

2007 • second quarter

BNA Topics



Whole number 511

Volume 64 Number 2

| POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES CANADA | ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AVIS DE RÉCEPTION |
|---|--|
| <p>This card to be filled in by office of origin <i>Le recto est à remplir par le bureau d'origine</i></p> <p>REGISTERED ARTICLE <i>Envoi recommandé</i></p> <p>ENTERED AT THE OFFICE OF <i>Enregistré au bureau de poste de</i> TORONTO SUB. 144, ONT.</p> <p>DATE <i>Mar 17/47</i> UNDER NO <i>790</i> <i>sous le</i></p> <p>ADDRESSED TO <i>MR M. D</i> <i>Addressé à</i></p> <p>AT <i>Box 26 LEEWARDEN</i> <i>à</i></p> <p>39B—250,000-5-1-42 <i>HOLLAND</i></p> | <p>To be filled in by sender who indicate below his full address <i>À remplir par l'expéditeur qui inscrire ci-dessous son adresse complète.</i></p> <p>RETURN TO <i>K. H. RICH</i> <i>Retournez à</i></p> <p><i>90 GARNOCK AVE</i> STREET AND NUMBER <i>Toronto 6</i> Rue et numéro</p> <p><i>ONTARIO</i> PLACE OF ORIGIN OF REGISTERED ARTICLE Lieu d'origine de l'objet recommandé CANADA</p> <p>(1) IN PRINTED CHARACTERS <i>En lettres moulées</i></p> <p><i>8891</i></p> |

A 20-cent rate for an A-R card, p. 52

The official Journal of BNAPS—
The Society for Canadian Philately

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1851 6p Slate Violet Prince Albert
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\$46,000.



1855 6p Slate Grey Prince Albert
on wove paper, mint.

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1855 6p Greenish Grey Prince Albert
on wove paper, mint.

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1859 10c Chocolate Brown Prince Albert
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BNA pics

Volume 64 Number 2 Whole Number 511

The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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Readers write

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

From John Parkin, a follow-up to Ron McGuire's 'A spectacular 'officially sealed' cover yields new DLO marks' in Volume 63, Number 4, October–December 2006. On finding the cover illustrated below many years ago, I felt that it was unusual and valuable; both were confirmed when a North American dealer offered a large amount for it. I thought *Topics* readers might be interested in seeing a Dead Letter Office 'Officially Sealed' stamp used properly on a letter from overseas.



Postmarked in York, England on 18 October 1911, the letter was addressed to a box number at the main (G.P.O.) post office in Vancouver. There the box number was scratched out, and the notation 'Try North Van' added. The North Vancouver/B.C. CDS dated NO 3/11 shows when it arrived there, and the Jan

6/12 CDS tells when it was marked 'NOT CALLED FOR' and sent to the Dead Letter Office in Vancouver. The Vancouver DLO clerks opened the letter, added the Officially Sealed stamp and canceled it nine days later with two strikes of the 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE/ VANCOUVER CANADA.' mark (Plain # VAN3a-a1). The meaning of the 'Not for xxxx' notation at upper left is unclear.

It appears that the letter contained valuables, possibly cash or a cheque, as it was then forwarded to the main DLO branch in Ottawa, where it was received on Jan 24 1912 as evidenced by the 'D.L.O. CANADA/OTTAWA BRANCH.' oval cancel (Plain # OTT2b-n1). The lack of other markings on the cover, and the fact it turned up in England many years later, suggest that the contents contained sufficient identification for the letter to be returned the writer under separate cover.

From Russ Thompson in Manitoba, more on Gary Steele's Lestock Station (as we called it then) cover. Russ makes a key point about the evidence that is not there. First, let's get the name of the town correct— it's Lestock not Lestook. The "station" part of the postmark was dropped in 1947.

Second, I think this letter could easily, and probably did, make the journey to Ottawa in two days without airmail carriage. Lestock is on the CNR Transcontinental mainline. A schedule from the 1960s shows a train leaving Saskatoon eastbound at midnight every day. This service would have reached Lestock about 2 AM (Saskatoon & Rivers eastbound), picked up the mailbag with the registered letter to Ottawa, passed through Rivers about 6 AM and arrived in Winnipeg at 9 AM.

Rivers was not the end of the line as the RPO name might suggest, but just a sectional point. Note that this is a 1960s schedule: in 1941 there were likely several trains taking this route every day. At Winnipeg, the letter would be quickly sent to the airport and carry on eastwards by air—or would it?

Gary Steele's original article mentions no other backstamps than the RPO of 5 Mar 41 and the Ottawa receiver of 7 Mar 41. If the letter had transferred to airmail in Winnipeg, or anywhere en route, there should be a backstamp to prove it. Registered mail had to be backstamped at every transfer point. It is certainly possible that the letter stayed on the train at Winnipeg. The continuation trip left Winnipeg at 9:30 AM, arriving in Ottawa at 3:45 PM the next day— i.e., Mar 7. The lack of other backstamps leads me to believe that the letter never went by plane.

Another observation: the 20¢ stamp and the missing 4¢ (?) stamp were on either side of the registration box, and partly covering it. This indicates to me that the airmail option was added after the registration process had been completed.

Clearly the sender wanted this letter to arrive as soon as possible. Perhaps the postmaster suggested adding the airmail option in order to "cover all the bases". Whatever the case, it seems that the 24¢ was wasted.

From Jack Forbes Jr., a delightful insight into shenanigans involving an MP and the House of Commons Post Office.



Further to Bill Pekonen's letter in the last issue of *Topics*, here is an item which verifies that mail was processed at a special branch post office at the House of Commons.

It would appear that there is a possibility that one of the Members got caught with his "hand in the cookie jar", and had to make payment. It would further appear that only Free Franked mail was to go through the House of Commons Post Office, as the payment in this case was made to the Main Ottawa Post Office.

From Mike Street, a follow-up to an exchange of information about sending liquor by mail.

In Cover Stories #5 (*BNA Topics*, 2005Q2, No. 503, p. 22) I wrote that articles mailed by parcel post could not be registered. David Handelman pointed out that there were two exceptions, money packets sent by banks and ballot boxes at election time. Examples of both were shown in the article.

In Readers speak (*BNA Topics*, 2005Q4, No. 505, p. 70) John Aitken advised that from 1921 until December 1969 liquor packages mailed by Provincial Government Liquor Commissions could also be registered, and asked anyone with an example of a registered liquor parcel to let us know. To date there have been no replies.

At Christmas 2006 my nephew mentioned that he and his fiancée had joined a wine club and received their monthly instalments by mail. I asked to see the packaging, and was pleased to receive the label shown at right. As can be seen from the illustration, 'Winecountry at Home' sends the packages by Xpresspost, and a signature is required. This of course is one of the modern equivalents to registration.

On checking the on-line Canada Postal Guide under 'alcohol' I was led to the 'Transporting Dangerous Goods' section of Transport Canada's website which indicated that, along with things like lighter fluid and corrosive chemicals, alcohol was considered dangerous and there were restrictions on its shipment.

Since the label illustrated above obviously contradicted this, I dug further and found, fortunately for those of us who like to imbibe once in a while, that there is an exemption. Regulation SOR/2003-273 of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992 reads as follows:

1.36 Class 3, Flammable Liquids: Alcoholic Beverage Exemption

These Regulations do not apply to an alcoholic beverage in transport on a road vehicle, a railway vehicle or a ship on a domestic voyage if the alcoholic beverage

- (a) is included in Packing Group II and is in a means of containment with a water capacity less than or equal to 5 L; or
- (b) is included in Packing Group III and
 - (i) contains 24 per cent or less by volume of alcohol, or
 - (ii) is in a means of containment with a water capacity less than or equal to 250 L. alcohol.

Thus bottles of wine and other alcoholic beverages can be legitimately mailed in Canada. I was unable to find out whether or not Canada Post requires that a Signature be obtained but suspect that this may be optional.

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 2, April-June 2007

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| XPRESSPOST | | 1 |
| From: WINECOUNTRY AT HOME Exp: 210 CONSTELLATION DRIVE STONEY CREEK ON L8E 6B2 | V6.4.0 CANADA POST POSTES CANADA 0001009699 | |
| Order / Commande: 200701-04 201024 CP_P_HMC REG | Manifest / Manifeste: 88 | |
| Item Id/No. d'identification 1008 6990 7100 8030 | 2.900 Kg | |
| To/Dest: | | |
| BURLINGTON ON L7S 1X9 | | |
| L7S | | |
| 1008 6990 7100 8030 | | |
|  | | |
| ATTENTION | | Signature Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Proof of Age Required (19 years) / Preuve d'âge obligatoire (19 ans) | | |
|  | | |
| 170836 287 256 641 | | |
| BRANT PLAZA PHARMACY 561 BRANT STREET BURLINGTON ON L7R 2G0 905 333-9666 | |  |

Where did the gold go?

Hank Narbonne, OTB

AN error in the form of a missing colour has been found on the 1982 Constitution commemorative stamp, Scott # 916. It is very unusual for 25 years to pass before such an error is found and reported. This example was found on a commercial cover of the type that often languishes in dealers' 25¢ boxes.

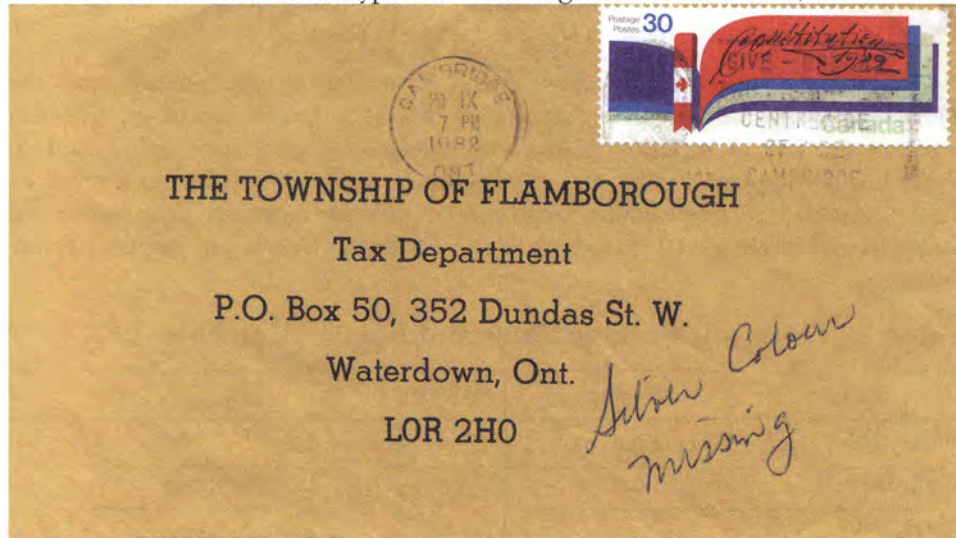


Figure 1. The first reported example of the 30¢ Constitution commemorative stamp with the gold colour missing, on a cover to one of *BNA Topics*' editor's least favourite addresses.

Two plates were used to print the gold: one for the coat of arms and a page on the left, and the other for the outline of a page and the word "Canada", on the right.



Figure 2. Left, the stamp as issued. Right, the stamp missing the gold. Note that while the two pages and the word "Canada" without the gold display a light green cast, the gold coat of arms is simply missing.

Keywords & Phrases: Errors, Constitution commemorative (1982)

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 2, April-June 2007

A single stamp for postage and registration, Part 1

George B Arfken and William S Pawluk

USAGE of just one stamp to pay both the postage and the registry fee was a convenience for the Canadian Post Office's customers, and for the Post Office may have meant a small reduction in costs.

In this article, we study single-stamp usage paying the postage and the registration, from the start of registration in May 1855 to the end of the five-cent registry fee in July 1920. The emphasis is on regular letters, domestic and to the U.S. Table 1 lists the postage rates and registration fees for 1855–1920. As a result of happy coincidences, single-stamp usage was possible for registered drop letters and for registered international mail, both Universal Postal Union and Imperial Penny Postage.

Table 1. Domestic Postage Rates and Registration Fees

| Date | Postage | Registry Fee | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| May 1, 1855 | 3d per half oz. | 1d | No 4d stamp |
| July 1, 1859 | 5¢ per half oz. | 2¢ | No 7¢ stamp |
| Apr. 1, 1868 | 3¢ per half oz. | | No 5¢ stamp until 5¢ LQ, Oct. 1875 |
| Dec. 13, 1875* | | 2¢ RLS available | The RLS† was never authorized to pay postage. |
| May 8, 1889 | 3¢ per ounce | 5¢, 5¢ RLS optional | No 8¢ stamp until 8¢ SQ, Oct. 4, 1893* |
| Jan. 1, 1899 | 2¢ per ounce | 5¢ | No 7¢ stamp until 7¢ Num, Dec. 1902 |
| Apr. 15, 1915 | 3¢ first ounce | | No 8¢ Admiral until Sept. 1925 |
| July 15, 1920 | | 10¢ | No 13¢ stamp |

*Earliest-reported date

† RLS = Registered letter stamp

Keywords & phrases: registration, rates

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 2, April–June 2007

There are no examples of single-stamp usage paying both postage and registration during the Pence era. There was no 4d stamp for registered domestic letters, and no 9d stamp for registered letters to the U.S.

After 1859, the postal rate was five cents per half oz., and the registry fee was two cents. There was no 7¢ stamp, so there should be no single-stamp usage. Well, actually there were two remarkable exceptions.

The first was the unique registered Soldier's Letter. Shown in Figure 1. This cover was sold, on 16 January 1996, in the Firby auction of the Sam Nickle collection. The cover sold for \$15,400 US, including the 10% premium. In *Canada's Registered Mail* [1, p. 124], Harrison, the underbidder, gave an account of the sale and also related meeting the successful bidder some months later.

The registered Soldier's Letter was carried on the Allan Line *Nestorian* out of Quebec, on 18 May 1867. Offloaded at Moville, Ireland, the cover went by rail to Belfast and then by Glasgow packet for Greenock and Glasgow, Scotland. The cover shows the GLASGOW PACKET PAID, MY 29 1867 handstamp.



Figure 1. The unique registered Soldier's letter. Posted in Montreal, 17 May 1867 and addressed to Scotland. The 10¢ Prince Consort paid the two-cent Soldier's letter rate and the eight-cent registry fee. The eight-cent registry fee to U.K. was effective 1 February 1866. Courtesy of Charles G. Firby Auctions, Nickle collection.

Registered domestic letters

The second remarkable exception for Decimal stamps came at the start of the Large Queen Era. On 1 April 1868, the postal rate for domestic letters was set at three

cents per half oz. and the registry fee at two cents. There were no 5¢ Large Queens at this time and there would be none for six and one-half years. There were, however, some 5¢ Beavers still available. Harrison illustrated [1, p. 66] a 5¢ Beaver paying both three cents postage and two cents registration on a 4 April 1868 Quebec letter. This five-cent single-stamp usage was legal. The Decimal stamps were never demonetized.

The 5¢ Large Queen was issued 1 October 1875 as a provisional stamp specifically to pay the new five-cent per half oz. preferred rate to the U.K. The two-cent registered letter stamp (RLS) was not yet available, and the Post Office did not want payment in cash. The new 5¢ Large Queen solved the problem nicely, paying both the domestic postage and the registry fee, an unplanned but happy accident.

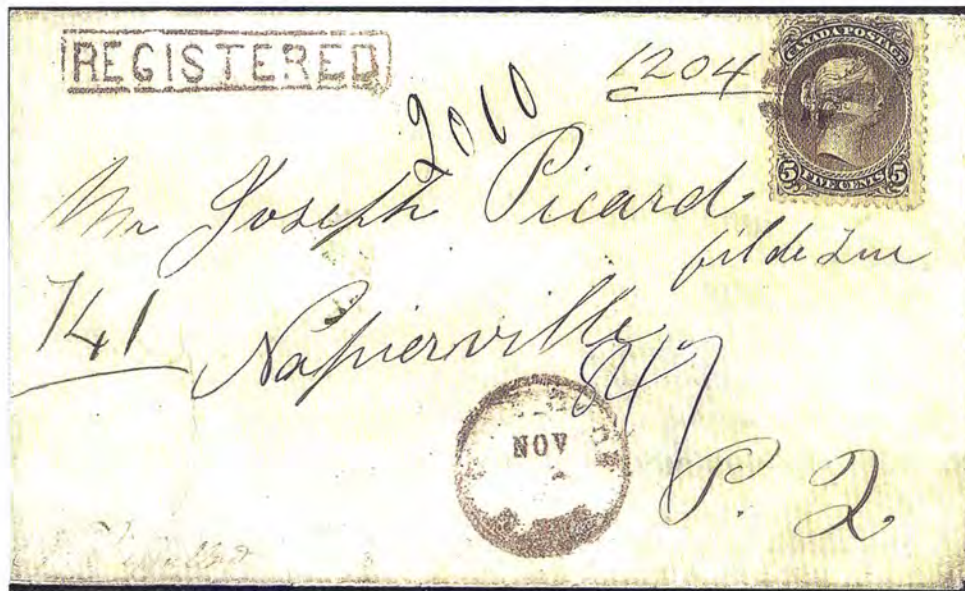


Figure 2. Posted 3 November 1875, arriving in Napierville, P.Q. the next day (backstamps). The cover shows an unusual boxed REGISTERED. The 5¢ Large Queen paid the three cents postage and the two-cent registry fee. Courtesy of Charles G. Firby Auctions, Menich collection.

This was the Small Queen era, so the 5¢ Large Queen, was replaced by the 5¢ Small Queen on 1 February 1876, to pay the five-cent per half oz. preferred rate to the U.K., and for other use as needed. The 5¢ Small Queen also paid the five-cent preferred rates to Newfoundland and to Germany. In 1878, registered letter stamps were available, and the *Official Postal Guides* consistently said the two-cent domestic registry fee should be paid only with the 2¢ RLS. Nevertheless, here's Figure 3 with a 5¢ Small Queen paying both postage and registration.

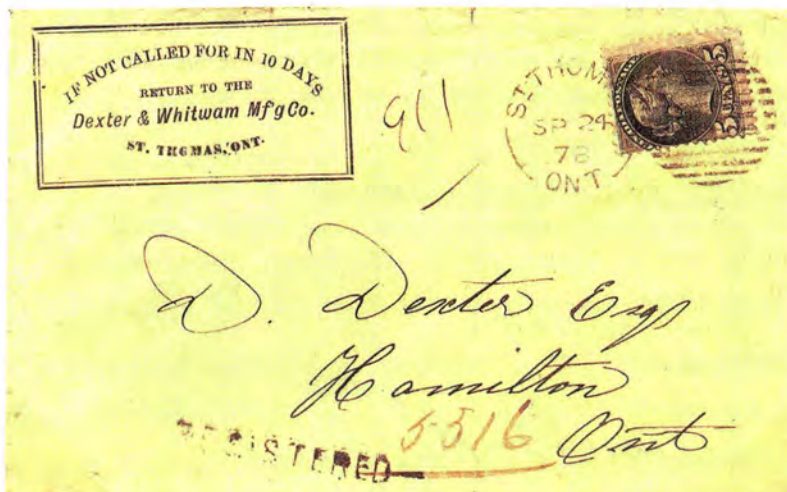


Figure 3. Registered in St. Thomas, Ont., 24 September 1878 and addressed to Hamilton, Ont. There is a Hamilton registered oval date stamp, SP 25 78 backstamp. The 5¢ Small Queen was accepted in payment of the three cents postage and the two-cent registry fee (contrary to postal regulations). Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Harrison collection [2].

Figure 4 show the earliest-reported use of the 5¢ RLS. Actually, this use contravened postal regulations. The registered letter stamps were never valid for paying postage. This cover is also important because it shows when the 5¢ RLS became available.



Figure 4. The earliest-reported use of the 5¢ RLS. Posted in Lachute, C.E., 12 January 1876, this cover arrived in Kingston, Ont., 13 January 1876. The 5¢ RLS was accepted in payment of the three cents postage (illegal) and the two-cent registry fee. Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Harrison collection [2].

Since February 1875, the postal rate to the U.S. had been three cents per half oz. (the same as Canada's domestic rate), and the registry fee on a letter to the U.S. was five cents. An eight-cent stamp could have been used, but there was no eight-cent stamp available at the time. Figure 5 shows one of the alternatives.



Figure 5. Posted in Montreal, 8 November 1888, and addressed to Buffalo, N.Y. The single 2¢ and two 3¢ Small Queens paid the three-cent letter rate to the U.S. and the five-cent registry fee. There was no eight-cent stamp at this time. Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Harrison collection.

Starting 8 May 1889, when the registry fee on Canadian domestic letters rose from two cents up to five cents, the senders of registered domestic letters faced this same need for an eight-cent stamp. However, 1889 was not the time to issue an eight-cent stamp. The Post Office was interested in working off the no-longer-needed 2¢ RLS, and using up the stock of 5¢ RLS.

In 1893, the time seemed appropriate for issuing an 8¢ Small Queen. So, an 8¢ Small Queen was issued with an earliest-recorded use of 4 October 1893 [3]. This 8¢ Small Queen was the first Canadian stamp that was **intended** to pay both the postage and the registration.

The 8¢ Small Queen had Her Majesty facing to the left instead of the right as was the case with the other Small Queen values. Figure 6 shows the new 8¢ Small Queen, enlarged about twice.

Figure 6. The 8¢ Small Queen, Canada's first eight-cent stamp, issued to pay postage and registration on a base (minimum) rate, registered domestic letter.



The covers illustrated in Figures 1-5 were felicitous accidents: none of the stamps used had been intentionally issued to pay the combined registration and postage rates. The 8¢ Small Queen shown in Figure 7 was properly used for the reason it was issued.



Figure 7. Registered in Pincher Creek, Alta, 3 September 1896, and addressed to Winnipeg, Man. Alberta was not yet a province at this time, so this is an Alberta territorial cover. The cover shows single-stamp usage of the 8¢ Small Queen paying three cents postage and the five-cent registry fee, the purpose for which it was issued.

Registered drop letters

Figures 2–5 and 7 all showed regular three-cent letter rates, but there was also a one-cent drop letter rate. (A drop letter is a letter that is dropped off and picked up at the same post office).

When the Large Queen stamps appeared in 1868, letter writers quickly recognized that a one-cent drop letter and two cents for registration could be paid with a 3¢ Large Queen. This possibility continued into the Small Queen era until 8 May 1889 when the registry fee became five cents. Figure 8 shows an 1877 registered drop letter. Notice the bold straight line REGISTERED.



Figure 8. A registered one-cent drop letter at Toronto, February 1, 1877. The one-cent postage and two cents registration were paid with a 3¢ Small Queen. Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Harrison collection.

When the registry fee became five cents on 8 May 1889, the one-cent drop letter rate was still in effect. Now, for drop letters the combined postage and registration could be paid with a 6¢ Small Queen.

Figure 9 shows an example of this. The Peerless Manufacturing Co. might have sent a bill or a legal notice to William Fullerton and registered the one-cent drop letter to have evidence of delivery. Notice the change in markings. The straight line REGISTERED had been replaced by the R-in-oval in early 1886 [4, p. 42].

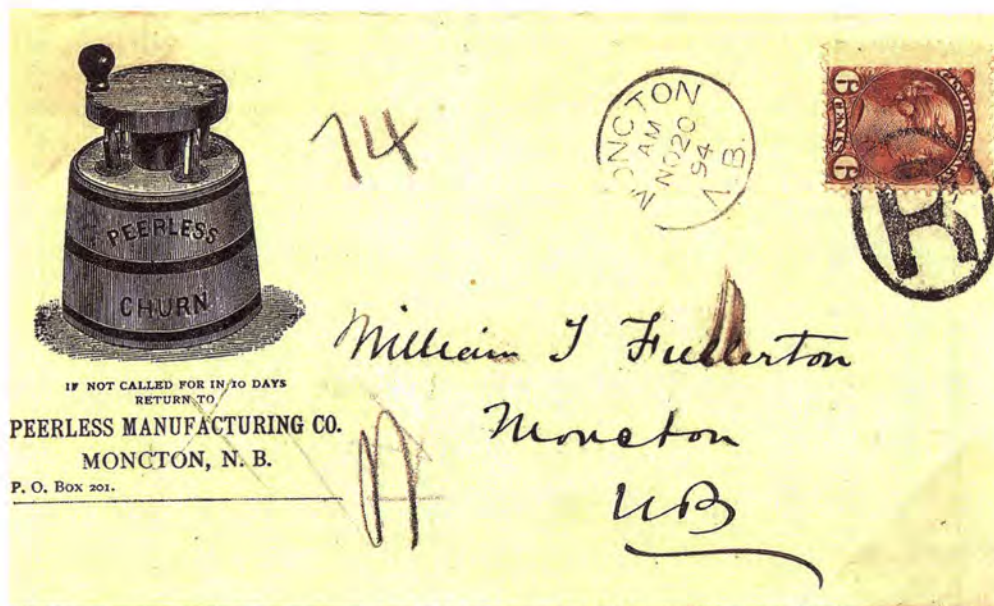


Figure 9. A registered one-cent drop letter at Moncton, N.B., 20 November 1894. The one-cent postage and five-cent registry fee were paid with the 6¢ Small Queen. Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Harrison collection.

Registered international letters

First, chronologically, we have a fantastic exception, an 1877 post card to England subject to the eight-cent registry fee. Both the front and back of the card are illustrated in *Early Canada Post Cards, 1871–1911* [5, p. 115]. This postal stationery postcard, the 1¢ P2 shown in Figure 10, was a legal notice being sent registered to domestic addresses. To get it to the English address, registered, a 10¢ Small Queen was pasted over the Queen’s image, voiding the one-cent value of the postcard, but paying both postage and registration.

This card was sold by Robert A. Lee Auctions on 8 May 1999. With an estimate of \$7,000, the card went for \$23,115 CDN, including a 15% buyer’s premium. Harrison, the under bidder, wrote “This high realization takes only two idiots, one slightly less daft than the other.” [1, p. 343].

Next, we consider letters subject to a five cents per half oz. postal rate and a five-cent registry fee. This combination appeared 1 January 1878, when the registry fee on letters to the United Kingdom became five cents, with the postal rate already the preferred five-cent rate.

The five cents, five-cent combination became valid on 1 August 1878 for the Universal Postal Union. The 10¢ Small Queen, which could pay these two five-cent charges, was ready, having been issued in 1874, with an earliest-reported use of 2 November 1874 [3]. A UPU example of single-stamp usage of the 10¢ Small Queen is provided by the 1897 registered cover to Mexico in Figure 11. This possibility of ten-cent single stamp usage continued into the Admiral issue.



Figure 10. A Canada Post Card registered in Montreal, 28 September 1877 and addressed to England. The 10¢ Small Queen paid the two-cent postcard rate to England, and the eight-cent registry fee. Courtesy of Robert A. Lee Auctions, Lussey collection.



Figure 11. Registered in Ayr, Ont., 7 May 1897 and addressed to Mexico. The 10¢ Small Queen paid the five cents UPU postage and the five-cent registration charge. Courtesy Jean and Bill Walton, Harrison collection.

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- [1] Harrison, Arfken and Lussey, *Canada's Registered Mail, 1802–1909*, The Collectors' Club of Chicago, 2002.
- [2] Jean and Bill Walton, *Registered Covers: 1875–1911*, Horace Harrison Exhibits, BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 30, 2003.
- [3] BNAPS Small Queen Study Group, "Small Queen Dates of Earliest Reported Use", *BNA Topics*, Vol. 56, pp. 48-53, January–March 1999.
- [4] Arfken and Pawluk, *A Canadian Postal History, 1897–1911*, BNAPS, 2006.
- [5] Arfken, *Early Canada Post Cards, 1871–1911*, BNAPS, 2004.
- [6] Smith and Wawrukiewicz, Canada, *Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees, 1870–1999*, The Press for Philately, 2000.

(To be continued)

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The activities, for those who wish to tour central Alberta and the Royal Tyrell Museum (dinosaurs), will begin Thursday morning, August 30th. The regular show activities begin Thursday evening with Registration and mounting exhibits. The show opens Friday morning at 10am. The major activities include the Past-Presidents Reception Friday evening after which there will be small group, no-host dinners. Saturday evening we will ride the Calgary LRT train to the Calgary Zoo for a BBQ and Sunday evening is the Awards Banquet. For the spouses there is some activity to participate in every day. During the show there will be the usual Study Group seminars, a chance to meet the Editors, the Judge's Critique, etc. On Monday there will be a guided tour of the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary; and the world famous Banff National Park in the Rocky Mountains is nearby for an extended holiday. So there will be lots for everyone to do.

The BNAPEX show is being hosted by CALTAPEX. Daily cacheted covers with special stamps will be available. Major Dealers in BNA Philately and Postcards will be there to serve you.

Travelling philately

Small post offices in southern Nova Scotia add lots of interest to a road trip

Mike Street

EVERYONE knows that, with its rocky shores, magnificent lighthouse, and views to the open Atlantic Ocean, Peggy's Cove is one of Nova Scotia's most scenic locations. Many visitors are pleased to find that if they stop at the gift shop and restaurant (try the chowder!) at the base of the lighthouse, they can also have a stamped postcard cancelled with a postmark containing an image of the lighthouse. Two examples are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Peggy's Cove, NS cancellations from 1976 and 2006.

What travellers often don't know is that many other post offices in Nova Scotia have special postmarks commemorating local sights, events, or personages. In this article, we will see a sampling from the southern end of the province and the Annapolis Valley.

About the middle of the southern shore of Nova Scotia are the Pubnicos, a group of seven towns and villages on the shore of Pubnico Harbour, a long reach opening out to the Atlantic. The town of West Pubnico is proud of the fact that it has maintained its Acadian heritage for more than 350 years, and celebrates this with the cancellation shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2.

Keywords & phrases: Postmarks, hand stamp, commemorative cancellations
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Figure 3.

About midnight on 4 October 1967, a bright light was seen over the water near Shag Harbour, a fishing hamlet southeast of the Pubnicos, almost at the very tip of the province. The object dropped quickly and hit the water with lots of noise and a bright flash. Ever since, Shag Harbour has been high on the must-see list of people interested in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). The event is commemorated by the cancellation and cachet shown in Figures 3 and 3a.



Figure 3a.

Bon Portage Island is a fifteen-minute boat ride from Shag Harbour. The island's lighthouse was made famous by author Evelyn Fox Richardson's *We Keep a Light*, which won the 1945 Governor General's Award. The book tells the story of how she and her lightkeeper husband Morrill bought the island and lived on it with their three children, enjoying the isolation and the many aspects of nature, from raging storms that shook the lighthouse to spring flowers.

Bon Portage Island is now owned by Acadia University; whose Department of Biology maintains the Island and offers a Natural History Field Course there. The Evelyn Richardson cachet in Figure 4 can be obtained at the Shag Harbour post office.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.

In addition to its harbour and the fact that it is the eastern terminus of the car and passenger ferry from Saint John, NB across the Bay of Fundy, Digby is noted as the southern entry to the fruit-growing Annapolis Valley and home base for the fishermen who harvest the prized scallops offshore. The Digby scallops are celebrated by the shell outline and scallop dragger in the postmark shown in Figure 5.

Further up the Annapolis Valley, the town of Wolfville is world famous as the home of Acadia University, an institution that offers courses as diverse as engineering, theology and marine biology. Wolfville is also known for something else—its harbour! Claimed to be the smallest registered harbour in the world, it empties completely to bare red mud twice a day, due to the 16m (52 ft) tides of the Bay of Fundy. Figure 6 illustrates the cancellation used to celebrate this claim.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Across the bridge from Wolfville, between Kentville and the Grand Pré National Historic Site which commemorates the expulsion of the Acadians from the area in 1755, lies the village of Port Williams. The village, founded in 1760, is situated on the Cornwallis River, which is navigable eastward to the Bay of Fundy and allows small vessels to reach its 'Biggest Little Port in the World', proclaimed by the text and schooner in the postmark shown in Figure 7.

Cancellations such as those discussed in this article are not limited to Nova Scotia. Many villages, towns and cities in Canada have similar postmarks. On your next business or vacation trip, why not stop in at a few post offices and see what you can find? You may be very surprised. For more information on such cancels see Steven Friedenthals' *Hand Stamp Postal Markings of Canada* (available from the author) and Canada Post's *Stamp Details* magazine.

Full Disclosure: The author first visited Nova Scotia on an extensive car trip in July 1958. This was followed by a summer with the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve at HMCS Cornwallis, near Digby, in 1964 and a half dozen vacation trips starting in 1985. He acknowledges cheerfully that he is an out-and-out fan of the province and is looking forward very much to BNAPEX/NOVAPEX 2008 in Halifax.

Note: The cancellations shown in this article have been adjusted to fit layout requirements. Actual sizes (width first) are: Fig. 1 – 1976 – dia. 3.2 cm, 2006 – dia. 4 cm; Fig. 2 – 2.7 x 3.4 cm; Fig. 3 – 5 x 6.5 cm; Fig. 3a – dia. 2.6 cm sq.; Fig. 4 – 7.5 x 3.9 cm; Fig. 5 & Fig. 6 – dia. 3.5 cm; Fig. 7 – 4.5 x 3.5 cm. (2.54 cm = 1 inch)

Acknowledgements: Thanks very much to my daughter Alison and to Daniel Swim for the postcard from West Pubnico that gave me the idea for this article; to Gladys Swim of West Pubnico who went out of her way to obtain good strikes of the various postmarks from that area; and to my sister Lorraine who did the same for the Wolfville and Port Williams cancels.

Vignettes of the old west

12. The mystery of Manitou

Robert K Lane

DURING the nineteenth century, the names of many post offices in Manitoba were changed, sometimes more than once (see Robinson [1]). Sometimes it was done because a town was moved, and the post office assumed the name of the new location. Sometimes the move was necessary to locate the town on one of the new railway lines. There are other reasons, and there are combinations of reasons, but one common scenario was as follows:

A new settler established a homestead on land near an existing trail. The prairies had a network of such trails used by the fur trade and other local activities, prior to the formal surveys. One activity was the movement of mail traffic by stage.

At some point, other settlers, not on the trail, began dropping and picking up mail at this homestead, and eventually a post office was requested and established. The policy for naming of such post offices varied. At the time, the policy was to use a local Indian name, but in some instances, the name of the settler was used (for example, the Rounthwaite, Manitoba post office was on the farm of Rev. Rounthwaite.

Then came the railway. Countless different kinds of disruptions resulted from failures to accurately predict the routes. The post office variously named Sourisburg, Wawanaissa, Souris City, and Wawanesa is in itself an interesting story. The final episode involved physically relocating the town a short distance to the present site of Wawanesa, on the Northern Pacific/Canadian Northern rail line.

In the south central part of Manitoba, 50 miles south of Portage la Prairie, another scenario was followed, involving the post offices of Archibald and Manitou. The records [1] show that Manitou post office was formerly Archibald post office, until 1889. Mail addressed to Manitou prior to 1889 shows Archibald as the receiving postmark (Figure 1). One might have thought that this was a transit mark, en route to Manitou, but it was not.

But the town of Manitou existed long before that, a short distance from Archibald, and there was the RPO service WINNIPEG & MANITOU (W-190T), which was used during 1885–1886 (Figure 2). Perhaps it should have been WINNIPEG & ARCHIBALD?

Keywords & phrases: Manitoba postal history, Archibald, Man., Manitou, Man.

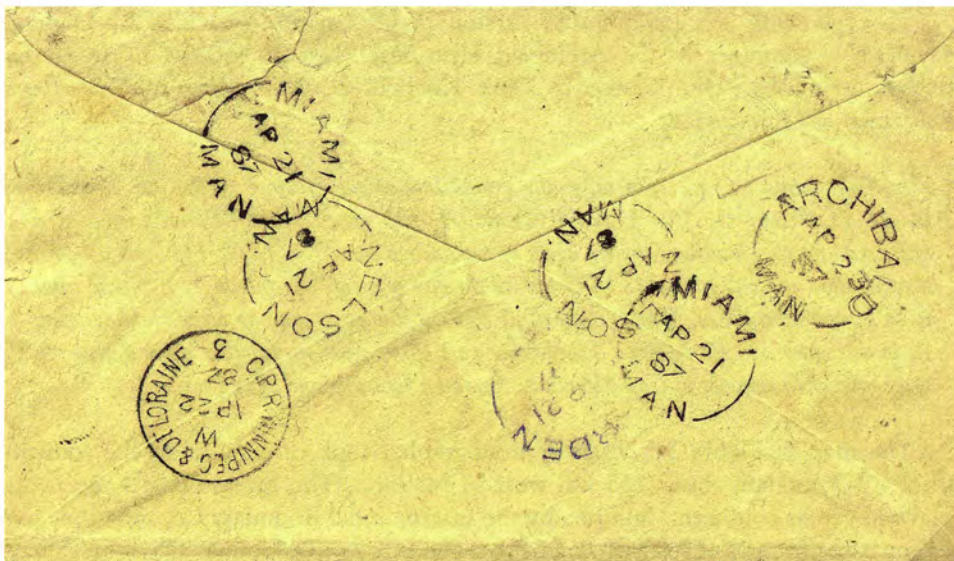


Figure 1. Cover registered at Miami, MB, addressed to Manitou; transit marks Nelson (1882–1908), Morden, W-178 (C.P.R. WINNIPEG & DELORAINES), with Archibald receiver, on AP 23 87.



Figure 2. Postcard from Morden to Nelson, Man. showing the W-190T, WINNIPEG & MANITOU M.C. / No.1, dated JY 13 86, EAST (this is the LRD for this scarce RPO, still three years prior to the establishment of a post office named Manitou). [ex-Robinson]

The following is a paraphrased version of information provided by Darlene Hayward, a volunteer at the Archibald Historical Museum located north of La Rivière, Manitoba. Her source is Felix Kuehn's book *Pembina Manitou 100th Anniversary and Reunion* [2].

Archibald seems to have been originally established at the junction of the old 'Brandon House Trail' and the 'Old Hunters' Trail'. A chap called Alex Bethune purchased a homestead on this location (directly north of the auction barns) in 1878. He built a home, a small store and on October 1, 1879 opened the post office of "Archibald". Archibald came to be known officially as "The Village of Archibald" but there were no other buildings than Bethune's store and Post Office. Three other post offices were opened that same day in the same area of Manitoba: at Calf Mountain, Pembina Crossing and New Haven.

The map in Figure 3 is from a photograph I took of a mural at the tourism office in Deloraine, about 155 km west of Manitou. The mural depicts the route followed across southern Manitoba by the International Boundary Commission, and is a must-see for any postal history buff passing through Deloraine. The locations of Archibald, Manitoba City, Manitou, Calf Mountain, and Pembina Crossing are shown in the illustration.

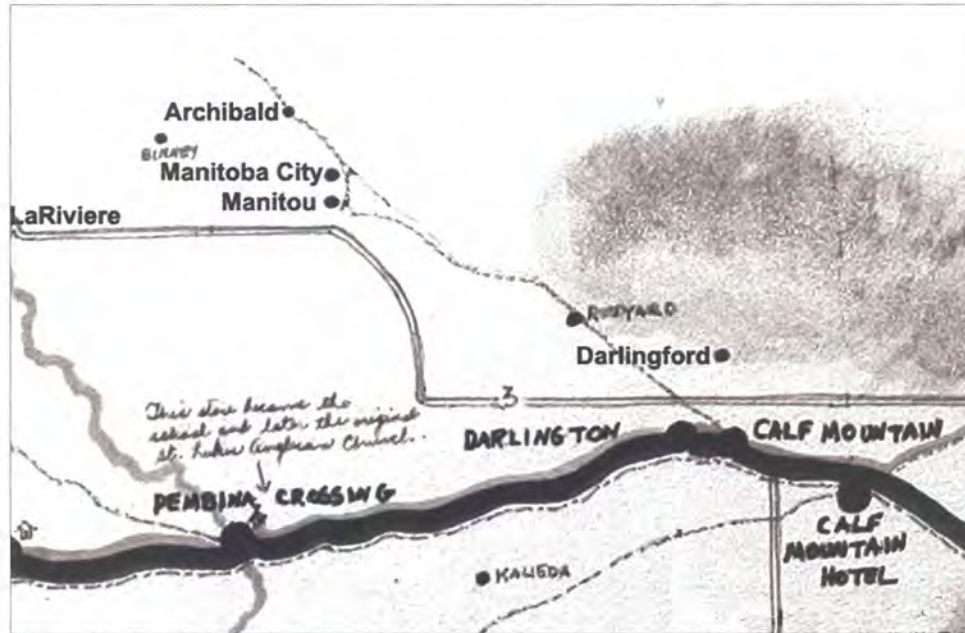


Figure 3. Image taken from wall mural map (Deloraine), showing locations of Archibald, Manitoba City, Manitou and LaRiviere.

Ms. Hayward continues:

Due to the speculation for some time it was thought (hoped) the railway would come through or close to Archibald. However, when it did come it chose a route to the south. By this time a new town site had been established to the north of where the tracks were eventually laid called 'Manitoba City'. As this area grew, Bethune decided to establish in Manitoba City and was located in 'Market Square'. (No indication of whether he physically moved the buildings). Thus 'Archibald Post Office' came to be located on Market Square in Manitoba City ... which for all its fame and fortune, never had a post office of its own.

The history goes on to say that "he eventually moved again south of the tracks to the site of 'Manitou' where he still was post master for some time. By 1892 he moved to Vancouver". Elsewhere in the history is the following: "In January or February of 1884 Mr. Bethune was once again one of the first to move, this time to the new site south of the tracks. Here his premises were located on the lot presently occupied by the Manitou Law offices."

The history also notes that "As a post office the use of the name (Archibald) survived until 1889, by which time the original structure from Manitoba City was on location in Manitou – and it was well into that year before the post office department finally got around to altering the name from 'Archibald' to 'Manitou'".

This lengthy delay is hard to explain. Archibald/Manitou was clearly an important portal for the mail. The cover in Figure 4 illustrates its use as a transit point to the railway for mail from surrounding towns, such as Kingsley (previously Grenfell P.O.) just to the northwest of Manitou. According to Ms. Hayward's source: "Even though there was a post office, Kingsley never was more than a school, church, cemetery and hall although there was a town site laid out so I understand".

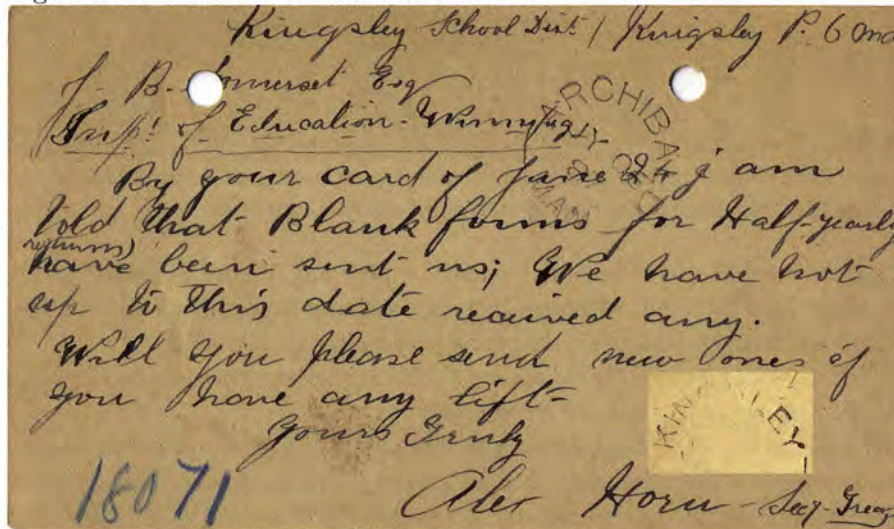


Figure 4. Back of postcard from Kingsley, Man. addressed to Superintendent of Education, Winnipeg, with Archibald transit mark dated JY 06 87. Inset is the faint Kingsley postmark from the front.

An example from Pilot Mound dated JA 7 85 to Winnipeg, with the Archibald transit mark, is illustrated in Figure 5. Pilot Mound is 30 miles west of Manitou, on the same CPR line. Although the CPR line was operating to Manitou by 1882, there were no trains west of there until early 1886 (Anonymous, pers. comm.).

The Pilot Mound mail was taken by road to Archibald/Manitou before proceeding to Winnipeg on the train. The earliest-reported date for the RPO services between Manitou and Winnipeg is March 5, 1885 but it is possible that it existed in January. Alas, no W-190T postmark.

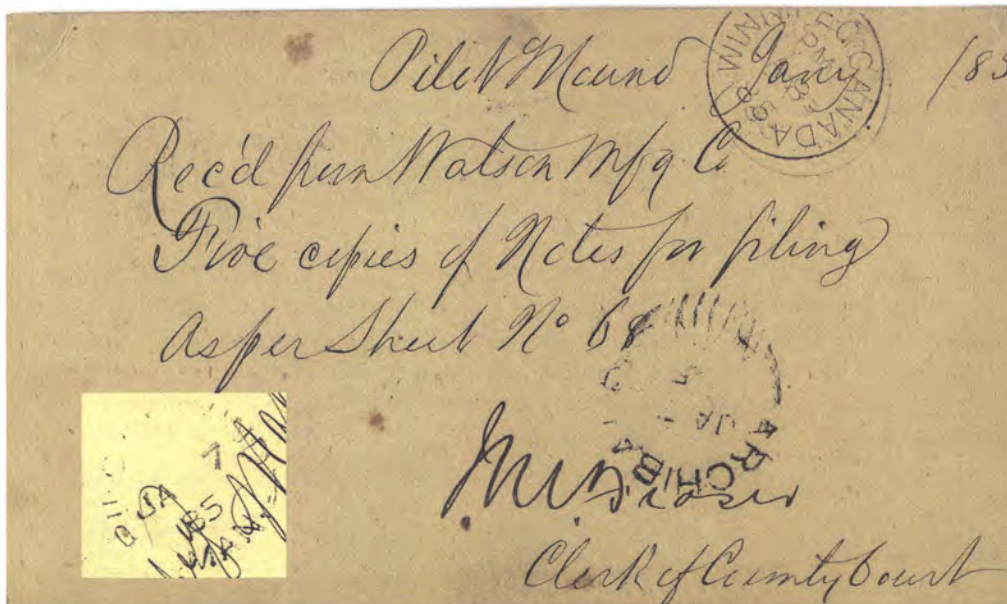


Figure 5. Back of postcard sent from Pilot Mound to Winnipeg with the Archibald transit mark dated JA 7 85. Inset is the Pilot Mound postmark from the front.

To add to the story, I recently acquired a postcard (Figure 6) dated 1904 sent from Manitou to the USA. Although there is a marking from a machine canceller on the front and partly on the back, the stamp is cancelled by pen – “JH”.

Back to Ms. Hayward: *"In the summer of 1885 Mr Bethune disposed of his General Store to Mr. Jos. Huston who also took over the post office."*

This explains the “JH”, and agrees with the records at the Canada Post Archives. Bethune remained as postmaster until he moved to Vancouver in 1893 and Joseph Huston became the second postmaster at Manitou (1893 to 1921).

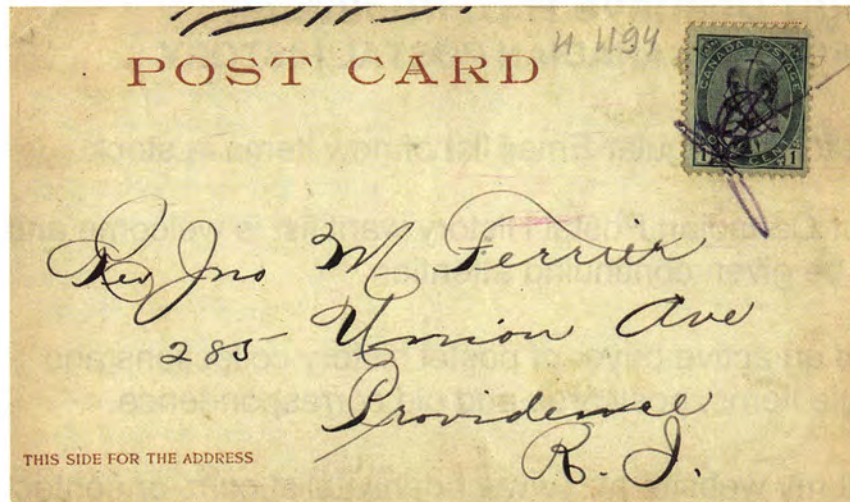


Figure 6. Back of Manitou postcard showing pen cancel.

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- [1] William G. Robinson (editor) 1988. *A Checklist of Manitoba Post Offices*. (series editor, William Topping).
- [2] Kuehn, Felix 1979. *Pembina Manitou 100th Anniversary and Reunion*. A local historical book.

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Ghosts of the 'Silvery Slocan'

Part 1

Peter Jacobi

THE story which follows will highlight the postal history of the communities which lie, or more realistically, which lay, along B.C.'s highway 31A, which joins Kaslo on Kootenay Lake and New Denver on Slocan Lake.

Geologically, the area is highly mineralized with lead-zinc-silver minerals that are visible right on the surface. As a consequence, mineral deposits were easily discovered in the 1890s, when American prospectors came into the West Kootenays searching for exactly those minerals. Deposits tended to be vein type, of occurrences that by nature are high in grade, but limited in tonnage. This was just the formula needed in the 'all-muscle-no-technology' era of the turn of the century, and the area flourished with mining activity. The map shown in Figure 1 highlights the established post offices of the Slocan Area, most of which are ghost towns at the present time. Philatelic material from these places is highly in demand and very elusive. The story will start with New Denver and follow the highway eastwards.

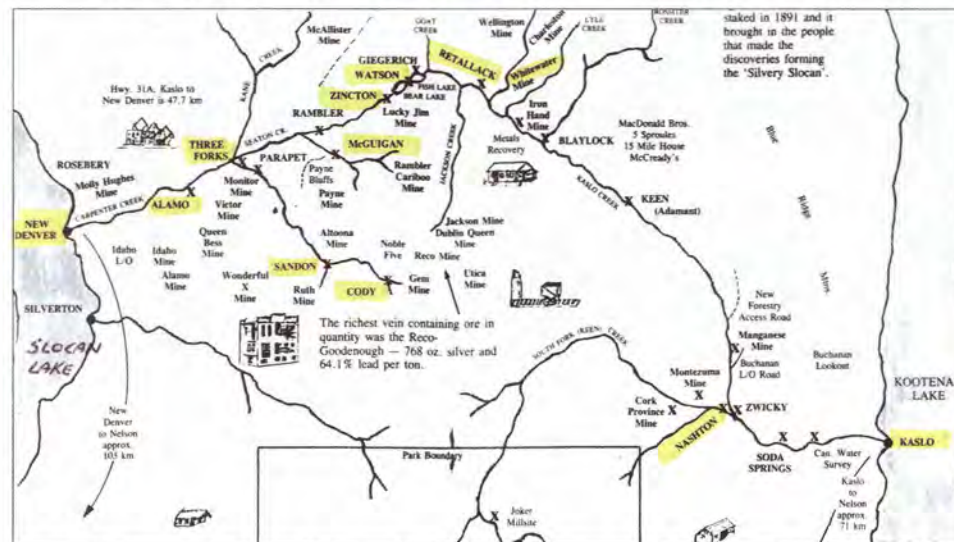


Figure 1. A map showing the area by provincial highway 31A, between Kaslo and New Denver. It is copied from Don Blake's historical booklet *Valley of the Ghosts* and depicts the most prominent mines in the Slocan, as well as the post offices established at that time.

Keywords & phrases: BC post offices, Kootenay, mining

New Denver (1 September 1892)

The town of New Denver is located on the eastern shore of Slocan Lake, approximately 13 km south of the north end of the lake. It is the western terminus of Hwy. 31A and originated as the wintering spot for a mining exploration team in the late fall of 1890. By the spring of 1891, a tent city had formed when hundreds of Slocan-area prospectors and miners had joined them. The original name, Eldorado, was changed to New Denver after the mining community in Colorado, and a town site was laid out. New Denver soon became a major supply centre for the Slocan. Its first post office was opened on 1 September 1892. All cancel types are known, except for a squared circle and a machine cancel.



Figure 2. New Denver as seen from Slocan Lake, circa 1893 (Provincial Archives Photo).

Figure 3, below, shows the New Denver split-ring cancel dated 20 July 1901, paying the new two-cent domestic surface letter rate for the first ounce. The addressee, The Giant Powder Co., was the first commercial manufacturer of dynamite in the United States and began production in Glen Canyon, California, on 19 March 1868, under exclusive license from Alfred Nobel. Dynamite was, of course, essential for mining and was a staple item in most of the general stores in the mining communities.

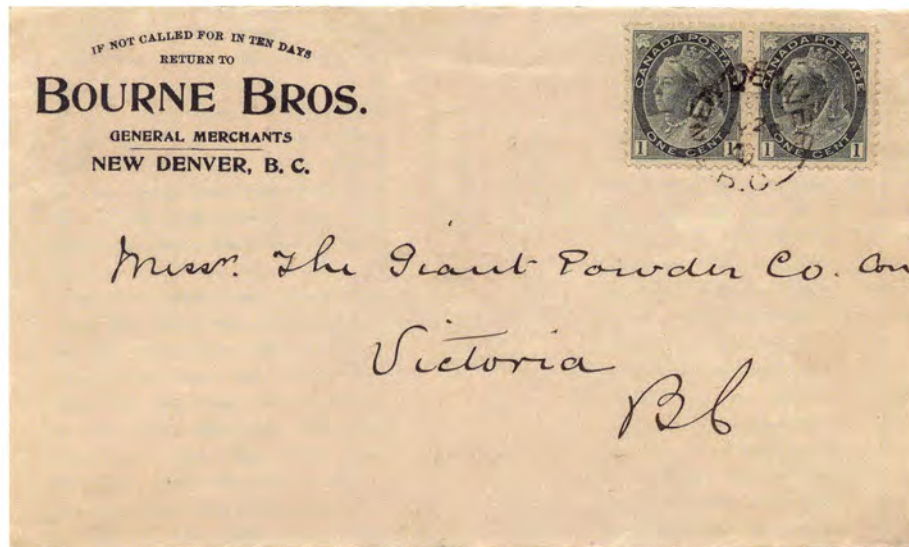


Figure 3. The New Denver split-ring used 20 July 1901.

Alamo (1 April 1899–30 September 1904; 1 August 1919–4 August 1939)

Located four miles NE of New Denver, at the junction of Howson and Carpenter Creeks, this settlement owes its existence to the establishment of a concentrator treating ores from the Alamo and Idaho mines, as well as the Queen Bess mine in 1926. A post office was established between 1899 and 1904, and once again between 1919 and 1939, corresponding to periods of economic activity in the local mining industry. Only a split-ring cancel is known for each period.



Figure 4. The Alamo split-ring cancel, dated 7 July 1926, from the second period the post office was open. The cover itself is the postal stationery envelope EN-29.

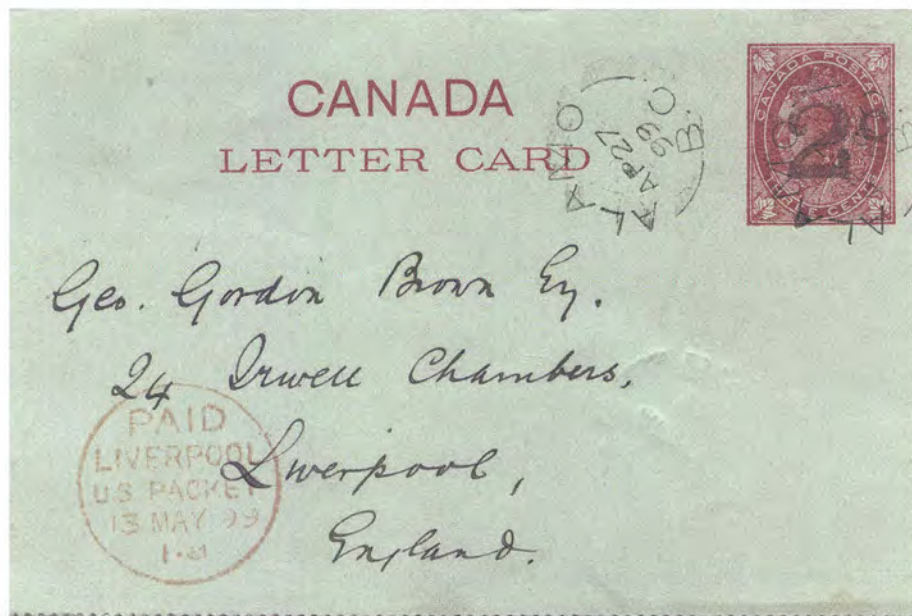


Figure 5. This letter card shows two strikes of the Alamo 20 mm diameter split-ring hammer used during its first period of operation. It is dated 27 April 1899 and addressed to England. A b/s shows transit through Sandon on the same day, and the arrival cancel at Liverpool is dated 13 May 1899. The two-cent rate was in use from 1 January 1899 to 14 April 1915.

Three Forks (1 October 1893–15 January 1909)

(1 March 1911–7 November 1917) (1 January 1921–31 August 1921)

Located five miles east of New Denver, the name is taken from its location, at the confluence of Seaton Creek from the east, Kane Creek from the north, and Carpenter Creek coming in from the south.

The combined waters of the three creeks become Carpenter Creek and flow westward into Slocan Lake. A town site was laid out in 1892 and became the first eastern terminus of the CPR's Nakusp & Slocan Railway.

The town thrived with construction of the railroad, ore freighting from the Sandon and Cody mines, and operation of the Monitor and Queen Bess mines. The post office operated during three separate periods, as shown above, corresponding to the peak periods of the town's economic activity. Only a split-ring cancel is known for all three periods.



Figure 6. Real photo view card of early Three Forks, addressed to Spokane, Wash. Cancelled 7 February 1912.

Three Forks — first period

(1 October 1893–15 January 1909)

Monitor Mine: George Petty staked claims to the Monitor Mine in 1895. The ore turned out to be a high-grade, silver-lead ore with additional high gold content. After having shipped 688 tons of ore with a value of \$69,000, Petty and his associates sold the mine in 1900 to an English company for \$125,000.

The new owners named the company the Monitor and Ajax Fraction, Ltd. and shipped 2,497 tons of high-grade ore between 1901 and 1903, with a value that totally repaid the original investment.

Queen Bess Mine: This property was located approximately two miles south of Three Forks, on the east slope of Howson Creek, and was owned and operated by the ‘Queen Bess Proprietary Co Ltd’ of England. Development began in 1895, and from 1897 on this company became a regular shipper of high-grade silver/lead ore. Over the ensuing years till 1951, this mine was shut down and restarted numerous times; worked by leasers; owned by no fewer than eight syndicates; it managed to remain one of the prime shippers of good-grade ore (50 to 100 ounces per ton silver combined with 50 to 75% lead in galena).

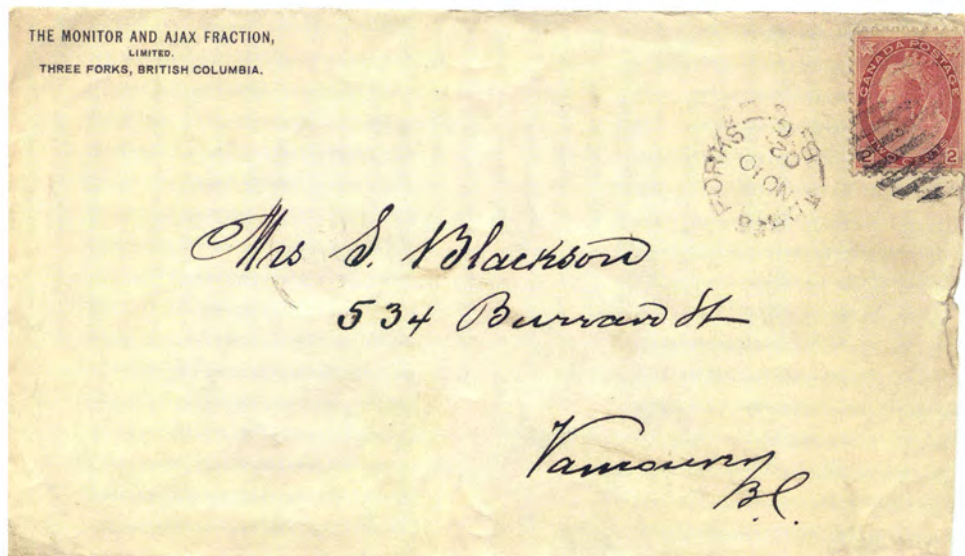


Figure 7. Three Forks split-ring dated 10 November 1902, during its first period of operation.

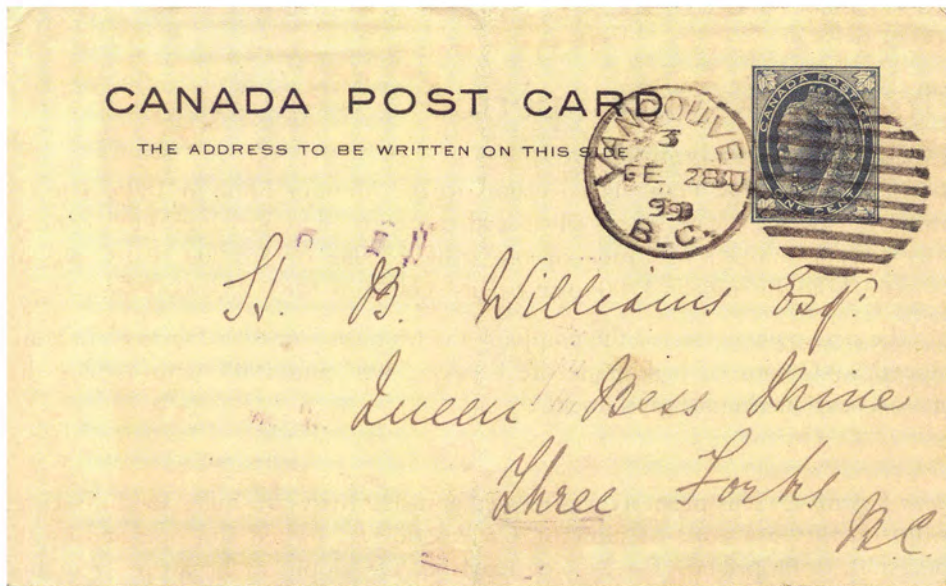


Figure 8. Postcard cancelled with Vancouver duplex DBC - 392 dated 28 February 1899 and backstamped Three Forks, 1 March 1899. It was sent by the well-known photographer Richard Henry Trueman's Studio with the message: *Dear Sir, We send you per today's express parcel of views of mine as per order. Hoping you receive them safely, Yours truly, R.H. Trueman & Co. (EMS)*

Three Forks—second period (1 March 1911–7 November 1917)



Figure 9. 'Slokan Hotel' cover dated 9 August 1911.

Sandon (1 August 1895–20 August 1962)

Located seven miles east of New Denver, the town was named after early prospector John Sandon.



Figure 10. General view of Sandon before the great fire of 4 May 1900, which literally wiped out the town. Photo by R.H. Trueman from B.C. Provincial Archives.

Sandon became a prominent town in the district because of the concentration of rich mining properties in the immediate vicinity. John L. Seaton discovered and staked the 'Payne' mine in September 1891, followed by the 'Noble 5' group on 5 October 1891. John Sandon staked the 'Slocan Star' group of claims on 8 October 1891 and early in 1892 Rueceau staked five claims above the Noble 5 group. These claims were purchased by the partnership of John M Harris and Fred T Kelly, who renamed them the 'Reco' and formed the 'Reco Mining and Milling Company'. The rest is history! The Reco became wildly successful and provided John Harris with the resources to become the father and benefactor of Sandon, which he did until he died in December of 1953 at the age of 89. Sandon's cancels were a split-ring, a squared circle, a CDS with large letters, and a parcel roller.

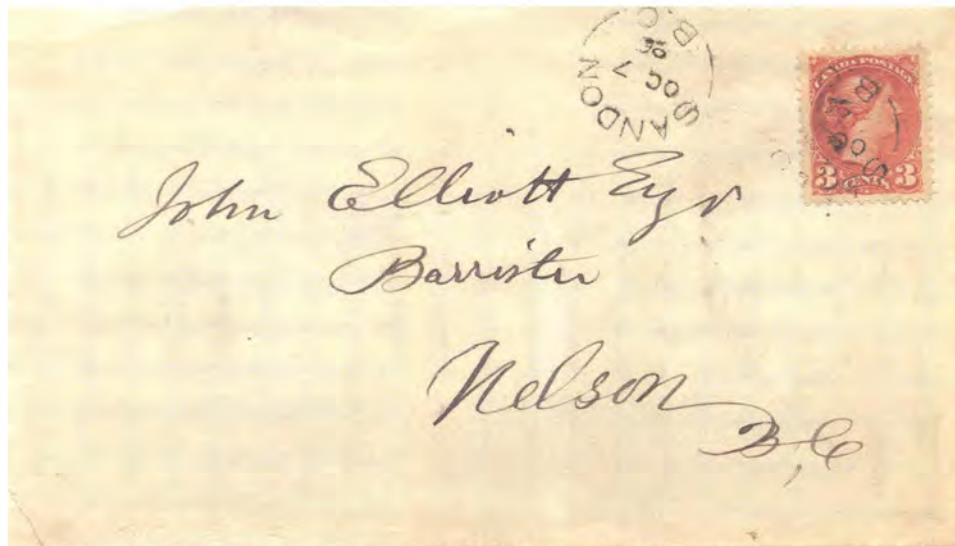


Figure 11. Early split-ring dated 7 October 1896, paying the first class letter rate of three cents.

John Morgan Harris was President and Mine Manager of the Reco Mining & Milling Co. There were three known veins, the Reco, the Goodenough, and the No.3 vein. In 10 years of operation, the Reco alone produced \$700,000 from ore shipped and paid \$287,000 in dividends.

The offices of the company were located in the JM Harris-owned Virginia block, which also housed the Sandon branch of the Bank of British Columbia

(To be continued)



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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-December 2006 through March 2007.

RPO Cancels The September–October issue of the RPO Study Group newsletter features the cancellations used on the Guelph & Goderich Railway Company (completed in 1907, and leased to the Canadian Pacific Railway). The RPO probably came into operation sometime between 1908 and 1911, and the last run was in 1955.

The results of a study of the many Calgary & Edmonton steel hammers are presented, and include a recent report from Rick Parama. The cancels used on the Temiscouta Railway and its successor, Canadian National Railways between Rivière-du-Loup QC and Conners NB are also described.

In the November–December issue, the RPO postmarks used on the run between Montreal and Ottawa on the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental Railway are shown. In 1882, the line (through Calumet and Montebello) was sold to the Canadian Pacific Railway and, after 1899, a line south of the Ottawa River, through Rigaud, was also used. Many different strikes (through 1958) for the various RPO runs are illustrated.

George VI Issue 10 of the King George VI Post & Mail has been received. Steve Prest presents Part II of his study of the stamps of the 1937–1938 definitive issue. As was the case for the 1¢ stamp, the 2¢ is found with different selvedge widths on the plate blocks, and on different papers with different gum types. The changes are shown as a function of plate number for the fourteen plates used for the 2¢ value between 1937 and 1941. John Jamieson provides illustrations of several misperforated (or mis-guillotined) copies of the 10¢ War Issue (Parliament) stamp, and also of a fully imperforate plate block. Pictures of misperfs on other stamps were forwarded by Jeff Wallace. John Burnett shows covers illustrating postage rates to the Middle East (Iraq, Palestine, Aden and Transjordan) and India during the period 1938 to 1942. Several other interesting George VI covers and usages are discussed by Hugh Delaney, Eldon Godfrey, Doug Lingard, Steve Prest, Mike Street, and John Burnett.

Centennial Issue The January 2007 newsletter has arrived, and it contains several interesting items. Len Kruczynski shows a rejected die proof of the 8¢ Library.

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 2, April-June 2007

Information is added regarding the previously reported plastic-flow variety on the 15¢ Bylot stamp. The flaw has been found on a variety of papers. Although the extent of the plastic flow appears to be constant, there is no consistency in the strength of the flaw. The reference table for the 5¢ Centennial coil is presented, and a minor clarification has been made to the reference table for the 4¢ coil.

British Columbia Postal History A colonial post office (Colonial Office number 8) was established at Clinton, British Columbia in 1864, and the Canadian postal system took over responsibility in 1871. The office is still open. The latest issue of the newsletter of the British Columbia Postal History Research Group shows a picture of a copy of the 2½¢ stamp of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, cancelled with the Colonial office “8” marking. An 1874 3¢ Large Queen cover, postmarked with a CLINTON BRIT.COL split-ring cancel (earliest-reported date of usage), is also shown. There are illustrations of some recent BC ink-jet, rapid-machine and hand cancels (reports from Ken Ellison, Ken Barlow and editor Bill Topping), and a report from Cecil Coutts that the colonial, double-oval New Westminster cancel from colonial times is still in existence.

Queen Elizabeth II An article in the latest issue of *Corgi Times* notes an apparent colour error on the recent 51¢ coil, and a missing colour on some copies of the 52¢ Year of the Pig stamp. Newly reported printings of the \$1.05 coil stamps, the booklet of ten 51¢ flag stamps, and the 93¢ booklets are described and discussed. Some of these printings are likely to be quite scarce. Georg Gelach reviews the “Birds of Canada” press sheets (1996 to 2001), and provides a list of possible gutter pairs and blocks that could be extracted from the sheets. The unsigned press sheets were sold at face value, and some were undoubtedly used ‘in period’ for postage. The indicia on the latest #8 pre-stamped envelopes (ten different designs) are shown, and compared with the original stamp designs from the 2001 and 2002 Tourist Attractions series.

Postal Stationery In the latest issue of *Postal Stationery Notes*, Dick Staecker illustrates many of the scarcest cameo-period special order envelopes. Several are probably known from a single copy. The latest post-office-issue postage-prepaid cards and envelopes are described. The 1995 small flag PCF indicium now has been found to exist in two different types; 23 cards are known with the earlier version, and more than 80 cards with the later version.

Military Mail Newsletter No. 178 features an article by Kim Dodwell on Canadian use, in Britain and northwest Europe, of the Type A-500 (crown-over-circle) censor handstamp from 1943–1945. In contrast to fairly common usage in 1943–1944 in Sicily and Italy, Kim notes only two known circumstances for its use

in Britain and only one in France. Bill Pawluk shows a cover bearing a large, red, circular handstamp receiver marking from a WWII internment camp in Alberta. Doug Sayles questions the pedigree of a censor marking and a CFPO dater. In the case of the censor marking, this elicited a response from Bill Robinson (in newsletter #179) indicating that it is likely a legitimate marking. Also in newsletter #179, Dave Hanes illustrates an uncommon use of “civilian” (Croatian) postage stamps used for sending a piece of Canadian military mail from Daruvar, Croatia to Canada in 1992. John Parkin sent along two WWI items—a picture postcard of the post office at Niagara Military Camp, and a photo of the First Field P.O., Camp Borden. Other items were contributed by Jim Felton, Colin Campbell, Dave Collyer, Colin Pomfret, Ed Harris, Ken Ellison and Dave Hanes.

Revenues Newsletter issues No. 55 and No. 56 have been received. In part seven of his series on Canada’s stamp-taxation of tobacco products, Chris Ryan presents a discussion of the regulations regarding the duty on cigars in the late nineteenth century. Examples of the excise and customs stamps used between 1864 and 1883 are shown. Peter de Groot presents the second and third parts of his series of articles describing statutes of Newfoundland “that required the use of stamps to collect fees and charges payable to the Crown.” Part II describes amendments to the *Stamp Act* from 1952 through 1990. This primarily traces the gradual elimination of requirements for (revenue) stamps to be affixed to particular types of documents. Part III outlines the fees required for registration of deeds from 1 July 1898 until 1 March 1969. Copies of two documents, one from 1947, and the other from 1963, are shown. Chris Ryan presents a ten-page listing of Canada’s bottled-in-bond liquor stamps. He traces their history, from 1883 until they were phased out in 1995–1996.

Newfoundland In newsletters #122 and #123, Barry Senior shows some truly spectacular Newfoundland perfin. There is a 10¢ revenue stamp with perfin ‘AYRE’, and a copy of a Canadian 2¢ excise stamp punched with the same initials. Such Canadian excise stamps were used in the late 1920s by Ayre and Sons to pay the Canadian excise tax on cheques sent through a bank in Canada. Then there are the colour illustrations of the only recorded copies of the ‘AYRE’ perfin on the 1931 50¢ airmail and the ‘AND’ perfin on the 10¢ 1933 (Labrador issue) airmail stamp. After noting Barry’s comments on the 30¢ Memorial University stamp with an ‘AYRE’ perfin in newsletter #121, Judith Edwards submitted a picture of another copy on cover.

From Robin Moore, there are pictures of two WWII patriotic labels, and of a 1941 cover with a tied copy of one of them. Colin Bulloch shows a ‘SPECIMEN’ copy of the 6¢ Queen Victoria issue (1868/1873) with irregular (or trimmed) perforations, and he requests further information on the item. Bob Dyer continues

his quest for items related to Newfoundland stamp dealer Rev. E.A. Butler. There are also pages from the ongoing presentations of Carl Munden's abandoned outports exhibit, Colin Lewis' Newfoundland postal history exhibit and Horace Harrison's exhibit of Newfoundland postal stationery.

Squared Circles The December 2006 newsletter contains another group of reports of new time and date markings. There are illustrations of several of the reported items.

World War II In *War Times*, issue #34, Charles LaBlonde discusses a cover mailed from Prescott, Ontario to the Red Cross in Geneva with a "DAMAGED BY FIRE & WATER" handstamp, and relates it to a fire that occurred in the hold of the *SS Scythia* on May 25, 1945. More examples of wartime censorship are illustrated in contributions from Chris Miller and Gary Coates, and a bilingual "missing enclosure" form is reported by Doug Lingard.

In issue #35, Charles LaBlonde describes what is known about a marking applied in Paris from early- through mid-1944. This undated machine marking was applied to covers from abroad addressed to the Red Cross in Geneva. John Cape-Monroe's list of Angus McMillan patriotic covers is augmented by Gary Sagar.

In a supplement to the issue, Bill Pekonen provides an introduction, outline and schedule for his ongoing series on WWII blackout cancels. Bob Vogel's series on cachets from the Toronto office of Bell Telephone shows that during 1943 and 1944 these monthly post card cachets became less-frequently related to the war effort.

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My favourite stampless covers

2. The end of the stampless era, illustrated by a letter to Henry James Morgan

CR McGuire Ron McGuire has spent years researching postal rates and routes of Canada and the Provinces before Confederation. This series will feature some of Ron's favourite covers from the stampless era.

It isn't often that you can pinpoint a significant date in the postal history of any country, so I have been extremely lucky to locate the two letters shown in this instalment of My Favourite Stampless Covers.

Contrary to what one might think, the era of the stampless cover in Canada did not end with the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1851. Actually, it was permissible to mail a letter without stamps, either by prepaying the postage in cash, or by sending it 'collect' at a higher rate paid by the recipient, until 1 October 1875, when prepayment by postage stamp became mandatory.

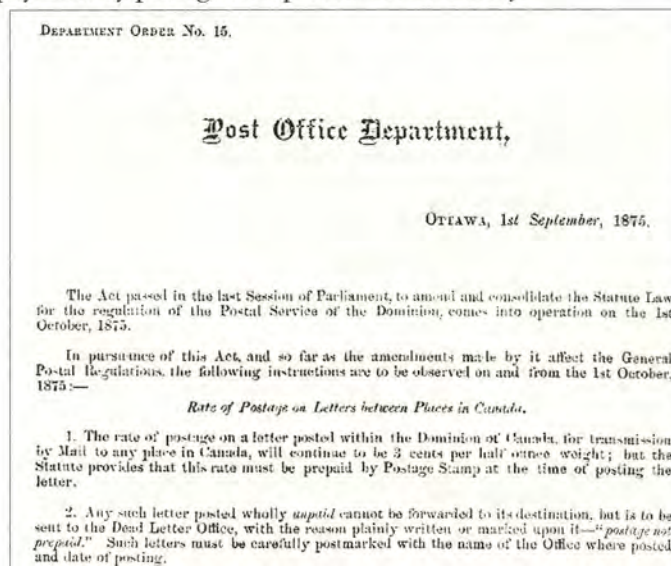


Figure 1. Department Order 15, confirming that on and after 1 September 1875, letters were to be prepaid with stamps.

Keywords & phrases: stampless, postal rates, Henry James Morgan

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 2, April–June 2007

Figure 1 shows the relevant portion of the three-page document, Department Order No. 15 of 1 September 1875, which announced this important change, first published in the October 1875 edition of the *Canada Official Postal Guide* [1]. The cover in Figure 2 was mailed on the first day the new rule was in effect, with a 3¢ Small Queen prepaying the postage.



Figure 2. Cover mailed on 1 October 1875, the first day postage stamps were mandatory on letters mailed in Canada.

I was extremely fortunate to locate, courtesy of Mike Rixon, an example of a cover (Figure 3), showing how letters mailed without adhesives were treated.

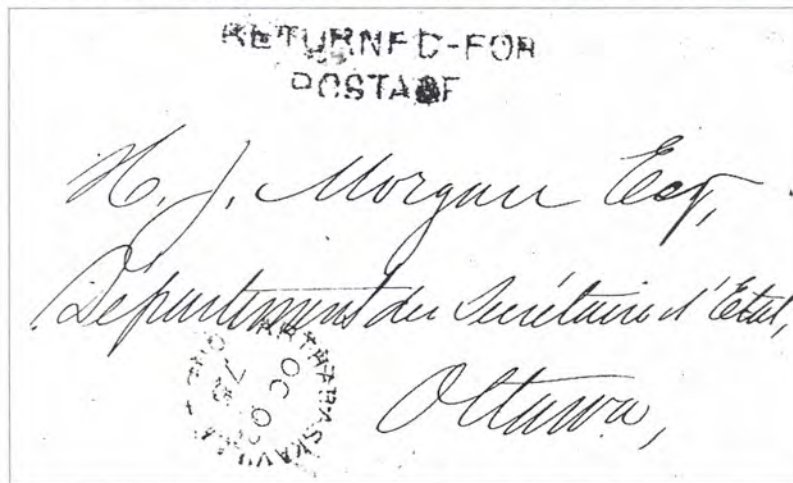


Figure 3. Stampless cover mailed 2 October 1875. Courtesy Michael Rixon.

The letter was mailed from Arthabaska, Que. to Ottawa *on the day after* the new requirement for mail to carry postage stamps went into effect. In accordance with point 2 of Departmental Order 15, the letter was sent to the Dead Letter office in Ottawa where it was received on 6 October 1875, as shown by the back stamp in Figure 4. There the 'RETURNED-FOR/POSTAGE' hand stamp was applied, and the cover presumably mailed back to the sender under separate cover; this even though the addressee was a member of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada in Ottawa! It appears that, in 1875 at least, government officials did not get special treatment from the Post Office.



Figure 4. DLO receiver. Note the indicia error 'W' before '75'.

One can argue that because the addressee was a government official in Ottawa that the letter could have been sent "FREE", in accordance with paragraph 1 of section XIV -Franking and Free Mail Matter - of the *Postal Guide*, which states, "All letters and other mailable matter addressed to or sent by...any Department of the Government at the seat of Government, are free of Canadian postage..." [1]. It is nevertheless fortunate for postal historians that the Postmaster at Arthabaska chose to treat it as an unpaid letter.

The story of the cover in Figure 3 does not end there. The addressee, H. [Henry] J. [James] Morgan, while an official of the Department of State, was also an author and publisher of many reference publications. His father was Robert Morgan, who fought with Wellington and, in 1837, came with the Brigade of Guards, to the Quebec Garrison in Lower Canada. Henry was born on 14 November 1842 in Quebec City. He began his public service career on 19 November 1853, as a page in the Legislative Assembly. He supplemented his small salary as a page by acting as parliamentary correspondent for several newspapers.

In 1862, he took a leave of absence to attend Morrin College in Quebec. After graduation, he held several progressively more responsible positions in the department. His career was again interrupted while he studied law at McGill in Montreal, and he was called to the Bar of both Ontario and Quebec in 1873. In 1888, Morgan was accused of using state funds for his own purposes. After several years, he was successful in clearing his name. Despite his education, Morgan's aspirations always remained with the public service, from which he retired in 1895, to devote the remainder of his life to writing and publishing. [2] [3]

I believe Morgan's positions and access to information were of great benefit to his avocation and his success. His first book, *Sketches of Celebrated Canadians*, was published in 1862. Like the majority of other titles that followed on a regular basis (see Figures 5 and 6), Morgan's purpose in writing was to promote the political and cultural condition of Canadian society and to publicize the individuals behind this development. I have often consulted his books over the years and have been grateful he had published them. As can also be seen from Figures 5 and 6, Morgan was a prolific user of Canadian postal stationery postcards.

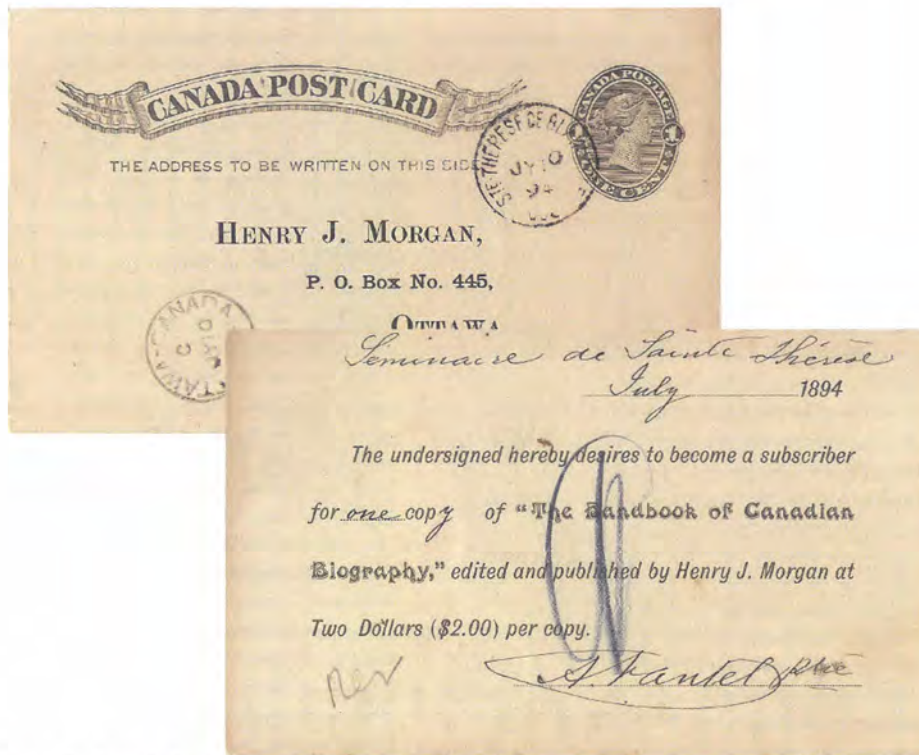


Figure 5. Postal Stationery card used in 1894 to subscribe to Morgan's *The Handbook of Canadian Biography*.

The Webb P14 'Rosette' card in Figure 5 shows that Morgan was not afraid to risk money by sending prepaid cards to prospective customers. The 'divided front' P18 Maple Leaf example in Figure 6, promoting his *Canadian Men and Women of the Time*, is an early example of approved advertising on the front of a postal stationery card. Interest is added by Morgan's handwritten crosswise note saying, "I cannot understand your conduct in this matter. Why did you order the book if you did not intend paying for it". The amount owed was \$3.25.

We are fortunate that Morgan's personal correspondence, like the well-known Rennie correspondence, has survived and is available to collectors. This valuable mother lode with its important contents surfaced in 1994, if memory serves. I understand it was found, in boxes set out for the garbage, by a picker in Brockville, where Morgan had moved to live with his daughter in 1913, and where he died soon after on 27 December. The long-stored and newly discovered 'find' was auctioned by a mainly house effects-furniture auctioneer in Ottawa. Through a piece of sheer stupidity on my part I missed a great opportunity to acquire a quantity that did not go to auction, but that is another story!

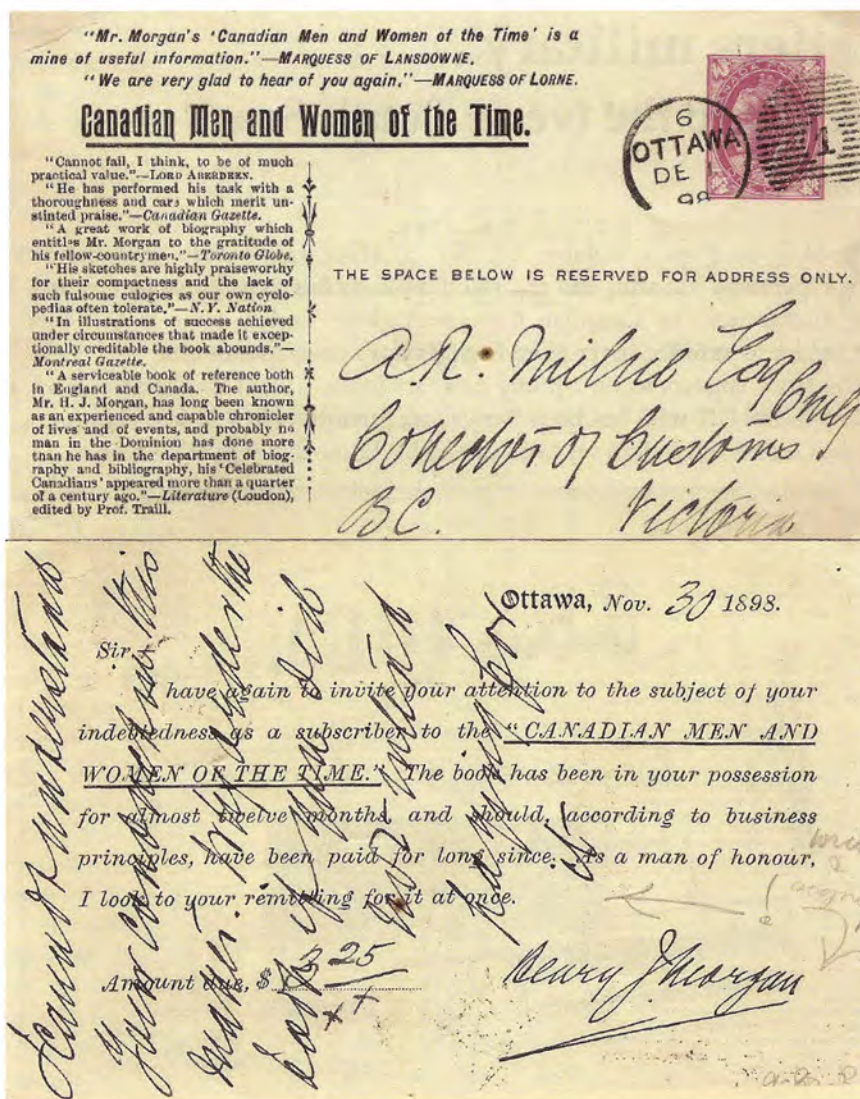


Figure 6. A postcard from Morgan, asking why the addressee had not paid for his copy of *Canadian Men and Women of the Time*.

References

- [1] *Canada Official Postal Guide*, October 1875, p. VI.
- [2] *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. On line at <http://www.biographi.ca/EN/index.html>.
- [3] *Who's Who*, 1902, *An Annual Biographical Dictionary*, Adam & Charles Black, Soho Square, London.

Matters military

1. A trip to the (very) South Seas

CD Sayles

BACK in Topics Volume 59, No. 1, Dave Handelman told the story of Operation Tabarin, and the role played in this expedition to Graham Land (Antarctica) by Canadian Captain Andrew Taylor. Here is a second, and much harder to explain, cover from Capt Taylor's correspondence.

The front appears to be a pretty ordinary letter, mailed 25 October 1943, to an engineer in the UK who has been 'Struck off Strength' (S.O.S.) and sent home. The letter was redirected to him via Ottawa and his home depot in Winnipeg.



Figure 1. The front of the letter to (then) Lieutenant Taylor.

Now, look at the back of the cover (Figure 2). It was received in the UK at FPO 687 on 17 November 1943. The directory service of the Canadian Overseas Postal Depot handled the letter on the 19th. There is no indication of where the letter spent the next five months, but on 10 May 1944 it became a 'Poste Restante' item at COPD headquarters. Such mail, if not claimed in 60 days, was returned to

Keywords & phrases: Graham Land, Antarctic, Tabarin, Poste Restante

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the sender. Lt Taylor did not claim his mail, so around 10 Jul 1944, it was returned to Canada, where it arrived on 28 August 1944 at the Ottawa Records Office served by MPO 318. The usual procedure for returned mail addressed to soldiers 'Struck off Strength' was to forward it to the appropriate District Depot, by using the rectangular redirection handstamp. That appears to have been done in this case. But we know the letter did not go to Winnipeg, because it was handled in Halifax 13 September 1944, and in Victoria 22 September 1944. And finally, we see the letter backstamped in the Graham Land Dependency of the Falkland Islands on 2 February 1945. Why and how did this letter travel to Halifax and Victoria? It is a complete mystery how the letter got from Victoria in September to the Falkland Islands four months later. The absence of any postal markings or any re-addressing suggests a closed bag or an over-enclosure of some type.



Figure 2. The back of the cover. Note the very scarce Poste Restante dater to the left.

Captain Taylor departed from the Falkland Islands bound for Antarctica on 29 January 1945. He was the leader of a party of twelve men, given the task of establishing a base at Hope Bay, at the very tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. He was also appointed magistrate of that part of Graham Land.

The party succeeded in landing on its second attempt, and established the Hope Bay base on 13 February 1945. It therefore appears that the Graham Land receiver was applied and the letter probably delivered at sea on the ship that carried the men south.

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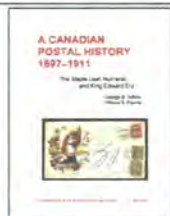
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Cover stories (11) — Acknowledgement of Receipt forms and cards used to foreign destinations

Mike Street

The eleventh in a series presenting unusual, rare, or otherwise interesting postal history.

IN 1996, David Handelman illustrated a 20¢ Peace Issue stamp on an Acknowledgement of Receipt (A-R) card addressed to China [1]. Although my Peace Issue rates collection included several A-R cards used to domestic and foreign destinations paid by the 10-cent Great Bear Lake stamp (SC #269), I had none paid by the 20-cent value. David's article set off a ten+ year search for a like card. On 26 February 2007 the quest ended when I was able to buy one on eBay.

First, some background. Acknowledgement of Delivery/Avis de Réception forms were brought into service by the Canada Post Office in the 1870s. Their purpose was to provide the sender with written confirmation of delivery of a registered article, usually a letter, to the addressee. Early forms were printed on a lightweight paper. In the early 1920s, these were replaced with smaller cards on heavier stock, and the English name of the form was changed to 'Acknowledgement of Receipt', presumably so the French and English abbreviations would coincide.

A-R forms/cards normally accompany a letter when it is mailed, but they can also be sent after the fact. Originally it cost five cents to send an A-R card with, or subsequent to, the original mailing. On 10 October 1921, this too was changed, to 10 cents when the card was sent with the letter, and 20 cents if sent subsequently. These rates remained in effect until 1953. It was the subsequent mailing aspect that set me off on my search for another like David's— his was the first I had ever seen that was paid by the 20 cent Peace Issue Combine stamp and sent after the original letter was mailed. In April 2007, a second A-R item to a foreign destination turned up on eBay and, a few days later, browsing items offered on Jim Miller's Canada Postal History website [2], I found another. A Cover Stories subject was born.

Paid by a 5¢ Edward (SC # 91), the A-R form in Figure 1 was mailed in a covering envelope on Fe 20/(19)12 from Brantford, Ontario to Constantinople, Turkey. Even with 1912 being a Leap Year, it is somewhat amazing to see a Turkish Post Office transit mark and a receiving cancellation from the British Post Office in Constantinople dated MR 9/12!

Keywords & phrases: Acknowledgement of Receipt, Avis de Réception, A-R

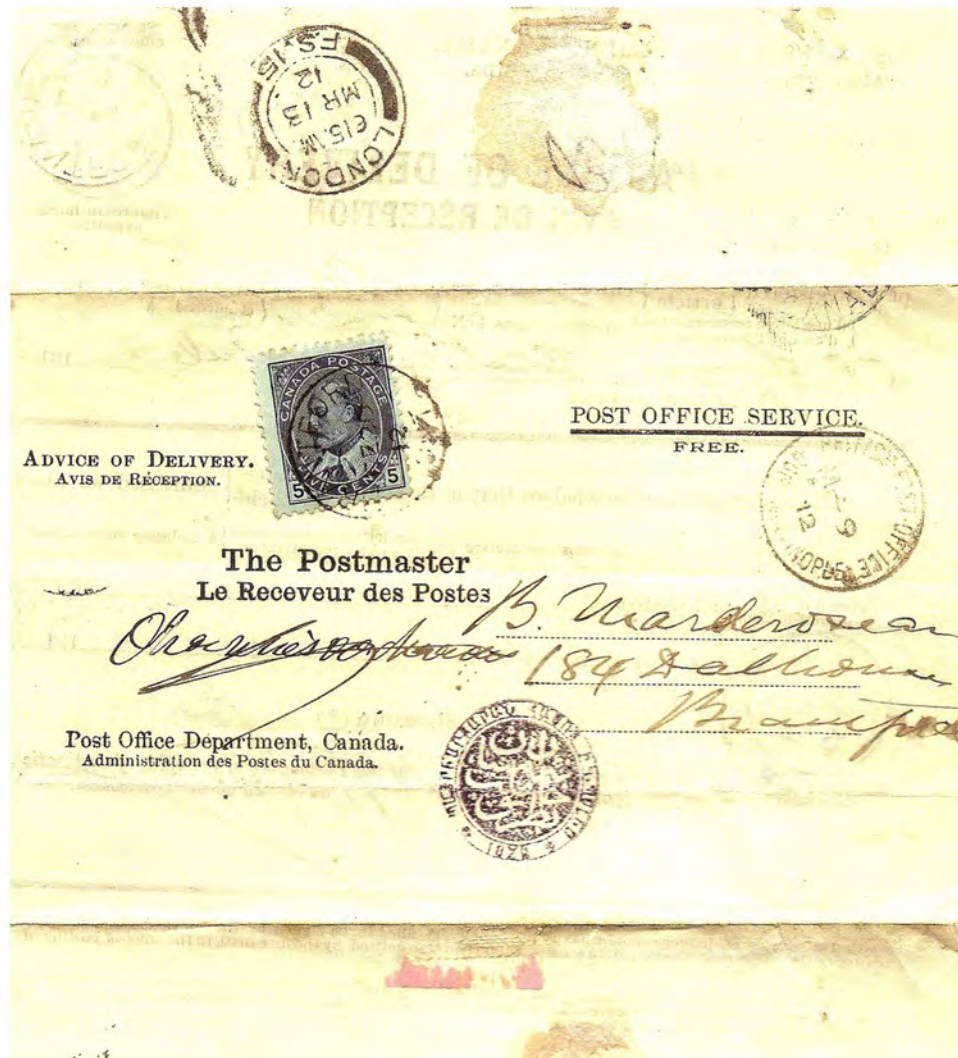


Figure 3. Mailing side of A-R from used to Turkey in 1912. Courtesy J.C. Michaud.

As shown in Figure 2, the British Post Office at Constantinople wasted no time, signing off and cancelling the confirmation side—although leaving out all the requested details—on the same day. The MR 13/12 London transit cancel on the front side suggests that the form then travelled to England by train—partly on the Orient Express, perhaps? From London, the form made its return journey to Brantford. Unfortunately, there is no indication of when it arrived back in Canada or at Brantford.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES DU CANADA.

Stamp of the office of origin.
Stamp of the office of destination.

ADVISE OF DELIVERY
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

Stamp of the office of origin.
Timbre du bureau expéditeur.

of a Registered { letter } entered under No. } 54 { and addressed to
{ article }
{ d'une lettre recommandée } enregistré sous le N° } et adressé à
{ d'un objet recommandé }
M. P. Charous at Constantinople on the Feb 20 1912
Acharoon le

The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered { letter } addressed as above
{ article }
Le soussigné déclare { qu'une lettre recommandée } à l'adresse sus-mentionnée
{ qu'un objet recommandé }

Stamp of the office of destination. and posted at _____
et provenant de _____
was duly delivered on the _____ 191_____
a été dûment livré le _____

Stamp of the office of destination.
Timbre du bureau distributeur.

Signature (*)
of the addressee : _____
du destinataire : _____
of the Postmaster of the office of destination : _____
du chef du bureau distributeur : _____

(*) This advice of delivery should have date of delivery filled in, be signed by the addressee, and by the Postmaster of the office of destination, date stamped and then transmitted, by the first mail, to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.
(*) Cet avis de réception doit être signé par le destinataire et par le maître de poste du bureau distributeur, après y avoir inséré la date de distribution, et l'avoir timbré avec le timbre à date, puis être envoyé par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

39 B.—50,000-28-4-11.

Figure 4. Confirmation side of the A-R form sent to Turkey.

The printing information at bottom left of Figure 2 gives the form number, 39B, date of printing: 28-4-(19)11, and quantity printed: 50,000. The latter sounds very high, but is consistent with similar numbers given in [1]. This 39B printing date was unknown at the time that article was published. Thanks very much to Jean-Claude Michaud of Halifax for these two scans and permission to use them.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES CANADA</p> <p>This side to be filled in by office of origin <i>Le recto est à remplir par le bureau d'origine</i></p> <p>REGISTERED ARTICLE <i>Envoi recommandé</i></p> <p>ENTERED AT THE OFFICE OF <i>Enregistré au bureau de poste de</i></p> <p>DATE UNDER } NO. <u>703</u> <i>sous le</i></p> <p>ADDRESSED TO } <u>Siu Yin Sun</u> <i>Adressé à</i> } <u>Sun Mei Doda Chen</u></p> <p>AT } <u>Canton China</u> <i>à</i></p> <p>39B—400M—21-11-46</p> | <p>ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AVIS DE RÉCEPTION</p> <p>Date stamp of office of origin</p> <p>To be filled in by sender indicate below his full address <i>A remplir par l'expéditeur inscrire ci-dessous son adresse complète.</i></p> <p>RETURN TO } <u>LUM PING</u> <i>Retournez à</i></p> <p><u>YOUNG SIGNS</u> <u>39 YOUNG ST. SUDBURY</u></p> <p>STREET AND NUMBER <i>Rue et numéro</i></p> <p>(1) PLACE OF ORIGIN OF REGISTERED ARTICLE <i>Lieu d'origine de l'objet recommandé</i></p> <p>CANADA</p> <p>(1) IN PRINTED CHARACTERS <i>En lettres moulées</i></p> |
|--|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>THE UNDERSIGNED ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE REGISTERED ARTICLE DESCRIBED ON THE <i>Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part</i></p> <p>OTHER SIDE WAS DULY DELIVERED ON THE } 19 <i>a été dûment livré le</i></p> <p>Date stamp of office of destination <i>Timbre du bureau destinataire</i></p> <p>SIGNATURE OF THE ADDRESSEE } <i>Signature du destinataire</i></p> <p>OF ADDRESSEE'S REPRESENTATIVE } <i>du représentant du destinataire.</i></p> <p>OF THE POSTMASTER OF THE OFFICE OF DESTINATION } <i>de l'agent du bureau destinataire</i></p> <p>(1) This advice should be signed by the addressee or if the regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the Postmaster of the Delivery office and returned by first mail to the address shown on the other side. <i>Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire, et renvoyé par le premier courrier à l'expéditeur, dont l'adresse figure sur l'autre côté de cette carte.</i></p> <p>(2) When delivery is made to the authorized representative of the addressee, both addressee's name and representative's signature must appear on this receipt. <i>Lorsque la remise est faite au représentant autorisé du destinataire, le nom du destinataire et la signature de son représentant doivent paraître sur ce reçu.</i></p> | <p>保 件 人</p> <p>1949</p> <p>POST OFFICE</p> |
|---|--|

Figure 5. 10¢ Peace Issue stamp paying for A-R card sent with letter to China in 1949.

The A-R card shown in Figure 3 paid by a 10¢ Great Bear Lake (SC #269) was mailed from Sudbury, Ontario to Canton, China on AP 4/(19)49. The Chinese character marks on the reverse clearly show that it was processed and returned.

It would be very interesting to see the full version of the transit or receiver cancellation at the upper left of the confirmation side. The card has retained the form number, 39B, used for the A-R form in Figures 1 and 2; the quantity of 400M (thousand) indicates that the service was still heavily used.

Figure 4. A 20¢ Peace Issue value paying for an A-R card, sent to Holland after the original letter was mailed.

The 39B card in Figure 4 is the one I waited ten years to find. Paid by a 20¢ Combine stamp (SC #270) and mailed from Toronto Sub-Post Office 144 on MR 30/(19)47 to Leeuwarden, Holland, it requested an Acknowledgement of Receipt for registered letter No. 790, sent from that office on Mar 17/47. As can be seen in the backstamp shown in Figure 5, the card was filled out in Leeuwarden and returned on 27 February 1948, almost exactly 11 months later!

Collectors of a certain age, which means most of us, will recall that the country of Laos was mentioned often in the news in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The A-R card illustrated in Figure 5 was mailed from Kelowna, BC to Vientiane, Laos on Nov. 5/84. The Laotian postmark shows that receipt of the letter was confirmed in Vientiane on 30-11 84. The card was then returned to Kelowna via Honolulu, Hawaii where, on the 12th and 13th of December 1984, it went through cancelling machines a total of nine times! This must be some kind of record for multiple handling for no added benefit.



Figure 5. Backstamp

Canada Post / Postes Canada

PM

Office of Origin / Bureau d'origine

Registration N° / no de recommandation: 5203

Date: Nov. 5, 1984

Post Office of Mailing / Bureau d'expédition: Kelowna, B.C.

Return to / Retournez à

G.W.H.
599 Poplar Point Dr.
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 1A1

Acknowledgement of Receipt / Avis de réception

To be completed at / À remplir par le

Office of Origin / Bureau d'origine

Name of Addressee / Nom du destinataire: M. Chan Orndorff

P.O. Box R.R. or Apt. No. No. & Street, C.P. / R.R. ou d'app. n° et rue: Entreprise Postale

City / Ville: Vientiane

Province / Province: Laos

Country / Pays: Laos

Postal CODE postal

Office of Destination / Bureau destinataire

This advice should be signed by the addressee or authorized representative or, if the regulations of the country of destination provide by the postmaster at the office of delivery and returned by first mail to the address shown on other side.

Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou son représentant ou, si le règlement du pays de destination le comporte, par l'agent du bureau de destination et renvoyé par le premier courrier à l'adresse indiquée au recto.

Date Stamp of Office of Delivery

The registered item referred to at / L'item recommandé décrit en

Signature of Postmaster at Office of Delivery / Signature de l'agent du bureau de destination

Signature of Addressee or Authorized Representative / Signature du destinataire ou de son représentant

33-086-230 (11-80)

Figure 6. A-R card used to Laos in 1984. Courtesy Jim Miller.

It appears that the card in Figure 6 replaced the Form 39B card seen in Figures 3 and 4. The printing information on this new style card is 33-086-230 (11/80); I believe this means that the form number was now 33-086 and that 230,000 cards were printed in November 1980. In 1984, an A-R card sent with the item cost 53 cents, and one sent subsequent to mailing cost 80 cents [3]. Stamps were no longer required – the customer paid the charge in cash. (Note: the actual 33-086 card is a deeper pink than shown. Figure 6 has been lightened to ensure that it will not be too dark when this issue of *BNA Topics* is printed.)

Response to Cover stories (10)

Figure 2 in Cover Stories (10) [*BNA Topics*, Vol. 64, No. 1, Jan-Mar 2007] showed a Centennial cover mailed to Lausanne, Switzerland. While the text said the item was mailed from Saskatoon, the cover clearly showed that it was mailed from Regina. Thanks to Dave Lacelle for catching this.

References

- [1] David Handelman, Avis de Réception, *PHSC Journal*, No. 88, 31 December 1996. Published by the Postal History Society of Canada.
- [2] Canada Postal History website: www.canadacovers.ca
- [3] R.C. Smith, *Selected Canadian Postage Rates*, privately published 1996, revised 2005, p. 6.

Submitting items for Cover stories

BNAPSers are invited to submit favourite covers for inclusion in this series. Please FIRST contact me by mail (73 Hatton Drive, Ancaster, ON L9G 2H5) or email <mikestreet1@gmail.com> (note the change in e-mail address.). Please do not send covers or illustrations until requested.



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The '627' Four-Ring Cancel

Wayne Smith

IN 1857, hammers with a design consisting of four concentric rings with a number in the centre were furnished to 50 post offices in Upper and Lower Canada. The hammers were numbered 1 to 52, with no 6 or 9. Others were ordered that year but, of these, only Nos. 516 and 627 are known to have been used prior to the Large Queen stamps being issued. The period of use varies greatly. About 30 per cent had been retired by the time the Large Queens were issued. Two-ring hammers replaced most of the remainder in 1869, so that only a few four-ring cancels are known on Small Queens.

The purpose of this article is to review data related to usage of the four-ring '627' hammer and to narrow down its likely origin. Questions remain, and I hope that more information from *Topics* readers will settle some or all of these.



Figure 1. An 1869 usage of the four-ring hammer from the Papineau correspondence.

Unlike most of the other four-ring hammers, the '627' hammer was placed in reserve, and not used for many years after being made. Based on recorded covers I've noted (see Table 1 for more details), the known period of use is 22 AU 1867 to 5 AU 1870. This tabulation includes two covers with 1859 issue stamps and twelve with Large Queens. Three of the Large Queen covers are to one correspondent and all the others to different addressees.

Keywords & phrases: four-ring cancels, railway post offices

BNA Topics, Volume 64, Number 2, April–June 2007

Early theories about usage of this hammer suggested it was used within government offices. The fact that known early usages follow closely on Canadian confederation and the creation of parliament in Ottawa, combined with the fact that 10 of the 12 Large Queen covers have some indicator of originating within an Ottawa government office, supports this theory. While the fact that neither of the 1859 issue covers nor the two Large Queen issue covers have a government office indicator does not necessarily disprove this theory. Other theories exist as to when and where the hammer was applied.

In an article in the March 1976 (352) issue of *Topics*, Fred Stulberg doubted there was a true functioning post office in the Parliament buildings in Ottawa until at least the end of the 19th century. Stulberg noted that what apparently did exist was a mailroom that received parliamentary mail and, when necessary, applied a mark to identify its origin (e.g., *Senate, House of Commons*). On this point, I agree with Stulberg.

He continued: "From there it [parliamentary mail] was transferred to the near by main Post Office for processing. It was usual to apply another set of markings showing handling by this Post Office". He concluded that the four-ring '627' is a mark of the Ottawa Post Office. I disagree with this conclusion.

I have recorded 65 Large Queen covers with an Ottawa dated cancel before the end of 1870. This includes 46 duplex cancels, three covers with stamp tied by CDS, two grid cancels, six fancy '8' cork, two fancy leaf cork, three other fancy cork, two two-ring '8' cancels, and one with a four-ring '27' cancel.

Of these 65 covers, nine have markings indicating a link to government mail. The fact that these nine covers went through the main Post Office shows that not all government mail was stamped and cancelled within a special, government-only Post Office. In looking at the covers with stamps tied by the '627' cancel, 13 of the 14 have an 'Ottawa and Prescott Railway' CDS cancel only with no other CDS. The Ottawa and Prescott Railway postmark has no directional indicator.

My hypothesis is that once postage or a 'Free' marking was added to government mail, there were two options. Either it would be sent directly to the railway station, where it would be sorted and receive the railway post mark, and the stamps cancelled using the '627' hammer by the railway postal clerk on board; or it would first be sent to the main Ottawa Post Office where it would be processed and cancelled with one of the Ottawa post marks noted in the previous paragraph. Mail from the Ottawa Post office would be sent to the train in closed bags and therefore no further processing on the train would have been required.

The majority of stampless covers I have seen with the Ottawa and Prescott Railway cancel have it as a backstamp. In rare cases, four-ring cancels were used to cover over a previously applied rate or Free marking to correct the cover's status, but none with the '627' has been recorded this way.

It would seem unlikely that the Ottawa Post office would request a new four-ring hammer in 1867 while still using the four-ring '27' and other hammers.

I have not collected or studied Small Queen covers so can add no information on usage of the '627' cancel with these stamps.

I have seen a cover from Kemptville (a stop on the Ottawa and Prescott Railway route), with an Ottawa and Prescott Railway cancel, but without a '627' cancel as it had a CDS and target cancel prior to being loaded on the train. Since Kemptville was a small post office, its mail may have been sorted on the train thus receiving the RPO cancel.

Table 1. Known Four-Ring '627' Covers

| Date | Postage | Destination / Notes |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| 22 AU 1867 | 2 x 5c Beaver (2) | RPO to Lafayette Indiana |
| 9 MY? 1868 | 10¢ Consort | RPO – to New York – month is not clear, if correct this is an overpayment of new 6¢ rate. |
| 26 AP 1868 | 6¢ Large Queen | RPO to New York |
| 24 JU 1868 | 3¢ Large Queen | RPO and House of Commons cancel to Inverness LC |
| 29? SP 1868, | 6¢ Large Queen | RPO to Boston Mass. |
| 2 NV 1868 | 3¢ Large Queen | House of Commons cancel to St. John NB. Possible that cover has a RPO backstamp that was not noted by auctioneer |
| 21 DE 1868 | 3¢ Large Queen | RPO and House of Common cancel to Quebec |
| 22 JA 1869 | 3¢ Large Queen | RPO and Senate cancel to Montreal (Papineau) |
| 29 JY 1869, | 3¢ Large Queen | RPO and Senate cancel to Montebello (Papineau) |
| 16 AU 1869 | 3¢ Large Queen | RPO and Senate cancel to Montebello (Papineau) |
| 11 SP 1869 | 2 x 3¢ Large Queen | RPO and Privy Council in manuscript to New York |
| ? OC 1869, | 6¢ Large Queen | RPO and Finance Department cancel to New York |
| 23 JU 1870 | 6¢ Large Queen | RPO Department of Marine and Fisheries Ottawa – OHMS envelope to Portland Maine |
| 5 AU 1870 RPO | | Receiver-General of Canada to Manhattanville, New York (seen twice, noted once as AU 5 and once sold as AU 15) |

Prescott is on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, across from Ogdensburg, New York and roughly due south of Ottawa. Under my theory, any letter dropped off at a railway stop on the northbound trip to Ottawa should have an Ottawa and Prescott Railway postmark and '627' cancel. However, no such supporting cover is known.

While both the 1859 issue cover and the two Large Queen covers having no government marking does not prove that they did not originate within a government department, it does add support to my theory that mail (government or civilian) was being dropped off at the railway station for processing by the rail mail clerks.

Additional notes

As noted before, three of these covers are to one correspondent. These are from the L. J. Papineau correspondence. L. J. Papineau (1786–1871) won election to the Lower Canada legislature in 1809. He was a leader in the 1837 rebellions. Following a period of exile, he returned to Canada in 1845 and was later elected to the Parliament of Canada. He was honoured on a 1971 stamp by Canada Post.

The rarity factor of this cancel is crucially dependent upon its usage. Virtually every dealer selling a Large Queen cover or stamp with a '627' cancel lists it as a rarity factor 9 (10 is the maximum). This is very misleading. The four-ring rarity factor listing is based on its usage on the 1859 issue. With only two covers, and not many single stamps from the 1859 issue showing the '627' cancel compared to the other four-ring hammer usage, within the context of the 1859 issue the RF9 makes sense. However, within the Large Queen period, the '627' cancel is the most common four-ring cancel on cover. The next most common are numbers 7, 34 and 44 (I have personally recorded eight of each). Off cover, I have not seen it on the ½ ¢ value and only once on the 15¢, but '627' cancels show up fairly regularly on the 3¢ and 6¢, and is one of the more common numbers. Despite being more common on Large Queen covers than other four-ring cancels, these covers usually sell for a higher price. This is due partly to the assigned RF9 rarity factor, but also partly due to the fact that some four-ring collectors collect cancels on any issue. Consequently, when they can't get an 1859 issue cover, they collect a Large Queen cover. In addition, these are usually very nice strikes, unlike those seen on many non-'627' four-ring cancels on Large Queens. The RPO cancel adds another group of collectors looking for them, and the government link and its markings add further interest. As always, rarity, demand, and quality combine to determine price.

I would appreciate any information on the Ottawa and Prescott Railway, especially timetables or information on its railway mail service. Naturally, if you have any four-ring '627' covers not included in Table 1, whether they support or contest my hypothesis, I would be delighted to hear from you.

New issues

William J F Wilson

TO mark Canada's participation in the International Polar Year (IPY), 2007-2008, Canada Post released a pair of stamps showing two arctic-dwelling animals, one a close-up of the head of an adult male King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*), and the other a jellyfish (*Crossota norvegica*). King Eiders are circumpolar, breeding on the northern coasts and Arctic islands of North America, Europe, and Asia. In North America, they can also be found in winter south along the east coast to Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence; on the west coast, individuals can occasionally be found as far south as California. As is evident on the stamp, the adult male King Eider lives up to its specific name, *spectabilis* ("worth seeing, admirable, remarkable") and, if you get a chance, do have look at one.

Both the photographer, Kevin Raskoff, and Canada Post are to be highly commended for an impressive stamp and a beautiful image of the jellyfish, but unfortunately there is a glaring double error. Canada Post has misidentified the species, *Crossota norvegica*, as *Crossota millsaeare*. This is apparently a misspelling of *Crossota millsae*, which was recently discovered living at depths below 1000 metres off California and Hawaii, and was first described in the scientific literature by Erik Thuesen in 2003. The species actually depicted, *C. norvegica*, was first described by Vanhoffen in 1902, after being discovered off the coast of Norway. Both species were found in the Canadian Arctic in 2005. According to a note by Kevin Raskoff, (<http://maillists.uci.edu/mailman/public/cnidaria/2007-February/001299.html>), he supplied the correct name to Canada Post several times during the design stage, and was unaware of the error until he saw Canada Post's advertisement for the stamps.

In a first in Canadian postal history, the pane was produced with a gutter down the middle. Consequently, in addition to the regular corner blocks of four, the stamps can also be found as gutter pairs, and as a gutter strip of eight stamps, four jellyfish down the left side and four eiders down the right, with the philatelic information on the gutter separating the two columns of stamps.

Both stamps also appear on a souvenir sheet. Canada was one of eight countries participating in the IPY that issued identically sized souvenir sheets, all of which can be seen on the web page <http://www.ipy.dk/stamps.htm>. The stamp story on the Canada Post website states that "All elements comprised in this issue, including the pane of 16 se-tenant stamps, souvenir sheet and official first day cover (OFDC), feature text in English, French and Inuktitut." The images supplied by Canada Post on its website show the title, International Polar Year, in both English and Inuktituk

Keywords & phrases: new issues

at the top of the pane of 16, and in French and the languages of other participating just below that, but I have searched in vain for Inuktituk on my souvenir sheet.

The QE II definitive, first released on 16 November 2006, on Fasson paper, has since been released on Tullis Russell Coatings paper. The issue date is not known.

The information in the accompanying tables is from the Canada Post website, <http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp?stamp=stamps>, and from philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Where the number of lithographic colour dots on the stamp selvage differs from that published by Canada Post, the selvage is taken as correct. Size, perforations, and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) x (VERTICAL).

Table 1. 2006 Commemorative Stamps

| Stamp | Opera | Madonna & Child | Christmas Cards | Year of the Pig | Celebration |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Value | 5 x 51¢ s-t | 51¢ | 51¢, 89¢, \$1.49 | SH: 52¢ SS: \$1.55 | 52¢ |
| Issued | 17 Oct | 01 Nov | 01 Nov | 05 Jan 07 | 15 Jan 07 |
| Printer | CBN | L-M | CBN | L-M | L-M |
| Pane | 10 | 8 | 51¢: 16 89¢, \$1.49: 6 | SH: 25; SS: 1 | 6 (Bk) |
| Paper | C | C | C | C | C |
| Process | 11CL | 6CL + varnish | 51¢: 6CL \$1.49: 6CL 89¢: 5CL | 2 foil embossing; SH: 8CL SS: 9CL | 9CL |
| Qty (million) | 3 | 35 | 51¢: 30 89¢: 6.8 \$1.49: 6.9 | SH: 8; SS: 0.7 | 6 |
| Tag | G4S | G4S | G4S | G4S | G4S |
| Gum | PVA | P-S | P-S | PVA | P-S |
| Size (mm) | 48 x 27.45 | 24 x 24 | 30 x 35 | 48 x 26 | 36 x 28 |
| Perf | 12.5 x 13.1 | straight | Simulated | 13.3 x 13.1 | Simulated |
| Teeth | 30 x 18 | N/A | N/A | 32 x 17 | N/A |

Table 2. 2006 Definitive Stamps

| Stamp | Flag & Queen booklets | Wildflowers | Wildflowers | Wildflowers |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Value | Permanent | Permanent | 93¢, \$1.10, \$1.55 | Four values s-t |
| Issued | 16 Nov | 16 Nov | 19 Dec | 19 Dec |
| Printer | CBN | L-M | L-M | L-M |
| Pane | Flag: 10 & 30 Queen: 10 | 100 (coil) | 6 (Bk) 50 (Coil) | 4 (SS) |
| Paper | Flag: C; Queen: F | C | C | C |
| Process | 5CL | 5CL | 5CL | 8CL |
| Qty (million) | Continuous | Continuous | Continuous | Continuous |
| Tag | G4S | G4S | G4S | G4S |
| Gum | P-S | P-S | P-S | PVA |
| Size (mm) | 20 x 24 | 24 x 20 | 24 x 20 | 24 x 20 |
| Perf | Simulated | Simulated | Simulated | 13.3 x 13.0 |
| Teeth | N/A | N/A | N/A | 16 x 13 |

Table 3: 2007 Commemorative Stamps

| Stamp | Polar Year | Lilacs | HEC Montreal | Mary Pratt |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Value | 2 x 52¢ s-t | 2 x 52¢ (SS s-t) | 52¢ | 52¢, \$1.55 |
| Issued | 12 Feb | 01 Mar | 12 Mar | 15 Mar |
| Printer | L-M | CBN | L-M | CBN |
| Pane | SH: 16; SS: 2 | Bk: 10; SS: 2 | 8 (Bk) | SH: 16; SS: 2 |
| Paper | C | C | C | C |
| Process | 9CL | 4CL + varnish | 6CL | SH: 10CL SS: 9CL |
| Qty (million) | SH: 4; SS: 0.35 | Bk: 10; SS: 0.3 | 2.5 | SH: unknown SS: 0.3 |
| Tag | G4S | G4S | G4S | G4S |
| Gum | PVA | P-S | P-S | PVA |
| Size, mm | 40 x 30 | 34 x (25.6 max, 23.6 min) | 36 x 45 | 52¢: 50.325 x 40 \$1.55: 62.5 x 40 |
| Perf | 13.5 x 13.3 | Bk: straight SS: 12.9 x 12.7 | simulated | 13.1 x 12.5 |
| Teeth | 27 x 20 | Bk: N/A SS: 32 (curved) x 15 | N/A | 52¢: 33 x 25 \$1.55: 41 x 25 |

Guide to abbreviations

*number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; **Bk** = booklet; **C** = Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); **CBN** = Canadian Bank Note Company; **F** = Fasson; **G4S** = general tagging (four sides); **L-M** = Lowe-Martin; **N/A** = not applicable; **P-S** = pressure-sensitive; **s-t** = se-tenant; **SH** = sheet format; **SS** = souvenir sheet.

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Library and Archives Canada Philatelic Collections (31)

Cimon Morin

THIS column is provided regularly to publicise new acquisitions and activities within the Philatelic Collections of Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Researchers who wish to use LAC facilities should contact Library and Archives Canada, Reference Services, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0N4. Telephone: 1-866-578-7777 (toll free in Canada and the United States). Fax: (613) 995-6274. Internet: www.collectionscanada.ca. For reference enquiries, please use the Reference Enquiry Form (www.collectionscanada.ca/services/005-2021-e.php).

Previous acquisitions

Canadian Aerophilatelic Society fonds [philatelic record, graphic material] 1985-1987. 35 postal covers. 6 prints: postcards. Fonds consists of a set of 33 cacheted postal covers flown by Canadian/international hot air balloons during "Destination Canada '85", Ottawa-Hull, July 25-28, 1985, bearing country of origin notations, pilots' autographs and commemorative postmarks. The fonds also contains photo postcards of various Canada/international hot air balloons issued on the occasion of "Destination Canada '85", sponsored by Minolta, photos by Bob Burch. Fonds also contains two Canadian Aerophilatelic Society souvenir first flight covers carried on Canadian Airlines International inaugural flights: Vancouver - Beijing, China (Oct. 27, 1987); and Vancouver - Bangkok, Thailand (Oct. 28, 1987) [R4655]

Canadian Lung Association fonds - Christmas seals series [philatelic record, graphic material], 1927-1993. 298 panes of labels: proofs. 142 panes of labels. 167 drawings. 17 labels. 1 print: poster. Series consists of complete panes of Canadian Christmas seals issued in 1988 and 1989; complete pane of the 1941 French-language issue of Christmas tuberculosis seals; progressive plate proofs for Canadian issued Christmas seals; original drawings and printed seals; items originally retained by the Canadian Tuberculosis Association and later the complete panes and booklets of Canadian-issued Christmas seals for the period 1927-1987; panes of the

1993 Canada Christmas seals as issued by the Lung Association (designed by Raymond Boyer); panes of 1992 Canadian Christmas seals issued by the Lung Association (designed by Ulla Hakanson); complete panes of 1991 Christmas seals as issued by the Lung Association; complete panes of the 1990 Christmas seals issued by the Canadian Lung Association with designs symbolizing peace, spirit, hope and love; incomplete booklet of 1940 French-language issue of Canada Christmas seals. [R4540]

Canada Post Corporation records - Aero Club of Canada souvenirs [philatelic records] 1915-1919. 4 stamps, 2 labels, 1 postal cover. [Accession 1988-215]

Consort collection [philatelic record] 1851-1859. 2 postage stamps: essays. 3 postage stamps. Collection consists of 2 postage stamp essays of the 3 pence and 1 shilling Beaver, Province of Canada (1851), in black, as designed by Sanford Fleming, one 3 pence Beaver, Province of Canada postage stamp with partial Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson imprint on ribbed paper, bearing a number 18 (Kingston) target cancellation, one 1/2 pence Queen Victoria, Province of Canada (1858-1859) postage stamp, and one 3 pence Beaver, Province of Canada (1858-1859) postage stamp with partial imprint at top. [R4663]

Alfred P. Cook collection [philatelic record, textual record] 1935. 3 leaves of textual records: various formats. 1 postage stamp: die proof. Collection consists of materials related to the production of the Canada 1935 King George V low value definitive postage stamp series. There is a letter from A.F. Lascelles, Secretary to the Governor General indicating that the King considered the likeness of himself on the Silver Jubilee Cancer Fund card to be the best ever done of him (it would be used as design reference material for the postage stamp issue); a copy of the card referred to in the letter; a letter from Peter Calican, Deputy Postmaster General, indicating that he has enclosed a die proof of the 3-cent value to be issued, and that only six die proofs exist for this issue, and referring to the handstamp on the enclosed die proof; and the enclosed die proof. [R3846]

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For a Penny or Two...#4

The Two and One-half Cent Rate to Germany

Victor Willson

THE front of Allan Steinhart's 1979 book *The Postal History of the Post Card in Canada 1878–1911* illustrated the then-unique example of the 2½¢ preferential post card rate to Germany. This rate was negotiated prior to Canada's entry into the UPU and went in effect 1 April 1877, ending 31 July 1878. This rate was half that for a half-ounce letter rate implemented at the same time, the changes a response to the increasing competition from German steamship lines out of New York and the general commercial pressure for cheaper mail rates.

Shown in the accompanying picture is the second example of the rate. It is the same correspondence as the original find, with the same dater and receiver on the front. This card was mailed two months earlier than the first example on 12 June 1877, to Hamburg, July 17 receiver. This card was obtained in damaged condition, with a stamp removed from the face at the bottom right of the bust of Victoria. I have replaced it with a ½¢ Large Queen, quite likely the original stamp. Since the 1c was left on and is tied to the card, possibly a stamp collector wanted an example of a ½c, much less likely to be seen in Germany in 1877 than 1¢ or 2¢ stamps. In any case this is conjecture. Thus, neither card exactly represents the 2½¢ rate, as the original find is overpaid at 3½¢.



Canada's Caricature definitive series of 1973–1977

Samuel Rock & John M Hillmer



THE Caricature definitive issue of 1973-1977 (also known as the Prime Minister issue) ranks among the more interesting definitive series produced by Canada Post, primarily because of the many varieties of paper texture and fluorescence which were used over its three and one-half year lifetime.

The series consists of only nine denominations (from one to 10 cents), in from one to four formats (sheets, coils, booklets, and precancels), which brings the number of easily identifiable varieties to 22. Paper variations extend the total to 90 catalogued entities (one-third of these, mostly booklet singles, are not listed by Unitrade). Thirty-nine others have been reported and confirmed, but have not yet attained catalogue status. Fifteen more require confirmation, as they are documented only by isolated reports.

The reports on which this article is based have 15 sources, which can be put into five categories: (1) articles in philatelic periodicals; (2) booklets written by recognized specialists; (3) listings in one or more of three catalogues; (4) dealer sales lists; and (5) inventory tabulations of personal collections of several specialists willing to share their knowledge. The 15 sources are identified in the list at the end of this article.

The following three Tables attempt to bring together all of the data from the sources, thus giving an overall picture of our current state of knowledge of this issue. A Table cell is provided for every one of the 144 denomination/format combinations (plus two shade varieties of the 8¢).

Fluorescence

The Caricature issues carry a wide variety of fluorescent tagging. Almost all sources used the six-level fluorescence scale proposed by Gronbeck-Jones, with a few exceptions:

- Heyn, Schmidt and Harris did not use the NF (non-fluorescent) level.

Keywords & phrases: Caricature definitives, fluorescent papers

- Darnell uses only four levels—NF (dead), DF (dull), Fluor., and HB. For reporting purposes, Fluor. was listed as LF (but may include DF and/or MF), and HF was listed under HB.
- Schmidt used 10 levels (but not LF), but agreement with other sources was achieved by making the following correlations: D→**NF**, D+& M→**DL**, M& M+→**LF**, H-& H→**ME**, H+& HB→**HF**, HB=**HB**.
He also listed fluorescence on both the front and back of the stamp. This was disregarded; as one might expect, the latter is influenced by the gum.
- Beaudet reported that after removal of the gum, the fluorescence of the back reverted to the same level as the front.
- Unitrade lists no fluorescent varieties for precancels, and is ambiguous in showing these varieties for booklets, but not for panes or stamps from these panes.

Despite these variations, and the recognized subjectivity in judging fluorescence, the various investigators are in substantial agreement about the levels listed above.

There were also a number of other differences other than fluorescence, mostly in reporting paper ribbing:

- Gronbeck-Jones reported ribbing only on NF paper in his 1979 booklet, after having reported it only on DF & LF paper in his 1978 publication (he also reported precancels in his 1978 publication, but not in the 1979 booklet).
- Beaudet reported ribbing only on DF paper. His publication was apparently completed prior to issuance of the 8¢ and 10¢ denominations, which were excluded (as were all denominations of coils and booklets).
- Schmidt and McCann reported ribbing only on LF paper.

This is a work-in-progress, and additions or corrections to the contents of the Following Tables would be welcomed, and may be sent to Samuel Rock at 25 Oakland Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840 - or by E-mail to rock08840@aol.com.

In the Tables that follow, the meaning of the shading is:

| | |
|------------|--|
| Light blue | Catalogue listed by Unitrade, Darnell or McCann, showing the Scott number. |
| Light lime | Unlisted, but existence verified |
| No shading | Isolated reports, may exist, verification required |

The upper-case suffixes (N,O,D,E,F,G,M,H,B) have been temporarily assigned by the authors to identify varieties that have not yet been recognized by a catalogue listing.

If not catalogued, numbers in parentheses are provisionally assigned for tracking purposes.

Table 1. Caricature Issue: Cataloguing the Definitives

| Fluorescence | 1¢ | 2¢ | 3¢ | 4¢ | 5¢ | 6¢ |
|--------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| NF | 586i | 587i | 588i | 589i | 590i | 591 |
| NF ribbed | (586O) | (587O) | | 589ii | | (591O) |
| DF | 586ii | 587ii-iv | (588D) | 589iii-iv | 590ii | 591i |
| DF ribbed | 586iii | 587v | | 589v-vi | | 591ii |
| LF | 586 | 587 | 588 | 589 | 590 | 591iii |
| LF ribbed | (586G) | (587G) | | (589G) | | (591G) |
| MF | (586M) | (587M) | (588M) | (589M) | 590iii | 591iv |
| MF ribbed | | | | | | |
| HF | | 587vi | | 589vii | (590H) | (591H) |
| HEBREW | | | | (589B) | | (591B) |

| Fluorescence | 7¢ BABN | 7¢ CBN | 8¢ 12 X 12½ | 8¢ 13 X 13½ | 10¢ | 8¢ COIL | 10¢ COIL |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|------------|-------------|
| NF | 592i | (592N) | 593* | 593b | 593A | (604N) | 605iii |
| NF ribbed | | | | | | | (605O) |
| DF | 592 | (592D) | 593i* | 593bi | 593Ai | 604iv | 605 |
| DF ribbed | | | 593ii | | | | |
| LF | 592ii | (592F) | 593iii | | 593Aii | 604 | (605F) |
| LF ribbed | | | 593iv | (593bG) | | | |
| MF | (592Mb) | (592Mc) | 593v-vi | | 593Aiii | (604M) | (605M) |
| MF ribbed | | | | | | | |
| HF | | | (593H) | | (593AH) | (604H) | (605H) |
| HEBREW | | | (593B) | | 593Aiv | 604i | |

*also milky blue – NF (593vii) and DF (593viii)

Table 2. Caricature Issue: Cataloguing the Booklet Stamps

| Fluorescence | 1¢ | 2¢ | 6¢ | 8¢ | 10¢ | Booklet Nos. | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|----|----|-----|
| NF | (586aN) | | (591aN) | (593aN) | | 74 | | | |
| NF ribbed | (586aO) | | (591aO) | (593aO) | | 74 | | | |
| DF | 586a | (587aD) | (591xxi) | (593xxi) | (593AcD) | 74 | 75 | 76 | 76A |
| DF ribbed | (586aE) | (587aE) | (591aE) | (593aE) | (593AcE) | 74 | | 76 | |
| LF | 586ci | 587viii | (591ci) | (593ci) | 593Ac | 74 | 75 | 76 | 76A |
| LF ribbed | (586aG) | 587aG | (591aG) | (593aG) | (593AcG) | 74 | 75 | 76 | |
| MF | 586b | (587aM) | 591b | (593aM) | (593AcM) | 74 | 75 | 76 | 76A |
| MF ribbed | | | | | | | | | |
| HF | 586aai | (587aH) | (591aii) | (593acH) | (593AcH) | 74 | 75 | 76 | 76A |
| HEBREW | (586aB) | (587aB) | (591aB) | (593aB) | (593AcB) | 74 | 75 | 76 | |

Table 3. Caricature Issue: Cataloguing the Precancelled Stamps

| Fluorescence | 1¢ | 3¢ | 5¢ | 6¢ | 8¢ |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| NF | (586xN) | | | (591xN) | (593xN) |
| NF ribbed | (586xO) | | | | |
| DF | (586xD) | (588xD) | (590xD) | (591xD) | 593xx |
| DF ribbed | (586xE) | | | (591xE) | |
| LF | 586xx | 588xx | 590xx | 591xx | (593xF) |
| LF ribbed | (586aG) | | | (591xG) | (593xG) |
| MF | (586xM) | (588xM) | (590xM) | (591xM) | |
| MF ribbed | | | | | |
| HF | | | | (591xH) | |
| HEBREW | | | | | |

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Canada Post 'Presenting' cards

David G Jones

FOR thirty-four years, Canada Post provided customers with information regarding new postage stamp issues. Naturally, philatelists were the primary audience. The practice began in relation to Scott Nos. 362–363, the 1956 Pulp and Paper and Chemical Industry issues. At that time, the information sheet

was a small rectangular flyer, using the same paper and the same fonts as the lobby poster advertising the issue.

The format of these "PS14s" (what we might assume is "Philatelic Service document type 14") changed a number of times. This included changes in paper, in language (from separate English and French versions to a combined version), in content (some later ones contained a stamp order form). Use of colour in the PS14s commenced (appropriately, I think), with the Group of Seven issue in 1970.

As the 1980s drew to a close, the practices of the Post Office Marketing Department changed significantly. The decision was made to cease making posters to announce new stamp issues (a decision that had about as much stick as a self-adhesive note, as it turned out).

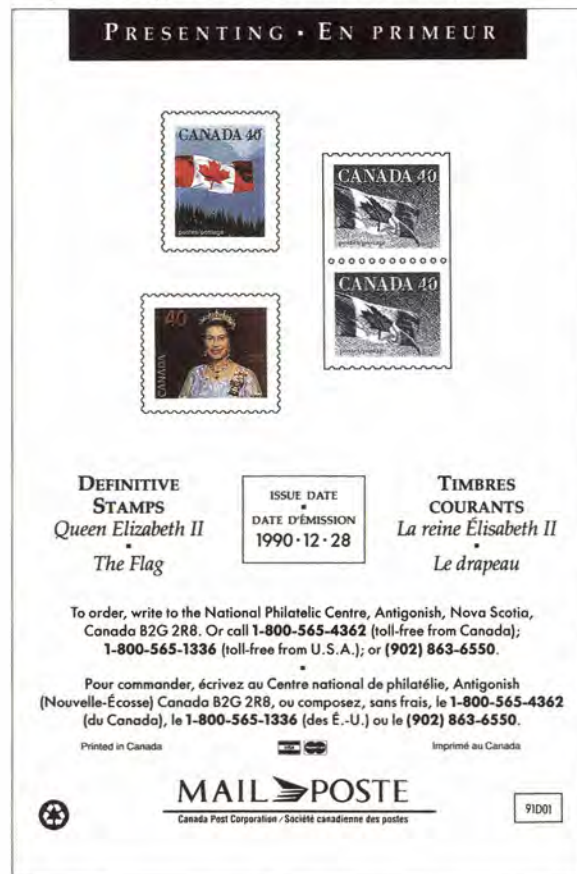


Figure 1. An example of the 'Presenting/En primeur' cards discussed in this article (reduced to 75%).

Keywords & phrases: Canada Post products, presenting cards

Not only did Canada Post continue the poster series, the PS14 received a name: It became "PRESENTING/En Primeur." Although it was still a colour brochure, it became a shadow of its former self. The format conformed to the original pattern but, in the dying days of 1990, "Presenting" posters became "Presenting" cards.

Over the next three years, we were treated to a barrage of new stamp issue post cards that seemed to be coming at us from all directions. They were available at the post office, mailed to folks on collector and youth subscription lists, and appeared with Post Office publicity and information packages.

In total, the Presenting cards brought us information about 59 separate releases of new stamp issues, stationery, souvenir collections, booklets and sundry other stuff, from the December 1990 definitive issues (Presenting cards 91D01, 91D02) to the November 1993 issues on World War II (93C13).

At this point, you are probably wondering, "So what?" Well, the so what here is the matter of variation and collecting challenge.

If you have a mind to gather all the Presenting cards together, you have your work cut out for you. As noted, there were cards for 59 releases. But because of the varied means of delivering these items, the actual inventory of possibilities is 193. Yes, one hundred and ninety-three. But that's not the total total (as it were!). Presenting cards also seemed to have a predilection for numbering errors. And this is where the matter becomes philatelically interesting.

Remember the letters and numbers series listed in paragraph four? They are individual cases of what had to be the most bizarre numbering system ever created in the history of information and document management. For some reason, it was



Figure 2. The last of the 'Presenting' cards (reduced to 75%).

decided to separate definitive issues (91D01 as an example) from commemoratives issues (91CO1). Personally, although I have collected stamps for 50 years, I have never seen any real distinction between the two. But never mind.

Tracking Presenting cards would be relatively easy if that were the only difference among them. But there were also separate number sequences for cards issued for souvenir collections and Stamp Traveler's club members. There were also "face" format changes. Some of the cards carried "paid" indicia, in other words, an imprinted proof of postage paid. Some didn't have that, as they were intended to be picked up in person. Some carried advertising on their face sides.

And as some were intended to be mailed, there are mint versions that have paid indicia but were never mailed; and used versions, some of which have mailing labels, and later, ink jet addresses. In still other cases, the face of the cards is completely blank.

The variety doesn't end there. There were numbering and printing errors. And there is an anomaly: some numbers were never used. They include 91C03, 91S.T. 10 and 11, and 21. Why not? Who knows?

The printing error is on the Emily Carr card of 1991. The card without indicia shows Mail>Poste, in some cases on the right side of the card, sometimes on the left. The card for the 1992 Souvenir Collection appeared both as 92AS09 and 92AS10. All other information was identical.

Also, in 1992, there were problems with the Stamp Traveler's Club card for the Canada 92 souvenir card and the Olympic Summer Games Booklet. Both appeared with the card numbered 92ST05.

All that having been said, collecting 'Presenting' cards meets ALL of my collecting criteria:

- The subject is interesting.
- Completing the collection is not at all easy.
- If you are very clever, quick, and lucky, you might just find some or all of these cards for a very low price.

And no, I do not have a complete collection. Despite a long, hard search I am still missing fifteen of the total of 193.

Author's note:

This article makes extensive use of content found on the website of **BRC Canadian Definitive Stamps**. We thank them for all their work on the issue of Presenting Cards: The URL is <http://members.shaw.ca/candef/presenting1.htm>.

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