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Volume 71

Number 4



More on the Half-Cent Large Queen, p. 9

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Volume 71 Number 4 Whole Number 541

The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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Cover Illustration: Block of nine from the upper left corner of the Half-Cent Large Queen Sheet, p. 10

Prepared in Microsoft Word™ (text, images, and layout) and Adobe Acrobat™ (printing file)

Note: Illustrations may not be in original size.

Publication date	6 November 2014
Editors	Jeff Arndt, Ron Majors
Contributing Editors	Robert Lemire, Mike Street
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Published quarterly by	Philaprint Inc, 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto ON M4T 1A8, © 2014 by Philaprint Inc
Printed by	St Joseph Printing, Ottawa, ON
ISSN 0045-3129	Canadian Publications Agreement 40069611

Change of address: Notify the Secretary (address on p73).

Missed or damaged copies: Contact the Circulation Manager, Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20-22, Burlington, ON L7N 3P2 <kwlemke@sympatico.ca>.

Manuscripts may be submitted to the Editor in these formats: (1) electronic, preferably with paper copy, or (2) typewritten (double-spaced), or (3) neatly handwritten. Acceptable electronic formats include MacIntosh- or IBM-compatible formatted diskettes or CDs.

Illustrations must not be embedded in Word™ or WordPerfect™ files! PLEASE do not format text files other than for normal paragraphing, italicization, bolding, or underlining. If tables are required, please consult the Editor before preparing a file in WordPerfect™. Illustrations MUST be sent as separate files from text files. (Scans at 300 dpi in .jpg format are preferred for illustrations sent as attachments). Text and image files should be sent to Jeff Arndt by email at <arndt123@aol.com> or by regular mail to: 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax VA 22033 USA.

Publications Committee: Robert Lemire (Chairperson), Mike Street, Charles Livermore, Jeff Arndt, Ron Majors

A successful year

The fourth quarter issue of *BNA Topics* is the final one for this year. Your co-editors Jeff Arndt and Ron Majors managed to get through it successfully, especially with the help of Mike and Robert and their outstanding third quarter issue. BNAPEX / BALPEX has come and gone. I would like to personally thank all those who made the event possible. Those who were not there can go to the website and see the Palmares and pictures of the events and people who were. I am again impressed with the breadth and scope of the exhibits, and I would encourage those who are passionate about a topic to consider exhibiting. I have found it enlightening, fascinating, frustrating, and encouraging, sometimes all at the same time. For those who may be at a point in collecting where the next stamp or cover costs more than your house payment, exhibiting is an outlet that can take you to new places in collecting. It has done two things for me—helped me gain a deeper understanding of our hobby and opened up a new world and insight into the collecting interests of others. It is not too late to consider an exhibit for BNAPEX 2015 in Niagara Falls!

Pictures from Baltimore (BNAPEX 2014 BALPEX)



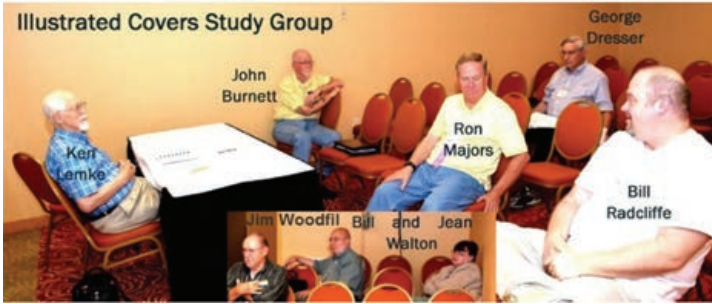
Friday evening dinner kickoff in Baltimore.



BNAPS table near bourse entrance



BNAPS President George Dresser addresses participants at the Annual General Meeting.



One of many study groups meeting at BNAPEX 2014, held in conjunction with BALPEX 2014.

BNAPEX 2014 BALPEX: Exhibit awards

At BNAPEX 2014, the Horace W Harrison Grand Award was presented to **Kevin O'Reilly** for his exhibit: **A Postal History of the Yukon**. Kevin (in photo on right) also won the Meyerson Award for the best exhibit of the Provinces or the Territories before Confederation. The Allan Steinhart Reserve Grand Award was presented to **George Dresser** for his exhibit: **The King Edward VII Issue of Canada July 1, 1903–October 6, 1908**. George also received the Order of the Beaver Novice Award, the first time there has been a tie for this award (in photo on left.)



Other Multi-Frame Exhibits

- Gold: **Colin Banfield** (Ed and Mickey Richardson Award for one or more of research, originality, innovativeness or presentation), **Earle L Covert**, **Ronald E Majors**, **J Michael Powell** (Sam Nickle Award for the Best Military Postal History Exhibit), **Robert Pinet**, **Richard Thompson**
- Vermeil: **Jeffrey Arndt** (Elizabethan II Study Group White Queen Award for the Best QEII Era Exhibit), **Stephen Sacks**
- Silver: **Kathryn Johnson**
- Honorary, non-competitive: **Charles Livermore**

Single-Frame Exhibits

- Gold: **David D'Alessandris** (Herb McNaught Best Single Frame Exhibit Award, Order of the Beaver Novice Award), **Victor Willson**
- Silver: **Earle L Covert**
- Silver-Bronze **Matthew Gaiser**

Non-Exhibit Awards

John Siverts Award: Best 2013 Study Group Newsletter:

Tie: **Ross Gray** "Newsletter of the Canadian Railway Post Office Study Group" and **Gary Dickinson** "First Day Cover Study Group Newsletter, *First Impressions*"

ER (Ritch) Toop Award: Best Article or Book on Military Postal History:

Michael Powell (book, *Notes through Barbed Wire*) and **Paul Binney** (2012 Article, “A Re-examination and classification of the GPO Triangles on naval mail from HMCS Avalon, St. John’s Newfoundland)

VG Greene Award, Best 2013 Article or Series of Articles in *BNA Topics*:

Anthony B Thompson “The Intaglio printing of Newfoundland’s 1932-1941 Industrial issue by Perkins Bacon” and “Intaglio printings of the Newfoundland 1¢ ‘Pile of Cod’ stamps”

The full *Palmares* is available on the BNAPS website. Photos courtesy of Charles Livermore, Adri Veenstra, and Jean Walton.

Readers write



German Auction with Canada/BNA Rarities:

German BNAPS Member *Peter Feuser* reports an upcoming auction by Felzmann-Auktionen that is rich in Canadian/BNA philately. The auction will be held 6–7 November 2014 and readers can take the opportunity to check out the catalogue (available in early October) at the Felzmann website (<www.felzmann.de>).

One of the highlights of this auction is the Newfoundland airmail cover from the 20 May 1927 Pinedo & Prete Flight with an overprinted 1927 60c black King Henry VII stamp tied by St. John’s, N’FLD machine cancel with Trepassy CDS adjacent and Rome transit on back, signed by F de Pinedo in red ink, backflap missing (see reproduction at left).

Another rarity is a mint, NH fresh copy of the St Lawrence Seaway invert (Unitrade 387a) with nearly perfect margins. With only 230 copies known, it is one of the most popular inverts. The starting price for the invert will be 3,500 euros. Check out their catalogue for the many other Canadian/BNA stamps and covers being offered. (Cont’d. on p8)

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On the website, you will find a short review and a scanned image of the book cover. A text-only list is also available on the website. A hard copy will be sent free on request.




New Titles	C\$ Retail
	<p>First Day Covers of Canada's 1976 Olympic Games Issues, 2014 by Gary Dickinson. The large number of stamps issued for the 1976 Montreal Olympics, both regular and semi-postals, resulted in a great variety of colourful First Day Covers, not only from Canada but also from other countries participating in the games. Colour, spiral, 64 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$43.95</p>
	<p>1937-1938 Canadian Definitive Issue, 2014 by Gary W Steele. The first exhibit book treating the stamps of the "Mufti" era, issued over a two-year period to mark the accession to the throne of King George VI. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 76. Colour, spiral, 130 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$63.00</p>
	<p>The Maple Leaf Issue of Canada 1897-1898, 2014 by David McLaughlin. The first exhibit book to cover both the stamps and postal history of the era following Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 77. Colour, spiral, 124 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$59.00</p>
	<p>Canadian Wilding and Associated High-Value Definitives: Paper Texture, Printings, Periods of Use, 2014, by Robert J Elias. The most comprehensive research ever undertaken on the paper texture of the Canadian Wilding and associated high-value definitives. Colour, spiral, 88 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$51.00</p>
	<p>First Day Covers of Canada's 1937 Coronation Issue, 2014, by Gary Dickinson. The 1937 Coronation Issue was the turning point for First Day Covers, with more than 200 different cachets produced. Colour, spiral, 60 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$44.00</p>

Pricing

BNAPS Books are published with only a Canadian retail price shown. BNAPS members receive a forty percent discount from this price. There are three reasons for doing this. We want to have greater market penetration outside traditional BNAPS venues. Showing only retail prices helps in this effort. Secondly, with the fluidity of currency markets, quoting US\$ prices can lead to inequities either for BNAPS or the purchaser. Finally, quoting only one price reduces the likelihood of mistakes.

More New Titles (See website for full list)

C\$ Retail

	<p>Plating a Unique Cartier 10 Cent Proof Sheet, 2014, by Kenneth Kershaw and James Watt. A position by position examination of the various types of flaws found in the stamps of a complete proof sheet of the 10d Cartier stamp. Colour, spiral, 414 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$120.00</p>
	<p>Postal usages in the Province of Quebec and Lower Canada until 1831, 2013 by Christiane Faucher and Jacques Poitras. A fascinating look at the seldom seen postal history of Quebec during the French regime and up to 1831. Colour, spiral, 86 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$51.00</p>
	<p>Canada and Newfoundland Wartime Ration Books and Coupons, 2013 by Clayton Rubec. A surprising array of booklets, coupons, tokens and forms were used to implement rationing in Canada during World War II. Colour, spiral, 122 pp.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$56.00</p>

New Books

Be among the first to receive new books! We will notify you by e-mail whenever a new BNAPS publication is available. Simply go to <www.iankimmerly.com/bnapslist> to subscribe. (Please note: This link will remain valid until new mailing list software is set up on the Sparks Auctions website. Current subscribers will be carried over to the new system and will not have to make any changes to settings.)

Shipping

A few of the BNAPS books when shipped individually will qualify for “other lettermail” postal rates, which are reasonable rates; similarly US and overseas “small packet” rates can sometimes apply. Many other packages have to be sent Parcel Post (starting at about \$8.50) or, sometimes, Xpresspost can be less expensive. We will find the most cost-efficient mailing system and charge exact postal charges, plus \$2 per order (regardless of the number of books) for packaging and handling. Please e-mail us, giving your address with Postal Code or Zip Code, and we will give you the exact postage and handling charge. If you do not have e-mail, please telephone. We will do the calculation and return your call.

Payment

Payment by Visa or MasterCard is preferred because this allows an exact “to-the-cent” payment and conversion of currencies if applicable. To pay by cheque, please contact Sparks Auctions directly for a total. For \$US or £UK cheques, amounts will be calculated at the current rate of exchange.

Stamp Insider Online: Member Glen Estus writes: “I thought that you might be interested in learning about *The Stamp Insider*, the online bi-monthly publication of the Federation of New York State Stamp Clubs. BNAPS members Glenn Estus and George McGowan both write columns for the publication. George writes a column dealing with Canada and Glenn writes about First Day Covers. This month’s Canada column is about Red Cross Cancels, and “The First Day” column is about Thomas Macdonough, the hero of the Battle of Plattsburgh (NY) in 1814.

The Stamp Insider is found online at <<http://www.stampinsider.org>>.”

Question on BK43: Calgary Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Society member Albert Mifsud asks: “I recently came across a possible error that is not mentioned in the Unitrade Catalogue regarding BK43. In my booklet in order from front to back there are one pane of the 3 cent (#286) then one pane of the 4 cent stamp (#287) and finally another pane of the 3 cent (#286). There is no separation paper between first and second page and no rate page nor any of the 1 cent (#284) stamps. Has this been reported before? How does one tell if this is a manmade item? This booklet seems to be intact with its original staple and is of the English style.”

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More on the Half-Cent Large Queen

Geoffrey R Browning

THIS is the first of what I hope will be a series of articles on the half-cent Large Queen—a stamp I believe to be one of the more interesting, and yet relatively neglected stamps in Canadian philately. The half-cent Large Queen was officially issued on 1 April 1868 and continued in service until 1882, when it was replaced by the half-cent Small Queen. Thus in service for about fourteen years, approximately 6,700,000 copies made their way from the printers—the British American Bank Note Company—to the Post Office Department of the Government of Canada and thence to the public.

According to the annual reports of the Postmaster General, after an initial burst in production of 1,500,000 during the fiscal year 1867–68 (1 July through 30 June), no further deliveries from the printers took place until the 1871–72 fiscal year, when production assumed a relatively even rate, until the introduction of the half-cent Small Queen. The numbers received annually from the printers are reproduced below as Table 1.

Table 1. Quantities of the Half-Cent Large Queen Received and Distributed

Fiscal Year	Received from Manufacturers	Distributed to Postmasters
1867-68	1,500,000	508,750
1868-69	0	343,950
1869-70	0	355,000
1870-71	0	271,600
1871-72	500,000	434,400
1872-73	400,000	401,800
1873-74	450,000	484,600
1874-75	900,000	732,800
1875-76	500,000	563,800
1876-77	400,000	424,600
1877-78	450,000	478,100
1878-79	400,000	422,200
1879-80	450,000	361,100
1880-81	400,000	465,800
1881-82	350,000	437,894
Total	6,700,000	6,686,394

Keywords & phrases: Large Queen, Fred G Fawn, plating



Figure 1. Block of nine from the upper left corner of the Half-Cent Large Queen Sheet; positions 1-3, 11-13, 21-23; post re-entry.

While it is technically possible that the original plate could have produced the entire number of half-cent Large Queens issued, it is clear from evidence already published that the half-cent Large Queen plate was far from perfect as originally laid down, and that work was apparently done to the plate on several occasions. It has already been reported that the half-cent Large Queen exhibits a number of re-entries and other varieties. What I intend to show in this and subsequent articles is that the half-cent Large Queen exhibits many more varieties than have heretofore been reported and/or exhibited.

Horace Harrison, in his work on the Large Queen issue [1], reported a number of half-cent Large Queen varieties. Fred G Fawn, in his Gold Medal exhibit of the Large Queen issue [2], has exhibited these and more. Of the re-entries in particular, three have been reported and exhibited—positions 1 and 11, where the left edge of the design shows significant doubling and

another, as yet unlocated, position showing a doubling of virtually all of “CENT.”

A number of years ago, I was fortunate to purchase a rather obscurely-described mint block of nine (3 × 3) of the half-cent Large Queen at a major auction house (see Figure 1). The description was not only obscure, it was also discouraging in that the block was described as being poorly centred and as having serious gum problems. The auctioneer apparently thought so little of the block that, as I recall, he did not even provide an illustration. The block was, however, described as having full left and top selvage. On this basis, and knowing about the re-entries in the upper left corner of the sheet, I placed a bid and was successful. Upon receiving my purchase and inspecting it, I was ecstatic! Not only did the block show the already-known re-entries at positions 1 and 11 but also a similar, but not identical, undocumented one at position 21. I reproduce, as Figure 2, scans of the upper left portions of the stamps located at positions 1, 11, and 21, respectively.

As is evident from the scans in Figure 2, all three positions show extensive doubling of the outer left edge of the ornamentation above the “C” of “CANADA” (see arrows 1A, 11A, and 21A). However, they differ in the doubling evident in the “reversed-C”-shaped curl below the “C” of “CANADA” and in the ornament containing a similarly-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF.”

I would describe the re-entry at position 1 (see Position 1 in Figure 2) as particularly noticeable in the “reversed-C”-shaped curl below the “C” of “CANADA” (see arrow 1B) but not in the ornament containing the “reversed C”-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF” (see arrow 1C).

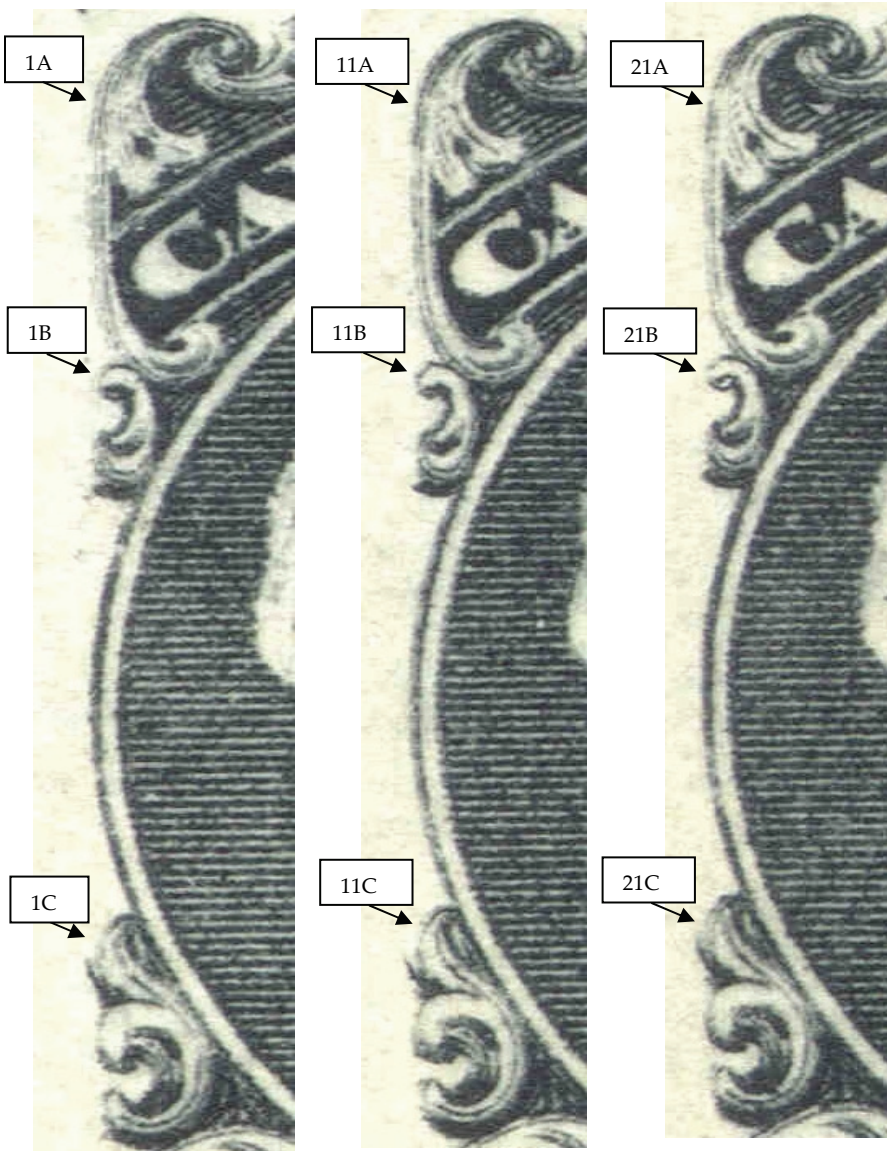


Figure 2. Enlargements of the left portions of positions 1, 11, and 21, respectively.

I would describe the re-entry at position 11 (see Position 11 in Figure 2) as particularly noticeable in the ornament containing the “reversed C”-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF” (see arrow 11C), but not in the “reversed-C”-shaped curl below the “C” of “CANADA” (see arrow 11B).

I would describe the re-entry at position 21 (see Position 21 in Figure 2) as particularly noticeable in both the “reversed-C”-shaped curl below the “C” of “CANADA” (see arrow 21B) and in the ornament containing the “reversed C”-shaped curl above the “H” of “HALF” (see arrow 21C).

As is evident from these descriptions, these re-entries are all similar, but when their characteristics are compared, distinctions become evident. And, as for the block, it certainly begs the question—what if it had been larger? What would this have shown with respect to positions 31, 41, *etc*? Perhaps the answer still lies undiscovered somewhere.

Over the years, I have acquired enough material to reconstruct the entire sheet of the half-cent Large Queen. In this endeavour, I have encountered a considerable number of unreported varieties that I would like to discuss in future articles.

References

- [1] Horace W Harrison, *BNA Topics*, 1976, Volume 33, No 4, pp. 17-18.
 [2] *The Dominion of Canada: The Large Queens 1868-1896*, An Exhibit by Fred G. Fawn; BNAPS Exhibit Series No.47 (British North American Philatelic Society Ltd.; April 2008).

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The JO Labrecque covers

Dr J Frank RDPSA, FRPSL and Mike Street OTB, FCPSGB

WHILE Joachim Frank's BNAPS Exhibit Series book—*The Postal History of the Canadian Participation in the South African War, 1899–1902*—was being prepared for publication, he e-mailed Mike Street a scan of an illustrated cover, from a Montreal company, with a South African War-related illustration, saying that he had tried unsuccessfully to find further information about “JO Labrecque.” Mike, a native of Montreal, said he would follow up. This article is the result of that effort.



Figure 1. JO Labrecque cover with Boer War related illustration, postmarked 1901. Type JOL-ca. (Courtesy Dr J Frank)

Figure 1 shows Dr Frank's cover, which had been mailed by JO Labrecque and Company, suppliers of heating coal to the citizens of Montreal. The design, printed across the left end of the envelope, features a large white bear, standing before a group of Boers and African natives holding a piece of coal in the form of a large black diamond. In English, the text at bottom right reads, “The Boers in ecstasy before the BLACK DIAMOND (famous coal).” “Black Diamond” was the trade name of the coal the Labrecque company was selling. Franked with a 2¢ Numeral, the letter had been postmarked in Montreal on 4 March 1901 and was mailed to an address in the United States.

The first step in the investigation, a Google search for “JO Labrecque,” produced an immediate, and very much related result, the cover in Figure 2, which was then for sale on Don Slaughter's online website. This cover featured exactly the same design as Dr Frank's, but greatly reduced and placed horizontally in the upper left corner of the envelope.

Keywords & phrases: Illustrated covers, JO Labrecque, Boer War



Figure 2. Second JO Labrecque cover with Boer War-related illustration, postmarked 1907. Type JOL-cb. (Courtesy Don Slaughter)



Figure 3. 1896 JO Labrecque cover mailed to a local address. Type JOL-a. (Courtesy Robert Pinet.)

The second Boer-related cover, however, was dated much later than the first, 19 February 1907. Also postmarked in Montreal, it carried a 2¢ and a 5¢ Edward stamp. The name of the addressee, a company on Nassau Street in New York, offered a line of enquiry–stamp dealers.

The cover in Figure 2 was addressed to Burger Co. Another fast Google search confirmed that they were, indeed, stamp dealers. This led to exchanges with Robert Pinet, who collects Montreal advertising covers from the Queen Victoria period, and Leo Beudet, who collects Montreal Stamp Dealer covers from the Admiral period. Robert responded with a scan of a third, earlier, Labrecque cover. Leo replied that while he had not seen any covers that might suggest JO Labrecque was also in business as a stamp dealer, it was quite likely that if Labrecque was a philatelist he would have corresponded with dealers and other collectors.

The design of Robert Pinet's cover, Figure 3, is earlier than and different from the Boer War engraving. The first difference is the company name, JO Labrecque Cousineau Company. Below that, three white bears are warming their hands at a roaring bonfire, while the letters forming the company name and a block of coal in the background all have icicles hanging off them. The words at the bottom of this design, also printed across the left end of the envelope, say in English, "Wood and Coal." Postmarked 21 March 1896 and franked with two 1¢ Small Queens, it was mailed to a local address.



Figure 4. 1899 JO Labrecque cover addressed to a local address. Type JOL-b. (Courtesy George Dresser.)

In the Labrecque cover in Figure 4, postmarked 1899, the large white bear is holding the glowing black diamond before three smaller white bears. The company name has changed from the 1896 cover, with "Cousineau" no longer present, and there is no mention of "Wood." Although dropping the word "Wood" may seem insignificant, it actually marks a very important social change in the lives of Montrealers—homes and offices were now being heated mainly by coal. The centuries-old dependence on wood for heating was coming to an end. As will be seen, a later Labrecque cover shows the next stage in this transition.

The next type of Labrecque cover, Figure 5, continued the white bear theme, this time with a parade of a dozen small bears with torches marching toward the large bear.

This letter was addressed to the same New York stamp company as was the cover in Figure 2, and the design was used from 1905 to 1907, at least.



Figure 5. Labrecque cover with marching bears carrying torches. Type JOL-d. (Courtesy George Dresser.)

Another Internet search turned up the next Labrecque design, Figure 6, on the Province of Quebec National Library and Archives (BANQ) website. A request for help to dig deeper into the BANQ link to Ron Lafreniere, author of the *Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada*, brought the answer to Joachim Frank's initial request for information about JO Labrecque. This came in the form of the introductory page for the BANQ's *Fonds Joseph-Onésime Labrecque*. In addition to much personal and family information, the text confirmed that JO Labrecque was indeed a prominent Montreal philatelist of the time!

Born in Montreal April 18, 1860, Joseph Labrecque was the son of Onesime Labrecque, contractor-carpenter, and Leocadia de Beaumont, daughter of Joseph de Beaumont. In the fall of 1876 he entered the Commercial Academy of the Plateau. He displayed so much energy at work that he rose to the level of the brightest students of his era. A Numismatist, he started at school a collection of coins that was sold in 1887 to Peter Napoleon Breton, who then resold it to the provincial government. In addition, after a diligent and tenacious fifty years collecting millions of stamps, he became one of the most important French-Canadian philatelists.

There was no social work in which he was not involved, and his assistance was requested by all charitable or philanthropic movements. He apprenticed in business as an accountant for A. Pilon & Company, which was succeeded after its bankruptcy in 1887 by JB Labelle. Joseph-Onésime Labrecque worked there as Chief Accountant. During the same period, he initiated the movement in favour of closing stores early. On 25 November 1888 he founded Labrecque, Cousineau and Company, which subsequently became JO Labrecque & Company, one of the largest fuel (firewood and charcoal) businesses of Montreal, owner of the famous trademark of "Black Diamond". He married his first wife, Cordelia Galaise, in 1883 and in 1901 his second wife, Blanche Chaput, daughter of Maxilien Chaput. Nine children were born of this second marriage. He died in 1945 at the age of 85. [1]

The BANQ's "Scope and content" description of the collection is also informative:

This fonds gives us the opportunity to take a look at the hobbies, political and commercial interests of Joseph-Onesime Labrecque, especially about the coal company he led. They consist mainly of correspondence and newspaper clippings on the subjects of philately, the 1914-1918 war, bilingualism, the election of Lomer Gouin [2], the market for coal, municipal politics and public assistance.

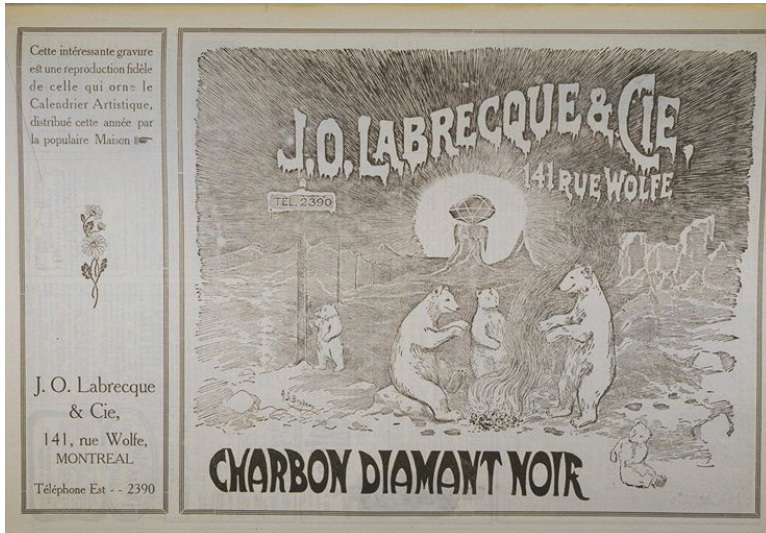


Figure 6. Magazine advertisement with another JO Labrecque design. Type JOL-e. (Courtesy BANQ)

Figure 6 shows what appears to be an advertisement from a contemporary magazine, with text indicating that the design—a variation of the bears warming their hands in front of a fire—seen in Figure 3, was used by Labrecque in *The Artistic Calendar*, which he apparently sponsored in that year.

As of this writing, the last two Labrecque cover designs known are shown in Figures 7 and 8. The cover in Figure 7 carries the same basic design as that in Figure 5, the marching bears, but the illustration is horizontal on the left side of the envelope. There are additional small differences in the design, and a large one in timing—the earliest-known cover with the horizontal illustration is postmarked 1926, fifteen years after those in Figure 5.

Figure 8 shows the latest-known Labrecque cover, postmarked in 1937. The illustration is a variation of the 1899 design in Figure 4, with the large bear showing the diamond to three smaller bears. The text, however, has one major difference. Printed across the top is "HUILE A CHAUFFAGE"—Heating Oil. After the switch from wood to coal for heating in the late 1890s, coal was now giving way to heating oil.

The authors and several collectors of Canadian illustrated covers would be pleased to learn of any other examples, especially different designs or variations of designs not mentioned above. The table below gives full details of all examples known to date.



Figure 7. 1926 Labrecque cover with variation of 1899 design. Type JOL-f. (Courtesy Hugo Deshayé.)



Figure 8. 1937 Labrecque cover with variation of 1899 design. Type JOL-g. (Courtesy Victor Willson.)

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the following collectors for their help in putting together the story of the JO Labrecque covers: Leo Beaudet; Hugo Deshayé; George Dresser; the late Horace H Harrison through Bill and Jean Walton; John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre; Ronald Lafreniere; Robert Pinet; Don Slaughter and Vic Willson. The Quebec National Library and Archives description of their Labrecque holdings was especially helpful.

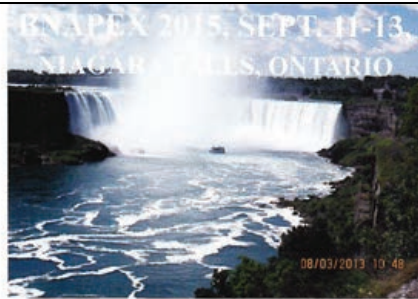
References and endnote

- [1] National Library and Archives of Quebec, Old Montreal, Joseph-Onésime Labrecque Fonds. Internet link: <http://tinyurl.com/l3yeabu>
- [2] The Honorable Lomer Gouin was the thirteenth Premier of the Province of Quebec and the fifteenth Lieutenant Governor of Quebec.

Table: JO Labrecque Covers – Types & Census, September 2014

Type	Illustration Description	Dates & Frankings
JOL-a (Figure 3)	<p>Illustration: Five white bears, three of them warming their hands at a roaring bonfire, with mountains and a block of stone with icicles hanging from it in background.</p> <p>French: Si non réclamée, veuillez retourner à / J.O LABRECQUE COUSINEAU CIE. / TEL. 8251 / 83 rue Wolfe. / BOIS ET CHARBON</p> <p>English: If not claimed, return to/ J.O LABRECQUE COUSINEAU COMPANY. / TEL. 6251 – 83 Wolfe Street. / WOOD & COAL</p> <p>Notes: a) Illustration sideways across left end of envelope; b) All company name letters and sign with telephone number have icicles at bottom; c) Artist's name (AS Brodeur) at lower left of illustration at base of post; d) Possible printer's name, xx Montreal Photo Eng Co, at bottom right of illustration; e) "BOIS &" are made up of pieces of wood, while "CHARBON" is formed by pieces of coal.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 21 March 1896; drop letter; 2 × 1¢ Small Queen. (RP)</p>
JOL-b (Figure 4)	<p>Illustration: Adult white bear holding glowing large black diamond against black background in front of three young white bears on stony ground.</p> <p>French: J.O LABRECQUE & CIE / Essayer le célèbre charbon DIAMANT NOIR / 83 Rue Wolfe BELL 6251 Marchand 358</p> <p>English: J.O LABRECQUE & COMPANY / Try the famous BLACK DIAMOND coal / 83 Wolfe Street BELL 6251 Marchand 358</p> <p>Notes: a) Illustration sideways across left end of envelope; b) Artist's name (AS Brodeur) at lower left of illustration near "N"; c) Black background on JOL-b2 is much lighter than on JOL-b1.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 8 June 1899; drop letter; 2¢ Numeral. (GD)</p> <p>2) Postmarked Montreal, 8 June 1912; drop letter; 1¢ Admiral. Same addressee as JOL-a1 but at different street address. (GD)</p>
JOL-ca (Figure 1)	<p>Illustration: Adult white bear holding glowing large black diamond before a group of armed Boers and African natives, river and mountains in background.</p> <p>French: J.O LABRECQUE & CIE. / 141 (m/s) RUE WOLFE. / TELEPHONES BELL EST 1251 – MARCHAND 358 / Les Boers en extase devant le "DIAMANT NOIR". (célèbre charbon)</p> <p>English: J.O LABRECQUE & COMPANY. / 141 (m/s) WOLFE STREET. / TELEPHONES BELL EAST 1251 – MARCHAND 358 / The Boers in ecstasy before the "BLACK DIAMOND". (famous coal)</p> <p>Notes: a) Illustration sideways across left end of envelope; b) Artist's name (AS Brodeur / 1900) at lower left of illustration near native's foot.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 2(x) November 1900; letter to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; 2¢ Numeral. (GD)</p> <p>2) Postmarked Montreal, 4 March 1901; letter to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; 2¢ Numeral. (JRF)</p>
JOL-cb (Figure 2)	<p>Illustration and text exactly as JOL-c1 but reduced and placed horizontally in top left corner of envelope.</p> <p>Notes: a) street number on Wolfe not written in by hand.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 19 February 1907; registered letter to New York City; 2¢ and 5¢ Edwards. (DS)</p>
JOL-d (Figure 5)	<p>Illustration: Large white bear carrying large glowing black diamond toward large vertical block of shiny coal showing reflection of the bear and diamond, followed by 12+ smaller white bears each carrying a "torch" made up of a stick with a small glowing Black Diamond at the top.</p> <p>French: CHARBON DIAMANT NOIR / BELL EST 1251 – MARCHAND 358 / J.O LABRECQUE & CIE. / 141 Rue Wolfe MONTREAL – <i>Ce charbon ne contient ni pierre ni poussière.</i></p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 29 November 1905; registered letter to St Croix, Danish West Indies; 5¢ and 7¢ Edwards. (HHH)</p> <p>2) Postmarked Montreal, 2 February 1907, letter to</p>

	<p>English: BLACK DIAMOND COAL / BELL EAST 1251 – MARCHAND 358 / J.O LABRECQUE & COMPANY. / 141 Wolfe Street MONTREAL – This coal contains neither stone nor dust.</p> <p>Notes: a) Illustration sideways across left end of envelope; b) Artist's name (AS Brodeur) at lower left of illustration near foot of "altar"; c) covers JOL-d2 & d3 were mailed to the same addressee.</p>	<p>New York City; 2¢ Edward. (GD)</p> <p>3) Postmarked Montreal, 7 March 1907, registered letter to New York City; 7¢ Edward. (GD)</p>
JOL-e (Figure 6)	<p>Illustration: Five white bears in cave, three of them warming their hands at a roaring bonfire, with mountains and a block of stone with icicles hanging from it in background. Very similar to, but not the same, as type JOL-a. Also has box of text at left of illustration.</p> <p>French: (Text box) <i>Cette intéressante gravure est une reproduction fidèle de celle qui orne le Calendrier Artistique, distribué cette année par la populaire Maison >></i>; (Illustration) J.O LABRECQUE & CIE. / TEL. 2390 / 141 rue Wolfe / CHARBON DIAMANT NOIR</p> <p>English: (Text box) This interesting engraving is a faithful reproduction of one that ornaments the Artistic Calendar, distributed this year by the well known House of >>; (Illustration) J.O LABRECQUE & COMPANY. / TEL. 2390 / 141 Wolfe street / BLACK DIAMOND COAL.</p> <p>Notes: a) Text box and illustration horizontal; b) All company name letters and sign with telephone number have icicles at bottom; c) Artist's name (AS Brodeur) at lower left of illustration below post; d) The words "CHARBON DIAMANT NOIR" are in normal type; e) No printer's name in illustration. e) "141" set in type. f) Produced later than types JOL-a, b, c, d because there is only one telephone number, and it is different.</p>	<p>To date, this type has been found only on an undated advertising image from a magazine. (GD)</p>
JOL-fa	<p>Illustration: identical to JOL-d but reduced slightly and placed horizontally in the left half of the envelope.</p> <p>Notes: a) Text identical to JOL-d except that there is only one telephone number, "Tel. E 2390", which is different from the Bell number on JOL-d; b) covers JOL-fa1 & fa2 were mailed to the same addressee.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 10 November 1926; letter to Woonsocket, RI, USA; "2 CENTS" overprint on 3¢ Admiral. (HD)</p> <p>2) Postmarked Montreal, 18 February 1927; letter to Woonsocket, RI, USA; 2 × 2¢ Admiral coils. (GD)</p>
JOL-fb	<p>Illustration: identical to JOL-fa</p> <p>Notes: a) Text identical to JOL-fa except that the street address has changed to "975 Rue Wolfe"; b) cover JOL-fb1 mailed to the same addressee as JOL-fa1 & fa2.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, (x)3 March 1927; letter to Woonsocket, RI, USA; 4 × 1¢ Admiral coils. (VW).</p>
JOL-g	<p>Illustration: identical to JOL-b but reduced and placed horizontally in the bottom left half of the envelope.</p> <p>French: HUILE A CHAUFFAGE / J.O LABRECQUE & CIE / Essayer le célèbre charbon DIAMANT NOIR / CHerrier 8622 / 975 RUE WOLFE MONTREAL – Ce charbon ne contient ni pierre ni poussière.</p> <p>English: HEATING OIL / J.O LABRECQUE & COMPANY / Try the famous BLACK DIAMOND coal / 975 WOLFE STREET MONTREAL - This coal contains neither stone nor dust.</p>	<p>1) Postmarked Montreal, 23 February 1937; drop letter to Outremont; 4 × Half Cent QV Maple Leaf. (VW).</p>



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Newfoundland's Industrial issue and the "Coat of Arms" watermark layout— The Waterlow printing revisited

AB Thompson

THE stamp paper provided by the paper-maker and used for the printing of Newfoundland's Industrial issue by Perkins Bacon (Scott 183-199) was cut into "Printer's" sheets that measured 22" × 26" (572 mm × 676 mm) and contained four panes of watermarks each in a 10×10 arrangement, separated by 46 mm gutters. These printer's sheets were divided into four "Post Office" sheets for the printing of the stamps by Perkins Bacon.

With proper cutting and alignment, each stamp would have a central watermark, and the selvage would be unwatermarked. Waterlow took over the printing of these stamps in 1942 (Scott 253-266), following the destruction of the Perkins Bacon printing works. Waterlow had the watermark layout modified and the gutters between the panes filled with additional watermarks of identical design, as explained in detail by Thompson [1]. Thompson re-examined some of the material used for the original paper, and found that there was a need to add clarification and present new findings. This is the purpose of the current paper.

Material examined

The conclusions in this paper are derived from an examination of full sheets of the 1942 1¢ cod Industrial issue stamps (Scott 253: fourteen sheets of plate 42430; three sheets of plate 43965) and the 1947 5¢ Cabot stamp (Scott 270: one sheet without plate number; one sheet of plate 43476). In addition, approximately 100 corner or marginal blocks from the 1942 Waterlow industrial issue (Scott 253-266) were examined, of which thirty-nine were from archival proofs with punched security holes that have not had the selvage margins trimmed.

Orientation

The paper and stamps are oriented relative to the grain direction of the paper (see Figure 1 of [1]), such that "vertical and column" is in the direction of the grain and "horizontal and row" is in the cross-grain direction. The watermark is sideways in all cases, with the top of the watermark (the elk) to the left when viewed from the back of the stamp. The stamps themselves are upright for the vertical format low values (1¢-7¢, Scott 253-258) and the Cabot stamp (Scott 270), and sideways for the high value (8¢-48¢, Scott 259-266).

Methods

The accurate measuring of the spacing between rows and columns of watermarks requires considerable care. The watermarks are not all exactly the same shape and size (although the design is the same), and there is "random" variation in their exact position on the sheet.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, watermarks, Cabot, Waterlow, plating

In addition, watermarks are not always clearly visible, and this makes measuring between watermarks harder and subject to error. Larger differences are easily detected (*e.g.*, the wider row spacing producing an 11.5 mm instead of the normal 7 mm gap; see Figure 8 of [1]). However, the predicted spacing changed when the vertical gutter was filled, producing a change in column spacing of only 1 mm (see below), and this is hard to detect. To be certain, original watermark columns on either side of the two "additional" new watermark columns are required, and this only seems to occur in the Cabot sheets, owing to their large size. Further, only one of the two Cabot sheets examined in this study had watermarks that were clear enough to be accurately measured. The measurements for the column spacing anomalies presented here is the average reading taken from measuring ten separate rows.

Gutter sizes

The size of the gutters between the watermarked panes was measured at 46 mm [1, 2]. This is correct for the horizontal and vertical gutters between the watermarked panes in a printer's sheet, and for the horizontal gutters between the printer's sheets. However, the size of the vertical gutter between the printer's sheets is 57 mm (and not 46 mm as indicated earlier [1]) (Figure 1). This was observed after re-measuring the gutters on the stamps illustrated in Figures 2, 3a, and 4c of Thompson (2011) [1] and also on four full sheets of the 10¢ postage due stamp (Scott J7). Figure 1 shows the predicted layout for the newly added watermarks (shown in red) for the Waterlow printings. The image shows two complete printer's sheets and two partial sheets at the left and right sides. The red arrow shows the grain direction and machine direction of the roll.

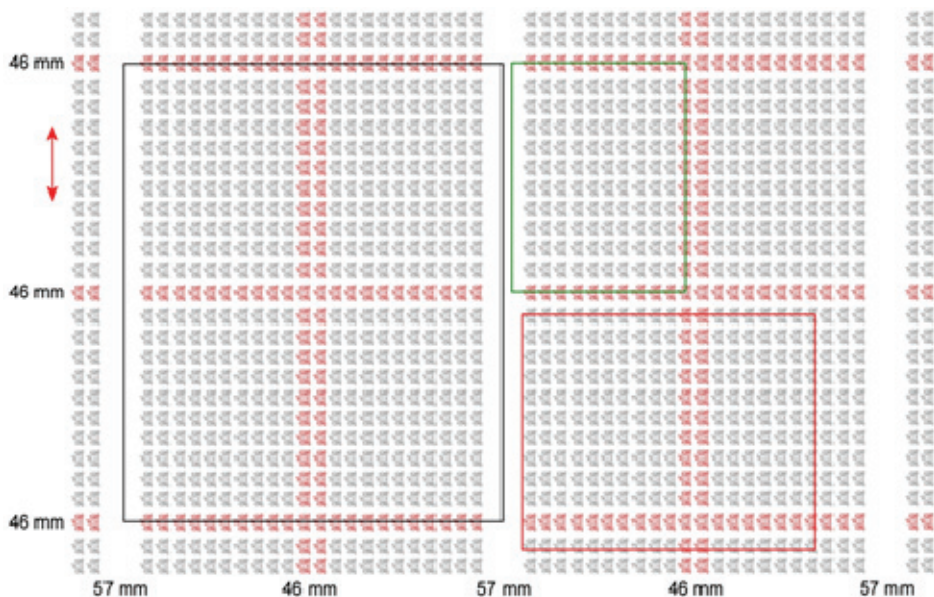


Figure 1. Predicted layout for the newly-added watermarks for the Waterlow printings.

The width of the roll would be in the left-right direction, and the length of the roll in the top-bottom direction. It is predicted that the wider 57 mm vertical gutters that occur between the cut Printer's sheets were not filled with new watermarks. This produced the often-seen missing column at the sides of the printed sheets of stamps. The vertical 46 mm gutter was filled with two columns of watermarks, and the 46 mm horizontal gutters were filled with one row of watermarks. The large black rectangle is for the Printer's sheet; the red rectangle is for the industrial issue Post Office sheets, and the red rectangle is for the Cabot 5¢ sheet. The original 10×10 pane watermark layout used by Perkins Bacon is shown in grey. The gutter widths are also shown. This layout should replace Figure 10 of Thompson (2011) [1].

Watermarks added to gutters

The 46 mm horizontal gutters between adjacent panes and between the printer's sheets, were, as stated by Thompson [1], filled with a single row of watermarks that resulted in an 11.5 mm spacing between the adjacent rows, compared to the normal 7 mm spacing between rows. This is quite noticeable, even without taking measurements.

The 46 mm vertical gutter between adjacent panes was filled with two columns of watermarks, with each watermark measuring 19 mm in this direction. Thompson erroneously stated that the spacing between these new columns of watermarks was 4 mm [1], whereas the actual spacing is 2.7 mm. This correctly adds up to the gutter measurement of 46 mm (*i.e.*, $2.7+19+2.7+19+2.7$ mm). The difference in column spacing is small and not readily identified between individual pairs of columns, due to small variations in the

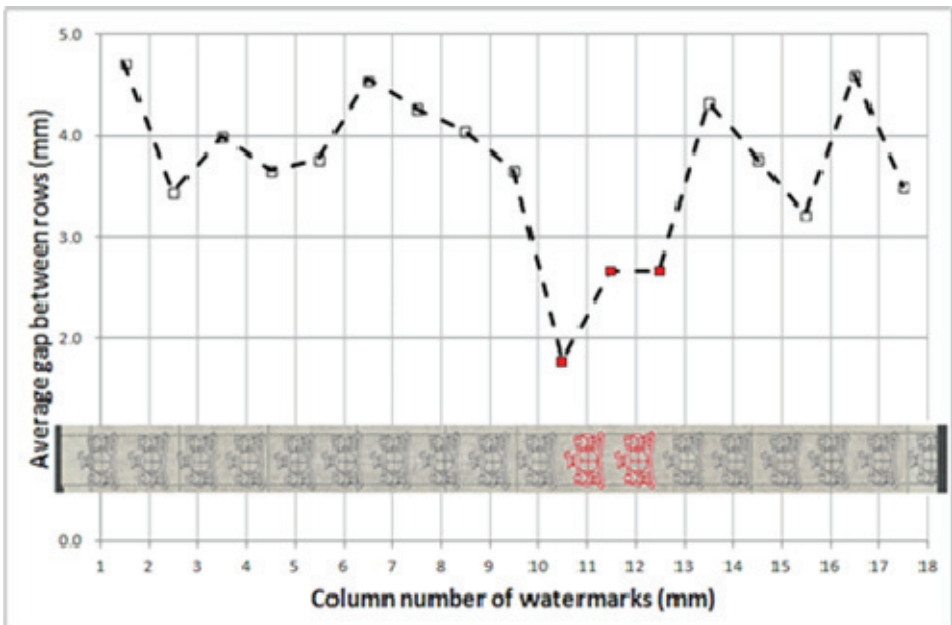


Figure 2. Average gap size between the columns of watermarks on the one 5 Cabot sheet.

watermarks and the watermark layout. However, this difference is detectable across two rows and three spaces, as there is an expected 4 mm difference in this measurement from the pane layout spacing occurring on either side (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 2 shows the average gap size between the columns of watermarks on the one 5¢ Cabot sheet as measured. The gap between most of the columns of watermarks is greater than 3 mm and close to the predicted 4 mm gap in many cases. However, this gap is less than 3 mm between three columns (red markers). This narrow spacing occurs where the vertical gutter has been filled with two new columns of watermarks (shown in red on the insert of a horizontal strip from the 5¢ Cabot sheet). For the sheet shown, the new watermarked columns are 11-12 and overlay stamp columns 6-7.

The newly identified 57 mm vertical gutters between the printer's sheets, which Thompson did not identify, or at least did not measure correctly [1], was probably not filled with watermarks. The addition of two columns of watermarks would result in a column spacing of 6.3 mm (*i.e.*, 6.3+19+6.3+19+6.3 mm) or possibly an irregular column spacing (*i.e.*, 4+19+11+19+4 mm), compared with the normal 4 mm spacing in the pane layout. These would have been observed on the Cabot sheets—and probably on definitive issues—and this has not been the case.

Watermarks on sheets of stamps

Examination of the rows of watermarks on Post Office sheets of Newfoundland stamps printed by Waterlow showed continuous rows of watermarks extending from the top selvage through the stamps and through the bottom selvage. Normally, including the selvages, 11 or 12 rows of watermarks are seen on the definitive issue, with the top and bottom row usually only partially present owing to the cutting or trimming of the sheets. The extra row that filled the 46 mm horizontal gutter was always seen on the printed sheets and could occur coincident with any row of stamps. On one sheet, two such rows were seen (one at the top and one at the bottom of the sheet) separated by 10 rows of watermarks with normal spacing.

Examination of the columns of watermarks on Post Office sheets of Newfoundland stamps printed by Waterlow showed either (1) continuous columns of watermarks extending across the left selvage through the stamps and across the right selvage, or (2) as 1 but with a space on either the left or right side of the sheet where the column of watermarks did not extend to the edge. This is where the 57 mm vertical gutter would be on the printer's sheet. If the sheets were accurately placed on the press, then it is just possible to print two sheets completely filled with watermarks. Any shift would result in unwatermarked columns. In no cases were unwatermarked columns seen on both sides of the sheet, as occurs with the Perkins Bacon pane layout.

The two new columns of watermarks in the 46 mm gutter have, with careful measurements, been observed on a Cabot sheet that are of a size to give eighteen columns of watermarks per printed sheet across the two selvages and ten stamps (Scott 270, Figure 2). There are ten columns of watermarks to the left of the filled gutter corresponding to the original single pane of watermarks and six rows of watermarks to the right of the gutter corresponding to a part-pane. The stamps in column 6/7 overlies the filled gutter. This would happen when the printing of the first column of stamps aligns with the first column of watermarks on the printer's sheet. If such alignment happens for the Industrial issue sheets,

then the filled gutter would be at the opposite margin and would be very difficult to detect by measurements.

Watermarks at sheets margins and missing gum

Two alternatives were seen for the watermarks at the sides of the sheets. The watermarks either went through the sides (Figure 3a, b, e, f) or had a gap where the 57 mm gutter occurs (Figure 3c, d). The watermarks in the Waterlow printings examined here always went to or through the very top and bottom of the sheets (see Figure 3e, d for example).

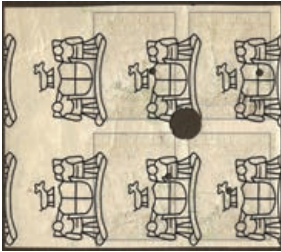


Figure 3a.



Figure 3b.



Figure 3c.

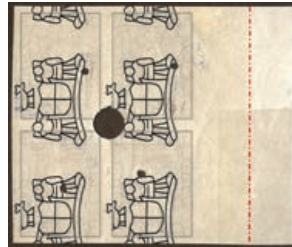


Figure 3d.



Figure 3e.



Figure 3f.

Figures 3a-f show archival files sheets and marginal blocks from the 1942 Newfoundland Industrial issue printed by Waterlow. Figures 3a and Figure 3b are archival files sheet showing watermarks extending through (Figure 3a) left margin and (Figure 3b)

right margin. The archival files sheet shows an unwatermarked margin with missing strip of gum on (Figure 3c) the left side, and (Figure 3d) the right side (Scott 258). Issued stamps show watermarks running through margins and a missing strip of gum on (Figure 3e) the left side, and (Figure 3d) the right side. The red dashed line shows the extent of the gum. The grey rectangle shows the position of the stamp on the other side. All examples shown are Scott 253 except Figure 3d.

The gum on the back of the sheets always extends to the very top and bottom edge. This would be consistent with gumming being undertaken when the rolls of paper were on the web. However, often—and always where there is a column of missing watermarks at the edge of the sheet—the gum did not extend to the left or right sheet edge and left an ungummed strip in the selvage. This was always the case for the Waterlow punched blocks that had a missing column of watermarks in the margin (Figure 3c,d). In addition, and less common, the ungummed strip would occur when there was no gutter (Figure 3e,f). In the vast majority of cases, no ungummed strip was seen when watermarks extended to the edge of the sheet. It seems likely that, in most cases, the sheets were cut so that 57 mm vertical gutters were at the edge of the printer's sheets and that these were gummed like this, leaving an ungummed strip along the edges and completely gumming the central, "filled" watermarked area. However, on occasion it seems that this did not always happen, and the sheets may have been cut differently. During trimming, many of these ungummed strips would have been removed, and this is why it is uncommon to see ungummed margins on the sheets of postage stamps issued to Post Offices.

Discussion

This paper clarifies and corrects some inconsistencies in the paper published by the author in 2011 [1]. The interpretation here is more consistent with observed findings from archival file sheets and issued stamps. However, without access to the original printer's sheets, it is difficult to draw firmer conclusions. The layouts above better explain the presence of unwatermarked Industrial issue stamps, as it is now appreciated that there was an unwatermarked gutter that with poor cutting could be printed upon.

The difficulty in working with observations, rather than documentary evidence, is that conclusions are inferences drawn on what can be seen on the material available for study. A number of interpretation or "theories" are possible.

The following findings are used to confirm various interpretations:

- (1) That Waterlow printed to sheets of paper (rather than to a long roll of paper) is supported by finding both normal and inverted watermarks. The latter would not be expected if printed from the web.
- (2) That Waterlow printed to pre-gummed paper is supported by the existence of reverse offsets on the gum side (Scott 254ii, 255iv, 257vi, *etc*). Those I have examined show that the offset is on top of the gum and not underneath the gum.
- (3) That Waterlow printed its stamps to dry paper is supported by the larger size of the stamp compared to the smaller size of the "same" Perkins Bacon wet-printed stamp.
- (4) That the 46 mm horizontal gutters between the panes and between the printer's sheets of the Perkins Bacon layout were filled with a single row of watermarks is

confirmed by the findings of single, repeated, wider rows of watermarks separated by ten rows with the original Perkins Bacon row spacing (this paper and [1]).

(5) That the 46 mm vertical gutters between the panes of the Perkins Bacon layout were filled with two columns of watermarks is confirmed by the finding of two columns of watermarks with (very slightly) narrow row spacing (this paper; [1, 3]).

(6) That the 57 mm vertical gutters between the printer's sheets were not filled with columns of watermarks is shown by the existence of unwatermarked gutters on printed sheets and archival proofs and by the fact that column spacing has not been found to support their being filled (that would be easily seen) (this paper; [1]).

(7) That gumming was probably undertaken on the web on rolls of paper that were cut to a width of 22½" (572mm) as ungummed margins always occur on margins that have no watermarks. In most cases, watermarked margins did not show any missing gum (Figure 3a, b). However uncommon, ungummed margins could occur on the margins where the watermarks did go the edge (Figure 3e, f). (The cause of this ungummed strip in a watermarked margin is not yet properly explained, but it may be due to rolls being improperly cut. It is not taken as evidence that gumming was undertaken after printing *cf.* [4])

(8) That Waterlow cut its rolls of paper without due regard for the horizontal watermark pattern is shown by the occurrence of the wide, watermarked row on any row of the printed stamps.

(9) That Waterlow cut its printer's sheets consistently along the unwatermarked gutter is shown by

(i) that most printed sheets had an unwatermarked gutter on one side and a watermarked gutter on the other side, and

(ii) by the presence of the two narrow columns of watermarks on stamp columns 6/7 with ten columns of normally spaced watermarks to the side of this [3]. This would be expected if the sheet were printed starting from the edge of the printer's sheets. This has been observed for the long Coronation series printed by Perkins Bacon, as noted in the *Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue*.

New findings might still be possible if more material was available for examination. It is unclear as to how wide the original manufactured roll of paper was on the web and if an exact number of printer's sheets would fit across it. There is some uncertainty about the watermarks at the edge of the web. Further, it is uncertain how the apparent "wastage" was treated when printing the non-standard widths of stamp sheets. Stamp paper was expensive and carefully controlled. Such wastage seems unlikely, but no good explanation as to how this was avoided has come forth. This applies also to some of the Perkins Bacon printings, such as the long Coronation series.

Acknowledgments

The realization that there was more information to add to the original paper [1] occurred during the preparation of a poster display for the 2013 Convention of the Canadian Philatelic Society of GB, held in Plymouth, England. The author wishes to thank the Convention participants for many interesting discussions during the week.

References and endnotes

- [1] AB Thompson, Newfoundland's Industrial issues and the "Coat of Arms" watermark layout. *BNA Topics*, Vol. 68, No. 1, Jan-Mar 2011, pp 8-20.
- [2] JM Walsh, "An apology to BNA Topics readers." *BNA Topics*, Vol. 47, No. 3, May-June 1990, pp 8-10.
- [3] This is difficult to detect and needs careful measurements on sheets that have clearly visible watermarks, which is not always the case. These are most likely to be found on the wider Cabot sheet that has some 17/18 columns of watermarks across. The definitive sheets would likely have these columns at the sheet margins, and this would be very difficult to detect.
- [4] GC Marler, *The Admiral Issue of Canada*, APS Handbook Series, APS, 1982, p. 35.



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Update on the “D.w.” Covers—Part 2

Chris Hargreaves



Figure 1. Cover #26. Postmarked WINNIPEG 2 Feb 1931. Addressed to Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. (Numbers refer to a specific cover and remain constant from article to article).

What does “D.w.” stand for?

Who applied the handstamp? When? Where? Why?

THERE is still no consensus as to the purpose of the D.w. handstamp (Figure 1)! In this article, I am going to present additional covers and suggestions I have received. I am still hoping that, as more information is available, someone will have an idea or memory that provides the solution to the mystery.



Figure 2. Cover #27, Postmarked HAMILTON ONT, 3 Jul 1931.

left. A faint D.w. handstamp was applied over the typed endorsement.

Cover #27 is from Dick McIntosh, and illustrates two of the basic questions regarding the D.w. handstamp:

Keywords & phrases: Airmail, postal markings, handstamp

- (1) If it was a collector's mark, why was it applied over the endorsement?
- (2) If it was a Post Office marking, why wasn't its purpose stated, as with the INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID handstamp?



Figure 3. Cover #28, Postmarked WINNIPEG, 27 MAR 1932, Addressed to Vancouver, BC.

have suggested that covers were often bundled together, and that the D.w. handstamp was applied to the top cover in the bundle, or to a facing slip on the top of the bundle. Gray's suggestion comes from his own experience working in a major Post Office in the 1950s.

It is noteworthy that when Gray was working at a sorting table, (and putting lots of letters into bundles), he never used rubber stamps. If the Winnipeg Post Office in the 1930s operated the way the Vancouver Post Office did



Figure 5. Cover #30, Postmarked WINNIPEG, 23 FEB 1923, Addressed to Victoria, BC.

Cover #28 (Figure 3) is the latest-recorded cover with a D.w. handstamp found so far.

Cover #29 (Figure 4) is from Gray Scrimgeour, who also commented on one of the other basic questions regarding covers with a D.w. handstamp: Why did some covers on a particular flight or day receive a D.w. handstamp, while other covers to a similar destination on the same flight or day didn't?

Gray is one of several people who



Figure 4. Cover #29, Postmarked WINNIPEG 16 FEB 1931, Addressed to Vancouver, BC.

in the 1950s, (which seems highly likely), it raises the question: At what stage in mail processing would a D.w. handstamp have been applied?

Although there are still many unanswered questions regarding the D.w. covers, the enquiry is definitely making progress!

Cover #30 (Figure 5) is from *Air Mails of Canada, 1925–1939* by George Arfken and Walter Plomish. The book (published in 2000) describes the cover this way:

“the new 6c rate was properly paid with a 6c Scott C3. Posted in Winnipeg on February 23, 1932, the cover went by air to Pembina and Chicago, CAM 8. The cover then went by air to Salt Lake City, CAM 18, and to Seattle, CAM 5. Air service to Vancouver and Victoria at this time is uncertain. The alternatives were train and ship. Trelle Morrow has suggested that the strange boxed D.w. handstamp is the monogram of a certain collector whose last name began with a D and whose first name began with a W. About a dozen of these D.w. covers have been noted.”[1]

- (1) Thirty of these D.w. covers have now been noted.
- (2) The collector “whose last name began with a D and whose first name began with a W” was named by Trelle as WC Diment [2]. WC Diment has turned out to be a minor figure in this enquiry. He is only linked to one of the thirty covers, and Barry Countryman established that he used the name “Charles”[3].
- (3) The consensus of opinion in correspondence I have received recently, is that the D.w. handstamp is probably a Post Office marking, not a collector’s mark. In addition to Don Amos’ original concern about why a collector or dealer would apply a handstamp over a stamp when there was lots of open space on a cover,

(referring to Cover #2, Figure 6); the D.w. handstamp has only been found on Air Mail covers that passed through Winnipeg during the period 1 March 1930 to 31 March 1932 when the Prairie Air Mail service was operating. It is also only found on covers to the Prairie Provinces and



Figure 6. Cover #2.

BC, but it occurs on covers to a variety of addresses within these provinces. This pattern of use is much more likely to have occurred if the D.w. handstamp was applied in the Winnipeg Post Office than if it was a private collector’s mark.

- (4) The D.w. handstamp has not been found on any covers addressed to the US or eastern Canada. This indicates that cover #30 did not travel from Winnipeg by air to Pembina and Chicago, but flew from Winnipeg to Calgary on the Prairie Air Mail Service, and then continued to BC by train.
- (5) However, while D.w. seems to have been a Post Office marking, there are still questions as to what it stood for, and what it indicated.

Don Amos suggested it stood for “Delayed weather”, and several of the covers (like #26) are from the Winnipeg - Pembina First Flight. This was scheduled for 2 February 1931, but was delayed by fog until 3 February. However, the D.w. handstamp has only been found on covers which returned to Winnipeg with incoming mail from the USA and were addressed within the prairie provinces.

Barry Countryman has researched some of the other covers with the D.w. handstamp, including Covers #4 and #5. Cover #5 (Figure 7), (Foam Lake, Sask., Oct. 17/30 backstamp) was scheduled when inclement weather intervened. A blizzard hit Saskatchewan and Alberta 15 -16 October and was headed towards Manitoba. Air travel was suspended and many trains were delayed (Figure 8).

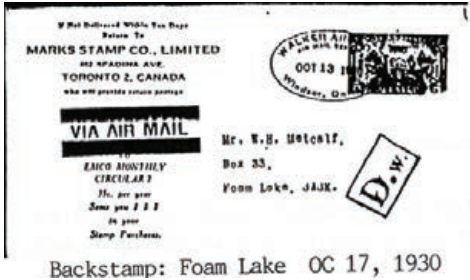


Figure 7. Cover #5, Cancelled: Walker Airport, Windsor, Ontario, 13 OCT 1930.

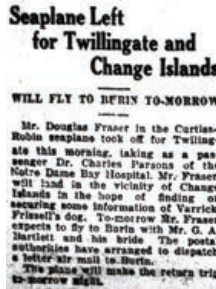


Figure 8. The Winnipeg Evening Tribune, 17 October 1930.



Figure 9. Cover #11, Postmarked FRIEDRICHSHAFEN 15.08.1931, Cachet: MIT LUFTSCHIFF GRAF ZEPPELIN BEFORDERT. Addressed to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Further research by Barry Countryman uncovered Cover #11 (Figure 9). The “Graf Zeppelin” was in Munster, Germany on 16 August 1931 and then returned to base the next day. I believe that the Prince Albert date slugs are misplaced. The backstamp should read 28 August.

Ice forced the Winnipeg-Regina-Moose Jaw plane to land 27 August in Manitoba. Bad weather also kept the Winnipeg-Moose Jaw plane in Manitoba the day before (See Figure 10). A deadly tornado struck Estevan and southeast Saskatchewan the evening of 26 August.



Figure 10. The Evening Telegram, St John's, Newfoundland, Saturday, 23 May 1931.

Cover #11 is listed in the *Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* as Newfoundland FF-42, with a note: This flight was scheduled for 24 May, but was held up until 26 May.



Figure 11. Cover #13, Postmarked ST.JOHN'S,N'FLD 24 MAY 1931.

The clipping (Figure 10) was sent to me by Barry Countryman and gives no indication that the flight was likely to be delayed. Bill Beaudoin, who sent me the cover, included a comment that *Newfoundland Air Mails* by CHC Harmer did not give a reason for the delay. Regarding the end of the cover's journey, Barry commented on Cover #13 (Figure 11): “Don't know why “D.w.” was applied. Prairie

weather was fine.” The cover would have been flown from Winnipeg to Moose Jaw, and then continued by rail to Estevan. I also received a comment from Bob Dyer that, “This is the first Newfie cover I recall seeing with the “D.w.”.



Figure 12. Grande Prairie (* indicates Grande Prairie).

Cover #4 (Figure 13) is a First Flight Cover postmarked SISCOE on 28 October 1930 and addressed to Grande Pointe, Manitoba. He commented that:

- (1) The Prairie air routes had excellent weather for at least the first five days of November.
- (2) Grande Pointe was less than 20 miles from Winnipeg (Figure 12).

Since the airmail route to Winnipeg via Pembina did not open till



Figure 13. Cover #4.

February 1931, Cover #4 would have arrived in Winnipeg by train, received the D.w. handstamp, and then continued by train to Grande Prairie.



Figure 14. Cover #7, addressed to Oak Lake, Manitoba.

Covers #7 and #8, (Figures 14 and 15), were also from the Amos-Siscoe first flights and would have arrived in Winnipeg with Cover #4. They also received a D.w. handstamp and probably also continued from Winnipeg by train, as Oak Lake is between Winnipeg and Regina (264 km west of Winnipeg, but 310 km east of Regina).



Figure 15. Cover #8.

Cover #7 (Figure 14) is addressed to Oak Lake, Manitoba and so is Cover #8. However, Cover #8 (Figure 15) is also from the Amos-Siscoe First Flight, so it should have arrived in Winnipeg with Cover #7. It is addressed to AB Stuart in Estevan, as was Cover #13 (Figure 16), and it is backstamped MOOSE JAW 4 NOV 1930, which indicates it was flown from Winnipeg. But whereas Cover #13 to Estevan received a D.w. handstamp, Figure 16 to Estevan didn't, even though Covers #4, #7, and #8, which arrived in Winnipeg at the same time, did!

One possible explanation is that all the covers from the Amos-Siscoe First Flights flew from Montreal via Toronto, Windsor, and Chicago to Minneapolis, and then continued to Winnipeg in an "Air Mail bag." The D.w. handstamp might then have been applied before further sorting. However, the D.w. handstamp is also found on some covers that originated in Winnipeg, (e.g., Covers #26, #28, #29, #30), so at what stage of mail handling was it applied, and why?



Figure 16. Cover #13.

A number of people have commented on this puzzle, and/or suggested various explanations as to what "D.w." stood for. These comments and suggestions are summarized below. I hope they will encourage more people to send in suggestions.

Normally I am careful to give credit for a contribution to the individual who makes it. In this case, however, I am also including comments and questions raised in discussions about some of the

- suggestions, as I hope these comments will stimulate more ideas. I have therefore not attributed the individual comments below, as I don't want anyone to feel criticized or to hesitate about sending in a novel idea in the future.
- (1) Maybe D.w. stood for Diverted westbound?
 - (2) or Destination west?

- (3) or Dispatched Winnipeg?
- (4) Since the “w” is lower case, “D.w” more likely means “Delayed (by) weather” than “Delayed (at) Winnipeg.” I think that it would be upper case if it meant Winnipeg.
- (5) I believe that the mark was only used at one specific post office (possibly Winnipeg), and was for INTERNAL use only to indicate special handling—*i.e.*, Delayed weather, Delayed work, Delayed waybill, *etc.*, and that the term was understood by all local staff.
- (6) Last Saturday at brunch, some of us had a discussion re: “D.w.” We did not come to any satisfactory answers, but one fact came up—that there was no correspondence out of Winnipeg going East. One thought was that “D.w.” stood for Destination west. Perhaps a capital “w” was not available?
- (7) Both “weather” and “Winnipeg” start with a “W.” Could it be that the Winnipeg P.O. did not want the blame for delay placed on them when mail was delayed by weather, and so deemed it necessary to use a small “w” when the delay was due to weather? Had the delay been the fault of the Winnipeg PO, a capital W would have been used as all cities begin with a capital letter.
- (8) Would the postal chiefs in such places as Winnipeg, Calgary, and Edmonton be somewhat autonomous in what they used as “stamps”? Might one postmaster save ink by using an abbreviation in a handstamp, while another used a text message?
- (9) If “D.w.” is a Post Office handstamp, did it comply with UPU regulations?
- (10) D.w. covers are scarce. I've been watching for more D.w. covers but no luck so far.
- (11) “While doing some eBaying last evening I came across an interesting lot.” (Figure 17.) “It struck me that although the font of the 'Air Mail' handstamp on it is different from that of the 'D.w.'s, the vertical size, line thickness and ink colour are very similar. My understanding is that this 'Air Mail' handstamp was a post office issue. If correct, could that be a link between the two?”

After seeing the eBay illustration, I bought this cover to examine it. The “Air Mail” handstamp does indeed look very similar to the D.w. handstamp.



Figure 17. eBay lot with same font as “D.w.”.

I have a number of other covers with the boxed Air Mail handstamp, and I hadn't thought about a similarity to the D.w. handstamp before. Then again, Murray Heifetz researched both handstamps, and he never suggested a connection either. The

“Air Mail” handstamp was indeed a post office marking, but he thought the handstamps may have been produced locally, rather than have been “issued from Ottawa” [4].

- (1) “My guess is that the D.w. handstamp was applied in the Winnipeg post office. It was possibly applied to the top cover in each bundle of airmail dispatched westbound.”
- (2) The only reason why mail is sent by air is to speed it up. If flights are delayed, there is little difference with rail transport, which is cheaper. Flying in those years was still largely by Visual Flight Rules, and any kind of bad weather would delay the plane taking off. In order to stop an avalanche of complaints about slow delivery of airmail, the Winnipeg post office put on this handstamp, basically saying “Not our fault.” I believe the D. w. stands for “Delayed. weather.”

This has worked out very well, as aerophilatelists have generally assumed the marking was related to airmail service and the flight. However, a couple of readers from the BNAPS community have focussed on other issues, particularly the railway mail service:

The D.w. article sparked my interest as I collect Alberta related flight material. While I do not have any “D.w.” covers on hand, I strongly support the notion it is a Winnipeg post office marking and related to the first Prairie Flights. This is mainly because the dates that “D.w.” markings are found neatly fit the start and end dates of the Prairie Flights; which began on 3 March 1930 and were terminated on 30 March 1932.

I collect commercial covers on these routes, on the Alberta legs. There were two changes that affected the Alberta legs. On 15 January 1931 Lethbridge was added to the Winnipeg-Calgary route. On 1 July 1931 the route from Winnipeg to Calgary was extended to Edmonton; and at the same time the Regina, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Edmonton route was terminated. However throughout the 1930–1932 period, there were many adjustments to the schedules. These schedules are now available online via the Monthly Postal Guide Supplements for the dates in question.

I suspect the many changes in the schedules were in part due to ease the burden on the carrier; but also to better match the train schedules. While the first Prairie Flights were in operation a person could send a letter airmail to eastern Canada at 5 or 6 cents, but the letter still had to be carried by train east of Winnipeg to Ontario.

My suspicions are that the “D.w.” marking was used by the Winnipeg PO for bundled mail related to meeting a schedule and thus putting a priority on the bundle. The fact that the “D.w.” has been found on facing slips tends to support such a notion, but it is pure supposition. I don't know what the initials may mean but it may have been coded on purpose. It seems that this Prairie Air scheme was not a paying proposition. Matching the train plane schedules with the plane schedule was a bit of a challenge and perhaps the post office did not want to advertise the misses. Delayed or Detained at Winnipeg comes to mind, both of which are negative in the promotion of the air service so why spell it out? Regardless it is a most interesting aspect of this period.

(Continued on p 42)

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An earlier comment also mentioned “fault.” Perhaps the handstamp was intended to tell postal employees in Regina, Calgary, *etc*, that the slow delivery was the railway’s fault, and that the mail had missed a connection in Winnipeg because the train was late arriving in Winnipeg? But if so, why is it found on covers that originated in Winnipeg?

Might D.w. mean “Day (train) west”? Perhaps it indicates that once the covers reached Winnipeg, they were being sent to their destinations further west by train and not by air.

Could air mail out of Winnipeg have been sent (infrequently) by train for whatever reason? I recall seeing somewhere, not in Canada but in the USA, I think, that some railway post offices used the initials dw to mean day train west, dn to mean day train north, *etc*.

I asked a friend, a railway-philatelist to look into the use of “Dw” for me. He replied:

“I am unable to find any references to DW in the Railway Study Group newsletters. The word DOWN is used on some cancels but usually it’s just N or S or E and W. Good luck with your research—we have our own mysteries involving strange sets of letters showing up on covers.”

I also received some other suggestions, which may hold a key to the mystery:

- (1) “Having spent many years planning aircraft baggage, cargo, and mail loading, and weight and balance, I am acutely aware of the importance of the weight of things stuffed into aircraft. I would think that those handling air mail in the post offices would have been briefed on the importance of the accurate recording of the weights of any mail they submitted for carriage by air. As postal employees processed the mail, and I know nothing of the processes followed in those 1930s post offices, there would at some point have been a requirement to accurately keep a record of the mail accumulating for the airport. Could it have been possible that letters were organized in bundles of a certain weight? Is it possible that the top letter in each bundle was stamped D.w. to indicate that the weight of that bundle has been recorded in a total? Could the ‘w’ have stood for weight? Could the D. have stood for daybook or diary or”
- (2) “I have a suggestion to make by analogy to practice in the UK. The UK post office had a wide variety of marks that are generically known as inspector’s marks. They are often strange symbols or one or two letters within a frame. The frame could be circular, oval, rectangular, *etc*. These were applied by an inspector in the post office and authorised the treatment of the letter in some way. Often each inspector had his own distinctive mark. Maybe the handstamp is the mark of an inspector in the Winnipeg office.”



Figure 18. Cover #6.

The suggestion of an Inspector’s mark revisits one of the earlier lines of enquiry. The concern at that time was what sort of post office employees would apply their handstamp over special instructions, as on Covers #26 and #27, or a postmark as on Cover #6 (Figure 18.)

However, the letter below also revisited an old question: how many handstamps were there? The more I look at the covers in *Topics*, the more I see different handstamps. Look at Cover #5: both parts of the D have a surge or extension. In Cover #6, the D has a serious indent in the upright and the “w” appears as separate strokes. For Cover #3 (Figure 19) and #4, the righthand stroke of the “w” appear different. Clearly, however, the “surge” around the periods appears to move around within each box. Some are to the left at, say 10 o’clock (Cover #4), some at 11 (Cover #7), some at 12 (Cover #3), some, none, or very little (Cover #3). Even the boxes are different. Cover #1 is missing a junction in the lower right, Cover #2 is overly fat at that same place, In Cover #3, the lines are overly thick; Cover #7’s lines appear flexible, while in Cover #5 the upper right is bent out. In Cover #8 an extra line appears. It is interesting to note that Cover #10 (Figure 20) and #11 appear identical, bent out top right and amiss in bottom right.



Figure 20.
Cover #10.

I wonder about a “homemade” kit-type device. I remember as a child, in the ‘40s, having a rubber type set we could

use to “manufacture” our own rubber stamps. Tweezers fit the individual letters into a wooden holder. My best guess is that it is a home-made, personalized stamp. Any professionally-created stamp would have been consistent, even if there were more than one made from a proper mould. All the “stamps” I saw here in Toronto at our historic post office were in fact made of engraved steel and not rubber, which these appear to be. The following comments are intriguing!

I too had a children's rubber stamp set. At the back of my mind, in the early stages of this enquiry, was a thought that the "simplest" explanation for the D.w. was that a small child got hold of a batch of covers in somebody's collection and put a handstamp they'd made on all of them! Fortunately as more covers were found, in a variety of collections and in different countries, a child at play was no longer a simple explanation.

I also received another comment regarding the handstamp:

The impressions illustrated on the 14 covers indicate that the mark was a rubber cancel, subject to inking and pressure application, and probably locally made. Rubber deteriorates with the use of acid inks, so short term use (2/3 years).

Comparing the handstamps is challenging: In addition to normal variations caused by the amount of ink used, the pressure applied, and wear-and-tear on the handstamp, the illustrations provided vary in size and quality. To allow a more definitive analysis, I’ve scanned a number of the handstamps in a single image (Figure 21, below):

But, if there was more than one D.w. handstamp, then the following questions arise:

- (1) Were they all being used in used in Winnipeg at the same time?
- (2) Were they used in Winnipeg in sequence after one was worn out and replaced?
- (3) Or was a D.w. handstamp being used in more than one location, and not just in Winnipeg?



Figure 19. Cover #3.



Figure 21. Left column: Covers #8, #7, #25, #9 Centre: Covers #18, #2, #28 Right: Covers #16, #14. inch scale (in tenths) included at the bottom for reference.

Many thanks to Dale Spiers, Denny May, Don Fraser, Ed Matthews, Ian Macdonald, Julian Burgess, Ken Snelson, Mike Street, Norman Seastedt, Peter Motson, Peter Wood, Rick Parama, Robert Timberg, Ron Barrett, and William Cochrane, whose comments were used in the above anthology, and to everyone with whom I've discussed these covers from time to time. If anyone has comments on this article, suggestions, more information, or copies of additional covers with a D.w. handstamp, please send them to Chris Hargreaves, 4060 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4Y4 or e-mail: <hargreavescp@sympatico.ca>.

References and endnotes

- [1] *Air Mails of Canada, 1925–1939* by George Arfken and Walter Plomish, is an excellent book, notwithstanding its write-up of this cover. It describes the development of international airmail twelve chapters, each looking at a different region, and about 200 black-and-white illustrations of covers. It is still available from the British North America Philatelic Society, <www.bnaps.org>.
- [2] BNAPS Air Mail Study Group Newsletter, December 1994, p.3.
- [3] *The Canadian Aerophilatelist*, September 2013, p.24.
- [4] Murray's research on The "Boxed" Air Mail Hand Stamp is posted on the CAS website at <www.aerophilately.ca>.

Evaluating the Medallion 1¢ variety

Charles Neyhart

THE six definitive sheet stamps of the 1932 KGV Medallion series, produced by the British American Bank Note Company (BABN), were issued to replace the same denominations from the 1931 Arch series, also produced by BABN. The new definitives show a profile portrait of KGV in bas relief within an oval-shaped medallion, hence the name for the series [1]. The series also included a revised commemorative stamp from the Arch series featuring the Quebec Citadel, up-rated to 13¢ due to an increase in postal rates, and printed in dull violet.

Based on decisions made for the previous Arch series and confirmed by what ultimately occurred with the Medallions, BABN printed the high-volume, 1¢, 2¢, and 3¢ low-denomination Medallion stamps on its Stickney rotary press to take advantage of its superior speed. However, it was alleged that certain of these definitives were also printed on the flatbed press. At issue here is whether that claim can be corroborated or if an alternate conclusion is warranted.

Rotary press operations

The Stickney rotary press was a web-fed press that paired two curved steel plates mounted in tandem on the plate cylinder to form a continuous cylindrical printing surface [2]. Bending a flat steel printing plate into a semicircle increases the length of the plate in the direction of the curvature, and this “stretch” is imparted to the printed stamps. The amount of stretch is greater when the curvature of each plate is less than a full semicircle [3].

Stickney press operations were highly mechanized [4]. The press printed on dampened paper using the “wet” method. The paper web, installed at the feed end of the press, passes through dampening rollers where the paper is moistened with water and then guided into the printing nip between the impression cylinder and the plate cylinder, which is mounted up with the paired curved plates, which have been mechanically inked and wiped. As it emerges, the printed web enters an electrically heated drying chamber. After exiting, the web moves along to the gumming unit, then dried before being wound at the delivery end of the press.

Perforating and slitting the web into sheets was done off-press as a separate processing step on different machinery. To mitigate paper curl, caused by a tendency of gummed stamp paper to curl during changes in humidity and temperature, broad parallel gum breaker ridges would be mechanically added across the paper grain [5]. The equipment used to add the ridges comprised a set of cylindrical gears mounted on the perforator ahead of the perforating pins and machined with spiral-shaped intermeshing ribs to break the gum.

The other medallion definitives, 4¢, 5¢, and 8¢, were printed on pre-gummed sheet stock on the flatbed press, using the dry method. Because the Medallion definitives were printed with the design upright on vertically wove paper, the rotary wet prints would exhibit shrinkage along the width of the stamp during drying, whereas dry prints would tend to exhibit dimensional stability [6].

Keywords & phrases: KGV Medallion, rotary press, British American Bank Note Co.

Analysis

Lowe asserted that both the 1¢ and 2¢ stamps were printed on the flatbed press, using plates also recorded as being used on the rotary press. Lowe also claimed the 1¢ flat plate variety is “yellow green,” whereas the rotary is blue green [7]. Similarly, the *Unitrade Catalogue* lists flat plate varieties of the 1¢ (Sc #195d) and 3¢ (Sc #197e) [8]. A priori, these claims would be at odds with BABN’s planned use of the rotary press and also logistically problematic, if not improbable. Based on Post Office records, fifty-five million 1¢ and forty-five million 2¢ stamps were initially requisitioned on 19 October 1932 (a three-month supply), supplemented by an additional 60,000 each for first day covers on 12 November. The 3¢ was already under order for at least a similar—but most probably a greater—number, since this was the domestic letter rate. It is unlikely that these orders could have been filled effectively from flatbed press capacity. Thus, the printing plates used for these denominations would have been curved and case hardened immediately for use on the Stickney rotary press, which would preclude any subsequent use on the flatbed press [9].

Boggs offered an alternative assessment to the use of printing presses:

However, examples of the 1c, 2c, or 3c with smooth gum (so-called ‘flat’ printing) are from rotary presses but on dry pre-gummed paper. These show the design embossed in the gum, as can be seen on the flat plate printings [10].

The phrasing of this passage suggests that Boggs may have relied on information from others and had not, himself, examined these printings. Nonetheless, this claim is sufficiently far-reaching for the time to merit additional consideration.

The design size of the Medallion sheet stamps dry printed on the flatbed press is, as expected, the same as for the 1931 Arch sheet stamp counterparts. A comparison of a flat plate Medallion dry print with its 1931 Arch counterpart showing common central measurement of 18.5×22 mm is shown in Figure 1. This flat plate size, centrally measured on the order of 18.5×22 mm, is probably the closest approximation to the size of the design as transferred to the printing plate [11]. Because these stamps were dry prints, they did not shrink while drying; actually, there are recorded instances where the additional



Figure 1. Height and width comparisons of a flat plate Medallion dry print with its 1931 Arch counterpart showing a common central measurement of 18.5×22 mm.

impression pressure required for dry printing spread the paper which did not return to normal and, thus, very subtly increased the size of the design [12].

Medallion sheet stamps printed on the Stickney rotary press are comparable in size to the Arch sheet stamp rotaries. In each case, the stamp height could be increased by up to 0.5 mm due to the effect of the rotary stretch in the direction of the plate curvature; however, because

smaller amount could occur in the direction of the grain, in this case the height. Shrinkage was variable and could not be predicted with great accuracy.

Differences in the width and height of the stamp's design should provide a sound basis for distinguishing flat plate from curved plate prints. To that end, a small test sample, $n=30$, of unused flat plate and curved plate Medallion definitives were examined, including examples of the variety Sc #195d. The findings are presented in Figure 2 [13]. A follow-up sample of 30 used Medallions revealed, not surprisingly, that used flat plate examples exhibit dimensional stability, while used rotaries show more variability, particularly across the grain.

Flatbed press - dry		Rotary press - wet		Rotary Press – dry (195d)	
Flat gum		Gum breaker ridges		Flat gum	
Width	Height	Width	Height	Width	Height
18.5+	22+	18.4	22.4	18.5	22.5

Figure 2. Comparative centralized results based on printed design size (in millimetres).

More germane to the matter at hand is the 1¢ Medallion sheet stamp with flat gum, *i.e.*, the back of the stamp exhibits a recessed image of the design embossed in the gum of the stamp. This, presumably, is the Unitrade-listed flat plate variety Sc #195d with flat gum. The



Figure 3. 5¢ flat-plate variety is 22mm tall and 0.5mm shorter than the curved-plate 1¢ stamp.



Figure 5. Sc #195 from Plate no. 5.

used on the Stickney press, and (b) horizontal gum breaker ridges, added by machine just prior to perforating the gummed stamps.



Figure 4. Top portion of Figure 3, enlarged and cropped.

width of the stamp does match that of a flat plate dry print, but the height does not; rather it more closely resembles a taller rotary print (see Figures 3 and 4). In fact, the dimensions of the 1¢ Medallion design with flat gum are uniformly 18.5×22.5 mm [14].

This result suggests that Sc #195d was not only printed on the rotary press, but was done using the dry method on pre-gummed paper. The evidence seems clear: The height of the subject is greater than a flat plate print due to the effect of the rotary “stretch” in the direction of the plate curvature, and because dry prints exhibit dimensional stability, it shows no shrinkage in either dimension, unlike what occurred with the 1¢ rotary wet print, Sc #195.

Figures 5 and 6 show the front and gummed sides, respectively, of a vertical pair of the 1¢ rotary wet print from Plate no. 5. Note in Figure 6 the presence of both: (a) fine vertical gum ridges that are remnants from the grooved gum applicator

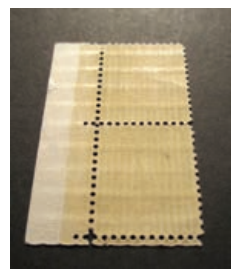


Figure 6. Sc #195, horizontal gum breaker ridges, vertical gum application lines.

Figures 7 and 8 show the front and gummed sides, respectively, of the variety Sc #195d. Note the appearance of “flat” gum: The design is clearly embossed in the pre-gummed paper. There are no gum breaker ridges or gum application lines as seen in Figure 6.



Figure 7. The variety, Sc #195d.

A sheet single of the variety (listed as a flat plate print) carries a small catalogue premium against a routine base value. The ‘at press’ dates are not known, nor is the quantity printed, so we can’t be clear on relative scarcity [15]. The variety may not be rare, but there are no indicators that the variety was considered a part of regular production. It may be that producing Sc #195d on the rotary press using pre-gummed paper was experimental, a feasibility test of limited scope, but



Figure 8. Sc #195 back, embossed gum.

which broke new ground. The success of the test, then, was not judged by a pre-determined number of successfully printed stamps; just working out the bugs may have been sufficient.

Additional inquiry

The null research question posed in this paper was whether a Medallion definitive, scheduled for production on the Stickney rotary press, was also produced on the flatbed press, more specifically, whether the Medallion 1¢ variety, Sc #195d, was dry printed on the flatbed press. The analysis herein supports an alternative conclusion, namely, that the 1¢ variety is a rotary dry print. This conclusion naturally raises questions of why and how this was done. Regrettably, BABN production records are not available and may no longer exist, so what follows is only a brief précis based on informed conjecture and circumstantial evidence.

Shifting production to rotary dry printing would provide cost savings through production efficiencies. Not only would the faster rotary printing speeds be maintained, dry printing would avoid the well-known production setbacks from wet printing. Cost savings would be realized through reduced printer’s waste and in the amount of material rejected by the post office. Furthermore, the use of pre-gummed paper would eliminate the production steps of applying gum after printing and then having to mechanically break the gum prior to perforation. This experiment might have been undertaken in part with an eye to extending this kind of printing to other types of BABN work, *e.g.*, producing bank securities.

To carry out rotary dry printing, BABN could have tried to reconfigure its Stickney rotary press to a dry press or acquired a rotary press designed for dry printing. Converting the Stickney rotary press, which was designed for wet printing, to one capable of dry printing, would be no simple matter [16]. Two major press functions would be disabled, the web dampening and gumming stations and associated drying units would have to be disengaged. Impression pressure would need to be increased significantly to force the drier paper into the design recesses of the plates. Additional structural changes would have had to be made to the press to make it more robust, *e.g.*, adding upgraded vibration dampers.

A more flexible option, instead, would have been to shift rotary sheet production to an entirely different press, in this case a sheet-fed rotary capable of dry printing. This type of press was commercially available at the time. Baxter notes that a two-plate, sheet-fed press could deliver 1,200 gummed and dried sheets of four hundred subjects per hour; a web-fed

press being capable of 1,250 sheets [17]. Productivity of a sheet-fed press could be improved by the use of pre-gummed sheets with an automatic sheet feeder.

How this production matter might have eventually played out at BABN became philatelically moot when the next stamp contract was awarded to the Canadian Bank Note Company in 1935. BABN continued to produce Canadian currency, bonds, notes, and revenue stamps, but it did not print Canadian postage stamps again until producing parts of the 1968-1972 Centennial low values definitives. By that time, far more advanced printing presses than the Stickney rotary press were in use.

Opportunities for further research into producing the Medallion (and Arch) series exist but are beyond the scope of this article. Possible topics include: the economies of flatbed versus rotary production; details about the 1¢ Medallion variety (“at press” dates, numbers printed and issued, state of Plates 1, 2, and 3); and the circumstances that gave rise to BABN acquiring the stamp contract in 1929 and causing the company to lose it in 1935.

References and endnotes

- [1] A 3¢ KGV stamp, Sc #192, in what turned out to be a forerunner of the Medallion design, had been issued 12 July 1932 as part of the three-stamp Imperial Conference set. The design proved popular with the public.
- [2] The Stickney press had been developed by Benjamin Stickney of the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing and was used to print US coil stamps beginning in 1914, eventually printing the bulk of coil, sheet, and booklet stamps until the 1950s.
- [3] The sheet-fed rotary press used by the American Bank Note Company to print the Edward, Admiral, and Scroll series employed plates that were curved less than a full semicircle. The resulting smaller rotary “stretch” was not a significant factor in identifying stamps as curved or flat plate prints.
- [4] Louis E Repeta, *The Stickney Rotary Press*, 1996.
- [5] Paper curl is caused principally by uneven “stress” on the two sides of the paper; gum tended to shrink more than the paper causing a curl to the gummed side.
- [6] Wallace Cleland, *Size Difference between Wet and Dry Printings from Flat Plates*, United States Specialist, November 2001, p. 522.
- [7] Robson Lowe, *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, 1639-1952*, Vol. 5, *The Empire in North America*, 1974, p. 252.
- [8] The listed 3¢ variety (Sc #197e) is not discussed here, simply because there is so little known about it from which to form a reasonable conclusion, other than it being printer’s waste. This variety, an imperforate printed in a different shade and with flat gum, was almost certainly not from the 3¢ rotary imperforates that were released privately. Only a block of four of this variety exists.
- [9] Allan L. Steinhart, “Some Notes on the Medallion Issue,” *BNA Topics*, 1977, March-April, 37-38.
- [10] Winthrop S Boggs, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Chambers Publishing, 1945 (Reprinted, Quarterman Inc, Lawrence, MA 1974), p. 401.
- [11] The measurements of the 1¢ die large proof on card, as taken from a digital scan, are 18.5 × 22.1 mm.
- [12] George W Brett, *\$1 Wilson, Series of 1938, Dry Printing*, Bureau Specialist, November 1954, 255-61.
- [13] The “+” notations in Figure 2 represent a slight paper stretch beyond the expected baseline (18.5 × 22 mm) dimensions of these stamps. This is most likely due to the increased pressure from dry printing.
- [14] When a particular design size was in question, measurements were made using the rectangular design-size gauges from the Precision US Specialty Multi-Gauge template. These are easier to use

and probably more reliable than individual measures of width and height, in which vagaries in the paper, ink, and moisture, for example, make consistent edge-to-edge measurements problematic.

[15] The variety is recorded from Plates 1-3.

[16] The US Bureau of Engraving and Printing never converted its Stickney presses to dry printing during use extending into the 1950s, even though the benefits of dry printing were well known.

[17] James H Baxter, *Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving*, American Philatelic Society, 1939 (Reprinted, Quarterman Publications Inc, Lawrence, MA 1981), p. 135.



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Quarantine and decontaminated mail from Canada to other countries

Earle L. Covert, OTB

QUARANTINE and decontamination have been key postal history topics. From the early French period, to the American Civil War, to the present day, postal services have helped ensure the health of crops and people.

Australian quarantine

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry attempts to stop the illegal importation of all food, plant material, and



Figure 1. Letter from Canada to Australia showing Australian Quarantine label.

animal products from overseas. Its website states that these could introduce some of the world's most serious pests and diseases into Australia, devastating their valuable agriculture and tourism industries and unique environment.

AQIS checks goods arriving at international mail centres, airports, and seaports. AQIS officers, using x-ray machines and detector dogs, each year screen all 150 million mail items sent to Australia from international postal services and intercept 90,000 items they deem a quarantine risk. The intended recipient of an item is



Figure 2. Australian Quarantine leaflet.

Keywords & phrases: Quarantine, decontamination, anthrax

notified of the available options and applicable fees. If AQIS does not receive a reply in thirty days, the goods are destroyed.

Figure 1 shows the label applied to the back of a letter, postmarked 12 March 2012, sent from Winnipeg to Queensland, Australia, a letter opened by AQIS. A label applied to the back of the envelope reads “OPENED BY AUSTRALIA POST FOR INSPECTION BY QUARANTINE.” Figure 2 shows a leaflet enclosed in the letter telling the recipient that the letter had been opened by AQIS and that nothing had been removed. In a letter of this size, AQIS could have been looking for seeds, all of which are prohibited. Thanks to Mike Street for finding this item on eBay.

United States irradiation decontamination

According to a July 2008 report by the United States Postal Service (USPS) titled *Irradiation of Mail in the Washington, D.C. Area in October 2001*, spores of the deadly bacterium anthrax were found in mail sent to congressional leaders and members of the news media. In all, twenty-two people were infected with anthrax; five people died, including two postal workers. The USPS took a variety of steps to protect people from biohazards, including irradiating mail. They hired two contractors, who irradiated mail with either a high-energy electron beam or x-rays, to process all mail to recipients at the Congress, the White House, and federal agencies with specific Washington zip codes (20201 to 20597).

Initially there was a three-month delay in irradiating the mail. This decreased by late February 2002 to eight days and, by 2008, to two to three days. From November 2001 to April 2008, the costs of this process rose to over \$74.7 million. During this period, mail decreased by over fifty percent as the volume of first class mail fell, and agencies worked to eliminate the irradiation of their mail by using a different zip code or courier services. The efforts to eliminate irradiation of mail were undertaken because the process often damaged the contents. Since irradiated mail was subjected to extreme heat, paper was yellowed or weakened, and plastics and inks were sometimes melted and fused. Stamps enclosed in

glassine envelopes were fused to the glassine.

Figure 3 shows an envelope mailed on 17 December 2001 from Calgary but not delivered in Washington until 5 February 2002, based on a handwritten note on the back. The cover was handstamped “MAIL SANITIZED.” It had contained an advertising leaflet publicizing a conference that was to begin the day after the item was delivered. The envelope does not show any apparent ill effects of irradiation. Thanks to Keith Spencer for finding this item for me.



Figure 3. Irradiated mail from Calgary to Washington, DC with contents advertising a conference.

New BNAPS book releases

BNAPS has released the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh volumes in the Exhibit Series and a new First Day Cover handbook. This edition of Book Release Notes is followed by Bob Dyer's review of a new book on Newfoundland Postal History. We also wish to let members know about a major change in how they can acquire BNAPS books from now on. Ordering information follows below the Book Release Notes.

In 2004, when Auxano Philatelic Services advised BNAPS that it no longer wished to be the Retail Sales Agent for the BNAPS Book Department, Ian Kimmerly Stamps (IKS) in Ottawa stepped forward and offered to take on the role. Since then, Ian Kimmerly and Brian Wolfenden, who has managed day-to-day book sales activity, have been energetic promoters of BNAPS books. On Saturday, 27 September 2014, Ian closed his Sparks Street store for the last time and headed west to Vancouver Island, where he will continue philatelic activity online. BNAPS is pleased to announce that Sparks Auctions has taken over as the Retail Sales Agent for the BNAPS Book Department, with Brian Wolfenden continuing to manage the book activity. Sparks Auctions, a separate business entity which was based in the IKS store, has moved to new premises on Carling Avenue in Ottawa, and the stock of BNAPS books has moved with it. BNAPS extends sincere thanks to Ian Kimmerly and Brian Wolfenden for their contributions to BNAPS books over the last ten years, and looks forward to a long association with Sparks Auctions.

1937–1938 Canadian Definitive Issue, by Gary W Steele. 2014, 130 pages, 8.5 × 11, spiral bound, ISBN: 978-1-927119-35-8. BNAPS Exhibit Series No 76. Stock # B4h923.76.1, colour; \$C63.00.



The first stamp exhibition Gary Steele ever attended was BNAPEX 1971 in Halifax. However, it was the Nova Scotia Stamp Club's annual exhibition at Dalhousie University in 1978 that really got his attention. Meeting new people and seeing the exhibits opened up a new world of philately.

On a dreary day in 1979, while visiting Ken MacDonald, a specialist in the Arch Issue, the discussion turned to what might be a possible specialization area for Gary. Upon reviewing the then-current Lyman's catalogue, he decided to collect the 1937–1938 Definitive issue.

After moving to Calgary in 1980, Gary met Ed Harris and Sam Nickle at the British North America Philatelic Society's Calgary Regional Group meetings. He joined BNAPS in 1983. Specialization in King George VI postal history piqued his interest in other areas such as Dead Letter Office handstamps and Canadian short-paid covers to foreign destinations. These long-term relationships with BNAPS and other philatelists have had a profound impact on his collections and research for them.

The 1937–1938 Canadian Definitive Issue 128-page traditional exhibit has been shown five times, receiving a Gold with the Reserve Grand at ORAPEX 2011 in Ottawa, Gold at BNAPEX 2011 in North Bay, Gold with the Reserve Grand at ORAPEX 2012 at Ottawa, Gold with the Horace Harrison Grand Award at BNAPEX 2012 in Calgary, and Gold with the Grand Award at the NOVAPEX 2012 National show in Halifax. This qualified the

exhibit for the American Philatelic Society's Champion of Champions competition at Milwaukee Stampshow 2013, where it received a Prix d'Honneur.



The Maple Leaf Issue of Canada 1897–1898, by David McLaughlin. 2014, 124 pages, 8.5 × 11, spiral bound, ISBN: 978-1-927119-36-5. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 77. Stock # B4h923.77.1, colour; \$C59.00.

David McLaughlin has been a stamp collector since the early 1960s, starting as a worldwide collector with stamps obtained from Woolworth packets and from relatives. Soon after moving to Toronto in 1972, he began to specialize in Canada and later the Maple Leaf and Numeral issues. Through membership in local stamp clubs, Sunday morning visits to the St Lawrence Hall bourse and attendance at local shows, he also developed an interest in postal history. Through the 1980s and 1990s, his collection lay idle as family and career took precedence.

In 1998, David reconnected with the philatelic world and narrowed his specialization further to the eight stamps of the Maple Leaf issue. Much of the material in this exhibit has been collected over the last fifteen years.

This exhibit has been shown eight times in Canada, starting with BNAPEX 2010 in Victoria, and it has won Gold medals each time. It received the Alan Steinhart Reserve Grand awards at BNAPEX 2011 in North Bay and Reserve Grand at the 2013 Royal in Winnipeg, Grand Awards at Edmonton Spring National 2011, ORAPEX 2012 in Ottawa, and the Horace Harrison Grand Award at BNAPEX 2013 in Charlottetown PEI. The exhibit was also awarded a Gold Prix d'Honneur at the APS Champion of Champions competitions in Columbus, OH in 2011 and Sacramento, CA in 2012.

First Day Covers of Canada's 1976 Olympic Games Issues, by Gary Dickinson. 2014, 64 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-37-2. Stock # B4h068.1.1; \$C43.95

Postage stamps commemorating the Olympic Games were first issued with the modern revival of the Games in Athens, Greece, in 1896. Since then, stamps with Olympic themes have become staples of the Games culture and a topical emphasis for many collectors.

Canada was no exception to this aspect of the Olympics after it bid successfully for the 1976 Summer Games to be held in Montreal. The Canada Post Office launched an extensive stamp program that not only complemented regular issues but also encouraged many collectors to pursue opportunities to enhance their holdings. The sale of stamps and related philatelic materials also served as a major fundraising effort to support the Olympiad.

First Day Covers of Canada's 1976 Olympic Games Issues first outlines the story of the Montreal Olympics, with particular attention to the role played by the Canada Post Office, and then goes on to illustrate the numerous first day covers published by Canadian and US makers. FDCs for stamps issued for two related events held in 1976, the Olympiad for the Physically Disabled (as the Paralympics were then called) held in Toronto and the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria are also discussed. A representative sampling of FDCs for stamps issued by other countries commemorating the Montreal Games completes the study.



Dr Gary Dickinson worked in secondary schools, colleges, and universities in British Columbia for thirty-five years until he retired in 2001, the final twenty years at Okanagan College and Okanagan University College, where he served as South Okanagan Regional Director for five years and Dean of the Faculty of Adult and Continuing Education for fifteen years. He was also Acting Vice-President, Academic, for the year-and-a-half prior to his retirement. Gary has continued his association with Okanagan College by chairing its Central Okanagan Advisory Committee and serving on the Research Ethics Board. He was co-founder of the BNAPS FDC Study Group and is editor of its newsletter, *First Impressions*. Gary and his wife Barbara have six grown children and were foster parents for twenty years.

All BNAPS books are available from Sparks Auctions, 1550 Carling Avenue, Suite 202, Ottawa, ON K1Z 8S8, Canada. E-mail: <BNAPS@sparks-auctions.com>. Phone: (613) 567-3336. (If no answer, please leave a voicemail. Your call will be returned.) Internet orders can be placed at <http://sparks-auctions.com/bnapsbooks/>.

Prices given above are the retail prices in Canadian Dollars. BNAPS members receive a forty percent discount from retail prices. Shipping is extra. Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard) will be billed for the exact amount of shipping plus \$2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order, please contact Sparks Auctions in advance. Applicable taxes will be charged on orders delivered in Canada.

Book review

Norris (Bob) Dyer, OTB



Mail From the French Shore of Newfoundland – Établissements Français en Terre Neuve, by James R Taylor and Henk Slabbinck, FRPSL, 128 pages, 76 figures, 8.5 × 11 inches, hardbound, and eBook, 2014, ISBN: 978-1-4602-3126-5 (Hardcover) and 978-1-4602-3128-9 (eBook), both in colour. Published by FriesenPress.com. Ordering information available at www.FriesenPress.com/bookstore: Search for “French Shore.” The book is also available on Amazon.com. There is a five-page summary of the book in French in the appendix. The hardcover book sells for \$C83.99. The eBook is available in multiple formats for \$31.39 at <https://play.google.com/>.

My introduction to this unique research came at BNAPEX 2012 CALTAPEX in Calgary, where James Taylor led a workshop about the subject. This book greatly expands upon that original research. In a recent e-mail, Jim provided this summary:

Our new volume is the first comprehensive review of the circumstances and history of the French Shore Mail, with illustrations of covers. The two previous, well-known collectors of this area were Allen Steinbart and Col Robert Pratt. Their holdings were sold at two ‘name’ sales. Some covers from these sources are illustrated in the book. The sales catalogues are referenced, and the catalogues themselves are also currently available on the Internet.

The “French Treaty Shore” was a seasonal fishing concession granted to the French by the British, under various treaties from 1713 to 1904, in the territory of the Newfoundland colony. It was long a thorn in the side of English-speaking Newfoundlanders, who considered it a purloining of cod, lobsters, and other resources off their shores. Numerous seasonal fishing stations were

created in sheltered bays and harbours, with rights from 15 April through 5 October annually. The French Shore, starting in 1783, went from Cape St John to Cape Ray.

By the 1820s, as many as 9,000 French fishermen per year journeyed to the fishing stations in Newfoundland. To put that into context, the entire population of the colony was only 41,000 as of 1812. By 1898, the number of fisherman dropped to 33 as the fishery declined because of poor catches. Starting in 1880, the French also diverted their fishing fleet to fishing grounds off Iceland, where the cod seemed to have migrated.

On page 18, the authors point out the importance of mail:

The difficult and dangerous occupation of the French fisherman required them to be away from their families in France for seven or eight months at a time. Letters to and from home were very important and in most cases the only means of communication. French naval guard vessels and the hospital ships of the charitable society Oeuvres de Mer delivered and accepted mail. The odd commercial vessel or fishing boat that was headed for France or to the British colonial ports in Nova Scotia, St. John's Newfoundland or in rare cases the United States, also accepted letters.

The authors include maps that show the locations of the stations, of which there were scores. Archaeologists have found few remains of these sites, so the actual old folded letters are consequently valuable relics. There were no postage stamps or postal facilities, and the letters were always sent with charges to be collected from recipients in France. Low literacy also may have also reduced the amount of outgoing mail. Taylor estimates that as many as seventy percent of the known surviving covers were rescued from the files of old French fishing firms, and overall, “only a few hundred may have survived.” Many of the postal markings are stated to be rare or unique.

The book is primarily a postal history study, but it also provides detailed information on the relevant treaties. Figures 13-74 are sharp, colour images of the folded covers. Precise details are provided on the rates, routing, and markings. The covers range from 1737-1884, and they can only be recognized “...with careful examination of the letter headings, dates, written contents and transit postal markings.” There are a number of stations from which no covers are known. Only two covers are shown from the eighteenth century. Few inbound covers are known, but one dated to 1884 is illustrated as Figure 75 in the book.



I asked Jim Taylor how they were able to identify the stations from which outbound mail was sent. He replied that the information came from the handwritten messages. Shown in the figure above is the dateline from a letter written at Cap Rouge on 24 September 1832. Cap Rouge, on the east coast of the Great Northern Peninsula, had rich fishing grounds. By 1873, it boasted 400 fisherman and workers, two doctors, and even a cleric, rare in any of these remote fishing stations. Its name today has been anglicized to “Crouse” or “Carouge.”

The 1904 *Entente Cordiale* between Great Britain and France finally settled the Newfoundland French Shore question. The fishing and landing rights of the French would be abandoned, and the British Colonial territory on the main island of Newfoundland would

be unified. As the authors point out, “The heavy political and developmental penalty of having a foreign concession on its territory was now removed from the Colony, and in 1907, the British Government granted full Dominion status to Newfoundland.”

How well does the book meet its goals? The descriptions of the covers are remarkably thorough. One must realize that this is an arcane subject, with little prior research to help. The history and maps that precede the cover analysis are necessary for us to understand the political game of territorial “ping-pong” between Britain and France during this period, especially concerning the status of the island of St Pierre.

Is there anything missing? I would have liked to have been told more about the lives of the French fisherman so many thousand miles from home. There is an intriguing paragraph on Page 80 about the *Les Petits Oies* station that brushes on the topic:

In 1857, six French ‘rooms’ were in existence with four of these premises occupied by two hundred and fifty-six men from four large vessels. The men managed thirty-four small fishing boats. The shore operation of the French at Les Petites Oies has grown to the extent that local English-speaking gardiens were hired to protect the shore equipment during the winter off-season...

I asked Taylor if the covers they examined contained information about the daily lives and *travails* of what have to have been many homesick workers. He said they have not been able to fully translate all the messages yet.

Is this a book for the Newfoundland or French Colonial collector? Probably so, though the hunt for material will be challenging, as I expect all of the known covers are held by a handful of specialists, including those in the book owned by Taylor and Slabbinck. *Also*, Jim Taylor tells me the *least* of the covers would probably sell for \$1,000 or more. On the other hand, more of these French Shore letters may lie in collections of pre-stamp and ship mail, yet to be identified as such! This book reflects a high degree of unique philatelic scholarship that should be of interest to any thoughtful collector of Newfoundland postal history or student of the history of Newfoundland.

James (Jim) Taylor was born in Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and went to high school in St. John’s, Newfoundland. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Masters Degree in Earth Science, and was a career petroleum geologist. Jim is a *Fédération Internationale de Philatélie* (FIP)-accredited, international philatelic judge. His authoritative *St. Pierre & Miquelon Specialized Stamp Catalogue* was awarded a gold medal at the 2000 Chicagopex Show. A long-time BNAPS member, Jim was Chairman of the very successful BNAPEX 2012 CALTAPEX convention in Calgary. He is also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC), the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and other philatelic societies. He was recently appointed the RPSC’s International Liaison Officer and Chairman of its International Committee.

Henk Slabbinck, FRPSL, is a Belgian citizen, holding academic degrees in international and transportation law from Brussels University and the Harvard Law School. He has held a number of management positions in the airline industry, and for the past ten years he has focussed on consultancy work, specializing in personnel and business management. He has collected Belgian Congo and, more recently, everything connected with the mail of the French Shore. He is President of the European Academy of Philately (AEP) and a member of a number of philatelic societies. His philatelic exhibits were invited to the Court of Honour at Fila Kortrijk 2002, Singapore 2004, and Themabelga 2006.

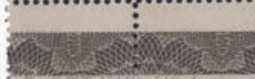
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A “LITTLE” cover story

Eldon C Godfrey

WHEN recently browsing through eBay offerings I came across a “LITTLE” cover, the subject of this story. Although reduced on the left, the cover bears the 50¢ Lumbering (Peace Issue of 1946) stamp, paying the double rate 25¢ per ¼ oz for airmail to Shanghai, China. Upon closer examination, the addressee aroused my curiosity (oh



Figure 1. 50¢ Lumbering (Peace Issue of 1946) paying the double rate 25¢ per ¼ oz for air mail to Shanghai, China.

no—the cat remains alive). Who was LK Little? What was the “C.M. Customs” of which Mr Little appears to be the Inspector-General?

CM Customs was the “Chinese Maritime Customs Service,” a “...Chinese governmental tax collection agency and information service from its founding in 1854 until its bifurcation in 1949 into services operating in the Republic of China on Taiwan and in the People’s Republic of China.” Until 1912, it was called the Imperial Maritime Customs Service. [1]

In 1943, when Lester Knox Little, an American citizen, was appointed Acting Inspector General, he continued the longstanding history of foreigners holding the position of Inspector General. Little took office in Chongqing.

“On 1 October 1949 Mao Zedong proclaimed the People’s Republic of China ... Chiang Kai-shek and approximately 2 million Nationalist Chinese retreated from mainland China to the island of Taiwan in December after the loss of Sichuan.” [2]

The Inspector-General of Customs, Little, accompanied the Nationalist government to

Keywords & phrases: Peace Issue, China, Customs Service

Taiwan together with the other twelve members of the service [3].

"Unlike his predecessor, Little was the last foreign employee to leave Taiwan with a Gold Medal of the Order of the Brilliant Star. Little left his Chinese colleagues a functional Inspectorate in Taipei. The 96-year history of the foreign Inspectorate official ended here." [4]

And so we return to our "reduced" (little) cover addressed to:

Mr. L. K. Little	
Inspector General	
C. M. Customs	
Office of the	Shanghai
Inspectorate General	China
Shanghai	

Received in Shanghai (back stamp)
22.5.48 being 5 days in transmission

References and endnotes

- [1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Maritime_Customs_Service>
 [2] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_civil_war>
 [3] <<http://www.mof.gov.tw/museum/lp.asp?CtNode=36&CtU>>
 [4] <<http://gis.rchss.sinica.edu.tw/cmcs/modern-china%E2%80%99s>>

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Study group centreline

Peter McCarthy, OTB

CENTRELINE presents brief summaries of the specialized research done by BNAPS members as published in the newsletters of its many Study Groups. This column reviews those received between the end of June and mid-September.

British Columbia

Volume 23, Number 2 of the *British Columbia Postal History* newsletter opens with a favourite cover page, displaying a registered cover from Telegraph Creek, a small hamlet in Northern BC. Members were asked for input as to the format of future newsletters giving them an opportunity to be involved in all aspects of the newsletter through the Readers Respond section. Better BC postal history sold through various auction houses is highlighted. Next, there is a lengthy but interesting story about Thomas Gordon and financial discrepancies. Continually being reported are split ring markings from previously unreported BC offices. In a relatively new feature of the newsletter, one will have the opportunity to ask and answer questions. In this issue, the question posed was the use of **R** in a circle used in Nanaimo in 1897 applied using blue ink. Recent “wing” date stamps are illustrated, as are a complete BC wing list from BC post offices to April 23 of this year including ERDs and LRDs. The final article in this issue involved a cancellation error for Osoyoos.

Confederation

Glenn Archer, editor of the Large and Small Queens study group newsletter called *Confederation*, opened Volume 56 with a story of newly discovered covers with the 22¢ rate that applied to letters sent to India via the UK and Egypt between 1870 and 1876. Wayne Smith shows a Large Queen cover with a blue ring Belleville two-ring cancel; the only one that he has seen. Glenn compiled observations from several readers on whether the 1¢ Small Queen shown was a re-entry or double print. Brian Hargreaves discovered a constant scratch on a 1¢ Large Queen, and Vic Willson shows a cover to Austria showing the 15¢ double rate. This is one of three hundred and sixty-four 15¢ covers that Vic has recorded! Really, Vic? Terry Averbeck continued a Bill Radcliffe article from a previous newsletter, on the importance of the post office to business, by illustrating a samples cover and a bag tag. Terry asks for some help with the bag tag. Guy Jeffery sent in a cover with several interests attached to it. The stamp is a 1¢ lemon-yellow Small Queen with an 11½ × 12 perforation on cover with military connections. It is also a drop letter and includes the story of Charles Oliver Fairbanks. Bill Radcliffe has the last word with his report on the study group meeting held at the Vadeboncoeur home during ORAPEX. Bill also talks about one of his recent finds, a 6¢ short paid Small Queen cover to England with some special markings.

Fancy Cancels

In Newsletter 66 of the *Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Newsletter*, Dave Lacelle, the editor, mentions not being able to produce the third edition of his fancy cancel book before the end of the year and also explains what is and what’s not included. The group added two new members to the roster. Dave notes two revisions to the “Fakes, Bogus & Spurious Items” reported in volume 65: the fake Victoria crown and the fake Quyon cancels. Mike Halhead sent in a five cancels of various Ontario towns either early or within period of use,

and Jim McCormick provided a cancel that he says is an M from Ottawa. Paul Varty sent four printed post cards, all with the same receiver cancel stating there was no reason to cancel such cards. Jack Forbes and Ron Smith each included UK covers, one with a Mere UK cancel and the other with a Maltese Cross. Both were very neat items. Larry Margetish asks who now handles emergency cancels seeing they no longer appear in the RPO catalogue? Gary Steele included a strip of four Small Queens with Dead Letter strikes nicely centred. Garfield Portch, Guy Jeffries, and Iain Hallum all sent in some gorgeous examples of fancy cancels either previously unlisted or early and late periods of use. Closing out the newsletter is the Fakes, Bogus & Spurious items section.

First Day Cover Study Group

In issue 21 of *First Impressions*, the newsletter of the First Day Cover Study Group, Gary Dickinson, the editor, introduces the fourth part of John Van der Ven's article on the TG Wolstencroft cachets. There is no definite number of cachets known, but John is steadfastly looking for and keeping readers up-to-date. Gary tells the story of the David Thompson first day covers by the Windermere Historical Society. Also shown are an erroneously-dated cancellation and the first page of the Thompson biography. Bob Vogel provided an illustrated story on the Folkard Company of Canada letter cards used as first day covers. The Folkard Company was located in the Drummond Building at 1117 St. Catherine in Montreal. Bob notes there are Canadian cards numbered to 1,003 and that they were also produced in the US.

Military Mail

The *Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter* 214 of May 2014, edited by Dean Mario, begins with an interesting story from Colin Pomfret about the CEF during its march to Germany and the occupation of the Rhine between 1918 and 1919. Included is a post card, commemorating the liberation of Havré and signed by the mayor. Another card is shown bearing the S. 68 postmark and a cover with the FPO 3.N. It also has censor No. 6/4578 and signed by Lt Vincent G Greene of the 4th Battalion. Ending this story is a reproduced "In Memoriam of Vincent Graves Greene" piece that appeared in *BNA Topics* Volume 45 of September–October 1988. Dean Mario has done a survey of the prisoner of war and internment camp markings used during World War I. Illustrations are included and taken from the works of several very prominent philatelists in the field. Robert Henderson sent in a post card from an Australian POW Camp 133, accompanied by a photo of ten German POWs. Reader input is requested with regards to Camp 133.

The cover of number 215 of the *Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter* shows a scarce Dunsterforce cover from the Great War sent in by John Watson with the story on page two, along with an article from Colin Pomfret on a 1915 Civil Censorship Type 2 tape. This is only the second such 1915 cover reported. According to a Jim Felton story, many service organizations met troop trains wherever they stopped and handed out post cards for the men to mail home. Some of the trains crossed over from the States to Windsor on their way overseas. The committee gathered up post cards from the troops and mailed them from Detroit because US postage was attached. This great story is followed by one on the elusive roller cancels used during WWI. Interested in the Great War? C.R. Ron McGuire lists the war-related exhibits in Ottawa. Auction details of Ged Taylor's material are supplied, and post cards of post-war trench restoration are shown with description.

Re-Entries

Re-entries under the masthead of *Dots and Scratches*, under the editorship of Michael D Smith, is back. In Volume 1, Number 1, Michael begins with a philatelic profile of himself and his recent claim to fame as the discoverer of the third copy of Canada Unitrade #32, the 2c Large Queen on laid paper, although he did contribute a great deal to the re-entry group in the past. Jim McCormick sent in an image of a Bill Radcliff 3c Large Queen with a major re-entry that appears in the Duckworth publication. Glen Archer provided an image of a possible new re-entry on a 3c Large Queen, with exploded images showing doubling in various places in the upper and lower right corners. McCormick and Radcliff have teamed up once more on a re-entry on a 15c Large Queen. A plate flaw on the three pence Beaver, unlisted in Unitrade, and the Bluenose man-in-the-mast variety was shown. A nice re-entry on a vertical coil of a 2c Admiral #132 is followed by a plate flaw on the 3c Admiral and an interesting re-entry on the Newfoundland 12c Willow Ptarmigan. Rounding out the newsletter is an image of a 3c Beaver, with what appears to be vertical parallel frame lines in the upper right margin, and a vertical inner frame line extending to the outer lower frame line. Michael is looking for reader input for future *Dots and Scratches*.

Revenues



Figure 1. Example of WWI War Savings stamps. The stamps were initially issued in booklets with 2-, 5-, 10-, or 25-panes of eight stamps.

Issue No. 84 of the *Revenue Newsletter* begins with a great article about the fact that the WAR TAX stamps of 1915 did not finance World War I. The tax actually went into the Post Office general funds. Editor Christopher Ryan goes on to explain which taxes did finance the war. Take note of his list of references. Dave Hannay provided two articles, one with

illustrations of pre-cancelled excise stamps used to revalue match imprints in 1922. A second article related to a vehicle search in the British Columbia Motor Vehicle Branch with three revenue stamps totaling 75¢ applied. Christopher Ryan tells the story of René Édouard Campeau, a senior accountant and later Chief Accountant of Canada's Inland Revenue Department, showing a private post card offering to exchange fiscal stamps for numismatic items. Chris then tells of different excise licences in an article entitled "Colours of the Series 1897 Tobacco Stamps," and about the absence of Red Snuff Stamps. Ending the newsletter is still another article by Christopher Ryan. It is Part 4 of the series "Quebec's Law Stamps Taxes, Registration Stamp Duties and Stamp Fees in Provincial Registry Offices, 1864–1992." Part 4 deals with illustrating the Law Stamp Tax, Special Registration Stamp fees, and Exemptions. The story deals with the stamps that, in most cases, illustrate how governments "nickel and dime" citizens for services rendered. Of course, it added a whole new and interesting dimension to philately and is very enlightening.

In issue number 85, Chris Ryan starts with the Cinderella corner and the Canadian Liquor Bottling Stamps Marked "Export" and all the instructions that went along with it. Reference notes accompany the article. Fritz Angst provided an illustration of an Old Chum pipe tobacco can that was used to send duty-free pipe tobacco to the troops during the Second World War. Dave Hannay submitted an article on the British Columbia Registrar of Companies Document with Search Fee stamps. There is apparently a difference between his listings and those of the Van Dam catalogue. Chris Ryan rounds out the newsletter with the fifth installment of Quebec's Law Stamp Taxes, Registration Stamp Duties and Stamp Fees in Provincial Registry Offices, 1864–1992. This latest article deals with Certificates of Searches and other documents issued by Registrars.

Railway Post Offices

In the *Railway Post Office Study Group Newsletter* volume 42, number 5, Ross Gray, the editor, shows a previously unreported clerk marking with a little mystery to it. The clerk, JT Williams applied the Tor. Ham & Tor. RPO marking on a Thedford cover, addressed to London, four days after it was posted. Ross describes the possible events that took place. Colin Lewis provided a number of new reports for Maritime markings, mostly early and late dates. Rick Parama sent in three early and late dates on Western markings on bag tags. Ross Gray did a hammer study on WT-961.01, W^PG. & REG. R.P.O./N^o 1. Three different hammers are known to exist. The newsletter is finalized with several new reports from non-BNAPS member Jack Brandt.

In Number 6, the July–August, 2014 issue, Ross Gray shows how a cover travelled a longer-than-necessary time over the Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway and the Grand Trunk after apparently being left in the bottom of a mail bag. Wayne Schnarr provided a list of new reports, several of which are new train numbers for various cancels. Ross Gray submitted some new and interesting listings, including several new straight line, clerk handstamps. Peter McCarthy wrote a story on the routing of an 1860 cover that was not as it appears. The newsletter is concluded with more new finds, and a fake found by Joe Smith

World War II Study Group

Page 1 of Issue 58 of *War Times*, edited by Bill Pekonen, reports on a multi-page checklist of Blackout machine cancels by (who else but!) Bob Thorne. Bob is looking for illustrations to verify the dates used. Also a book by Clayton Rubec on the Canadian and Newfoundland War Ration Books and Coupons was publicised. The issue is almost completely taken up with War Savings stamps, supplied by Barry Brown. The individual articles are well

illustrated, including various booklet covers and denominations. The booklets on the last page are from Bill Pekonen's collection.

Postscript

Congratulations to both Gary Dickinson and Ross Gray on being awarded the Siverts award for the year's best newsletter. This is by no means a reflection on the other editors—picking winners in this category is an extremely difficult task. All of the editors do an excellent job.

If you are undecided as to which Study Group to join, ask the editor or editors for a copy of the newsletter(s) that seems to appeal to you. They will gladly send you a copy as well as information about joining the Study Group.



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New issues

William JF Wilson

A photographer's life

THE second set of stamps in Canada Post's "150 Years of Photography" series was released on 7 July. The seven-stamp set covers a century of Canadian photography, from an 1885 portrait of Sitting Bull and Buffalo Bill taken at the William Notman Studio in Montreal to a 1985 photograph entitled *Railcuts #1* by Edward Burtynsky of Toronto.

One of the photographs in the set is titled simply *Unidentified Chinese Man* (Figure 1). The photograph was taken by Chow Dong Hoy of Quesnel, BC, and is from a collection of 1,531 of his photographs housed in the public archives of Barkerville Historic Town. A gallery of eighty-nine of these photographs can be seen in [1], along with another five in the text accompanying the gallery. The original of the photograph on the stamp is on p. 36 of this book.

Although the photographs in the collection are all undated, a calendar in the image on the stamp shows May, 1912. Nevertheless, the date accompanying the title on the stamp is simply "circa 1912." Perhaps it was felt that the calendar could be a photographic prop and might not reflect the actual month and year of the photograph.

The calendar itself is from Leeson, Dickie & Gross, Ltd, wholesale grocers (Vancouver and New Westminster, BC). Ernest W Leeson moved to Vancouver from Brandon, MB, about 1903, and formed the partnership with Edwin Dickie and Clarence Gross, both from New Brunswick, in 1908 [2]. The warehouse shown on the calendar was built in 1909 at 97 Water Street (the corner of Water and Abbott Streets) in Vancouver's Gastown.

In 1918, the British Columbia arm of the company was apparently absorbed by Western Grocers, which had been established in Winnipeg in 1912, and the company's name was changed to Western Grocers. The warehouse shown on the calendar is still standing, now being used for offices. Both a recent photograph and a 1938 archival photograph (when it was being used by the Terminal Cartage Co) can be found in [2]. Leeson, Dickie, Gross & Co. illustrated envelopes also exist;



Figure 1. Unidentified Chinese Man; photograph by Chow Dong Hoy

one appears in *BNA Topics*, Volume 65, Number 3, 2008, p. 21. Although this one does not show the warehouse, I wonder if perhaps there are some that do.

Chow Dong Hoy (1883–1973) led an interesting and varied life. (The information presented here is from [1, pp. 110ff]). He was the second of five children, and the oldest son, of Chow Doh Dick and his wife, from the village of Sui Soon Lee, Guangdong province, China. (In accordance with Chinese tradition, the family name, Chow, comes first). Despite their poverty, Chow Doh Dick attempted to give his son a good education, but he had to take him out of school after only Grade 3 because of a lack of money. A year later, at the age of twelve, Hoy left home to find employment. For three years he worked at an opium den, being “paid” only room and board, then at a cotton and silk factory for another three years for the equivalent of \$2 per year, plus room and board. By this time, his father had heard about better job prospects in Canada and put himself into debt to send Hoy to Canada. The cost was \$300 for passage on the *Empress of China* and \$100 for the Chinese head tax imposed by the Canadian government at that time.

The nineteen-year-old Hoy landed in Vancouver in October, 1902, with very little money and a new name—the immigration officials did not understand the Chinese naming tradition and registered him with the family name of Hoy and first names Chow Dong. He was now CD Hoy. He also had a burning desire to repay his father and better himself. He had no family in Canada, but he was taken in by a shopkeeper in Vancouver’s Chinatown who was from Hoy’s family village. His first job was as a houseboy at \$5 a month, all of which he paid to a tutor he hired to teach him English. Looking for a better income, and hearing that there was still gold to be found in the Cariboo, he borrowed \$20 from a friend and spent it all on train fare, new shoes (walking 148 miles in six days), and steamboat fare—arriving in Quesnel with hardly a cent in his pocket. Again, he was taken in by the Chinese community. After a year-and-a-half as a dishwasher at the Occidental Hotel in Quesnel at \$15/month, plus free room and board (allowing him for the first time to send money home), and two years as a cook for the Hudson’s Bay post at Fort St James at \$30/month, he opened his own Hoy Trading Company. About this time, he also set out to learn the native Carrier language of the area. The trading company unfortunately failed, and his next jobs were as an axe man, surveyor, and cook for the Grand Trunk Railway, somewhere between Fort George and Tête Jaune Cache. After walking from Fort George all the way back to Quesnel, he continued to work as a cook, this time at the Cariboo Hotel.

Gold still beckoned, and the early spring of 1909 found him in Barkerville, one hundred miles east of Quesnel. The gold was located at a fairly high altitude and was frozen into the ground until April or May. Placer mining offered only low wages, so he used his ingenuity to augment his income. In addition to becoming a watch repairman and a barber, he also learned photography and set himself up as a professional photographer. In late 1909, he moved back to Quesnel and, by February, 1910, he had saved the \$2,000 needed to return to China to get married—but not, unfortunately, enough to pay the travel expenses and head tax to bring his wife back to Canada with him. For this, they had to wait for another seven years.

After jobs as a farmhand and cook south of Quesnel in 1911 and others in Quesnel in 1912 (and still taking portraits), he was able to buy three buildings in Quesnel, including a house, and he set himself up as a shopkeeper and professional photographer. Along with his successful shop, other interests over the years included buying and selling gold brought in by miners, managing the Lode Theatre in Wells (a town on the road to Barkerville), operating

the Wells Light and Power Company, and—after returning to China in 1917 to bring his wife to Quesnel—raising a family. His expanding business left less and less time for photography and, by some point before 1924, he was no longer using his portrait studio. He died in 1973, a successful and respected citizen of Quesnel.

As discussed in [1, pp. 125ff], Hoy appears to have been only the third Chinese professional photographer in BC. He was also the first photographer in Quesnel, and the only one active in Quesnel and Barkerville at that time. He was the portrait photographer for the entire community, and his subjects are approximately equally divided between Chinese, Native, and Caucasian people. As Faith Moosang puts it in [1, p. 150], Hoy's photographs are "the largest extant and publicly accessible record of Interior Native people in the whole of British Columbia [and similarly of] Chinese miners, shopkeepers, farmers and freight-carriers.... If it were not for Hoy and his camera, these people would have been excluded from the photographic record, and would be largely invisible to our cultural memory." Also [1, p. 151], "The Hoy archive stands as a celebration of the people we find in it, and of a remarkable man and a great photographer."

References

- [1] Faith Moosang, *FIRST SON: Portraits by C. D. Hoy*. Presentation House Gallery, Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, 1999.
 [2] Website url: <http://changingvancouver.wordpress.com/tag/parr-and-fee/>.

Table 1 Information

The information in the accompanying tables is from the Canada Post website,

<http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/personal/collecting/stamps/2014/index.jsf>,

Canada Post's *Details* publication, and 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. Stamp size, perforations, and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) × (VERTICAL).

Footnotes for Table 1

- (a) Listed as 6CL in Canada Post's *Details* booklet, but the selvage shows five colour dots.
 (b) Three booklets: one of 10 P stamps (5 designs), one of 6 × \$1.20, and one of 6 × \$2.50.
 (c) Two SS: one of 4 landscape-format stamps and one of 3 portrait-format stamps.
 (d) Black and white stamps appear to be all 3CL and colour stamps 6 CL.
 (e) A: Shania Twain; B: k. d. lang; C: Tommy Hunter; D: Hank Snow; E: Renée Martel.

Abbreviations for Table 1: *number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; Bk = booklet; CBN = Canadian Bank Note Co.; G4S = general tagging (four sides); L-M = Lowe-Martin; P = permanently equal to the domestic rate; P-S = pressure-sensitive; PVA = polyvinyl alcohol; s-t = se-tenant; SH = sheet; SS = souvenir sheet.

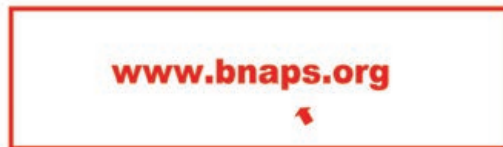


Table 1. 2014 Commemoratives and Definitives

(all on Tullis Russell coated-paper; tagging G4S, see footnotes and definitions of abbreviations on page 69)

Stamp	Empress of Ireland	Haunted Canada	Ottawa REDBLACKS	Canadian Photography	Country Artists	Human Rights Museum	Comedians
Value	P, \$2.50 5 × P (s-t on SS)	5 × P (s-t on SS)	P 5 × P, \$1.20, \$2.50 (s-t on two SS)	5 × P (A,D,E, and B,C s-t on SS) ^(c)	5 × P (A,D,E, and B,C s-t on SS) ^(c)	P	5 × P (s-t on SS)
Issued	29 May	13 June	19 June	7 July	31 July	20 August	29 August
Printer	L-M	L-M	CBN	L-M	L-M	L-M	CBN
Pane	Bk: 10 SH: 16 SS: 1	Bk: 10 SS: 5	Bk: 10 Coil: 50	Bk: 10 SS: 6	Bk: 10 SS: 5	Bk: 10 SS: 5	Bk: 10 SS: 5
Process	Bk, SH: 7CL SS: 5CL ^(b)	5CL + holographic foil	6CL	3CL & 6CL ^(d)	A,D,E ^(e) ; 5CL B,C ^(e) ; 4CL	6CL	5CL
Qty (1000s)	Bk: 200 SH: 75 SS: 200	SS: 200 Bk: 400	Bk: 150 Coil: 20	SS: 130 each Bk(10); 230 Bk(6); 140 each	Bk ^(e) ; A, 400; B, 300; C,D, 250 each; E, 200 SS: 250	200	SS: 300 Bk: 250
Gum	SH, SS: PVA Bk: P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S	P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S	P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S
Size, mm	SH, Bk: 32 × 32 SS: 84 × 36	32 × 32	Bk: 32 × 40 Coil: 24 × 20	Landscape: 36 × 30 Portrait: 30 × 36	40 × 32	40 × 40	48 × 25.8
Perf	SH: 12.5 × 12.5 SS: 12.9 × 12.8	SS: 12.5 × 12.5 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	SS: 13.3 × 13.3 Bk: Simulated	SS: 12.5 × 12.5 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	SS: 12.5 × 13.2 Bk: Simulated
Teeth	Bk: Simulated SH: 20 × 20 SS: 54 × 23 Bk: Simulated	SS: 20 × 20 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	Landscape: 24 × 20 Portrait: 20 × 24	SS: 25 × 20 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	30 × 17

BNAPS business and reports

President's column

George Dresser, OTB

IT is my pleasure to assume the duties of President following the 2014 annual convention and exhibition in Hunt Valley, Maryland, a joint exhibition of the Baltimore Philatelic Society (BALPEX) and the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPEX). I found the convention a rewarding experience and, as always, enjoyed the company of long-time BNAPS members and the opportunity to meet first-time convention-goers. The BNAPS portion of the convention was under the very capable direction of Barry Casanova, Jeff Arndt, and Ron Majors. I extend my thanks to these gentlemen for their hard work. As always, Convention Committee members Earle Covert and Mike Street provided valuable assistance. The 2015 convention will be held at an outstanding location in Niagara Falls; begin now making your plans to attend!



Thanks to outgoing officers

With this convention, several officers completed their terms of office. I would like to thank Robert Lemire, Immediate Past President, Jack Forbes, Vice-President, Regional Groups, and David Jones, Secretary, for their many outstanding contributions to the Society over an extended period of time. Few members realize the many and longstanding contributions that Robert Lemire continues to make to the Society. Robert just completed six years on the Board of Directors as First Vice-President, President, and Immediate Past President. Robert is also the Publications Committee Chairperson and the go-to guy for all sorts of questions about the operation of the Society (not to mention co-editing *BNA Topics* for six of the past eight years). Jack Forbes completed six years as Vice President, Regional Groups, and has consistently worked to energize, support, and report on the activities of the Regional Groups. The Regional Groups provide an opportunity (forty-two percent of the members responding to the recent survey participate in a Regional Group) to participate in BNA philately and to socialize with BNA collectors throughout the year. If it is feasible for you to participate in a Regional Group, I strongly encourage you to do so (It's fun). David Jones served as Secretary for four years. Being the Society's secretary is a demanding job and one many of us take for granted. As the Society enhanced its digital record keeping capability and several online services, the demands of the secretary increased to develop and implement new processes. David has been instrumental in this process and his many contributions are gratefully acknowledged. Thank you, David.

I want to especially recognize our now Immediate Past President, Bob Dyer, for his many significant contributions during his two-year term as the Society's President. Bob has been challenged by health issues during most of his presidency. These challenges have sapped his energy and restricted his ability to travel. Nevertheless, Bob has carried out his duties admirably while continuing his editorship of the *Nenfie Newsletter*. Bob will serve as the Immediate Past President for two more years. Bob has worked particularly hard analyzing

and reporting on the membership survey and thinking about how to use the survey findings to improve the Society. When the opportunity permits, give Bob your personal thanks for his hard work.

Study group participation

At the Annual General Meeting I asked the members how many did not belong to at least one Study Group. One member of the thirty-plus members in attendance did not belong to a Study Group. Based on the survey, an estimated fifty-six percent of the members belong to at least one Study Group. Our website, www.bnaps.org, lists twenty-two active Study Groups. If you are not participating in one, you are really missing a significant benefit.

World Stamp Show 2016

Have you ever been to a World Stamp Show? Your opportunity is coming, and BNAPS is participating. World Stamp Show NY 2016 is an eight-day show scheduled to be held from 28 May to 4 June 2016 at the Javits Center in the heart of New York City. Too expensive? Maybe not. Special room rates start at \$139, amazing for New York City. See www.ny2016.org. As we get closer to the date, we will be looking for volunteers to help staff the BNAPS table. These shows happen once every ten years. Do not miss this event.

Highlights of Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting

I have a modest amount of information and some requests to share from the Board of Directors Meeting and the Annual General Meeting:

From the Circulation Manager, Ken Lemke: Everyone, please keep your mailing address and other personal data current with the secretary or online so that your copy of *BNA Topics* is not returned, resulting in extra effort to track you down. Failing to do so will cost the Society money and the Circulation Manager extra work. Returns are a significant problem; please do your part. Thanks.

From the Exchange Circuits Manager, Andy Ellwood: There is new material on the exchange circuit and a greater variety of material is expected in the coming weeks. Take a look at the BNAPS website (www.BNAPS.org).

From the Online Resources and Exhibits Committee Chairperson, Leo Beudet: New exhibits and resources have been posted and additional resources are being prepared. Again, take a look. Do you have exhibits or resources you can share? Leo is always looking for contributors.

From the Treasurer, J-Claude Michaud: the financial health of the society is sound, and no change to the dues is needed for 2015.

From the Convention Committee Chairperson, Earle Covert: the 2015 convention will be held in Niagara Falls, ON, 11–13 September, a week later than usual. Room reservations are currently being taken at the Ramada Plaza at a special rate. The Convention Committee is almost ready to go and their website should be up and running soon. The site for the 2016 convention has not been selected, but Fredericton, NB is in the running. The 2017 convention will be in Ottawa in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

The Board expressed its thanks and appreciation to Leo Beudet and Robin Harris for their excellent work on the BNAPS website during the past twenty-four months.

As usual, the Board of Directors met for most of the day and discussed a wide variety of topics, challenges, and issues, and shared a lot of information. The Society is being directed by an able, dedicated, and thoughtful group of elected and appointed officials and, from my perspective as the new President, is being well led and managed.

Enjoy your collecting and make it fun.

From the Secretary—Report date: 9 September 2014

Andy Ellwood

(10 Doris Avenue, Gloucester, ON K1T 3W8, andy_ellwood@rogers.com)

Membership fees

Annual membership fees are \$C35 or equivalent in US dollars, C\$40 for members from outside North America. Membership applications submitted during the second or third quarter of the year should be accompanied by 75 or 50 percent, respectively, of the annual fee. Applications submitted in the fourth quarter of the year should be accompanied by 25 percent of the annual fee plus the full fee for the coming year. Three-year memberships can be obtained at a ten percent reduction in cost. Send application form and cheque or money order to the Secretary.

Applications for membership

After receipt of an application, the New Applicant's name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNA Topics*. If no objection from any other BNAPS member is received within approximately 60 days, then the applicant is listed as a "New Member" in the next issue of *BNA Topics*.

New applicants: Applied between 25 June, 2014 and 5 September, 2014

R-6768 Ian Fairnington, Oak Harbour,
WA

R-6782 Claude Cholette, Chambly, QC

R-6783 Patrick Laracy, St. John's NF

R-6784 Kathryn Johnson, Skokie, IL

R-6785 Marcus Vaska, Calgary, AB

R-6786 David Cottenden, Bridgetown,
NS

R-6787 David Weisgerber, Frederick,
MD

New members: All applicants between R-6771 and R-6781 have been confirmed as full members of BNAPS.

Address Changes: Dates between 25 June, 2014 and 5 September, 2014

R-6581 Geoffrey Browning, Ottawa
ON

R-4894 Michael D Smith, Oak Ridge,
TN

R-6374 Joe Trauzzi, Brampton, ON

R-6785 Marcus Vaska, Calgary, AB

R-6379 Simon Taylor-Young, Cranbrook
Kent, UK

R-6353 Jean-Claude Vasseur, Boulogne-
B, France

R-6376 Marc Beaupre, Riviere-a-Pierre,
QC

R-6775 Luc Legault, Montreal, QC

R-6672 Robert Milner, Beaumont, AB
L-4254 K Wayne Smith, Scarborough,
ON

R-6116 Raymond Dubeau, Callander,
ON

E-2923 Colin G Banfrey, Loughton,
Essex, UK

Address Changes (continued)

R-3752 Tom Collop, 1 Dover Centre, Chatham-Kent, ON

R-6630 Bev Hills, Campbell River, BC

R-6018 Joseph Plut, Alliston, ON

R-6773 Mark Rubin, Lachine, QC

R-6750 Earl Foster, Charlottetown, PE

R-6263 Greg Spring, Sheffield, UK

R-6776 J. Randall Shoemaker,

Melbourne, FL

Members Reinstated:

R-3278 Charles Jacobson

Resigned:

R-6659 David Kidd, Winsloe, PE

R-6719 Gilbert Moylan, Gatineau, QC

Deceased:

E-1995 John Gareau

E-2792 Theodor Kerzner

L-3667 Beverlie Clark

R-6757 Andrew Liptak

Active Member Count- As of 5 September, 2014

Regular member	860
Emeritus	103
Life member	57
Emeritus family members	3
New members (pending)	7
Complimentary members	15
Topics subscription	5
TOTAL	1050

Exchange/library/non-member subscriptions (20) are not counted as active members

Classified advertisements

RATES FOR 25 words—\$6 Canadian, 20¢ for each additional word. All ad copy and payments should be sent to the Advertising Manager, Hank Narbonne, 136 Morphy St, Carleton Place, ON, K7C 2B4 Canada, to be received by the fifteenth of March, June, September, or December for the next issue of *BNA Topics*. Ads requiring photos, cuts, logos, and other production tasks will incur charges at a nominal, industry standard rate. These costs will be billed to the advertiser. Please identify the number of issues in which the ad is to appear. All payments should be made to BNAPS Ltd., at the rates listed above, in Canadian dollars or US equivalent.

FOR SALE

CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND COVERS. Thousands scanned, online at www.donslau.com, Stampless to WW II—have a look. Don Slaughter, Box 8002, RPO Sherwood Forest, London, ON, N6G 4X1 (4-13)

WANTED

NEWFOUNDLAND: (1) covers to non-English foreign destinations; (2) covers with pictorial issue stamps to foreign and Empire destinations. Graham Worrall, Box 241, Gloverton, NL A0G 2L0 or [gworrall@mun.ca](mailto:gworral@mun.ca).

LITERATURE

OLD ISSUES OF BNA Topics FOR SALE: Add valuable info to your library. Will do first come, first-served basis. Write to Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20-22, Burlington, Ontario L7N 3P2 <kwlemke@sympatico.ca>.

Regional Group Rant

Ronald E Majors

Overview!

After serving as Vice-President, Regional Groups, for the last seven years, Jack Forbes has decided to step down. We should all thank Jack for his many years of service to BNAPS as a member of the Board of Directors and as Regional Group VP. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors is searching for a suitable replacement and, hopefully, before the next issue of *BNA Topics*, a new Regional Group Rant editor will once again take over this spot. Meanwhile, a number of Regional Group contact people have kindly supplied information on their latest or planned meetings. If you are interested in joining in Regional Group activities, it is probably best to get in touch with the contact person (listed in the Business section with contact information) and see when and where the next get-together might be.

In searching for contributions to this issue of the *Rant*, I have noticed that only a few Regional Groups have regular monthly meetings, while some only meet once a year and others are even more irregular. Remember that if you are a BNAPS member you are automatically enrolled in your local Regional Group so, by all means, take advantage of the opportunity to meet with fellow BNAPSers, even at a local stamp show in the US or Canada.

Regional Group Reports

Information on group activities so far this fall has been somewhat sparse! Please remember to advise both me (ronald.e.majors@gmail.com) (temporarily) and our website coordinator, Dave Bartlet (dave.bartlet@shaw.ca) of the dates of upcoming meetings, with agendas, if available, and any notices of other events (Stamp Shows, Bourses, *etc*) in each of your areas. Similarly, it is important that copies of your meeting reports be sent to both of us to provide information that is of considerable value and interest to our membership as a whole.

A summary of the reports I have received to-date follows. (As we only provide brief outlines of the meetings in this column, please check out the BNAPS website for further details on activities in your particular geographical area.)

Beginning their tenth season as a Regional Group, the *Golden Horseshoe Group* had their gathering at their familiar haunt—the Rousseau House Restaurant—in quaint downtown Ancaster, ON. The day started off as usual, with friendly chatter over coffee and going through dealer material. Much of the talk was about items acquired over the summer months and at BNAPEX, held in conjunction with BALPEX 2014.

Mike Street gave a report on BNAPEX 2014 held in Hunt Valley, just outside Baltimore, MD. Attendance was a bit lower than hoped but exhibits were excellent and those who made the trip had a good time. A highlight for Mike and many of the participants was the dinner at the Garret-Jacobs Mansion, a United States National Historic Site, in downtown Baltimore.

The big announcement was the location of next year's BNAPEX 2015: Niagara Falls, Ontario. Stuart Keeley gave us an update. He and his committee are working very hard to make sure this will be an enjoyable experience. You will hear more as time goes on, but I would suggest registering early.

The balance of Larry Paige's philatelic library formed a large part of the regular auction. This wasn't the liveliest auction they have ever had, but items did well. The proceeds go towards the group's expenses. The guest speaker was Peter McCarthy, whose topic was the 1972–1977 Definitive Issue of Canada, better known as the Caricatures and Landscapes issue. Again, they would like to thank Simon Claughton for supplying the electronics for the PowerPoint presentation. The next gathering will be on 29 November, with guest speaker George Vanderburgh, whose topic will be Canadian Special Order Postal Stationery.

The *St. Lawrence Seaway Regional Group (SLSRG)* meets twice a year; once in May at the Orapex show in Ottawa and in October in Perth. At their May 2014 meeting, two guest speakers gave very interesting presentations on early Quebec postal history. Christiane Faucher's presentation was "Postal Privilege of the Province of Canada's Executive Council." She reported that there is limited material available, but she has managed to obtain photocopies of several letters at the Quebec National Archives. Most of the letters involved free-franking, written by Acting Secretaries or Secretaries for the Executive Council (or Privy Council, its new name) to lawyers and/or civil servants, with appropriate department crests on the back of the envelope. Other covers consisted of communiqués to civil servants in departments not located where the Executive Council was located, such as Kingston, York, Montreal, and Quebec at various times.



Member Jacques Poitras gave a talk on Pre-Confederation Island Mail: The Lower St. Lawrence (Island) and the Magdalens. He showed examples of letters sent from Montreal via Quebec onward to communities on Ile d'Orleans (six villages: Grosse-Ile (quarantine island), Ile-aux-Grues, -Oies, and -Coudres, Ile-Vert, and Ile du Bic, along with Anticosti Island and the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence). Since there were no post offices on these islands, mail was entrusted to ship captains, who would drop the letters at a convenient location (*e.g.*, tavern, store, *etc*) or the mail would be trans-shipped to the care of another captain. Delivery charges (2 cents) or by "favour" gave rise to a confusing system, highly dependent upon maritime navigation (*e.g.*, wind directions, currents, *etc*) which made it challenging to collect this pre-Confederation material. Some interesting and amusing aspects of Jacques' presentation included the note that addresses were often nebulous—for example, "Pierre Boudoin of Ile-d'Orleans" (no village specified)—or "to/from St. Pierre": There were hundreds of St Pierres, each with a different suffix which necessitated trips to the Quebec Archives to consult their genealogical databases in order to determine where the individual lived. The *SLSRG* will hold their next meeting on October 18 at the McMartin House in Perth. The meeting will begin at 10am with a trading session for members, followed by a general meeting with Show-and-Tell exhibits, followed by a reception and a Group dinner at a local restaurant.

An informal meeting of the *Midwest Regional Group (MRG)* was held at the 2014 American Philatelic Society's stamp show in Hartford, Connecticut. Richard Judge gave a short seminar on his recent study of the shades of the 2¢ carmine Admiral issue. Some new spectroscopic evidence was presented for the identification of the 'aniline' ink variety. About ten members of the BNAPS community were present for the talk, with participation from a wide diversity of regional group members.

The next *MRG* meeting will be at the CHICAGOPEX meeting in late November. Ronald Dewey has offered to give a talk on the postal history of some less-expensive items.

Richard Judge will also update members on the continuing story of the spectroscopy of the aniline ink variety. The final date and time for the meeting has not been determined as of this writing, so please check the BNAPS website for details. Regional members will receive a mailing about two weeks before the meeting that will give the final details.

The *Dixie Beavers* had a most informative meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, in conjunction with CHARPEX 2014 on 26 July. Six BNAPS members and two visitors attended the meeting, which was highlighted by a presentation by member Ralph Vicero



Figure 1. John Burnett chairs Dixie Beavers meeting at CHARPEX 2014.

where he showed his collection of perf 12 ½ 3c Small Queens. Ralph had some twenty examples—all dated—and what he showed of specific interest to the group was a distinctive pink shade of stamp on dated covers. Other members also had show-and-tell items. John Burnett showed a number of WWII covers that will be featured in a series of short articles set to run in *BNA Topics*. These covers are titled “Little Known Facts of Canadian Postal History During WWII” and included items such as CANLOAN, Japanese POW, and MS Gripsholm covers. All members had a good time. There was good fellowship and we agreed that we would meet again in January 2015 at the Southeast regional show (SERS) in Atlanta. Once again the SERS has secured a \$79 room rate from the Hilton; this will include a full breakfast. Each member will try to get more Dixie members to attend, as all agree this is a fun get-together.

Eldon Godfrey reported on the activities of *Calgary Regional Group*. They kicked off the philatelic season meeting on 10 September 2014, with a discussion on the final details of the CALTAPEX (October 17-19) which will involve a joint exhibit by BNAPS members. Dale Speirs is in charge of the Exhibit. Members who attended BNAPEX 2014 in Baltimore reported on the event.

Planning programs for the coming year was also part of the meeting. As usual, a Show-and-Tell session allowed members to show off their latest acquisitions. Some upcoming stamp events in 2015 were mentioned, including AmeriStamp Expo (Riverside, CA, 13–15 February), Edmonton National (29–30 March), Calgary Spring Bourse (April TBD), Orapex (Ottawa, 2–3 May), Royal 2015 Royal (London, ON, 22–24 May), APS Stampshow (Grand Rapids, 14–16 August), and BNAPEX (Niagara Falls, ON, 11–13 September). Their meetings are held monthly, on the second Wednesday, at the Chateau Renoir Retirement Residence.

The *Golden West Regional Group* will meet at WESTPEX (San Francisco, CA) on 25 April 2015 from 1-2:30pm. At time of this writing, the speaker and room haven't yet been identified.

Reminder

In continuing efforts to promote a possible *Florida Regional Group*, Mark Isaacs is planning a meeting in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition being held on 6–8 February 2015. Mark (phone (941) 951-1419) encourages all members in that area at that time, whether permanent residents or visitors, to attend, and asks for assistance in this organizing effort.

Executives, Directors and Officers, Study & Regional Group Contacts

British North America Philatelic Society Ltd (Society Home Page: <http://www.bnaps.org>)

Elected officers: Executive

President George Dresser, 501 Fairview Ave, College Station, TX 77840 <g-dresser@suddenlink.net>

First Vice-President, Eldon C Godfrey, 2 Varbow Place NW, Calgary, AB T3A 0B6

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Past President Norris R (Bob) Dyer, 1708 Granada Ct, Petaluma, CA 94954-4531

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Vice-President Regional Groups Vacant

Vice-President Study Groups Peter R MacDonald, 1264 Sherman Dr, Ottawa, ON K2C 2M8,

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Secretary Andy Ellwood, 10 Doris Avenue, Gloucester, ON K1T 3W8 <andy_ellwood@rogers.com>

Treasurer Jean-Claude Michaud, PO Box 31248, Halifax, NS B3K 5Y1 <jcm.ph@ns.sympatico.ca>

Elected Officers: Board of Directors

Ten sitting members; five elected, in even-numbered years, for four-year terms.

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Fakes and Forgeries (‡)Ken Pugh, 45964 Ivy Ave, Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 2C5, <kpugh@shaw.ca>

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George VI-Gary Steele, 6 Braemont Ct, Middle Sackville, NS B4E 3A1 gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca

Illustrated Mail, Ken Lemke, 3488 Rubens Court, Burlington, ON L7N 3K4
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Large and Small Queens-William Radcliffe, 500 Columbia Ave, Pitman, NJ 08071-1734
<bsbvp88@hotmail.com>

Military Mail-Henk Bergers, 8 Lucia Court Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0 <hbuffers@cogeco.ca>

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‡ indicates group in formation; please contact Study Group leader for more information

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