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Number 3

MARY HAS THE
CUTEST LITTLE ...



Shocking! 1¢ rates of the Edwardian era
by Marshall Lipton

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BNATopics



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BNATopics, Volume 59, Number 3, July–September 2002

Editorial: Horace Harrison

AT BNAPEX 2002 in Spokane, it was announced at the annual general meeting that Horace Harrison had been given three months to live. A few weeks later, in early October, Horace died.

Horace became president of BNAPS in 2000. On his ascension, he insisted that he be referred to as *El Supremo*, even in his articles and letters. There was a certain amount of playfulness in the pseudonyms he used for his exhibits (Jed Farratt—a play on Fred Jarrett—comes to mind). Both during his life and after his death, he gave substantial amounts to BNAPS—he joked that he wouldn't reveal how much was left to BNAPS in his will, for fear that someone would put a contract out on him!

Philatelically of course, he is best known for his study of the Canadian registration system. His huge Canadian registration collection set the standard for this material, and covered everything from the early money letter system to the extra insurance scheme of the early 1900s and beyond, with many fantastic items.

His 1971 book, *Canada's registry system: 1827–1911*, was a classic, although he disparaged it and made fun of it regularly. I can remember my excitement on reading it for the first time after purchasing it directly from the publisher (at the exorbitant price of \$7.50 for a slim hard cover book of less than 90 pages). It kindled my interest in registration, and I imagine it did the same for many other collectors.

Later this year (perhaps by the time this appears), his magnum opus on Canadian registration (written jointly with Arfken and Lussey) will come out—all 500+ letter size pages!

Although I had corresponded with him occasionally since the late 1970s, I had never met him until he became President of BNAPS, and our discussions centred around *Topics* and related issues. He got things done!

I am planning to have a special issue of *Topics* devoted to those aspects of BNA philately that he was interested in, primarily registration, stationery, and large queens. I hope that members will respond with articles for the special issue.

Robert A. Lee Philatelist Ltd

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Edward VII issue
exhibition & fair covers
fancy, numeral & specialty cancellations
1859 first cents issue
first day covers
flag cancellations
foreign covers
forgeries
International machine cancellations
Jubilee issue
large queen issue
legislative markings
literature
Manitoba postal history
map (1898) issue
maple leaf issue
military postal history
MOONS, MOTOS, & POCONS
Nascopie postal history
New Brunswick postal history
New Brunswick stamps
Newfoundland postal history
Newfoundland stamps
NWT postal history
Nova Scotia postal history

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official stamps
officially sealed stamps
OHMS perfins
Ontario postal history
patriotic covers & postcards
pence issues
perfins (private)
plate blocks
postage due issues
postal history coll'ns & large lots
postal stationery
precancels
PEI postal history
proofs
Quebec postal history
Quebec tercentenary
railroad post offices
rate covers
registered covers
registration stamps
revenues
Royal train covers
Saskatchewan postal history
semi-official airmails
ship cancell'ns, markings & viewcards
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Robert A. Lee

Newfoundland's 1897 provisionals, revisited

Norris (Bob) Dyer

IT has been seven years since my *Topics* article on Newfoundland's 1897 1¢ provisionals [1]. Since then I have exhibited them on a number of occasions as a part of a multi-frame exhibit of Newfoundland surcharges, and an early version of that exhibit was published as [2]. I am writing about them again since I have been able to add pieces that tell more of the story of the printing of Newfoundland's first provisionals, or are rare and noteworthy. I will remind the reader why the provisionals were needed, and what the three major types are.

In June 1897, Newfoundland tried to repeat the success of the US Columbian and Canadian Diamond Jubilee issues by releasing a 14-stamp set honoring John Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland 400 years prior. The plates were destroyed after the first printing. Only the low values of the set sold well, and the 1¢ ran out in September. This value was needed for local letters, circulars and newspapers, so it decided to surcharge the 3¢ Victoria stamp of 1890 until a new 1¢ stamp could be mustered.



Figure 1. 1897 Provisionals, types I–III

After some trial surcharges in red, red & black, and double red (I estimate about 190 total) it was decided to surcharge the Victoria ONE CENT in black.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, 1897 provisional



Figures 2 & 3. Type I pair with and without surcharge, front & back
Back with reversed surcharge in red.

Three different fonts were used to overprint 39,600 stamps in blocks of 50:

Type I: Short, thick serified letters, positions 1–39 (31,680);

Type II: Tall, thin serified letters, positions 40–48 (6,336);

Type III: Sans-serif letters, positions 49–50 (1,584).

See Figure 1. The overprinting was done in October 1897 at the plant of the *Royal Gazette*, the Government's official newspaper. The provisionals stamps were used 19 October 4 December, when a supply of new 1¢ Queen Victoria stamps arrived at St John's.

With that out of the way, let us examine some more recent acquisitions.

Type I pair with and without surcharge

Figures 2 & 3 show the front and back of a vertical pair with a type I surcharge above and none below. This pair is pictured in [3]. My first record of it is from the famous 1968–69 Louise Boyd Dale & Alfred F Lichtenstein H R Harmer auctions [4]. These auctions also included two blocks of four with the same variety. These ten stamps (five pairs) are the only ones I have seen. This pair appeared in several subsequent auctions, until I bought it two years ago. Note that the bottom stamp is damaged at the right margin, as illustrated in the Lichtenstein auction.

I cannot plate the type I, and believe this pair (and the blocks) may represent the final phase of trials. The reversed ONE CENT on the back of the stamp is in red. The Lichtenstein lot description for this pair and one of blocks mentions the red surcharge on the backs. What's the explanation? I ran the pair by an expert in stamp printing, and his theory is that the printer had done a trial in red ink immediately before these pieces were created and some residual red ink remained on the platen because he had set the plate



Figure 4. Type I overprint CENT ONE



Figure 5. Type I, downward shifted surcharge

down temporarily before cleaning and re-inking in black. The result was a reversed image in red on the back of the top stamp of ONE CENT while the front surcharges direct image was in black.

I conclude that the printer then decided upon black ink and went on to set type for the creation of the final plate of 50. In this final black trial, he may have set type for only one row with a single bar below, in an economy of effort. It would follow then that ten pairs of this variety were produced.

CENT ONE

Figure 4 shows a type I surcharge that reads CENT ONE rather than ONE CENT. Every so often one of these shows up at auction, and there are several known on cover, although I have not seen one with a dated postmark. In any case, this variety is not an error but a freak caused by misplacement of the half sheet of 50 in the press. The shift must have been 12mm horizontally for this variety to occur.

There are also vertical shifts by as much as 7mm. Figure 5 presents an example that I own with a 5mm downward shift. This resulted in a copy with three bars. Looking at the more dramatic horizontal shift I initially wondered why more are not seen. After all, there were 40 type 1s in the setting—that might suggest that at least one setting suffered this indignity and at least 40 were created? In Newfoundland philately, a population of 40 is not considered extremely rare—inverted surcharges were created in quantities of 25–75, but are not unusual items in major auctions. The CENT ONE is less frequently seen.



Figure 6. Types I & II, bottom margin inscription block

From the study of several settings of 50 of the 1897 surcharged stamps, I have found that there is a 2 mm variation in surcharge placement in any row of the type I variety and almost 4 mm variation within the population of 40. The letters of the surcharge are 2 mm wide, so it is likely that the CENT ONE variety was created in a setting where most other type I S were ENT ONE C, and possibly one or two NT ONE CE. The ENT ONE C or lesser shifts, being less dramatic, do not have the cachet or marketability. It appears very few of the extreme horizontal or vertical settings were created.

Bottom inscription block of four

Figure 6 shows a bottom margin block of four with the inscription BRITISH AMERICAN BANKNOTE CO. OTTAWA. This block belonged to Robert Pratt at one time and was pictured in his article on the 1890 Victoria that appeared in [5]. The top two stamps are type I from positions 35–36 and the bottom two are type II from positions 45–46.

The 1890 Victoria stamp was printed in sheets of 100, with inscriptions at the top and bottom, but top inscription pieces of the 1897 surcharges are not known. This is because the *Royal Gazette* printer removed the top margins from the sheets of 100 before separating the sheet into two blocks of 50, but kept the lower margins. Side margins were also retained. This was dictated by the manner in which the blocks of 50 had to be placed on the platen before the letterpress was engaged. The top row of stamps obviously had to be placed forward on the platen, and there was limited space. He avoided surcharges being made on the top margins by removing them, but



Figure 7. Types II & III used strip

there was enough space so the bottom and side margins could remain and they may even have helped him handle the blocks.

As explained above 39,600 stamps were surcharged in black in 792 settings of 50, with only half of the settings retaining (bottom) margin inscriptions. This means only 396 inscription blocks were created. Many purchasers of the stamps subsequently removed the inscriptions, so few blocks or even inscription pairs remain intact. I have seen no more than a half dozen at auction.

As to the rather poor centering of this piece, well, it was good enough for Colonel Pratt, so it's good enough for me!

The final two pieces tell us little new about the creation of the 1897 surcharges but represent items that may be unique with respect to their condition or use.

Strip of three, positions 47–49

Figure 7 shows a used strip of three of the surcharges, the first two being type II positions 47–48, and the third type III from position 49. When J Don Wilson slipped this under my door at BNAPEX '99 in Vernon in a glassine envelope, I needed to look at it for only about five seconds before I knew I *had* to have it. I could not add the item to my exhibit before the exhibitor book published a few months later, so it appears here.

Robson Lowe commented upon the centering of the 3¢ Victoria stamp used for surcharging [3]:

As many of the stamps are badly centered it would appear likely that a quantity of sheets, previously rejected because of their centering, were used for this provisional.

I have examined a number of full settings of the provisionals, and have never seen a setting I would classify as better than fine. Predominantly, the vertical perforations on the lower right of the sheet where the two type III stamps reside (positions 49–50) are shifted to the left. Even Scott, whose recent catalogues list all stamps in very fine condition feels obligated to comment: "Most examples of 75–77 are poorly centered." [6]



Figure 8 & 9. Type III on cover (1897)

Dated 9 November, to the US; at right is a close-up of the overprinted stamp.

This strip of three is an esthetically pleasing piece, a very fine se-tenant showing of types II & III with four margins and light cancel. This is not the sort of language one is supposed to use on an exhibit page, but nevertheless an opinion that I am free to render here. As for Don, he received exactly what he wanted for the piece so the transaction turned out to be pleasing to two BNAPS members and Newfoundland collectors.

Type III paying letter rate to US with 4¢ Cabot

Figure 8 shows a type III stamp helping to pay the 5¢ letter rate to the United States on 9 November 1897, in the middle of the provisional period. It has NOV 15 Boston and Gloucester receivers on the reverse. Figure 9 is a close-up of the stamp. It shows the nonserif font [*sometimes---confusingly---called 'gothic', which is also used for blackletter---ed*] that identifies this type. The cover matches the description of a lot in the Sidney Harris' Stanley Gibbon Auction of April 1970, which had no accompanying illustration [7].

Pratt described the tumult that occurred in the St John's General Post Office when the surcharged stamps came out on 19 October 1897. By late afternoon, customers were limited to five. Post office personnel served themselves and Chief Clerk George LeMessurier, Jr. set thousands aside for his private sale [5]. Since types I & II used serif lettering and type III nonserif, it did not take speculators long to realize that only two stamps out of the blocks of 50 were this rare type. Many salted away complete settings or only the rare type III, using the others as had been intended.

Within six months, dealers were paying \$10 for mint type III stamps—a thousand times face! Their rarity influenced the number of type III to be found on cover. Scott Classic 2002 prices type III on cover at \$900 [6].

My criteria for proper use on cover of any provisional are that the stamp(s) be used within the provisional period and that the rate be correct. In line with these standards, I have seen letters with type III at the local rate, and third class to Halifax or Montreal. Hennok auctioned off a cover dated 8 November with one type II and two type III (positions 48–50) paying the inland rate from Tilt Cove to St John's; he described it as likely unique [8].

The cover shown is the only one that I have seen using the 1¢ on a letter to the US. The Spink Auction (November 1999) that sold the Newfoundland collection owned by Captain Douglas Campbell, RN did contain a front with a solitary type III stamp paying the third class (circular) rate to the US [9]. It is certainly possible that hidden in collections, there are more covers to the US with type III stamps.

There are known philatelic or late uses of type III stamps, notably several sent to Hearts Content on 16 August 1899 from St John's, paying the 6¢ registered rate each with a strip of three 1897 provisionals and a 3¢ Cabot. Of the ten covers sent on that date of which I am aware, two have type III stamps. One was listed in the Hennock sale mentioned above, with an estimate of Can \$500.

This concludes my discussion of these additional 1897 items. I am aware that some assumptions here might be incorrect. There are reasons for everything and I think we can all agree there exist limited numbers of the items that I have shown. As I have requested in previous articles, correct me if you think I am wrong, and show me a xerox of any magical items you might possess so that I can alter any erroneous assumptions.

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- [4] Catalogues, H R Harmer *The Louise Boyd Dale & Alfred F Lichtenstein collections*, parts I–III 1968–1970, part II lot # 108, part I lot # 720, part III lot # 231.
- [5] Robert H Pratt *Newfoundland, the gray 1890 three cent---ten years of turmoil*, Congress Book 1986, 52nd American Philatelic Congress (1986), p 74.
- [6] Scott Classic Stamp Catalogue 2002, p 646.
- [7] Catalogue, Stanley Gibbons *Sidney Harris Newfoundland sale* 1970 lot # 394.
- [8] Catalogue, Jim Hennok Ltd *Public Stamp Auction* Sept 2000 lot # 378.
- [9] Catalogue, Spink *British Empire stamps & postal history* Nov 1999 lot # 2841.

1¢ rates of the Edwardian era

Marshall Lipton

THE 1¢ Edward VII stamp had several important uses. In domestic mail, it was used mostly on postcards, especially picture postcards. On envelopes, it was used for the unsealed 1¢ per two ounces printed matter rate as well as for drop letter mail in certain instances. Two interesting usages are shown in Figure 1a & c. Figures 1a & b illustrates Canada's first bulk rate permit, B1-1, on a 1911 unsealed cover along with its contents, an advertisement for steel fencing. Figures 1c & d shows the 1¢ Edward on a 1911 unsealed cover with a mute machine cancel in which the contents advertize dental services.

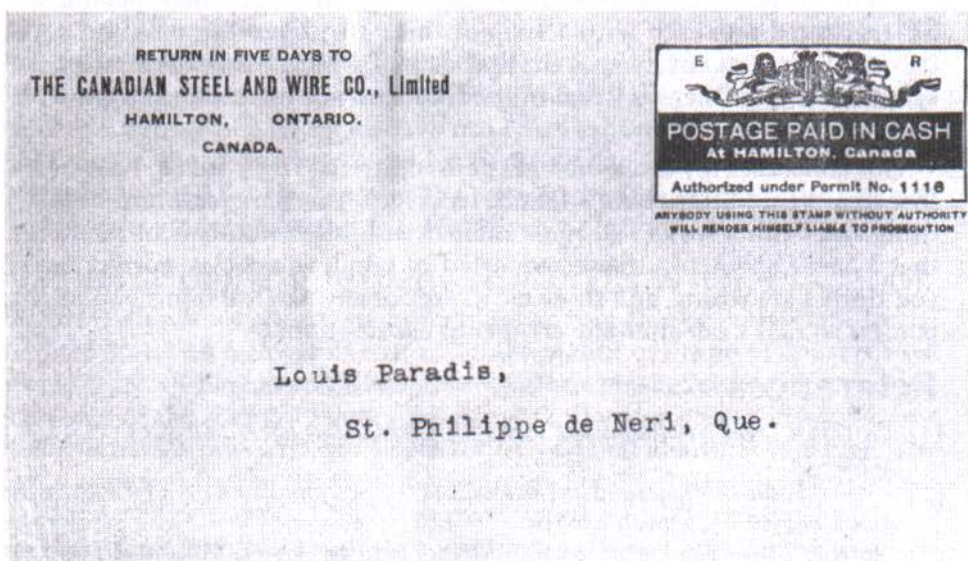


Figure 1a. Earliest bulk rate permit
Unsealed envelope; contents illustrated in Figure 1b

The 1¢ drop letter rate was permitted in cities that had not enacted Local Carrier Delivery (LCD), as shown in Figure 2, a 1¢ Calgary drop letter cover dated 1906. That city instituted LCD on 11 June 1907. In those cities in which LCD was in operation, the drop letter rate rose to 2¢ per ounce as in Figure 3, a 1908 Charlottetown 2¢ drop letter subsequent to the initiation

Keywords & phrases: printed matter

CLOTURE "AMERICAINE"

11 BARS	55	INCH	DISTANCE BETWEEN BARS (feet)
10 BARS	47	INCH	9
9 BARS	39	INCH	8
8 BARS	32	INCH	7
7 BARS	26	INCH	6
6 BARS	20	INCH	5
			4
			3
			2
			1

EN THEORIE

La "AMERICAINE". Une clôture à mailles carrées en poteaux, grande force et tissée ensemble avec le Joint "Gonde "Américain," formant un joint aussi fort et flexible qu'un joint de bois et qui agit comme une peinture quand il est exposé à l'air.

FAITE EN 71 DI

Figure 1b. Contents of cover in Figure 1a
Showing portion of printed circular advertising fencing.



Figure 1c. Circular letter, Montreal (1911)
Unsealed envelope; contents illustrated in Figure 1d.

AVIS
DR. LEMIEUX



Chirurgien-Dentiste

SERA A
ST-PASCHAL
HOTEL VICTORIA
Mardi 7 Mars, 1911
POUR LA JOURNEE

Les personnes qui désirent se faire faire des dentiers sont priées de se présenter de bonne heure

Figure 1d. Contents of cover in Figure 1c

A surgeon/dentist announcing that he will be in St Paschal for the day.



The Calgary Gas Co. Limited

CALGARY, CANADA



Mr. D. McDougal.

City.

Figure 2. Calgary drop letter (1906)

Letter carrier delivery had not yet arrived in Calgary, hence the 1¢ rate.

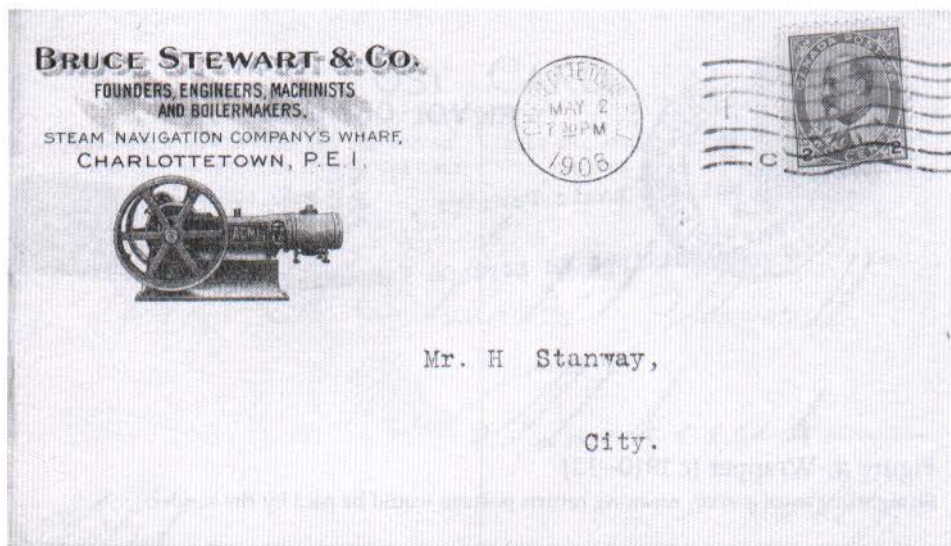


Figure 3. Charlottetown drop letter with LCD (1908)

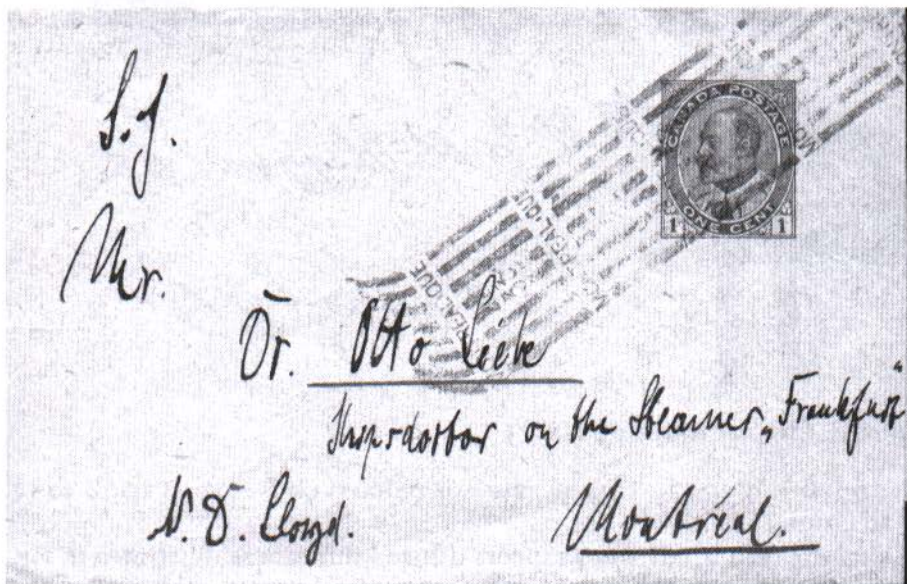


Figure 4. Post band (c 1910–12)
With Montreal type IV roller cancel.

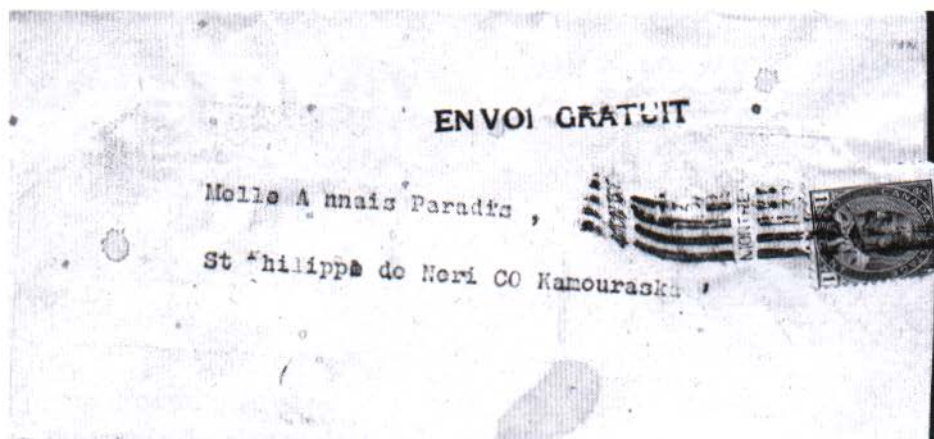


Figure 5. Wrapper (c 1910–12)

Straightline *envoi gratuit*, meaning return postage would be paid by the sender.



Figure 6. Circular to the US (1907)

of LCD (26 July 1907. This 2¢ rate was reduced on 8 August 1908 to 1¢ for all cities.

Domestic post bands and wrappers utilized this rate as illustrated in Figure 4, a W7 post band with a type IV Montreal 33 (1910–1912) roller cancel and in Figure 5 a 1¢ W7b wrapper with the common type IV (1910–1912) roller cancel. Particularly noteworthy is the French *ENVOI GRATUIT* indicating the return postage is to be paid by the addressor.

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR
WRITTEN MATTER FOR INLAND USE ONLY.

ONLY THE ADDRESS TO BE
WRITTEN HERE.



Miss A. Elizabeth Thwell
Black Creek
U.S.A. *N.Y.*

Figure 7. Divided postcard to US(1904)

Treated as printed matter (no message); only 1¢ postage was required. Mailed from the Toronto Exposition (predecessor to the Canadian National Exhibition, which it became in 1908).

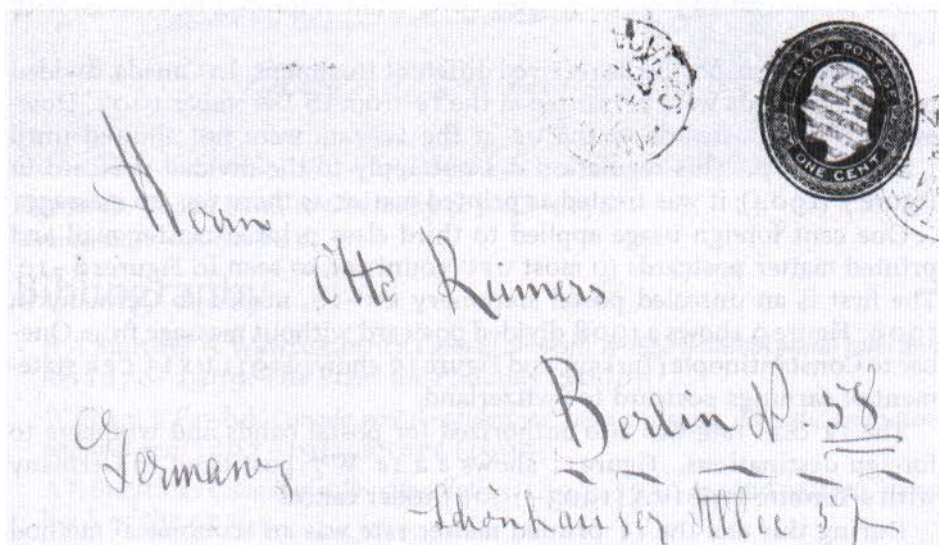


Figure 8. Unsealed postal stationery to Germany (1909)



Figure 9. Postcard to Turkey (1908)

Treated as printed matter—endorsed *imprimé*—no message; 1¢ postage applied on reverse.

The circular rate to the US was the same as the Canadian rate; Figure 6 shows an unsealed 1907 advertising cover from Winnipeg to Chicago with 1¢ postage.

Divided private postcards received different treatment. In Canada, divided private postcards were permitted at the 1¢ from 18 December 1903. However, divided postcards to the US at the 1¢ rate were not allowed until 1 March 1907. This regulation did not apply to the divided postcard in Figure 7 (1904); it was treated as printed matter, as there was no message.

One cent foreign usage applied to third class printed matter mail and printed matter postcards to most UPU countries, as seen in Figures 8–10. The first is an unsealed postal stationery RN-16, mailed to Germany in 1909. Figure 9 shows a 1908 divided postcard without message from Quebec to Constantinople (Turkey), and Figure 10 shows a 1911 UX23 CPR statement of earnings postcard to Switzerland.

The 1¢ cent rate was also authorized for postal bands and wrappers to foreign destinations. Figure 11 shows a 1¢ W7 post band to Germany with a Toronto type 1vA (1903–1908) roller cancel.

During this era, the 1¢ printed matter rate was an economical method of communication, a source of advertisement and a means of increasing the flow of commerce.



Figure 10. CPR postcard to Switzerland (1911)

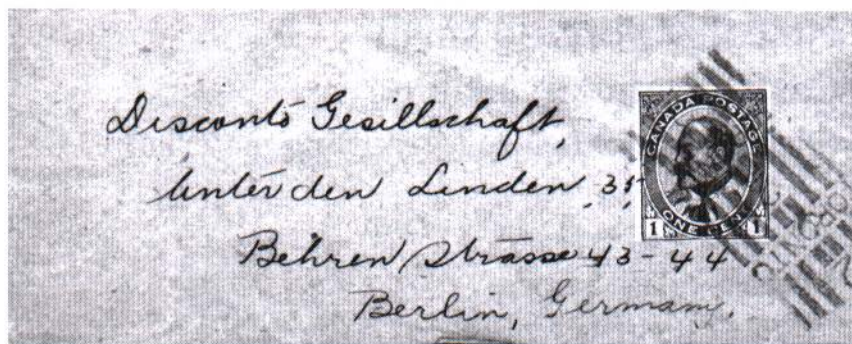


Figure 11. Postal band to Germany (c 1903–08)

Toronto roller with number 2.

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A E Smythies *Canadian roller cancellations 1894–1930* second edition, handbook of the CPSGB.

[The blame for the use of the novelty post card on the front cover of this issue should be attributed completely to the Editor.—ed]

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Vignettes of the Old West: The CMS private perforations

Pete Jacobi

FOR the beginning of our story please see Vignettes of the Old West: *The birth of the CMS Company*, BNA**Topics** vol 58, #4 pp 32-39. The story continues ... Now it is 1905 and Walter Hull Aldridge, the manager of the Canadian Smelting Works in Trail (BC) has amalgamated his smelter with three mines and the local power company to form the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada Limited, or CMS as the company came to be known.



Figure 1. CMS perfin used on cover from Nelson (1931)

Showing flap with company address on reverse.

This move assured his smelter a secure feed supply since smelters must run on a continuous basis in order to be economic. However, trouble was brewing. The Rossland mines, while still going strong were already start-

Keywords & phrases: perforated initials

Pete Jacobi

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OF CANADA LTD.**

OFFICE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

TRAIL, B. C.

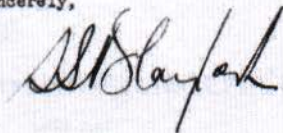
July 11th, 1931.

W. A. Bustin, Esq.,
Box 478,
KIMBERLEY, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I would suggest that you have a chat
with Mr. Montgomery regarding your invention. He
can probably advise you whether it is worth going
on with or not.

Yours sincerely,



SGB/E

Figure 1a. Contents of cover in Figure 1

ing to run short of high-grade smelting ore. The search for new mining properties became urgent.

The high grade, hand sorted lead-silver ores of the mines in the Slocan district, the area between Kaslo on Kootenay Lake and New Denver on Slocan Lake, provided some feed tonnage but Trail had to compete for these ores with two other smelters located closer, the Pilot Bay smelter on Kootenay Lake and the Hall Mines Smelter at Nelson.

Then came major relief—the Sullivan Mining claims had been staked just above the future town of Kimberley; CMS took an option on the property in 1909 and purchased it outright in 1910. This became the mainstay of the smelters' feed for close to ninety years and was only shut down in December 2001, finally having run out of economic ore.

Initially, however, there was a problem with the ore, in that it was a mixture of lead, zinc and silver and the zinc portion interfered with the smelting of the lead-silver portion. At this time, there was no known process for sep-

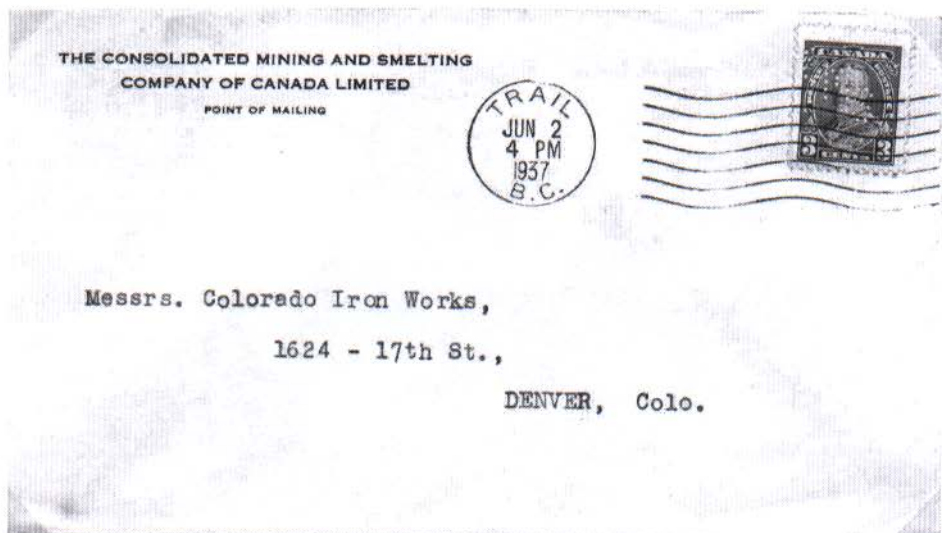


Figure 2. CMS perfin used on cover from Trail (1937)
With Scott # 219 perforated from the front normal position.

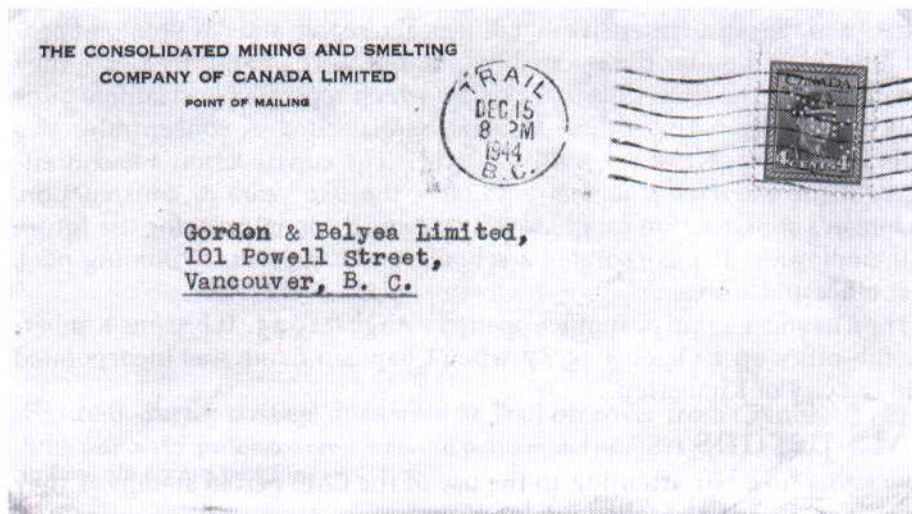


Figure 3. CMS perfin used on cover from Trail (1944)
With Scott # 254 perforated from the front upside down.

arating lead from zinc, other than hand-sorting and throwing the high zinc portion away.

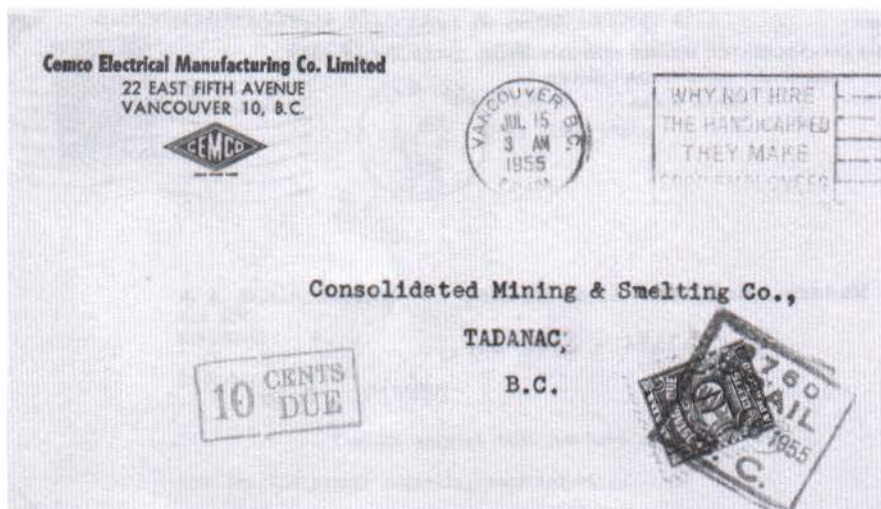


Figure 4. Perfin postage dues used at Trail on cover from Vancouver (1955) Charged double deficiency 5¢ domestic rate. With Scott #120 perforated reverse normal position. The Trail MOON cancel is dated 20 July 1955.

CMS thus began an intensive metallurgical research and development programme in Trail under the leadership of Ralph W Diamond. By 1920, they had developed the froth flotation process which separated lead sulfide minerals (galena) from zinc sulfide minerals (sphalerite). A concentrator was built four miles east of the Sullivan Mine. The construction superintendent's name was Fred Chapman and after the two years of construction, Chapman's construction camp grew into a small community for the future mill employees. It incorporated a school, recreation hall, swimming pool, post office and stores.

The Chapman Camp post office opened 1 August 1925. It became Kimberley sub-office on 2 October 1967 when Chapman Camp was incorporated into the city of Kimberley.

CMS perfins

Now let us turn our attention to the use of the CMS perfed stamps as they are known used in the following locations.

Trail This was the company's operational head quarters during the use of the perforation and the perforator was very likely located here with supplies of stamps sent out to the company offices of the major wholly owned mines and properties.

Nelson Figures 1 & 1a show used for letter by Selwyn G Blaylock, future pres-

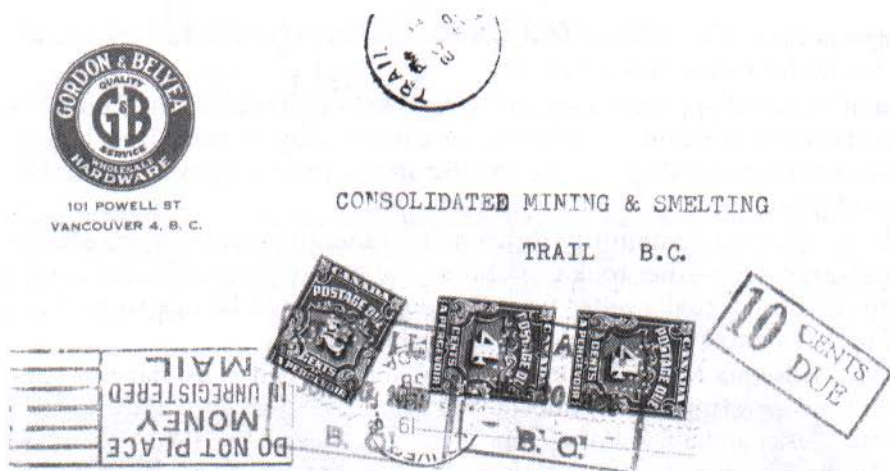


Figure 5. Perfin postage dues used at Trail on cover from Vancouver (1958) With Scott J16 perforated reverse normal position and pair of J17 perforated in frontally normal position. The red handstamp MOTO is dated 20 June 1958.



Figure 6. Perfin postage dues used at Trail on cover from Cranbrook (1960) With pair of J17 perforated reverse normal position and pair of J15 perforated in frontally normal position.

ident of CMS, on 11 July 1931, a Saturday, likely at his country home (now known as the Blaylock Estates) four miles north of Nelson. He obviously took work home to his weekend retreat and posted it at Nelson.

Kimberley The Sullivan Mine and Administration staff would have used the Kimberley post office.

Champman Camp The Sullivan Mill, Warehouse, Fire Hall and Fertilizer complex would have used this post office.

Kinnaird Located approximately 20 miles north of Trail, on the Columbia River, used as a bedroom community for CMS employees from Trail, largely to get away from the all-pervasive smelter smoke that hung over Trail in the 40s and 50s.

Castlegar Adjacent community to Kinnaird, same comments. Management or staff employees either took work home and posted mail with CMS perfed stamps or were actually pilfering and thought it would be safe to post the CMS perfed stamps in Kinnaird and Castlegar.

Tulsequa Tulsequa Mines Limited was a wholly owned subsidiary of CMS which was operating a fairly substantial mining property 50 miles east of Juneau, Alaska and a few miles from the confluence of the Taku and Tulsequa Rivers. The operation was an isolated fly-in camp and was in operation 1950-1957.

Toronto This was the location of the CMS major sales office for metals and concentrates. It also served as headquarters for Eastern Exploration.

The following are potential locations from where cancels could be expected to be found.

Salmo Location of the HB Mine, 30 miles east of Trail and in operation 1955-1966.

Riondel Location of the Bluebell Mine on Kootenay Lake and in operation 1951-1971.

Yellowknife (NWT) Location of the Con Gold Mine.

Montreal Head office for the company until the late fifties; the majority of the shares were held by the CPR.

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Canadian parcel cards— where are they?

The Editor

PERUSING the cover sections of e-Bay, we find a number of aspects of foreign postal history that we just do not see for Canada. For example, there are covers and advice of payment notices for international COD (cash on delivery); while Canada has had domestic COD service since 1922, it has never participated in international COD.



Figure 1. Typical(?) parcel card, Ottoman Empire to Austria (1917)
On dark purple heavy card, franked; text in Turkish and French; preprinted by the recipient. On reverse (not shown) is space for the relevant signature and other markings.

We find plenty of international *valeur déclarée*—this is an elaboration of registration wherein extra indemnity is permitted; very often, the value is actually marked on the front, and the registration sticker has a “V” where one would expect an “R”. Again, Canada not only has never participated in *valeur déclarée* internationally, but does not even permit any postal item to be mailed if the value is marked on the cover. Canada does have an indemnity scheme for domestic registration, and it did have (until 1999) an international money packet system (available to a few countries).

Keywords & phrases: parcel card, bulletin d'expédition, despatch note



Figure 2. Parcel card Germany to Canada (1925)

Sent to St Jacobs (ON), a small town now famous for the head office of the inexplicably successful Home Hardware chain. The violet marking enlarged at right is a rarely seen St Jacobs registration marking (three examples are known, one reported by Len Belle). There are no other registration markings on the cover, and in any case registered parcels were unacceptable in Canada. The German exchange office was Hamburg (lower right).

One class of items that we see in profusion on e-Bay (for countries other than Canada) are parcel cards. The expression “parcel card” never actually appears on them; however, if for international (rather than domestic) use, they will be marked in the language of the UPU, French, *bulletin d'expédition*. These are cards accompanying parcel post matter, usually travelling with a customs declaration form. Recipients of the parcel post item sign the card, which is then returned to the post office of origin as evidence that the item has been delivered. After a while, the parcel cards are disposed of. This could mean they are destroyed, but it also could mean that they are sold as scrap paper or even directly to stamp dealers. In any case, European parcel cards come to the market in great numbers. A somewhat typical example is illustrated in Figure 1.

It is on heavy card, fairly large, and the postage for the parcel has been paid on it. Very often, parcel cards will be registered (more precisely, the parcel they are accompanying will be registered), or sent with *valeur déclarée*,

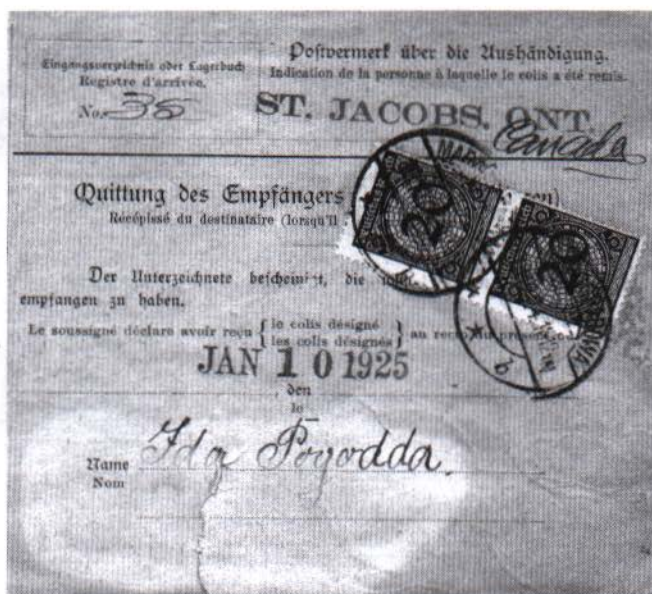


Figure 2a. Reverse of card in Figure 2

A small and relatively thin card. The postage totals 3,40 mark, for a parcel weighing 4 kg (about 9 lb).

or COD; rarely, they can be found unregistered with AR (acknowledgement of receipt). None of these combinations is possible to or from Canada (registration on international parcels—i.e., sent at parcel post rate—has not been possible since 1914; Canada requires all AR mail to be registered).

Foreign to Canada

For many years I had wondered whether any Canadian parcel cards existed at all. I had found a few tantalizing parcel cards to Canada. The first was offered to me by Bob Vogel. It appears, front and back, in Figures 2 & 2a.

Although it received a St Jacobs registration marking, there is no other indication that the parcel was intended to be registered. I do not know what the large blue H in circle handstamp means.

More modern examples of parcel cards to Canada are illustrated in Figures 3–5. Figure 3 shows a large parcel card, sent by air, from Brussels to Hamilton, with postage paid by three Belgian parcel post stamps, totalling 193 francs. In Figure 4 is a parcel card addressed to Andrew Taylor (the subject of the article *Top secret—operation Tabarin*, which appeared in this journal 2002, #1, pp 31–36) from Copenhagen. This one still has the customs declaration form attached.

Kupon (Coupon)
Kas tilkøbte af adressaten
(Påst det dækket på de destinationer)

Alfredsøpostkøret stempel

Placering af boksen
KØBENHAVN
30. 8. 1954
K

Alfredsørens navn og bogst. (Navn et domicile de l'expéditeur)

Horm. H. J. Lyngo & Son
INTERNATIONALT ANTIKVARIAT
Langelinie 10 København K.

Toldvarene stempel (Timbre de douane)

Abonnement (Pays d'origine)
DANMARK
ADRESSEKORT (Bulle d'expédition)

73 no. nr. 259 Litra A København K

Angivnes værdi (Valeur déclarée)
Kronbeløb i bogstaver (en ordret på alle bogstaver og en særskilt latinske)
Guldfrans (Franc) i tal (en chiffres arabes)

Konvokt (værdi) 1
Toldbeløbet (determination en douane)
certifikat eller faktura (certificat ou facture)

Emballage beskaffethed (Nature de l'emballage)
parcel in paper

Omkærsningssted (Mention du remboursement)
Kronbeløb i bogstaver (en ordret på alle bogstaver og en særskilt latinske)
I tal (en chiffres arabes)

Der pålægges postskat (A porter au crédit du compte courant postal no.)
tilsvarende (de) ved postgælden (sans par la bureau de chèques d)

Medtagers navn (Nom og adresse af destinationen)
TO (A) Mr. Andrew Taylor,
292, Island Park Drive,
OTTAWA, Ont. Canada.

Retningssted (Lien de destination) Land (Pays de destination)

Pris (Påst) 200 kr
Toldafgift (Droits de douane)
Rate (Acheminement):
Forsendelses (Frais)
Udviklingskomor (Frais d'échange)

Dirigeringsvedler
Via København - 2 - 1954
Omk 23

1) Pakket (pakke), eller (boks), kuffert (kiste), omhullet (flasker), sør (sæk), etc.
2) Hvis adressaten ønsker at pakke lige og vaskede (for bogstaver) og besvarelsen herom indføres i denne værdi samt på pakken.
3) Si l'expéditeur désire que son colis ne soit pas réexpédié, il l'indiquera par une mention dans ce cadre et sur la notice.
4) Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'origine en fait le service de la douane des Pays de destination.

Int. 3 (11-41-A) 3

Figure 4. Parcel card Copenhagen to Ottawa (1954)

Addressed to Andrew Taylor from an antiquarian, with 24 Krøner in postage. The customs declaration is still attached, and it tells us what was sent in the parcel: periodicals weighing 9 kg with value of only 20 Kr (less than the postage).

(backstamp) via Helsinki. Unlike all the other parcel cards shown in this article, there is no printing on reverse. Figure 7 shows a smaller form for an item mailed from Ottawa to Madrid in 1974. This one does have printing on reverse (Figure 7a), not to mention plenty of backstamps.

After discovering the term "despatch note," in English on the Canadian cards, I examined Canada postal guides and related material for more information. I could not find either despatch note or parcel card in any of the postal guides. However, a book published for postmasters ([1, pp 22–24]) does contain instructions on filling out despatch notes. Among other things, it mentions that they are to be accompanied by customs forms, and illustrates the then-current form 16–B, the despatch note. The front contains features of both the 1930 and 1973 cards above, although it is different. The reverse is fairly similar to that of the 1974 card. (The reverse of the 1930 card is blank.)

COUNTERFOIL
(COUPON)

Stamp of Canadian
Exchange Office
(Timbre du bureau
d'échange canadien.)

PARCEL POST
0887 06
Montreal, CANADA

12/6

CANADA
DESPATCH NOTE
(BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION)

11-97

Number of Customs Declarations
(Nombre de déclarations en douane.)

Postage paid.....
(Affranchissement payé) ...

Parcel Bill No. 52
(Feuille de route N°)

Entry No. 113
(Inscription N°)

Name and address of sender:
(Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur.)

Herewith is a parcel bearing following address
Ci-joint un colis portant l'adresse ci-dessous

Name and address
of Addressee
(Nom et adresse du desti-
nataire.)

Place of destination
(Lieu de destination.)

Route to be followed
(Acheminement.)

Impression of seal used
to close parcel
(Impression de scelle employé
pour fermer le colis.)

16 B.—70,000—4-1-29

Stahl's 19/6 1930

Y. H. Hans

HELSINKI
FINLAND
11. VI. 30 11

Figure 6. Canadian parcel card to Finland (1930)

With violet oval Montreal Parcel Post Branch datestamp, backstamped Lahti (Finland). The print order data is 16 B.—70,000—4-1-29. No printing on reverse.

Why are Canadian parcel cards so difficult to find? First, they do not have any stamps on them, so would not be preserved by collectors in the way those of many other countries were. Second, they were to be held by the post office, and then disposed of—likely this means destroyed, as until about the 1970s, the Canadian post office had strict policies on destruction of paper (including printers' waste, but that is another story). Third, the term "despatch note" that appears on them just does not strike any chords (of course, one should go by the French term, *bulletin d'expédition*, which appears on virtually all countries' parcel cards destined for international use).

I also suspect (although I do not know) that parcels to the US, UK, and perhaps members of the British Empire or Commonwealth, did not require parcel cards. Since the bulk of parcels from Canada would be sent to these destinations, parcel cards would not have been used much.

Michael Madesker formed an international gold medal exhibit of German States' parcel cards, and in pursuing these, he also sought out Canadian ones.

COUNTERFOIL COUPON 1973 - 23 FEB 1974 Stamp of Office of Origin  Name and address of Sender Nom et adresse de l'expéditeur J SMERECZYNSKI PO BOX 3191 STN C OTTAWA - ONT CANADA	CANADA POST OFFICE 23 FEB 1974 POSTES CANADIENNES 23 FEB 1974
	DESPATCH NOTE - BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION 95003 MARRI-PENUCIAS-72003 Number of Customs Declarations Nombre de déclarations en douane Postage paid 009845-102.74 Name and full address of Addressee Nom et adresse complète du destinataire RENE-OFICINA CAMBIO SRA C SMERECZYNSKI CALLE BENITO DE CASTRO 3, 3º planta MADRID 28 SPAIN
TO BE FILLED IN AT OFFICE OF EXCHANGE À REMPLIR PAR LE BUREAU D'ÉCHANGE Exact weight of insured Parcel - Poids exact du colis avec valeur déclarée Poids Kg 1,100	
Route to be followed - Acheminement Via H.R. 45 - StG Montreal	

Figure 7. Canadian parcel card to Spain (1973-74)

Mailed from Ottawa 5 November 1973, arrived in Spain 13 February 1974 (backstamp on reverse—see Figure 7a). The postage paid rectangle has been filled in (\$4.05), unlike that of the 1930 card. Print order data is limited to 16-B (7-70).

DISPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS OF SENDER INSTRUCTIONS DE L'EXPÉDITEUR	
If not Deliverable to Addressee, Dispose of this Parcel as Checked Si ce colis ne peut être livré à l'adresse indiquée, qu'en fera-t-on? <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver to Livré à	<input type="checkbox"/> Abandon Abandonné
Unless Sender's Instructions are Given, Parcel will be Returned at his Expense À moins d'instructions précises de la part de l'expéditeur, le colis lui sera renvoyé	
Signature and Address of Sender - Signature et Adresse de l'expéditeur J. Smereczynski 70 Box 3191 STN C CANADA OTTAWA LIBRE DE DROIT DE DROIT MADRID 1974	
RECEIPT OF ADDRESSEE - RECEIPT DU DESTINATAIRE The undersigned declares he has received the parcel designated on this bulletin Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu le colis désigné sur le présent bulletin Cristina Smereczynski Signature 23/2/74 Date	

Figure 7a. Reverse of card in Figure 7
 Charged an extra 9 pesetas. Signed by recipient.

He found one! Its current location is unknown. Discussions with each of Michael Madesker and Ron McGuire were very helpful in the preparation of this article.

The United States also uses the term “despatch card,” and examples seem to be as difficult to find as Canadian ones are.

References

- [1] *General information for Postmasters in charge of post offices on the revenue basis*, Postmaster General of Canada, Ottawa (1948).

[Portions of this have appeared in *The Registry*, newsletter of the registration study group. APOLOGY to the author (and readers): *The large sizes of parcel cards, together with the elaborate legends and the need to preserve the order, made it impossible to place the illustrations near the text in which they are described.*—ed]

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postage

The 6¢ Pearson stamp was part of the Caricature booklet pane (Scott #586a) from 1972–77. On some copies on the plate, the word ‘postage’ is sharply re-entered, particularly clear in “stage”. This is not a kiss or slip print, but a true modern re-entry. I have a limited quantity of these booklet panes (no covers) for immediate sale. These panes have sold in the past for \$20–30 each. I offer you a MNH pane for only c\$9.99, postage included. I accept payment through PayPal, Canadian or International money order, or cheque if you include your BNAPS number. For more information on this re-entry, please visit my website at RE-ENTRIES.COM

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Newfoundland's "FS" handstamps

Dean W Mario

ONE of the more interesting twentieth-century Newfoundland rubber postmarks is the ST JOHN'S G.P.O. F.S. NFLD. set of daters. Not much is known about these *foreign section* or *foreign service* cancellation devices, although a series of them had been in service during the early 1930s to the late 1940s.

Early attention to them was given by the well-known postal historian and cancellation expert Frank W Campbell. In the March 1961 issue of *BNA Topics*, Campbell described an incomplete postmark found on a small newspaper wrapper addressed to Ohio [1]. An illustration of a rather large datestamp from 21 July 1936 accompanied his query.

A follow-up months later (in June) illustrated a complete version of Campbell's cancel (with the previously faint letters F.S. added), along with a smaller but double-circle example. It was found on a cover to British Guiana dated 15 August 1940 [2].

In autumn 1981, dealer Edward Wener discovered a third type on cover with much smaller print and with the date indicia horizontal rather than the previously-reported vertical examples [3]. It had a double-circle surround and was dated 16 April 1945. The cover was addressed to Montreal. Wener wrote [3]:

One of the scarcest twentieth century Newfoundland Postmarks [sic] is shown on the cover at the left [dated 24 February 1936 and similar to Campbell's first example] . . . It is only found on covers to foreign countries but it is not even on many of them. The cover illustrated is from the Consulat de France Saint Jean de Terre Neuve, and is addressed to France.

The rubber device denoting "F.S." cancelled one of the cover's stamps which had been missed by the St John's machine dater.

The late Newfoundland specialist, John G Butt, recorded these unusual cancellations within his 1994 series on St John's General Post Office postal markings [4]. He included a fourth example previously unrecorded dated 3 June 1937. It was a 27 mm double circle and bore similar inscriptions to those previously seen. Butt noted ([4]) that these cancels were applied to " . . . foreign mail with urgent delivery needs These letters were probably put in a diplomatic pouch and sent by the first means available."

Further evidence and examples have recently been discovered which may help to shed more light on these interesting postmark devices. Although

Keywords & phrases: foreign section, Newfoundland, daters

GERALD S. DOYLE
 LONDON
 STAMPS
 NEWFOUNDLAND



Messrs. Druggists Corporation of Canada, Ltd.,

35 Britain Street,
 Toronto.



Figures 1 & 1a. Type I FS (1932)

On cover to Toronto.



Figure 2. Type II FS (1934)

Thin circle, letters slightly serifed.

categorizing rubber handstamps is always difficult due to wear and improper usage (quality of strikes) by postal clerks, there now appear to be at least six different types of these Foreign Section rubber devices.

Type I (Figures 1 & 1a) is a 27 mm circle. Butt previously described this example as a "double-circle" (type FS1) [4]. This cover to Toronto clearly shows a single circle device dated 24 March 1932. Were there two possible versions of this handstamp (that is, a single and double circle)? Butt gave an early date of 4 July 1931 for this device.

Type II (Figure 2) is a very thin 33 mm single circle seen on a cover to Victoria dated 19 June 1934. This example clearly shows a distinct comma after the "O" in G.P.O.

Type III (Figures 3 & 3a) is another 33 mm thick single circle. Butt described this as his "FS32", dated 11 July 1935. I have a later date of 9 January 1937 on a facing slip. Note the lack of a comma after the "O" in G.P.O.

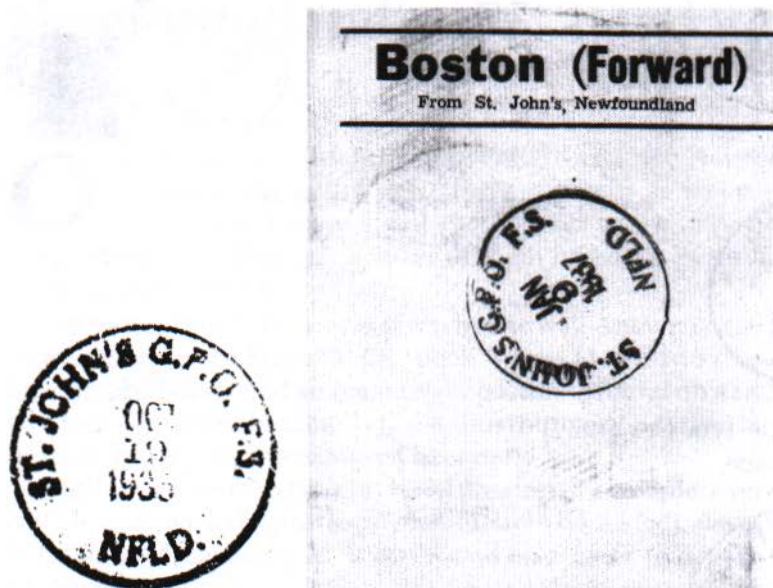


Figure 3 & 3a. Type III FS with thick outer circle (1935 & 1937)
Letters slightly serifed.

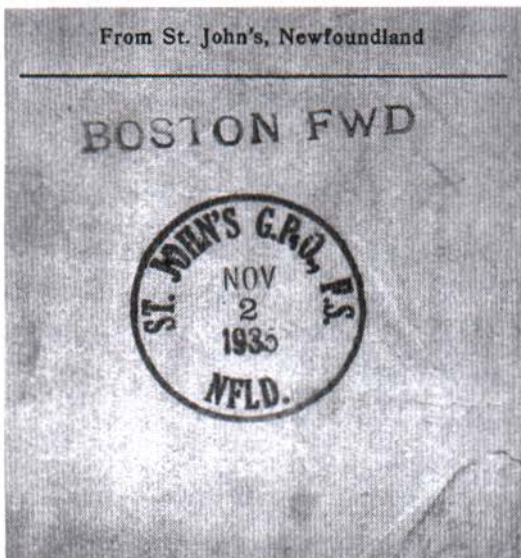


Figure 4. Type IV FS with thick uniform outer circle (1935)
Letters slightly serifed.



Figure 5. Type v FS with doubled outer circle (May 1937)
Letters not serified. Cancelling a stamp missed by the machine cancel.



Figure 5a. Type v FS (June 1937)
The letters FS are barely visible, and rim doubling is not very clear. Also cancelling a stamp missed by the machine cancel. —ed

Type IV (Figure 4) is a very large single circle 36mm dater. There is a comma after the "O" in G.P.O., and the device's letters are much taller. I can report a late date of 22 August 1936.



Figure 6. Type VI FS (1945)

Letters not serified.



Figure 7. Type VI FS, anomalous use (1946)

Local (albeit probably philatelic).

Type V (Figures 5 & 5a) is an interesting and attractive 28mm double circle handstamp. It is first shown here on a 12 May 1937 first day cover to London, and then on a June 1937 cover to Valcourt. Like Wener's French Consulate cover, in both cases, the device cancels the values that had been missed by the machine cancellation. Presumably this type is similar to Butt's FS3, for which he gave a 27mm diameter along with a later date of 3 June 1937 in his study [4].

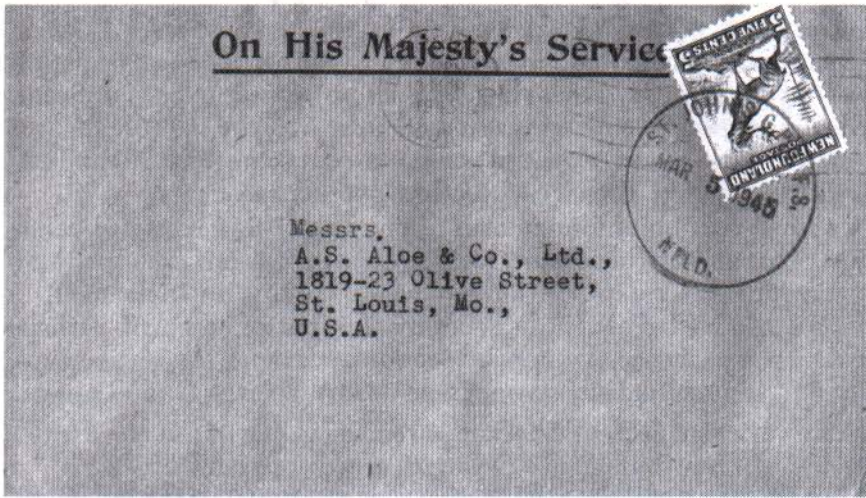


Figure 8. Type VI FS (1945)

There is a faint machine cancel as well. Found at BNAPEX 2002 (Spokane) for \$2 (US). —ed

Type VI (Figures 6–8) is another double circle dater but it is usually 30 mm in diameter. Its major characteristic is the presence of horizontal, rather than vertical, date indicia. This device seems to have been used primarily in the mid- to late-1940s. Earlier dates include 3 June & 14 June 1945 seen in Figure 6 cancelling blocks of the 5¢ Caribou. The cover in Figure 8, dated 5 March 1945, was found by the Editor at BNAPEX 2002. A cover from The Presbytery, St Mary's to London (Ontario) has been recorded from 18 November 1947.

Note the rather unusual cover in Figure 7. Although most likely philatelic, this unsealed cover was addressed to a local address rather than a foreign one—very uncommon, but local covers with the F.S. daters do exist. The cover is also irregular because the date shown is two days before the stamp was “officially” issued to the public!

The preceding is a brief summary of known information about this peculiar cancellation style. Several additional observations can now be made and added to previous studies.

- 1 There were at least six different Foreign Section devices used by St John's postal officials over the period 1931–1947 (members are encouraged to submit new reports of other dates and usages, or additional comments, through the Editor).
- 2 Given the variety of sources and destinations of mail with the F.S. postmarks, it now appears that much of the usage was random and urgency

- of delivery does not seem to be relevant in the majority of cases. Selected diplomatic mail may have received priority handling, but any correlation between it and the use of these devices does not appear to be significant.
- 3 The devices appear to have been also used (sparingly) by the Foreign Section staff to hand cancel "wayward" stamps on outgoing (or perhaps local) mail which may have missed cancellation by other means.
 - 4 Only a small portion of foreign mail received the F.S. designated hand-stamps. This appears to account for their scarcity. A few examples have been recorded on local or non-foreign mail (including philatelic mail).
 - 5 Given the relative infrequent usage of the F.S. devices on mail, perhaps they were primarily used for Foreign Section documents (e.g., facing slips, internal forms etc), and any postal usage was irregular.

The St John's Foreign Section datestamps remain as one of the more interesting aspects of Newfoundland's twentieth century postal history.

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- [1] Frank W Campbell *A Newfoundland query* BNATopics 18, #3 whole number 188 (1961) p80.
- [2] ——— *St John's G.P.O. F.S. Nfld.* BNATopics 18, #6 whole number 191 (1961) pp147,155.
- [3] Indigo Price List, Autumn 1981.
- [4] John Butt *The postal markings of St John's GPO and sub-offices, 1840-1949: Foreign Services* BNATopics 51, #1 whole number 458 (1994) p27.

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Name that colour! or, what colour is it, anyway?

Richard M Morris

THE second-last issue of *Topics* contained a letter from Ken Pollock (490, #1, p 67–67) concerning the shade *peacock blue* of Newfoundland #110a. I read with sympathetic interest Ken Pollock's dilemma regarding the shades of this stamp. I don't specialize in Newfoundland, so I only have one copy of this stamp in my collection. It is not aniline and doesn't bleed onto the reverse, so whatever shade I have must be what they mean by peacock blue. Then I read the editor's plea for some basic articles for *Topics*, and since my expertise lies in shades and colours of nineteenth and early twentieth century Canadian stamps, I have responded.

If you are going to collect stamps in all the varieties of shades for an issue or denomination, you can't begin with catalogue listings. Who knows who and when it was that someone decided to call a shade *peacock blue*. However, it is the name of the shade used by the catalogue publisher and the expertizing committee, and that's not very likely to change. Lacking other alternatives, if you are going to collect a stamp with multiple listings by shades and colours, you have to begin with a reasonable quantity of that stamp; the process is one of comparisons.

As an illustration, consider the shades of the 1¢ & 3¢ large queens in the "red" shades, and the 3¢ small queen of the first Ottawa printing. There was an overlap in the issuance of the 3¢ large and small queens, early in 1870. The coveted shade of the small queen is copper red. Examining a quantity of 3¢ large queen, I found three which appeared to be exactly the same shade as the copper red—this must be the "red" shade of the 3¢ large queen listed in the catalogue. It made sense, since the stamps shared production dates.

From that shade, I was able to determine which of the other 3¢ small queens were rose red and orange red, some of the other shades noted for the Ottawa printing. I had some left over which contained more brown; these are the *brown red* shade, and which, not by accident, were the same shade as some of the 1¢ red large queens. The catalogue states that there is only one shade listed for this 1¢ stamp, brown red, which I know not to be true. Comparison of my 1¢ large queens made me realize that the stamp was printed in a more orange shade, to which I gave the name *orange red*, and also one that I could describe only as *red brick*. Now that is an example of

Keywords & phrases: colour

comparison listings, and describes how I classify the shades in my collection; I assume this process has been done by others in their collections.

Now take the arbitrary name I gave to that odd stamp *red brick*. We are back to peacock blue. What does the name “red brick” convey to someone reading this article? They are going to say, “I look at brick houses, brick sidewalks, brick foundations, and bricks come in many shades of red brown!” However, for me, it looks like a brick in general. Nomenclature is arbitrary. We find a stamp listed in the catalogue as *sea green*. What sea? The Black Sea, or the North Sea, or the Caribbean? Someone decided that the green looked like “sea green.” However, these three seas are of different colours.

Stanley Gibbons had a colour chip they called *flesh*. Purportedly, it was the colour of any Briton you might meet, before the population became more international. The colour name which was once listed in the catalogue to describe a stamp becomes meaningless to the catalogue user now, as well as being politically incorrect.

The shade varieties in catalogue listings usually do not cover all the shades in which a stamp can be found. A collector has three different shades of a Newfoundland stamp number 110a. None of them look like the colour of any peacock he has seen, but nevertheless they are three shades of “peacock blue”, because they are not aniline. We are free to name them as we please, but they are still number 110a.

There are shades of a specific stamp that catalogues do not list, but which we know exist. The 10¢ small queen, second Ottawa printing, began production in the salmon, pink, and rose pink shades. However, the final printing were in brown red and lastly in brick brown, a very deep red brown identified correctly by Bowen.

Collecting stamps by shades is a very subjective task. I have many expertized copies of large queens certified by the British Philatelic Association (London) in my collection. These I use to identify other stamps. The beginning collector often does not have that advantage. It is for this reason that I have spent the last seven years developing colour guides for specific issues and specific denominations within an issue—dull red is not the same shade from one issue to the next or from one country to the next.

Ken Pollock says he wishes that we could “convince the catalogue publishers to adopt a uniform language for colour.” This will never happen, but not because of unwillingness on their parts. National bureaus of standards have lists of colours by shade names. They can illustrate what they consider to be, for example, carmine. However, carmine is a shade almost unique to philately. The 1¢ Victoria leaves and numerals issues appear to be very similar shades of carmine—not surprisingly. Now look at the 2¢ Quebec tercent-

nary stamp of 1908; it is listed as carmine. As I write, I am looking at my collection and have before me five stamps in bright carmine, carmine, carmine on toned paper (which changes the shade a bit), deep carmine, and finally rose carmine. Every hue or colour comes in a multiplicity of shades, from bright to dull, from vivid, to deep, to dark, as it moves toward the neutral base. Every hue changes from very deep, to deep, to strong, to light, to very light, to very pale—as an example, the 10¢ pale milky rose lilac small queen (40c) is about as pale as you can get; I threw one away when I was a beginner, as I thought it was faded and there no good; this stamp also comes in a pale milky rose pink!

This does not even touch upon the printing process itself; under-inking, dry ink (lack of moisture in the paper), over-inking, etc, will cause changes in appearance. A single colour chip to represent carmine, intended to determine the shade of all stamps listed in catalogs as carmine is impossible.

I hope this is helpful. The problem becomes less complicated as we move into the twentieth century, with different printing methods and inks. What doesn't change is arbitrary nomenclature! (Remember, more men are partially colour blind than are women!)

Happy collecting.

[The author is editor and publisher of colour guides for the large and small queens, Admirals, and other issues; some of these have been reviewed in this journal. Currently, he is working on a colour guide for the large banknote stamps of the US (1870–1887).]

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Grow with the Royal

Unauthorized overprints

Joseph Monteiro

UNAUTHORIZED overprints in the Queen Elizabeth II era began with the overprint of the Flower & Street definitive series issued in 1977–1982. Overprinting stamps (in order to popularize philatelic events) gained popularity in the late 1970s. Unfortunately, this practice was discontinued after a court decision on improper use (overprinting) of certain stamps. Some individuals killed the goose that laid the golden egg. Canadian stamp designs are protected by the Canadian Copyright Act, a law designed to protect intellectual property rights. Notwithstanding this court decision, the precancelled 1¢ Sir John A MacDonald was recently overprinted for BNAPEX 2001.

Postage stamps that are overprinted (other than officially) stamps are called *unauthorized overprints*. Some, but not all, are philatelic. Philatelic unauthorized overprints are used to commemorate philatelic events, and non-philatelic ones are used for public relations uses (propaganda) other than philately. The earliest unauthorized overprints in the Queen Elizabeth II era were “issued” in May 1977. Since then, a number of overprinted stamps have appeared. These are shown in the table.

Table. Unauthorized overprints (Elizabethan)

1-5,10	705, 707-711	HintonPex 1977	Engr& Lith	22/4/77	G
1	705	EX UP XI, 12 au 14 MAI 1978	Engr & Lith	12/5/78	G
1	705	PHILABEC '80; 31 MAY,1 JUIN	Engr & Grav	31/5/80	G
1	705	FUDDLE DUDDLE PIERRE	Engr & Lith	NA	G
1	705	P.E.T. '68-'79 R.I.P.	Engr & Lith	NA	G
1	J28a	YUBERTOCAN (1)	Litho	NA	U
1	586i, PREC	BNAPEX 2001 Ottawa, ON; 2001-08-31	Engr & Lith	31/8/01	G
1	586i, PREC	BNAPEX 2001 Ottawa, ON; 2001-09-01	Engr & Lith	1/9/01	G
1	586i, PREC	BNAPEX 2001 Ottawa, ON; 2001-09-02	Engr & Lith	2/9/01	G

(1) And other slogans; see text.

Abbreviations. G: Ottawa general tagging (two sides); NA: not available; PREC: precancel; U: not tagged.

For a philatelic exhibition in Hinton (AB) in April 1977, 10,000 [1], [2] of the 1¢ flower stamps and 99 of each of the 2¢–5¢, 10¢ were over-

Keywords & phrases: unauthorized overprints



Figure 1. Unauthorized overprints

printed. It appears that only one mint set of the stamps overprinted for the Hinton exhibition exists, as the overprinted stamps were used on souvenir cards at the exhibition or sent by mail.

Thirteen months later in May 1978, for a philatelic exhibition held in Montréal, 140,000 of the 1¢ flower stamp were overprinted. In the margins, the messages “Ne pas utiliser pour l’affranchissement du courrier” and “Do not use for postage” appeared. On the right margin, the English appears first and then the French, with the reverse on the left. The overprint appears on plate 1 of the 1¢ stamp.

Two years later, on 31 May 1980, 27,000 copies of the 1¢ flower were overprinted for Philabec ’80. The left and right margins of the overprinted sheets contain the messages DO NOT USE FOR POSTAGE and NE PAS UTILISER AFFRANCHIR LE COURRIER. The French message appears before the English message. The overprint appears on plate 2 of the 1 stamp. The position of the overprint varies slightly, by as much as $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 mm vertically and $\frac{1}{4}$ mm to the horizontally. As many as one hundred varieties of this overprint have been reported, in an excellent article on this subject [3].

A few months later, two non-philatelic unauthorized overprints appeared (pair on right of Figure 1). These unauthorized overprints had the messages FUDDLE DUDDLE PIERRE and P.E.T. ’68–’79 R.I.P. These overprints were on the 1¢ stamp sheet (from the floral definitive series) alternating from one to the other.

[“Fuddle duddle” refers to an incident in the House of Commons, overblown as usual by the media. The Prime Minister at the time, the late Pierre Elliott Trudeau, was alleged to have mouthed an obscene expression in the House during a debate. On being asked what it was he mouthed, he said it was “Fuddle duddle”.—ed]

Since the overprints were used to smear a respectable politician, the use of unauthorized overprints on postage stamps was questioned. It is not known who was responsible for this dubious activity. According to some rumours, these overprints originated in the west. The matter was taken to Court by the Canada Post Office and following a court order, unauthorized overprinting on Canadian stamps was forbidden. As a result, unauthorized philatelic overprinting was abandoned. Following this, the Canadian Post

Office adopted a stricter approach to the reproduction of pictures of Canadian stamps. Reproduction of Canadian stamps requires the written permission of Canada Post. When it is given, the stamps have to be defaced by a line through the value (or in some visible position, e.g., at the corners) or the size of the stamp has to be reduced or increased in size to avoid confusion with the real stamp. Most philatelists are either unaware of this or do not bother to comply.

The next non-philatelic unauthorized overprint to appear in the philatelic market was the YUBERTOCAN overprint on the 1¢ postage due stamp (Figure 2). This unauthorized overprint had numerous messages—in addition to Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon—

A HOME FOR EVERY FAMILY
 MISS EDMONTON ESKIMO FOR PRESIDENT
 LOWER POSTAGE RATES
 VIVA YUBERTOCAN, HINTON OUR CAPITAL,
 REDUCE INTEREST RATES
 WE WANT OUR WORTH, SUPPORT THE W.I.W.
 THE NEW NATION OF YUBERTOCAN
 FAMILIES OF THE NATION
 EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST

The longer overprints span two stamps. It was not issued for any philatelic event. It appears to have originated in Western Canada.

Twenty-one years after the previous philatelic unauthorized overprint, there were pre-cancelled 1¢ MacDonald stamps overprinted for BNAPEX 2001 in Ottawa [*These are sometimes known as “lingards”—ed*]. Three sheets were printed in total, each of these sheets had a different overprint showing the date of the show, for each of the days it lasted. The overprint appearing on the stamps for the first day of the event was BNAPEX 2001/Ottawa, ON/2001-08-31 in three lines. The dates for each of the other days of the show shown on the stamp are: 2001-09-01 and 2001-09-02. Each set of stamps was sold at the show for \$6. Only 100 sets exist. The marginal strips of the sheets were auctioned to a single collector, so only 60 sets were sold as individual sets of stamps or blocks of four.

One major error occurred in the BNAPEX overprint. The date on one of the overprints was incorrect. The date, instead of being 2001-09-01, appears as 2001-09-02. In other words, the overprints on all but one of the stamps in the pane read 2001-09-01, and on the remaining stamp it is 2001-09-02. The error is located in the sixth row and second column. It is difficult to see this error could have occurred. The overprints on the other stamps (that I have examined) in the same row appear to be correct.

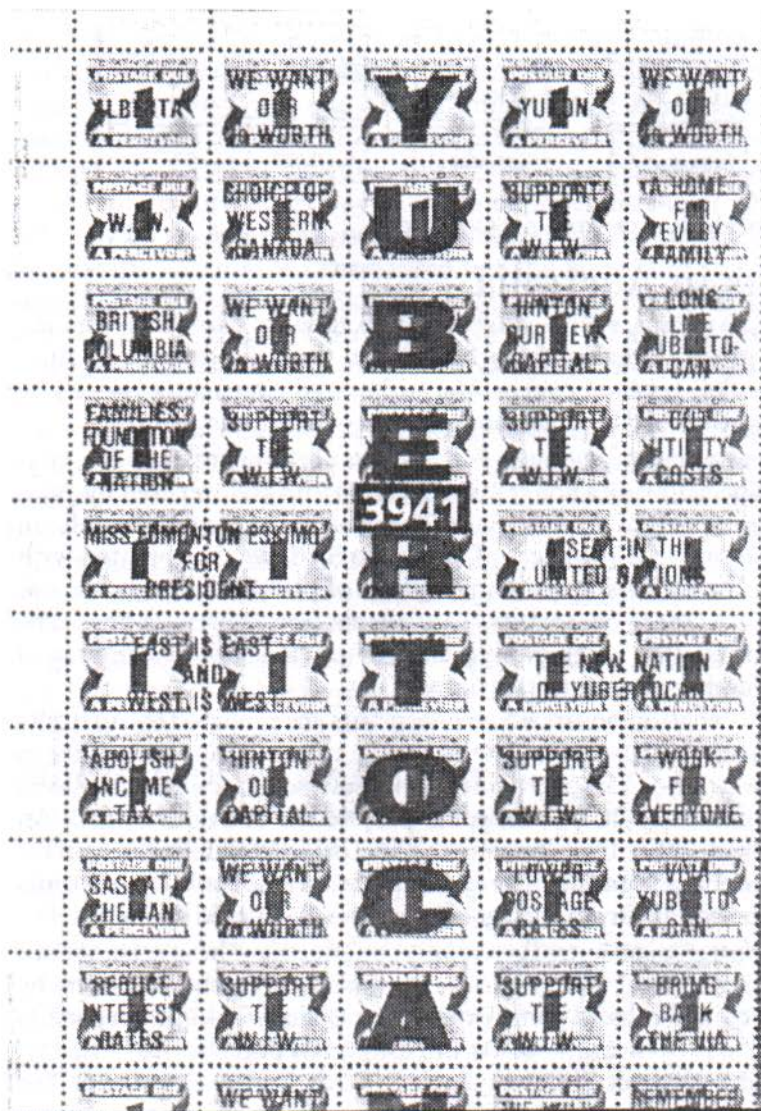


Figure 2. Overprinted postage due stamps

A symptom of Western alienation—or just letting off steam?

Of course, this error can only be detected in a multiple with the correctly overprinted stamps, because those marked 2001-09-02 were printed for the final day of the event.

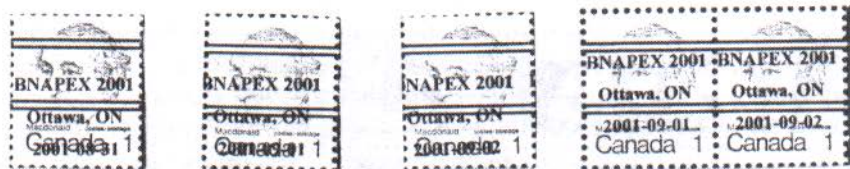


Figure 1. Precancels overprinted BNAPEX '01

Overprints in Australia

It is interesting to compare what Australia does to what Canada doesn't do. Overprints by private organizations have made their appearance in Australia. There are two types of overprints, authorized overprints created by Australia Post; authorized or unauthorized overprints done privately.

Authorized overprints done by Australia Post An important creation for customers is SES (Special Events Souvenir) sheets. Prints are prepared by Australia Post at the request of the customer. The overprints are not directly on the stamps. An example is the sheet of "Australia & Globe" overprinted with ANDA and VPC logos. This form of promotion of philatelic events has become quite popular, these overprints are available from Australia Post. The cost to the public is often much more than the face value of the stamps, and some of the difference reverts to the show.

An important variation occurs when overprints are prepared by Australia Post at the request of a customer. The Australian Post Office overprints in quantities as low as 500. The overprints that I have seen on souvenir sheets are not on the stamp itself, but on some part of the souvenir sheet. An example is the Space Miniature Sheet by the Victorian Philatelic Council for the ANDA Coin & Banknote Fair. These overprints are not sold by Australia Post, but must be bought from the agencies that had ordered them.

Authorized overprints or unauthorized overprints done privately These are not subject to any quality control checks. These overprints are generally done by stamp clubs to commemorate some event. Examples of recent overprints are "Congress 2001 35th Anniv of Turul Hungarian Phil Society", "1952-2002 Ringwood & District Philatelic Society 50th Anniversary", etc. The overprints are usually in the selvedge in the case of panes of stamps, or on some part of the souvenir sheet, or in the case of booklets, on the cover, but not on the stamps. One individual who has engaged in such overprinting activity informed me that due to the lack of quality control, the overprinting is not as good as the that done by Australia Post.

Conclusions

Three of the unauthorized overprints noted in the table and reviewed above

were not issued for philatelic events. It is highly unlikely that Canadian philatelists were responsible for these unauthorized overprints used as propaganda. It has given philatelists unjustifiably [*in this instance—ed*] a bad name, simply because the unauthorized overprints were used on postage stamps. The unlawful acts used to smear politicians have caused philatelists to be deprived of a novel way to promote philatelic shows. One way around this may be to obtain the permission of Canada Post Office, indicating that the stamps will not be overprinted but the borders or the selvedge of the sheet will be overprinted. Since copyright applies to the design of the stamps and not the selvedge—a blank piece of paper—I suspect that Canada Post will agree that it does not violate the Copyright Act. Marginal strips could be sold at exhibitions. An alternative might be to ask the Canada Post Office to overprint current stamps for the event. I suspect that Canada Post will not comply, as it long ago discontinued the practice of pre-cancelling stamps. They probably would suggest that some other item be used (for example, stationery) and a minimum quantity would have to be ordered.

The Australian use of prints and overprints provides an interesting lesson on how philately can be promoted. It is done for special events and appears to be a success so far. Prints and overprints to be issued often receive publicity in the *Australian Stamp Bulletin* (published by Australia Post). I suspect that its success is in large part due to the limited quantities produced. Our philatelic clubs in Canada can learn from down under.

Bibliography/Endnotes

- [1] H G Walburn et al, *Canada precancel handbook*, The Unitrade Press (1989), Chapter 32. Initially 50 sheets were overprinted followed later by another 50. It appears that there may be others in existence: "The second sheet, a half sheet whose existence you may not know of, was done in 1982 when there was a lot of talk about the separation of Western Canada. 50 sheets were produced."
- [2] It appears odd that 99 stamps were overprinted. They were in a sheet of 100, so it is likely that one set was retained as a mint sample, and the rest of the stamps used.
- [3] Norman Caron, *La surcharge "Philabec 80"*, Opus II, pp D1–D6.
- [4] Joseph Monteiro, *Definitive postage stamps of Canada, 1953–1999*, Volume II, (2000) 456–457.
- [5] *Australian Stamp Bulletin*, 257, October–December 2000 pp I–IV.
- [6] —, 263, October–December 2001.

[*This is a modified version of an article that first appeared in the newsletter of the Queen Elizabeth study group, the Corgi Times.*]

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(34) Canadian Postal Guide **ILLUSTRATED**

C R McGuire

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

AFTER decades of lobbying, Imperial penny post was instituted on 25 December 1898. This meant that between many jurisdictions within the British Empire, the first class single letter rate was reduced to 1d sterling or its equivalent in local currency; in Canada's case, 2¢ per ounce. However, the Australian States did not initially adhere to the scheme. Some joined in 1903 and others in 1905, at least to the extent of receiving mail sent at the 1d rate.



Figure 1. First class to Australia (1902)

Incorrectly paid at the Empire rate, to which the Australian States did not adhere; charged double deficiency, 3d. It was eventually returned to sender.

From 1898 until 15 July 1905, the Australian States UPU rate of 2½d

Keywords & phrases: Imperial penny post, Australian States



Figure 1a. Markings on cover in Figure 1

From Amherstburg to Windsor to Vancouver, thence to Melbourne, where various auxiliary markings were applied, and eventually it was returned to the DLO in Ottawa, and then the cover would have been returned under to cover to the sender (and charged the amount due plus a fee for the return to sender service). The T 15 marking would have been applied at the exchange office, Vancouver.

applied even to letters sent to adherents to Imperial penny post; it was then lowered to 2d, and finally, it was reduced to 1d (within the Empire) on 1 May 1911. This asymmetric rating caused confusion.

Figure 1 shows a short paid letter from Amherstburg to Melbourne (Victoria) in 1902. It was paid as though Victoria adhered to penny post, 2¢, whereas 5¢ (the normal UPU rate) was required. It was marked (in Canada) T 15, indicating shortpaid by 15 centimes (at 5ctm = 1¢), and this was doubled in Australia to 3d due. The cover was ultimately returned to sender as unclaimed (&c); Figure 1a shows its impressive array of markings.

The 1910 cover in Figure 2 was prepaid at the Empire rate, 2¢. By this time, all Australian States were accepting Empire mail at the Empire rate, so this cover was correctly franked (although with ½¢ numerals well beyond their normal period of use). However, it also was returned to sender, and has a large number of advisory markings, similar to the preceding cover.

In this case, it is a *request* letter. A request letter contains the name and address of the sender on the cover, with a request to return in case of non-delivery. There is a somewhat faint vertical handstamp at the left applied by the sender. This of course is fairly normal, but the regulations specified that if the letter was returned a reason had to be given. These are clearly noted in Figure 2a, showing all the handstamps on the cover.



Figure 2. Empire rate to Australia (1910)

Although the postage out of Australia to countries in the Empire scheme did not adhere to it, Australia accepted incoming letters at the Empire rates; so this was properly paid. The cover was returned to sender.

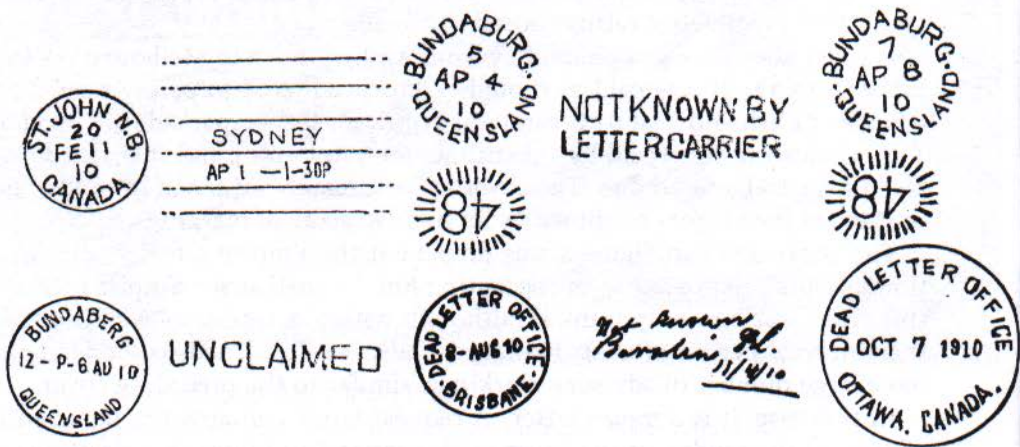


Figure 2a. Markings on cover in Figure 2

From Saint John to Sydney (NSW) in about six weeks, thence to Bundaburg in Queensland. It was returned via the capital of Queensland, Brisbane, to Ottawa and returned from there under cover to the sender.



Figure 3. Registered from Vancouver to Tasmania (1907)

Ostensibly overpaid by 1¢ using 1¢ stamps! (Rates were 5¢ for registration, 2¢ per ounce Empire rate.) No stamps are missing; the gash below the 1¢ stamps is due to spindling. —ed

Figure 3 represents a puzzling cover from the Editor's collection. Dated 1907, it was mailed from Vancouver to Hobart in Tasmania (which adhered—for incoming mail—to the Empire rate in 1905) as a registered letter, with 8¢ in postage, three cents of which were paid with 1¢ stamps. The registration fee was 5¢ and the Empire rate to Tasmania was 2¢ per ounce. It is not charged postage due, so we can assume that it is a single rate. It is overpaid by 1¢ with 1¢ stamps, which is inexplicable.

The next four items, all from the Editor's collection, are post cards from various Australian States to Canada showing the asymmetry of the rates. In this period, post card rates are about half the first class rate. The first class rate was 2½d, from Australian States to Canada until July 1905, and during this period the post card rate to Canada was 1½d.

Figure 4 shows a 1904 post card from Brisbane (Queensland) to Todmorden (ON), paying the 1½d rate. Queensland had joined the Empire scheme in May 1903, so accepted incoming letters at the penny post rate, but continued to charge the full UPU rate on outgoing letters to adherents.

Figure 5 again shows a card from the same correspondence as that of Figure 4, this time mailed from Perth (Western Australia) to Todmorden. It was mailed 6 June 1905, when the first class rate was still 2½d, and the post card



Figure 4. Postcard from Queensland to Ontario (1904)

With correct $1\frac{1}{2}$ d postage applied. Faint Todmorden broken circle.

—ed



Figure 5. Postcard from Western Australia to Ontario (June 1905)

With correct $1\frac{1}{2}$ d postage applied, but marked T, very likely in error. The Perth (WA) machine cancel is said to be early.

—ed

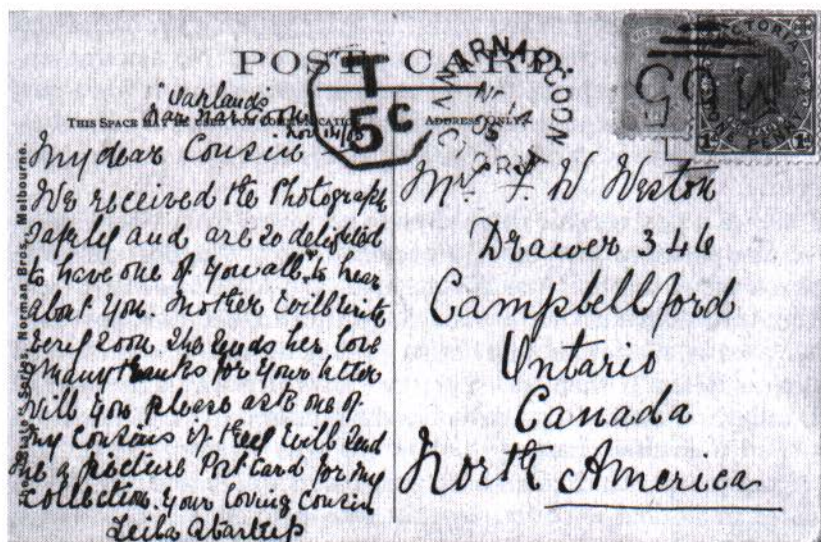


Figure 6. Postcard from Victoria to Ontario (November 1905)

Overpaid as a post card by one half penny (the rate had dropped in July), but regarded as a letter because of the written message, and thus a half-penny underpaid. The M65 killer was applied at the office of origin, Narnargoon. —ed



Figure 7. Postcard from Sydnew (NSW) to Halifax (December 1907)

With correct 1d postage applied. The postmark is a duplex from William Street, with a numeral in bars killer. —ed

rate was $1\frac{1}{2}d$. It is correctly franked with the latter, although someone has marked a blue *T*, which normally indicates postage due. No amount was marked, and this was probably an error—the clerk realized that it was a post card and not a letter. By the time it arrived in Todmorden, 24 July, the Australian rate on post cards would have been 1d, as the first class rate dropped to 2d on 15 July.

Figure 6 shows a postage due divided back post card from Narnaroon (Victoria) to Campbellford (ON) on 14 November 1905. The post card rate at this time was 1d, so this card was mistakenly overpaid by one half-penny. However, the Australian authorities considered this divided back post card with a message to be a letter (as many other jurisdictions did), and charged it as a first class letter. It then was short by $\frac{1}{2}d$, which was equivalent to 5 centimes, and it was marked T5C, which was equivalent to 1¢. There is no indication of any Canadian charge (which would have been double, 2¢).

Finally Figure 7 shows a divided back post card from Sydney (NSW) to Halifax, mailed in December 1907. By this time, divided back cards were accepted as post cards. It was correctly franked 1d (half the letter rate to Empire countries). The reverse shows a view of Sydney, including the General Post Office.

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Book Reviews

☞ *Steamboat mails of Eastern Canada*, by Robert Parsons (2002); published by Longley Auctions, Waterford ON; price: \$49.99.

STEAMBOAT service in (what is now) Canada began in 1809, with the launching of the John Molson ship, the *Accomodation*. This was in response to the 1807 voyage of Robert Fulton's *Clermont* on the Hudson River. Following the War of 1812, an increasing number of steamboats were built to ply the St Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, and later the other Great Lakes and the Ottawa River.

As the service expanded, it was natural that the steamboats would carry mail. Initially and for quite a while, this was informal—passengers would carry private mail as a favour, just as was the case on transatlantic mail. Mail could also be handed over to the captain, who was entitled to a gratuity when the mail was turned over to the post office. However, the very high rates of postage (e.g., until 1851, a single weight/sheet letter between Montreal and York/Toronto cost 1/1½ currency, about 1 shilling sterling, a substantial portion of a day's salary) resulted in very little mail going through the post office. (Does this sound familiar? The very high cost of books in general results in reduced sales and encourages extensive xeroxing, the analogue of private carriage of the mails—but I digress.)

The Post Office, rather than reduce the postal rates, tried to enforce the laws concerning carriage of mail, and to this end, had mail boxes installed in some of the steamboats as early as 1821. Although private carriage of mail on the ships was illegal, it flourished until about 1840 when mail contracts on the steamboat routes were negotiated.

One difficulty with the carriage of mail was the unreliability of the steamboats in keeping to their schedules. Weather and seasons played havoc with the early steamboats. However, as the boats became sturdier and their numbers more frequent, it became feasible to put out mail contracts for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mail. Beginning in 1840 on Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence out to Dickinson's Landing near Cornwall (spelled Dickenson in the book; was this an early spelling or simply an error?), mail carriage by steamboat eventually spread to include much of the Great Lakes and the rest of the St Lawrence with connections to the Maritimes, as well as the lower Ottawa River.

The first nine chapters of this lavishly printed book deal with the the development of steamboat in Eastern Canada, of course with emphasis on

the postal aspects. There is extensive documentation, with letters from some of the principals involved, contemporary advertisements, route maps, The coverage is roughly by region, and is eminently readable. While there is a little discussion of parallel developments in the US, it would have been very interesting to compare them in more detail.

There follow eight appendices which cover such technical items as contracts or instructions for the contractors of the steamboat mail. The final 125+ pages are from the author's award-winning exhibit *Steamboat mail in Eastern Canada*. Here again the illustrations are excellent. However, the exhibit begins abruptly—no outline of what is to follow, no title page, nothing to establish some organization for the material.

I am sure that other reviewers will say that this is an outstanding contribution to an important and poorly understood aspect of BNA postal history. I suggest that it *could* have been such. It does contain a lot of information that would be difficult and time-consuming to piece together; in addition, it contains images from a superlative collection, and it reads reasonably well. However, if one approaches this as a reference book and not as an evening's reading, there are serious flaws. *There is no Index!!* This makes it frustrating to find anything in chapters 1–9, and next to impossible to find anything in the exhibit section. The exhibit pages are well-annotated; it is a shame that the lack of an index makes it extremely time-consuming to extract information from them.

The images of postmarks related to steamboat transportation are scattered throughout the first nine chapters, rather than in one convenient location. I was very disappointed that their legends revealed very little information about these very important artefacts of steamboat mail.

The book is printed on heavy glare paper, making it rather weighty, especially because it is an awkward 8½"×11". Wasted space results in the book being at least 25% larger than it has to be—the paragraph spacing is much too large, as is the line spacing, each appendix seemingly requires a title page followed or preceded (sometimes both) by a blank page, many images have too much white space around them, the margins are huge, the typeface is 12 point, . . . readers are paying for lot of blank paper.

Of course, the intent was to produce a fabulous-looking book with fabulous content. This explains the choice of paper. The illustrations are superb. Unfortunately, the effect is marred by the very mediocre typography. In addition to the "spaced-out" appearance (exacerbated by large indents), the endnotes (a nuisance in themselves—footnotes are easier to use) are marked by very tiny superscripted numbers, some accents are missing (e.g., John Dewé, in 1846, the Post Office Surveyor of the Central Division, and in

1863, a Post Office Inspector and author of an early Canadian Postal Guide), there are some nasty widows, . . .

To summarize: the subject matter is important and the book contains a lot of information. The postmarks are dealt with in a perfunctory manner. The most serious problem is the absence of an index, which makes finding anything time-consuming. The exhibit portion has no table of contents (or any introduction at all). The illustrations, frequently of outstanding covers, are extremely well done. The book should have been printed with a lot less paper. The typography is not commensurate with the images.

Should you buy this book? It depends; a serious collector of steamboat material will have to, if only for the illustrations of the covers. To others, it will simply be a heavy soft cover book with nice pictures, but impractical as a reference. If a detailed index and list of illustrations were issued as a separate publication (and offered—free—to purchasers of the book), it would make the book a substantially more useful reference. —*The Editor*

☞ *Newfoundland specialized stamp catalogue with pictorial postcards and advertising business corner cards*, fifth edition, by John M Walsh and John G Butt (2002); includes map, magnifier, and Unitrade perforation gauge. Available from Auxano Philatelic Services, 207-525 11th Avenue SW, Calgary AB T2R 0C9; prices: postpaid, Canada \$69.95, US \$46.15, UK £28.70.

THE new NSSC is a welcome addition to my philatelic library, and the most significant tool a serious collector of Newfoundland philately can own. My 1998 fourth edition of (actually published in 1997) had lost both covers from use, and adjoining pages were also threatening to abdicate. At 300 pages, the new edition is 60 pages longer than its predecessor. The first half covers what I would describe as traditional philately—stamps, revenues, postal stationery, rates and Newfoundland post offices. The second half consists primarily of privately produced pictorial post cards, and advertising business covers & corner cards. Most of the additional pages in the new NSSC are in the latter two specialty areas.

The fifth edition is dedicated by John Walsh to John Butt who died in an industrial accident in St John's. John writes, "His sudden passing in September 2000 has left a void in the study of Newfoundland philately." I can only agree. I knew John Butt, and often exchange e-mail with John Walsh. That makes this review challenging, as I must be fair to John but also cannot ig-

nore the obvious. Likening the new NSSC to a top-of-the-line automobile, I can say it drives well but there are still a few mechanical glitches, and some accessories I do not think that I will ever use.

Coverage/Usability A Newfoundland philatelist could hardly ask for more information, especially when comparing the NSSC to other standard catalogues: 2002 Unitrade, 2002 Scott Classic catalogue, or 2002 Stanley Gibbons. Prices are listed for mint stamps (actually unused), used, on cover, margin inscription pieces, plate blocks, proofs, color trials, recorded varieties, etc. The prices are for stamps with margins nearly equal on all sides and covers that must be paying the correct rate and used before issuance of similar value at later date. The latter is important to students of postal history. Unitrade's cover prices are for proper use without defining the term. Also of great utility are the sections on general postal rates, and rates covered by the denominations in the released Issues.

There is an informative 11-page illustrated section on Newfoundland first flight covers with prices and other data. In this edition, new sections have been added for revenue duty rates and railroad TPO & RPO cancels. The section on perfins has been increased from a third of a page to three pages. Respective experts in these areas did these three sections for John Walsh: Terry Harris, William G Robinson, and Barry Senior, so we can be assured of accuracy and completeness.

Is anything missing? Unitrade and the Scott Classic show mint stamps as either unused or never hinged, but not NSSC. We can rant, rave, hold our breath until purple, or throw a screaming fit, but NH is an important factor in stamp pricing today. Look at auction results or talk to any dealer. If John had added some NH premiums simply by period (e.g., 1925-1930), it would have been helpful. Also, since NSSC did not acquire a license for the Scott numbering system, John has had to develop his own numbering scheme. This means that a Scott-based reference will also be necessary in order to examine auction or retail offerings.

Is there too much? Some might think so. Some collectors may have little use for the second half of the book, on post cards and business stationery, but like the expensive vehicle alluded to earlier, the top-of-the-line model often comes with expensive accessories you never use (ever tried to understand the manual for one of these navigational devices?) NSSC tells us that the 3¢ ultramarine postage due stamp comes in nine different perforations (Unitrade shows three), since NSSC distinguishes measurements down to .2mm, whereas most other catalogues use .5mm. I do not mind this microphilately; the attached perforation gauge can handle these distinctions, with patience and good eyes. It means that on occasion it will not be able possible

to decide which NSSC variety is offered in an auction or sale using standard catalogue references without examining the item.

Utility? At 700g and in a 9.75"×7" format, it is much easier to lug around in your briefcase than the 2002 Unitrade, which weighs over a kilogram, and is a hog for space at 9.5"×11". However, this criticism applies only if your BNA interests are solely Newfoundland, for the Unitrade contains information and prices on Canada and all the provinces.

Illustrations/Layout The new NSSC has colour illustrations—all previous editions were black & white. With few exceptions, these are accurate, and definitely more vibrant than the faded colours of the Unitrade Newfoundland section. Most stamp illustrations, however, remain in black & white, whereas Unitrade shows all issues in colour. The text is crisp, if sometimes in a font rather small for pages with detailed information. The six-page index is quite helpful. The magnifier and perforation gauge accessories at the back are useful but the antique map is difficult to use; it has no index and matrix to show us collectors from away where any specific town is.

Accuracy/Prices Prices are now in US dollars. In most cases, items that were priced in the 1998 edition in Canadian dollars now show identical prices—in US dollars. If we assign a current (generous) rate of exchange for the Canadian dollar at US\$0.65, prices have increased over 50%! This certainly saved a lot of type resetting. The results are not as skewed as one might think, because inflation has reduced the value of Canadian dollar by perhaps 10% since 1997, and, as my mini-study below (table) will show, John's prices would be too low today (compared with those of other major catalogues) if still expressed in Canadian dollars. Also, John has paid close attention to auction findings on better Newfoundland varieties, while Scott and Unitrade often have not. I took a sample of ten Newfoundland singles and sets, comparing the new NSSC prices with three other catalogues. These include such popular items are the 1897 Cabot set (Scott 61–74), the Caribou (115–126), Gilberts (212–225), the Columbia airmail (C5) and Balbo (C18) issues.

Although at least one major stamp dealer feels the new prices are too high, and the conversation simplistic, my sample shows that the NSSC is in the ballpark. My biggest dispute with the prices in the sample is the Balbo (C18) price of US\$400 for a very fine unused copy. Scott's price of \$325 is closer to market values at this time.

As I suggested earlier, NSSC's prices are up to date for many rare items. Type 1 of the 1897 surcharge has a scarce variety of which only a few are recorded, a vertical pair with and without surcharge. This is Scott 75b, NSSC 69d. The NSSC price \$1,250, while Scott lists it at only \$300, an

Newfoundland price comparisons

Scott Cl#	Scott Cl	Unitrade	Gibbons	NSSC	High
59	\$ 65	65	70	70	G,N
61-74	225	234	427	245	G
78-85	132	90	165	135	G
115/126	204	215	155	175	U
128	180	195	233	245	N
172/182	163	182	233	206	G
212/225	107	122	143	160	N
C5	7,000	7,800	6,990	7,300	U
C9/11	117	150	148	150	U,N
C18	325	358	388	400	N

Read across to compare the prices in current catalogues: Scott Classic, Unitrade (U), Gibbons (G), and NSSC (N). Scott Classic numbering is used. Prices are for very fine unused—except for Gibbons (fine)—and expressed in US\$. Canadian dollar and pound sterling translated to US\$ at the rates of \$0.65 and \$1.55 respectively.

evaluation they obviously converted from Unitrade's \$400 (in Canadian funds). The most recent auction price that I am aware of is about \$1,000. Stanley Gibbons' price, on the other hand, errs on the high end at \$3,500! Another example is the 1889 surcharged postal listed by Unitrade at \$500 used, or \$325 if converted to US\$. Walsh lists it used at \$1,315 and prices for cards used in period are now exceeding \$1,000. I also find NSSC's prices on cover more in line with what a collector should expect to pay than those of Scott or Unitrade.

When you load up your model with all the bells and whistles, there are bound to be a false note or two, however. Perhaps Dean Mario's Vincent Greene-winning article on Newfoundland's Paid markings (*Newfoundland's Paid All & postage paid markings*, BNATopics, vol 58, # 3, July–September 2001) failed to get to John prior to his publication date, as Dean has shown that the NSSC's PP3 cancel had been used some twenty years later than indicated. I also note that NSSC shows all four of the formula registered envelopes to exist with knife edge corners, but only the A and B sizes do, as indicated in the recent seventh edition of Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue.

To summarize, I do not like the conversion method used for the more prosaic Newfoundland material, but the results are generally within the ballpark for retail offerings. The prices are much more accurate on specialized items, in particular for covers, even if there are a few minor glitches along the way.

Cost If you want to drive a Mercedes with all the accessories, you have to pay Mercedes prices. At \$69.95 Canadian, NSSC is higher by \$30 than the Ford runabout Unitrade. I think it is worthwhile to have more information than I may ever need, than less. To many of us, philately is our primary hobby and we spend a lot of money on it, so complete and accurate information must be at hand. Also, the drift of things suggests that collectors are tending to specialize more and more, with many moving into postal history. The NSSC is much more helpful for Newfoundland postal historians than other standard catalogues. I think the same can be said for basically all Newfoundland philatelic specialties. Those who are simply BNA generalists need Scott or Unitrade.

Overall, I give the new NSSC an A-. I congratulate John for engineering a complex but overall efficient vehicle for the Newfoundland collector.

—Norris (Bob) Dyer

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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>]

Former acquisitions

Richard Kenneth Malott fonds [textual record, philatelic material, graphic material] 1918–1989, 10.03 cm of textual records; 375 philatelic records; 266 photographs; 138 postal covers; three labels. Fonds consists of records documenting the development of air mail services in Canada, the collecting of envelopes carried by these services, and other aspects of aviation and organized philately in Canada and overseas. Also included are photographs and other philatelic records compiled by Malott depicting the functions of the Commission, and the postal services in Vietnam, during the period February–July 1973. Other philatelic material within this fonds include postal covers, flight labels, and a decal, which commemorate historical events or mark contemporary events related to Canadian aviation, the Royal Canadian Air Force, Canadian air mail, and organized philately. [R2410]

George Carlyle Marler fonds Philatelic Series [philatelic record, textual record, graphic material]. 1904–1981 predominantly 1950–1975, 1.07 m of textual records; 200 photographs: black & white; 2,141 photographs: negative, black & white; 5,474 postage stamps; 12 postage stamps: die proofs, black. The series consists of six sub-series, including correspondence, research notes, manuscript, photographs and negatives, and addresses and speeches; a final subseries contains items from Mr Marler's collection. The collections sub-series includes three philatelic albums from the Edward VII period (1904–1909). Finely detailed manuscript descriptions below each of the 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, & 7¢ values indicates plating or cancellation information.

Keywords & phrases: National Archives of Canada

Also included within this subseries are 12 die proofs, in black, mounted on card, for the George V Admiral issue (1911–1925) including 1¢, 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 7¢, 8¢, 10¢, 20¢, 50¢ & \$1 values, and a large die proof for the George VI 3¢ definitive issue (1937). [R4050]

George E L Manley fonds [philatelic record, textual record] 1923–1984 1291 postal stationery items: 891 postal cards, 372 envelopes, 28 post bands, 12 sheets of labels; one volume. The fonds consists of a specialized research collection of precancelled Canadian postal stationery comprised of the following: covers and post cards, regular issue or private order, from the Admiral to the Centennial issues, including various samples of manufacturer's "Specimen Only" covers. Also included are a selection of post bands from the QE II Cameo issue. All categories bear either standard or private precancels. The collection also includes complete and partial sheets of advertising labels for the Christmas, Easter, and Tuberculosis appeals of 1953–1963. With this material is an annotated copy of Mr Manley's book—*Canadian precancelled postal stationery handbook*, in manuscript form, dated 1984. [R3075]

George Melvin fonds [textual record] 1961–1974 10cm of textual records. Fonds consists of 10cm of personal correspondence and research notes compiled by George Melvin pertaining to the history of various British Columbia postmasters, post offices and related postal markings. [R4314]

Montreal Philatelic Society fonds [textual record] 1890–1914 2cm of textual records. Fonds consists of 2cm of textual records created by the Montreal Philatelic Society 1890–1914. These include the Society's constitution, by-laws, annual reports, notices and minutes of general meetings, miscellaneous correspondence, and membership lists and correspondence. [R4682]

First announcement—BNAPEX 2003

BNAPEX 2003 will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 300 King Street West, London, Ontario N6B 1S2. Set-up day and board meeting takes place 24 September, the meeting 25–27 September.

To reserve at the Hilton, visit their website www.hiltonlondon.com, or phone (519) 439-1661 or 1-800-210-9336, or Fax (519) 438-5386.

You must specify BNAPS in order to get the special room rate. More information will follow.

Peter McCarthy, London, Ontario

New issues

William J F Wilson

IT is not often that scenic views from elsewhere in the world appear on Canadian stamps; but Canada Post has issued a set of eight stamps showing mountains around the world, only one of which is in Canada. The event being commemorated is the United Nations International Year of Mountains, dedicated to making people the world over aware of the importance of mountains to all of humanity. For example, mountainous regions provide most of the world's fresh water, and can match or exceed any other ecological area in biodiversity. Far from being unpopulated, mountain areas are home to at least one in ten people. Degradation of the world's fresh water supply and biodiversity through war, poverty, deforestation and climate change in mountain areas throughout the world ultimately affects people everywhere, including Canada—hence the United Nations imperative, and the Canadian connection.

The set shows the highest peak on each of the seven continents, plus the highest peak in Canada, Mt Logan. One of the continents is Oceania, with the highest peak being Puncak Jaya (4884 m) on the island of New Guinea. Like our own Castle Mountain (formerly Mt Eisenhower, and before that Castle Mountain) in Banff National Park—but a touch higher—Puncak Jaya has gone through some name changes over the years. It appears as Mt Carstensz in my 1955 Dent's Canadian School Atlas; but, like Castle Mountain, the name honouring an outsider doesn't appear to have stuck.

Speaking of schools, the stamp honouring Canadian teachers conjures a few memories—green blackboards covered in chalk dust, neat handwriting (which for me is going back a ways), and flash cards. In addition to honouring Canadian teachers, the stamp also marks the United Nations World Teachers' Day on 5 October. Since that was a Saturday, the stamp was issued the day before.

The Public Pensions stamp marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Old Age Pension in 1927. Provincial adherence was optional, and while BC joined immediately, it wasn't until 1936 that all nine provinces were on board. Pension benefits in 1927 were \$20 per month, providing the recipient was a British subject who had been in Canada for at least 20 years, and had a total income (including, of course, pension benefits) of no more than \$365 per year.

Keywords & phrases: new issues

The central design shows a tree in four seasons, symbolizing the stages of human life. Since the stamp selvage mentions a photographer, one assumes that these are images of a real tree rather than a computer creation, but Canada Post's writeup does not describe either the production of the images or the species (if real) of tree. The red leaves and branching trunk suggest a red maple, common through the Maritimes and the southern parts of Quebec and Ontario. An odd aspect to the stamp, however, is that the fourth photo is either taken from a different direction, or it is a different tree. This is especially noticeable in the lowermost trunk and the main stems branching from it in the first and fourth images.

The information in the table is from Canada Post's *Details* booklet and 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 number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as horizontal×vertical.

Stamps issued September–October 2002

Stamp	Public Pensions	Mountains	Canadian Teachers
Value	48¢	8×48¢	48¢
Date	10/9	01/10	04/10
Printer	CBN	LM	CBN
Pane	16	8	16
Paper	C	C	C
Process	8CL	9CL	8CL
Qty (10 ⁶)	3	5	3
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	S-A	PVA
Size (mm)	48×30	36×29–32	48×27.5
Perf	13.3×13.3	DC	12.5×13.1
Teeth	32×20	NA	30×18

Abbreviations. 5 (6, 7, ...) CL: five (six, seven, ...) colour lithography; AP: Ashton-Potter; C: Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); CBN: Canadian Bank Note Company; DC: die cut; G4S: general tagging (four sides); JAC: Canadian Jac; LM: Lowe-Martin; NA: not applicable (straight-edged stamp, or width depends on how booklet was trimmed); P: Peterborough paper; P-S: pressure sensitive gum; S-A: self-adhesive; S-T: setenant; SS: souvenir sheet; sim'd: simulated.

With the study groups

Robert Lemire

THE purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of BNAPS members the fascinating specialist work being done within each of our study groups. My apologies in advance to authors and contributors whose articles are omitted; it is impossible to discuss the entire contents of every newsletter. Even with the help of the newsletter editors I can select only a few highlights. The summaries below represent what has arrived in my hands through to the end of August 2002.

Map Stamp Absolutely spectacular. And yet those words do not do justice to Vol 3, # 2 of the Map Stamp Newsletter. The entire 18-page issue is devoted to a series of articles, by new(!) member Ken Kershaw, which deal with plating issues, and especially the positions of dots and arcs in the map stamp design. There are well-reasoned arguments resulting from many long hours of research. Approximately one hundred pictures are shown, a good number of them in colour; most are from scans at $\times 60$ magnification. Much credit also should go to the study group for publishing such a beautiful issue of the newsletter.

Newfoundland The July/August issue of the *Newfie Newsletter* features an article by Bob Dyer on a series of bogus Labrador labels (5¢, 25¢ & \$1 denominations) that were prepared in the early part of the twentieth century. These items, illustrated in the newsletter, turn up in auctions from time to time, and are often misdescribed. Sammy Whaley shows two examples (of several he has seen) of Newfoundland cents covers overpaid by 1¢. There seem to be too many of such covers for the overpayment to be accidental, yet there are no collateral markings to indicate a need for an extra charge.

British Columbia Postal History Most of Vol 11, # 2 of the British Columbia Postal History Research Newsletter is devoted to the evolution of the Lazo post office near Comox. First opened in 1911, it was closed in 1920. Later there was a military post office at nearby Comox (1944–1946 & 1954–1966), and eventually a civilian post office (Lazo) from 1966 on. Cancels and a picture of the current post office are shown.

Re-entries In Vol 20, # 2 of the newsletter of the Canadian Re-entry Study Group new re-entries were reported on stamps of the Canadian George V, George VI and the Elizabethan Wilding issues, as well as on the Newfoundland 1865 5¢ seal decimal stamp.

Fancy & Miscellaneous Cancels In the August 2002 newsletter, Dave Lacelle shows examples of a number of “scarifying cancels”, cancels that were “de-

signed to cut into, penetrate or mutilate the stamp, and thus prevent its reuse." These seemed to have been used occasionally in a number of Canadian post offices in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Foreign examples on Canadian stamps are also known. Unfortunately, most examples may have been destroyed by condition-conscious collectors.

Perfins *The Perforator*, Vol 23, # 4 contains an article by Russell Sampson in which the CPM perfin, previously identified as being from Canadian Produce Merchants of Winnipeg, has been found on a 1903 cover bearing the printed return address of the Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation. The name of that firm changed to Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation in 1903. Thus, it appears that the user of the perfin may have been misidentified previously. There is also a discussion of towns from which the CMS (Canadian Smelting Works) private perforation might have been used [see the article by Pete Jacobi in this issue—ed].

Squared circles In Vol 24, # 2 of the *Round-Up Annex*, there are further updates to the list of squared-circle reports, and Jim Miller shows examples of two of the Winnipeg orb cancellations described in the previous newsletter.

Canadian Military Mail In newsletter #155, there are photocopies of several cards with markings from transport and hospital ships from the first World War as submitted by Colin Pomfret. Also, Dr J Frank discusses a possible census of covers that have been preserved from the campaign involving the Canadian Nile Voyageurs. The article shows two covers addressed to Egypt, and one card from Egypt to Toronto (all mailed in late 1884 or early 1885).

Elizabeth II One useful aspect of the *Corgi Times* is that it keeps readers informed on current material. In Vol 11, # 1, Robin Harris discusses how the 48¢ booklet of thirty in the Canada Post 2002 Quarter 1 Pack differs from those released earlier through the Philatelic Service or over the counter. It is also mentioned that the booklet position of "booklet singles" of the self-adhesive stamps from the packs can be identified by the graphics and text that is adhering to the back of the stamp. Leopold Beudet submitted a picture of a spectacular paper fold found on the 5¢ sports issue of 1957. The fold demonstrates that Canadian Banknote must have perforated the sheets horizontally first, and then vertically.

Post Card A farm theme runs through the July 2002 issue of *Post Card Matters*. Gary Peck submitted a pictures of two cards with the same view of a farm cat and a cow; Colin Campbell showed cards with grain elevators, and editor Dean Mario found and illustrated two cards prepared for the British Columbia Goat Breeders Association. Other cards, on a wide range of Canadian topics, are also shown and discussed.

Registration Among the covers shown in Vol 3, # 4 of *The Registry* are four

that were sent overseas and received postage due markings. One, submitted by Len Belle, was apparently mailed (to Britain) unregistered, but it was registered when it passed through the British and Foreign Branch Office in Montreal. The other three are airmail covers from the collection of the editor, David Handelman. In all three cases, the exact amounts marked as due are not easily explained. Also, two early *cash* letters from the 1820s are shown, as is a money drop letter from 1835.

Postal Stationery Study Group Postal Stationery Notes, Vol 18, #1 features a checklist of hidden numbers found on the inside of almost all Canadian prestamped envelopes from the mid-1990s onward (compiled by John Grace and Dick Staecker). There is also a report from Bill Geijsbeck of several different printings of the current envelopes, identifiable by dates printed on the envelopes. Chris Ellis continues his series on illustrated cards with a discussion of cards used by D H Howden & Co.

Air Mail In the August 2002 newsletter, Don Amos sorted out a question that had been raised about Canadian postage rates applicable for mail carried on Cherry Red Airlines. The newsletter also contains reprints of two articles. One is from *En Route* on the role of Air Canada and its predecessors in the history of Canada's airmail service. The other on the first Commonwealth flight by J A D McCurdy, appeared from a 1954 issue of *The Postmark*.

RPO Chris Anstead has sent along two newsletters. The May-June issue features the "shortest Canadian RPO run between Galt and Waterloo, Ontario"—a service which began in 1892. Even the extension a year later, to Elmira, only increased the length to 25 miles. Several cancels on piece are shown. There is also an article on the cancels from the "Albert" Railway in New Brunswick. The entire July-August issue is devoted to the Pèrè Marquette Railway and its predecessors. Using many illustrations of the cancels, the evolution of the line is traced from its beginnings as the Erie & Huron Railway (1884-1887) through 1947, with the Pèrè Marquette Railroad Chatham-Blenheim-Walkerville run (CHAT. & WALT. R.P.O.).

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For electronic text, please leave a blank line between paragraphs. Names should be written with initials (or full given names) *first*, and without periods (as in, I P Freely, not Freely, I.P.). Preferred format for dates is day month year, as in 17 Sept 1752. Avoid use of all-caps, footnotes, or underscoring unless absolutely, positively NECESSARY.

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