of the law was issued on June 13th and published in the June 16th issue of the *Canada Gazette*. [13]

The June 6th date of Matthews, Smillie's declaration is very significant as it was on this very same date that the Executive Council issued its Order approving the grant of a Letter Patent Charter of Incorporation to Burland's group. [14] This charter was not issued until June 16th, nine days after the filing of Matthews, Smillie's declaration and three days after the Provincial Secretary's official certification. [15] What is more, Burland's charter was issued by the Provincial Secretary who was well aware of the competing applications and had previously certified Matthews, Smillie's incorporation under the name of BABN.

Thus Burland's group had apparently been incorporated under the very same name as a company already in existence. This appears to be in blatant violation of the statute under which the Letters Patent of Incorporation had been issued. This law stated: "Before Letters Patent are issued, ... the applicants therefor must prove to the satisfaction of the Minister, or officer to whom the duty of reporting thereon may be assigned,— that the proposed corporate name is not that of any other known Company...." [16] Smillie's company was

certainly known to the Provincial Secretary at the time of the patent's issue.

The Provincial Secretary was also certainly aware of the June 6th Order in Council when he later certified Matthews, Smillie's incorporation as a joint stock company. This awareness is evident in the Order which stated:

"On the Petition of George Bull Burland, George Lafricain and Nathaniel Barber Engravers, and Brown Chamberlin and John Lowe, Printers and Publishers, all of Montreal, praying for a Charter of Incorporation under the name of "The British American Bank Note Company." The Hon. the Provincial Secretary reports that having examined the papers submitted in connection with and in support of the above application he finds that the requirements of the Act 27 & 28th Vic. cap. 23. and Orders in Council with reference thereto have been complied with. He therefore recommends that the necessary Order in Council may pass directing the issue of such Letters Patent...."[14]

This would seem to indicate that — at the time of the Provincial Secretary's June 13th certification of Smillie's incorporation — the June 6th Order did not take precedence over Smillie's declaration (as filed on June 7th) and its official certification. Yet it still remains that on June 16th a charter by Letters Patent was issued to Burland's group. Thus the government apparently permitted Burland's group to incorporate itself under the very same title as a company already in legal existence. This would seem to be of questionable legality and strongly supports suggestions of collusion between Burland's group and members of the government.

In spite of the Board's recommendations and the aspersions cast by them upon the validity of Burland/Lafricain's competing tender the machinations of the latter caused the Government to renege on the Finance Department's promise to Smillie. This resulted in the August 7th, 1866, merging of the two competing groups. The merger agreement read:

"The undersigned having merged our respective interests into one Company to be operated under the Charter issued to the British American Bank Note Company or under a new Charter as may be decided upon, hereby agree to, and bind ourselves to abide by the following preliminary articles of association as submitted to Mess. Burland and Lowe, representing themselves and associates on the one side and Mess. Smillie and Bourne for selves and associates on the other, at Montreal and confirmed at a general meeting held in Ottawa this day.

- First. Mess. Burland & Co. to have Five hundred shares of stock, Mess. Smillie & Co. to have Five hundred shares of stock.
- Second. Mess. Burland & Co. to receive [One] hundred shares of stock as paid in full for the goodwill &c. of their business and use of the Patent Colors. The rights to use of the Patent Colors to be transferred to the New Company. Mess. Smillie & Co. to receive Three hundred shares of stock as paid in full for the Machinery, Presses and other property as per inventory and goodwill which they contribute to the business.
- Third. The new Company to be organized under the following Board of Directors viz: W.C. Smillie, Geo. Burland, Henry Earle, Francis Bourne, Brown Chamberlin, and Geo. Lafricain from

whom the following officers shall be chosen to serve for the first year

Prest. W.C. Smillie
V.Pr. & Mang. G.B. Burland
Secy. & Treas. Francis Bourne

Fourth. Mess. Burland & Co. to discontinue their business connection with the American Bank Note Company of which they are to give them immediate notice.

Sgd. B. Chamberlin, for self & associates.
Sgd. Francis Bourne, for self & associates." [17]

While the merger agreement provided for an even split of the original 1000 shares of BABN stock, the provision with respect to the allotment of the 400 paid-up shares clearly indicates the extent to which Smillie's group had acquired the necessary equipment and facilities. Likewise, the agreement shows that Burland's group had made no such preparations.

A subsequent August 10th agreement amongst the members of Burland's group detailed the distribution of their 500 allotted shares, namely: Burland 150, Lafricain 150, Barber 100, Lowe 50, and Chamberlin 50.[18] The share distribution within Smillie's group has not yet been determined. However, one significant item is Matthews' reported exit from the venture. In two documents prepared by Smillie in the 1890s he commented that Matthews — a supporter of the political party in opposition to the government in 1866 — withdrew from the enterprise prior to the August 7th merger as part of the effort to secure the government contract for Smillie and his associates.[19]

The merger agreement, as well as the June 11th report of the Board and Smillie's June memorandum, all clearly show that he and his associates had acquired and imported a substantial quantity of equipment. This had been done on what they felt was the guarantee of the Finance Minister for the government contract. This state of affairs and the betrayal felt by Smillie at the attempt to usurp his enterprise and destroy his efforts of 17 months were expressed in his June 1866 memo:

"It should be noticed here also that about this time, a building deemed suitable to the practical wants of our business and the Gov't, had been looked at, and with Mr. Bouchette's approbation purchased for our Compy. at an expense of \$12,000 to which amt. we have had to add largely since in extensive alterations, among which is a large and safe vault for the safe keeping of plates and impressions.

"As a natural sequence to the foregoing, and for which a special provision was made in the paper submitted to the Board of Customs &c. for exempting our machinery from customs duties, we have brought into the Province and have in readiness to use on our premises on Wellington St. our Geometric Lathe (a rare and expensive tool), Nine Printing Presses, One Hydraulic Press, One Numbering Press, Two Perforating Machines, [and] a full stock of Stamp, Bond, India & printing papers, Gums, Inks and Oils. In addition, we cannot fail to call attention to what we regard as not the least considerable fact in our case, involving the comfort and wellbeing [sic] of a large number of individuals, ourselves and families numbering forty-five souls. We have broken up our houses and business

connections, on the faith of assurances given us, and we cannot think those who made them will fail to maintain the correctness of our expectations. Thus we are told that a charter has been granted to Burland and others constituting them a Company under the name of the British American Bank Note Co. when we under the same title had complied with the Law of Canada as certified by the Provincial Secretary 9 days before.”[1]

As noted previously, the Provincial Secretary's certification had been granted on June 13th, 1866.[13] This dates Smillie's memorandum to the 22nd of that month.

What remains unclear is the status of the building mentioned by Smillie. No mention of the building and land is made in the August 7th merger agreement. In the combined tender of the same date the merged groups requested:

“Should the Government require the work to be done in Ottawa, the undersigned would propose that a 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.”[20]

This request — which was not part of either of the two earlier proposals — 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".[21] Government work by BABN began on October 22nd, 1866, with its first product — notes of the new provincial currency — being shipped by the Receiver General's Office to banks on October 30th.[22]

A search of the Land Registry Office records yielded the following transactions with respect to the BABN property at the corner of Wellington and Kent Streets:

May 2nd, 1866

— Sale of land and building by John Gilmour to Allan Gilmour for the sum of \$1. (Registered at 1:20 pm on May 12th.) [23]

December 8th, 1866

— Sale of land and building by Allan Gilmour to W.C. Smillie for the sum of £3000 (\$12,000). (Registered at 11:40 am on December 18th.) [24]

December 14th, 1866

— £2000 (\$8000) mortgage at 7% on the property given by Allan Gilmour to W.C. Smillie. (Registered at 11:45 am on December 18th.)

— \$4100 mortgage at 7% on the property given by George Matthews to W.C. Smillie. (Registered at 11:50 am on December 18th.)

— Sale of land and building by W.C. Smillie to BABN for the sum of \$1 and assumption of the mortgages held by Gilmour and Matthews. The agreement stated: "whereas such Lands are so held by the said William Cumming Smillie subject to the said Mortgages in trust for the said British American Bank Note Company." (Registered at 11:55 am on December 18th.) [25]

Consideration of all available information suggests the following scenario. In May of 1866 Allan Gilmour furnished Matthews and Smillie with the land and building at the corner of Kent and Wellington Streets. This was likely done with a view to serving as an investment on Gilmour's part in as yet unissued BABN stock. Equipment, supplies, and

personnel were acquired and renovations begun in anticipation of the promised contract. However, with the exposure of Burland's scheme, a halt was ordered to the renovations in June or July.

Prior to the merger, Matthews and Gilmour withdrew from the venture with Gilmour allowing the continued use of his building and land by BABN. With the exit of Matthews and Gilmour, two significant sources of capital were potentially lost. To compensate for this loss, the merged group then asked the government to cover the cost of the existing land and building.

Once it was clear that the government would not pay for the land and building, Gilmour formally sold the property to Smillie. The sale was followed shortly thereafter by mortgages provided by Matthews and Gilmour in lieu of their previously intended capital investment.

In view of the extensive preparations and acquisitions made by Smillie and his associates, Galt's expressed doubts as to this group's ability to establish a viable steel-engraving company are even less tenable than what was discussed in the author's previous paper on BABN. The extent of their preparations (and financial commitment) as well as:

- the obvious lack of preparations by Burland's group, and;
- the circumstances surrounding the incorporation of two separate companies under the title of BABN;

only serve to strengthen the conclusion that political influences were a primary factor in the inclusion of Burland/Lafricain as major players in the British American Bank Note Company.

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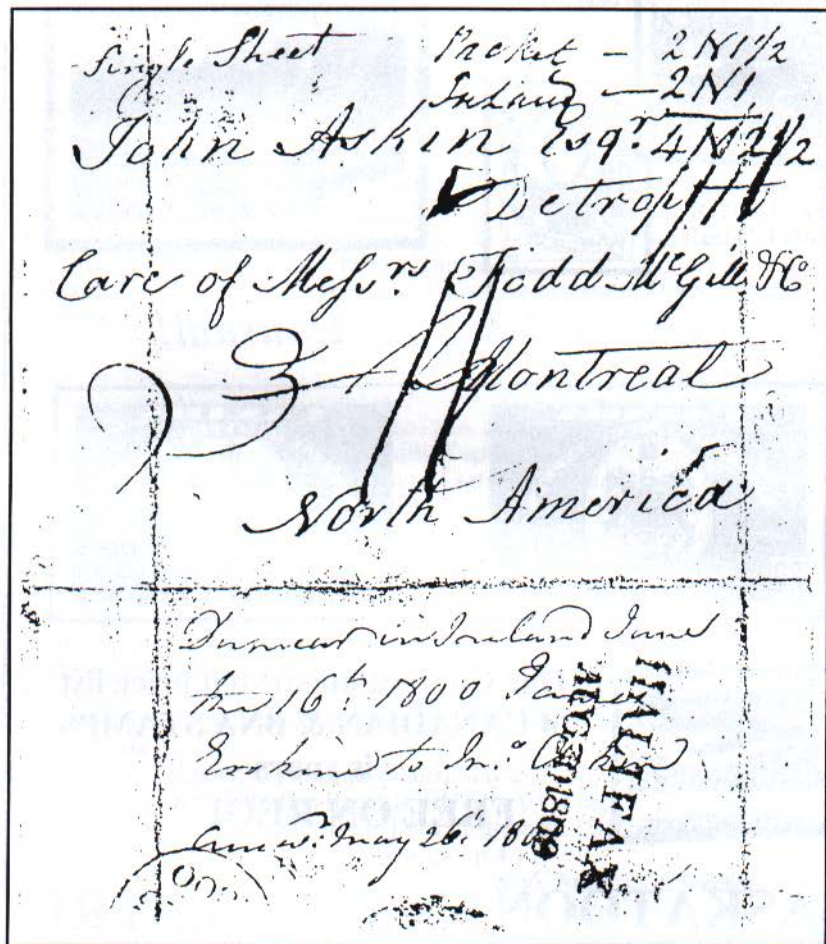


Stories Behind My Covers

Jack Arnell

24. A Bit of History

In this modern age, we tend to forget (overlook) the geography of North America two centuries ago. The letter shown here is a reminder of how different things were then.



This was mailed by James Erskine at Derwent, Ireland on 16 June 1800 and was addressed to John Askin at Detroit, but sent in care of Messrs. Todd, McGill & Co., Montreal. As the postage was unpaid, it was marked 1/1 Stg. postage due to Halifax in black.

The letter was sent to London, where it was backstamped on 25 June, and on to Falmouth, whence it was carried by the *Lady Arabella* packet on 29 July and arrived at Halifax on 30 August, where it was backstamped with a straightline date stamp on the following day.

This is my earliest example of postage due being marked in red at Halifax (cf. Stories No. 23 [1]), as the British postage due was converted to 2/1½ Cy. and 2/1 Cy. inland postage to Montreal added for a total postage due of 4/2½ Cy. This was itemized at the upper right as:

'Packet --	2 N 1½
Inland --	<u>2 N 1</u>
	4 N 2½'

Detroit had been a British outpost, which had been taken from the French, until it was evacuated in 1796 under the terms of Jay's Treaty, so that it may be presumed that three or four years later, a letter writer viewed the former unofficial mail route as the most likely one to get his letter delivered. There was no regular post as far west as Detroit in either Canada or the United States, although some Loyalist settlements were springing up along the northwestern corner of Lake Erie and the British side of the St. Clair River. It is assumed that Todd, McGill & Co. forwarded the letter by a fur trader or other explorer-type, who was going through the area. Needless to say, there was no postal charge beyond Montreal!

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Postal Usage during Canada's Decimal Period

10. Letters to France

George B. Arfken and Arthur W. Leggett

Following the Anglo-French postal convention of 1856, effective January 1, 1857, the postal rate from Canada to France became 8d stg by Canadian packet, 10d stg by Cunard packet, from New York or Boston (alternate weeks) [1]. Note: This was per ¼ oz. (7½ grams) NOT per ½ oz. (15 grams).

At this time the Canadian postal rate to the U.K. was 6d stg per ½ oz. For this same ½ oz., the rate to France was 16d stg. Why so high? The main problem was that from January 1, 1855 until July 1, 1870, the British rate to France was 4d per ¼ oz. or 8d for a ½ oz. letter [2]. Without attempting any inland postage - sea postage analysis, a simple comparison of postal rates is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Canadian Postal Rates to France, 1857. (Pence, sterling)

	Canada to U.K.	U.K. to France	Total	Canada to France
¼ ounce	6d	4d	10d	8d
½ ounce	6d	8d	14d	16d

We lack accountancy marks to know precisely what Britain charged Canada for forwarding Canadian letters to France. However, from Table 1, it appears that about half of the Canadian postage went to pay for sending the cover from the U.K. to France. Indeed, it cost more to send a ½ oz. letter from England to France and to send that ½ oz. letter from Canada to England.

Working from the provisions of the 1856 Anglo-French Convention, Maggie Toms [3] suggested that the 8d stg charge for a ¼ oz. letter to France was based upon four parts: (1) provincial inland postage - 1d, (2) sea conveyance by Canadian steamer - 3d, (3) British transit - 1d and (4) French postage - 3d. Toms added that there was some flexibility in such a breakdown.

When the Canadian Post Office changed to decimal currency, July 1, 1859, the 8d stg per ¼ oz. became 17¢ per ¼ oz. Figure 1 shows a folded letter to Bordeaux, France from Montreal, C.E., JY 8 64. This is a double rate cover paid 17¢ per ¼ oz. for up to ½ oz. The cover was carried on the Allan "*Hibernian*" out of Quebec. There is a LONDON PAID transit mark in red. A red PD certifies that the cover was paid to destination. The Firby Recording [4] lists seven such double 17¢ Decimal covers to France.

The 1863 Tables of Rates of Postage gave the Cunard rate to France as 22¢ per ¼ oz. It is just possible that this rate was not clearly stated or clearly understood in the 1859 -

Figure 1: A folded letter, mailed in Montreal, C.E., JY 8 64, and addressed to Bordeaux, France. Over ¼ oz., not over ½ oz., the double rate postage was paid with two 17¢ Decimals. The cover was carried to the U.K. by the Allan "Hibernian" from Quebec. In England the cover received the old style LONDON PAID and the PD, both in red. There is a black CALAIS T.P.O. transit stamp and also a Bordeaux backstamp.

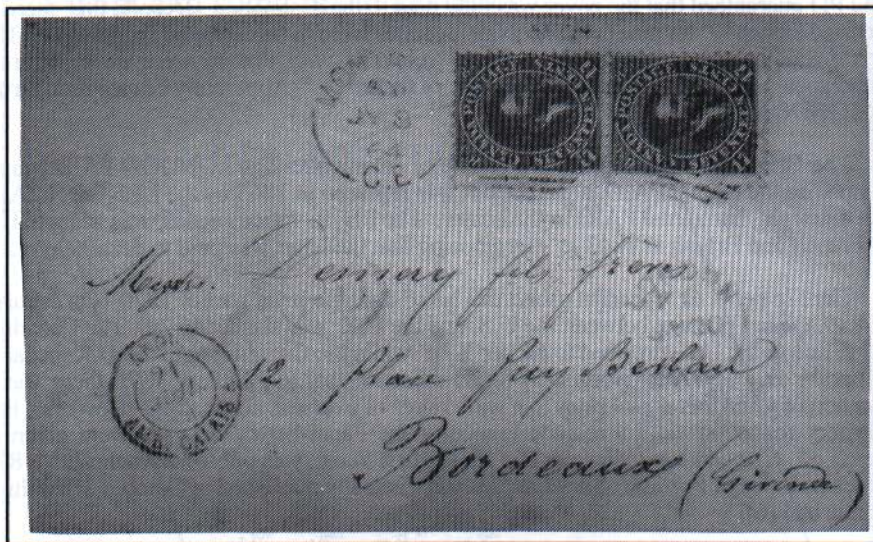
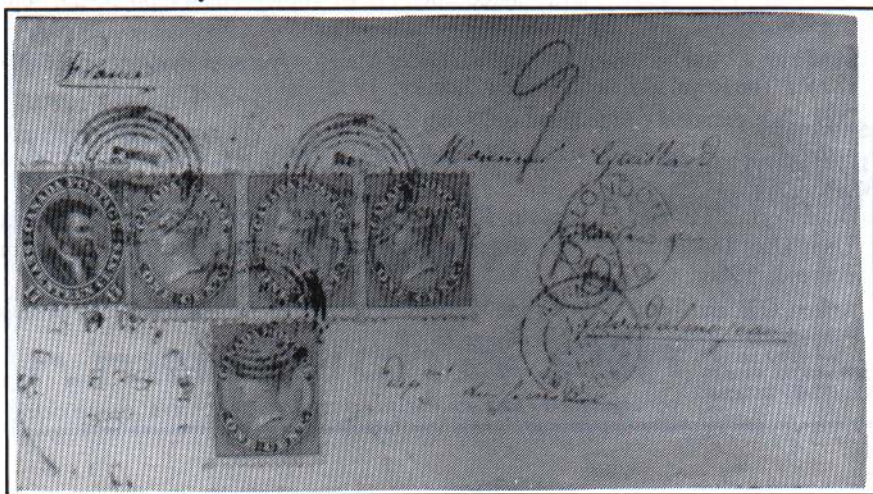


Figure 2: Cunard rate to France, from Sandwich, U.C. The postage, 21¢, was paid with a 17¢ Decimal plus four 1¢ Decimals for the Cunard surtax. Carried to the U.K. by the Cunard "Arabia," the cover was stamped in red with a LONDON PAID and a PD. In France the cover received a CALAIS T.P.O. and a Paris backstamp. The cover was also marked with a French "9," presumably meaning nine decimes to be collected on delivery.



1862 period. Firby [4] lists four Cunard single rate covers to France. One was paid 22¢; three were paid 21¢.

Figure 2 shows one of the 21¢ covers. This cover was posted in Sandwich, U.C., FE 25 60. It was carried on the Cunard "*Arabia*" from New York. A red LONDON PAID and a red PD guaranteed that the cover was fully paid to the destination. Despite this, there is a stylized French "9" for nine decimes. Nine decimes were to be collected on delivery. The Moubrays [2] noted that "Britain's postal relations with France were never entirely harmonious,....there was an underlying feeling of distrust,..." Apparently France didn't trust the LONDON PAID and the PD.

The British postmarks deserve a couple of comments. The LONDON PAID transit stamp with the curved PAID at the bottom was replaced in 1865 by the LONDON PAID with a straight, horizontal PAID in the center. The PD, in various styles, was accepted by the French and British in 1843 as guaranteeing that the letter was paid to destination [2].

The 17¢ per ¼ oz. Canadian packet rate lasted until the latter part of 1870. On January 1, 1870, the sea postage between the U.S. and the U.K. was slashed to 2¢. The Canadian packet rate to the U.K. dropped to 6¢ per ½ oz. while the Cunard rate to the U.K. became 8¢ per ½ oz. The Duckworths [5] found evidence that in February 1870 there was a reduction of Canadian postal rates to a wide range of overseas destinations. However, this February reduction did not include France or the Papal States. Details were given in reference 1. The new rate to France, 10¢ for the first ¼ oz., was published in the July 1870 Tables of Rates of Postage. These Tables were actually published in October 1870 three months late [6].

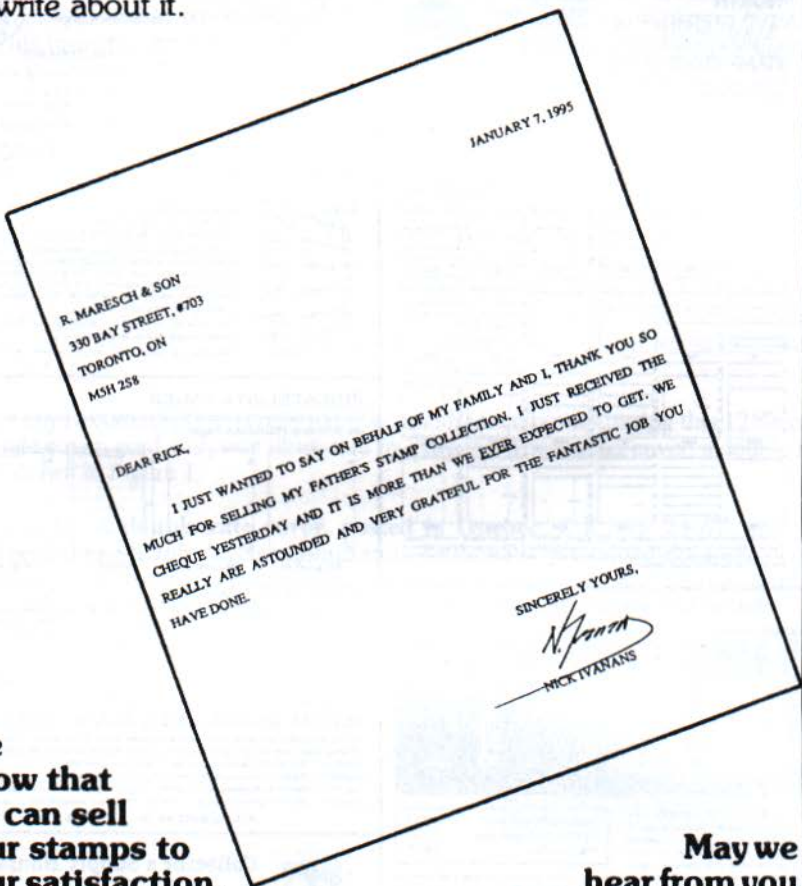
The authors wish to express their appreciation to Special Decimal Consultant Charles G. Firby for his help with the Firby Recording and for his valuable advice both in this article and in the preceding articles.

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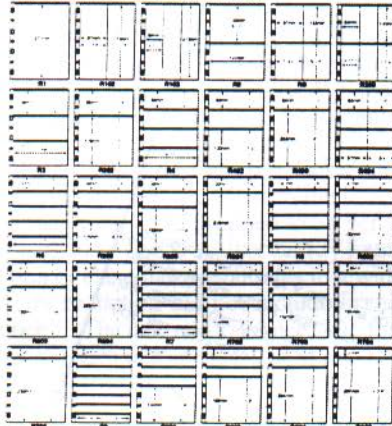
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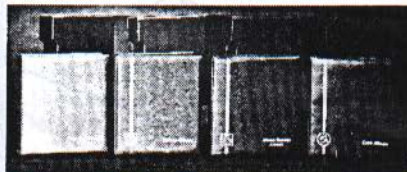
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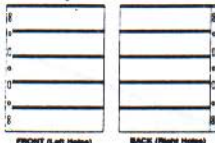
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The 12½¢ Rate to Newfoundland

George B. Arfken

Since the start of the Decimal Era, July 1, 1859, the postal rate to Newfoundland had been 20¢ per ½ oz. On January 1, 1865, the postal rate was reduced to 12½¢ per ½ oz. [1, p.6L]. This brought the rate to Newfoundland down to the Canadian packet rate charged for crossing the entire Atlantic Ocean.

Canadian mail for Newfoundland went by rail to Boston. Cunard steamers sailed from Boston on alternate weeks and stopped at Halifax on the way to the U.K. (The Cunard steamers that sailed from New York did not stop at Halifax.) The Hubbard - Winter sailing tables [2] show this alternation between Boston and New York beginning in 1848. In 1855, ships were withdrawn to carry troops for the Crimean War and the New York sailings were omitted. The alternate week Boston sailings resumed in 1856, and ended with the sailing of the Cunard "Africa" on January 1, 1868. For the final stage of the route to Newfoundland, Cunard had been running a steamship service between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland since 1849 [3]. Cunard's contract for this Halifax - St. John's packet service continued through June 1868.

The Firby Recording [4] lists only two Decimal franked covers paying this 12½¢ rate. A single rate cover, paid 13¢, was illustrated by Pratt [5]. The second cover, a double rate cover, is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: A double rate cover, posted in Quebec, C.E., SP 23 67, and addressed to St. John's, Newfoundland. Endorsed "p Cunard Steamer to Halifax," the cover was sent to Boston for the Cunard "China" that sailed Sept. 25. A local Cunard packet carried the cover to St. John's.



This cover was posted in Quebec, L.C., SP 23 67 and paid 25¢ with a pair of green 12½¢ Decimals for up to one oz. The cover was endorsed "p Cunard Steamer to Halifax" as required. The Cunard "China" sailed from Boston on Sept. 25 and carried the cover to Halifax. Another Cunard packet carried the cover to St. John's. There is a St. John's Newfoundland SP 29 1867 receiving mark.

Figure 2: Mailed in Toronto, Ont., the 12½¢ rate was paid with a 12½¢ Large Queen. The cover was sent by rail to Portland and then by ship to Halifax. The Inman "City of Halifax" carried the cover from Halifax to St. John's. There are St. John's JY 19 and Carbonear JY 19 1869 backstamps.



This 12½¢ rate continued into the Large Queen Era, 1868 - 1872. There was no reduction in the rate until November 1872. Figure 2 shows an 1869 cover franked with the blue 12½¢ Large Queen. This cover was posted in Toronto July 9 or 10. There is a Montreal JY 10 69 backstamp. In accordance with the "Via Portland" endorsement, this cover probably went by rail to Portland and then by ship to Halifax. (The postmark dates are not consistent with the Inman, New York alternative described below.) There is a black Halifax oval backstamp (date illegible). A St. John's JY 19 backstamp and the Duckworths' sailing table [6, p.435] show that the cover was carried from Halifax to St. John's by the Inman "City of Halifax."

These 12½¢ Large Queen covers to Newfoundland are scarce. A survey for the period April 1868 through October 1872 revealed only 25 of these covers. They are listed in Table 1.

A reminder that the route to Newfoundland had been modified comes from cover no. 5 of Table 1. This cover was endorsed "Inman Str from New York Via Halifax." Cunard was not happy interrupting the trans-Atlantic voyages with stops at Halifax. The old Cunard contract for trans-Atlantic service expired at the end of 1867. The new Cunard contract omitted the Halifax stops. Now, Halifax was vital to British social, economic and military interests. Inman was persuaded to add stops at Halifax on the voyages between New York and Queenstown. Actually, in 1870, Inman packets made a number of stops at Boston

Table 1. Covers to Newfoundland Franked with 12½¢ Large Queens, April 1868 - October 1872

	Date	From	To	Reference	Comment
1	AP 6 68	W.O. Douglastown, N.B.	I.W. Boyd, St. John's	M 190-612, 9/04/86	LQ on thin paper
2	(AP 10 68)	Fredericton, N.B.	Joseph F. Phelps, St. John's	M 282-239, 1/12/94	front, date is sailing date
3	JU 15 68	W.O. Douglastown, N.B.	I.W. Boyd, St. John's	Sgl 756-1014, 11/21/93	
4	SP 14 68	Douglastown, N.B.	St. John's	S 120-828, 4/05/56	
5	MR 9 69	Montreal	Claudius R. Watts, Harbour Grace	S 359-903, 1/29/76	"Inman Str from N. York Via Halifax"
6	AP 2 69	Montreal	C.R. Watts, Harbour Grace		
7	JY 2 69	Halifax, N.S.	Boyd, St. John's	S 172-364, 2/03/60	
8	JY 6 69	Toronto, Ont.	W.I. Hoyles, Carbonear	M 200-850, 4/09/87	"Via Portland"
9	JY 29 69	Pictou, N.S.	Miss C.F. Beavelt, St. John's	M 134-683, 9/30/81	Two 12½¢ LQs
10	SP 24 69	Halifax, N.S.	Capt. J. Lane, Fortune Bay	M 238-488, 2/28/90	
11	JA 6 70	Toronto, Ont.	Carbonear	Sgl 580-130, 5/20/81	
12	FE 7 70	Fredericton, N.B.	Joseph F. Phelps, St. John's	C 399-380, 10/18/86	
13	AP 25 71	Locks Is., N.S.	J.L.J. Chipman, Rose Blanche	M 171-640, 9/19/84	½¢ LQ added, 13¢ total, 12½¢ wmk

continued

Table 1 (concluded) Covers to Newfoundland Franked with 12½¢ Large Queens, April 1868 - October 1872

	Date	From	To	Reference	Comment
14	SP 21 71	N.B.	I.W. Boyd, St. John's		
15	OC 4 71	Canning, N.S.	Miss A. Flemming, Harbour Grace	Sgl 756-1013, 11/21/93	½¢ LQ added, 13¢ total
16	NO 3 71	Canning, N.S.	Miss Abbie Flemming, Harbor Grace	M 134-681, 9/30/81	
17	JA 24 72	Douglastown, N.B.	St. John's	S 120-829, 4/05/56	
18	FE 3 72	Canning, N.S.	Miss Flemming, Harbor Grace	M 118-232, 8/27/80	
19	AP 15 72	Locke Porte, N.S.	James Chipman, Rose Blanche	Sgl 756-1016, 11/21/93	stamp is watermarked
20	MY 17 72	Canning, N.S.	Miss Flemming, Harbor Grace		
21	JU 5 72	W.O. Douglastown, N.B.	Boyd, (St. John's)	S 214-89, 12/05/62	no illustration
22	JU 14 72	Canning, N.S.	(A. Flemming), Harbor Grace	S 182-92, 11/23/60	no illustration
23	JY 14 72	Canning, N.S.	Miss Abbie Flemming, Harbor Grace		
24	SP 7 72	Port William, N.S.	Miss A. Flemming, Harbor Grace	Sgl 756-1015, 11/21/93	
25	OC 5 72	Canning, N.S.	(A. Flemming), Harbor Grace	S 514-288, 10/03/90	

Auction abbreviations: C Cavendish; M Maresch; S Sissons; Sgl Robt. A. Siegel.

instead of New York [2, p.229]. So, Inman replaced Cunard and made stops at Halifax from January 1868 through June 1871. In July 1871, the Allan Line, running from Baltimore and Norfolk to Queenstown, took over the Halifax stops [2, p.230].

The final stage of the route for Canadian mail to Newfoundland was also modified. Inman took over the route from Halifax to St. John's in July 1868. In February 1872, the Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Co. started to carry the Newfoundland mail. The Duckworths [6, p.434-436] give sailing tables for this route. The Allan Line took over the Halifax - St. John's contract effective November 1872. Unlike the previous operators, the Allan Line stops at Halifax and St. John's were part of its trans-Atlantic voyages. However, because of danger from ice, the Allan packets did not stop at St. John's during January, February and March [6, p.258]. A local service was required during these months.

Three covers in Table 1 show special franking worth comments. Cover no. 9 of the table paid a double rate, the only one of the 25 covers to do so. Maresch illustrated this cover in his September 30, 1981 sale. The cover is postmarked PICTOU, N.S. CANADA, JY 29 69, and franked with an imprint pair of 12½¢ Large Queens. It was carried to St. John's by the Quebec and Gulf Ports "City of Halifax" that sailed July 31 [6, p.435]. The Duckworths added a note that the sailing was delayed by the late arrival of the mail boat from Liverpool. Until the Allan Line service to St. John's, British mail to Newfoundland usually had to go through Halifax.

Figure 3: This cover was posted in Canning, N.S., OC 4 1871, addressed to Miss A. Flemming, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. The superfluous ½¢ Large Queen was probably an attempt to match the Newfoundland 13¢ rate to Canada. St. John's OC 10 1871 backstamp.



The second special franking is exhibited by two covers, nos. 13 and 15 of the table. Cover no. 15 is illustrated in Figure 3. Posted in Canning, N.S., Oct. 4, 1871, this is one of the Miss Abbie Flemming covers. The special franking is the addition of the ½¢ Large Queen, entirely unnecessary. Pratt suggested a plausible reason for the extra ½¢ Large

Queens. The rate from Newfoundland to Canada was 13¢. These Canadian writers might have received 13¢ letters from Newfoundland, thought that the rate from Canada to Newfoundland had to be the same and added the extra ½¢ Large Queens.

Why did Canada have a 12½¢ stamp? Why was the rate to Newfoundland set at 12½¢? The Canadian 12½¢ Decimal and the 12½¢ Large Queen were issued to pay the Allan packet rate to the U.K. The British charged 6d stg for letters from the U.K. to Canada and Canada had charged 6d stg (= 7½d cy) during the Pence Era. The decimal equivalent of 6d stg was 12½¢ so Canada issued 12½¢ stamps. It is tempting (and maybe correct) to suggest that the rate to Newfoundland was set at 12½¢ because Canada had a 12½¢ stamp. In January 1870, the British and the Americans cut the postal rate for letters going between the U.S. and the U.K. To remain competitive, Canada was forced to slash the Allan packet rate to 6¢ per ½ oz. The rate to Newfoundland remained 12½¢ for almost three more years but this was the beginning of the end of the 12½¢ stamps [7].

Of course, it was possible to pay the 12½¢ rate with a combination of lower denomination stamps. The single rate Decimal cover illustrated by Pratt [5] was paid 13¢ with two 5¢ and three 1¢ Decimals. The Duckworths illustrate an 1870 cover franked with two 6¢ and one ½¢ Large Queen [6, p.253].

From January 1870 on, the 12½¢ rate to Newfoundland was over twice the 6¢ rate to the U.K. This seemed unfair. When the Allan Line agreed to stop at Halifax *and* at St. John's, this meant 12½¢ for dropping off a letter at St. John's but only 6¢ for carrying the letter past St. John's and all across the Atlantic to the U.K. The disparity in rates became impossible. The 1872 Report of the Postmaster General [8] noted that the rate to Newfoundland was reduced to 6¢ per ½ oz., effective November 1, 1872.

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U.S. Postal Card as a Private Card

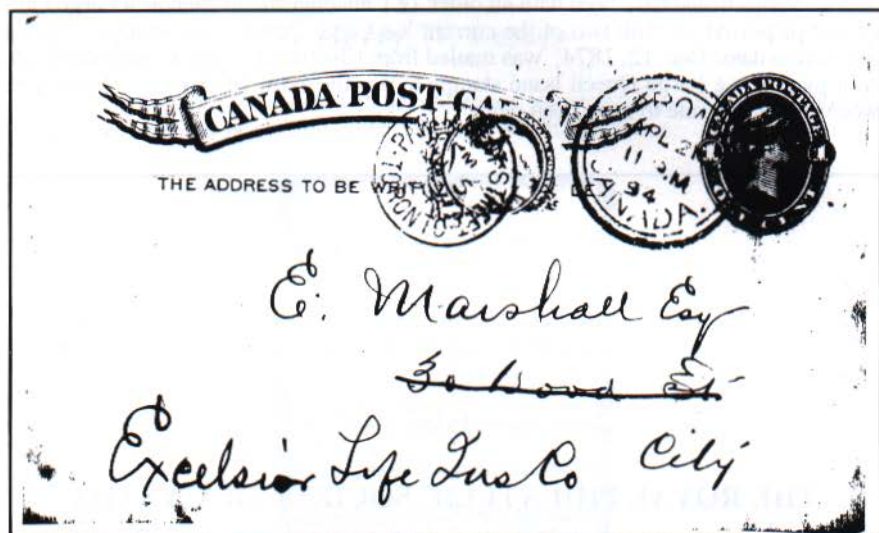


The card shown demonstrates a most interesting usage of a United States 1¢ postal card, Scott UX5, with an additional 1¢ Small Queen, paying the 1¢ post card rate to the U.S.A. The card was mailed from Toronto, and is postmarked June 5, 1877. The October 1875 Official Postal Guide noted that United States post cards could not be mailed in Canada. The post card rate to the U.S.A. was 1¢ per card effective January 1, 1875. The July, 1877 Official Postal Guide noted no cards posted within the Dominion can pass as post cards except such as are issued by the Canada Post Office. The same Guide noted if a foreign, i.e., U.S.A., post card was used in Canada, it was to be rated as a letter. Previous to the July, 1877 Guide, private cards were allowed at the post card rate in Canada, although they are quite scarce. The card shown here was mailed just prior to this directive, and is rated and treated as a 1¢ private post card to the U.S.A. – a most unusual rate and usage item.

A Double-Used Card

In the original Department Order No. 7 of the Canadian Post Office, dated June 1, 1871, which authorized the use of post cards in Canada, it was noted no post card could be posted a second time. This rule was consistent, and even the 1895 Postal Guide noted a post card could not be used a second time, even though prepaid by an additional stamp. The card shown was locally mailed at Toronto on April 21, 1894 by the Sons of England Benevolent Society as an assessment to a member. The card was returned by the member with the payment, as it is endorsed "received payment May 30, 1894". The card was re-addressed to the original addressee in Toronto, and remailed, with an additional 1¢ stamp, on June 5,

1894 as a receipt – in direct contravention to the Post Office rules. The usage did not get caught by postal officials, and the card was delivered at no additional charge.



2¢ Post Card Rate to the U.S.A.

On July 1, 1873, Canada introduced a rate of 2¢ per post card to the United States, and *vice versa*. This rate lasted until July 1, 1875. Except for the 1¢ post card rate to Newfoundland, this was the first special post card rate from Canada to a foreign country.



Nearly all post cards demonstrating this rate are 1¢ blue cards with an added 1¢ Small Queen Issue stamp (see BNA Topics Vol. 49, No. 6, pg. 51). The only other possible correct frankings would have been with an older 1¢ Canadian stamp such as a Large Queen used out of period, or with two of the current ½¢ Large Queen Issue stamps. The card shown here is dated Dec. 12, 1874, was mailed from Chatham to Detroit, and was franked with a pair of ½¢ Large Queen Issue stamps to pay the extra 1¢ charge. This is a very scarce way for this rate to have been paid.

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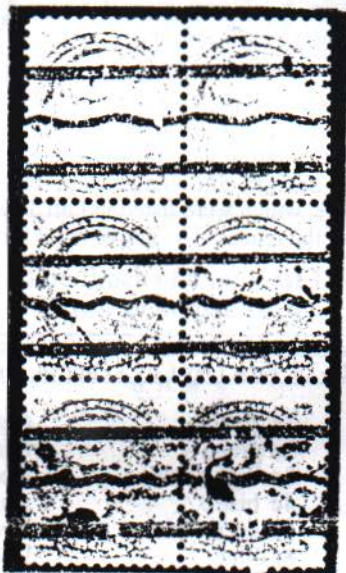
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An Unusual Precancelled Block

Harry W. Lussey

I have had the item shown below in my collection for many years, and I think it is most unusual. I believe it is something other collectors might like to see.



The top four stamps consist of two se-tenant pairs of precancel types "R" and "S". This is a major variety which, as far as I know, has never been recorded or catalogued. With this discovery, one cannot help but wonder if a similar se-tenant pair of types "S" and "T" might not be awaiting discovery.

Aside from the aspect of the se-tenant pairs, the block shows considerable evidence of a fragmentation of the precancelling plate. This fragmentation is likely to have come from damaged strips of the type "R" precancelling plate. Apparently these damaged strips were replaced with strips of type "S", possibly because no replacement strips of type "R" were available. There are so many fragment markings on the bottom pair that I would not view there being any reasonable possibilities of constant varieties.



First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada

Part 12 - Legault Plate Block First Day Covers of the Definitive Postage Stamp (Scroll) Issue of 1928-29 (Sc. 149-159)

Melvin L. Baron and Stan Lum

First Day Covers of the Definitive Postage Stamp Issue of 1928-29 were discussed in Part 11 of this series. This issue consists of a series of eleven stamps. The six lower values show a contemporary portrait of King George V as their design. The five higher value stamps above the eight cent denomination, show pictorial designs depicting Canadian scenes of geographical and industrial interest. The stamps were released on different dates in the 1928-29 time frame. These dates, which were listed in Part 11 of this series are repeated in Table I for the convenience of the reader. The city of issue for all stamps in this definitive issue was Ottawa, Ontario.

Table I First Day Dates - Definitive Series
of 1928-29, First Day City - Ottawa, Ontario

1.	Sc. 149	1¢ orange	October 29, 1928
2.	Sc. 150	2¢ green	October 17, 1928
3.	Sc. 151	3¢ dark carmine	December 12, 1928
4.	Sc. 152	4¢ bistre	August 16, 1929
5.	Sc. 153	5¢ deep violet	December 12, 1928
6.	Sc. 154	8¢ blue	December 21, 1928
7.	Sc. 155	10¢ green	December 5, 1928
8.	Sc. 156	12¢ carbon blue	January 8, 1929
9.	Sc. 157	20¢ red	January 8, 1929
10.	Sc. 158	50¢ blue	January 8, 1929
11.	Sc. 159	\$1.00 olive green	January 8, 1929

In Part 11 of this series, it was noted that blocks and plate blocks of any stamps of this series on First Day Covers were quite rare. A beautiful group of plate blocks on First Day Covers were made by T.R. Legault for the lower values of this issue. These range from plate blocks of twelve on First Day Cover for Sc. 149, the one cent orange stamp to a plate block of four on First Day Cover for Sc. 155, the ten cent green stamp. These very important covers are probably unique and are described in detail in this article.

Mr. T.R. Legault was the Accountant in Charge, Postage Stamp Division of the Canadian Post Office Department. He was responsible for making First Day Covers of many of the classic issues of Canada during the mid 1920-1940 period.

Figure 1. Very rare Plate Block of 12 on First Day Cover for Sc. 149 - Scroll Definitive Issue.

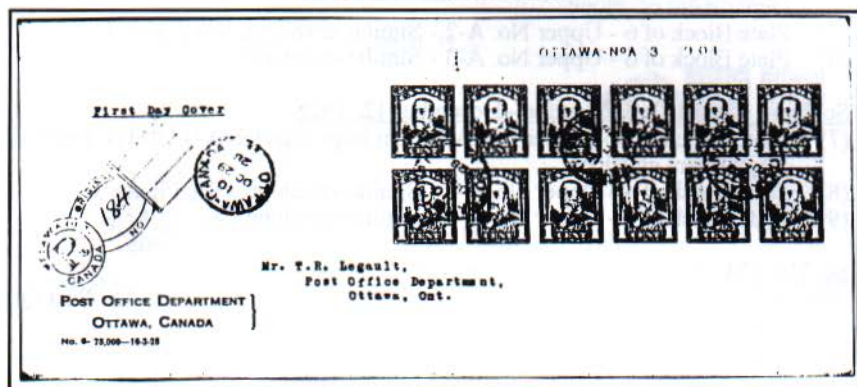
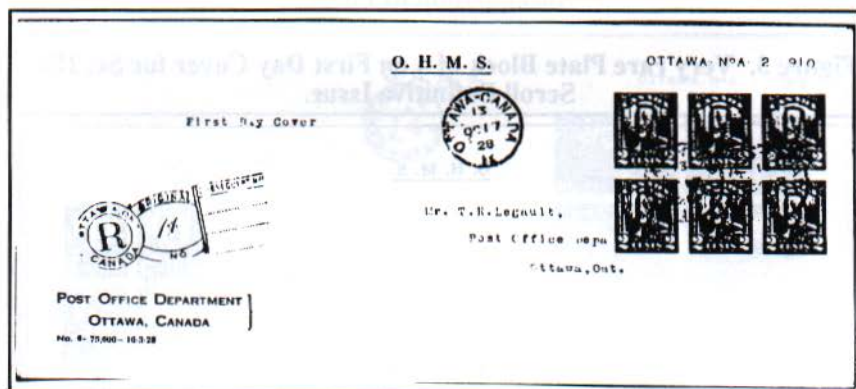


Figure 2. Very rare Plate Block of 6 on First Day Cover for Sc. 150 - Scroll Definitive Issue.



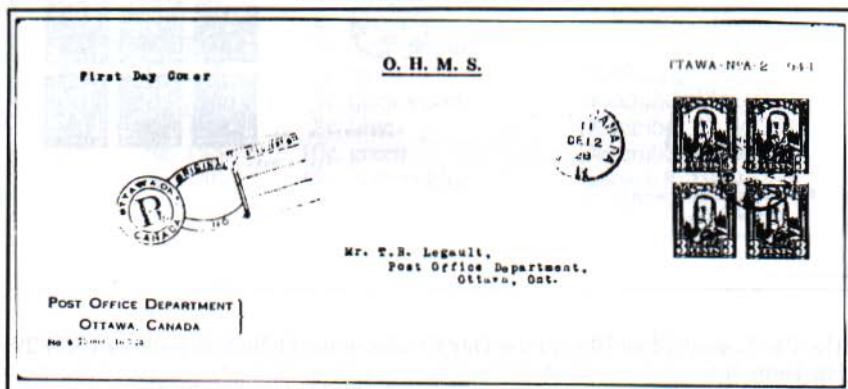
The T.R. Legault Plate Block First Day Covers of the Definitive Issue of 1928-29 are listed in Table II.

Table II: Legault Plate Block First Day Covers
Definitive Regular Issue of 1928-29.

- (A) Sc. No. 149 - 1¢ Orange - October 29, 1928
- (1) Plate Block of 12 - Upper No. A-1 - On large registered O.H.M.S. Post Office Department envelope.
 - (2) Plate Block of 12 - Upper No. A-2 - Similar envelope.
 - (3) Plate Block of 12 - Upper No. A-3 - Similar envelope. See Figure 1.

- (B) Sc. No. 150 - 2¢ Green - October 17, 1928
 (4) Plate Block of 4 - upper No. A-1 - On large registered O.H.M.S. Post Office Department envelope.
 (5) Plate Block of 6 - Upper No. A-2 - Similar envelope. See Figure 2.
 (6) Plate Block of 6 - Upper No. A-3 - Similar envelope.
- (C) Sc. No. 151 - 3¢ Dark Carmine - December 12, 1928
 (7) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-1 - On large registered O.H.M.S. Post Office Department envelope.
 (8) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-2 - Similar envelope - See Figure 3.
 (9) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-3 - Similar envelope.
- (D) Sc. No. 153 - 5¢ Deep Violet - December 12, 1928
 (10) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-1 - On large registered O.H.M.S. Post Office Department envelope.
 (11) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-2 - Similar envelope.
 (12) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-3 - Similar envelope - See Figure 4.
- (E) Sc. No. 155 - 10¢ Green - December 5, 1928
 (13) Plate Block of 4 - Upper No. A-1 - On large registered O.H.M.S. Post Office Department envelope - See Figure 5.

Figure 3. Very rare Plate Block of 4 on First Day Cover for Sc. 151 - Scroll Definitive Issue.



Figures 1 - 5 illustrate examples of the covers listed in Table II. They are the only plate blocks on First Day Cover that are known to the authors. Figure 5, the ten cent value is of special interest and rarity, as it is the only multiple on First Day Cover that is known for this stamp.

Figure 4. Very rare Plate Block of 4 on First Day Cover for Sc. 153 - Scroll Definitive Issue.

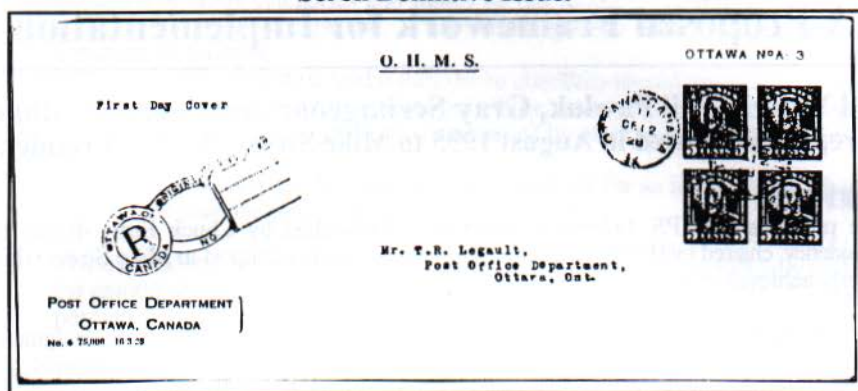
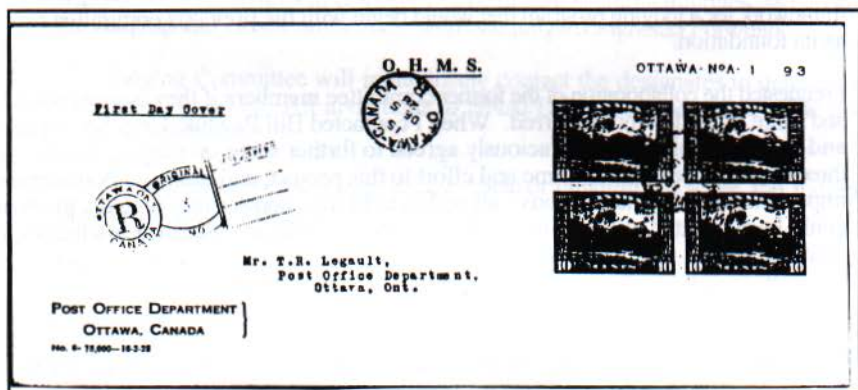


Figure 5. Very rare Plate Block of 4 on First Day Cover for Sc. 155 - Scroll Definitive Issue.



It is a matter of speculation as to whether T.R. Legault made plate block First Day Covers for Sc. 152 and Sc. 154, the four cent and eight cent values of this series. The authors have been unable to find such covers after many years of intensive searching. If such covers exist, the authors would greatly appreciate hearing from the readers, so that they may be listed as part of the First Day Cover information for this definitive issue.

BNAPEX Judging Recommendations: A Proposed Framework for Implementation

**Bill Walton, Bill Pawluk, Gray Scrimgeour and Allan Steinhart
(a report submitted in August 1995 to Mike Street, BNAPS President)**

PREFACE

The previous BNAPS Judging Committee - established by Chuck Firby during his presidency, chaired by Bill Pawluk - has submitted a finalized report to Mike Street which clearly achieves its two objectives:

1. The development of an initial pool of BNAPS'ers qualified for immediate designation as members of a permanent pool of BNAPEX judges, pending their agreement;
2. The establishment of criteria for vetting future candidates for the permanent pool of judges. Upon completion of its task the committee disbanded. Mike Street contacted me, because of my own BNAPS judging involvement, and requested that I consider and recommend next steps in a judging program for the Society. Specifically, his intent was to capitalize upon the work already done, by developing an operational framework for a judging program that would begin with the previous committee report as its foundation.

I requested the collaboration of the former committee members if they were agreeable, and Mike immediately concurred. When I contacted Bill Pawluk, Gray Scrimgeour, and Allan Steinhart, each graciously agreed to further serve on judging issues. All three devoted considerable time and effort to this project, and each had considerable impact on the recommendations - all within tight time constraints, so that a proposal could be submitted at Edmonton. We owe these gentlemen the Society's thanks for their substantial and extended efforts.

Bill Walton

PROPOSALS FOR BNAPS JUDGING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. First Steps

1. The committee report on selection of judges should be approved. This provides the Society with an initial pool of potential judges, and establishes criteria for selection of potential future judges.
2. A Judging Coordinator should be immediately appointed by the President, drawn from the previous Committee's list of potential judges. The Judging Coordinator, with the concurrence of the President, will in turn select two associates from the list of potential judges. These three will form the Judging Committee. It will be the Judging Committee's responsibility to oversee and maintain the judging policies and procedures as approved by the Board.
3. The Judging Committee should immediately send a letter to each candidate in the initial pool, informing him of his nomination and seeking his agreement to be recognized as a BNAPS-accredited judge, qualified to serve on future BNAPEX juries.

4. Each candidate who agrees to become an accredited judge should be sent a detailed checklist of BNA categories and topics by the Judging Committee, asking him to indicate his areas of expertise. This should be done with two questions, in two columns, as follows:
 - a. The first question (and column to be checked) should involve fairly stringent language, such as "Indicate only those areas where you are knowledgeable to a point where you would be regarded by other specialists in the field as an expert."
 - b. The second question and column should ask for an indication of other areas of reasonable knowledge.
5. These checklists, returned to the Judging Committee, may be periodically updated at the request of Judges or the Committee. They will form a portion of the Committee's permanent records.

B. Empanelling Juries

1. All jurors at any BNAPEX must be BNAPS-accredited judges. Membership in the Judging Committee will not disqualify a member from judging at BNAPEX.
2. At or shortly after a BNAPEX, the Judging Committee and the Host Committee for the subsequent BNAPEX will select a panel of judges (including the Foreman) for the next convention. Juries will consist of three or five accredited judges, as agreed to by the Judging and Host Committees, with one judge designated Foreman.
3. The Judging Committee will immediately contact the designates to determine their willingness to serve. All invitations to BNAPEX jury service must come from the Judging Committee.
4. In the event that any of the designates are unable or unwilling to serve, the Judging and Host Committees will agree to replacements.
5. The following guidelines in jury selection are to be met by the Judging and Host Committees, unless the pool of available judges does not allow it.
 - a. No judge shall serve on BNAPEX juries in two consecutive years.
 - b. No judge shall serve on more than two BNAPEX juries in any 5-year period, and during that period should only serve as Foreman once.
 - c. A reasonable effort should be made to include one judge from the initial pool in every jury who has not previously served as a BNAPEX juror, if such individuals are available.
 - d. A reasonable effort should be made to provide a range of topic expertise within a jury, and to attempt to vary the areas of topic expertise to some degree from year to year.
 - e. On any given BNAPEX jury, an effort should also be made to represent both U.S. and Canadian judges unless impractical. (This cross-border policy in so many aspects of BNAPS served us well when we were predominantly a U.S. society, and continues to serve us well when we are skewed Canadian.)
6. To help meet these guidelines, the Judging Committee will need to maintain on-going service records as part of its permanent file.

C. Announcement of Judges and Call for Title Pages

1. The Judging Committee must ensure that the names of judges are published in BNA

Topics and/or BNAPortraitS along with the announcement of the show and the call for exhibits. All potential exhibitors are entitled to know who the judges will be. The Editors/Editorial Consultants should understand this requirement.

2. In the same issue of BNA Topics and/or BNAPortraitS, exhibitors should be advised that it is in their interest to provide the appropriate number of copies of their exhibit title page, no later than 45 days before BNAPEX. These should be sent to the Exhibit Chairman, who has the responsibility to distribute them to all judges. It will be the responsibility of the judges and any apprentices to familiarize themselves with these before BNAPEX.

D. BNAPS Judging Guidelines for Juries and Exhibitors

1. Judges and exhibitors should understand that higher level awards - particularly gold - would ordinarily be expected to meet one of two primary guidelines as part of its requirements.
 - a. Is this exhibit a display of philatelically significant material that (without reference to expense) is difficult to assemble and rarely seen?
 - b. Is this the rare exhibit that presents philatelically significant and fundamentally important new information on its subject, or offers important new theories or interpretations of it?
2. Two secondary but important judging guidelines apply to all exhibits.
 - a. The exhibit should demonstrate to the judges that the exhibitor has a clear understanding of the material shown.
 - b. The condition of material in the exhibit should be as good as is available in the field shown.
3. It should be clear that conceptual scope and significance of exhibits is more important than the period of the exhibit.
4. However, it should be equally clear that exhibits of contemporary or recent material, of narrow conceptual scope, or of (in the jury's opinion) less philatelic significance, will be substantially less competitive.
5. Beyond this, judging will be at the discretion of the judges - except, of course, for specific awards with defined criteria.
6. Two exhibits cannot be grouped and judged as one, because of the disadvantage it places on other exhibitors. Each exhibit must be judged independently.
7. Jurors, on their own initiative, may seek advice on any exhibit, but are never obligated to do so. Advice, if sought, must come from a non-exhibitor at that BNAPEX, and may be from anyone at the show recognized by the juror as highly knowledgeable in the field in question. Those who advise jury members, as a courtesy, should be given anonymity if desired.
8. Award level ribbons will be posted with exhibits immediately after the judges have finished their deliberations. Specific major awards and special awards will not be announced prior to the Banquet at the closing of the show.
9. All exhibitors should understand that BNAPEX is a specialized, sophisticated, and competitive venue. Exhibits that may have fared well at the national level may fare

less well with BNAPS judges - and conversely, exhibits may fare better at a BNAPEX than they have (or will) at the national level.

10. The judging guidelines should be distributed to all accredited judges. Additional copies should be sent by the Judging Committee to jurors (and apprentices, if any) for the upcoming BNAPEX, and by the Exhibit Chairman to all exhibitors along with exhibit acceptance.

E. Jury Critique Symposium

1. At every BNAPEX, an open meeting will be held in which exhibitors and non-exhibitors can question the judges about exhibits and their award rationales.
2. All members of the jury are expected to be in attendance.
3. Scheduling and advance announcement are the responsibility of the Exhibit Chairman.

F. Future Accreditation of BNAPS Judges.

1. Members who wish to be considered for accreditation as BNAPS judges may submit their names to the Judging Committee. The Judging Committee may also choose to seek out specific individuals for consideration.
2. Each candidate must first be vetted against the criteria already established in the Pawluk Committee report, and must meet those criteria to the Judging Committee's satisfaction. If met, the Committee will notify the candidate of status as an apprentice judge.
3. Apprentice judges must serve as non-voting apprentices with one BNAPEX jury. A maximum of two apprentices may serve with any jury. If apprentices are available for any given BNAPEX, every effort will be made by the Judging and Host Committees to allow at least one to serve with the jury at that show.
4. Following the Convention, the Foreman of the jury will send the Judging Coordinator a written recommendation for or against recognizing the apprentice as accredited. This report should include rationales for the recommendation. The most important factor will be the Foreman's evaluation of the apprentice's breadth and depth of BNA philatelic knowledge.
5. All newly accredited judges added to the original pool must serve on at least one BNAPEX jury before they can act as Foreman at a BNAPEX.

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Postage Rates and City Cancels for Soldiers Mail from the Great War, September 1914 - July 27, 1917

Victor L. Willson

When Canadian soldiers were sent to England and then to France beginning in the fall of 1914, they were required to pay British Empire rates from England, and UPU rates from France. This was because the British, in their arrogance, considered the Canadians to be at home in England; France and Canada did not have an exchange agreement for soldiers' mail, so that UPU rates were in force there [1].

Early on one sees Canadian soldiers' mail from the English camps franked with British stamps, while letter mail from France is less common, but still seen with French frankings. The Canadian government decided to solve the problem by allowing soldiers to send their letters without postage; according to UPU rules this would be assessed as unpaid mail. Since the receiving country could deal with it as it saw fit, the UPU did not care how Canada chose to handle the incoming letters. Rather than charge the recipient double the deficiency, the Canadian Post Office chose to stamp the letters and cards itself. This study shows that the Post Office abided by its own postage rates concerning drop letters, forward letters, and post cards, both before and after the addition of the War Tax on April 15, 1915.

Thus, at least six basic letter rates are possible for the typical soldiers' mail received from England and France: drop letter, forward letter, and post card before and after imposition of the War Tax. One might also include Rural Mail Delivery as a variant on the drop letter. While the drop letter was intended to be a rate for a letter posted in the post office district to an address in the same district, and the soldier's letter from France was hardly within the district, the post office generally tended to treat the letter as an item entering the mail stream at a particular city; if it stayed within the city, it was a drop letter. Incidentally, I have found nothing related to early dates for use of these procedure. My earliest covers date to January, 1915.

The procedure used by the Canadian Post Office to handle incoming soldiers' mail was to sort it for bulk processing at major cities:

Halifax	Hamilton	Kingston	London	Montreal	Ottawa
St. John	Toronto	Vancouver	Victoria	Winnipeg	

At the processing site a stamp appropriate (apparently) for the required rate was affixed and cancelled with the first class dater. All of these cities except Kingston have been recorded by me for some of the three rates of mail, although not both before and after imposition of the War Tax, except for Toronto. Pre-War Tax rates appear to be quite scarce, and may be rare or unknown from some cities. That Kingston has not been yet seen may indicate that it was not used, and that Toronto was the processor, since I have seen mail destined for Kingston cancelled with Toronto dater.

Steinhart [1] also indicates that RPOs were processing sites. This is shown to be true, but incomplete. RPO postmarks are quite unusual and apparently rare on such mail. I have no examples in my accumulation of the rates. Instead, the postmarks associated with such

**Table of Cover Dates for Rates of World War I Soldier Mail
Franked and Cancelled at Various Canadian Cities**

Official Cities	Forward Letter	Drop Letter	Post Card	Forward Letter	Drop Letter	Post Card
	Jan. 1915 - Apr. 14, 1915			Apr. 15, 1915 - July 27, 1917		
Halifax	-	-	-	10/23/15	12/18/16*	11/23/15
Hamilton	-	-	-	10/30/16	12/21/16	10/23/16
Kingston	-	-	-	-	-	-
London	-	-	-	11/12/15	10/6/16	4/15/16 2/?/16‡
Montreal	-	4/14/15	-	8/3/16	5/8/16	6/17/16
Ottawa	-	-	-	7/2/17	8/20/16	10/18/16
St. John	-	-	-	8/29/16	1/31/16	6/28/15
Toronto	3/29/15	3/15/15	3/29/15	7/3/17	10/?/15	5/29/15
Vancouver	-	-	-	12/8/15	1/28/16	4/3/17
Victoria	-	-	-	4/10/17	1/3/16	4/17/17
Winnipeg	-	1/23/15	2/23/15	9/8/15	10/25/15	5/15/16

Other Cities

Charlottetown	-	-	-	-	5/24/16	-
Kamloops	-	-	-	-	6/12/16	7/14/17
Quebec	-	-	-	7/24/17	-	3/8/17
Regina	-	-	-	-	12/26/16	-
Revelstoke	-	-	-	12/3/16	-	7/3/17

* overpaid 1¢
‡ underpaid 1¢

activity seem to be the city nearest the destination on the rail line. Only five such cities have been observed by me to date:

Charlottetown Kamloops Quebec Regina Revelstoke

In the collection is a cover sent to Charlottetown with a St. John postmark that is earlier than any of the Charlottetown postmark dates. This suggests that the later covers may have gone to St. John but were sent on, with or without stamps, without St. John postmark.

Also related to this subject is the application of censorship in the various receiving cities. Throughout the collection are 1917 covers with censor tape applied in Canada, even though the letters were already censored in France or England and have battalion or regimental censor marks. Since civil censors were only located in certain towns, this makes yet another substudy of this topic.

The earliest date that I have recorded from any city is Jan. 22, 1915, on a cover postmarked at Winnipeg; the latest is July 24, 1917, at Quebec. I have one cover postmarked at two of the cities, Montreal and St. John, NB; the cover was addressed to St. John, but the stamp was applied at Montreal. This cover is an anomaly, and it is not likely the procedure was common practice. This is particularly so since the cover in question is from a prisoner of war, and such items may have been routinely sent to Montreal first for processing as a POW emission. The latter is just speculation.

In addition to Canadian soldiers' mail, internees in Holland and prisoners of war in German occupied areas were also afforded the same service, and examples are found with most of the cities' cancels. Canadian soldiers in the Belgian army were also given the free rate while in France. Steinhart [1] shows an example and I have several in my collection. I have one example of a card with manuscript "British Army in the Field" and MPO S.12 also given the rate at Halifax. A small sideline can be constructed from these.

The table presented below indicates, by city, dated covers in my collection showing the appropriate rate: forward letter, drop letter, or post card, before and after imposition of the War Tax. A dash (-) means that I have not recorded that rate for that city to date.

REFERENCE

- [1] Steinhart, A.L., The Admiral Era: A Rate Study 1912-1928, Jim A. Hennok Ltd., Toronto, 1981.

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THE PRESERVATION OF OUR PHILATELIC HISTORY

Cimon Morin¹

as delivered in Edmonton at the BNAPEX'95 annual convention, September 2, 1995

I have entitled my speech "The preservation of our philatelic history", which means in simple terms the preservation of records relating to the hobby of Canadian philately.

As you all know, stamps were first issued in 1840 and collecting stamps began in Europe in the early 1860's. The philatelic trend came to Canada in 1864 especially in the Maritimes, Québec and then Ontario. It then moved to the prairie and western provinces along with the development of these areas. Stamps dealers were supplying the stamps and the initial tools by publishing catalogues and stamp albums, and then the magazines. These provided a forum in which philatelists and dealers started to advertise, write of their research and communicate with each other on a larger scale.

In 1995, some 130 years later, the following facts exist, that we can be proud of:

- Canadian stamps collectors have started, at one time or another, hundreds of different philatelic periodicals, generating thousands of issues; BNAPS itself has published more than 450 issues of BNA Topics in 50 years!
- Stamp collectors have published more than 10,000 articles all over the world dealing exclusively with Canadian stamps and postal history;
- Stamp collectors have formed, since the 1870's, hundreds of societies and groups at local, regional, national and international levels;
- Stamp collectors have organized, since the 1920's, hundreds of philatelic shows and exhibitions (By the way, one of the first stamp exhibition dealing exclusively with stamps was held in Yorkton, Sask. in 1923, followed by Winnipeg in 1924 and Montréal in 1925)
- Philately is one of the most organized hobbies because of its structure, people, collectors and dealers, auction houses, societies and publications. I believe it is still the "King of the hobbies" as it was called 50 years ago... even if it has shown some decline in membership as a whole through the years.

1. Cimon Morin is currently Chief of the Canadian Postal Archives, a section of the National Archives of Canada. He is responsible for acquiring, describing and documenting Canadian philatelic and postal records for permanent retention. He is the author of several articles as well as the compiler of Canadian Philately: Bibliography and Index published by the National Library of Canada in 1979 and 1983. He can be contacted at the National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0B1.

When one wants to study the hobby of philately (i.e., the people, the collections formed, the organizations and exhibitions) only ONE source can be relied on: the published information in stamp magazines and in some exhibition and auction catalogues. It is, with some exceptions, the only source of documentation relating to the hobby. It seems that other sources of information have been destroyed or lost with the collectors who made history! In very simple words, we, stamp collectors, philatelists, have not preserved, through the years, the archival records of our hobby.

By archival records, I mean the records such as our personal papers, the correspondence exchanged between collectors, dealers and researchers, the photographs taken at meetings and in the course of social activities, the unpublished notes and studies done in isolation or in groups and the research files built up over the years. This is equally true for local, regional, provincial and national societies, and clubs and exhibitions, etc. from which minutes of meetings and photographs of philatelists have vanished over the years. Archival records could also include a certificate or a medal received at an exhibition, a list of awards, a description of collections exhibited or simply a copy of a speech delivered at a meeting.

We have done well in bringing together the best collections, and through our collections we have assured the survival of essays, proofs, stamps, covers and related material that may not have survived otherwise. We have researched and documented our collecting pieces, but we have forgotten to document ourselves.

Why didn't we preserve the records relating to the hobby? Some of the answers that come to my mind are that until recent years, there was not really any archival repositories that could properly address the issue. Philately was forgotten in the overall historical archival world. It may also be because we are collectors, and archival records could not be collected as easily as stamps and covers. There is not really a market for that type of collectable, and it is not appealing because it is not material that is as readily organized as stamps, postmarks or covers. It is simply we are collectors and not archivists or historians.

Usually, when the time comes to dispose of a philatelic collection, we ask a friend, a dealer or an auctioneer to sell our philatelic treasures. What remains, i.e. all the components relating to the history of that collection (let's say the papers) is then disposed of by giving it to a friend who would carry on the same topic or simply by leaving it aside for the garbage can! As history tells us, we as individuals have been great philatelists but, with a few exceptions, poor keepers of our own history.

"Archives have probative value: they confirm legal contracts, incorporations of clubs, etc. They have general information value and, as such, are an inexhaustible source of information. Finally, archives have evidential value: they document actions taken; they reflect the intensity and complexity of discussions and debate; they attest the decisions taken. By virtue of their content and of their organic nature - they are spontaneously created through the activities of individuals, organizations - they trace the development of organizations and the paths of individuals, and reveal their basic values, convictions and beliefs" (National Archives of Canada Annual Review 1993-1994, p. 8).

The philatelic community has a rich history and much diversity. It has brought together a number of prominent and great collectors, who gave the hobby their time, energy and dedication.

As an example, some years ago the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club was celebrating its

100th years of existence. Thanks to the efforts of some members through the years, a good part of the Club's papers such as proceedings, notes and correspondence have survived, and it has permitted Gray Scrimgeour to properly research and retrace the history of the Club. The results were published in book form. Unfortunately, very few examples like this have survived as most of the records have been lost or destroyed through the years.

At the National Archives of Canada, I have tried within the past years to collect these new kind of philatelic records, and I have been successful in some areas, thanks to the cooperation of philatelists. In terms of acquiring, preserving and documenting the hobby I have been able to acquire the papers or archival records relating to societies such as:

- The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada;
- The Montréal Philatelic Society (in the 1890's);
- The Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club;
- The Toronto Philatelic Club;
- The Toronto Philatelic Society;
- The CAPEX 1951 exhibition;
- CANADA 1982 International Youth Exhibition;
- The RA Stamp Club of Ottawa

and also some papers of philatelists:

- The George Marler papers; (his specialized research and photographs on the Admirals and his 40 years exchange of correspondence with well-known philatelists of the time)
 - The Harry Guertin papers; (and his research files on the wartime mails)
 - The Richard K. Malott papers; (documents related to his aerophilatelic research and involvement in numerous national and international societies)
 - The Harry Sutherland papers; (relating to his involvement with the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada)
 - The papers of Marguerite Fortin (who played a major role in the creation of the Fédération québécoise de Philatélie, 25 years ago)
 - The Douglas and Mary Patrick papers (of great interest are the 250 archival recordings relating to interviews with philatelists that Doug did as part of the CBC Stamp Club in the 1960's)
- ... and many more

I have also received promises from philatelists that their papers will be given and preserved in due course.

Once preserved and organized, these records permit us to capture the history of our hobby. They then allow us to research, in conjunction with published documents, the history of philately in Canada. It will also enable Canada to be one of the first countries in the world to initiate the concept of the preservation of philatelic archives.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite BNAPS members to preserve their philatelic papers as part of their own history - to research the hidden papers left by our past colleagues and foremost philatelists and to bring them back to life through research.

In knowing more about ourselves as a whole, we will bring new life to our hobby as well as pride for our philatelic past and present.

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Twenty-one different stamps have been issued in the last three months: two booklets of five, one se-tenant issue of four, and seven singles, including the three regular Christmas stamps and the Greetmore stamp. The three Christmas stamps also come as booklets.

Topical collectors should like the Arctic booklet; it is attractive, and has subjects illustrating transportation (cargo canoe, aircraft and dog sled), native peoples (Inuit), habitation (igloo), animals (polar bear) and flowers (Arctic poppy). For those who collect atmospheric phenomena there is even a sun dog above the left-hand building at Arctic Red River (near the tail of the aircraft). It would have been nice if the rock ptarmigan in the selvedge were part of the main design - it would have made a nice bird stamp! Speaking of birds, the official first day cancel depicted in the Details booklet shows what looks like a long-tailed jaeger.

Speaking of birds again, a set of four bird stamps is scheduled for January 9, 1996, along with birds on a new series of postal stationery envelopes and aerogrammes.

To what extent are Canadian commemoratives issued for postal use and to what extent are they issued to be collected? The designs on the Arctic booklet look wonderful when the stamps are together in the booklet, but half of a red aircraft tail looks out of place and even unrecognizable on the left edge of the stamp with the children on it when the stamp is by itself on an envelope, as do the shoulder and edge of the hood on the cargo canoe stamp; and it is not at all clear what knob the polar bear is staring at unless the adjacent stamp is attached. Consequently the art, while excellent in itself, seems designed more for display in the intact booklet than for postal use of the separated stamps. A disadvantage for collectors, also, of the dog team and the aircraft running onto the next stamp is that collecting one subject requires two stamps. This is not a problem for mint stamps (just break up a booklet), but it makes it harder to display used stamps in a topical collection.

The Christmas stamps are a welcome addition to a series of very attractive Christmas stamps Canada has issued over the last several years.

A special souvenir sticker folder was issued on Sept. 1, 1995, with five square SINGAPORE '95 stickers and five circular CAPEX '96 stickers, selling for \$1.00 + tax. The challenge will be to find the square sticker used over the round blank on the 45¢ Greeting Stamp!

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.

Correction: The dates of issue for the reprinted definitive issues (BNA Topics Vol. 52, No. 4, pg. 68) should have been reported as Oct. 6, 1995.

TABLE 1: September and October Issues

Issue	Bridges	Arctic	Comics	U.N.
Value	4 x 45¢ s-t	5 x 45¢ s-t	5 x 45¢ s-t	45¢
Issued	1 Sep 1995	15 Sep 1995	2 Oct 1995	24 Oct 1995
Printer	A-P	CBN	A-P	CBN
Quantity	15MM	15MM	30MM	15MM
Size (mm)	40 x 27.5	40 x 24	30.5 x 40	45 x 33
Paper	CP	CP	CP	CP
Process	8CL	5CL*	5CL	6CL+1CF
Pane	20	10 bklt	10 bklt	10
Tag	FCP	FCP	G4S	G4S
Perf.	12.5 x 13.1	13.0 x 12.5	13.1 x 12.5	13.3 x 13.3
Teeth	25 x 18	26 x 15	20 x 25	30 x 22

* The Sept/Oct 1995 Canada's Stamp Details booklet lists the Arctic stamp booklet as six colour lithography, but there are only five colour dots on the philatelic selvedge of the booklet; so unless the sixth dot is white and doesn't show up, 5CL should be correct.

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TABLE 2: November Issues



Issue	Christmas	Greetmore	Francophonie	Holocaust
Value	45¢ 52¢ 90¢	40¢	45¢	45¢
Issued	2 Nov 1995	2 Nov 1995	6 Nov 1995	9 Nov 1995
Printer	CBN	A-P	A-P	A-P
Quantity	*	3,894M packs	15MM	15MM
Size (mm)	30 x 36	N/A x 26	40 x 30	48 x 30.5
Paper	CP	CP	CP	CP
Process	6CL	5CL	4CL	6CL
Pane	SH: 50 SP: 10 (45¢) 5 (52¢) 5 (90¢)	10 bklt	10 bklt	10
Tag	G4S	FCP	G4S	FCP
Perf.	13.3 x 13.3	12.6 x 13.1	13.0 x 13.3	12.5 x 13.1
Teeth	30 x 22	N/A x 17	26 x 20	30 x 20

* Quantities for the Christmas stamps:

SH: 45¢, 38MM; 52¢, 8.85MM; 90¢, 8.85MM.

SP: 45¢, 3.57MM packs; 52¢, 870M packs; 90¢, 870M packs.

ABBREVIATIONS: 1CF = one colour foil; 4(5,6,8)CL = four (five, six, eight) colour lithography; A-P = Ashton-Potter Canada Ltd; bklt = booklet (or stamp pack); CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company; CP = Coated Papers; FCP = fluorescent coated paper; G4S = general tagging (four sides); MM = million; N/A = not applicable (depends on how the booklet was trimmed); s-1 = se-tenant; SH = sheet stamps; SP = stamp pack.

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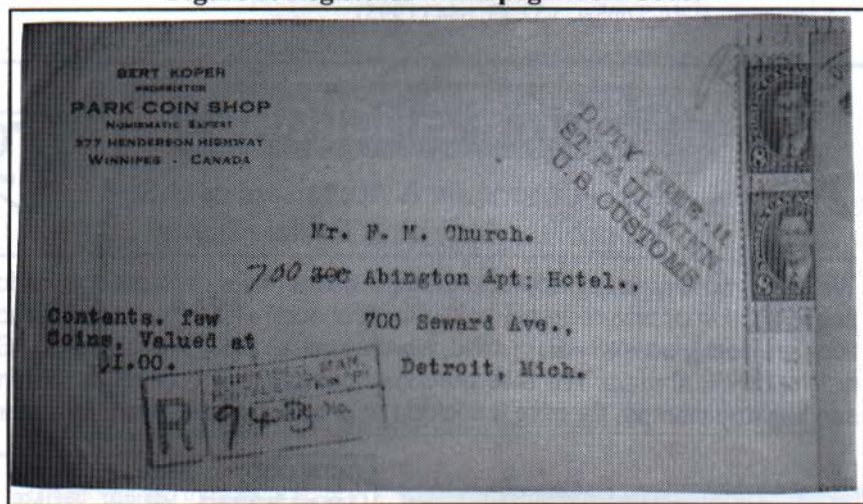
SOME ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL BOARD COVERS

David H. Whiteley

Jeff Switt's recent article on Foreign Exchange Control Board Covers [1], has led me to report the following two covers in my collection.

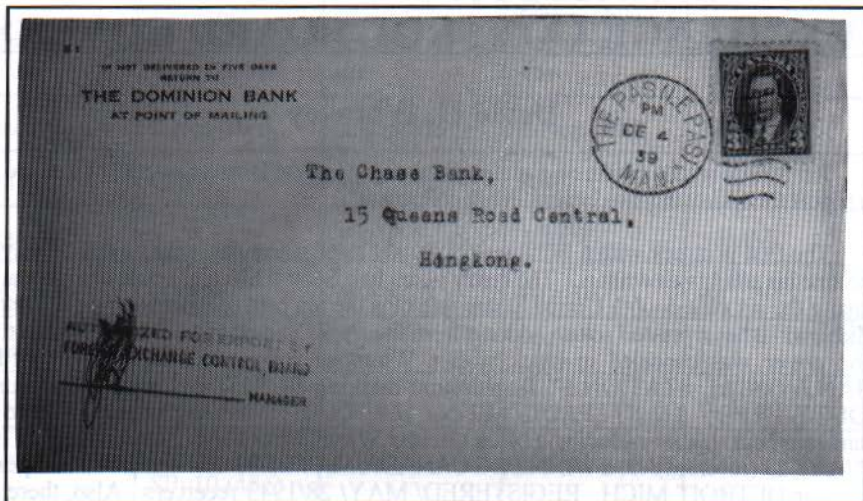
The first is struck with a Winnipeg examiner hand stamp Jeff says he did not have at the time his article was written. The cover bears two Scott #236 eight cent orange stamps paying the six cent double United States rate plus the ten cent registration rate to Detroit, Michigan. It has a printed return address from the Park Coin Shop, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The cover was canceled in black with a Winnipeg roller, and has a "WINNIPEG, MAN./POSTAL STATION F" Registration marking (R 943) and a three-line purple "DUTY FREE - 11/ ST. PAUL, MINN./ U.S. CUSTOMS" handstamp. There are numerous backstamps including a black circular WINNIPEG MAN POSTAL STATION F/ MAY 23 (reversed)/43, a WINNIPEG CANADA/MAY 25/43 datestamp and two purple circular DETROIT MICH. REGISTERED/ MAY/ 28/1943 receivers. Also, there is a green circular District Director of Postal Services Winnipeg, Man./ May 26 1943 Foreign Exchange Control Board datestamp on the FECB label used to reseal the envelope.

Figure 1: Registered Winnipeg FECB Cover



The second cover, from The Pas, Manitoba, is another example of a bank manager abusing his position as an authorized examiner. The cover was used by The Dominion Bank, canceled with a black circular "THE PAS (LE PAS) MAN./PM/DE 4/39" date stamp, and with a purple three-line "Foreign Exchange Control Board" examination stamp signed by the bank manager (who was an authorized Examiner). This was an unauthorized FECB inspection on overseas mail without other Canadian Examination tapes. The three cent carmine stamp paid the three cent Empire Rate to Hong Kong.

Figure 2: FECB Cover to Hong Kong



REFERENCE

- [1] Switt, Jeffrey A. "Those Passed For, Approved For, and Authorized For Export Markings", BNA Topics, v52 #3, p44 (1995).



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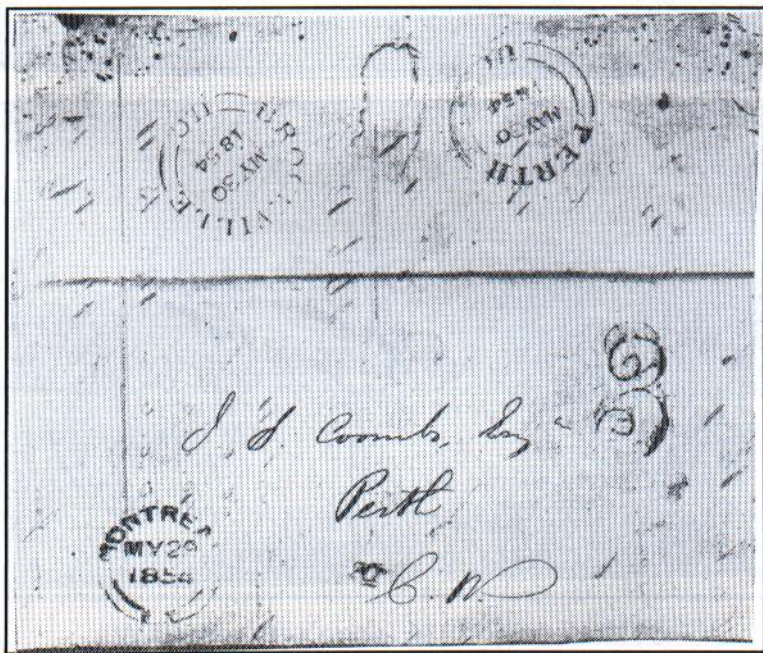


Perth Museum Covers

Gus Quattrochi

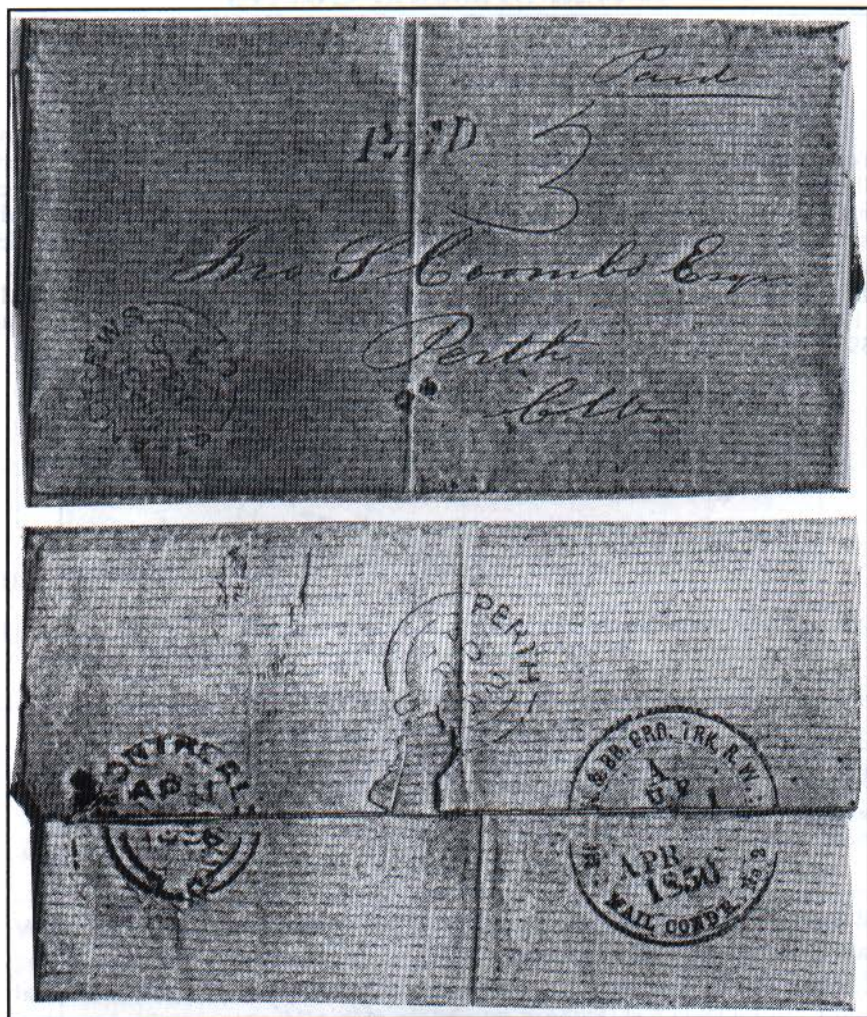
In the spring of 1995, the curator of the Perth Museum, Douglas McNicoll invited me to look over an acquisition, the personal writing case of John S. Coombs, a druggist of Perth in the mid-19th century. On opening the case we found therein seven stampless covers dating from 1854 to 1858. Most of the covers were from his brother in Smiths Falls, who was a merchant in that town. Three of the covers are of interest to collectors. The oldest item is a stampless folded letter sheet from a Montreal businessman illustrated as Figure 1. It shows a Montreal L.C. double broken circle MY 29 1854 postmark, a Brockville, MY 30 1854 transit mark and a similar receiving mark of the same date. These last two are 1839 double-broken-circle types with serifs.

Figure 1: Montreal to Perth 1854



The second and most interesting of the covers (Figure 2) is another folded letter sheet. This has a manuscript 3 for the 3d rate with both a manuscript and stamped PAID. The postmark is a MR 31 1856 St. Andrews C.E. sans serif double-broken-circle. The Montreal transit mark is similar to the one in Figure 1. The large R.P.O. cancellation reads MON&BR.GRD.TRK, R.W. / MAIL COND'R No. 2 / A / U P / APR 1 1856, and is believed to be rare. The Perth U.C. AP 2 1856 receiver mark is a sans serif double-ring hammer.

Figure 2: St. Andrews to Perth 1856



The third cover (Figure 3) is rather curious because of the rate. The envelope was mailed in Smiths Falls on March 29, 1858, as can be seen by the double-broken-circle sans serif postmark. The PAID 6d stamp suggests a double weight letter however the cover has a manuscript Paid 3 under a scarce four-ring 44 cancellation. Was the 44 used to hide the Paid 3 because it was the wrong rate, or was this actually a triple rate letter that cost 9d to send twelve miles?

Members of the Perth Stamp Club are currently mounting these and the other covers for the Museum.

Figure 3: Smiths Falls to Perth 1858



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COME CELEBRATE THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRAIRIE BEAVER REGIONAL GROUP

"Comic Book" Spray-On Cancels Hold Surprise

Mike Street

Regardless of what you think of Canada Post's 1995 'Comic Book Heroes', either as a subject worthy of issuing a stamp or for the actual designs, they have helped usher in a new era in Canadian machine cancellations. Now, the modern equivalent of the slogan die can be changed in the blink of an eye, more or less, for any reason - error, politics, whatever.

The stamps in question 'honored' the Canadian or Canadian born creators of Superman, Nelvana of the Northern Lights and Johnny Canuck, all of whom fought criminals and other nasties in the 1940s, as well as Fleur de Lis and Captain Canuck, who did their thing in the 1970s and 1980s.

By now most people who watch cancels on current Canadian mail know that in September and October of 1995 the second line of many spray-on cancellations read 'SUPERMAN <TM/MC>' or 'SUPERMAN <MC/TM>'. It appears that most are not aware that at least one other 'superhero' - Nelvana - made it to spray-on heaven!

How did I get into this? Well, many years ago I agreed to gather envelopes from invoices coming to the accounts payable department at work for a meter-cancel collecting friend. Currently, once or twice a year a hefty box finds its way to his location in the northern reaches of Ontario. Since he's not interested in postal cancellations, new or unusual ones in that bracket go to another northern friend - or to me, in this case.

On the 12th or 13th of September 1995 I was going through the day's envelopes when I noticed an '095 L8E 2R0' (Stoney Creek, ON, the eastern edge of Hamilton) spray-on with 'NELVANA <TM/MC>', followed by the usual bunch of ten //////////////s.

Because of my daughter's interest in films and film-making, I knew that Nelvana is a world-renowned film animation company in Ottawa, but could not figure out why they would have their name on a Canada Post cancellation. "Aha, commercial cancels, like the Kit-Kat chocolate bar ones from Great Britain!", I thought.

This was just a week after BNAPEX '95 in Edmonton and I was still recovering. About -to-be-issued stamps were a long way from my mind! When the next day's mail brought some envelopes with 'SUPERMAN <TM/MC>' spray-ons, the penny dropped. Obviously the names were related to the comic book stamps, and <TM/MC> meant <Trade Mark/Marque Commercial>. Knowing that there were several stamps in the set, I began to pay more attention to the spray-ons, looking for some of the other 'heroes'.

It wasn't to be - day after day, for almost six weeks, the mail brought only 'SUPERMAN <TM/MC>', occasionally relieved by 'SUPERMAN <MC/TM>'. Boring!

Through a contact in Canada Post I was able to get some details. The 'comic book' spray-ons were applied at nine (9) major Canada Post mail sorting facilities to promote Stamp Collecting Month and the 'Superhero' stamps. The campaign was to last from

095 LSE 2R0 950911 22:10 1111

NELVANA (TM/MC) 1111

CANADA 45



095 LSE 2R0 950912 20:29

NELVANA (TM/MC)

CANADA 45



095 LSE 2R0 950912 21:28

NELVANA (TM/MC)

CANADA 45



095 LSE 2R0 950914 21:05

POSTAL

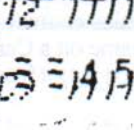
CANADA 45



096 LSE 2R0 950913 21:12

SUPERMAN (TM/MC)

CANADA



095 LSE 2R0 950914 22:39

SUPERMAN (TM/MC)



METERIC
COMPLOR
554473

45

mid-September to the end of October; it was expected that between 70-80 million pieces of mail would receive one of the spray-ons.

Originally, the names of all the 'Superheros' were to be used. Then someone somewhere said, "Hey, there's a referendum on! Captain Canuck and Johnny Canuck might offend some people in Quebec! Fleur de Lis might offend someone in the rest of the country! Hold it!!!!"

In the great Canadian way, it was decided that Superman would not offend anyone's political sensibilities, and thus would be the only name used on spray-ons. (Apparently it never crossed anyone's mind that all the stamps might offend some Canadians everywhere, but that's another story!)

Why did Stoney Creek use 'NELVANA' on Sept. 11 and 12? I can only assume that the facility was the first to start the program and did so before anyone twigged to the political possibilities. The 'NELVANA' spray-on was used on the '095 L8E 2R0' machine for at least 24 hours - the three I have are dated 22:10 Sept. 11, 20:29 Sept 12 and 21:28 Sept 12. I have no '095 L8E 2R0' spray-ons at all for Sept. 13. I have an '095 L8E 2R0' spray-on dated 21:05 Sept. 14 with nothing in the second line, and a 'SUPERMAN' dated 22:39 Sept. 14 (Fig. 1). Interestingly, '096 L8E 2R0', the other machine at Stoney Creek, did a 'SUPERMAN' spray-on as early as 21:12 Sept. 13.

NELVANA <TM/MC>			
FACILITY	# & CODE	EARLIEST	LATEST
Stoney Creek, ON	095 L8E 2R0	09/11	09/12
SUPERMAN <TM/MC>			
Toronto, Scarborough	052 M4L 3T0	09/21	11/09
Mississauga, Gateway	069 L4W 1T0	09/19	11/14
London	078 N5Y 1B0	09/20	11/09
Calgary	087 T2E 0A0	10/4	10/05
Edmonton	090 T5J 2T0	10/11	
Stoney Creek, ON	095 L8E 2R0	09/14	11/06
Stoney Creek, ON	096 L8E 2R0	09/13	11/06
Ottawa	097 K0A J0X	09/30	11/07
Montreal St. Laurent	100 H3C 1S0	10/20	11/03
Montreal St. Laurent	102 H3C 1S0	10/04	11/07

The list of postal facilities and early and late dates of 'SUPERMAN' spray-ons in my possession (please note the 'in my possession' - this is not meant to be a definitive list!) are given in the table in order of machine number. I have only seen these spray-ons from ten machines in eight cities. What was the ninth city? I assume Vancouver, but have not seen any. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone who has another 'NELVANA' or other 'comic book' spray-on besides 'SUPERMAN', or any spray-on from a city or facility not in the list.

Who says there's nothing new in philately!

BNAPS ON THE INTERNET

Thanks to Alberta member Bob Lane (stalbert.compumart.ab.ca), BNAPS is now on the Internet. Bob has set up a BNAPS page on the World Wide Web. There is a description provided of BNAPS activities, BNAPS publications (including the Tables of Contents of recent issues of *BNA Topics*) and a list of contacts for BNAPS membership, regional groups and study groups. There is also a beautiful rendering of the "Bluenose". The address of the BNAPS Web site is <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/stalbert/bnaps.htm>. As of the time we go to press, the area has been accessed more than seven hundred times.

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Peter McCarthy

Vice-President for Study Groups: Jon C. Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Road, Vernon, BC V1B 1L3

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

Study Groups

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

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

BNA Perfans: Steve Koning, 29 Balsam Ave., Toronto, ON M4E 3B5

Centennial Definitives: Leonard Kruczynski, 19 Petersfield Place, Winnipeg, MB R3T 3V5

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

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

Fancy Cancels: Dave Lacelle, 369 Fullerton Ave., Ottawa, ON K1K 1K1

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

Military Mail: Dean Mario, P.O.Box 342, Main Post Office, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3L3

Newfoundland: John Butt, 264 Hamilton Ave., St. John's, NF A1E 1J7

Philatelic Literature: Paul M. Burega, 16 Aldgate Cres., Nepean, ON K2J 2G4

Postal Stationery: Steven Whitcombe, 334 Old York Road, New Cumberland, PA 17070-3135

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

Revenues: Bill Rockett, 540 Overlook Ave., Willow Grove, PA 19090

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

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

Small Queens: Bill Burden, P.O. Box 152, Truro, NS B2N 5C1

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

Transatlantic Mail: Malcolm Montgomery, 76 Glen Eyre Road, Bassett, Southampton SO2 3NL England

New Groups Forming

Admirals: Bill Longley, 155 Hillcrest Ave., #1203, Mississauga, ON, L5B 3Z2

Dead Letter Postmarks: Gary Steele, 8 Bracemont Court, Lower Sackville, NS B4E 3A1

On The Fringes

A new study group has been formed to study the Admiral era of Canadian stamps and postal history. Bill Longley has undertaken the task of leading the group and, no doubt, producing its newsletter. This is an area of research for which formation of a study group is long overdue, and I encourage the membership to support these efforts. Welcome Bill.

In the September issue of the Canadian Revenue Newsletter a new editor in the person of Chris Ryan is introduced to the group. For the benefit of those who may not have read PortraitS, we welcome you Chris, and wish you every success. Fritz Angst submitted an illustration and write-up of the discovery of a low numbered FWM 33 (weights and measures stamp). The editor himself presents an extensive two part article entitled "A Selective History of the Inspection of Weights and Measures In Canada". Parts 3 and 4 are in preparation and can be expected sometime in the future.

In the November issue of the newsletter the editor writes on Excise Bonding Stamps and the fact they are used at the discretion of the individual distillers. The feature article is the continuation of Edward Zaluski's "Alberta Hunting Regulations and Stamps". The December newsletter has several articles by the editor, Chris Ryan. He begins with the "Current Cigarette Excise Duty Strip Stamps", and then goes on to show "Additional Examples of Rare Inspection Stamps". The feature is Part 3 of "A Selective History of the Inspection of Weights and Measures in Canada. It's an excellent piece of revenue research.

Several people have contributed to the August issue of Postal Stationery Notes edited by Stephen Whitcombe. Bill Walton continues with his update of Earliest Reported Postmarks (ERPs). Bill is only able to do this with the assistance of the membership and a large number have been helping out. While the study of older material goes on, as is quite evident from the articles in this issue, this group is also fortunate in having newly issued material – of equal interest – in which to specialize. Earle Covert, Dick Staecker, John Aitken and Chris Ryan have all contributed information pertaining to modern material – specifically XpressPost varieties, GO LETTERS and envelope errors – very informative.

Several people contributed to the update on the Reader's Digest envelopes that appears in the October 1995 issue of the newsletter, while Pierre Gauthier and Earl Covert report on new types of the Automotive Opinion Forum Cards and Envelope and on the Manitoba Hydro envelope. The feature article comes from Stephen Whitcombe, and is entitled "Plate Numbers on Post Cards". Stephen deals with the 23 plates used for Webb P1 and P2, with illustrations coming from several collectors, and representing more than 20 years of research. Important questions are answered, and input to past articles can be found on the last page. New stamped envelopes were scheduled to make an appearance in conjunction with the bird issue on January 9, 1996. The newsletter concludes with Robert Lemire's short article entitled "An Unusual Private Order Envelope Prepared by Dominion Envelope". The index to newsletter volume XIII was included.

From the R.P.O. group's newsletter, edited by Bill Robinson, there is an item sent in by Allan Steinhart that indicates the need for a change in a listing. An illustration of the item is also provided. The balance of the philatelic portion of the newsletter (5 pages) is taken up with material by an extremely dedicated student of R.P.O. cancellations, Ross Gray. The information provided ranges from early and late dates to hammer varieties and train numbers on hammer varieties. A wonderful contribution. Related transportation postmarks also fall under the R.P.O. category. Thus, listed in this issue, is a new hammer for a travelling post office. This was reported by Bill Bartlett, postmaster of Saanichton post office in B.C.

In the November issue of the R.P.O. newsletter, Lionel Gillam expressed some surprise at seeing a clerk handstamp for the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway in a previous newsletter. He sent in a historical article of the railway accompanied with a map. Warren Bosch writes of an interesting letter dated 1874 discussing an accident on the G.W.R. The remainder of the newsletter (8 pages) is taken up with material once again submitted by Ross Gray. This material involves ERDs, train numbers, direction markings, chord measurements and new finds. Ross is an extremely devoted R.P.O. collector. His finds and the data he produces make things extremely easy for other members of the group.

The Canadian Military Mail Study Group newsletter is now being edited by Dean Mario. The October issue of was mostly put together prior to the passing away of Rich

Toop. Doubtless he would have been pleased with the issue. Several members have contributed excellent articles. One of the interesting items comes from Wilf Whitehouse in reply to a previous article by Dr. Brian Plain on the use of a Canadian air letter form Burma. Other uses of the same air letter forms are described. Speaking of Brian Plain, he has submitted an interesting short article on "The Imperial Munitions Board: A Domestic Canadian Effort In The Great War". Wilf Whitehouse sent in postmarks of two Canadian warships of the same name; the old *H.M.C.S. Regina* and the modern destroyer. Colin Campbell chipped in with an article on the Camp Borden Universal Machine. The Siberian Campaign is the subject of an article by David Whiteley, and John Frith sent in something on two distinctive field post offices with illustrations. The final item in the newsletter is a postcard, sent in by Colin Pomfret, illustrating *H.M.T. Olympic* - "The Ship that Brought Me Home".

The December issue of the Military Mail newsletter is taken up with, what else, military Christmas greeting cards of course. They were sent in by several members. It's their way of having wished you all a very Merry Christmas.

Contributions to the Newfie Newsletter for September/October, edited by John Butt, begins with illustrated postcards and the study of P13 submitted by Horace Harrison. John Butt presents a study of Newfoundland slogan cancels. Copies will be sent to Cecil Coutts for inclusion in his study of Canadian slogans. Kevin O'Reilly's history, listing and illustrations of Labrador offices is continued in this issue. This is good postal history research, and should assist other students when studying specific areas. The newsletter closes with an illustration of a "GoYer" from Duncan Campbell's gold medal exhibit.

Bob Lee is the editor of the Duplex Cancellations Study Group Newsletter. The October issue is packed with updates - early and late usages reported by a variety of members. An interesting piece by Bob Lee asks for reader input with regards to an 1880 Montreal Duplex. There are other opportunities for member involvement - and in particular there is interest in the Duplex Cancellor - DON 730. Ending the newsletter is a reprint from the Canadian Forces Philatelic Society Bulletin of Hans Reiche's fine article "The Montreal Duplex Numeral And Letter Cancels" including a chart and rarity factors.

The December issue of the Perforator, edited by Patrick Durbano, contains extensive updates on OHMS perfins, the air mail perfins, the Newfoundland perfin survey. There is also an article entitled "OHMS Perfin Used as Postage Due?". Steve Koning writes about "The Last Canadian Perfin". This involves the C.N.R. perforator - Winnipeg office. Steve illustrates a 43¢ flag stamp dated 1995. You are encouraged to keep your eyes open. The balance of the newsletter is taken up with the Perfin Study Group ABC Survey "C" Types. Thanks are extended to all who participated.

The Flag Pole is edited by Bob Thorne. In the December issue Bob illustrates a matched set of 1901 Toronto Exhibition Flags from Leigh Hogg's collection. Geoff Newman revisits the Bickerdike Machine papers, and looks forward to members commenting and adding to any part of the article. The newsletter ends with a couple of new EKDs submitted by Tom Almond and Bob Thorne.

The Transatlantic Mail newsletter of November 1995 proved to be the last for Dr. Jack Arnell. He has turned the reins over to Malcolm B. Montgomery. Malcolm recently retired from the British army and is apparently looking forward to the challenge. Before leaving however, Jack reproduced the last four pages of his Edmonton exhibit. That of course is the feature of the newsletter. Although Jack says farewell to the members as chairman/editor, I don't think we have heard the last of him. Welcome aboard Malcolm.

The December issue of the Air Mail newsletter edited by Basil Burrell has several short articles. The first illustrates a rare cover and the write-up that will appear at CAPEX '96. Robert Marcello revealed some reference material on D.G. Cox. This all stemmed from a previous article. Four questions are put forth with respect to a special edition of the Whitehorse Star that was carried by the Yukon Airways & Exploration Co. The membership may be able to provide quite a story. Also included were an article on an A.C. Roessler Cover, First Mail Flight, and an article first published by member Jim Brown in the Victoria Times-Colonist. Completing the newsletter is a reproduction of a letter carried on Flight 126 of B.C. Airways.

Corgi Times is the newsletter of the Elizabethan II Study Group and is edited by John Arn. Opening the newsletter are illustrations and explanations of use of high value definitives of the Cameo era - namely the 50¢ textile and the \$1.00 Export stamp. Section III is about the Caricature and Landscapes Issues. As discussed in a previous newsletter, John Hillmer and John Jamieson sent pictures of an unusual sheet of the 6¢ Pearson stamps to Alexander Hutton for an opinion. Mr. Hutton replies explaining the ways paper splices can occur describing how the variety was probably printed. John Aitken, in mounting his Landscape covers, noted several new early dates of use for this series. John lists these dates for the membership to check against their own stock for comparison. In the "Environments" section John Aitken reports finding three copies of the black sweater variety on Scott #723. Illustrated is Booklet #80 of the Parliament issue with slip prints on the 17¢. Money packets are also discussed under the "Environments" section. Several varieties are looked at in the commemorative section, with Joseph Monteiro telling about the Phillippe Aubert de Gaspé imperforate error. The last item is an illustration, courtesy of Saskatoon Stamp Centre, of a sheet of the 10¢ Kunnikinnick stamp with the bottom strip of ten stamps being perforated on the top only.

The November/December issue of the newsletter has some interesting items beginning with an illustration sent in by John Aitken bringing to mind the secret marks on stamps in the form of dates and or designer initials. Jean des Rivières sent in illustrations of doughnut varieties found on a wide variety of stamps but the feature article comes from Joseph Monteiro and is entitled 'The Canadian Architecture - \$1 Runnymede Library Errors'. Joseph writes of three errors with the invert, of course, being the main one. The author describes in detail the probability of the existence of more errors and the locations of the findings of each type of error. It's an excellent article.

In the November issue of the Centennial Definitives Study Group newsletter, edited by Leonard Kruczynski, a number of short but important articles are offered. The Broken Necklace Variety from Booklet 58 is discussed. Leopold Beaudet comments on Mike Painter's article (in volume 14, number 1) with regards to the \$1.50 booklets. Leopold summarizes his findings on several post centennial cylinders in a self-explanatory table. Leonard dug up a letter in the archives that explains the rarity of the two cent precancelled

stamp. The last page has an updated listing of earliest recorded postmark dates for Centennial Issue printings on hibrite paper.

Bill Topping is the editor of the British Columbia Postal History Research Group Newsletter. The December 1995 edition illustrates the various slogans used in B.C. post offices in conjunction with the Super Heros issue. The feature of the newsletter is some history concerning the five post offices located on Salt Spring Island. Some very interesting illustrations accompany the article. Other items include an update on the Queen Charlotte Island post offices, and a story on the *S.S. Prince George II* including a look at that ship's postal markings.

1995 was an excellent year for newsletters. The editors did an excellent job, in some cases under difficult circumstances. Some extremely enlightening information has come to the fore, thereby extending the interest in this fabulous hobby of ours. It's time once again to welcome new members to the society, and we encourage you to select a study group and become an active member. Your input, regardless of how trivial it may seem, is important to all.



THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Postal History Society of Canada publishes an award-winning quarterly journal, sponsors seminars on Canadian postal history, and awards prizes for the best postal history exhibit at philatelic shows across Canada.

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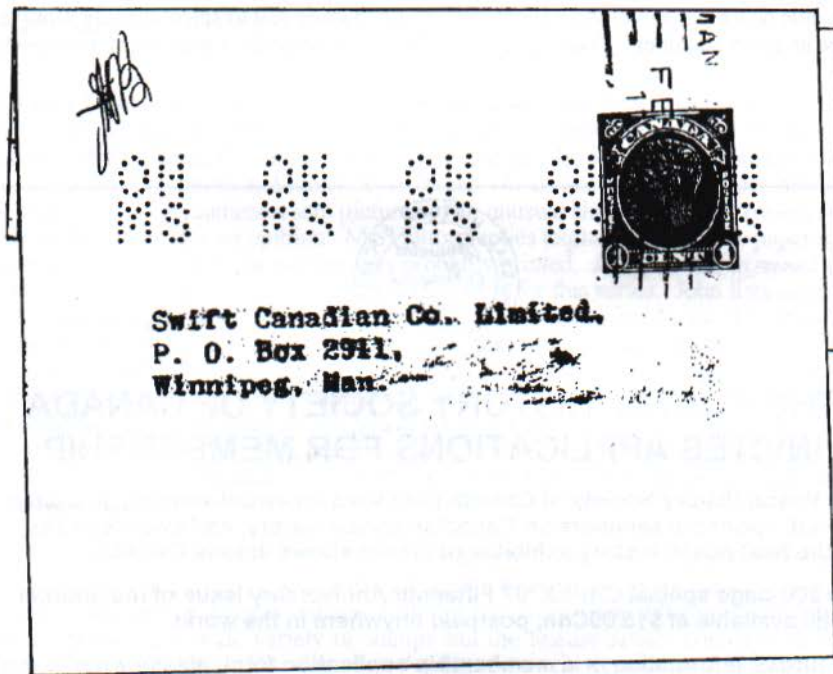
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Readers Speak

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

Sir,

The BNAPS Perfin study group is beginning to gather information in preparation for updating the perfin handbook published in 1985. Both the Federal Officials checklist (OHMS 1939-1951) and the Federal Department Officials checklist (CBC, CNR, MD, ND, OHMS 1923-1935) are being reviewed in detail.



Wrapper #W20 with OHMS perfin O7 showing all five dies of the Cummins model 52 perforating machine

Anyone with holdings of these perfins who are willing to check their collections against the draft list (not from the old handbook) are requested to contact Jon Johnson, 9604 Kalamalka Road, Vernon, BC V1B 1L3. Also, any new perfin type reports or early and late dates of usage can also be reported to Jon for inclusion in the updated handbook.

Sir;

As a result of my trans-Pacific researches, I have become interested in Siberian Expeditionary Force material. Having read most of the philatelic literature and secondary sources, in particular Robert Smith's excellent articles that appeared in the *Journal of the Postal History Society of Canada*, I believe it would be a worthwhile project to attempt to assemble a check list of known material from this short-lived campaign. To this end I am seeking the assistance of members. I would prefer photocopies of material, however a complete description of covers with all pertinent information would also be useful. The information should include the type of cover, addressee and sender, where known, together with all postal and censor marks and, where possible, the name of the officer acting as censor. Please send all replies to

David H. Whiteley
1210-525 St. Mary Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X3
CANADA.

telephone (204) 786-2685

Sir;

It was good to find an article in Topics #464 [1] tied to the location of the 1995 Convention ("Postal Beginnings North of Edmonton", by the late Max Rosenthal). Mr. Rosenthal drew largely from the book "North-West by Sixteen" by J.G. MacGregor [2], a book well known to Alberta postal history and history buffs alike. The book vividly describes the hardships and isolation of pioneer life in Alberta, and gives insight into political favoritism and the effect on some post offices. Mr. Rosenthal's article does contain some inaccuracies, some of which originate in the source book.

Firstly, I have doubts Eastburg ever attained a population of 150. This would have been a large town by Alberta standards, and would certainly would have encompassed several businesses. There are no businesses listed for Eastburg in the March, 1917 and the March, 1920 editions of "Bradstreets" [3]. The March, 1917 edition lists a population for Eastburg of 5, and that is probably closer to the population through the life of the post office. The number of farmers in the vicinity (35) seems plausible. Essentially, Eastburg was at best a country store, and often was simply a "farm house" post office.

While there may have been no incorporated villages or farms north of St. Albert at the time, there were certainly sizeable settlements north of St. Albert, some served by post offices. Lac La Biche (first office) and Athabaska Landing come to mind, having opened in 1893 and 1901, respectively. There were even other settlements with post offices that had been opened in the District of Athabaska, which was even further north [4].

Clyde Post Office was not opened until August 1, 1906. It was in existence as a place name before this, but no earlier than 1900 as this is when George C. Clyde, for whom the post office was named, moved into the area and began a homestead. Shortly thereafter, he established a stopping house along the Athabaska Landing trail. [5].

Westlock Post Office did not exist in 1906 under that name. It was opened in 1904 under the name Edison. The name was not changed by the Post Office Department until 1913. There was no post office in Alberta named Edgson. This was actually the name of

the first postmaster of Edison, and the office was named for him. However, the locals proposed the spelling Edison when petitioning for a post office. The spelling was chosen to overcome the difficulties in pronouncing "Edgson", and thus Edison came into being [5].

According to the "change of postmasters" card for Eastburg post office, James MacGregor (J.G. MacGregor's father) ran the post office from September 15, 1910 until June 23, 1916; i.e., starting about one year later than indicated in the article. The "change of postmasters" card also gives the cause of the vacancy as "resignation". Mr. Hoogers was not officially appointed as postmaster until October 1, 1916. The account in "North-West of Sixteen" regarding political favoritism may well be true; but it is odd that there was a vacancy for approximately three months.

Lastly, I have uncovered a few discrepancies within the original sources. The original edition of the book "North-West of Sixteen" was published by McClelland and Stewart, Toronto [2]. I don't own a copy of the Hurtig reprint, but the original, at least, contains two excellent maps of the Eastburg community homesteads in 1907 and 1908. From these maps it becomes obvious how MacGregor arrived at the title of the book. "North-West of Sixteen" simply means the north west quarter of section 16 of township 58, range 1 west of the fifth meridian - the legal description of their property. The property of A.E. East, the original postmaster of Eastburg, is shown as NW23 (TP58 R1 W5); whereas the "change of postmasters" card lists the location of the post office (when it opened) as section 22. This may have been a simple transcription error by the Post Office Department. The "change of postmasters" card only lists two locations for the Eastburg office, although there were four different postmasters (and probably four different locations). The data on subsequent relocations of post offices is often incomplete on these cards. The second (but undated) location does match that in the Wrigley's 1920 Directory mentioned in Mr. Rosenthal's article [1].

Information on many of Alberta's "farm" post offices is indeed scant. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can shed more light on the postal history of Eastburg or the Eastburg area.

Yours sincerely, Rick Parama (#3198)

References

- [1] Rosenthal, M., "Postal Beginnings North of Edmonton", BNA Topics Vol. 52, #3, pp 56-58 (1995).
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- [3] Bradstreet's, "Book of Commercial Ratings . . .", New York (issued monthly (?), one volume dedicated to the Dominion of Canada).
- [4] Scrimgeour, G., "The District of Athabaska", PHSC Jour. No. 81, 69-73, March 1995.
- [5] Holmgren, E.J. and Holmgren, P.M., "Over 2000 Place Names of Alberta", 3rd edn., Wester Producer Prairie Books, Saskatoon, 1976, p. 60.

Sir;

Whilst researching material for an article on Canadian Forces mail, I discovered what appears to be an area of dispute among respected military postal historians. The subject

of disagreement surrounds the patriotic covers and stationery used by the Canadian armed forces, both at home and overseas on active service, supplied by religious organizations at facilities adjacent to areas where Canadian troops were stationed. The problem area is also addressed, in part, in Bob Bayes' recent article in Topics, "World War I Auxiliary Covers - Church Army Huts" [1].

The stationery in question used during the First World War usually showed a Union Jack on which was superimposed a maple leaf with the Christian chi-rho symbol, with "CANADA" in the base of the maple leaf with the initials C.A.H. below.



These initials have been variously construed to stand for Catholic Army Huts, Church Army Huts or Canadian Army Huts. Those who support the claim for Catholic Army Huts [2,3] base their assertions on evidence from extant stationery bearing the inscription "ALL SOLDIERS WELCOME/Catholic Army Huts" followed by a location, usually in blue.

Lt. Col. Webb [4] claimed that both Protestant and Catholic organizations operated similar facilities, and that therefore, the initials C.A.H. more properly stand for Church Army Huts. Webb, however, offers no physical evidence to support his claim other than the following short statement: "The abbreviation correctly stands for 'Church Army Huts', which was an organization active in Gt. Britain and on the Continent of Europe. . . . Usually, there were both Protestant and Roman Catholic huts." Bob Bayes' article [1] shows several covers imprinted "Church Army Recreation Hut".

To further confuse the issue, I have a World War II cover (shown on page 72) with a return address reading Camp Valcartier, Quebec (shown below). It has a small circular emblem inscribed around the outer edge 'CHEVALIER de COLOMB SERVICES de GUERRE' with the initials H.A.C. in the centre. Below the emblem is the inscription 'Hutte Canadiennes des Chevaliers de Colomb/Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Hut. Here we have a Roman Catholic organization operating a "Canadian Army Hut" facility, when it might be supposed the initial "C" would have stood for "Catholic" rather than "Canadian".

From the above evidence it can be seen there appears to be a certain amount of confusion concerning the correct (or accepted) interpretation of the initials "C.A.H.". Further thoughts on this subject, or photocopies of any examples that show stationery specifically from Protestant huts, would be appreciated.

Cover with "Knights of Columbus" Corner Printed in Blue



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- [1] Bayes, R., "World War I Auxiliary Covers - Church Army Huts", BNA Topics Vol. 52, #4, pp. 38-45 (1995).
- [2] Faulstich, E.M., "The Canadian Expeditionary Force in Siberia, 1918-19", Postal History Journal, Vol. 12, #1, pp. 3-33 (1968). (see p. 22)
- [3] Smith, R.C., "Markings of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Siberia)", PHSC Journal No. 36, pp. 4-11 (1983). (see p. 9 and footnote 11)
- [4] Webb, Lt. Col. R.H., "Canadian Forces Mail Siberia 1918-1919", Can. Phil. Vol. 20, #2, pp. 65-66 (1969).

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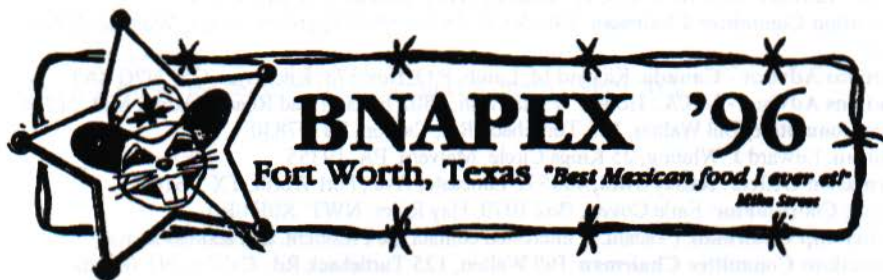
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