

2001 • second quarter

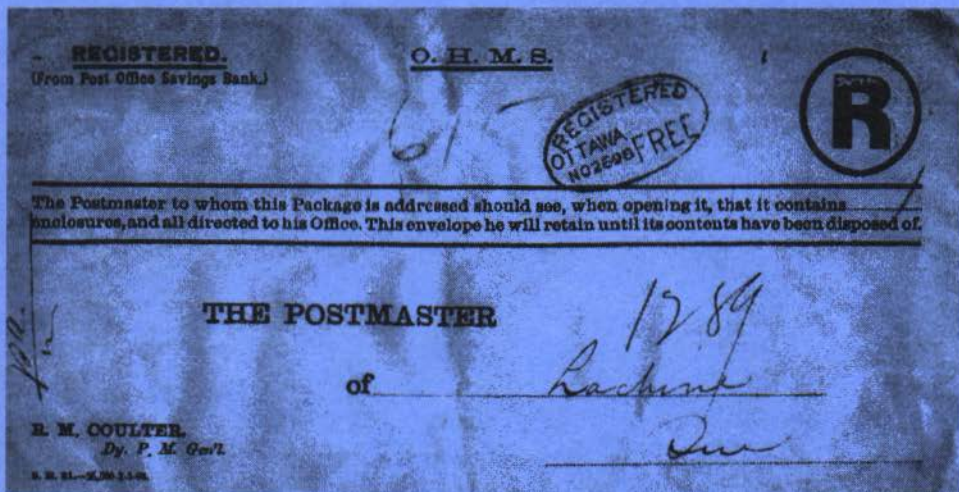
BNA Topics



Whole number 487

Volume 58

Number 2



Featuring
Canada's post office savings bank

by Bill Pekonen

The official Journal of BNA PS —
The Society for Canadian Philately

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BNA**T**opics



The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd
Volume 58 Number 2 Whole Number 487

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Prepared by the Editor in the typesetting language T_EX (Greek, τ_εχ; pronounced 'tek', or for the purists, 'tech', ch as in the Scottish 'loch'). LaserWriter output (600 dpi) is sent to the printers as hard copy for reproduction.

Publication date 15 June 2001

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Published quarterly by Philaprint Inc, PO Box 100, First Canadian Place, Toronto ON
M5X 1B2, © 2001 by Philaprint Inc

Printed by Rushlri Publishing & Graphics, Dundas ON; Canadian Publica-
tions Agreement 590819

ISSN 0045-3129

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BNA**T**opics, Volume 58, Number 2, April–June 2001

Editorial: Error—or printer's waste?

OVER the past 20 years or so, we have seen far more modern Canadian "errors" coming to the market than in the previous hundred. Colour shifts, colours missing, denominations missing, grossly misperforated stamps, preprinting folds, . . . ; some of these are clearly printer's waste, which must have reached the public by clandestine means. There are seemingly so many, that it ceases to be interesting when another one is "discovered". It is difficult to imagine that some of these drastic mistakes could have been sent to post offices without having been noticed en route. In at least one case, stamps not intended for release were "liberated" from a recycling plant.

Does Canada Post actually care about printer's waste being smuggled out of the plants to be sold for big money? It doesn't appear that way. In Britain, mere possession of such printer's waste is illegal (as it should be—it is stolen property). How often has Canada Post pursued the vendors of what was almost certainly printer's waste?

Errors can come on the market by perfectly legitimate means—sold over (not under) the counter at a post office or retail postal outlet. Their legitimacy would be enhanced if examples could be found commercially used in period and on cover. If the error was missed by postal employees, it is likely to be missed by some purchasers, who would use the stamp for postage (this occurred with the Seaway invert). Recent errors offered for sale ought to be accompanied by a pedigree, showing their provenance—how the stamps reached the original and subsequent purchasers. Buyers could influence the situation by insisting on this; reputable dealers should be happy to comply.

However, the onus should be on Canada Post to pursue such matters. It ought to lobby for a change in the law, making possession of this type of printer's waste illegal, and it should pursue the smugglers and their contacts. It goes without saying that stricter security measures should be implemented. If this troubles the unions, too bad.

The editors of specialized catalogues could make a contribution as well, by investigating the status of each error that they list—items that did not reach the market by legitimate means should be clearly noted, and their value depreciated accordingly. (It is not good enough to simply not list them.) Collectors of modern errors could similarly discriminate between real errors and faulty wallpaper.

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Info? Major (Retd) Richard K Malott
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Canada's post office savings bank

Bill Pekonen

PRIOR to 1929, there were two classes of Dominion Government Savings Banks in Canada: the *Post Office Savings Bank*, under the Post Office Department, and the *Dominion Government Savings Bank*, attached to the Department of Finance.

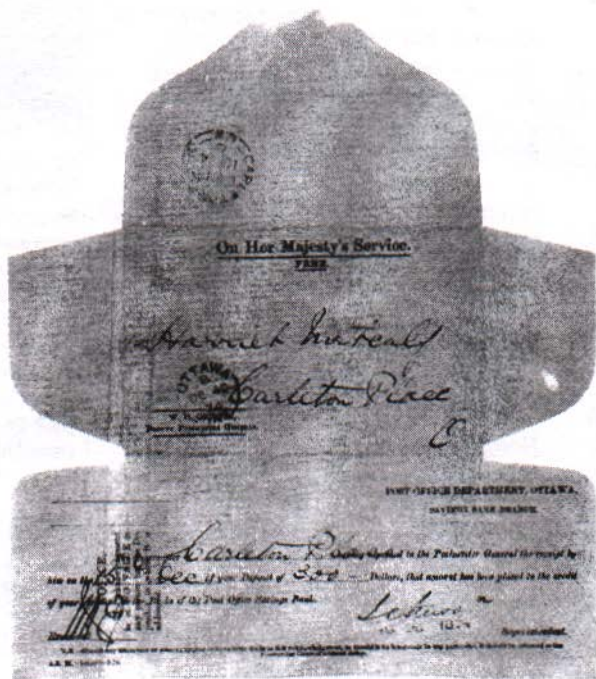


Figure 1. Deposit acknowledgment form, knife A
Printed 2-74, and mailed from Ottawa to Carleton Place (double
broken circle at top).

The Post Office Savings Bank was established under the Post Office Act of 1867 (31 Vic c10) in order to

enlarge the facilities now available for the deposit of small savings, to make the Post Office available for that purpose, and to give the direct security of the nation to every depositor for repayment of all money deposited by him together with the interest due thereon.

Keywords & phrases: post office savings bank

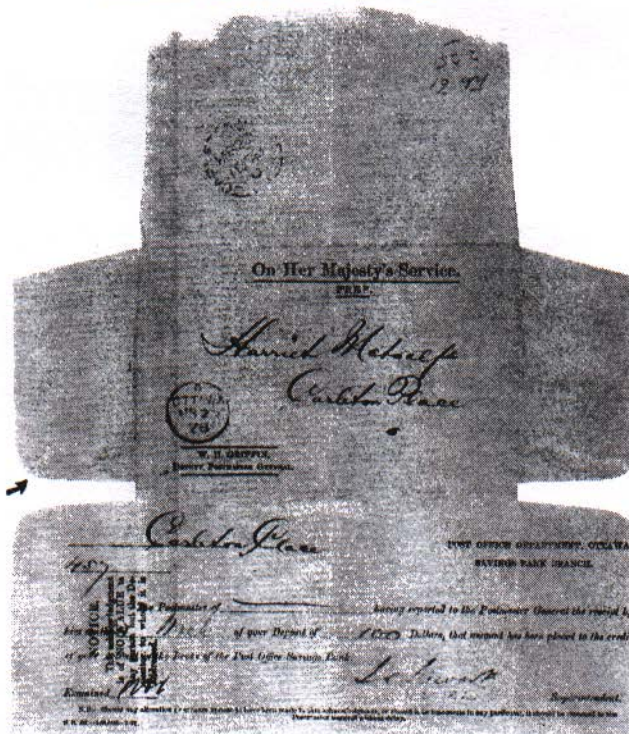


Figure 2. Deposit acknowledgment form, knife B
Form S. B. 62, printed 1-76. Mailed from Ottawa in 1878.

Branches of the Government of Canada's Savings Bank under the Department of Finance were established in the leading cities of Canada under the management of Assistant Receivers General, and in other places, in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, under managers appointed by the Governor in Council. These banks were gradually amalgamated with the Post Office Savings Bank over a period of 50 years. The amalgamation was completed in March 1929. The Department of Finance issued deposit notices similar to those issued by the Post Office. These notices are also included in this summary. Only a few examples have been accumulated, although some other copies have been observed in the hands a few dealers. Since they were not part of the post office Savings operations, they were not deemed to be of interest.

The Post Office Savings Banks disappeared sometime during 1967. The Canada Year books are silent on the subject. It is known, however, that as at 31 March 1967, there was nearly \$21 million on deposit. Further research is required to find out if there is any connection with the closure of these

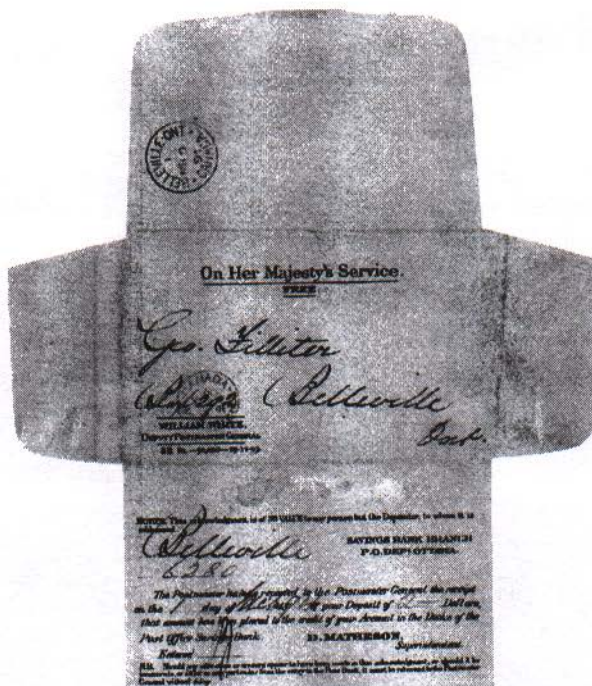


Figure 3. Deposit acknowledgment form, knife C
Form S. B. 62, printed 29-12-93), Mailed from Ottawa to Belleville.

savings bank accounts and the Bank of Canada Act passed in 1967. That Act was passed to provide “certainty” to the relationship between the Bank of Canada and the Government.

The amount on deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank at 31 July 1868 was \$204,589, peaking in 1908 to \$47.6 million. The amount fluctuated slightly until 1919, and began to decline gradually until 1942 when it reached a nadir of \$21.7 million. The amounts on deposits at the fiscal year end rose again until 1953, reaching \$39.3 million. A gradual decline occurred until 1967.

The number of depositors in 1868 was 2,102, rising to a peak of 155,895 in 1909, and declining to 134,345 by 1916—the last year for which those statistics were recorded in the respective issues of the Canada Year Book. When the number of depositors recorded in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of each year are compared with the print quantities shown on the various forms, it is somewhat surprising that there are not more of these Post Office Savings Bank forms in circulation. The form was mailed under

O. H. 6208

Augustens Bureau
Lachine
Que.

R. E. COOPER,
Dir. P. M. CAN. A.
R. E. COOPER, 2044

SAVINGS BANK BRANCH,
DIVISION DE LA CAISSE D'ÉPARGNE,
P. O. DEPARTMENT,
MINISTÈRE DES POSTES,
OTTAWA.

Lachine

1797

The Postmaster having reported to the Postmaster General the
Le Maître de Poste ayant avisé au Maître des Postes la récep-
tion à la date du 5 jour de Dec 1917 d'un versement de 70
dollars, that amount has been placed to the credit of your account
dollars, cette somme a été placée au crédit de votre compte
in the books of the Post Office Savings Bank.
dans les livres de la Caisse d'Épargne postale.

Entered W. H. Eschequier
Inscribed W. H. Eschequier

W. H. HARRINGTON,
Eschequier,
Sous-Maître

R. E. COOPER, Eschequier, 2044

Figure 4. Deposit acknowledgment form, knife D
Form S. B. 62, printed 19-7-09. Bilingual form, Ottawa-Lachine.

free mailing privileges from Ottawa to acknowledge receipt of the deposit made at any post office. (It seems reasonable to conclude that each depositor would have received more than one deposit confirmation each year.) Maybe a large quantity exists somewhere in some box—ignored and forgotten. If so, this writer would certainly like to hear about them! And also to hear about other print dates so that the holes in the data can be filled. I have not seen enough examples to come to any conclusions concerning values. What few have been seen so far could be the exception rather than the rule.

Five different knives (Figures 1–5, all at 40% actual size) have been observed for these acknowledgment forms, each with a distinctive shape. The sizes of individual examples vary slightly. It is unclear whether these are variations in cutting to size or if a different knife existed. The early forms (A & B) have a wider bottom with extended flaps. The difference between

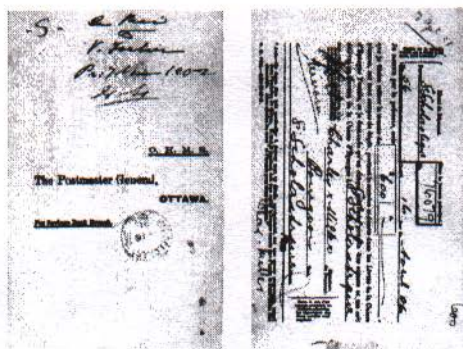


Figure 5. Request for withdrawal, knife E
Form S.B. 65½, printed 10-10-00. French-only request for
withdrawal, printed in a quantity of 2500.



Figure 6. Early form (1876)
As it was mailed. Form 62A, printed in a quantity of 10,000,
with print date 1-76. In a dull rose colour, with an embossed coat
of arms on reverse.

knives A and B occurs in the bottom cut of the middle flaps. The bottom cut on A is a sweeping curve while the bottom cut on the middle flap of B is only a rounded corner. The bottom part of form C matches the top part in width, while the bottom of the middle flaps have a rounded corner. Form D has a longer bottom portion and has bilingual wording—both English and French. Form E is printed on both sides while the other four are printed only on one side. Form E has been seen only with French wording.

A further distinction applicable only to types (A & B) is the vertical overprint using red ink on the lower left corner of the bottom flap. Broken over

six lines, it reads: "NOTICE. This acknowledgment is of NO VALUE to any persons but the Depositor to whom it is addressed."

PO savings bank deposit info, to 1899

year (1)	br (2)	\$ in acc'ts	acc'ts (3)
1868	81	204,589	2,102
1869	213	856,814	7,212
1870	226	1,588,849	12,178
1871	230	2,497,260	17,153
1872	235	3,096,500	21,059
1873	239	3,207,052	23,526
1874	266	3,204,965	24,968
1875	268	2,926,090	24,294
1876	279	2,740,952	24,415
1877	287	2,639,937	24,074
1878	295	2,754,484	25,535
1879	297	3,105,191	27,445
1880	297	3,945,669	31,365
1881	304	6,208,227	39,605
1882	308	9,473,662	51,463
1883	330	11,976,237	61,059
1884	343	13,245,552	66,682
1885	355	15,090,540	73,322
1886	392	17,159,372	80,870
1887	415	19,497,750	90,159
1888	433	20,689,033	101,693
1889	463	23,011,423	111,321
1890	494	21,990,654	111,230
1891	634	21,738,648	111,230
1892	642	22,298,402	110,805
1893	672	24,153,194	114,275
1894	699	25,257,868	117,020
1895	731	26,805,542	120,628
1896	755	28,932,930	126,442
1897	779	32,380,829	135,737
1898	814	34,480,938	142,280
1899	838	34,771,605	142,141

- (1) Fiscal year; for 1868, th... covers only three months (fiscal year ending 30 June).
 (2) Number of branches at end of year.
 (3) Number of open accounts at end of year.

PO savings bank deposit info, 1900–16

year (4)	br	\$ in acc'ts	# acc'ts
1900	847	37,507,456	150,087
1901	895	39,950,813	157,368
1902	915	42,320,210	162,761
1903	934	44,255,327	167,023
1904	961	45,419,706	168,572
1905	989	45,368,321	165,518
1906	1,011	45,736,488	164,542
1907 (4)	1,043	47,453,228	167,285
1908	1,084	47,564,284	165,691
1909	1,102	45,190,484	155,895
1910	1,133	43,586,357	148,898
1911	1,151	43,330,579	147,478
1912	1,172	43,563,764	147,919
1913	1,212	42,728,942	146,034
1914	1,250	41,591,387	143,320
1915	1,269	39,995,406	135,477
1916	1,289	40,008,418	134,345

(4) For 1907, this covers only nine months (year end 31 March).

The method of reporting statistics in the Canada Year Book changed with the year 1917. Of interest in the new method is the total on deposit at the year end. The other details shown above are not shown. The table " ... 1917–69" below shows only the amount of deposits on credit at the end of each fiscal year.

Following those are tables of known postal forms associated to the Post Office Savings Bank. The "knives" are discussed above. The "lang" entry refers to the language of the wording: E for English, F for French, and EF for bilingual; R means that the information was missing from the report of this form. The print quantity and the print date are printed on the forms. The column "use" refers to known use. The abbreviation N S means *not shown*.

[1 There are no examples wherein different knives appear within a single print order date; hence, this datum alone (when available) provides a fast method of distinguishing the forms, without reference to knives.

2 A number of the forms were printed on watermarked paper, similar to two of those appearing on contemporary AR forms (see BNA*Topics* # 484, p 34–36). The two watermarks noted are (script) Colonial Bond and nonserif outline EMPIRE LINEN BOND. These are indicated in the final columns of tables of forms by WC or WE, respectively. There is one printing—in 1905—with two distinct watermarked papers. —ed]

End of year amounts on deposit, 1917-69

year	\$ Amount	year	\$ Amount	year	\$ Amount
1917	42,582,479	1936	22,047,287	1955	36,780,667
1918	41,283,470	1937	21,879,593	1956	36,164,460
1919	41,654,960	1938	22,587,233	1957	35,918,499
1920	31,605,594	1939	23,045,576	1958	34,895,729
1921	29,010,619	1940	23,100,118	1959	34,155,617
1922	24,837,181	1941	22,176,633	1960	29,372,461
1923	22,357,268	1942	21,671,413	1961	28,512,786
1924	25,156,449	1943	24,373,991	1962	25,880,479
1925	24,662,060	1944	28,206,208	1963	25,880,479
1926	24,035,669	1945	33,468,799	1964	24,604,910
1927	23,402,337	1946	35,537,154	1965	23,254,957
1928	23,463,210	1947	35,764,512	1966	22,023,929
1929	28,375,770	1948	36,226,060	1967	20,755,662
1930	26,086,036	1949	37,741,389	1968	(1)
1931	24,750,227	1950	38,754,634	1969	(1)
1932	23,919,677	1951	37,661,921		
1933	23,920,915	1952	38,031,232		
1934	23,158,919	1953	39,322,230		
1935	22,547,006	1954	37,792,914		

(1) No data.

Receipt for deposit (Ottawa); form S.B. 62a

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
B	E	manilla	10,000	1-76	76
C	E	buff	20,000	22-8-'99	00
C	E	buff	25,000	28-4-03	03
D	E	buff	25,000	10-5-24	27

Receipt for deposit (Ottawa); no form

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
A	E	blue	N S	N S	73

Receipt for deposit (Ottawa); form S.B. H

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
A	E	blue	100,000	2-74	74

Receipt for deposit; form S.B. 62, to 1905

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
B	E	blue	10,000	1-76	78
B	E	blue	100,000	11-78	79
B	E	blue	7	7	87
B	E	blue	100,000	5-80	81
B	E	blue	100,000	2-86	86
	R		100,000	23-6-91	
C	E	grey	100,000	19-3-92	92
C	E	gy-bl	50,000	29-12-93	94
C	E	grey	50,000	16-10-96	96
C	E	grey	50,000	8-3-97	97
	R		50,000	12-5-97	
C	E	grey	50,000	5-4-98	98
C	E	grey	50,000	12 10 '98	99
C	E	gygrn	50,000	12-1-98	98
	R		25,000	6-3-99	
C	E	grey	25,000	11-7-'99	99
C	E	grey	50,000	8-8-'99	99
C	E	green	50,000	22-1-1900	00
C	E	green	50,000	19-4-1900	00
	R		100,000	27-6-1901	
C	E	grey	100,000	24-1-1902	02
C	E	grey	100,000	30-7-1902	02, 03-WE
C	E	grey	100,000	13-10-'02	03-WE
C	E	grey	100,000	8-1-1903	03
	R		100,000	8-4-1903	
C	E	green	100,000	27-8-1903	04-WC
C	E	green	100,000	10 3-1904	04-WC
C	E	green	100,000	3 8-04	05-WC
C	E	green	100,000	14-2-05	05-WC/WE

Receipt for deposit; form S.B. 62, 1906—

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
C	E	green	100,000	4-1-'06	07-wc
C	E	green	100,000	20-6-'06	06-wc
C	E	green	100,000	5-4-'07	07-wc
	R		100,000	12-3-1908	
D	EF	green	100,000	19-7-09	10
D	EF	lgreen	100,000	12-1-10	10
D	EF	lgreen	100,000	28-9-10	11
D	EF	lgreen	100,000	25-2-11	11
D	EF	lgreen	100,000	24-7-12	12

Withdrawal notice; form S.B. 60

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
	R		50,000	8-5-1900	
C	E	manila	100,000	24-9-'03	04
C	E	manila	100,000	19-7-06	08
C	EF	manila	100,000	25-2-11	12
D	EF	manila	15,000	12-9-28	?

Withdrawal notice; form S.B. 65½

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
E	F	manila	2,500	10-10-00	01-WE OR WC

Statement of account balance; form 22

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
C	E	green	?	?	10

Audit confirmation; no form number

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
A	E	blue	?	?	74

The Dominion Government Savings Bank, 1868–1929

Details regarding the number of depositors has not been shown in the various editions of the Canada Year Book available to this writer. An estimate of the possible number of depositors can be extrapolated by comparing the total deposit amounts with the number of depositors at the Post Office Savings Bank, on the assumption that the average deposits were approximately the same. The relative number of forms should be similar, but since print quantities are not shown on the limited number of forms seen for comparison, it is not possible to form any valid conclusions. The chart (at the end of this article) shows the amounts on deposit at the end of each fiscal year. The fiscal year end from 1868 to 1906 was 30 June. In 1907, the fiscal year end was changed to 31 March, and remains on that basis to this day.

Finance department; no form number

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
B	E	grey	N S	N S	90

Finance department; form 21

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
C	E	grey	N S	N S	99

Finance department; form 22

knife	lang	colour	print qty	print date	use
B	E	grey	N S	N S	03

Savings bank envelopes

form #	print qty	print date
N S	15,000	7-70
SB 57	10,000	2-3-96
SB 57	20,000	21-11-06
SB 80	100,000	10-4-08
SB 107	5000	5-2-97

Dominion Government Savings Bank data

year	\$ amount (1)	year	\$ amount (1)	year	\$ amount (1)
1868	1,483,219	1889	19,944,935	1910	14,677,872
1869	1,594,525	1890	19,021,812	1911	14,763,752
1870	1,822,570	1891	17,661,378	1912	14,655,564
1871	2,072,036	1892	17,231,146	1913	14,411,541
1872	2,154,234	1893	17,696,464	1914	13,976,162
1873	2,958,170	1894	17,778,144	1915	14,006,312
1874	4,005,295	1895	17,644,956	1916	13,520,009
1875	4,245,091	1896	17,866,389	1917	13,633,610
1876	4,303,165	1897	16,554,147	1918	12,177,283
1877	4,830,693	1898	15,630,181	1919	11,402,098
1878	5,742,529	1899	15,470,100	1920	10,729,218
1879	6,102,492	1900	15,642,266	1921	10,150,189
1880	7,107,287	1901	16,098,144	1922	9,829,653
1881	9,682,445	1902	16,177,777	1923	9,433,839
1882	12,295,000	1903	16,515,802	1924	9,055,091
1883	14,242,870	1904	16,738,744	1925	8,949,073
1884	15,971,984	1905	16,649,136	1926	8,794,870
1885	17,888,536	1906	16,174,134	1927	8,519,706
1886	20,014,442	1907	15,088,584	1928	7,640,566
1887	21,334,525	1908	15,016,871	1929	(2)
1888	20,682,025	1909	14,748,436		

(1) At year end.

(2) Balances transferred to Post Office Savings Bank.

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Complements to: Canada's post office savings bank

The Editor

AFTER editing Bill's article (the preceding one), I went through my material, and found some post office savings bank covers. Not surprisingly, there are many different printed envelopes related to various aspects of the service; however, it seems to be very difficult to find them.

Figure 1 shows an unused form envelope pre-addressed to the Postmaster General for the use of the savings bank branch. The sideways text explains its purpose:

This envelope is only to be used for returning, to the Post Office Savings Bank, the Withdrawal cheques (and corresponding Advices) which have been in possession of the Postmaster for fifteen days, without having been claimed by Depositors. IT MUST BE REGISTERED.

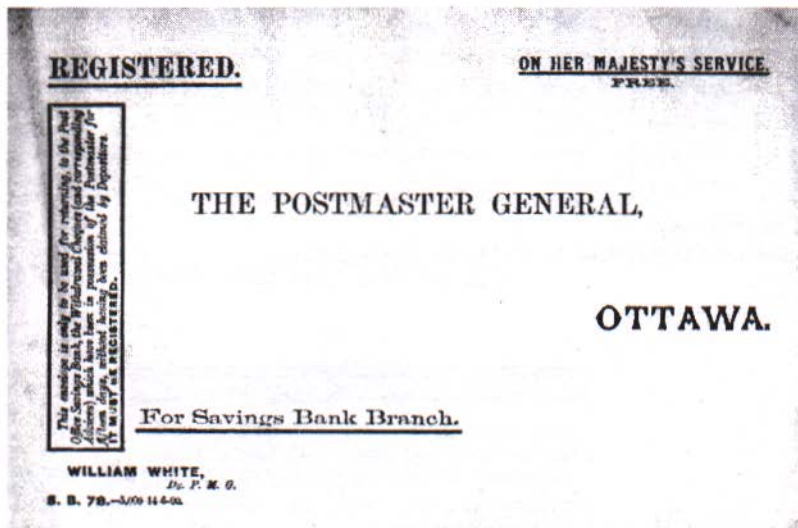


Figure 1. Form envelope (1890)

Form S.B. 78 (if you haven't figured it out by now, "SB" in the print data is the abbreviation for "savings bank"); in a quantity of only 5,000, with print date 14-6-90.

Keywords & phrases: post office savings bank

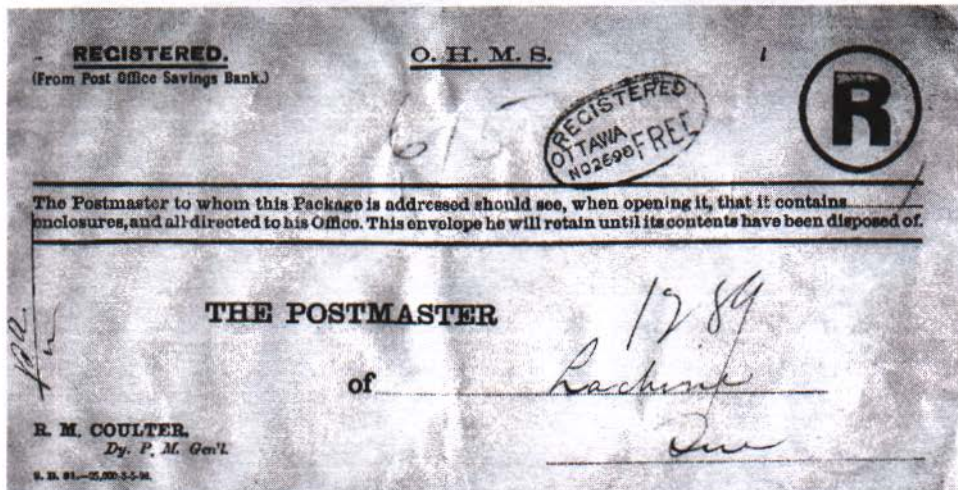


Figure 2. Form envelope (1898)

Form S. B. 81; in a quantity of 25,000, with print date 3-5-98. With the Ottawa oval free registered handstamp (much less scarce than is thought), addressed to the postmaster at Lachine (PQ), with one enclosure, as indicated by the filled-in text above the address.

Figure 2 shows a somewhat larger preprinted envelope, used in 1898, intended to be mailed from the post office savings bank in Ottawa. Perhaps it contained the withdrawal cheques referred to on the cover in Figure 1. The relevant text on the front reads:

The Postmaster to whom this Package is addressed should see, when opening it that contains enclosures, and all directed to his Office. This envelope he will retain until its contents have been disposed of.

Figure 3 shows a 1929 form envelope used by depositors in the savings bank to return their passbook for examination. In both languages, it reads, "The Pass Book is to be enclosed in this envelope and posted by the Depositor himself." The fine print (again bilingually) reads (their italics & small caps):

A depositor must forward his book *once in each year, on the anniversary of the date of its issue, or renewal* (but not before that date), to the Postmaster-General, in order that the entries may be compared with the Books of the Postmaster-General, and that the interest to the preceding 31st March may be inserted in it.

The Book enclosed in this Envelope will be returned to Depositor at the ADDRESS GIVEN ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE COVER OF THE BOOK. The Depositor ought, therefore, to see that the Address on this Book is correct.

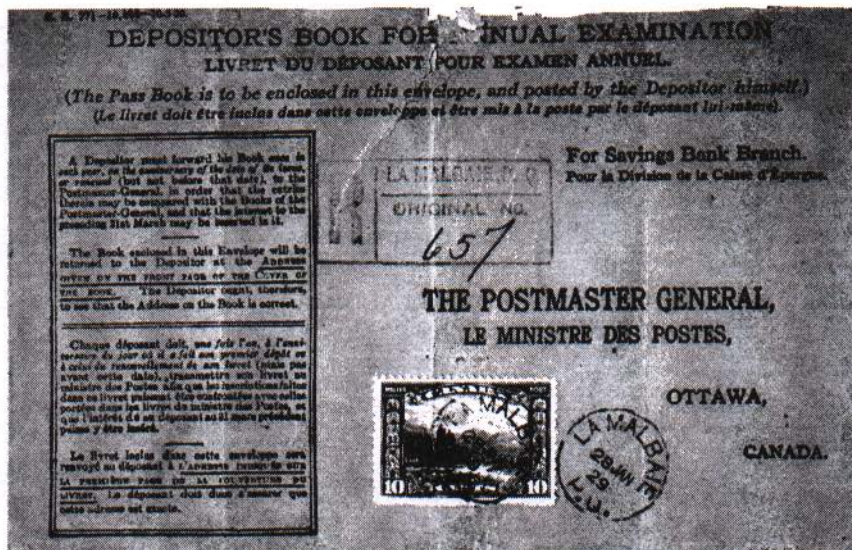


Figure 3. Envelope to return passbook for updating (1929)

Form S. B. 77 $\frac{1}{2}$; in a quantity of 10,000, with print date 10-3-20. Postage was free, but the sender decided to register it.

Although postage was free, the sender had to pay the registration fee (registration was not compulsory), which at this time was 10¢.



Figure 4. Free covering envelope for a Form 21 (1882)
From Ottawa to Eagle Lake via Winnipeg and Rat Portage (KEE).
Unfortunately, there is no Eagle Lake postmark on it.

No. 21.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT, OTTAWA,
SAVINGS BANK BRANCH.

The amount of One hundred
Dollars has been placed to your credit as your first
deposit in the books of this Department, having been reported
by the agent at Winnipeg on the 2
of Feb - 1882.

PASSBOOK No. 4425 DEPOSIT \$ 100 00

J. M. COURTNEY,
D. M. F.

NOT NEGOTIABLE.

If the above amount does not agree with the first entry in your Pass Book, please
state the difference above and return this addressed to

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,
OTTAWA.

FOR SAVINGS BANK BRANCH.

Figure 5. Early Form 21 (1882)

Enclosed in the cover above, evidently a precursor to the folded letter forms used somewhat later. There is a faint blue double oval datestamp on the form, practically illegible.

Finally, in Figures 4 & 5, we see an 1882 free letter from Ottawa to Eagle Lake (MB) with its enclosure—Finance Department form # 21 (see Bill Pekonen's article preceding this), acknowledging deposit in the Dominion Government Savings Bank. Evidently this form is a precursor to the folded letter acknowledgment of deposit forms. This is quite remarkable, and I was very lucky to find it. (The cover also has a readable but poor strike of the Rat Portage, Keewatin, Canada broken circle dater on reverse.)

Vignettes of the Old West: Skeena

Andrew Scott

EVEN in the 21st century, the north coast of British Columbia is still a very isolated part of the world. In the Victorian era, when this region was barely charted, and only visited sporadically by a handful of sailing vessels and steamships, it had an inaccessibility that was truly daunting for most Europeans. That remoteness, which caused Captain George Vancouver to call the area “as desolate inhospitable a country as the most melancholy creature would be desirous of inhabiting”, nevertheless gives it a certain fascination for postal historians.



Figure 1. Skeena–Victoria (1889)

All cancels in purple. Henry (later Sir Henry) Pering Pellew Crease was attorney-general of BC 1861–70, and a BC Supreme Court justice 1870–95.

The north coast is home to the people of the Haida, Tsimshian, Nisga'a and Haisla First Nations, who were decimated in the 1860s and later in the century by virulent outbreaks of smallpox and tuberculosis. A handful

Keywords & phrases: West, Skeena, Port Essington



Figure 2. Skeena–Toronto (1897)

Fancy cork still in use. Mailed by Rev D Jennings, Port Essington's Methodist minister. The Methodists founded Port Essington's hospital in 1897.

of missionaries and traders also inhabited the area. Until 1885, the entire north coast from Comox on Vancouver Island to the Alaska border—a distance, as the raven flies, of about 700 kilometres—had exactly one post office: Skeena.

The office was named after the Skeena River, which drains a large part of north-central BC and stretches 621 kilometres, emptying into the Pacific just south of present-day Prince Rupert. *Skeena* is a Tsimshian word meaning “water of the clouds”. With the discovery of gold in the northern Omineca district in 1870, the river became a supply route to the short-lived rush. Sternwheelers were soon dodging rapids en route to Hazelton, a small settlement and trading centre more than 200 kilometres inland.

A colonial post office named Skeena River opened on 21 February 1871, according to Alfred S Deaville, author of the indispensable study, *The Colonial Postal Systems and Postage Stamps of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1849–1871*. Deaville states that the exact location of the office is not known, but gives the postmaster's name as Thomas Hankin. Hankin was a merchant. With his partner, Robert Cunningham, he was operating a store at Hazelton by 1871 and is also known to have established a depot that year at Wood-

cock's Landing on the Skeena's wide mouth. The post office would very likely have been located there. Presumably, it received one of the numeral grid cancelling devices issued to BC post offices in the colonial era. Which number was assigned is a mystery, however (as is the case with most of the colonial offices of BC). No covers from Skeena River have been reported in the colonial era.

Woodcock's Landing was the first coastal port of entry for miners wishing to reach the Omineca by travelling up the Skeena. According to Deaville, letters and papers for the miners were probably conveyed from Skeena River to the gold district by expressmen, who also carried the official mails free of charge. The Hudson's Bay Company brought the mails from Victoria to Skeena River about once every six weeks for the nominal sum of \$10 per trip. After Confederation, a post office named Omineca was opened close to the mines and served from Quesnel instead.

The Skeena depot and post office did not wither and die, however. Robert Cunningham, who bought out his partner in 1877, became the principal player in the trading business. He wanted a better location for his store—a spot that he could develop into a townsite. To this end, he pre-empted two sections of land on the south shore of the river, on the opposite side from Woodcock's Landing, at a place where the Ecstall, a tributary of the Skeena, joined the main stream. By 1872, he had built a store there. He encouraged the Tsimshian people, who knew the place as *Spokshute*, or “autumn camp ground”, to move to the new site, by setting aside a reserve for them.

He called his instant town Port Essington, the name that Captain Vancouver had applied to the estuary of the Skeena in 1793, not knowing that it was the mouth of a large river. William Essington was a friend and fellow naval officer of Vancouver's. The post office, however, continued after Confederation under the name Skeena, no doubt to provide some continuity with its colonial name. It was not changed to Port Essington until 1898. From 1873, it was certainly located on the south shore of the Skeena and not at Woodcock's Landing, which in 1876 became the site of Inverness Cannery, the first salmon cannery north of the Fraser River. (Inverness post office was established there in 1907.)

Robert Cunningham, the founding father of Port Essington, had an interesting history. He was trained as a lay missionary by the Anglican Church Missionary Society in England and came to BC in 1862 to work as an assistant to William Duncan, a controversial figure on the west coast. The dictatorial Duncan had founded the Christian utopia—or “model Indian village”—of Metlakatla that year, a few kilometres north of the mouth of the Skeena.

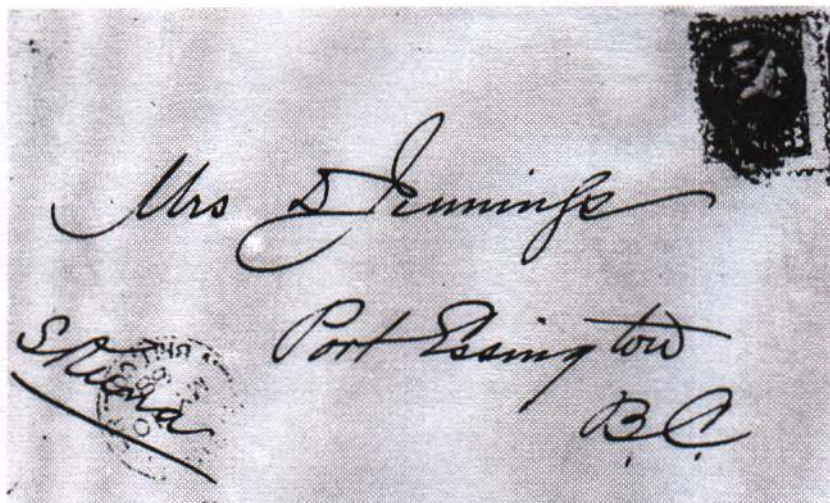


Figure 3. New Westminster–Port Essington (1888)
Early cover to Port Essington. Mrs Jennings was the wife of the
Methodist minister (Figure 2).

Cunningham was not cut out for mission work, and he was dismissed for marrying Elizabeth Ryan, a young Haida woman. He left Metlakatla in 1867 and moved to nearby Fort Simpson, a Hudson's Bay Company post and the most important community on the north BC coast, where he rapidly rose to become chief trader. After resigning his position over a salary disagreement in 1870, he went into business with Thomas Hankin. (Incidentally, Fort Simpson did not receive a post office until 1885 and Metlakatla until 1889.)

Cunningham built a sawmill at Port Essington, and in 1883 opened the Skeena Cannery. By 1890, two other canneries, the Skeena River Commercial and the British American, were operating there as well. The village became an important coastal port and a base for the Skeena riverboats, several of which, naturally, were owned by Cunningham. He also built a hotel, hall and cold-storage plant. The community had churches, newspapers, and many of the amenities of civilized living. Cunningham died in 1905, and his businesses were carried on for many years by his brother and nephew.

Port Essington could only be reached by water, of course, and its streets and sidewalks were made of wood, as was everything else. Fire was a constant danger. After the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was completed along the north shore of the Skeena in 1910, and Prince Rupert became the railway terminus, Port Essington went into a gradual decline. The canneries were



Figure 4. Port Essington–Toronto (1898)

First Port Essington split ring; early date (20 October) and cross-roads cork.

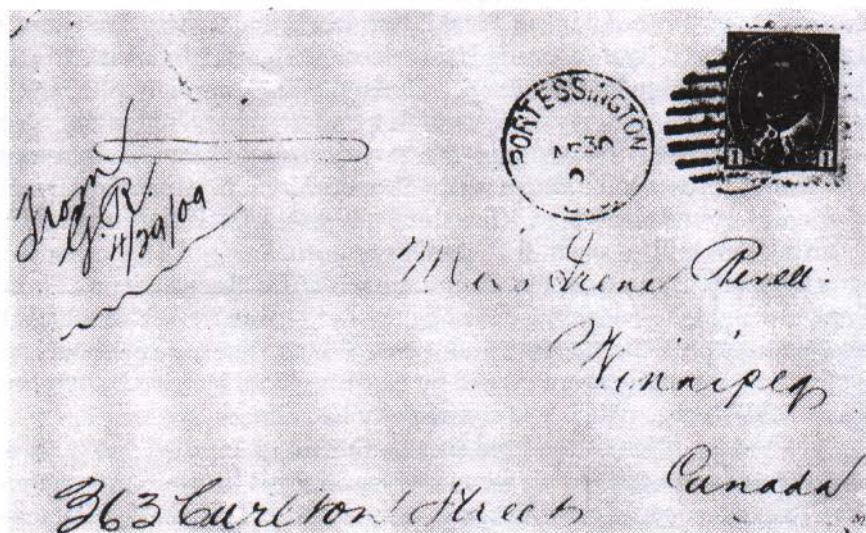


Figure 5. Port Essington–Winnipeg (1909)

Duplex; on photoview card.

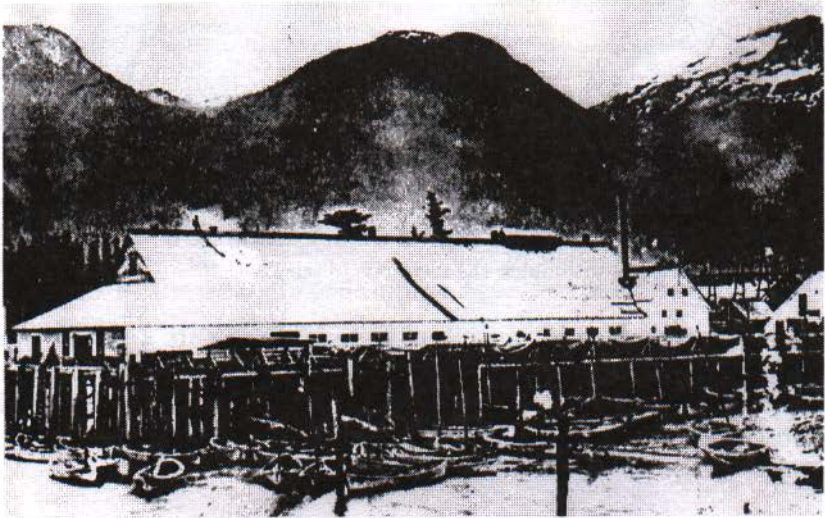


Figure 6. Reverse of Figure 5
Photoview of British American Cannery in Port Essington.



Figure 7. Port Essington–US (1908)
Third split ring on post card.

shut down by 1936. After World War II, only a few residents remained. The post office closed in 1955, and two fires in the 1960s destroyed the remaining buildings.

While only a single datestamp is known from Skeena, Port Essington used



Figure 8. Port Essington duplex and M.O.O.D.
Proof strike of the duplex; the M.O.O.D. is in purple.

a number of postmarks and cancelling devices during its 57-year postal history. Three different split-ring daters are known (proof strikes do not seem to have been recorded), along with a circular steel datestamp, a duplex, M.O.O.D. and M.O.T.O. datestamps, and a registration box handstamp.

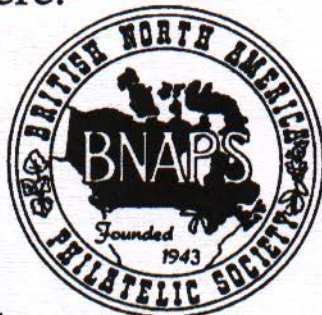
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Pseudonyms, *noms de plume*, *noms de guerre* supplied on request

Wreck of the SS *Labrador*

Colin Lewis

ON 19 February 1899, the Dominion Line Steamship *Labrador* (Figure 1), left Saint John NB bound for Halifax NS, en route to Liverpool UK via St John's NF. She was a vessel of 4737 gross tonnage and built by Harland & Wolff of Belfast in 1891. Aboard the vessel were 74 passengers, 92 crew, 17 horses, 153 bags of mail and a cargo of grain. It was claimed, by the majority of Shipping Agents of the time that the *Labrador* was the finest four-masted steamship of the day.

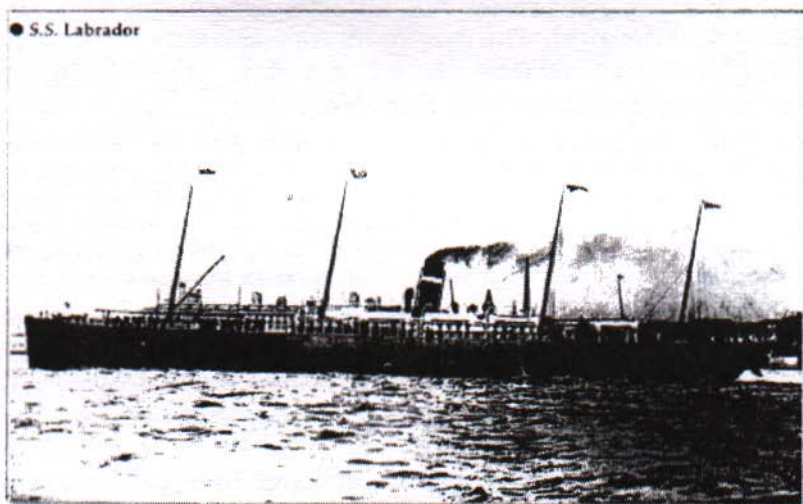


Figure 1. The ss *Labrador*

Upon completing the Atlantic crossing, her first intended port of call was Moville in County Donegal, Ireland. Having for most of the voyage a pleasant, if somewhat rough passage, she encountered very dense fog as she approached Ireland, and failed to locate the port.

By the morning of Wednesday, 28 February, the fog was at its worst and a lookout was posted at the masthead to watch for lights. In the early hours of the next day Captain Erskine, the master of the *Labrador*, estimated that he was a few miles off the north coast of Ireland. In fact, they were 60 miles

Keywords & phrases: wreck, ss *Labrador*

farther north. It was 0700 hours when a shout from the masthead lookout, *breakers ahead*, was heard. The cry was too late to prevent the ship running aground on the Mackenzie Rock, about four miles south of the Skerryvore Lighthouse which is itself ten miles southwest of the Inner Hebridean Island of Tiree, Scotland.

The Captain ordered all on board to take to the lifeboats and miraculously no one was lost. The majority of the passengers and crew were rescued by the German steamer *Viking* (modern day research has revealed that this vessel was Norwegian) while one boatload of people made it to the Skerryvore Lighthouse. The *Labrador* had a gaping hole in her side, and much of its cargo washed out of the vessel, to be consumed by the sea. Some of the grain still on board became wet and expanded, bursting the hatches and contributing to the rapid break-up of the vessel. What became of the horses is not known; presumably they drowned. The passengers and crew were taken to Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Scotland from where Captain Erskine sent the following message to the Dominion Line offices at Liverpool.

Labrador, during thick fog, ran on the Mackenzie Rock at 7 AM yesterday, four miles from Skerryvore Lighthouse. She struck the rocks amidships, and the sea is breaking over her. One, two and three holds are full of water. Passengers and crew were all saved, and left the ship in boats. One boat with passengers landed at the lighthouse. All other boats were picked up by German steamer *Viking*. If ship does not break up I will endeavour to save mails.

When the managers read this message, they immediately despatched the Liverpool tug, the *Great Emperor*, with a crew of divers to try to salvage the mail. Records of salvage are sparse, but like many a tragic story something good survives. In the case of the *Labrador*, it was a small number of letters that were recovered from the sea.

The cover in (Figure 2) is one of about ten items known to have been recovered from the wreck; the seven that I have seen all originated in Newfoundland. The cover is franked with the 2¢ orange codfish of 1888 and is tied by the standard barred circle killer (although, as with all other covers that bear stamps, the stamp has been re-affixed by the Post Office). The St John's free strike is dated AM FE 16 99 while the Liverpool double circle is dated MR 16. The cover is clearly stained by sea water and has been sealed with selvage from the British Jubilee definitive issue of stamps of the day.

A second cover franked with the 2¢ of the 1897 Royal Family issue was also recovered from the wreck, together with the somewhat damaged postal stationery card, type P4. These two items are shown in (Figures 3 & 4, and are courtesy of Brian Stalker. Of the other known surviving covers, three are dated Liverpool 15 March (including the illustrated postal stationery card), while three others are stamped at Glasgow on either 10 or 14 March. Liver-



Figure 2. Wreck cover
The stamp was reattached by the G.P.O.



Figure 3. Another wreck ...
Courtesy of Brian Stalker.

pool mail was stamped on both the 15 & 16 March. The likeliest explanation for consecutive dates is that there was a large volume of mail to be dried,



Figure 4. . . . and a real wreck

Courtesy of Brian Stalker.

rather than two different vessels landing mail at Liverpool. Postmarks and instructional markings would not have been applied before the covers were dry. Unlike the Liverpool covers that bear the instructional mark RECOVERED FROM WRECK / OF SS LABRADOR in violet, the Glasgow covers carry a boxed instructional mark DAMAGED BY IMMERSION / IN SEA WATER in violet but with no mention of the *Labrador*.

An unknown number of bags of mail were salvaged and delivered to the postal authorities at Liverpool and Glasgow. It would appear that more than one vessel salvaged mail and it is likely that the *Great Emperor* returned with mail to Liverpool, while the *Viking* may well have recovered some mail and delivered it to Glasgow. The disparity in dates on the Glasgow mail suggests that more than one vessel was involved in salvage from that port. No records exist of the amount of mail that was recovered, but the bulk of the items seen by the writer are from Newfoundland. One has been seen that originated at Halifax NS, and this carries the Glasgow instructional mark.

[This is a modified version of an article that appeared in a recent issue of the *Newfie Newsletter*, the journal of the BNAPS Newfoundland study group.]

The Newfoundland ((235)) cancel

Sammy Whaley

COLLECTORS of early Newfoundland have always been piqued by the numeral ((235)) cancel on Newfoundland stamps. Aside from the Cunard ship cancel A92, it is the only numeral cancel used in Newfoundland. It has been described variously as a paquebot/mailboat cancel, a registration cancel, or even as a receiver. Actually, it was used only at the St John's post office, where it was placed on both domestic and foreign mail. It is found on both registered and non-registered mail, post cards, and was even used as a transit strike on letters passing through St John's from out-lying towns.

There is no record of the ((235)) being officially delegated to St John's, so its origin remains a mystery. There was a similar cancel used in Staindrop (England) until about 1860. Col Robert Pratt (one of the most knowledgeable authorities to have written about it) felt that someone could have brought it to St John's and used it as his personal obliterator.

The earliest known use (EKU) of the ((235)) is also an open question. There are two dates—1865 & 1873—and each has its proponents. In 1865, Newfoundland replaced the pence issues with the cents issues, and it is this year that both Robson Lowe and John Butt espouse as the first year of use. They based their opinion on a controversial 1865 cover; it received a good certificate from the BPA, but not from the Philatelic Foundation. It shows one penny and five pence stamps, each tied by the ((235)) cancel. The rate poses a problem, and the Philatelic Foundation expressed no opinion on the cancel. This is the only recorded example of the ((235)) cancel until 1873.

Both Col Pratt and David Piercey (in his superb article on cork cancels [5] of 1994) consider 1873 as the EKU for the cancel, based on the fantastic cover shown in Figure 1, currently in the collection of Colin Lewis. Examples of its use become more frequent after this date.

Confounding the issue are examples of the ((235)) cancel on stamps, particularly on pence issues. In April 1865, Newfoundland covertly its postal rates from pence to decimal. There were no decimal stamps available until mid-November 1865, so that pence issues were used in the meantime. There were also periods in 1867–69 when the pence issues could be used to pay postage, because of shortages of decimal issues. Proponents of the 1865 EKU have no problem with this, as they maintain that the cancel was

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, 235, pence issues, cents issues

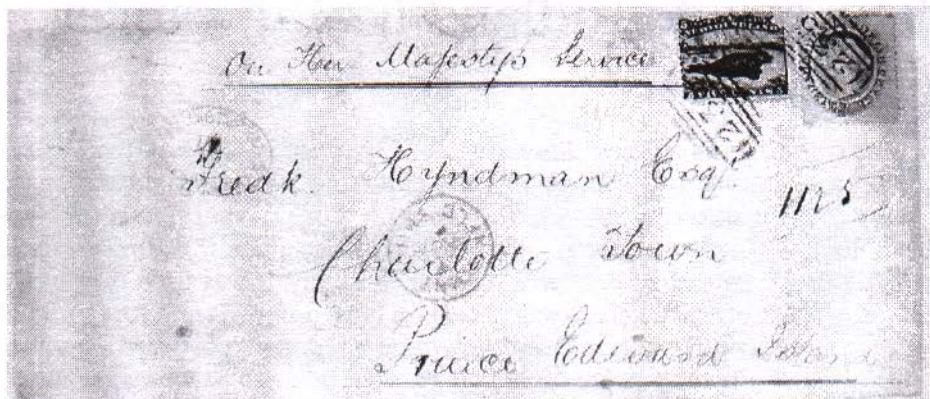


Figure 1. Registered Newfoundland–PEI (1873)

Courtesy of Colin Lewis



Figure 1a. Close-up of stamps in Figure 1

used on the pence issues during these periods. Figure 2 shows an off-cover example on a pence issue. Pence issues were used only rarely after 1873. This would seem to lay the matter to rest, and that 1865 is the correct EKV.

However, proponents of the 1873 date (specifically, Col Pratt, in his article on the pence issues) claim that the ((235)) cancels were placed on the pence issues after being remaindered in the late 1880s, and the cancels were not applied by the post office. This could be the case, as there were ample remainders of the rose lake pence issues available until 1890. (Moreover, the pence issues were never demonetized, so can *still* be used as postage!) The example in Figure 2 has a good APS certificate, indicating that stamp and cancel are genuine, but it does not say when the stamp was cancelled.



Figure 2. On pence issue

As we all know, reaching a conclusion is partly based on having a feel for something, which in turn is based on experience and intuition. There seem to be so few of these pence stamps with ((235)) cancels that it seems more likely that they went through the mail. If there were cancelled at a later date, someone seemingly cancelled only a very few [*to maintain market value?—ed.*]

There are also different dates in the literature for the late use of ((235))—1888 or 1896. There are fewer complications here—there is only one cover with an apparent date later than 1888, specifically 1896. The strike is difficult to read, and it is quite likely that it actually reads 1886. There are several issues, notably the 1890 3¢ printed during 1888–96, for which hundreds of covers exist, and to my knowledge, none of them have a ((235)) cancel. In fact, no stamp printed after 1888, on or off cover, has one. This makes it almost certain that use of the ((235)) cancel ceased in Spring 1888. Covers bearing the cancel are listed in the tables below.

For those who wish to collect the ((235)) cancel, I offer the following advice. Examples on single copies of stamps are not difficult to find—they appear frequently on the internet or in public auctions. Most dealers in BNA have the cancel on at least one stamp in their inventory. [*Even the editor, who has practically zero Newfoundland material, found one in his own stock, on a cod stamp—ed.*] On the cents issue, it has been found on Scott # 24 (2¢ green), 26 (5¢ black), 27 & 27a (10¢ black), 28 (12¢ pale red brown), 30 (13¢ orange), 32A (1¢ brown lilac of 1871), 33–35 (3¢ vermillion & blue, 6¢ rose), 37–42 (1¢, 2¢, 3¢, & 5¢ of the rouletted 1876 issue, and the 1¢ violet brown & grey brown of the 1880 issue), 44 (1¢ deep green of 1887), 46 (2¢ yellow green of 1882), 49 (3¢ blue), and 53–54 (5¢ pale and dark blue).

Cover inventory: ((235)) cancels to 1886

date	Scott #	destination (1)
29 Nov 1865	15A, 19	Baltimore MD (2)
30 Apr 1873	26, 28a	Charlottetown PEI
23 May 1873	24a, 32a	Fortune
11 Jun 1873	35	Poole
1 Dec 1876	34 (×2)	Trinity
12 Dec 1876	34	Harbour Grace
18 Apr 1878	1¢ post card	Jersey City US
6 Feb 1882	38	Mabou NS
3 Jan 1884	post card	Hereford UK
10 Sep 1885	53 (×2)	Montreal
5 Oct 1885	42 (×2)	Carbonear
22 Jan 1886	2¢ post card	Phillipsburg US
6 Jun 1886	53	Birmingham UK
20 Jun 1886	1¢ post card	St John's
25 Jun 1886	53	Queensuk
3 Jul 1886	49	
3 Aug 1886	53	
21 Aug 1886	53	Salem US
1 Sep 1886	53	
7 Sep 1886	46, 49	Antigonish NS
8 Sep 1886	53	
15 Sep 1886	53	
13 Oct 1886	53	Newquay, Wales
23 Oct 1886	49	
20 Oct 1886	27a	Toledo US
4 Nov 1886	41, 46	Little Bay Island
11 Nov 1886	49	
3 Dec 1886	53	Shelburne NS
8 Dec 1886	53	
9 Dec 1886	42 (×5), 46 (×5)	Pittsburg US
15 Dec 1886	53	Fargo US
17 Dec 1886	53	
19 Dec 1886	49	Twillingate
30 Dec 1886	49	Green Bay
31 Dec 1886	41 (×2), 49	Lower Montague PEI

(1) All covers are mailed from St John's.

(2) The genuineness of this cover is disputed.

Cover inventory: ((235)) cancels, 1887–88

date	Scott #	destination	(1)
4 Jan 1887	49	Harbour Grace	
5 Jan 1887	53	England	
13 Jan 1887	53	Boston US	
14 Jan 1887	53	Sackville NB	
19 Jan 1887	53	East Mousley UK	
19 Jan 1887	49		
8 Mar 1887	44 (×2), 49		
18 Apr 1887	53	Brookholm ON	
4 Jan 1888	42 (×3)		
18 Feb 1888	48, 51, 54	Kane County IL (US)	
18 Feb 1888	46 (2)	Lewiston ME (US)	

(1) All covers are mailed from St John's.

(2) Book post

Unless otherwise modified, destination is in Newfoundland (thus Green Bay on the cover dated 30 December 1886 is not the town in Michigan, but in Newfoundland).



Figure 3. Use in 1886

Paying domestic rate of 3¢.



Figure 4. To New Brunswick 1887

Paying rate to rest of BNA, 5¢.



Figure 5. On Scott # 35, 41 & 53

One may see descriptions asserting that the cancel is on a stamp other than one of these, but these invariably turn out to be faded examples of similar stamps. For example, a stamp described as # 43 (1¢ brown issued in 1896) is inevitably a # 42 (1¢ grey brown), and what appears to be a # 47 (2¢ green issued in 1896) turns out to be 46 (yellow green, issued in the more plausible 1882). Naturally, a ((235)) cancel appearing on a stamp printed after 1888 is suspect.

Finding examples of the cancel on all of the stamps mentioned above is quite a challenge, and would take years. Multiples exist (usually of # 53), but

are rare. If offered on a pence stamp, keep in mind that questions surround its legitimacy. The greatest challenge is to find examples on cover. Col Pratt [4] lists 35 such, and I have been able to find 12 more, making a total of 47. From this list, we see that the most extensive use of the cancel occurred in 1886, with over half the total.

If you have information or covers to add to the subject (pro or con), please contact me. My e-mail address is onychaz@aol.com, and by snail, I can be reached at P O Box 235, Opp, Alabama 36467. I would like to thank Colin Lewis, Randall Martin, and Dean Mario for the help that they provided.

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[This is a modified version of an article that appeared in a recent issue of the *Newfie Newsletter*, the journal of the BNAPS Newfoundland study group.]

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A Siberian Expeditionary Force Discovery

C R McGuire & R F Narbonne

CANADIAN involvement in the Siberian Expeditionary Force (SEF) has been quite well documented (the bibliography contains many references worth consulting). The group of picture post cards illustrated here shows that finds can still be made and new information on this subject can still be unearthed.

Interest by one of us in the SEF began in 1977, when he had the privilege of conducting an oral history interview with Colonel Harvey Lawrence. Lawrence was one of the three Canadian Postal Corps clerks who accompanied the Force. An overview of Col Lawrence's very interesting 54-year career in Canadian civilian and military postal systems is presented in [4]. A transcript of the interview will be published in the future—the portion dealing with his Siberian assignment is of particular interest to readers.

Canada and the other Allies came to Russia's aid at this time in order to protect lines of communication from the Bolsheviks, and to assist Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak's White Russian Forces during the Russian Revolution. The latter had been raging from about 8 March 1917 when strikes and riots began in Petrograd (Leningrad 1924–1990, now St Petersburg, its original name). Czar Nicholas was forced to abdicate on 16 March.

After having served in France, L/Corporal D McLean volunteered to join the 260 Battalion, the last of Canada's numbered battalions of the first world war. The 260, together with the 259, went to Siberia as part of the 16th Canadian Brigade Corps. Both battalions had been organized on 1 November 1918, and were disbanded 15 November 1920. Neither was perpetuated nor affiliated with any other regiments or battalions after the war.

McLean sent six postcards to Miss Phoebe Beddis, 1891 Broadway West, Vancouver. The first three were written while he was with the SEF in Vladivostok. They are all postmarked with Toop-Bailey M5-1.

Figure 1 shows a card "Made in Japan"; among the Allies, Japan had the largest contingent of troops in Siberia—about 70,000—and the majority of picture post cards sent by members of the Allied forces that we have seen, were produced in Japan. It depicts "A bird's eye view of Vladivostok", with legend in Russian, English and Japanese. This card is number 2 in a series of printed black & white cards. It was written on 11-2-1919, postmarked

Keywords & phrases: Siberia, Siberian Expeditionary Force

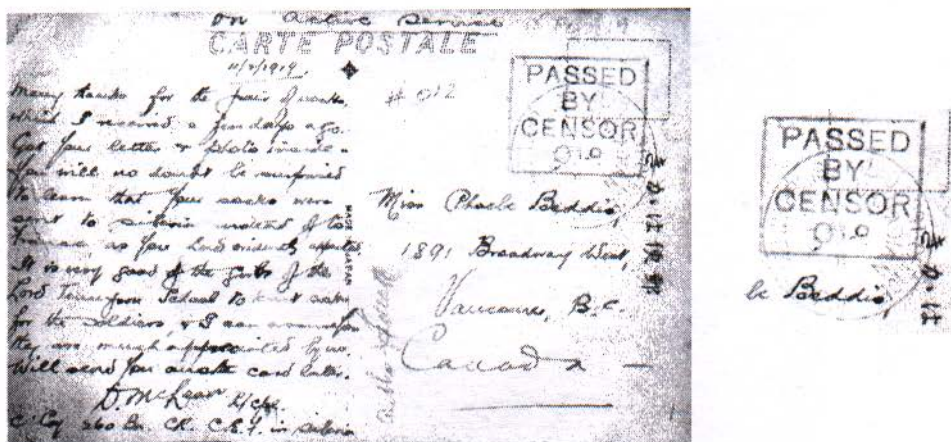


Figure 1. Vladivostok–Vancouver (February 1919)
Showing the rare “Passed by Censor 012” handstamp.

FE 15/19, and censored by Arthur J Elliott, who signed to the left of the address in indelible pencil.

The handstamp “Passed by Censor 012” (Toop-Bailey M5–22) was added prior to the postmark which overlaps it. According to Whiteley ([10, App A & D]), only one other example has been reported, applied to a cover postmarked 25 January 1919. On the card, McLean wrote

Many thanks for the pair of socks, which I received a few days ago. Got your letter & photos inside. You will no doubt be surprised to learn that your socks were sent to Siberia instead of France, as you had evidently expected. It is very good of the girls of Lord Tennyson School to knit socks for the soldiers. I can assure you they are much appreciated by us. Will send you another card later.

D McLean L/Cpl
“C” Coy. 260 Ba. CR. CEF in Siberia

Figures 2 & 3 were both written 15 March 1919 and postmarked exactly a week later, with Toop-Bailey M5–1. Figure 2 is a real photograph card with legend in Russian, and numbered B.S 71. McLean describes the view:

Trust you received my card sent a month ago stating I had received the socks you knitted [this confirms that this is his second card to Miss Beddis]. This is a picture of the entrance to the Trans-Siberian Rly’s Station at Vladivostok. Kind regards

L/Cpl D McLean
“C” Coy. 260th Ba. CR. CEF (S)

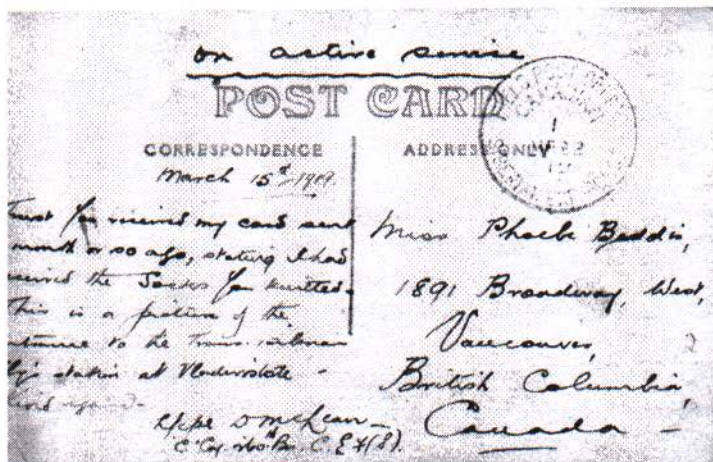


Figure 2. (March 1919)



Figure 3. (March 1919)

Figure 3 illustrates another clear real photograph, with the legend in Russian, and numbered B.S. 13. Fortunately, McLean again describes the scene.

This is a photograph of girls college or high school in Vladivostok. Not unlike a Canadian school is it? In Vladivostok are not wanting evidences [sic] of the two extremes, poverty and richness. There are some very wealthy people and also some very poor people. (The main reason there was a Russian Revolution.)

L/Cpl D McLean



Figure 4. Postage due, Harbin–Vancouver (May 1919)
What's the rate? Rectangular censor mark applied at Vladivostok.

While these two cards were made in Russia, the back has instructions in English. This suggests that they were on stock of American, British, or Canadian origin. From our knowledge of picture post cards, we suspect that the origin is American. Neither card is censored.

The next three post cards are much more interesting in terms of military postal history. Figure 4 shows a Chinese or Japanese black and white printed card depicting a Chinese man with a child sitting on a water buffalo. The legend, in Chinese and French, confirms that it is a view near Nanking. It was printed by Ediot P Pedrini-Tormo, according to the back.

McLean wrote it on 28 May 1919 at Harbin (Manchuria). The red rectangular No.14 handstamp is a Russian censor applied in ВЛАДИВОСТОК (Vladivostok). Smith ([8, p 54]) shows a January 1920 cover with a similar No.20 handstamp.

Upon arrival in Canada, the card received a red postage due handstamp, showing 12¢ postage due. Obviously, the postal official considered that the war was over, and discounted that the card was sent “on active service” (which would have permitted free postage). How he arrived at 12¢ due is a mystery. The Canadian post card rate for UPU destinations was 2¢, and the letter rate was 5¢, which would have corresponded to 4¢ and 10¢ postage due respectively. Nevertheless, since there is a single 2¢ and a pair of 5¢ postage due stamps tied by what appears to be a V (victory?) made with an indelible pencil, Miss Beddis did not dispute this assessment. Undoubtedly, she was quite happy to receive the card from her friend in far-off Russia.



Figure 5. RPO (May 1919)

The double oval is a Russian RPO datestamp, Krasnoyarsk & Irkutsk.

McLean's brief message again gives us new and surprising information.

Thanks so much for the small parcel you sent me. The socks (more!) were very acceptable. Will write again in a few days. Am on my way to Omsk, the capital of Siberia to accept a position with the British Railway Commission. My address now will be Lieut D McLean, c/o British Railway Mission, Omsk, Siberia. Will send you a card now & again on the way up. D McL

When the majority of his comrades left Russia in June 1919, McLean remained and joined the British, who gave him an officer's commission. We suspect that McLean had had railway experience.

Figure 5 illustrates a second Chinese- or Japanese-made black and white printed card. It depicts a marble boat palace. The legend is in Chinese and French, and indicates that the scene is in Peking. McLean wrote it in *Tulum, Siberia*, but did not date it (unlike the other five cards). There is a manuscript answered in pencil, so presumably Miss Beddis had replied to the card.

The card is postmarked with an oval Russian railway datestamp on 13 June 1919. From Smith [8, p54], the number 197 is the railway run on the Trans-Siberian Railway between Krasnoyarsk & Irkutsk (these names are in Cyrillic on the postmark). McLean wrote:

From 2/Lieut D McL with British Rly mission in Siberia

I sent you a parcel the other day from Irkutsk containing a necklace which I trust reached you safely. Was unable to send it back by one of the Canadian boys as I had expected as we passed their train in the night and I did not see them.

D McLean



Figure 6. British mission at Vladivostok (September 1919)

The final card, illustrated in Figure 6 is the gem of the lot. Written at Omsk on 19 September 1919, it has a fine strike of the double circle BRITISH MISSION POST OFFICE—VLADIVOSTOK, dated 28 September 1919. This use is 39 days later than the latest date reported in Hopkins [2].

The Russian coloured, printed card (numbered 40) depicts a busy scene of people, horse-drawn carriages and a two-car electric tram in front of Moscow's Czar Nicholas railway station. The legend is in Russian and French. McLean's choice of a second railway station postcard confirms his interest in this mode of travel.

McLean tells Miss Beddis:

Received your kind letter of July 27th a few days ago. As you will notice from the address, am still stuck in Western Siberia. The weather is not unlike that of Western Canada. My address in future will be Vladivostok instead of Omsk.

Kindest regards, D McLean

This was the first time he used a complimentary closing. This is also the only card addressed to Miss Beddis at The Wilderness, Ganges Harbour, S.S. (Salt Spring) Island. Even though it had been readdressed to her at 1891 Broadway, it did not have a Canadian receiver postmark—nor did any of the other cards. This is a pity, since we cannot determine how long it took them to travel from Russia.

Of interest are the gaps in time between the dates the cards were written by McLean, and the initial postmarks. These are shown in the Table.

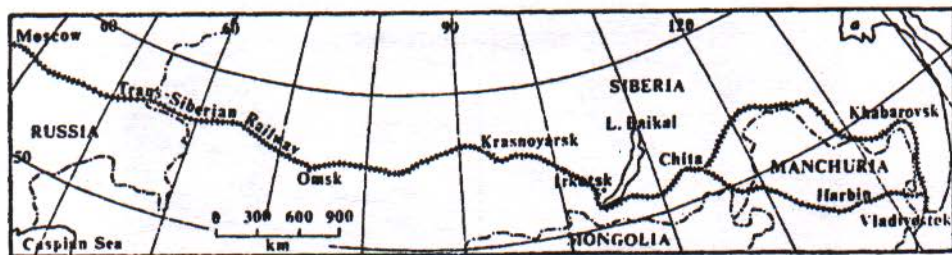


Figure 7. Map of the region

Showing places post cards came from. Map courtesy of Bob Smith.

Table. Dates of post cards

Figure	written (1919)	postmarked	gap (days)
1	11 February	15 February	4
2 & 3	15 March	22 March	7
4	28 May	—	—
5	—	13 June	—
6	18 September	28 September	10

Figure 7 is a map of the region, with the six places that we know McLean visited along the Trans-Siberian and Chinese Eastern Railways. How many other towns was he in during his Siberian adventure? Does any other mail sent by McLean exist from Siberia or other theatres he visited? Did any mail to him from Miss Beddis survive? Mail to members of the SEF is much rarer than from them. Can readers tell us more about McLean or his lady friend? (Information should be sent to the Editor.)

Acknowledgment We would like to thank Connie McGuire, the Editor, and Bob Smith for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

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(29) Canadian Postal Guide **ILLUSTRATED**

C R McGuire

One of a series (initially 1983–89, and recommencing in 2001) illustrating points from Canada Postal Guides.

LETTERS addressed to members of the UPU were not required to be prepaid, but were liable to double deficiency in case of short or non-payment. From the postal guide:

Prepayment on letters addressed to Postal Union countries generally is not compulsory, but in case of non-prepayment or insufficient prepayment, the letters are stamped T (for the word "tax") at the despatching Exchange Office, and go forward subject to a charge of double the amount of deficient postage.

The cover shown in Figures 1 & 2 was a double rate cover with only the first rate (5¢) prepaid. The deficiency was marked 25 centimes (5¢), and the amount due (double) was marked en route, in Britain.

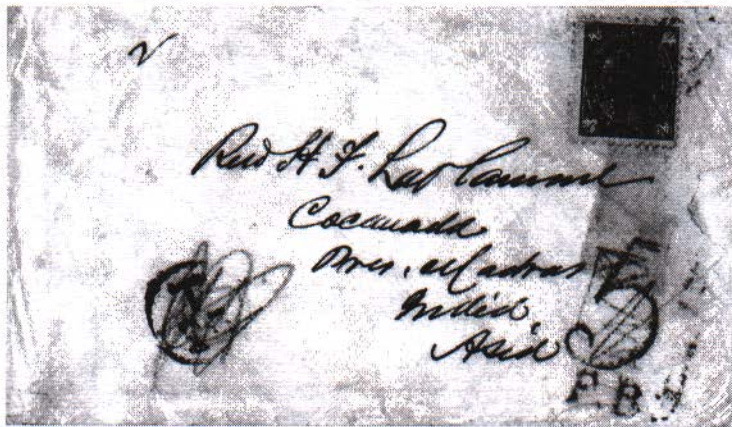


Figure 1. Double rate to India, shortpaid 5¢ (February 1898)

The rate to India at this time (just prior to Imperial penny post) was the generic UPU rate of 5¢ per half ounce. Marked T 25 (centimes), equal to 5¢, this indicates the amount of the deficiency. Double this is 50 centimes, which converted to 5d in England, where this was marked. F.B. indicates *Foreign Branch*. Presumably the recipient paid the equivalent on its arrival.

Keywords & phrases: Canada Postal Guide, UPU, short paid, registered



Figure 2. Postmarks on the cover in Figure 1

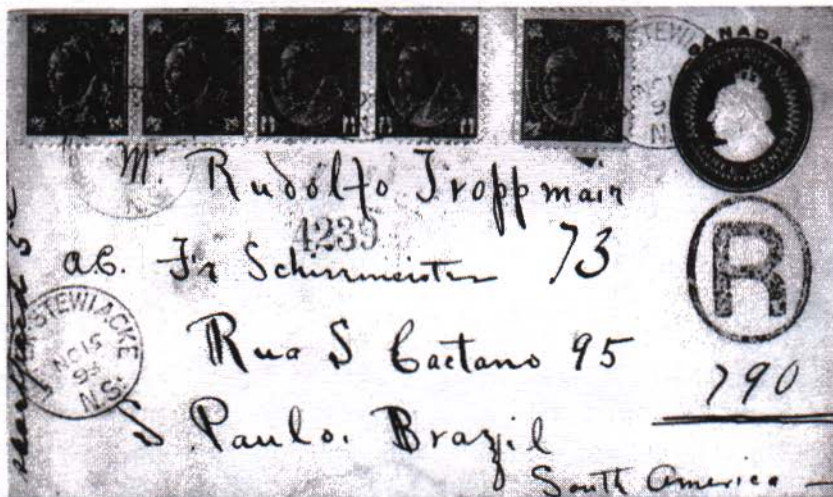


Figure 3. Registered shortpaid "to" Brazil (November 1898)

From Upper Stewiacke (with inverted 5 in the dater); it was returned to sender the same day it was mailed, after passing through Brookfield, Halifax and Saint John. —ed

Contrast this with the cover in Figure 3. It is a registered 1898 cover from Upper Stewiacke (NS) to Brazil with 10¢ postage paid. This is made up of the single UPU rate (5¢) and the registration fee (5¢). However, it never made it out of Canada. At the extreme left is the endorsement *shortpaid 5¢*—apparently, the envelope was double rate. Registered postage due letters—abroad or domestic—were to be returned to the Dead Letter Office, and then to the sender. In fact, on reverse, the sender laments this fact:

This letter was mailed at Upper Stewiacke November 15, 1898. Was sent to Dead Letter Branch Halifax from Saint John N.B., thence to Upper Stewiacke to sender for deficiency in postage (5¢).

There are two relevant quotations from contemporary postal guides, applying to both domestic and international registered mail sent from Canada (their italics and capitalization):

No article can be registered unless both postage and registration fee be prepaid.

All insufficiently paid registered letters should be sent to the Dead Letter Office by first mail.

One wonders how the accepting post office made this error. Each of the numerous postmarks (front and back) is dated 15 November 1898. The return to sender of short paid registered letters appears to have been a Canada-specific regulation (frequently not observed, especially for domestic letters), rather than a general UPU rule. According to Chung & Reiche's *The Canadian postage due stamps* (Unitrade, 1985), in the period 1905–1933?, registered postage due covers were forwarded with double deficiency.

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Presentation booklets— change of contractors, 1928–1930

J C Jarnick

IN 1897, the American Bank Note Company secured the contract for printing Canadian stamps. This company remained the printer for over 30 years. In 1923, the contract was transferred to the Canadian Bank Note Company, a wholly owned subsidiary. This company was responsible for producing the Diamond Jubilee stamps of 1897 and the Scroll issue of 1928–29, including the beautiful 50¢ Bluenose. In 1929, the government awarded the printing contract to the British American Bank Note Company; this heralded a new issue, the Arch issue, in 1930.



Figure 1. Front cover of presentation booklet

To mark the last issue of stamps to be printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company approximately 500 booklets were produced for presentation to Members of Parliament. The booklets measure 155mm×122mm, and are bound in dark blue fine-grained leather. The Canadian Coat of Arms is gold stamped in the centre with CANADA stamped immediately below the Coat of Arms (Figure 1). The booklet contains one page (Figure 2) with three linen pockets. CANADA POSTAGE STAMPS 1928 is printed at the top and TIMBRES POSTE DU CANADA 1928 at the bottom of the page. The pockets contain the 11 stamps of the Scroll issue of 1928 (USC 149–159) and the first Canadian airmail stamp (USC C1).

Keywords & phrases: UPU, presentation booklet



Figure 2. Only page of presentation booklet

In addition to the booklets for members of Parliament, a special version was produced especially for the Postmaster General, in an issue of 100. He presented these booklets to his colleagues and friends. COMPLIMENTS OF P. J. VENIOT has been added to the lower left hand corner of the cover of these Postmaster General booklets. Booklets were also made for the first issue of stamps printed by the new government contractor, the British American Bank Note Co. These were also presented to members of Parliament. The same size as the Scroll issue booklet, it is bound in blue morocco leather with the Coat of Arms gold stamped in the centre of the cover (Figure 3). Above the coat of arms, it reads POSTAGE STAMPS, and below is

CANADA
TIMBRES-POSTE
1930

Again, 500 booklets were manufactured. The booklet consists of two pages with linen pockets, with no printing on the page (Figure 4). Stamps placed in the pockets are the Arch issue of 1930, the 1¢ orange, 1¢ green, 2¢ green, 2¢ deep red, 4¢ yellow bistre, 5¢ dull violet, 5¢ dull blue, 8¢ dark blue, 8¢ red orange, 10¢ Library, 12¢ Quebec Citadel, 20¢ Harvesting Wheat, 50¢ Grand Pré, \$1 Mt Edith Cavell, 5¢ olive brown air mail, 20¢ henna brown special delivery, and the 1¢, 2¢, & 4¢ dark violet postage due stamps (USC 162-65, 168-77, C2, E4, J6-8).



Figure 3. Front cover of booklet prepared for Postmaster General

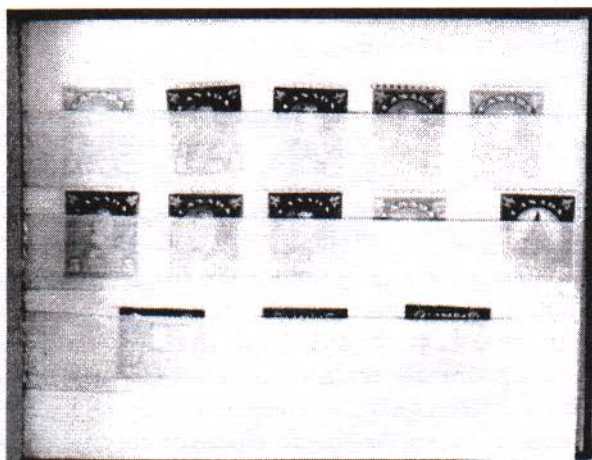


Figure 4. Only page of presentation booklet

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Lew Ludlow's Cowcatcher



William G Robinson OTB

ONE of the major problems faced by any compiler of a postal marking catalogue concerns the listing what appear to be major varieties of such markings or hammer types. Differences may be real, or only apparent—for example, they could be caused by light or heavy impressions, or by wear on a hammer.

Recently I have been working on an exhibit of nineteenth-century markings used on railway mail service runs in, out of, or through Ottawa. In trying to classify hammers used on two early runs, I found that Lewis Ludlow appears to have erred on the side of caution in giving major listings to several strikes of the same hammer.

First, let us consider OTTAWA & PRESCOTT RAILWAY +, Ludlow O-250, Type 5A (large diameter with single external ring), which has been reported from 5 November 1857 to 27 December 1860. Compare this with Ludlow O-252 with the same wording, which is shown as Type 7 (large diameter with double external ring), and has been reported from 16 September 1863 to 10 January 1866.

I contend that these were made by the same single-ring hammer, showing apparent light doubling around the word PRESCOTT and the bottom + on some strikes. Ludlow O-251, Type 6, (with the same wording between two concentric circles) apparently replaced the O-250 & 252 hammer(s), and is reported from 26 March 1866 to 1 February 1873.

[Bill included images of some of the cancels, which unfortunately are not clear enough to be shown here. However, it appears that this RPO hammer is what Frank Campbell called a changeling—lead dropped out of the interior of the letters and the rim, creating outline lettering and doubling of the rim. This phenomenon is clearly seen in the American-made large single circles of Canada West and Canada East in the 1850s—see Bruce Graham's recently published Ontario broken circles (PHSC, 1999), or the journal of the SHPQ #74 (2000) 15-20 for illustrations.—ed]

The other theory concerns the OTTAWA AND GREENVILLE MAIL CLERK No. 1 steamboat run. It appears that the original hammer contained the word GREENVILLE. The second E was filed down to form GREENVILLE, producing Ludlow O-229, Type 6C (wording between concentric circles), which is reported from 20 April 1859 to 23 August 1862. Light strikes

Keywords & phrases: RPO, hammers

apparently do not show the inner circle, producing O-228, Type 5F, reported from 4 November 1859 to 16 November 1861. This is concurrent with O-229, and not very likely.

The third variety, Ludlow O-227, Type 6c, shows evidence of the second E in GREENVILLE, and appears to be from heavy strikes of a worn O-228. It is reported from 10 October 1861 to 4 November 1865. Light impressions in this period show only vestiges of the filed down E, while heavy strikes show it clearly.

Reports would be appreciated for these two runs. Are there really two different hammers of the Ottawa and Prescott run, and three different of Ottawa and Grenville, or only one of each? As always, I can be reached at 301-2108 West 38th Ave, Vancouver BC V6M 1R9.

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What's new?— National Archives of Canada Philatelic Collections

Cimon Morin

This column is provided on a regular basis in order to publicize new acquisitions and activities within the philatelic area at the National Archives of Canada (NA). Researchers who wish to use the NA facilities should contact, in writing, the National Archives of Canada, Reference Services, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0N3 [fax: (613) 995-6274; e-mail: reference@archives.ca; Internet website: <http://www.archives.ca>]

Philatelic Library

The catalogue of the National Archives philatelic library collection is now available on-line through its web site. This research tool is essentially a catalogue of the philatelic library. It can be used to conduct searches of the 6,500 catalogued titles, including monographs and specialized catalogues. Periodicals and auction catalogues are not yet part of this database. The library collection includes a variety of documents, such as monographs, specialized catalogues, brochures and series on philately, as well as material dealing with the history of the Canadian and international postal services. The library includes historical publications of the Post Office Department, annual reports from the Minister responsible for Canada Post, official postal guides, special reports, etc. It also includes an extensive material from the Universal Postal Union; in particular, it contains special reports, agreements on postal rates & exchanges of mail between countries, as well as books about stamps and postal service from around the world.

Former acquisitions

Phil Cove collection [philatelic record] [1977] 58 postal covers, one postcard. Collection consists of postal covers bearing 1977 Northwest Territories and Yukon postmarks, some autographed by postmasters, as well as postal covers bearing 1977-04-07 MPO (Belleville ON) postmark. (R4690)

Jacque Houser fonds [textual record] [1963-1981]; ca 40cm of textual records (five volumes, two boxes). Fonds consists of four albums of letters, research notes and reference material. The letters are from James A Pike, noted philatelist, as well as other dealers and collectors; they pertain to British Columbia

philately, postal history, and Houser's interests and purchases. The research notes concern BC post offices and postal history. The reference material concerns BC stampless covers. The fonds also consists of two boxes of notes and articles on BC post offices, postmarks and postal history and one copy of George H Melvin's book *Post Offices of British Columbia* with additional notes on BC post offices. (R4510)

Hugh C Elliott fonds [philatelic record] [1918–1919] Two postal covers. Fonds consists of two postal covers addressed to Mrs Wm Elliot, from her son, Hugh C Elliott, who was on active service in Siberia during World War I. Each cover bears a Canadian Field Post Office–Siberian Expeditionary Force postmark; they are dated 27 Nov 1918 and 16 Feb 1919. (R4690)

Emil J Fiala collection [philatelic record] [1928–1947] Ten panes of postage stamps, four postal covers. Collection consists of Canadian unused stamps in panes, and postal covers such as first day and first flight covers. Air mail stamps including issues of 1928, 1932 (C1, C2, surcharges), 1935, the War issues 1942–1943, the Peace issue of 1946, and Air Mail Special Delivery stamps, 1942–1943 War Issue (CE2) and 1947 Revised Peace Issue (CE4). (R3999)

André Frodel fonds [philatelic record] [pre-1963] 29 postage stamps. Fonds consists of a variety of forged Canada, British Columbia and Nova Scotia postage stamps, created by André Frodel. (R3759)

Wally Gutzman fonds [textual record] [1977–1982, predominantly 1977] 1cm of correspondence. Fonds consists of contemporary correspondence with Gutzman's fellow members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Siberia 1918–1919). Correspondents include A D Dane, Henry Harwood, C A Love, and Cpl Samson Littlewood. (R4112)

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New Issues

William J F Wilson

CANADIAN postage is 150 years old this year. Control of the post office was transferred from Britain to the Province of Canada by proclamation on 5 April 1851, with Canadian postal administration commencing the next day. Some time in late April, the post office released Canada's first postage stamp, the three penny beaver. Three pence currency paid the half ounce domestic letter rate; when Canada converted to the decimal system (in 1859), 3d became equivalent to 5¢.

The centennial of the event was marked on 24 September 1951, by a four stamp set that included a 15¢ (airmail rate) stamp showing the 3d beaver. Now the sesquicentennial has been marked by a 47¢ domestic letter rate stamp also showing the 3d beaver, released on the same day of the year that Canadian administration began in 1851. This is Canada's third commemorative stamp to feature the 3d beaver; the second was issued 11 March 1982, in honour of the Canada '82 International Philatelic Youth Exhibition.


It is true but misleading that the letter rate has increased by a factor of less than five from 10¢ for one ounce in 1851 to 47¢ for 30g (slightly larger than one ounce) in 2001. In fact, the rate decreased to 3¢ per half ounce on 1 April 1868, then 3¢ per ounce in 1889, and 2¢ per ounce on 1 January 1899. Thus the release of the 3d beaver was followed by a period of deflation in the rate by a factor of five, followed by inflation by a factor of almost 25 to the present. [*This does not consider buying power—ed*]

For trivia fanatics, what is the major anachronism in the portrayal of the 3d beaver on the 47¢ stamp? Answer next column.

Still on the topic of anniversaries, the longest anniversary commemorated on Canadian stamps is the 1700th anniversary of Christianity as the state religion of Armenia. (I am excluding Canada's Christmas stamps in the preceding sentence—they are issued as much to mark a current event as to commemorate an anniversary.) The stamp is not simply commemorating an event in another country; people of Armenian heritage form a significant fraction of Canadians. As philatelists, we have a special debt to Canadians of Armenian heritage, as the portraits of Queen Elizabeth II on both the 1953 and the current definitive series were taken by Yousuf Karsh, a Canadian photographer of Armenian birth; landscape photographs by his brother, Malak Karsh, have also appeared on recent Canadian stamps.

Keywords & phrases: new issues

Table 1. March–April 2001

Stamp 	figure skating	150 yr Canada Post	TO Blue Jays	Summit Americas
Value	4×47¢ S-T	47¢	47¢	47¢
Issued	19 Mar	6 Apr	9 Apr	20 Apr
Printer	CBN	CBN	A-P	A-P
Pane	16	8	BOOKLET 8	16
Paper	C	C	JAC	C
Process	9CL	4CL& steel engr	5CL	5CL
Qty (10 ⁶)	8	5	10	3
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	PVA	self-adhesive	PVA
Size (mm) (1)	36.5×32	32.7×41.9	40.5×26	29.9×40
Perf	13.2×12.5	12.8×12.9	DC (imperf)	13.4 × 13.0
Teeth	24×20	21×27	N/A	20×26

- (1) There are errors in the stamp widths as given in tables on the Canada Post website. The figure skating stamp is given as 38mm, yielding perf_{12.6}; the measured width of 36.5 mm (obtained by measuring two stamps in a pair and dividing by two) yields perf_{13.15}, which is confirmed using an Instanta gauge. The perforations in the table are rounded.

The sesquicentennial stamp is given on the website as 32×40mm, which would yield perf_{13.1}×13.5. The measured dimensions are 32.7×41.9mm, which converts to perf_{12.84}×12.89. The Instanta gave perf_{12.85}×12.9.

There was also a small discrepancy in the measurements of the Blue Jays stamp.

Controversy and confrontation at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City seemed to make more headlines than the summit itself; but whatever one's views of the summit, it has given us a very attractive map stamp. The Americas are shown in relief, extending diagonally across most of the stamp. Half of Canada didn't make it onto the stamp, so collectors of maps showing the Arctic are out of luck, but the overall visual impact of the design is good. (Given some of the fears expressed by the demonstrators, one hopes that losing half of Canada on the stamp honouring the Summit of the Americas is not symbolic of anything.)

There are some errors in the sizes of several stamps on the Canada Post website, as noted in the footnotes of Tables 1 & 2 above. Some of the errors are very small (e.g., .1 mm [*about the thickness of the paper!*—ed]) but the difference is borne out by the perforations measured on my Instanta gauge. If the difference is real, then I wonder if it is *absolute*, meaning that all stamps in the issue are the same size and differ by .1 mm from the published value, or if it is simply part of an inherent scatter in stamp sizes, perhaps due to variations in paper shrinkage during the stamp production or small, random displace-

Table 2. May–June 2001

Stamp ^{RS}	tourist attractions	Armenian Ch	RMC
Value	5×60¢, 5×\$1.05	47¢	47¢
Issued	11 May	16 May	1 Jun
Pane	two booklets of 5	16	16
Printer	CBN	A-P	CBN
Paper	JAC	C	C
Process	8CL	8CL	5CL (1)
Qty (10 ⁶)	3.75 (each value)	3	5
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	P-S	PVA	PVA
Size (mm)	48×30	30.3×48 (2)	48×26
Perf	11.3×11.3 sim'd	13.2×12.5	12.5×13.1
Teeth	27×17 sim'd	20×30	30×17

(1) The data on the Canada Post website states 4CL, but there are five colour dots on the pane selvage.

(2) Canada Post website lists 30mm horizontally, which would yield perf_{13.33}; measured as 30.3mm, yielding perf_{13.20}, and the latter is verified by the Instanta.

Abbreviations. 5 (6, 7, ...) CL: five (six, seven, ...) colour lithography; : booklet; A-P: Ashton-Potter; C: Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); CBN: Canadian Bank Note Company; DC: die cut; GEN: general (tagging); G4S: general tagging (four sides); JAC: Canadian Jac; M: thousand; N/A: not applicable (straight-edged stamp, or width depends on how booklet was trimmed); P: Peterborough paper; PA: pane; P-S: pressure sensitive gum; s-t: setenant; ss: souvenir sheet; sim'd: simulated.

ments of the combs during perforation. The agreement between the perforations calculated from the measured widths and the perforation readings from my Instanta gauge argues against comb displacements—displacing a comb does not affect the spacing between individual pins in the comb.

Ascertaining scatter is difficult for an individual collector, so if anyone else would like to confirm or refute my results I would be happy to hear from you, and will report the results in subsequent columns. Measurements should be from one side of a perforation hole to the same side of another hole, preferably across more than one stamp to increase accuracy. Mint stamps are preferable to used for this purpose, to avoid the possibility of expansion or shrinkage resulting from soaking and drying. The information in the tables is from the Canada Post website,

<http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp?stamp=stamps>

and from philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Size, perforations, and teeth numbers are my own measurements, and are given as horizontal × vertical.

Book Reviews

☞ *The Chalon Heads* by Barry Maitland (1999), paperback, 326+ pages; ISBN 0-75282-765-0. Published by Orion Books (UK); price: c\$9.99.

WE don't often review works of fiction, but this mystery has a lot of philatelic, and particularly BNA, content. It takes place in Britain. An ex-con, who is a well-known collector of Chalon heads (including of course, the 12d black, which graces the covers of the book and every chapter head) receives extortion notes with mutilated Chalon heads (of Tasmania, van Diemen's Land). His wife has been kidnapped; the kidnapers demand a fabulous 12d cover, currently in a British auction. In order to raise money to buy it, he must sell his collection.

In an effort to reduce his loss, very sophisticated techniques are employed to fake the "Canadian" cover, as it is known. It turns out that many of the items in his own collection have themselves been faked, leading to a byzantine plot line. There is a further twist after the auction, when the wife's body turns up in the same condition as the mutilated stamps.

Of some interest to philatelists are the behind-the-scenes activities in the rather snooty British auction house (I wish there had been some mention of commission-fixing), and the methods used to fake the cover. Of more interest is the story of the cover, which is illustrated on the front of the novel. According to the story, Sandford Fleming (designer of the 3d beaver) received advance copies of the 12d and used one on a letter to himself prior to their official date of issue. Since the correct rate for the letter was 3d, it is an obvious philatelic usage! Even so, at auction it reaches £1,250,000 plus taxes and tip.

Whoever designed the front cover of the book was pulling the reader's leg. First, he illustrated the cover with a pair of 12d—the text continually implies that it has only a single. (Each of the six known 12d black covers in the real world has a single.) Next, he used a Sperati-type fake ring cancel to tie the stamps. Then there is an almost-proper Montreal double broken circle (LO rather than LC appears at the bottom), made much too small, and enclosed by a double circle with CANADA at the top. A CANADA arc cancel is known used in this period (and is quite common), but it was reserved for cross-border mail; this cover went from Montreal to Toronto.

Throughout, there are philatelic references. Despite the convoluted plot, the book is easy to read and difficult to put down.

The Editor

☞ *Canadian Stamp News* 22 May–4 June 2001, biweekly, tabloid format; Trajan Publishing Co, single copy price: c\$2.95.

FEATURING a new format, the CSN is a well-established commercial philatelic journal, 25 years old this year. The main reason for buying it is the advertising—as one would expect in this type of magazine. The articles are by names familiar to us—most of the authors are members of BNAPS—and are typically elementary, obviously directed towards the average stamp collector. Some items are a bit fluffy, but on the whole enjoyable (if you don't mind the ubiquitous *continued on page* ... instruction that clearly shows ads are placed before the articles are). The tabloid format is somewhat awkward to handle, and I feel like washing my hands frequently after reading it (the paper is newsprint). It's obviously worth an occasional read—but whether I would subscribe to it is another matter.

☞ *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, Earle L Covert & William C Walton (editors), seventh edition, Saskatoon Stamp Centre (2001); price: c\$39.95, us\$26.95 + postage and handling from the publisher, PO Box 1870, Saskatoon SK S7K 3S2.

FOR almost thirty years, Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue has been the pre-eminent catalogue for BNA postal stationery. Over that time it has grown in many ways. Listings have become more detailed; new discoveries have been incorporated; new categories of prepaid stationery from Canada Post have been added. The first editions were primarily text, but many more illustrations were added to the fifth and sixth editions. This meant that the physical size of the book also increased. Now the seventh edition is available, supplanting the 1993 (sixth) edition. Collectors who have used the previous editions will get their first surprise before they open the front cover. The catalogue now has been expanded from under two hundred pages to well over three hundred 8½"×11" pages, and it weighs almost a kilogram (the previous edition weighed just over 300g).

What does the reader gain? First, pictures, pictures & more pictures. There are pictures of the Admiral issue dies—large pictures and clear pictures. There are pictures of most of the private order and official cards. There are pictures of the aerogramme flap and setting variations. There are pictures of the address labels. There are pictures of the railway & steamship

pictorial cards—all the views. There are many more pictures in the essays and proofs sections. Then there are the envelopes—not just pictures of the dies, but an entire section showing superb, full scale pictures of the regular issue envelope knives and envelope linings.

Second, there is an attempt to put some order to the rather chaotic array of prepaid stationery (some with stamp impressions, some not) that have been issued or authorized by Canada Post over the last decade. Of course, new regular issue and commemorative items have been added to the appropriate sections. However, Sky Pak envelopes, the CD and Photo Mailers, the Postcard Factory cards, the Xpresspost envelopes, the Red Cross special issue post cards, the envelopes from the “US Priority Mail” experiment and many other items have also been included.

Third, there are expanded listings for several of the more popular series of post cards such as the Hospital for Sick Children cards, the Eaton’s cards and the Christmas Seal cards, as well as new sections, such as a listing of the Hechler envelopes.

There has also been some major reorganization within Webb’s. The post cards now directly follow the envelopes and are followed by the wrappers, letter cards and air letter sheets. After more than a decade of trying to find the “Official” items near the back of the catalogue, the reader now must learn to find them at the end of the appropriate section. This should be simpler; but, I did say at the end of the appropriate section, not directly following the “Private Order” items. Thus, the “Official Envelopes” now follow the section on “Private Order Envelopes”. However, in the Post Card section, the Official items not only follow the “Private Order Post Cards”, they inexplicably follow the “Railway & Steamship Pictorial Cards”, and even the “Niagara Falls Scenic Views”. Some items, such as the letter sheets and address labels have ended up in a section on “Miscellaneous Stationery”. At least some of these changes are distinct improvements, as I discovered after a few weeks of use.

For the newcomer to BNA postal stationery, the size of the book may be daunting. The beginner might feel it is impossible to form a substantial collection in such a large field. In part, this is because most collectors fail to realize that for many countries (including Canada), postal stationery is every bit as complex as stamps, except that there are fewer copies of most postal stationery items. The fact is that the Webb’s has evolved. Yes, Webb’s is still a listing of standard postal stationery items (post cards, envelopes, wrappers, aerogrammes, letter cards), but it has also become a specialist’s catalogue. Postal stationery has its own “back of the book” items (e.g., Priority Post and Xpresspost items), and many of its own proofs and essays. Webb’s seventh edition provides information on many of these areas. The

casual collector will not attempt to collect everything. Few people expect to complete a collection of BNA stamps, so why should one expect that forming a comparable collection of postal stationery items would be easier. If postal stationery becomes a major interest, the collector will tend to specialize, and Webb's provides the necessary starting point!

At times this specialist slant runs counter to the attempt to provide a simple, uncluttered list. A novice could feel it would take forever to find the listings for a half-dozen or so items at hand. Indeed, if you have a fairly obscure piece, say an "Official" post card, you must read the introduction and table of contents carefully to locate it in the catalogue. Also, the authors expect a reader will absorb the details provided in extensive notes and footnotes. That said, I have worked my way through BNA specialist catalogues in various fields, and postal stationery catalogues for other countries. Few of these have as many clues (and in this edition of Webb's, illustrations) that allow the reader to separate the common from the uncommon.

There has been a thorough repricing in many sections. I may not agree with the final results in a very few cases, but it is obvious great attention has been paid to dealers and recent auction realizations. Among the major changes are upward revisions to the prices for selected Elizabethan material. The election envelopes have been completely repriced. The prices for many private order post cards have increased substantially. The prices on most Newfoundland items are up, but catalogue prices may still be trailing the market for the scarcer items in that section.

What else is new? There are separate prices for used reply card halves and 3¢ on strips of mimeo rouletted cards; the *Specimen* private order envelopes and election envelopes are identified and priced.

Of course, there are inconsistencies between areas. The catalogue gives details concerning setting varieties for the headings on the letter cards, and provides separate catalogue numbers for these varieties. However, setting varieties on the wrappers are relegated to the footnotes. There are more setting varieties listed in the section on the Xpresspost envelopes—a true specialist listing—and although the roulettes on the flaps of the Xpresspost envelopes are shown, the different roulettes on the regular issue mimeo rouletted post cards are not discussed. The "Request for Additional Delivery" stickers have been added to this edition. There are many other, still unlisted, items of post office postal stationery more worthy of inclusion—for example, the formular air letter sheets described by Pierre Gauthier in BNATopics Vol 55 #3 (1998) 7–20. There are some inconsistencies as to whether items of regular issue stationery used by government departments or Crown corporations should be considered "Official" stationery.

Considering the complexity of the task of preparing the catalogue, there seem to be relatively few typographical errors. I checked many of the large number of page cross-references, and all seemed correct—a difficult job well done. There are some strange, apparently extraneous, boldings of text in the Private Order Envelopes section. Layout is sometimes crowded; in several places headings are jammed between sections, with minimal white space above the headings. In various places, bolding and underlining seem to have been used in preference to spacing out notes on a page. I suppose this helped keep the number of pages from becoming even larger, but it left me with the feeling that the editors are shouting at the reader in places. Bold boxes are used to separate other notes from the rest of the text. The boxes seem intended to draw the attention of the reader to the notes. Instead, there is a tendency to read past them. However, these problems are minor.

So we have a larger, but much more usable catalogue. Better than ever. Doubters should compare this volume with the earlier editions, for example, the first, fourth, or fifth. Great effort has gone into this fine new seventh edition (and its predecessors). This is a catalogue that everyone who collects Canadian postal stationery must have on the bookshelf. *Robert Lemire*



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Readers speak

A column for readers to express their views, ask questions, or add information to previously published articles.

From Fred L Buza (Florida) on Degrees of philatelicity (Topics # 486) p 24–28 by the Editor

I read with interest your article in the last number; I am a collector of early stamp dealer mail and the pricelists issued by some of these old-time or pioneer dealers. To my mind, rather than being skeptical that a cover is “philatelic” (I do *not* care for first day covers etc, however), the prominence of stamp collecting today is in great measure due to the early dealers who invested their time, money and effort in this hobby. Many dealers have come and gone and fortunately, have left a legacy of corner cards advertising their trade. (These *are* commercial covers.)

I find that collecting these is fascinating and challenging—we can look for covers from many of the great and legendary dealers from the nineteenth century (and through the depression and World War II years).

From Robert Heasman (British Columbia) & Chris Ryan (Ontario) on Degrees of philatelicity (Topics # 486) by the Editor

Both pointed out that I was wrong in claiming for the cover in Figure 5 (p 28) that the Post Office could send mail abroad with no postage—during this period, this applied only to mail to other post offices! Hence the cover is not philatelic, but is quasi-philatelic. Had it been addressed to the US, it could have gone for free because of a bilateral treaty.

From John M Wright (Surrey) & Bill Walton (the Bill Walton) on Watermarks on AR forms (by the Editor) Topics # 484 p 34–36

John reports watermarked AR forms as follows: print order 27-9-17 with a script watermark consistent with *Colonial Bond*, mailed 3 December 1918 (again!), and a new report, print-order date 17-4-07 in quantity of 10,000, mailed 16 March 1908. The watermark on the latter is the gryphon and maple leaf with *Adelia*, which occurs on several other printings.

Bill confirms Bill Longley's conjecture in the last number (see “Readers Speak”), concerning the wording EMPIRE LINEN BOND—the middle word is definitely LINEN—on the 30-5-12 form, used at Winnipeg on 17 November 1913. This is also verified by the discovery of PO Savings

Bank forms with the same watermark (in this issue). It would be worthwhile for collectors of government departmental forms to look for similar watermarks, and to determine the paper manufacturers in this period.

From Walter Plomish (British Columbia) on Early post office attitudes toward air mail, (Topics # 485) by C Hargreaves & D Whiteley

The authors state that they disagree with my observation in [1] that information about air mail rates to Canadian destinations was not readily available from the Post Office prior to 1930 ... and that in fact the Canadian post office did announce new air mail services ... before March 1930, and cite several examples.

My article [1] was based on my original extensive research in Record Group 3 [RG3], Records of the Post Office Department, Canada National Archives. During the course of my research I came to the conclusion that Canada Post Office "policy" of the time was to not make available to the public all foreign air mail services that were in operation prior to 1 March 1930. This was accomplished by not listing all air mail services in the Canada Post Office Guide and in Monthly and Weekly Supplements to the Guide, as new air mail services became available. I further stated that prior to 1 March 1930, information on availability of foreign air mail would be provided individually on receipt of an inquiry from members of the public. This is evidenced by numerous letters in the Canada Archives from regional postmasters addressed to the Post Office Department in Ottawa requesting such information ...

To further support this conclusion, I offer the following:

- 1 The Post Office did not have an Airmail Division until mid-1929.
- 2 The Air Mail Division was formed to oversee the development of the transmission of mail by air ... With no Air Mail Division, the compilation of the rates would have been more difficult, and might be a partial explanation why international air mail services were not listed in the Canada Post Office Guide, Supplements, and Bulletins.
- 3 In 1929, there was no infrastructure within Canada for the transmission of large quantities of air mail. During this time, air mail posted in western Canada was transported by surface to the nearest place that connected with the United States service. An exception, was the Toronto-Montreal air mail service; it was established originally to make faster European steamship connections via Montreal, and to make connections via the United States to New York, BWI and Central & South America.
- 4 All information concerning international air mail service that appeared

in pre-1930 Canada Postal Guides, Supplements and Bulletins, was copied word for word from the United States Postal Bulletins.

Prior to 1930 the post office selectively listed air mail services available via United States air mail south. United States Post Office Guides and Bulletins listed all Imperial Airways services that were available via London, yet the Canadian post office listed only a few of them. . . . Why were these air mail service schedules not printed in the Canada Post Office Official Guide, Supplements and Bulletins?

The authors cite several examples of air services that were listed in various Canada Post Office Guides and Supplements, including service via Cairo-Baghdad air mail [February 1927], the inauguration of CAM 11 [May 1927], air mail service to Panama, Canal Zone, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Porto Rico [February 1929], air mail service in Australia [July 1929], and air mail service in Japan [September 1929]. . . . However, it is apparent that the public, especially banks and commercial interests were not utilizing these services, as evidenced by an almost total lack of commercial air mail covers to these destinations

Commercial air mail covers posted c1929-1930 to BWI and Central America via Pan American Airways are obtainable. However, commercial air mail covers to South America are a different story. Most of the known air mail covers from Canada posted to South America were addressed to Consulates, *poste restante*, or in some way, were products of air mail collectors of the time. Most of these were returned to sender (an air mail collector) in Canada as undeliverable.

. . . Even though the Cairo-Baghdad air mail service was announced in the Canada Post Office Weekly Supplements of this period (1922-29), there is not one surviving air mail cover, mailed from Canada, flown on this service. In my archives research, I found several letters from senders in Canada who utilized this service and were writing the Canada Post Office Department at Ottawa inquiring why their Cairo-Baghdad air mail letters (posted from Canada) were returned either marked short paid, or as undeliverable.

It is of interest that the Canada Post Office kept records listing every air mail letter mailed in Canada prepaid for transmission via Cairo-Baghdad air mail service. The earliest was recorded in 1923; even at the best of times the number of air mail letters of Canadian origin with this service was minimal, with most originating in Toronto or Montreal. Payment for the service was collected in Canada by affixing Canadian postage stamps onto the envelope, in addition to regular Canadian postage. The air mail fee was then paid quarterly to the British Post Office.

Obviously, no post office administration would want to operate in this

manner on a large scale. ... On 5 December 1929, the post office issued a circular to postmasters ... giving detailed instructions on how air mail should be handled. However, it was not until 1 March 1930 that the post office gave a comprehensive list of air mail destinations and rates.

One may wonder why the the obscure Cairo-Baghdad service in the Canada was listed in the guides and supplements in the period 1922–1929, but the entire list of Imperial Airways service destinations in Europe, Africa and Asia (via London) was omitted. If the Canada Post Office policy, was in fact, to promote air mail service prior to 1930, they utilized a rather strange method in doing so!

Perhaps part of the answer lies in the manner in which air mail rates to Europe and beyond were finally listed. When the Imperial Airways rates were printed in the 1 March 1930 Weekly Supplement, the new Air Mail Division listed these rates as *all-inclusive*—that is, including all surface and air mail fees en route and in country of destination.

Curiously, there are no known Canadian air mail covers flown on the internal Japanese air mail service. However, there is one 1929 registered air mail cover flown on the internal Australian air mail service; it was in the author's collection. When one considers the survivability of Canadian pence covers, one has to wonder why Canadian air mail covers flown on obscure early air mail services, have an extremely low or zero survival rate.

Based on the information here and in my article, it is difficult to see how Messrs Hargreaves & Whiteley can state that the Canadian post office encouraged the use of international air mail service to Europe and beyond, prior to 1930. Indeed, if this were so, why did the post office fail to list the air mail services below, which are in fact listed in various 1925–1929 United States post office guides? To Dutch East Indies via Amsterdam (US supplement, September 1929); via France with large list of destinations, including French Africa (US supplements, 1929); to Mexico via Albany, to Brazil and Argentina via New York, to Colombia via SCADTA, ...

It appears that prior to 1930, it was the *policy* of the Canadian post office (and not the *attitude*) to limit information published in the Canada post office guides, supplements and bulletins.

My initial reaction to the article by Hargreaves & Whiteley was that they were making much ado about nothing. They have taken a statement made in an article eight years ago, and misinterpreted the point I was trying to make. This forced me to write this to clarify my original point, that I still stand by today—that prior to 1930, the Canadian post office did little to encourage the use of the many foreign air mail services that could have been made available to Canadian senders at that time. ... Unlike their US and

British counterparts, the Canadian post office failed to disseminate publicly information on these services.

I suggest that before one could take advantage of a new foreign air mail service, one would first have to be aware of it!

This flaw was ameliorated when the Air Mail Division was created and the post office subsequently issued a bulletin (1930) listing all-inclusive air mail rates for most foreign air mail services; for the first time, prepayment was to be in Canadian postage stamps. The air mail rates included surface and air mail transmission in Canada, where available, and surface and air mail transmission, where available, en route and in country of destination.

[1] W Plomish, *Canadian partially flown mail to European destinations 1928-1932*, BNATopics Vol 49 #2 (1992).

[Walter's letter has been substantially edited for length.]

From Ron McGuire (Ottawa)

Ron reports on a presentation prepared by Ron and Connie McGuire, based on an eight frame exhibit of Ron's on the postal history of Canada's "C" force. The original was prepared together with Dario Catana in 1982, when they were both with Canada's National Postal Museum. BNAPSers attending the 1984 convention in Winnipeg will recall this exhibit, which was one of the featured attractions.

This updated exhibit has no original material but utilizes relevant photocopies and photographs to tell the story of the group of ill-fated Canadians who served by defending Hong Kong 60 years ago this December.

This exhibit will be shown and a 100-slide given, at what will likely be the last Hong Kong veterans' reunion in Winnipeg in August. It will also be given at the upcoming BNAPS convention in Ottawa (at the meeting of the Canadian Military Mail Study Group), and at the Nepean Museum, the latter in November-December.

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Study group centreline

David H Whiteley*

MANY collectors will be getting ready for outdoor activities and the albums will be being put away once again. Since the last column many of you like me will have attended many of the shows and hopefully filled in some of those gaps. Judging from the mailbag the study groups have been busy so I will get down to business without more ado.

The winter edition of the *Registry* contains a number of items from David Handelman, including "A new early AR cover", "A deregistered cover", and a "A really early AR cover". Dr J Frank sent an item on a Riel Rebellion cover. John Fretwell submitted pieces entitled "Early registered Saugeen" and "Early AR to Germany". Len Belle submitted a piece entitled "A sad tale".

The December 2000 edition of the Canadian Revenue Newsletter contained part II of Chris Ryan's article, "An illustrated chronicle of Canada's excise stamp tax on matches". Short pieces were submitted by Mervin Wolfe on a rare perforation of the second issue bill stamp, Dave Hannay, "Another Broken Surcharge", and Gary McLean on a new high serial number for the \$10 Saskatchewan Electrical.

The January 2001 issue of *Postal stationery notes* contains a number of items from the Emile R Hoorens collection and a compilation of new items now available in Postal Outlets. Bruce McCallum sent in some items from his collection. Finally there is part II of "Cards with printed fronts", based on contributions from Chris Ellis, Dick Staeker and Robert Lemire.

The November 2000 edition of the *War Times* contains more information on Foreign Exchange Control Labels by Chris Miller based on information supplied by Jeff Switt and on Merchant ships' free mail, by Chris Miller. There is also an article on airgraphs, and Bill Pekonen submitted an item "War Boards During World War II". Finally Chris Miller submitted an item on foreign exchange control in the West Indies. The Military Mail Group's newsletter for January 2001 has been received. It contained an item by J C Campbell on the Hospital Ship *Llandovery Castle*. An item by J D Hannan on the small crown over circle censor marking also appears here. Robert Toombs submitted an update on RCAF/RAF India Command updates. Colin Pomfret sent in an item on Canadian Great War security cancels. C D Sayles

* This is David's final Study Group Centreline in *Topics*. We would all like to thank him for his continued efforts. The new study group reporter is Herbert Trenchard. —ed

contributed more information on the small crown over circle censor 308 handstamp and Steven Luciuk also examined handstamp # 310.

The Canadian re-entry group's October/November newsletter contained items by Harry Voss on the 6¢ Large Queen, by the late Hans Reiche on the 1¢ yellow Admiral, and by Chester C Soulé on the 5¢ Beaver. The *BNA Perforator* of December 2001 contained a continuation of the results of a survey conducted by Barry Senior on Newfoundland perfins. The winter edition of *Precancels/Canada* contained an item by Duncan MacDonald on unusual precancels; he also submitted an item, "Variations in settings—a reason". Norm Wagner submitted an item on precancel perfins. The *Slogan box* for November/December contains an article by Steven Friedenthal on Canadian postage meter slogan and advertising dies.

The November 2000 issue of *Post Card Matters* contained illustrations of various cards: from Dean Mario, a Canadian emigration card; a number including the Grand Union Hotel (Ottawa), Canadian leathers, Great War silks, and finally Valentine & Sons "Winter in Montreal" from J C Campbell. C McGregor submitted an article on John Howard Arthur Chapman and his cards, and W O Buchanan wrote on The Walker House (Toronto). The January 2000 edition contained illustrations of Canadian Pioneer cards from W Gutzman together with more emigration cards from W Curtis & W O Buchanan. Peter McCarthy submitted a card showing what may not be the CPR Bridge in Montreal, and Dean Mario presented a card showing the Centennial balloon race.

The January 2001 newsletter of the British Columbia postal history research group has been received. There were items on the new Clearwater machine; some new reports of unreported markings by Andrew Scott; an item from Pete Jacobi on Westley BC, and an updated list of BC post offices. The *Nautical Times* of December 2000 contains items by a number of contributors on Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and Labrador Steamship activities.

This completes the mail bag for this quarter. I hope everybody has a good summer with lots of sunshine.

Next issue. Jack Gordon's squared circle column will return, with corrections to the (by then) newly-published fifth edition of the squared circle handbook! There will be an article by Norris Dyer on the Columbia and Martinsyde/Alcock airmail covers (a census), and by Bill Longley on a recent forgery (for postage). There will also be an extensive article by Dean Mario on Newfoundland "paid all" handstamps, and their friends. —ed

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New study groups proposed, forming, or
amalgamating with others: Jubilees to
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April 25, 1997

Dear Bill,

Although this letter is overdue, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the manner in which you handled the sale, last October, of my postal history material & Nova Scotia proofs. Everything went smoothly and without problems right from the time we first spoke about the possibility of the sale, over two years ago. You & your staff made it all very easy.

I was most impressed by the wonderful catalogue and the advance publicity. But most of all you produced a wonderful floor—where the bidding was spirited and many lots exceeded even my best hopes. I do not believe even one lot was left unsold. Your lotting also showed a sensitivity to my collecting themes and kept much material in groups that will allow buyers to build on what was started. Finally, your computer system worked like a charm. I was amazed to receive, just 30 minutes after the auction, both the complete record by lot with prices realized and a good cognac. Bravo!

I am slowly gathering the rest of my material and look forward to its sale sometime soon. You know, it gets harder and harder to sell your children of the post. As more of them go, I seem to be working more slowly than previously.

Thank all the staff. I look forward to our next joint venture. Best regards, and thanks again.

Sincerely,

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