

2003 • third quarter

BNA Topics



Whole number 496

Volume 60

Number 3



The official Journal of BNAPS—
The Society for Canadian Philately

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BNA**T**opics



The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd
Volume 60 Number 3 Whole Number 496

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Prepared by the Editor in the typesetting language T_EX (Greek, τ_εχ; pronounced 'tek', or for the purists, 'tech', ch as in the Scottish 'loch'). PostScript files are sent to the printers.

The front cover shows Raymond Jamieson (1885–1992), for the feature article by Ron McGuire.

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Publication date 22 November 2003

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Advertising manager Hank Narbonne, Box 102, McDonalds Corners ON K0G 1M0
Published quarterly by Philaprint Inc, 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto ON M4T 1A8,
© 2003 by Philaprint Inc

Printed by Publishing Plus; Canadian Publications Agreement 590819

ISSN 0045-3129

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BNA**T**opics, Volume 60, Number 3, July–September 2003

Editorial: The shroud of New Carlisle

THE September issue of *Scott's Stamp Monthly* contained an article (p 8) by the editor of the Scott catalogues. It announced that the so-called postmaster's provisional of New Carlisle would be listed in the 2004 *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue*.

The literature contains numerous (slightly different) images of this controversial cover, mailed on 7 April 1851 (the day after Canada assumed control of the post office), with the intricate "Three Pence" rate marking. There are at least three possibilities: (a) the rate marking was preprinted by the postmaster for use beginning the previous day, when the rate dropped to 3d; (b) the marking is a handstamp applied by the postmaster; (c) the marking was applied fraudulently or playfully after the fact to a genuine cover (with any other rate markings removed; occasionally, rates were marked in pencil, so this would be difficult to detect).

Possibility (a) would qualify the cover to be a true postmaster's provisional, the only Canadian example. The value would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Possibility (b) would make the cover an interesting example of an early rate handstamp (others are known in this period), likely value in the hundreds to perhaps a thousand dollars. (Why there should be a hundredfold factor is a mystery to me.) And if (c) holds, the cover would have some value both as a curiosity and as a second day of rate use.

The cover was introduced (in the early twentieth century) to the philatelic world by Donald King, stamp dealer and postal employee—a doubly inauspicious beginning. It has been listed by Gibbons, although it is possibly not a coincidence that this began when the owner of the cover was also owner of Stanley Gibbons.

A problem with Scott's attribution of (a) is that no forensic evidence was presented in the (puffy) article. It would likely be possible to distinguish printer's ink from handstamp ink (recipes for the latter were distributed to postmasters), but this would require destructive testing (of a miniscule part of the cover). Similarly, the ink would have to be tested for age. There was no mention of any such tests in the article, so I wonder whether they were performed. The dealer who expertised this for Scott will explain how his conclusion was arrived at in an upcoming issue of the *AEIP*. I hope the article also explains why there was no "paid" indication.

In the absence of forensic evidence, my feeling (and feeling is the strongest word *anyone* can use) is that possibility (c) is correct, with the fancy marking applied in the late nineteenth century.

Raymond A Jamieson, 1895–1992

C R McGuire

THIS is an expansion of my article in the programme for ORAPEX '03, held in Ottawa in May 2003. It complemented the #8 & 10 envelopes produced for the show (Figure 1), which honoured RA Jamieson (BNAPS # 72; Figure 2). My ORAPEX article was reprinted in the 19 September issue of the *Carleton Place Canadian*, which is distributed throughout Lark County, and read by many people who knew RAJ.

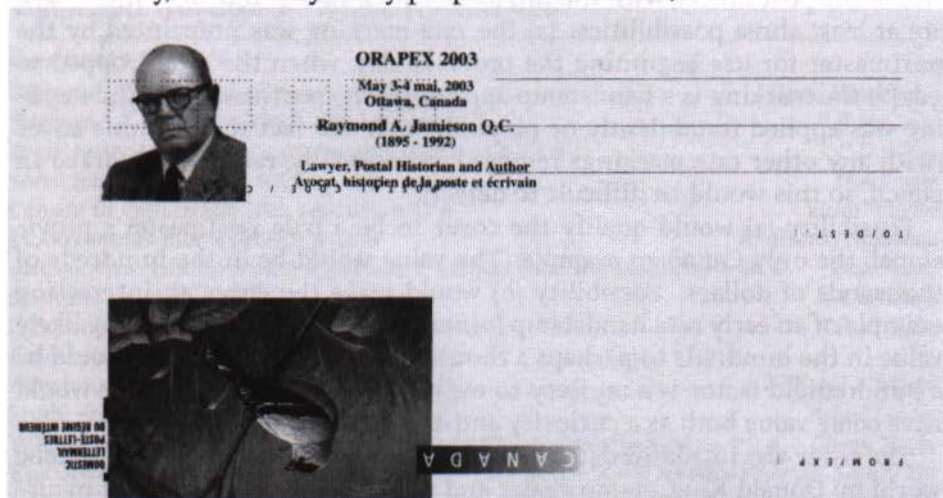


Figure 1. Printing “error” on ORAPEX '03 stationery (2003)
Misprinted in “error”; 20 known, of which 10 were on #8 envelopes. *Courtesy of Doug Lingard*

Mr Jamieson's son John, daughter Lorna Johnson and her husband Don, attended the show's wine and cheese party. It was my pleasure to introduce them, give a brief tribute to their father, and present them with examples of the stationery and programme. John added to my recollections of his father with some of his own. In all, this was a fitting day of recognition of RA Jamieson's contributions to Canadian philately. In the future, I hope to remember other great philatelists I have had the good fortune to have known. My first such tribute was to my close friend, ER (Ritch) Toop [1].

In preparing this appreciation for RAJ (as he often signed his letters to

Keywords & phrases: RA Jamieson

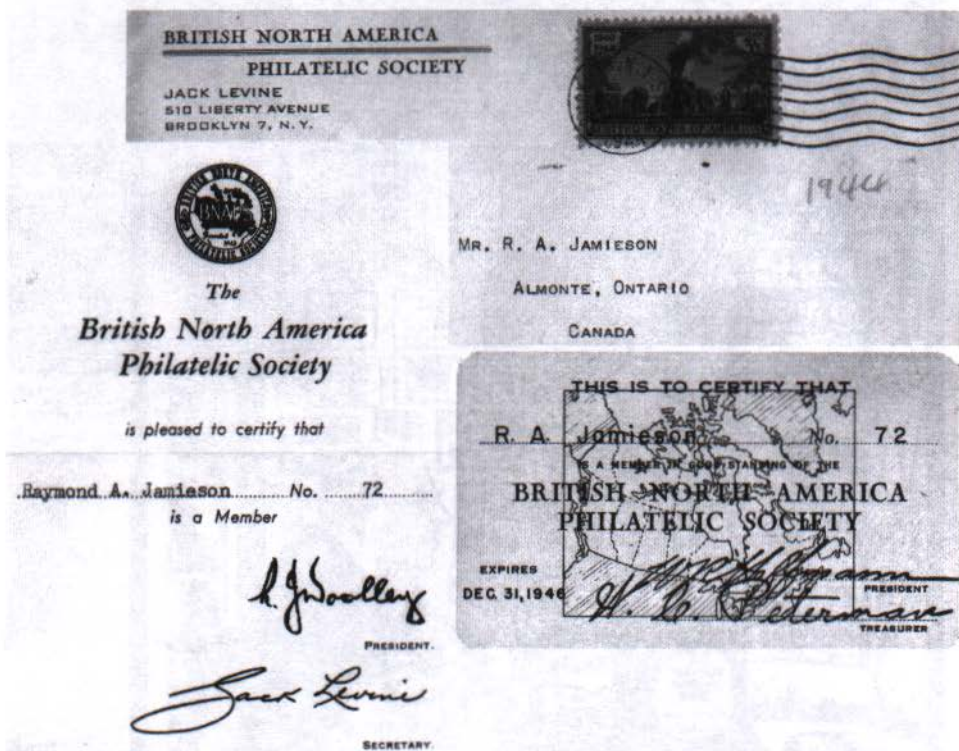


Figure 2. RAJ's BNAPS cards #72 (1967 & 1946)

On the left is his 1967 card; on the right is his 1946 card, together with the covering envelope from Jack Levine, long-time secretary and founder of BNAPS.

close philatelic friends), I encountered a real problem—to summarize what could be a sizable monograph about this fascinating man and his life.

RAJ and I first met in autumn 1956 at a meeting of the Ottawa Philatelic Society, then held at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. However, it was not until the late 1960s that we became good friends. He invited me to his Almonte home to discuss the postal history of the 1939 Royal Visit, of which he was the foremost authority. It was the first of our many regular visits and telephone conversations. I was fortunate to learn about the history of philately in Canada from one who had been part of it, beginning just after 1900. RAJ knew and corresponded with virtually all of the important philatelists through the decades (Figure 3). He was well read and could talk about almost any subject. His memory was remarkable, and his insights on a wide variety of matters were accurate and often amazingly prophetic.



Figure 3. Christmas card from Fred Jarrett to RAJ (1940s)

The intricate design must be studied; it shows Fred's sense of humour. There is an Underwood logo on the second page. Jarrett was for a long period the Canadian typewriting speed champion and worked for the once-major typewriter manufacturer in Toronto. He sent this card, which I believe he designed, to both business and philatelic friends and clients.



12 pence: H. M. Queen Victoria; issued June 14, 1951
 laid paper; imperforate
 Portrait by A. E. Chalon, R.A.

12 pence: Sa Majesté la reine Victoria; émise le
 papier vergé, timbre non dentelé
 D'après un portrait par A. E. Chalon, R.A.



Wm G. Greene
 24 Sep. 1981
Elsie M. Jarrett

National Postal Museum Musée national des Postes
 Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0B1 Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0B1

2 PM-2

Figure 3a. BNAPS presentation to National Postal Museum (24 SP 1981)

Considered by many to be a “dean” of Canadian philately, Fred Jarrett was made a member of the Order of Canada in April 1974. He is the only philatelist to be so honoured for contributions to philately. BNAPS also recognized Jarrett by creating a beautiful brass plaque (a photo appears in *Topics* #386 November–December 1981, p11).

The plaque was presented to the National Postal Museum (NPM), during the ceremony (shown here) opening the third phase of what was to be its permanent premises at 180 Wellington Street. This was one of the major BNAPS '81 events.

The photograph shows some of those in attendance, including Jarrett's wife, Elsie, and one of his best friends, V G Greene. They both “autographed” the back of Webb VC107, one of the NPM's ten post cards in two series. It is also has a first day of use of the NPM's new flag cancellation, Coutts P505.

The plaque was later “permanently” mounted on one of the walls of the re-created c1890 general store/post office philatelic sales outlet. Where is the plaque today?



Figure 4. Almonte “A” fancy cancel (1875)

A photostat (c 1940) of a cover from the collection of Judge JT Mulcahy of Arnprior. He and RAJ were good friends. RAJ dearly wanted the cover for a number of reasons. It was sent by his grandfather Joseph when he was in partnership with Alfred M Greig (endorsement at left). It was addressed to RAJ's great-uncle Robert, who was Clerk of the First Division Court in Perth (RAJ's great-great grandfather William came from Ireland in 1818 and settled in Perth ON).

Of course, the outstanding feature is the perfect strike of what is the better of two known examples of Day & Smythies fancy cancel #378a (first reported by RAJ), Lacelle #242, along with a clearly dated broken circle that confirms the date of use. The envelope contained printed matter, probably a legal document, as it was franked with a 1¢ small queen. This yellow stamp did not reproduce well photostatically. Where is the cover now?

The man known to some as “Mr Almonte”

RAJ was born 21 May 1895 in the fine stone house of his grandfather Joseph, at #145 on Almonte's Union Street North (Figure 4). He lived on this street for all but a few years of his life. He passed away peacefully 28 February 1992 in a hospital just a mile or so from his home at #231, built in 1901 by his father Harold.

He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1918. He told me how it had deeply saddened him during WW I (Figure 5) that friend after friend enlisted, went off to fight (often not to return), while he could not join them. When he was 13, RAJ lost the sight in one eye, as a result of an unfortunate

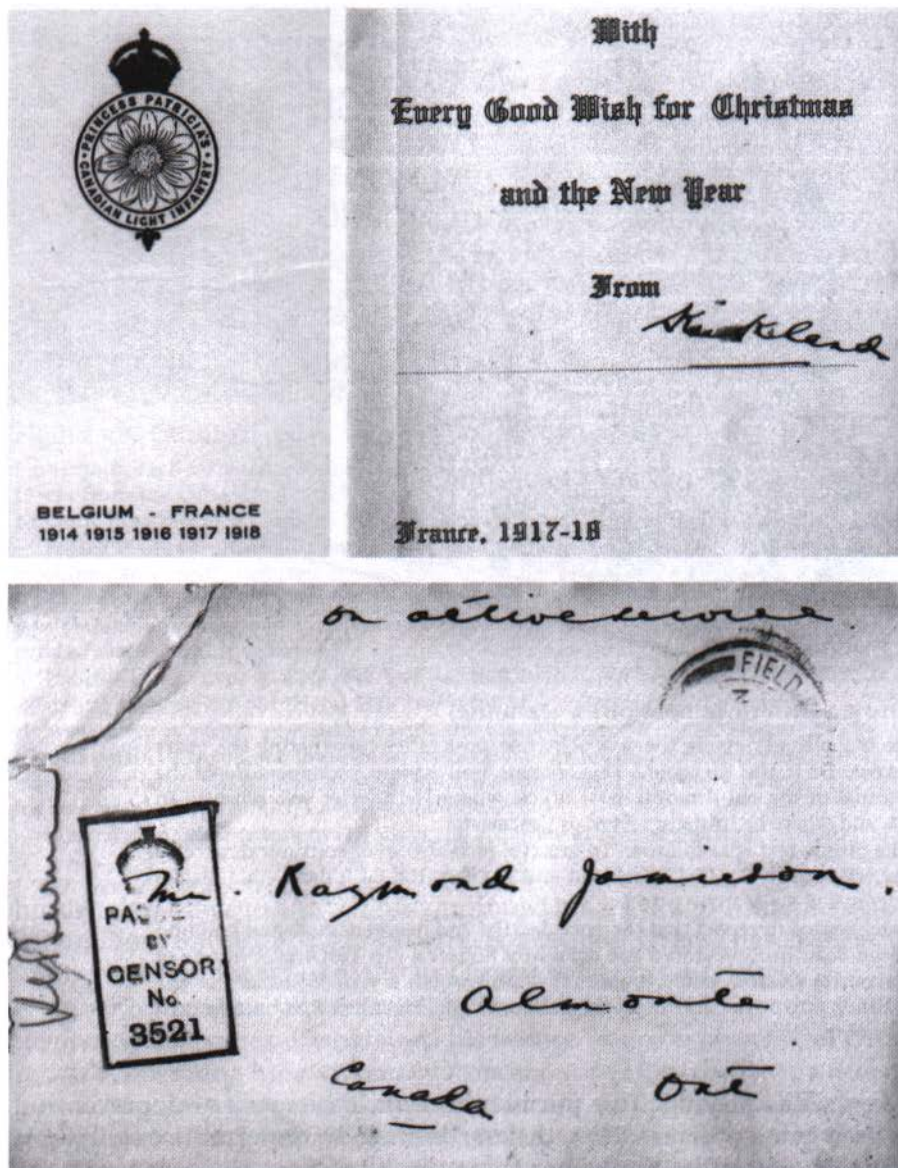


Figure 5. Christmas card from the front (1917)

The top shows the outside and the inside pages of the card from Hal Kirkland, a lifelong friend of RAJ, who had joined the famous Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry at the outbreak of the war. He sent this card from France. Kirkland's father was one of Almonte's medical doctors. Hal eventually became Almonte's postmaster.



Figure 5a. Almonte post office (ceramic)

There is a plaque outside the new Almonte post office recognizing the years of service Dr & Hal Kirkland. This ceramic wall-hanging commemorates the centennial of the old Almonte post office, where Hal's letter was received in 1917, and where he initially served as postmaster.

The plaque text is as follows: "In grateful recognition of continuous service to the community by Dr J T Kirkland and his son, Hal B Kirkland, this plaque was dedicated 16 March 1974."

I am pleased to report that the once derelict and nearly demolished building has been beautifully restored and currently houses a fine restaurant in one of my favourite Ottawa Valley towns. It is well worth a visit if you are in the area. Since 2000, the area including Almonte and Pakenham has been known as *Mississippi Mills*.

accident while playing. This put him in medical category c-2, preventing him from going overseas. Nonetheless, he made an important contribution to Canada's war effort, as Gunner Jamieson, #246812. He served with the Canadian School of Gunnery, involved in training new recruits (Figure 6). When his father passed away suddenly in 1916, RAJ's grandfather encouraged and assisted him in continuing his education. After graduating, he attended Osgoode Hall (Law School) and received his law degree in 1921.

After articling with his family's former partners Greig & Greig, RAJ opened



Figure 5b. Letter to (postmaster) Hal Kirkland (1943)

I was quite excited when I found this #10 pennysaver envelope (note flap). It was from the Canadian Postmasters Association, with their crest and a nice patriotic illustration, all in blue.

Posted at the 1¢ unsealed printed matter rate, postmarked by a Campbellford machine cancel with inverted hub and no indicia. It was backstamped with an Ottawa “Eat Right For Health” slogan, Coutts 2710 (dated AUG 6 3 PM 1943) transit marking, and an Almonte circle date stamp on the same day. Most printed matter mail is undated.

I showed this cover to RAJ who told me that he was not surprised by its existence, because his old friend Hal “was a bit of a collector.” RAJ grinned, “It was a pity it wasn’t postmarked with the Campbellford ‘V . . . —’ slogan” (Coutts 9965). He told me that he had looked for years for this machine postmark, reportedly used for *only one day*. Since learning this, I too have watched for an example, but like RAJ, I never found one.

I later found other covers to Hal Kirkland, but none as nice as this one.

his own law office in 1923. This continued his service to Almonte that had begun about ten years earlier as correspondent for Ottawa newspapers, providing reports of interest for their Ottawa Valley news sections.

As with many lawyers in small town Canada, RAJ was agent for several insurance companies. He obtained his licence from the province of Ontario in 1916, operating his own agency from about 1923 to the 1970s. In 1924, he was appointed town clerk and solicitor for Almonte. He held these positions (in which he served with distinction) until 1975, a period of over fifty years.

Around 1942, RAJ was made King’s Counsel (KC); this became Queen’s Counsel (QC) on the death of George VI. About 1943, he was appointed deputy magistrate for the Lanark County. His decision (13 September 1962) to leave the bench was met with regret by his colleagues. He was known for being extremely conscientious and fair in all cases brought before him.

If a General Mobilization is ordered every soldier on pass must return immediately to his unit without waiting for instructions.

No. _____

Regiment C. D. J. G.

PASS.

No. 9463 W (Rank) Wm (Name) Jamieson R. A.

has permission to be absent from his quarters, from Shun & M.

August 13th 18 to midnight same date

for the purpose of proceeding to Siphon

(Station) Midford acquired LIEUT. & ASST. ADJT.
FOR C.I.G. CAN. SCHOOL OF GUNNERY. [P.T.O.]

(Date) 13/8/18.

ORDERLY ROOM
AUG 13 1918 95.
Army Form
(In pads of 100.)
SCHOOL OF GUNNERY

DOWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

W.P. ILLINOIS 101-107. 600,000 Pads. I. T. & S. I. Co. (E. T. D.) CHICAGO, ILL.

Figure 6. Off-duty pass issued to Gunner Jamieson (1918)

It has an Canadian School of Gunnery orderly room oval handstamp, dated 13 August 1918 in purple. After I had published three articles on different aspects of Canadian military postal history in the 1979, 1981, & 1982 STAMPEX programmes, RAJ thought that I should have the pass to remember him, and to show that he had "done his bit" during the war.

Although RAJ sold his law practice on Dominion Day, 1 July 1976, he kept his office and continued to practice until 1982. He was proud to tell you that a Jamieson had practiced law in Almonte since 1869—a period of 113 years. RAJ was also the longest in business on Mill Street, almost 60 years. This article's mast-head is his last letterhead. He only reluctantly had it made, as a result of the newly-introduced postal code required for addresses. He took my advice and added his predecessor's names and years of tenure.

RA Bond, Almonte woolen mill worker and philatelist, paid his friend the ultimate compliment in a letter dated 3 January 1946, "I think I should address you formally as *Mr Almonte*, everything I do seems to lead to you in some way."

RAJ was very involved with community activities. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge and Lions Club International. He loved most styles of music and enjoyed singing and playing his Martin guitar. We both enjoyed folk songs.

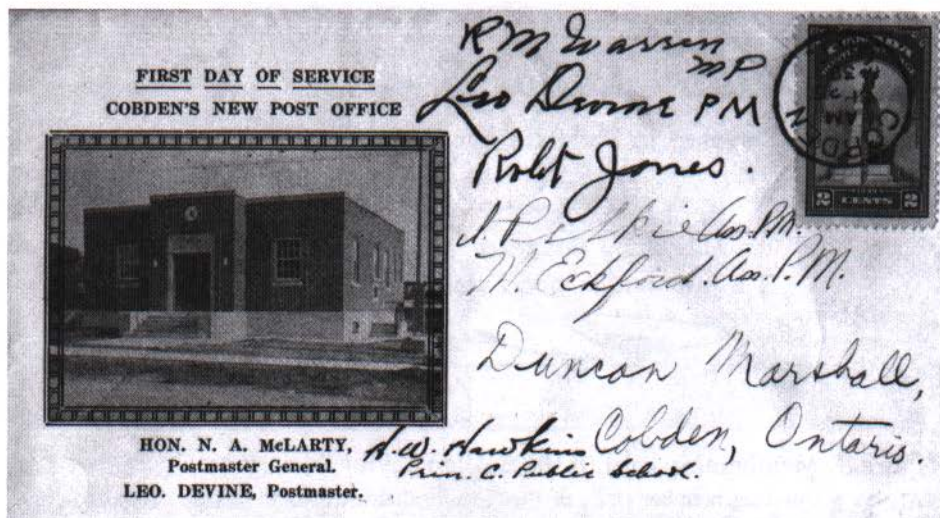


Figure 7. Cobden post office opening (1939)

RAJ's sense of history and love of architecture is shown by this envelope and its cachet. He requested AL McCready (name printed on flap), publisher of *Popular Stamps*, to print 50 souvenir envelopes. RAJ attended the opening ceremony, had the cover franked with his favourite value of the Royal Visit issue, the 2¢; he then had it autographed by attending dignitaries.

After I had given RAJ my article on post office architecture (published in the 1985 STAMPEX programme), he gave me this cover. I expanded that article in this journal, Volume 59, number 4 (2002).

His musical talents were in demand at functions, including philatelic conventions. Often involved with Lions' entertainment programs, he was also popular as a judge at their talent competitions. He was a founding member of the North Lanark Historical Society. In 1936, he wrote an article, *Location and early history of Almonte*. He was consulted regularly on local historical matters. He was also very interested in architectural history. One of his many articles is an excellent "sketch" (as he called it) on the first Kingston post office (Figure 7).

Family man

RAJ married Evelyn May Blake, also of Almonte, on 2 September 1926. During their happy marriage, they had three children—Lorna, Alice, and John. He thought the world of his family, and was proud of his children's successes. Lorna told me, "they all thought Daddy was a wonderful man, father, and grandfather, dearly loved, and still missed." I also thought RAJ was a fine man, and miss the frequent discussions we had.

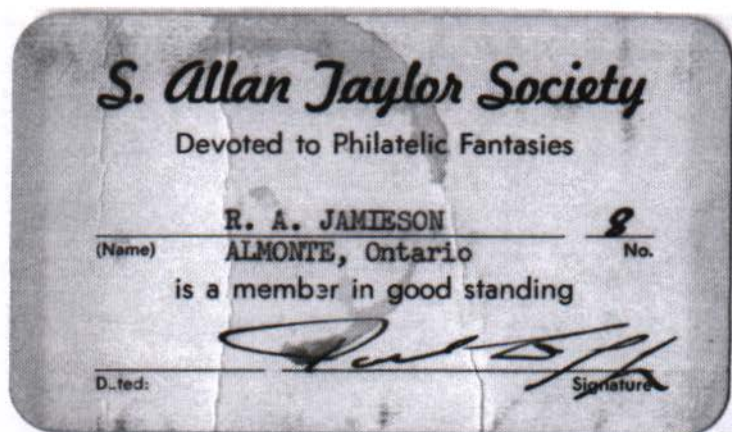


Figure 8. Membership card in the S Allan Taylor Society
 RAJ was a founding member (#8) of this society dedicated to the study of philatelic fantasies.

Sportsman

Despite his sight impairment, as a young man, RAJ played and enjoyed all sports (except hockey). At university, he was on the track and field team, winning the one-mile run and earning his Varsity "T" in 1920. Like his father and his daughter Alice, he was a golf enthusiast, still playing at 90+ years of age, whenever weather and health permitted.

Postal historian & author

Boys of RAJ's day invariably collected stamps. He told me that at age six, he had little choice but to join them or be left out. He soon found stamps to be his main interest. I remember him showing me an advertisement that he had placed in a boy's magazine c1902. He invited pen pals interested in exchanging stamps to write him. He was so inundated with letters from around the world, that he had to pass many along to friends insisting that they write and trade fairly. Fairness, kindness, and generosity were RAJ traits throughout his life.

RAJ confirmed, "I collected stamps on and off for many years, but became earnest about 1933." By that time, he had become fascinated with all aspects of BNA philately, including the history of early philatelic societies. He told me that he collected rates and postmarks on envelopes when few others did. Starting around 1910, he saved envelopes from family and business mail. Many of these covers had markings that he was later very happy to have for his collection, for study, and for exchange.

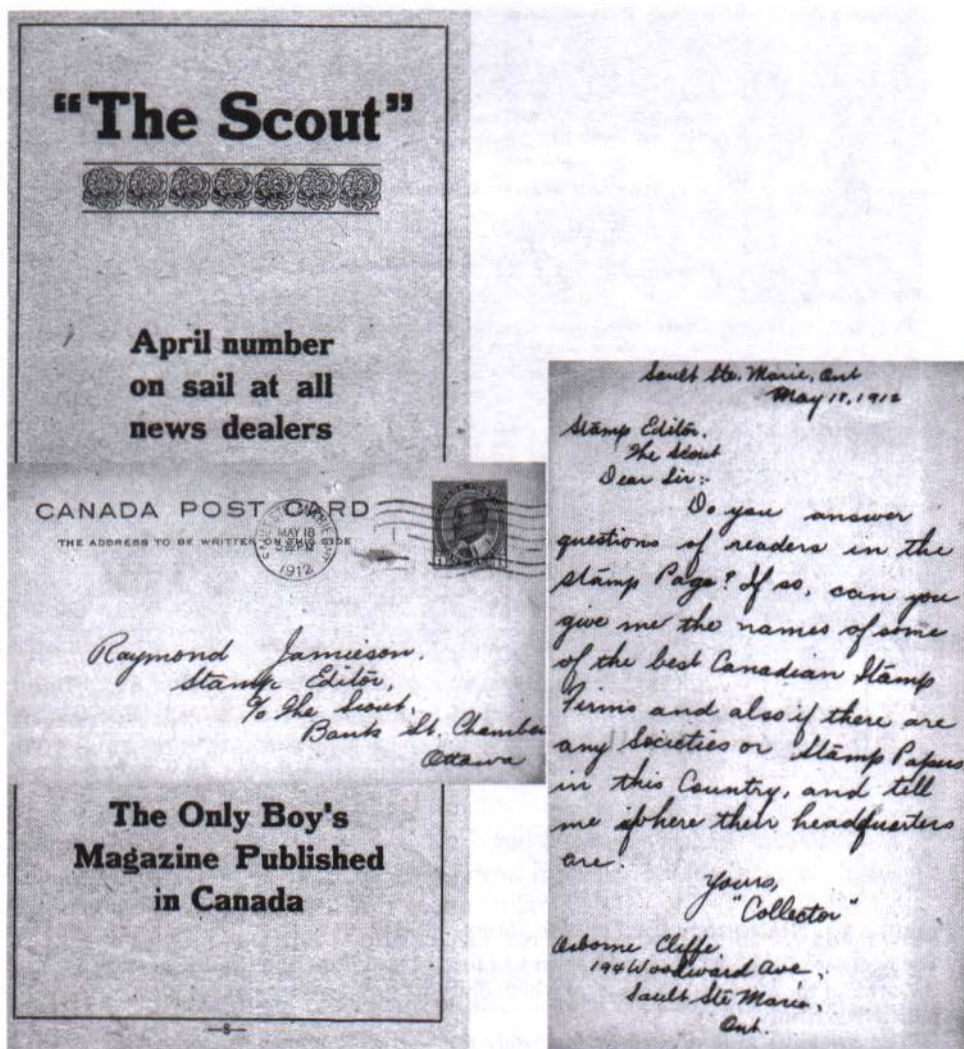


Figure 9. Page from *The Scout* and postcard addressed to RAJ (1912)
The card was addressed to RAJ as stamp editor.

In addition to his 1939 Royal Visit collection, RAJ formed an excellent collection of early philatelic literature. He also had good collections of different types of postmarks, stampless covers (particularly money letters), Larnark County postal history, postal rates up to the Admiral period, revenues, forgeries, and locals (today known as cinderellas). He was particularly interested in S Allan Taylor (an early Montreal stamp dealer who later moved

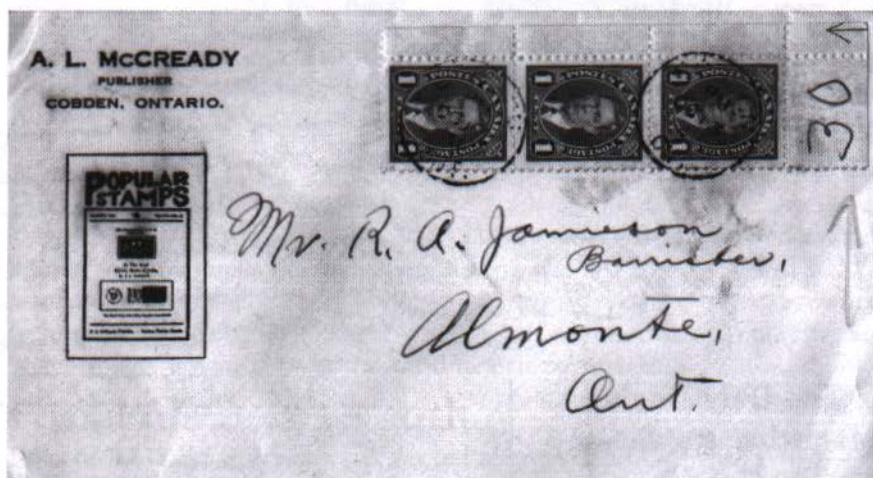


Figure 10. Stationery for *Popular Stamps* (1944)

The post card (Webb P78b) is addressed to a firm in Hamilton, and illustrates the cover of the March 1942 issue, in which Phil Atts began his second year of philatelic writing.

The envelopes were printed by McCready for his two publications' correspondence. In addition to publishing *Popular Stamps* and the *Cobden Sun*, he was a general printer.

McCready's contribution to Canada's philatelic literature has been recognized twice, in 1993 (Webb EN126e & f) and 1995 (Webb EN141c).

to the US) and his creations. Taylor had such a following that there was a society named after him "devoted to philatelic fantasies". RAJ was founding member number eight [Figure 8].

In an era when booklet and plate block collections were fashionable, RAJ had nearly complete collections, beginning with the numerals and Jubilees

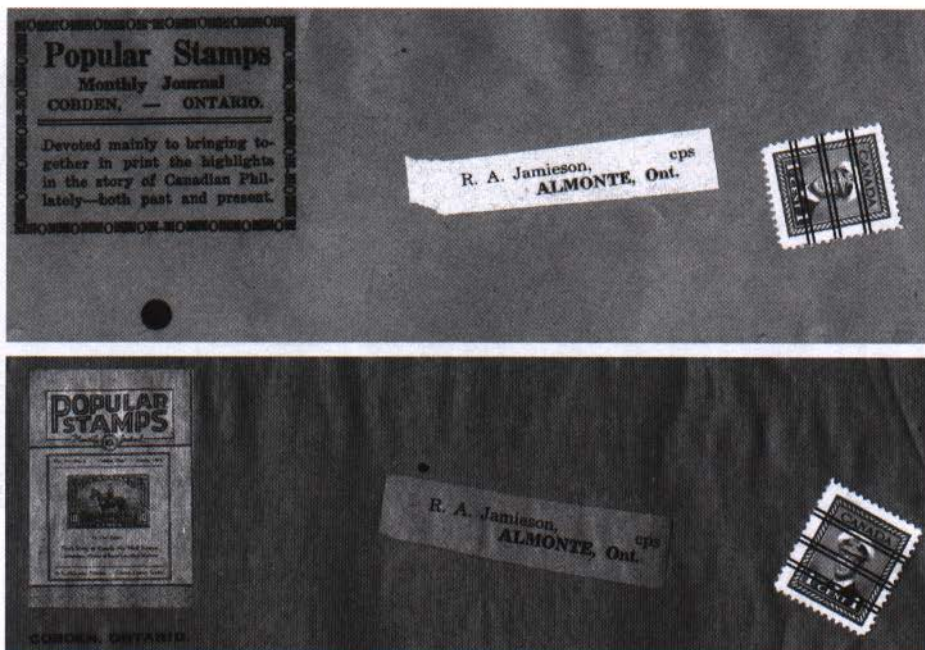


Figure 10a. Wrappers for mailing *Popular Stamps*

Franked with SCPC x-231 paying the 1¢ printed matter rate for up to four ounces. The lower case “cps” appearing on the label indicated that the addressee was a member of the Canadian Philatelic Society.

respectively. He was the first to find one of the so-called “impossibles”—the 1939 Royal Visit 3¢ plate 5-3—and in a local post office! He jokingly referred to it as “about my only claim to fame”.

In 1912, RAJ was the stamp editor for the *Scout*, a journal advertised by its Ottawa publisher as “the only boys’ magazine in Canada” (Figure 9). In 1938, AL McCready took over publication of *Popular Stamps* (PS). About 1940, McCready became friends with RAJ, and asked whether he would write a regular column. RAJ told me “partly for devilment”, and because he anticipated some controversy, he insisted on writing under the pseudonym “Phil Atts”. He also wrote 18 articles for PS under his own name, and one in 1950 as “Phil Atel”. Issue number 100 of PS (Volume XI, No 3, April 1948) contained articles by both RAJ and Phil Atts. At McCready’s request, RAJ successfully convinced many authors to write something special for that issue of the first Canadian philatelic magazine to reach 100 issues (Figure 10).

In a letter of 24 June 1948, McCready wrote to RAJ, “... you are instrumental through your advice, writing and requests ... for much of the

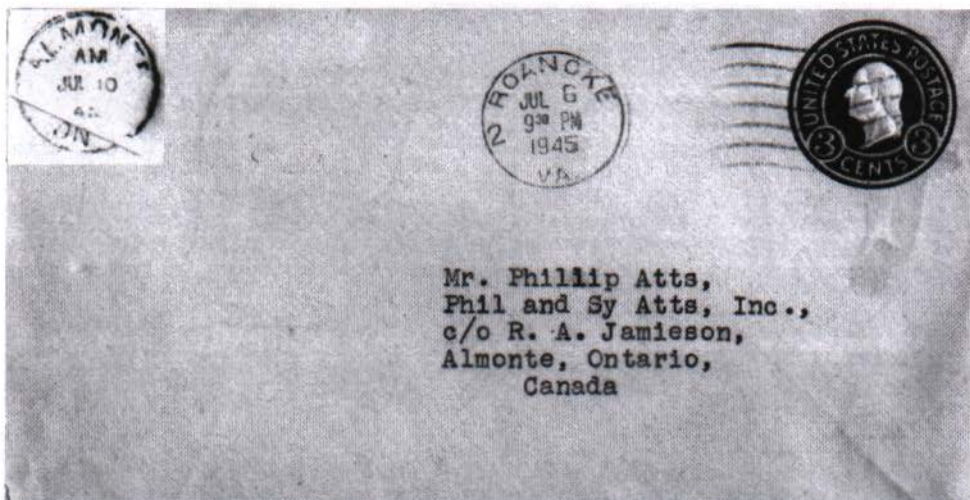


Figure 11. Letter addressed to Phil Atts (1945)

Sent by Nelson Bond, author of one of the early comprehensive handbooks on Canadian postal stationery. From the address, it is clear that he knew Phil's secret identity. Poor strike of Almonte receiving datestamp inset at upper left.



Figure 12. American Air Mail Society meeting in Toronto (1940)

In August (while Canada, but not the US, was at war), the Toronto Airmail Society hosted the AAMS. This multi-coloured patriotic envelope was prepared for the show. It is postmarked with Coutts' A-340 slogan.



Figure 13A. Turned cover (first trip) RAJ–McCready (1947)

See the next illustration for the other direction. It probably contained the manuscript for RAJ's next article. A $9\frac{1}{2}'' \times 14''$ dark brown envelope is shown folded in half with postage to cover the 10¢ registration fee and quadruple domestic rate (4¢ for first ounce, 2¢ for each additional).

RAJ gave me this cover after I published an article on what he thought was the most important turned cover he had ever seen (a two-era example, *Topics* September–October 1986 pp 26–27).

success and popularity of *PS*." Phil Atts' column, entitled "Canadian Topics", had appeared in every issue of *PS* from March 1941 to May 1948—80 columns. RAJ was proud of the title he had chosen, and commented "... it went on to greater things when the *BNAPS* journal first appeared [in 1944—*CRM*] and was called *BNATopics*." As a literature specialist, RAJ would be most impressed with the quality of today's publications. For several reasons, foremost among them professional workload, he did not write on a regular basis after 1948.

RAJ's last article was written for the record-breaking 200th edition of *PS* (Volume XX, No 10, November 1957). Under his own byline, he gave a tribute to McCready and his achievements. For the first time, he acknowledged that he was Phil Atts of nine years earlier. With a mischievous smile, he told me that although a few close friends knew, many others had not known that

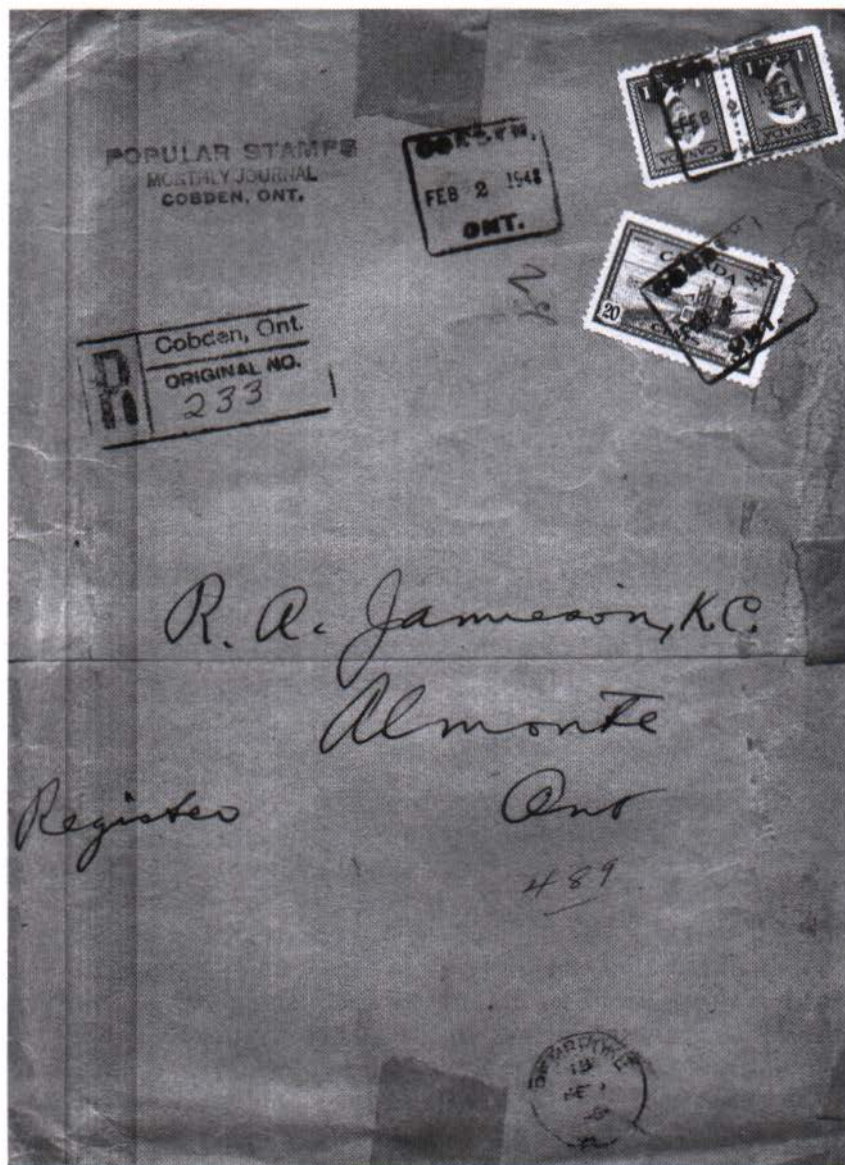


Figure 13B. Turned cover (return trip) McCready-RAJ (1948)

This possibly contained the proofs of RAJ's article. It is charged as a registered quintuple domestic rate envelope. On reverse are strikes of two RPOs—both are Ottawa & Pembroke, but the first, #557 (dated 2 February), is going west, the wrong direction. The next day it was put on #556 going in the correct direction, and it arrived the same day at Almonte.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES CANADA	ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD AVIS DE RÉCEPTION
This side to be filled in by office of origin <i>Le recto est à remplir par le bureau d'origine</i>	To be filled in by sender who will indicate below his full address <i>A remplir par l'expéditeur qui indiquera ci-dessous son adresse complète.</i>
REGISTERED ARTICLE <i>Envoi recommandé</i>	
ENTERED AT THE OFFICE OF <i>Enregistré au bureau de poste de</i>	RETURN TO <i>Retourner à</i>
Almonte, Ont.	R. A. Jamieson,
DATE: Feb. 4/42 UNDER NO. 458	STREET AND NUMBER <i>Rue et numéro</i>
The Mail	Almonte, Ont.
Addressed to <i>Adressé à</i>	PLACE OF ORIGIN OF REGISTERED ARTICLE <i>Lieu d'origine de l'objet recommandé</i>
The Army Train	CANADA
AT Canada.	(1) IN PRINTED CHARACTERS <i>En lettres mouillées</i>
39B—200,000—21 S	

Figure 14. AR card returned from the Army Demonstration Train (1942)

Properly signed (on reverse, not shown) by a Sgt Harte, dated stamped at Peterboro and returned to RAJ. Properly paying 10¢ acknowledgment of receipt fee. From the editor's collection. [*Why didn't he create an after-the-fact AR item?—ed*]

The Army Demonstration Train had a special rail car with exhibits and demonstrations to encourage recruitment as it travelled across Canada.

he was Phil until this article appeared (Figure 11). His article continued

I had a lot of fun writing Phil's column. Looking over them now, some of the articles I produced monthly are enough to make me blush. Some were alright, some were prophetic, some deserved a hasty burial. I will say it was original. It was quite flattering to see item after item copied [*plagiarized—CRM*] afterwards without credit to Phil.

RAJ was too harsh with two assessments and too modest with another. In my opinion, the columns were excellent, interesting, timely and informative. They were written with the inclusion of humour and wit, which were a big part of the hobby at the time, as were true friendship and camaraderie (Figure 11).

From the outset, RAJ received a steady flow of responses to his articles, comments, and opinions. The majority were complimentary. Mail addressed to Phil Atts was forwarded by McCready, who faithfully kept Phil's identity secret. A letter written by Rev John S Bain (BNAPS # 19) on 16 December 1958 expressed what many others thought, "Your columns were an inspiration in things philatelic and I deeply appreciate the knowledge that I acquired from them."

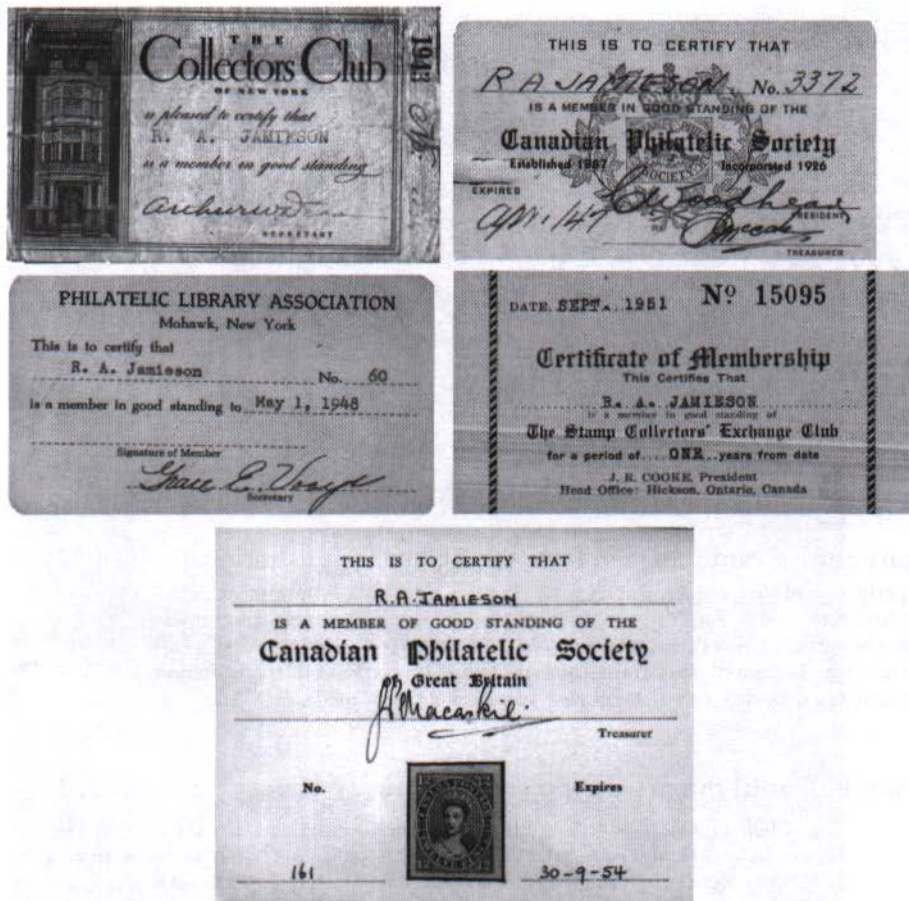


Figure 15A. A selection of RAJ's membership cards

The next year, as a result of ill-health, McCready ceased publication of *PS* at Volume 21. Due to war time restrictions on paper, an average of 11 issues appeared annually. RAJ's work was also published in other periodicals: *Stamps*, *TPO*, *Philatelic Magazine*, *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, *The CPS Yearbook 1946-47*, *Maple Leaves*, and *BNA Topics*. The subjects covered by his articles constitute a panorama of *BNA* philately, and are still well worth reading.

He created a large number of philatelic and postal history items. For example, the registered "turned" (that is, reused) envelope illustrated in Figures 13A & B is an example of a very scarce modern postal history item. The AR card returned from the Army Demonstration Train (Figure 14) is probably unique, although somewhat contrived.

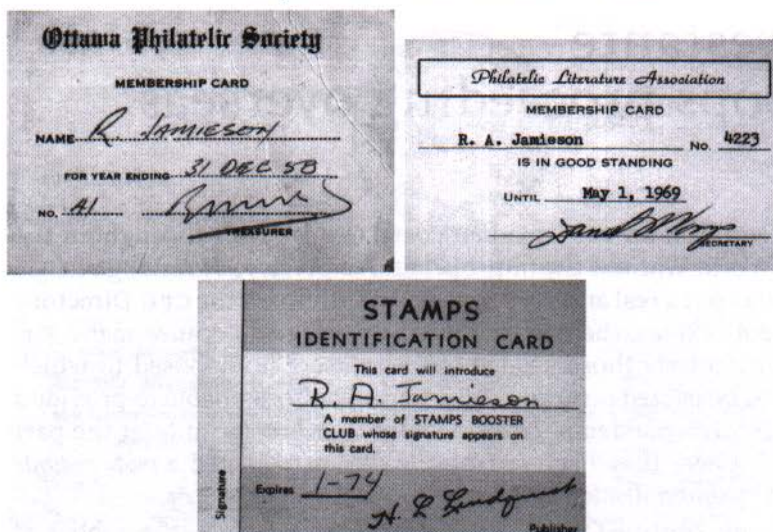


Figure 15B. More of RAJ's membership cards

He was a member of many societies that were concerned with BNA philately and literature (Figures 15A & B). He regularly attended philatelic exhibitions and spoke at local events and at the Canadian Philatelic Society (today's Royal Canadian Philatelic Society) and BNAPS conventions. He was often accompanied by his cousin, fellow collector and lawyer, William W Pollock of Carleton Place.

He contributed to all of the early books on postmarks, and significantly to the following publications.

- *Canadian Philatelic Literature* by AL McCready (1951)
- *Canadian Flag Cancellations* by AL McCready (1945, later edition 1956)
- *The Canada & Newfoundland Stampless Cover Catalogue* by Harry M Konwiser & Frank W Campbell (1956)
- *Canada Post Offices* by Frank W Campbell (privately published beginning in the 1950s); RAJ also provided Campbell with data that appeared in many of the latter's articles.

These were the first publications concerning specialties that have since become very popular. Today's far more sophisticated and greatly expanded catalogues and handbooks were built upon them and the work and research of astute students of philately like RA Jamieson.

Reference

- [1] CR McGuire (editor) *The Major ER Toop collection of Canadian military postal history*, Vol 1 & 2, BNAPS (1996).

Poste restante for troops proceeding overseas

C D Sayles

A MAJOR problem for the Canadian Postal Corps (CPC) throughout the second World War was the improper and imprecise addressing of mail. Such items put a real and very unwelcome strain on the CPC Directory services. To some extent, the problem was self-inflicted because many service people, particularly those headed overseas, were not advised to which unit they would be posted on arrival, and were therefore unable to provide a new address to correspondents. In an attempt to overcome at least the part of the problem where they had control, the CPC established a *poste restante* scheme for servicemen headed overseas.

Canadian Army Routine Order 3675 of 30 September 1943 established Poste Restante service. It was intended for personnel proceeding overseas who did not know to which unit they would be posted on arrival. In practice, this was almost everyone. The order also specifically included members of advance parties and those proceeding overseas on courses. The order required that

... such personnel are made conversant with the Poste Restante service prior to proceeding on embarkation leave in order that they may advise their correspondents . . .

The style of addressing specified by the Routine Order was as follows:

Regimental number,
Rank and Name,
Service or Unit,
c/o Poste Restante,
Canadian Postal Corps Headquarters,
Canadian Army Overseas

On arrival overseas, and after he had been posted to a unit, the soldier was to inform the Poste Restante service of the new address; all accumulated mail would then be forwarded. Mail not applied for after 60 days was returned to sender. The Routine Order further directed that "... a direction to this Routine Order is included in ... advice of movement orders for overseas."

In spite of the Army Routine Order, I do not think that the Poste Restante service was popular or much used. Covers bearing the handstamps illustrated in Figure 1 are not common, and I have yet to see a letter addressed as specified above using the service.

Keywords & phrases: *Poste restante*, military mail



Poste Restante,
Canadian Postal Corps,
Canadian Army Overseas.

Figure 1. The two *poste restante* markings I have seen

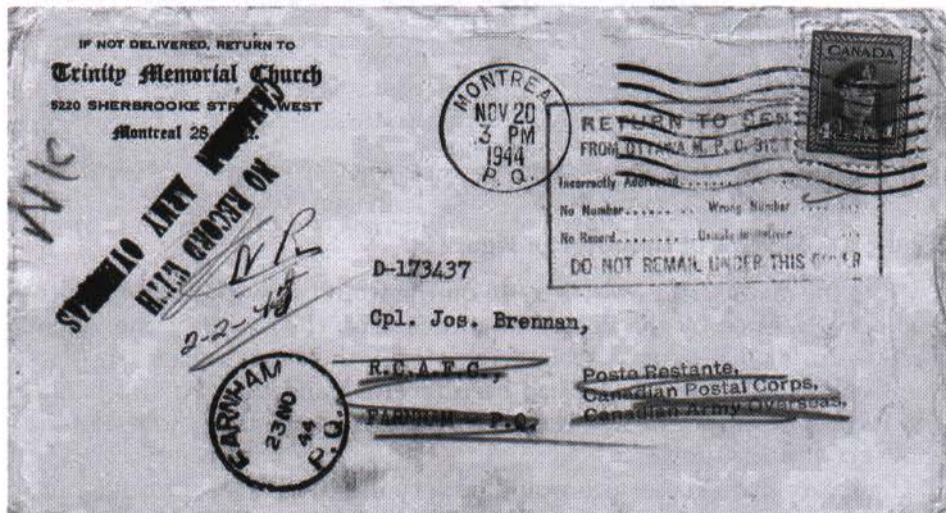


Figure 2A. Letter returned to sender after 60 days

I would guess that the circular date stamp hammer illustrated in Figure 1 was used as a receiver to help the CPC Poste Restante service staff keep track of expiry of the 60 day holding period; at that time, the letter was to be returned to sender.

The straightline handstamp may have been used by the Directory Section to forward mail to the Poste Restante Section. Figure 2 shows one such usage and also illustrates the 60 day limit for holding mail. I think that the Postal Tracing (Directory) Section applied the handstamp when they had no address for forwarding purposes (and perhaps no record at all). The handstamp was used to send the letter to the Poste Restante Section in the hope that the addressee might contact the CPC, and apply for accumulated mail. Since the Tracing Section had already applied their date stamp on 30 November 1944, there was no need in this case for the Poste Restante CDS shown above to be applied.

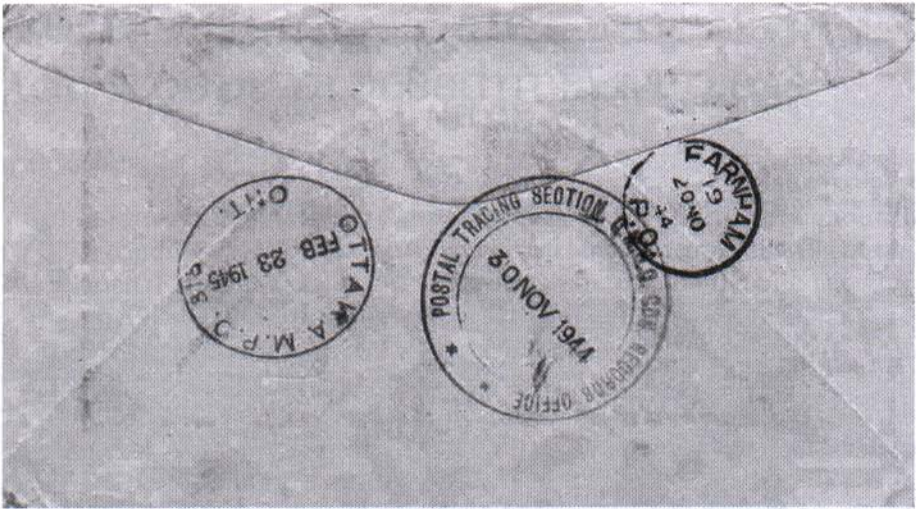


Figure 2B. Reverse of the cover in Figure 2A

Note the manuscript *N.R. /2-2-45* on the front of the cover. If the letter had been received by the Poste Restante Section the day after the Tracing Section handled it (a reasonable assumption), then 2 February 1945 was the 60th day since the letter had been received, and the CPC still had NR (no record) of the addressee. It therefore returned the letter to the sender via MPO 318 in Ottawa.

It appears that this service would be very useful to any serviceman proceeding overseas, and it is mystery to me why it was so little used. I would expect that this service was available to RCAF members, since an RCAF Section co-located with the Army Post Office handled the RCAF mail, but I have no evidence for this. Can *Topics* readers throw further light on this subject, provide additional examples or other *poste restante* markings?

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Some Red River covers

Don Fraser

MENTION the Red River to many Canadians and they will think first of the Riel Rebellion, and perhaps later, they will think of the early settlement in the middle of nowhere. Mention Red River to BNA philatelists, and they will think of the manuscript markings, the “Pembina” twins, and shudder at their rarity.

Figure 1 & 2 show two items from the Ross correspondence, both with the large *Red River BNA* manuscript in 1856. There are about 20+ examples of this manuscript recorded—which, according to [HP, p 20], is “more than almost all other [BNA] manuscripts”!

Part of the interest derives from the fact that the covers had to travel via the US, and the US postage (10¢ per weight) was prepaid. The later one (Figure 2) is believed to be the only double weight example.



Figure 1. Red River manuscript dater (10 January 1856)

Sent by the Postmaster, William Ross, to his son at the University of Toronto. Rated (prepaid) 10¢, the US–Canada rate. The handstamp was made by Ross himself. There is a faint UNITED STATES 6d exchange marking applied on its return to Canada. The docketing indicates that it was received 15 February.

Keywords & phrases: Red River, manuscript, Pembina



Figure 2. Double rate Red River manuscript dater (10 March 1856)
Same correspondence, with docketing indicating receipt on 16 April.

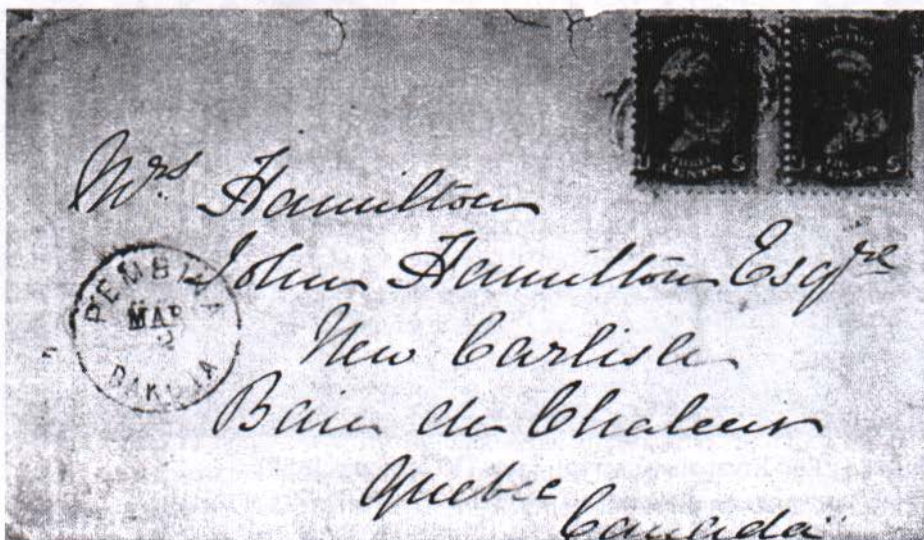


Figure 3A. Red River–New Carlisle via Pembina (1869)
Rated 6¢, paid with US stamps, the single letter letter rate from the US to Canada. The handwriting is that of James G Stewart, Chief Factor of Fort Garry (1855–1863).

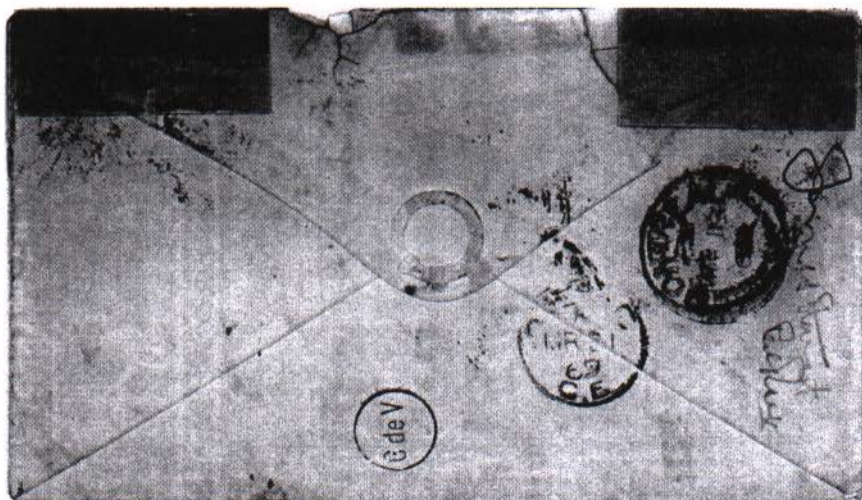


Figure 3B. Reverse of the cover in Figure 3A

Not in the best condition! [So what?—ed] Backstamped with a Montreal Q part circle in circle, and Quebec CE circle. One of the previous owners, Charles de Volpi, has put his mark on the cover (C de V in small circle).



Figure 4. Double rate, via Pembina—from where? (1871)

Rated 12¢, double British packet rate (per half ounce). Unfortunately, the right stamp is damaged. Backstamped at Hamilton ON and at the destination, Elgin (Scotland). The Glasgow packet paid handstamp is common; its known use is 1860–1881 [T, 97]. Help from readers is solicited (see text).

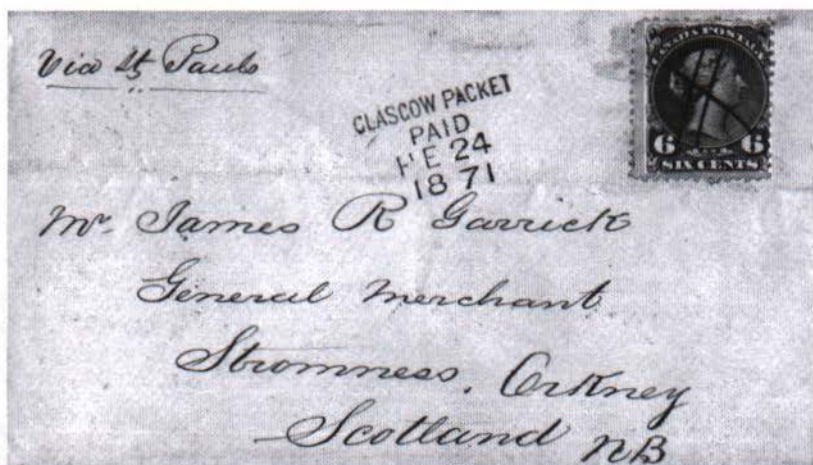


Figure 5. Via St Pauls—from where? (1871)

Rated 6¢, single British packet rate. Backstamped at Hamilton ON and in Scotland at Thurso and Stromness. All three stamps appear to be from the same sheet, and they may even have been connected to each other.

Figures 3A & 3B show the front and back of an 1869 cover franked with US stamps, in the amount paying the single letter rate to Canada. This was mailed from the Red River Settlement, sent via Pembina, to New Carlisle [what an amazing coincidence!—ed].

Editor's remarks The covers shown in Figures 4 & 5 were offered to me by Richard Lamb; he wondered whether it would be possible to determine the post office of origin, e.g., somewhere near the Red River Settlement? Can readers help?

They were mailed on the same date to different addresses in Scotland ("NB" stands for "North Britain", meaning Scotland) by the same letter writer. The first one is endorsed *Via Pembina & St Pauls* (Dakota Territory and Minnesota, respectively), and the second *Via St Pauls*. They are both backstamped at Hamilton ON, and franked with two and one 6¢ large queens paying the double and single British packet rate to UK. Evidently, they were carried in US closed bag to Hamilton, to go via British packet boat (via US packet, the rate would have been 8¢ rather than 6¢ per half ounce). All the stamps have been pen cancelled (but not tied) with more or less the same design.

References

- [HP] David Handelman & Jacques Poitras *Canadian manuscript town datestamps*, ASMF of the PHSC (1997) Ottawa.
 [T] Colin Tabcart *Robertson revisited*, James Bendon (1997) Limassol, Cyprus.

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officially sealed stamps
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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
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Robert A. Lee

Canada to Peru in the 19th century

Victor Willson

OTHER than to a few European destinations, there is very limited available material from Canada going to destinations in the nineteenth century. Thus, it is of general interest when a new item is uncovered. The cover shown in Figure 2 led me to check on other material to Peru that had appeared in the literature.



Figure 1. Hechler postcard to Peru (1883)

ex-Steinhart

There is no documented pence, decimal, or large queen era material to Peru. The general routing in these eras would have been either around the Horn, across the Panama Isthmus, or down the west coast of North and Central America, depending on time and origin point. Arfken [A, p 341, Figure 7] showed a cover to Callao from Cedarville ON, 27 June 1877. The rate as of October 1875 was 20¢. The cover was paid with 22¢, an apparent overpayment of 2¢. It appears that another 3¢ was removed prior to mailing. Arfken speculated that the sender assumed that the 1872 rate of 25¢ per half ounce was in effect.

The second documented item to Peru is the P4 card shown in Steinhart's

Keywords & phrases: Peru



Figure 2. Registered letter to Peru (1898)

Postage of 5¢ registration and 5¢ UPU rate.

collection of post cards [s]. I currently own it and it is shown in Figure 1. The card was sent to Lima from Halifax 17 October 1883. The unmistakable calligraphic address tells us that this is a card from stamp dealer Henry Hechler. The reverse is a printed form detailing the previous shipment of stamps and requesting a reply. The card has a New York circular dater reading OCT. 19 F.D. and an indistinct apparent Peruvian receiver. Interestingly, the card is to a Paul Ascher, and Hechler wrote a brief note in German, "... please, a hearty return answer, greetings ...".

The third item (Figure 2) is a double UPU-rated letter to a town called Chepén (Panasmayo). Dated Roberval (QC), 2 May 1898, the franking includes a 5¢ small queen, a 1¢ Jubilee, and two ½ Leaf stamps on a 3¢ postal stationery envelope (Webb EN 10). All stamps are tied either to the cover or to each other by the datestamps.

A Peru receiver CORREOS DEL PERU 2 J-/PAYTA was stamped on the back. There is a partial squared circle transit cancel, and the envelope is sealed with pieces of an address label. Peru was afforded UPU status 1 April 1879; the rate was 22¢ which was reduced to 10¢ in July 1879, then to 5¢ per half ounce in July 1887 [A]. Those were listed via New York. It is quite possible that by the 1890s the amount of West Coast traffic would have allowed entry to US southbound shipping through San Francisco. Perhaps a reader has such an item that might confirm this.

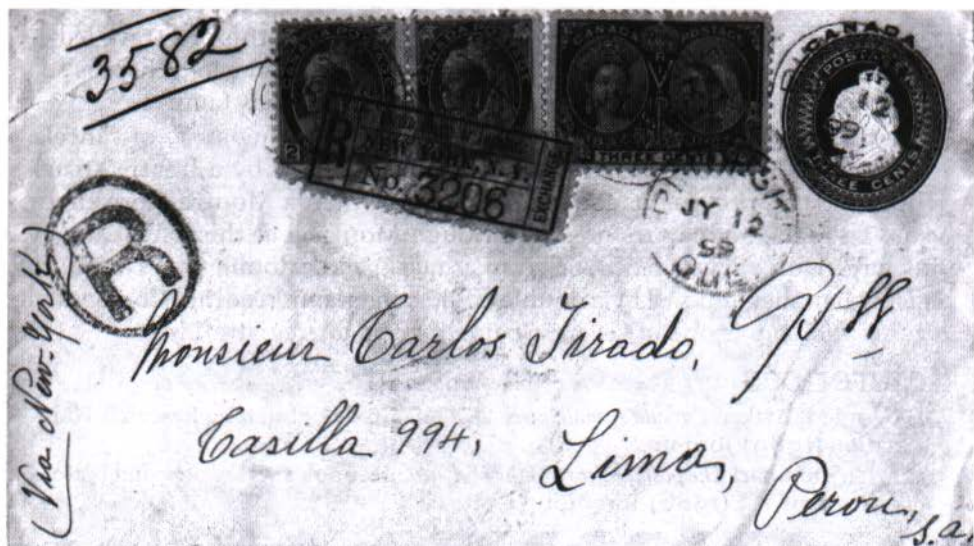


Figure 3. Registered cover to Lima (1899)

Postage of 10¢ as in the previous figure. The New York exchange etiquette is transparent, printed in red, but with the registration number in blue.

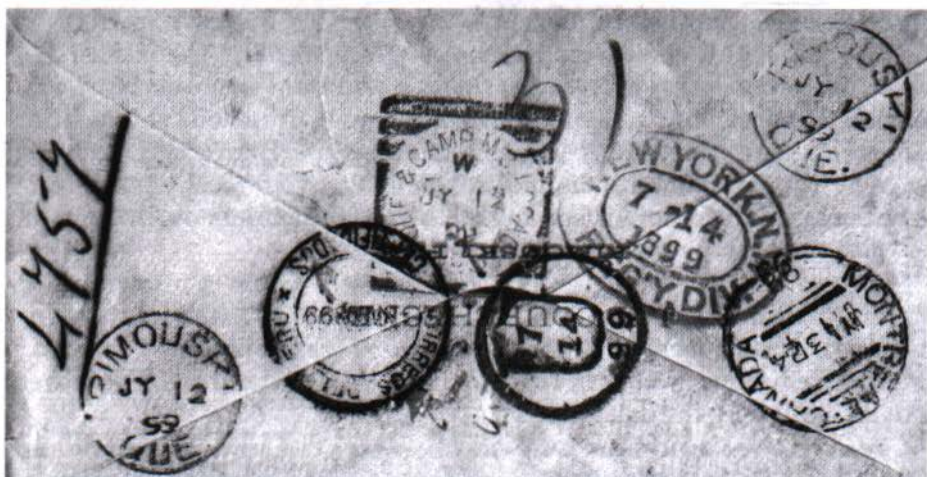


Figure 3a. Reverse of cover in Figure 3

Image is slightly cropped. The cancels are described in the text. ex-Steinhart

Editor's addendum I found another nineteenth century item from Canada to Peru in my registration collection (Figures 3 & 3a). It is an 1899 cover from Rimouski (QC) to Lima, and franked with both numerals and a Jubilee on a

postal stationery envelope. There is no doubt about how this one travelled—in addition to the sender's endorsement *via New York* on the left, there is the usual New York exchange etiquette partially covering the stamps.

In addition, the back of the cover shows an interesting array of cancels. There are two strikes of the Rimouski circle, followed by a lightly struck QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL squared circle RPO, then a Montreal precursor (usual on registered letters passing through Montreal at this time) a fancy pink large U in circle (a New York transit mark) and a double oval New York registry hammer, followed by a double circle handstamp reading "Correos del Peru" (*certificados* is one of several Spanish terms for registration).

References

- [A] George B Arfken *Canada's small queen era*, V G Greene Philatelic Research Foundation (1989) Toronto.
- [s] Allan Steinhart *The postal history of the post card*, Hennok's series of postal history collections # 3 (1986) Toronto.

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Moody motos moon pocons

RF (Hank) Narbonne

IN response to the editor's snarky comments [*What, me snarky?—ed*] concerning four types of cancelling devices (*Topics* # 490, p 74) and their acronyms (MOOD, MOTO, MOTO, POCON), here is a brief discussion.



Figure 1. MOOD & MOTO 1930 & 1948

The Cloyne MOOD is a purple receiving mark on reverse of a domestic first class cover. The Belle Creek (PEI) MOTO is reddish purple and in this case indicates the office of origin for a first class domestic cover as well; this is the second recorded strike of this hammer.

The MO in the first three terms means *money order*. Then MOOD means *money order office datestamp*, MOTO means *money order transfer office*, and MOON means *money order office number*. Finally, POCON means *post office computer organization number*. Initially, there were accounting (post) offices, which were allowed to issue money orders, and non-accounting offices, which were not. By the early 1950s, non-accounting offices were permitted to issue money orders in low amounts.

The first three styles of devices were issued to offices in order to datestamp money order and registration receipts as well as official mail. They were occasionally used for postmarking regular mail, but this use was not officially authorized.

MOOD cancels are usually seen in various colours, not often in black. MOODs and MOTOs were used concurrently during the period 1928–1945, with the majority of the former seen in the 1930s. Almost all MOODs have a comma after the town name, and this helps to differentiate them from other postmark styles.

Keywords & phrases: MOOD, MOTO, MOTO, POCON



Figure 2. MOON & POCON 1968 & 1980

The St-Hubert (QC) MOON is on a domestic post card, and is the only strike reported of this hammer. The Stewart (BC) POCON is on a business reply envelope. All four illustrations are courtesy of Danny Handelman.

The first order of MOODs was sent to the Post Office Department by the manufacturer, Pritchard & Andrews (Ottawa) on 24 January 1928. This is the date in the proof impression book in the Canadian postal archives library. MOTOS were proofed in 1927, but are seldom seen used prior to 1945. They were replaced by MOONS in 1950, and in turn were replaced by POCONS, which in various guises, are still in use today.

In the absence of a recognized name for these datestamps, and in order to give a title to one of my collecting interests, I adopted the acronym MOOD [Journal Postal History Society of Canada # 48]. More information on these postmarks can be found in the series of books by Mike Sagar (cited in the review), and there is a PHSC study group, the Money Order Office Study Establishment (or MOOSE, another acronym), which publishes regular newsletters about them. (Doug Murray is a contact for this group.)

[The title is a good mnemonic for the order in which these for styles appeared.—ed]



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Automotive opinion forum envelopes & stamps used for bulk mail

Dale Speirs

IN the autumn of 1991, I received mail that used pre-stamped, non-denominated flag definitives. It began in late September with the receipt of a postcard (Figures 1 & 2) bearing a bilingual message printed on the back as follows.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

... to take part in our AUTOMOTIVE OPINION FORUM of car and truck owners around the country.

Your input will be sought by mail in an advisory capacity to the vehicle planners who are in the process of planning future generations of new cars and trucks.

Our special self-administered questionnaire will be sent to you in the very near future. In it, you will be asked to give your opinions on a variety of topics that will help the planners zero-in on areas of consumers needs and wants.

Please be on the alert for the questionnaire. Your participation will allow us to pass along your input to the vehicle planners.

Cordially,

Frank Greene

Director, Automotive Research

The postcard had an undenominated flag stamp, the flag over whea field design. A small inscription along the bottom of the design read "Postage paid/Port payé", all on one line. At the right was a yellow vertical bar shading from light to dark yellow. A couple of centimetres to the left was a thin vertical phosphor bar. The two bars presumably triggered the postal sorting machines. There were no postal markings of any kind on the postcard; no postmark and no bar codes.

I had bought a new car in September 1987 and at first thought I had been placed on the Forum mailing list by the dealer. However, I noticed my address was incorrectly given as Site D rather than Station D. I have received Site D junk mail from various non-automotive peddlars as well, and my dealer had my correct address, so I have to assume the mail-out originated via a mailing list, not the dealer.

On 1 October, I received a number 10 prestamped envelope containing the questionnaire (Figure 3). It had the same stamp design as the postcard. Again, there were no postal code markings, but the flag stamp had a blind

Keywords & phrases: bulk mail

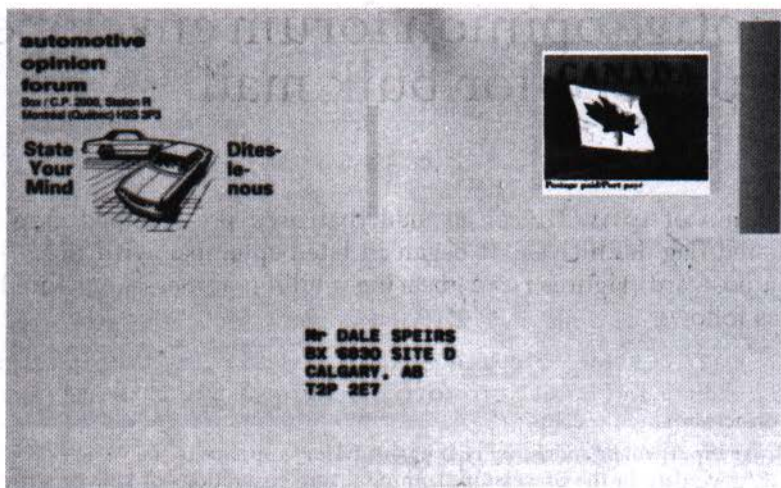


Figure 1. Pre-stamped postcard questionnaire (1991)
 Non-denominated; below the stamp is a very small "Postage paid/Port payé".

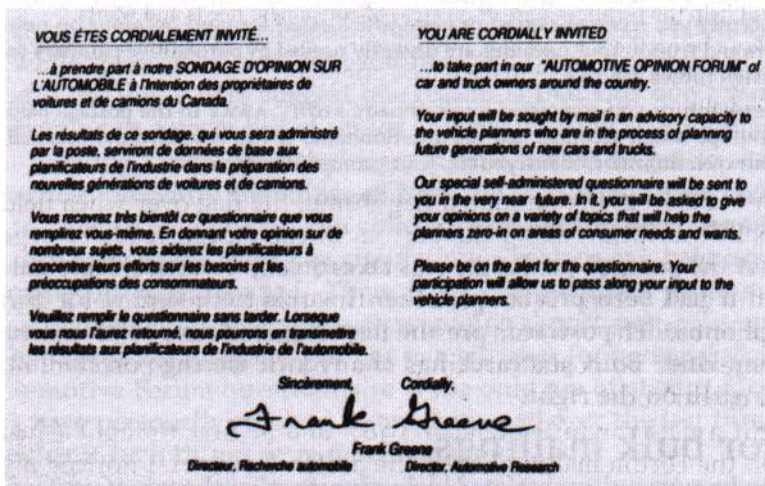


Figure 2. Reverse of the card in Figure 1

roller cancel run over it. The return address for the Automotive Forum was in Montréal, so I assume that is where the roller was applied.

Memory fails me, but I must have sent in the questionnaire since it is not with the envelope. On 9 October, a second postcard, differing only in the bilingual message, was received. I had been promoted to Automotive Advisor, although I've never put that on my resumé. The message read:

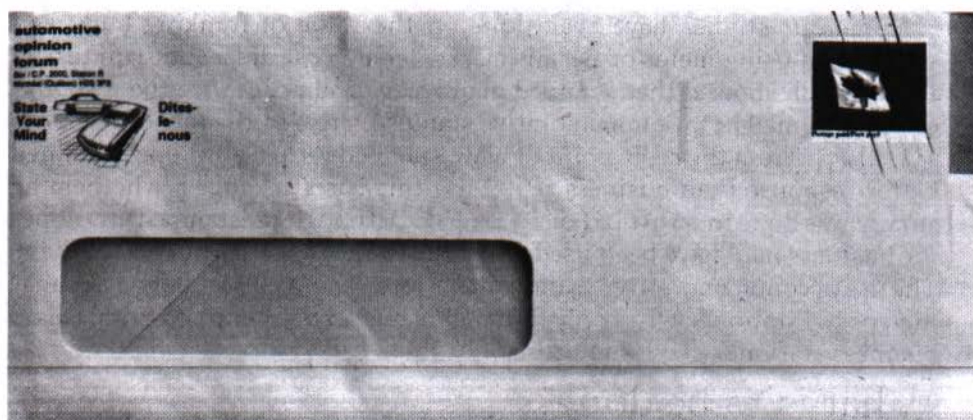


Figure 3. Pre-stamped window envelope (1991)

Same tiny print as the post card.

DEAR AUTOMOTIVE ADVISOR,

Recently you received a questionnaire which asked for your opinions on new cars and trucks. Your opinions are urgently needed by automotive planners to design future vehicles.

Please return you completed questionnaire RIGHT AWAY in the postage paid envelope which accompanied the questionnaire. If you have already returned your questionnaire, thank you for your prompt attention.

Thank you for your cooperation. Frank Greene
Director, Automotive Research

I suspect that the postage-paid reply was an ordinary business-reply envelope, since if it had been prestamped, then I would have kept it for my collection. The reminder postcard, like the first one, had no postmarks or bar codes of any kind. Both postcards had the French message on the left half and the English on the right.

Stamps for bulk mailings

It has long been known and appreciated by businesses that the use of postage stamps on mail-outs is more effective than metered or bulk mail. A related area is the use of advertising on stamps, but this is an entire essay in its own right, and I refer the reader to G B Hafer's massive 1968 study [1]. As an interesting illustration of the value of postage stamps for mail shots, the US ½¢ Nathan Hale stamp of 1925 was popular with advertisers because a pair of them instead of a single 1¢ stamp got better response from customers [3]. It is also known that hand-addressed mail gets a better response than address-label mail [2], but for large mail shots this is not practical.

Numerous studies have been done on the value of franking bulk mail rather than using meter or permit marks. Jersey Post did a split run test in 1999 which showed that stamped mail received almost twice the response of metered mail [4]. Commemorative stamps increased the rate of response as well [5]. From the reply point of view, stamped return envelopes obtained better response than business reply, and this hasn't changed, whether the survey was done in 1999 [6] or 1949 [7]. Although prestamped envelopes for business mail have been used for decades, they had definitives on them. The use of commemoratives as imprints is rare. The Webb catalogue of Canadian postal stationery lists only four commemorative stamp designs used on business stationery [9], and those only since 1995.

What is to be done?

There are still lots of philatelic dinosaurs [*including the editor—ed*] trumpeting in letters to the editor that Canada Post (substitute USPS, British Post, Australia Post, etcetera, as you like) issues too many stamps and makes it too expensive to collect them. Given that children of today have no trouble collecting Pokemon or hockey trading cards issued by the hundreds, this seems a specious argument. Numerous clubs try to encourage juniors, and while there are minor successes here and there, the input of young blood is still too low. I dare suggest one reason is that kids don't want to spend an evening in a room full of senior citizens bleating about Canada Post.

Having kicked over that wasp nest, I hasten to get to the point of this article. Recently the mints of both the US Canada have had great success in encouraging young coin collectors by issuing thematic 25¢ coins, with new ones every month in circulation. Children can have great fun finding them in pocket change. There is no equivalent for stamp collecting. Use of commemoratives on business mail is almost non-existent—despite the supposed advantages—and not much higher for personal mail [8]. The Automotive Forum questionnaire is the only use of stamps for bulk mail that I have personally received in my daily mail over the last three decades. But what if such things were more common?

The obvious reason that businesses don't use stamps more often is the trouble and expense of applying them, whether as stamps stuck onto plain envelopes or as imprinted stationery. The advent of self-adhesive stamps in coils means that the stamps can now be applied by machine, similar to sticking labels on pop bottles or price tags on car parts. Coils, unfortunately, are definitives, which have two drawbacks. They are monotonous, and only change at long intervals. They are boring. HM the Queen, the maple leaf flag, and handicrafts are not subjects designed to interest the average person.

Why do we even need definitives? If stamps were to be invented anew today, it is unlikely the distinction would even exist. Definitives originated in the days when printing was complicated and slow, and sending a supply to outlying post offices could take months. If definitives were abolished, then commemoratives would be printed in larger numbers for longer periods of time, all to the good, as opposed to the present situation where they come and go from the postal outlets in a few weeks. Postal outlets order stocks of stamps by denomination; it matters not to them if the supply is a flag definitive or the centennial of the Sea King helicopter in the Armed Forces.

Imagine, if you will, commemoratives on coils, applied by businesses for their large mail shots. It becomes cheaper than the old lick-and-stick stamps, and brings them better response. Each time they send out a mailing, they get a different commemorative design. Alternatively, they can use full-colour bulk or permit stamp designs, as with the Automotive Forum. Commemoratives could be imprinted more commonly than they are now on business stationery, and with themes linked to the mail shot. Kids at home can then start looking for stamps in Mom and Dad's daily mail, just as they look for commemorative quarters in their pocket change.

Canada Post, like other post offices around the world, has been working its stamp programmes from the point of view of getting its customers to buy them and hold them in an album. They can still do this, and at the same time encourage the collection of used stamps and covers via commemorative coils and postal stationery. With modern methods of computerized inventory control, there is no reason that multiple series of thematic stamps and imprints could not be used simultaneously. If Amazon.com can track millions of book titles worldwide, then Canada Post can stock a line of plants on stamps, animals on stamps, landscapes, etcetera, and even, to appease the Monarchist League of Canada [*all ten members—ed*], royalty on stamps.

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The Editor

Beginning a series of occasional articles covering the stampless period in Canadian postal history.

OVER the past decade, I have noticed a general decline in the number of articles dealing with the pre-stamp era in Canadian postal history. This is reflected in the small number of articles that have appeared in the recent literature, and the low esteem in which stampless covers are held, particularly by (some) BNAPEX judges. With this irregular series, I hope to interest more people in the subject. A first attraction is that they have no silly little pieces of gummed paper on them that multiply the price tenfold (or more).

My interests in this period consist of the postal history of the Province of Canada (Upper & Lower Canada, Canada East & West, Ontario and Quebec), and of the Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island). Other regions of what became Canada are also interesting in the stampless period, e.g., British Columbia, Newfoundland, Red River Settlement, I hope that experts in each of these areas will consider contributing to this series, and of course, I welcome studies of any aspect of the postal history of any region, service, etc, covered by BNA.

This first article is intended as an introduction to the subject, and gives an overall view. First a definition: for our purposes, a *stampless cover* is an envelope or folded letter sheet sent through the mail with no stamps applied by the sender, in the period in which this was permitted. (Admittedly, "permitted" is not the precise term; neither is "mail".) For letters mailed from (what has become part of) Canada, this means prior to 1 October 1875. From that date, the use of sticky pieces of paper (stamps) was required.

For this column, stampless excludes free franked mail (except in the pre-October 1875 period), metered mail (a meter is not a stamp; however, we interpret it as such), mail erroneously sent without stamps, or mail for which the postage has been paid in cash, both after October 1875.

On or about 23 April 1851, the Province of Canada issued its first adhesive pieces of paper, i.e., postage stamps, to be applied to show that (some) postage had been prepaid. Thus any item in the mail before this date that had been mailed from Canada is automatically stampless (of course, we will also be considering mail coming to Canada from abroad), except in the very rare cases where foreign postage stamps were used to prepay postage in for-

Keywords & phrases: stampless cover

eight countries. In the period 1851–1875, the use of postage stamps on domestic mail was optional, and in many cases, it was also optional on mail to foreign destinations.

In the Maritimes, Nova Scotia issued its first stamps 1 September 1851, New Brunswick four days later. As usual, PEI was almost a decade late, issuing its first stamps 1 January 1861. All three became part of Canada in 1867, and the practice of not requiring postage stamps on most mail continued until October 1875.

Before stamps were issued, senders had just two options—they could pay the postage in cash, or they could send it unpaid, the recipient to pay the postage on picking up the mail. In some jurisdictions, part payment was permitted. However, this was not the case in Canada—either the entire postage was prepaid by the sender or entirely unpaid. This either/or situation does not include the case where extra charges are levied en route, e.g., if the letter were forwarded to a place requiring more postage, or if it were found that the charge should have been higher, the extra fees would have to be paid by the recipient. [There is another exception to the no part payment situation.]

In mediæval times (for example, under the Venetian mail system, which carried mail to all parts of the known world), it was considered an insult for the sender to prepay the postage—it suggested that the recipient could not afford to pay for the letter. Of course, we should keep in mind that very few people were literate enough and had the need to send letters outside the region in which they lived. The only ones doing so would be the nobility, wealthier merchants, and religious and governmental organizations.

From about the late eighteenth century in Canada and Britain, at least, the excuse given for not prepaying postage was that the service had not yet been performed. The real reason was the excessively high postal rates (as we shall see later), which also resulted in many dodges to avoid the postage.

The French Régime (to 1763)

Until 1763, the small portion of what is now Canada that was settled was almost entirely settled by France (Newfoundland is an exception). France had extended the feudal seigneurial system to New France, and as a result, there was very little commerce, and very little travel by the average peasant. Moreover, literacy was minimal, and there was very little need for a mail system. Most of what was carried was military, although there was a very small amount of mail sent locally, and some to France.

Until recently, the earliest reported French régime cover had been a 1685 folded letter in the Steinhart collection [s] (first page). This is a letter to Paris from Quebec. Several years ago, one or two letters from New France to

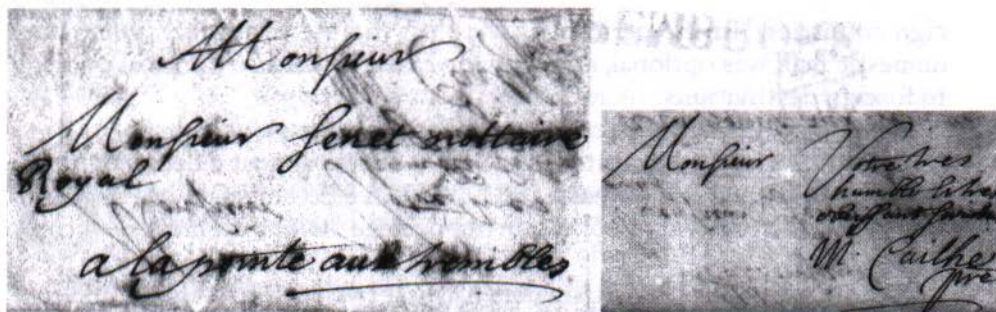


Figure 1. New France (1708)

A small folded letter on fancy watermarked paper (undoubtedly made in France) mailed from Montreal to Pointe aux Trembles (just outside Montreal). The sender (closing is shown at right) is Fr M Cailhe, bursar of the Sulpician Seminary at Montreal. Although the letter is undated, we can give a latest possible date, as the writer died in 1708!

The addressee is Nicholas Senet (1670–1732), who was royal notary 1704–1731. The letter concerns a change to a contract concerning farm sales, and refers to a payment to take place on the feast of St Martin (11 November) 1708.

Letters at this time were sent via messenger appointed by the Intendant. There are no rate marks, but a fee was charged.

La Rochelle (France) were found, dated 1672. I have not seen any details on it (them), except that the owners were asking an astronomical price.

Shown in Figure 1 is a 1708 (or earlier) cover mailed within New France. It is a tiny folded letter, with no rate markings (indeed, no French régime covers have any rate markings applied within New France). It was carried by messenger—Pedro da Silva, who was appointed by Intendant Radout in 1705. Canada recently issued a stamp in da Silva's honour.

British control of the post office (to 1851)

New France fell to Britain—not as a result of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham—but afterwards, as a result of British ships arriving at Quebec before the French ones did. The treaty ending the war gave Britain all of the French colonies in what is now Canada, including what was then called “Canada” (the region around the St Lawrence and its watershed), Isle St Jean (PEI), and unequivocal ownership of Acadia (New Brunswick). A peculiarity is that the islands of St Pierre & Miquelon stayed in French hands, and currently constitute a *Département* of France (and a thorn in Canada's side). Nova Scotia had been a British colony since 1749.

The then (1763) deputy postmaster general of the American colonies, Benjamin Franklin, had his purview extended to include the newly-won colonies, and he improved the routes and services. For example, in that

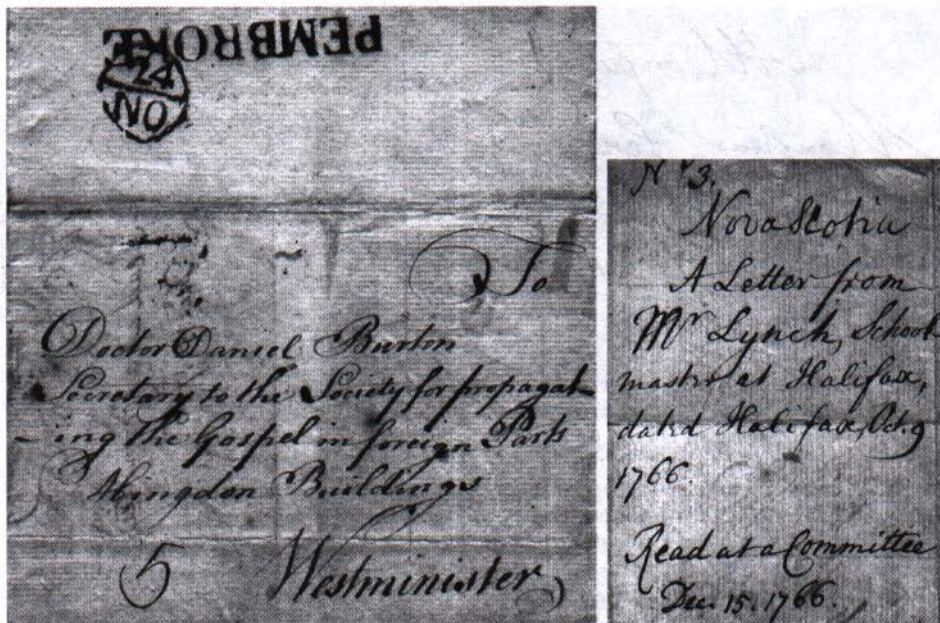


Figure 2. Halifax to London (1766)

Early private ship letter rated 5d sterling collect, made up of 1d Captain's gratuity, plus 4d internal UK rate (80 miles or more), from the port of landing, Pembroke, to London.

The straightline cancel indicates the likely port of arrival, and the Bishop mark was applied at London (24 November). The letter was dated 9 October.

This is possibly the earliest example reported of a Nova Scotia cover with a handstamp (although not a Nova Scotia handstamp).

year, an overland service between New York, Montreal and Quebec was established to meet the monthly British packet boat from Falmouth at New York [RL], which had begun in 1755. (In the context in which it appears here, a *packet* refers to a ship officially authorized to carry the mail, as opposed to a private ship which incidentally carried letters.)

The first post office in the Maritimes opened at Halifax in 1754, but letters were sent prior to this. MacDonald [M] (pp 19–25) illustrates several examples. Mail was carried to British colonies in North America on private ships as early as 1711; on arrival in New York, it could have gone to Halifax via Boston. A 1766 letter from Halifax to Britain is shown in Figure 2.

When the American colonies revolted in 1775, internal mail was severely limited. Only in 1788 did deputy postmaster general Finlay begin to open more post offices and routes. In 1789, a route opened between Kingston and Montreal. The Quebec–Montreal route had been open practically since

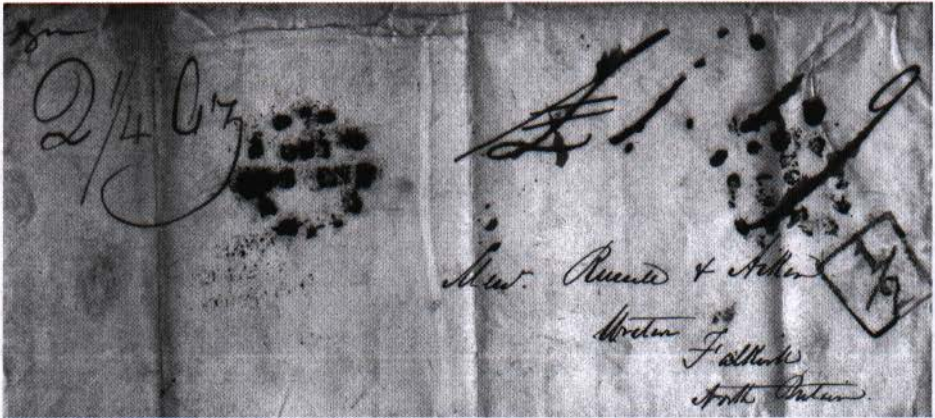


Figure 3. Halifax to Scotland, postage exceeding £1 (1830)

Marked $2\frac{1}{4}$ Oz, i.e., nine times the quarter ounce rate. This was charged £1/1/9 sterling, which is 9×28 d, made up of 15d by packet on arrival at Falmouth, plus internal UK rate which was likely via London to Scotland. This would have been paid by the recipient. The $\frac{1}{2}$ in lozenge indicates the ubiquitous extra (flat) fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ d on letters passing through Scotland.

There are two rather blurred strikes of the common Halifax “four blobs” date stamp. As with most heavy examples from this period, it was a legal letter.

It was addressed to Falkirk, North Britain—the latter was an early nineteenth century name for Scotland (and they often used the initials NB, which occasionally caused confusion with New Brunswick).

time immemorial. All these routes were travelled by courier. However, stage coaches began to take over the carriage of the mails, and steamboats were introduced on Lake Ontario from 1817. The recently published [P] discusses steamboat mails in Eastern Canada in great detail.

As the rate of settlement (not just settlement itself) increased markedly, first driven by the United Empire Loyalists expelled from the US, and later by Scottish and Irish immigrants leaving famine and poverty, the postal system responded. From just a handful of post offices after the American Revolution, there were hundreds by the 1820s and thousands by 1851.

However, postage was extremely expensive. For much of this period, letters to or from the United Kingdom typically cost $2/2$ stg per *quarter* ounce for the internal UK and transatlantic fees—and the internal BNA rate would have to be added. Total postage exceeding one pound sterling (an enormous amount in this period) is frequently seen. Figure 3 shows an 1830 example.

Even domestic postage could be quite expensive (we will go into particulars in another column), as it was based in part on mileage. As a result, most letters did not go through the official mails, but were carried by favour. For example, anyone going to UK would be asked to carry letters, and either de-



Figure 4. Overwritten orthogonally to save postage (1834)

Mailed from Edinburgh to Trafalgar in Upper Canada. This was a large folded letter sheet, almost entirely overwritten. Adding another sheet would have doubled the already high postage, which came to about 5s in local currency.

liver them or drop them in the mail in Britain, to be charged the relatively cheap rates there. This was apparently illegal, and rather than reducing the rates, officialdom tried (unsuccessfully) to enforce the penalties. Letters discovered on board a ship were to be charged as packet letters. Another practice was to write over what had been previously written, but at right angles. This saved the letter from being charged double rate, but at a considerable cost in legibility. A small portion of such a letter is shown in Figure 4.

On 6 April 1851, control of the post office reverted to the Province of Canada (in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI, local control of the post office apparently did not occur until July 1851). Domestic postage dropped substantially—the rates were now based solely on weight, not distance, and there was a corresponding increase in the use of the mails. It had been planned to issue the first mucilaginous bit of paper on the date that the Provinces obtained control; however, there were delays in printing, and the 3d beaver was not issued until at least 23 April.

Now the sender had three choices—to pay in stamps or in cash, or to let the addressee pay on receipt. Mixing stamps and cash, or partial payment, was not permitted, except in conjunction with registration (the fee for which always had to be prepaid, either in stamps—not possible until the ½d stamp appeared—or cash), which was initiated (domestically) in 1855; it was possible to send registered letters with all but the registration fee to be collected; it was also possible to pay the registration fee in cash, and the rest of the postage in stamps, or vice versa.

A domestic cover mailed on the second day of the rate (7 April 1851) is shown in Figure 5. One first day of rate example has been illustrated in the



Figure 5. Second day of Canadian postal control (7 April 1851)

Envelope mailed from Toronto to Montreal (red receiving mark on reverse, dated five days after mailing). The large manuscript 3 indicates the single rate domestic postage of 3d, which had come into effect the previous day. The lack of any indication that it was paid by the sender means that it was sent collect.

The marking at the top (magnified at right) might have been an initial rate of 1d (the local letter rate) struck through, or it might be an inexplicable local delivery fee (also 1d) in Montreal, or a filing mark by the recipient, or a random mark. Some effort was made to strike it out.

literature several times, including in the *Postal History Society Journal*. The so-called postmaster's provisional [see the editorial in this issue] is also dated on the second day of the rate.

On 1 October 1875, prepayment by postage stamps became compulsory, and the stampless period (for us, anyway) ended. Examples showing violation of this rule (payment in cash, for example) are surprisingly rare, considering how often other “rules” were ignored. The next column will deal with rates.

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THE Beaver Line of ships were originally owned by the Canada Shipping Company of Montreal, which was founded in 1867 to run sailing ships between Canada and Liverpool. Only four sailing ships were built, and then the company switched to steam. The Beaver steamers were relatively small. They used Portland (ME) during the winter, and called on Halifax. The first departure from Liverpool occurred on 6 March 1875.

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on land and on board passengers and mails.

Figure 1. Printed burlap bag advertising the Beaver Line
Meant to hold tickets and travel documents (such as passports). It refers to Elder
Dempster & Company, so must be dated sometime in the period 1898–1903.

Keywords & phrases: Beaver Line



Figure 2. Reverse of the burlap bag (Figure 1)

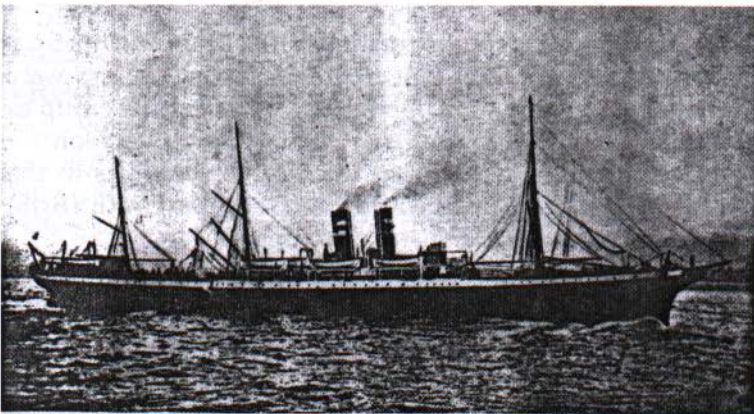


Figure 3. The Beaver Line steamer *Lake Ontario*

Made of steel, it was the first British transatlantic vessel with triple expansion engines. It had an end-on collision with the *Dominion of Vancouver* in August 1896, but avoided serious damage. Elder Dempster & Company retained her for two years after the sale of their other Canadian interests.

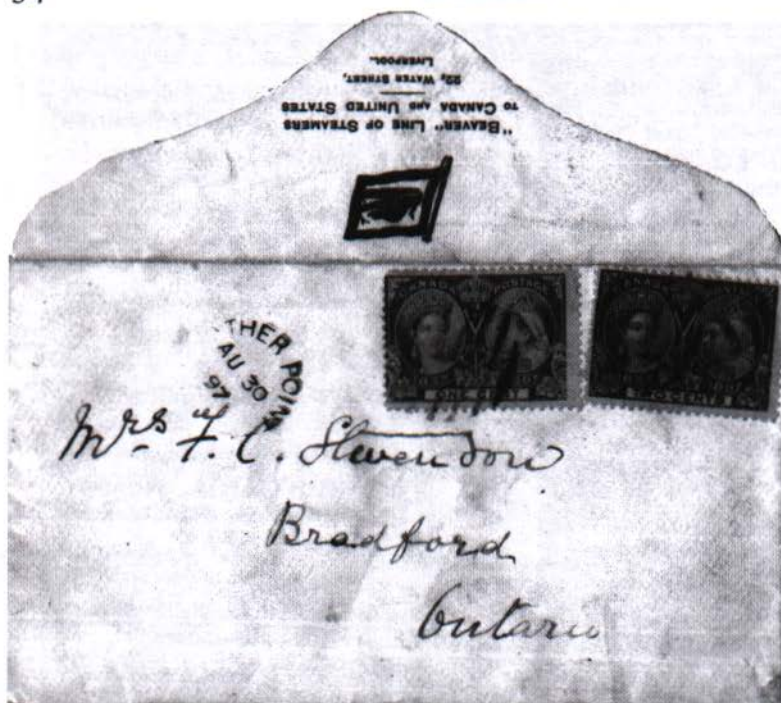


Figure 4. Stationery of the Beaver Line, postmarked at Father Point (1897) Likely written on board the *Lake Ontario*, and posted at the first stop.

The Canada Shipping Company ran into financial difficulties, and in 1894 had to deal with both British and Canadian creditors. Beaver sailings were suspended. D MacIver & Company were appointed by the British group as managers, and resumed sailings in May 1895. The British group soon accepted a cash settlement, and assigned what was left of the assets to the Canadian creditors. However, they retained the MacIver group until 1898, when everything was sold to Elder Dempster & Company.

Elder Dempster was a shipping firm usually associated with West Africa, although they had been in the Canadian freight business since 1894, shipping from Avonmouth. They kept the Beaver Line's Liverpool sailings separate from the Avonmouth shipping. Confusion can occur, however, because the MacIver firm continued to send steamers to Canada under the Beaver name until mid-1899. In 1903, Elder Dempster & Company sold both the Beaver Line and the Avonmouth service to the CPR, but older steamers were excluded from the deal.

The cover in Figure 4 is postmarked 30 August 1897 at Father Point, the first point on the St Lawrence River. As the Beaver Line's ss *Lake Ontario* left

Readers speak

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

From Peter Spencer (Sunderland ON), concerning the format of this journal

... I have a series of personal observations leading to a suggestion. First, there has always been an appeal for new articles for *BNA*Topics. Second, I personally would like to subscribe to all of the study group newsletters. But there are currently at least 25 study groups, and at a modest ten dollars per year per subscription, that totals \$250, not to mention the aggravation of writing 25 cheques in a timely fashion to as many different addresses at that many times of year.

Third, *BNAPS* study groups occasionally become relatively quiescent, so that it almost seems that the requests for renewals are as frequent as the newsletters; as a consequence, members drop their subscriptions, only to find the same groups later come vibrantly to life. Fourth, there is the astonishing example of the Cinderella Stamp Club in the UK, whose smallish journal almost died with its editor. The CSC switched from a *Topics*-sized page to an A4 format, consolidating all the study group newsletters into the one publication. Suddenly a journal which seemed moribund became the opposite. I can supply you with examples of the before and after so that you may judge this.

Hence my suggestion: switch to a larger page format for *Topics* and include all the newsletters. The editor of each newsletter would be prominently identified at the head of his section and would be solely responsible for its content. Using electronic communication and an agreed common standard, it should not be difficult to gather the various sections. Such a journal would alert the membership to some astonishingly good work which is currently seeing the light of day in only a few dozen or so hands. (My personal feeling is that some of editors deserve to be canonized.)

It would relieve the newsletter editors of the onerous task of collecting funds, printing, mailing, and all the record keeping related thereto, none of which is why they started a newsletter in the first place. It would save members with broad interests but limited energy the multiple annual renewals. It would relieve the editor of *Topics* editor and the newsletter editors of much of the gnawing fear of a shrinking in-basket, as a lacuna in one portion of the Society would likely be balanced by floods in others. I anticipate that a wide variety of sources would give a most pleasing vibrancy to the publication and to the Society as a whole.

[I do not agree with much of what is proposed here, but I am always open to listening to suggestions and comments.—ed]

From Norris (Bob) Dyer (Petaluma CA), on his article, Newfoundland's provisional postcard and those who exploited it (Topics # 489, p 17–31)

A sixth used Newfoundland provisional postal card surfaced In 1889, Newfoundland surcharged 700 post cards denominated 1¢ postal cards to 2¢ because of a shortage of UPU. In the article, I was able to identify only five postally used cards in the provisional period, 14 May–22 June 1889. Chief Clerk George LeMessurier Jr of the GPO used the first card on the first day, but I provided evidence that the balance of the five used cards were penned by a jeweller and stamp dealer, Nils Ohman. A sixth card used within the provisional period has appeared, owned by a BNAPS member from Victoria.



Figure 1A. Newly reported provisional card (15 May 1889)

The late fee office was run by Ohman.

The sixth card is pictured, both front and back (Figures 1A & B). It was sent on the second day of use, 15 May 1889 to a jewelry firm in Birmingham, Levi & Saloman and signed by Nil Ohman. This differs from the other cards, wherein he attempted to hide his identity. Note the “Late Office St John’s” post mark on the front. Ohman’s tenure running this office for the government ended at about this time. The message on reverse reads:

Gents

May 15th 1889

Will you also send me one doz 9 carats sets rings.

N Olman

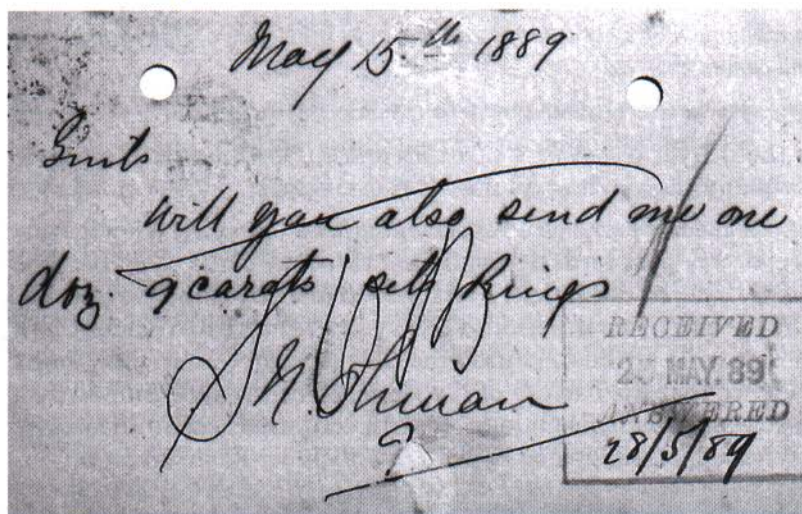


Figure 1B. Reverse of card in Figure 1A

This seems to be strictly a commercial usage; I have seen earlier correspondence to the same jewelry firm from Nils. The Birmingham firm received the card on 23 May 1889 (according to the square in the lower right corner) and spindled the card—thus the two round holes near the top.

Known used provisional post cards (1889)

date	from/to
14 May	LeMessurier Jr—to GB Calman, New York
15 May	Ohman—Levi & Salamon, Birmingham
15 May	Ohman—TA Verkrugen, Hamburg
12 June	Ohman—George Burrow, Birkenhead (England)
12 June	Ohman—ditto
12 June	Ohman—ditto

The new discovery reinforces my premise that after the initial use by LeMessurier, only Ohman used the cards during the provisional period. Are there any other cards out there?

From Albert Govier (Ayrshire UK), concerning the article by the editor, Top secret—operation Tabarin (Topics # 490, p 31–36)

[Operation Tabarin took place at Port Lockeroy in Antarctica.] I showed the article to my friend John Blanche (sadly, not a philatelist), and he gave me the



Figure 1. Port Lockeroy from on-board ship (November 2002)
There is an aerial in the way. The small rectangle, which is blown up in the next figure, contains all the buildings in the picture.



Figure 1A. Blow-up of Figure 1
The buildings are barely discernible.

enclosed photograph showing Port Lockeroy in November 2002 (Figures 1 & 1A) . . .

From Edward Zaluski (Ottawa), on the article by RA Johnson, The 1876 \$5 Federal law stamp # 0197 (Topics # 491, p 44-49)

After [discussions with the author], I have these comments.

The statement at the bottom of p 44 reads "The results of these measurement convincingly support the view that . . . its left side shares the perforation gauge of its top and bottom . . ." This is not true. The horizontal perforation gauge of its top and bottom . . .

rations on these early law stamps are consistent and almost always measure perf 12.0, or just slightly below it, but the left vertical perforation on the \$5 stamp numbered 0197 is irregular, varying from about perf 12 at top and bottom down to 11.76 at its middle.

At the top of p 45, it is implied that one conclusion which I presented in *Canada's first Law Stamp Issue* (BNATopics Vol 54, No 4), namely, "... that all fall within what I consider to be normal variability limits for stamps of this issue" applied to the \$5 stamp serial numbered 0197. That is not the case—the quoted comment applied only to the 20¢ and \$1 (and similar) varieties quoted in Lussey's 1996 article in BNATopics. For my comments regarding the 0197 variety, see p 32 of my article cited above. I clearly state that any stamp that displays the variability that this stamp possesses should be labelled "an irregular perforation" variety. To reiterate, an irregular perforation is caused by a perforating wheel whose between-perf-hole distances were not uniformly applied during manufacture. Such a wheel would likely cause jamming sooner than another that was made more accurately, and when noticed, would be replaced. Therefore, it is unlikely that many irregularly perforated stamps exist.

I disagree with conclusions 3 & 4 that appear on p 48 where, it appears to me, Mr Johnson is trying to impose a single measurement to a span of perforations measuring about 74 mm up each side of these tall stamps. This is an impossible task for any irregularly perforated stamp, with 0197 being just one example. Quoting from *Fundamentals of Philately* by LN & M Williams, p 525, "The usual, conventional, meaning of a perforation expressed by two numbers separated by a dash or by the word 'to' is that the holes are irregularly spaced so that the gauge differs along the length of a single line." Using this method (and by starting at a stamp's top edge and proceeding clockwise in accordance with accepted convention), the perforations of 0197 perforation can best be described as perf 12.0 × 11.48–11.62 × 12.0 × 11.76–12.0. These measurements were obtained a few years ago when I had the opportunity to study this stamp in detail.

General comment about specifications Philatelic literature that I have read in the past speaks many times of "specifications" regarding the spacing of perforation holes during manufacture. This, I doubt, ever happened in the manner usually described. For if I were a stamp provider (say, BABNCo) buying a perforating machine from a manufacturer, all I would be interested in is that the perforating machine worked "properly", meaning that the perforations applied to the finished product (1) resulted in easy separation of individual stamps (without tearing adjacent stamps unnecessarily), and (2) did not cause the sheet to fall apart during normal use as a result of holes too large

or too close to each other. I also believe that the managing bureaucrats in government did not care to specify perforation-spacing either when ordering new stamps. In this regard, I have reviewed the many contracts that were given to the BANC Co during this period and I never did find any reference to perforation specifications. Therefore, the specifications that a manufacturer used were likely internal to the company; the principal consideration was to make wheels that ran smoothly on the machines.

Finally, it is my opinion that the "invention" and imposition of the Kiusalas gauge on collectors, and the many discussions that have ensued regarding the applicability of its misguided theory, are among the most negative things that have happened to this hobby.

From Ron Parama (Houston?), concerning the article by CR McGuire, Canada's post office architecture: Second Empire & Romanesque Revival (Topics # 493, p 5-43)

[I] enjoyed Mr McGuire's fine article on post office architecture. By a remarkable coincidence, I was sorting out some of my post cards and I happened to have an earlier post card example of the Calgary post office on the table next to my computer. The reason it was sitting there is that I had determined that the Calgary post office was extensively remodelled in the Edward period and I was comparing the card with others in my collection, hoping the card would help narrow down the date change.

At lunch, I sat down to read *Topics* with my tea. To my surprise, illustrated in Ron McGuire's article was a very familiar looking post office, identified in Figure 20 as Stratford's post office. I can say for certain it is most definitely not. The view is of the Calgary post office. The legends of Figures 18 & 20 captions seem to have been transposed. [*Yes; this was my fault.—ed*] . . .

The earliest I have been able to date the Calgary post office in this form is from a Royal Curio and News Company post card (series # 3115), post-marked 12 September 1908. However, the original post office at this site was built in 1894. In the booklet, *Calgary—in sandstone* (Historical Society of Canada, (1969), p 16), the post office was described as a two storey sandstone structure. I have a post card view of it dated 23 September 1904 (Figure 1). By this time, it seems that the post office had been greatly altered. It was still of sandstone, the front half now being 3½ storeys, but the back half remaining only two storeys. However, the front portion window arrangement and the corner entrance is the same as that in Figure 20.

In 1908 and at a cost of \$70,000, the original structure was altered again, so it became a full four storeys over the length of the entire building

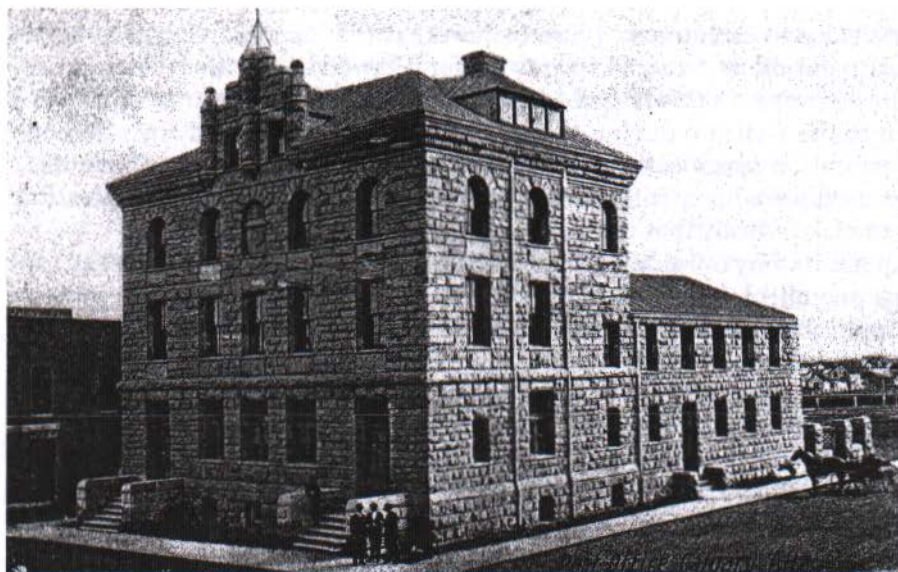


Figure 1. Early version of Calgary post office (1894–1908)
Showing the half storey above the third.



Figure 2. Second version of Calgary post office (1908–1914)
Showing the fourth full storey.

(Figure 2). The roof style was changed to Romanesque. There were several other modifications, including the addition of the fire escape and relocation of two of the other entrances. The various modifications would help explain the mixture of architectural styles that I think that Ron was referring to in the legend of Figure 18 of the *Topics* article. The use of the Romanesque roof with its almost vertical side slope permitted conversion of the half floor to a full floor status.

This post office was demolished in 1914 to make way for an even larger office, but this was delayed because of the war. For many years the lot was vacant; finally in 1931, a new post office was opened on this site.

I would very much like to learn some more about the architectural history of the Calgary post office. Perhaps Ron or one of the Calgary members can shed more light.

From Dr Jim Watt (Hamilton ON), concerning the article by RA Johnson, Kiusalas or standard gauge? Neither—or both! (Topics # 495, p 55–58)

I have just read th[is] excellent article. I have long thought that a continuous line gauge is better for measuring tenths of perforations because it does not force the sorter to categorize perforations when one encounters the so-called “in-between” perforation varieties.

On that matter, the old yellow Instanta had thinner and finer lines on the template than does the newer Instanta. Therefore, some accuracy has been sacrificed on the newer version. One must keep in mind that some classic research has been done on the “old” Instanta.

I compared the Kiusalas and both types of Instanta gauges, and found that reproducibility of results was better with the Instanta, because they did not force the user to assign in-between perf measurements to one group or another. Thanks for the good article.

And from John Hillson (United Kingdom) on the same article

Th[is] article, describing the equipment used by instrument-makers, was most enlightening, and it must certainly be pertinent to the equipment used by Bemrose in the manufacture of their rotary perforating machine. Anyone who is familiar with perforations wherein the male wheel that carries the pins has a female counterpart with holes to match those pins, knows what a neat job they do.

Unfortunately, this does not apply to early Canadian perforations, from the pence and cents issues of the Province of Canada, to the large and small queen stamps. It is quite clear to anyone who actually examines these perforations that the male wheel could have no female counterpart. I will repeat

that, the male wheel had no female counterpart, or at least, not one which had corresponding holes in it.

It seems that almost every writer on early Canadian perforators has missed the point—the pins were not evenly spaced. Wheels were drilled to tool-room standards as it were, rather than to instrument-makers' standards. It is easy to find thick and thin perforations, not only along a row in a large block, but on individual stamps, which proves this. This is incidentally why no standard gauge, of whatever make, can gauge these stamps accurately. It has absolutely nothing to do with imperial or metric manufacturing specifications, indeed this is totally irrelevant.

For those who are adamant that it must have been imperial because Canadian and US engineers did not use metric, try measuring the stamps in inches or fractions thereof, and stop being silly.

I have to take my hat off to the early printers, because what they did was to make an adaptation to the Bemrose patent that not only worked, but reduced the fitting and setting-up costs of a perforating machine. If a pin became damaged, the wheel could be removed and replaced without finding its equivalent female, indeed sometimes the replacement was at a different pitch from its neighbours, and yet caused no problems at all.

If you can lay your hands on the Maresch catalogue for sales 339–341 (June 1999) and examine the illustration of lot 1240 (p 69), you will see that the hole immediately above the “4” of the lot number is out of place, although perfectly cut. On the other hand, that above the “1” is a thick perforation tooth, and the one to its left is thin.

How did this effect occur? Quite simply, a bit of the Bemrose patented roulette cutter, the female part (which consists basically of a hollow groove) was adapted. Perhaps now you can see why the spacing of the pins did not have to be dead accurate, which would have been the case had there been a corresponding female requiring accurately spaced holes. It also explains why the “confetti-adhering” phenomenon occurs, and why totally blind perforations can occur if the paper tension was not quite correct. It really is not much of a mystery if one looks, I mean *looks* at the results and works out how it happened.

By the way, the stamp mentioned from the Maresch sale is now in my collection, so there be no howls of protest from an outraged owner!

From Charles Verge (Ottawa) on an old issue of this journal

Can anyone explain to me why the January 1954 issue of BNA Topics was printed with two different covers? One is orange and the other grey with

fibre threads running through it. The contents of the 32 pages in each of version seems to be identical. As I collect philatelic literature, I would be interested in knowing the reason.

From Danny Handelman (Ottawa), on the article by Jean Walton & Lola Caron, Magdalen Islands postal history II: Post offices (*Topics* # 494, p 5–36) Danny reports a second strike of the Fauriel hammer (discussed but not illustrated on p 31 of the article). He purchased it via e-Bay, at a very reasonable price. (People must have been sleeping while this auction took place.)



Figure 1. Fauriel & Grindstone Island (1899)

On stationery to New York. The Fauriel post office was open 1898–1903. The barred killer presumably was applied at Grindstone Island.

From the Editor

Topics won a vermeil medal at the CHICAGOPEX '03 literature competition held in Chicago (where else?) this past November. This was based on the 2002 publication year. The judges made some comments; however, I won't repeat them here as I do not believe they merit any consideration, and are not useful. The cynical part of me suggests that the vermeil was random.

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New issues

William J F Wilson

THE information in these tables is from Canada Post's *Details* booklet (Volume XII #1-3, January-March, April to June, & July-September 2003 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.

Table 1. Stamps issued January-March 2003

Stamp 	Year of the ram	NHL all-stars	Bishop's	Audobon's birds	Rangers
Value	SH 48¢, SS \$1.25	6×48¢ s-T	48¢	4×48¢ s-T, 65¢	48¢
Issued	3/01	18/01	28/01	21/02	3/03
Printer	L-M	CBN	CBN	L-M	(1) L-M
Pane	SH 25, SS 1	6	bklt,8	48¢ 16, 65¢ bklt of 6	16
Paper	C	C	C	C	C
Process	9CL FE & DC	7CL	6CL	48¢ 10CL, 65¢ 7CL	6CL+GSV
Qty (10 ⁶)	SH 10, SS 1.6	3.621	3	48¢ 8, 65¢ 3	3
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	48¢ FL, 65¢ G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	P-S	PVA	48¢ PVA, 65¢ P-S	PVA
Size (mm)	SH 30×52, SS 32×57	40×39.3 (2)	36×44.9	48¢50×32, 65¢32×48 (1)	56×29
Perf	SH12.5×13.1, SS12.5×13.4	12.5×13.2 (2)	13.3×13.4	48¢ 13×12.5, 65¢ DC	12.5×13.1
Teeth	SH20×20, SS22×22	25×26 (2)	24×30	48¢ 33×20, 65¢ DC	35×19

(1) The Canada Post write-up lists the printer as Ashton-Potter, and the stamp width for the 65¢ as 33.46mm.

(2) One vertical straight edge (left or right); stamp width depends on how the sheet was trimmed.

Abbreviations (for all three tables). 5 (6; 7; ...) CL: five (six; seven; ...) colour lithography; bklt: booklet; c: Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); CBN: Canadian Bank Note Company; cc: Crown Canada; DC: die cut; FE: foil embossing; FL: fluorescent; G4S: general tagging (four sides); GSV: gloss spot varnish; L-M: Lowe-Martin; GC: Gravure Choquet Inc; P: Peterborough paper. P-S: pressure sensitive gum; s-T: setenant; SH: sheet stamp; SS: souvenir sheet; sim'd: simulated.

Keywords & phrases: new issues

Table 2. Stamps issued March–June 2003

Stamp	U Western Ont	AHERA Canada	St F X U	Vol Firefighters	QE II 50th Ann
Value	48¢	48¢	48¢	48¢	48¢
Issued	19/03	25/03	4/04	30/5	2/06
Printer	CBN	CBN	CBN	CBN	L-M
Pane	bklt,8	16	bklt,8	16	16
Paper	c	c	c	c	c
Process	6CL	5CL+varnish	6CL	5CL (3)	8CL
Qty (10 ⁶)	3	3	3	4	20
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	PVA	PVA	PVA	PVA
Size (mm)	36×44.9	32×39.5	36×44.9	42×30	38×32
Perf	13.3×13.4	12.5×13.15	13.3×13.4	13.3×13.3	13.2×12.5
Teeth	24×30	20×26	24×30	28×20	25×20

(3) Canada Post lists 6CL but the selvage shows five colour dots.

Table 3. Stamps issued June–July 2003

Stamp	Pedro da Silva	Tourist att'ns	Macdonald I cent	Lutheran W F	Korea 50th
Value	48¢	5×65¢, 5×\$1.25	48¢	48¢	48¢
Issued	6/06	12/06	20/06	21/07	25/07
Printer	CBN	A-P	CBN	L-M	CBN
Pane	16	bklt, 5	bklt, 8	16	16
Paper	c	cornwall (4)	c	c	c
Process	6CL	10CL (4)	6CL	7CL (5)	12CL (6)
Qty (10 ⁶)	3	5.2 (each)	3	3	3
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S	printed bars
Gum	PVA	P-S	PVA	PVA	PVA
Size (mm)	52×27.7	48×30	36×44.9	32×36.5	56×28
Perf	13.1×13	11.25×11.33 (sim'd)	13.3×13.4	12.5×13.15	12.9×12.9
Teeth	34×18	27×17	24×30	20×24	36×18

(4) Canada Post lists the paper as "Cornwall" and the process as 8CL. The stamp selvage, however, simply shows "C" for the paper, the same symbol as normally used for Tullis-Russell Coatings paper, and has eight colour dots on one side of the C and two on the other.

(5) Canada Post lists 6CL, but the stamp selvage shows seven colour dots.

(6) Canada Post lists 9CL, but the stamp selvage shows eight colour dots on one side of the C paper symbol and four on the other. Possibly the eight refers to the stamp (8CL) and the four refers to the design on the selvage.

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Study group centreline

Robert Lemire

THE purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of BNAPS members some of the fascinating specialist work being done within each BNAPS study group. Highlights are provided for newsletters that have arrived in my mail box from mid-May through mid-August 2003. I notice that several of the newsletters contain pleas for a new editor or secretary-treasurer. If your group needs someone, get involved. As a former editor of a study group newsletter, I can assure you that an editor need not be the world expert in the area. He or she merely needs to know who the experts are, and nag them into supplying information. The editor's real responsibility is to organize the information in a coherent manner and get it to the study group members. In the process, you get to learn a great deal, have regular contact with other collectors, and often have an opportunity to obtain interesting material.

British Columbia postal history In Volume 12, #2, Bill Topping contrasts the naming and assignment of accounting numbers for two suburban Abbotsford offices, one established in the early 1950s, the other within the last three years. This clearly written piece provides a example that will be of great value to future students of Canadian postal history, regardless of their specific geographical area of interest. There is also an excellent small article on the ships of the "all Red Line", and the corresponding TPO cancels.

Queen Elizabeth II The *Corgi Times* is published in black and white, but colour illustrations of several items in each issue can be viewed on the study group website, www.adminware.ca/esg. In Volume 11, #6, Robert Elias extends his study of papers to the high-value definitives from 1952 to 1967, and a checklist appears in Volume 12, #1. Printing figures and other details are provided for the "Vancouver 2010" booklet, issued to celebrate the awarding of the 2010 Olympic Games to Vancouver (60% of the 300,000 ten-stamp booklets were supplied to British Columbia post offices).

Brian Cannon reports two constant plate flaws on the one cent decoy definitive. The \$1 Loon definitive has been reprinted, and Robin Harris reports a constant flaw on some panes. Robin also continues his series on the stamps of the Canadian "Environment" definitive issue with a discussion of the low-value tree stamps and the medium value street scenes.

Revenues The June 2003 issue of the Canadian Revenue Newsletter features the fifth installment of Chris Ryan's study, *Canada's stamp taxation of tobacco products: 1864-1974*. This part deals with the American Bank Note (ABN)

stamps prepared between 1897 and 1935 (ABN was renamed Canadian Bank Note in 1923). The stamps used for pressed tobacco, cut tobacco and "Canada Twist" (made by farmers from their own leaf) are discussed, including plates and printing quantities. There is also a list of the designation codes used for the various customs and excise ports. In a separate article, two uncatalogued varieties of tobacco stamps (from the collection of John Harper) are illustrated. One is a provisional $\frac{1}{14}$ pound Canada Twist stamp; the other a $\frac{1}{160}$ pound stamp used on an imported sample.

Squared circle cancels The *Round-Up Annex* of July 2003 contains another batch of new reports and updates on squared circle cancels. Jim Miller begins a multi-part series on the Toronto three-ring orb cancels, and starts with a discussion of hammer 3-T1, used 1891-1896.

RPO cancels The featured lines in the May-June issue of the newsletter are the Midland Railway and the Toronto & Nipissing Railway. The first postmark used on the Midland Railway was MID-R'WAY (1875-1887). Later cancels, as the line was absorbed into the Grand Trunk system, included "Blackwater & Mid", "Tor. & Pt H." and "Port Hope & Midland M.C." The Toronto and Nipissing ("Tor & Nip R") line never went past Coboconk (a long way from Nipissing!), and later (after 1890) may have run only as far as Lorneville ("Tor. & Lorn. M.C.").

Military mail The May 2003 issue of the Military Mail newsletter features several interesting Newfoundland w w I I covers submitted by Kevin O'Reilly. One cover bears a very early example of use of the C.A.P.O. No.1 hammer. Mike Street shows a letter sent to a Canadian soldier in hospital, concerning quotas of cigarettes that could be forwarded. In the August 2003 issue, Doug Sayles provides a summary list of the w w I I small "crown over circle" censor markings. These were used by Canadian units in Canada, Labrador, Jamaica, Bermuda, the Bahamas and British Guiana.

Dean Mario shows examples of the w w I I internment censor markings, and provides earliest and latest reported dates. There are also contributions from David Hanes, Colin Pomfret and Wilf Whitehouse.

Postal stationery In *Postal Stationery Notes*, Volume 18, #6, John Grace continues his series on illustrated cards, discussing Gordon, Mackay & Company. There are 23 Victorian and Edwardian cards listed, and five are shown in colour. Chris Ryan reports on several new Ontario Government Xpresspost items; a new type does not have any roulettes in the sealing flap. These envelopes seem to be used primarily by Ontario colleges and universities.

In Volume 19, #1, Earle Covert begins an illustrated listing of prestamped meteorological envelopes. Two recently issued prepaid post cards are shown. One is available only in a souvenir can (with a T-shirt and flag), for \$19.95!

Admiral issue Another huge (56 page) issue from Leopold Beaudet and the Admiral Study Group. Sandie Mackie offers the first instalment of a series that will illustrate rural mail delivery covers for different rates in the Admiral period. Andy Ellwood describes the challenges that await collectors of precancelled Admiral issue stamps (also, see the item on the QUEBEC QUE precancel noted by the re-entry group), and Richard Morris lists stamps and covers with postmark dates earlier than the Marler "earliest known dates".

There is an extensive article by Leopold Beaudet on Admiral corner folds, with an excellent discussion of what these items reveal about the manufacturing process. Leopold also presents a survey of plate numbers found on the 3¢ stamps and on the 1¢ War Tax stamp. Don Krause reports on re-touched stamps from plate 23 of the 3¢ brown, based on several hundred copies in his collection.

Newfoundland The July/August newsletter has several short items, including pictures of covers as provided by Dean Mario, Barry Senior and David Handelman. There is more on the Reverend Butler price lists, and a comparison of present prices to those of 1936 and 1947 (Sammy Whaley provided one of the price lists and a letter to one of Butler's customers). Randall Martin sent photocopies of two covers from Musgravetown with bisected stamps. The question is raised as to whether these are anything other than patently philatelic creations. Realizations are given (all very high) for Labrador items sold in Harmer's sale of 23 February 2003.

Re-entries Shown on the front page of newsletter Volume 21, #2 is a photograph of the major re-entry on the 1¢ blue-green Admiral, plate 12, lower right, position 35. Not only is this a nice copy, the stamp shown bears an inverted QUEBEC QUE. precancel. There are also pictures of three re-entries on the 1903-1908 King Edward VII issue (from the collection of the late Bill MacDonald). Five 1¢ small queen issue re-entries were sent in by Ron Waldston (whose father, Gerry, is trying to prepare a catalogue of re-entries on the small queen issue).

Air mail In the August 2003 issue of the newsletter, Jim Brown provides an illustration of another piece of mail that travelled on the August 1919 flight from Victoria to Nanaimo. It was postmarked by a Victoria machine cancel, whereas the cover described in the previous newsletter was hit with a single-ring Victoria hammer. John Wynns contributed a photocopy of an unlisted variety of the Western Canada Airways stamp (Unitrade #CL40) on a cover cancelled at Rolling Portage (ON). Other articles, reprinted from various sources, deal with early Canadian flights and pilots.

World War II In the May 2003 issue of *War Times*, Bill Pekonen presents an extensive discussion of the meaning of "free mail". Bill examines the defi-

nition of the term and the history of the franking privilege. Editor Chris Miller also features a selection of WW II-related meter slogans and tapes from the collection of Barry Brown. Peter Burrows describes the activities of the British Columbia Security Commission, an organization responsible for managing the forced relocation of Japanese-Canadians from the coastal regions of British Columbia. Peter shows a cover, mailed from the Commission to Solsqua (BC), with a triangular "Official Letter" marking and signature.

Registration Two issues of the *Registry* have been received; the second is a triple issue. Both issues are filled with scans of registered covers and related material, each with a description and, when necessary, an explanation. There is no particular theme, but most are interesting items from editor David Handelman's collection. There are registered covers from small towns (e.g., Masden and McIntosh ON), money letters, a registered COD return envelope, a tri-decuple rate cover, and much, much more.

George Arfken presents an 1857 New Brunswick cover that may (or may not) suggest that registration was available prior to 1858. Len Belle shows a cover with a red Quebec money letter handstamp from 1834.

Large & small queens In newsletter #24, John Hillson further discusses the unusual aspects of the printing of the 8¢ small queen issue. Why were four plates made? Why were there no plate imprints or counters? Also, several more pages from Herb McNaught's exhibit on the half-cent small queen are shown. As part of the BNAPS exhibitor's series, Auxano Philatelic Services has recently published a book showing the complete exhibit.

Map stamp In Volume 4, #2, Vic Willson discusses several usages and possible usages of the map stamp that would enhance any postal history exhibit for the period 1898-1900. Ken Kershaw reports on some further re-entries from plate 5, and shows an early example of a stamp from that plate on cover. John Anders also reproduces several e-mail exchanges between study group members, most notably a discussion between Fred Fawn and Ralph Trimble concerning catalogue listings of the map stamp.

Fancy & miscellaneous cancels The June 2003 newsletter contains a number of small items. Jack Forbes has submitted a photocopy of an interesting block of four of the 3¢ small queen issue. Each copy bears a *Parcel* manuscript marking. Other contributions came from Brian Hargreaves, Gus Quattrocchi, Roger Boisclair and John Hillson. E-mails from John led to comments from editor David Lacelle on fake Ottawa crown cancels and on way-letter markings. There is also a section providing revisions to the information in the fancy cancel handbook.

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>]

Web site

A new database is now available, *Biophil*,

http://www.archives.ca/02/020155_e.html

The database on the creators of Canadian and British North American stamps contains biographical information on the individuals responsible for creating stamps. This also includes administrative notices on the printers.

Stamp creators include artists, designers, as well as those in the employment of printers, such as draftspersons, graphic artists, and engravers. These may also include the creators of the works that are the main subject of individual stamps, such as painters, photographers, sculptors, etc. An alphabetical list of the names contained in the database is available for consultation.

This research tool complements the reference documents for individual Canadian stamps. It provides links to more than 1,700 of these stamps and constitutes a solid information base on stamp creators. The database also provides a link to descriptions of the original works conserved by the National Archives of Canada.

There are about 12,000 images available on the Canadian Postal Archives site. In October we added 1,200 images from the following collections (consult the section "What's New" on the web site for more information),

- ☒ Canada Post Corporation fonds, official first day covers of Canada, 1965–1981, 850 images
- ☒ Canada Post Corporation fonds, proof material related to Canadian postage stamps, 1934–1948, 300 images

Keywords & phrases: National Archives of Canada

☒ "Zürich" Collection, Newfoundland postage stamps & proofs, 50 images.

Former acquisitions

Muncey family fonds [textual record, philatelic record] 1900–1901, c1930, 10 cm of textual records, 12 postal covers including 4 postcards. Fonds consists of letters from Muncey to his relatives, written while he was serving in the South African War, 1900–1901, and a clipping, concerning Muncey from around 1930.

Fonds also includes 12 postal covers (four are postcards) and three leaves of letterhead. The covers are all addressed to Frank Muncy and other residents of Charlottetown from Singleton Wyndham Muncy. The covers bear various British military field post office and Canadian Contingent postmarks. The letterhead bears shows SJ Richey, Soldiers of the Queen and Young Men's Christian Association Canadian Contingent graphics. [R4782]

Kenneth Oberle fonds [graphic material] c1979, 5 photographs, black and white, one negative. Collection consists of five black and white photographs taken by Postmaster, Kenneth Oberle, of the post office at Formosa (ON). Four photographs depict the left side of the post office and one photograph depicts the right side. Among the former is the negative from which the other three were produced. [R4988]

Okanagan-Mainline Philatelic Association collection [phil record] 1994, 12 postal covers. Official postal stationery envelopes with commemorative cancellation of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada annual congress, OGOPEX 1994, held in Vernon (BC), 10–12 June 1994. Envelope cachet shows postal historian George Melvin (1905–1983). [R5028]

Earl Palmer collection [philatelic record] 1860–1868, one sheet of postage stamps, four postage stamps: die proofs, steel engraving. Collection consists of one complete trade sample sheet in green produced by the American Bank Note Company in 1868 and four large die proofs. The die proofs are those of the New Brunswick 12½¢ ship stamp (Scott # 10, 1860), the 5¢ Queen Victoria stamp (Scott # 8, 1860), the Nova Scotia 1¢ Queen Victoria (Scott # 8, 1860–1863), and the Nova Scotia 10¢ Queen Victoria (Scott # 12, 1860–1863). [R4118]

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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 14 September 1752. Avoid use of all-caps, footnotes, or underscoring unless absolutely, positively NECESSARY.

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Attention: Bill Maresch and Rick Schreyer

Dear Bill and Rick,

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I really appreciated your letting me review the descriptions and lotting for my part of the auction, although, in the event, I had little to add to the excellent work you had done. Fellow collectors told me that Toronto was the wrong place to sell West Indies—your results proved them wrong. You certainly performed far better than major auction houses in Europe to which I have consigned material in the past. My worries about having my auction material among the last lots in a five-session 2800-lot auction were also proven to be groundless.

I should also like to pass on to you the comments of several fellow-collectors from overseas, to the effect that they were very pleased to bid with complete confidence on lots where your wonderfully accurate colour illustrations gave them a true feeling for the colour shades that can be so important in our hobby.

You did me proud—many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

John Tyacke

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