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# BNA Topics



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# BNA pics

Volume 73 Number 2 Whole Number 547

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Cover Illustration: Prohibited letter sent from Toronto to Montreal in 1931. (Courtesy Hugo Deshayé)

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## Editorial

*Ron Smith, Chairman BNAPEX2016 FREDERICTON*

**A**S Chair of BNAPEX2016 FREDERICTON, on behalf of the Fredericton District Stamp Club (FDSC), I want to extend a warm welcome and invitation to ALL stamp collectors and philatelists to come and experience some Maritime hospitality this fall.

Please see the BNAPS website for details. The topic that I have chosen to write about in this Editorial is: Why should a small stamp club host a convention like BNAPS 2016 FREDERICTON?

The FDSC is a small club and is a chapter of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. The majority of our members are “collectors” with a small—but growing—subset who are competitive exhibitors. In 1997, we were convinced by one of our senior members, a long-time BNAPS member, Dr Graham McCleave, to host the Royal Annual Convention in 1999. At that time, Graham was our only active club member who was also an experienced exhibitor. The show would not have come to pass without lots of support and encouragement from outside our club. The most significant outcome related to this little bit of history is what has happened since 1999.

The FDSC has grown steadily since then. Hosting the Royal in 1999 was a turning point for us. We have recently started to hold non-competitive local shows and bourses twice a year and, courtesy of the strengthened friendships with members of the Halifax Stamp Club, we have participated regularly in their NOVAPLEX, which alternates between regional- and national-level shows. We now have more than one member who exhibits! Interest in one-page exhibits is also becoming a popular activity.

Hosting a convention *is* work. However, the benefits to small (and large) clubs are significant. We made many new philatelic contacts, improved our overall knowledge of philately regardless of individual collecting interests, and many new lifelong friendships have been forged. The philatelic community-at-large truly is a friendly and supportive group that encourages and supports both the hobby and the people involved in it. We are certainly experiencing the same support and encouragement as we plan for BNAPEX2016 FREDERICTON.

Why should a small club consider hosting a BNAPS convention? Why not?

We hope to meet you in Fredericton in September.

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**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

## Readers write

**Piercey wins 2015 Pratt Award for Newfoundland Article:** The *Collectors Club of Chicago* has announced that David Piercey has won the 2015 Pratt Award in part for his article “The St. John’s Central Post Office” published in the July–September 2105 issue of *BNA Topics*. The award, named for Col Robert H Pratt, the pre-eminent Newfoundland stamp and postal history collector, researcher, and author, brings with it a \$1,000 honorarium. Member John Walsh also shared in the 2015 award.

**The society is donating \$750 to the American Philatelic Society’s Stamp Teach youth program.** George Dresser, President of the British North America Philatelic Society, has announced that the society is donating \$750 to the American Philatelic Society’s Stamp Teach youth program, as a partial match for their \$25,000 challenge grant. Dresser says, “I have worked with the APS youth folk for several years and like what they are doing.”

BNAPS had its own youth program from 2006–2013, issuing almost \$20,000 in youth grants and ran two successful contests. It also gave away 250,000 free stamps. Illness of the youth manager led to the program’s end. In 2014, it donated the balance of its stamps (75,000) to Ed Jarvis, director of the WESTPEX APS show, for its youth room.

**Follow up on 3¢ Small Queens: Massive obliterations at top and bottom.**

Kenneth Kershaw illustrates two stamps with shadowing at the top of the lettering (*BNA Topics*, Vol 73, No 1, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2016, pp 6–8). He notes that this is the first time he has seen this effect on the 3¢ Small Queen from a thousand stamps examined, and does not know the cause.



I believe this is an example of a “slip” print, but that this is due to plate wear and not paper slippage as commonly supposed (see *BNA Topics*, Vol 70, No 4, 4th quarter 2013, p 21; and illustrated here for Newfoundland’s 1932 1¢ Scott 184). For the two 3¢ Small Queens illustrated by Kershaw, the whole impression is very worn. Most noticeably, the wear at the top of the lettering has caused a slight depression so that the ink is not fully removed during wiping and appears on the stamp as a fuzzy shadow. This would result from a regular “abrasive” movement going from the top to the bottom of the stamp, as may be caused by the wiping process or perhaps by the impression roller passing from top to bottom when pressing the paper to the inked plate.

Slight variances in the way the plate was laid down, or the way plates wear (which is not even across the plate), may be the reason for the shadowing being present at the bottom in only one of the examples he shows. It is strange that this is so rare, but there were likely several plates used to print this value and the effect may only occur on certain stamps within an individual plate. (Continued on page 66.)

# Newfoundland Revenue discoveries

*John M Walsh, FRPSC*

**T**HIS article will discuss recent Newfoundland Revenue discoveries for the 1898 Queen Victoria, the 1907 King Edward VII, the 1911 King George V, and the 1938–1964 Caribou issues.

## Queen Victoria Revenue Issue

Information gleaned from philatelic literature shows that not much has been written about the first Revenue issue of Newfoundland. Images of the nine values are shown in Figure 1. It seems that what was available to writers were the stamps from the issue along with a few documents, known as “legal instrument types,” documents that had the issue denominations placed on them.

The 5¢ to \$1 denominations pictured here have been seen with a special perfin/punch described later in this article. This perfin/punch is known to collectors as the snowflake cancel. To date, this cancel is known only on these denominations, the other values showing a two-line punch CANLD C.S.O. cancel style. I have seen this cancel style used on later Revenue issues, where it is found on pieces relating to passport applications.



**Figure 1.** Images of the nine values of Newfoundland's Revenues of the 1898 Queen Victoria issue.

Most postal history students avoided collecting and exhibiting documents because they were on legal-size paper, i.e., 14 inches long. Those who dared to follow these document studies soon found that there were no published rate structures and, in addition, stamps to denote payment of the required document fees were often applied to the inside pages or on

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Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, revenue issues

the back of the front page. I have found that, when exhibiting, this particular problem can be overcome by adhering a photocopy over the front-page boilerplate. A solution for mounting documents in exhibit frames can be found in article [1].

Terrance R Harris, stamp collector and researcher, has contributed a great deal to our knowledge of Newfoundland Revenue rate findings. He spent many hours (days even!) in the Newfoundland Colonial Building archives in St. John's, trying to find the Revenue statutes that would yield information on the rate structure. His findings were incorporated into his Revenue exhibit *Newfoundland Fiscal Stamps and Usages*, which can be found at the following URLs:

<<http://www.bnaps.org/ore/Harris-NfldFiscalStamps/Harris-NfldFiscalStamps.pdf>> or  
<<http://www.bnaps.org/ore/ore-index.htm>>.

Another relentless archive researcher hunting for the elusive Newfoundland Revenue rate structure(s) was the late Peter de Groot. His attack plan took him deep into the bowels of the University of Toronto's archives, which housed sequential years of published Newfoundland Government Acts and Journals. He spent many days, even months there, poring over volumes of dusty tomes (remember, these are government-published details!). His initial report can be found in the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* [2], along with his call-to-arms for any Newfoundland Revenuers to join him to study periods of use, rates, and uses of the inland Revenues of Newfoundland. He continued to publish his findings there [3]. He also offered his research to the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue (NSSC)*, as did Terry Harris. NSSC accepted their research findings and created table set-ups to incorporate their findings. Peter's set-up method in the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* was somewhat different.

I am not aware of any pre-1898 findings Peter may have made. To build on his post-1898 *Revenue Act* findings, I delved further into the archives in The Rooms in St John's (The Rooms house the Archives, Art Gallery, and the Newfoundland Museum). My time spent searching yielded findings similar to those of the de Groot and Harris adventures. Details of the pre-1898 *Revenue Act* findings as found and published in Newfoundland Government Acts and Journals by me are listed in the same table set-up as that of the NSSC [4].

The Newfoundland Government's official registration of legal documents, which began on 27 March 1862, showed costs were preprinted or fee payments which were recorded by a clerk in manuscript form. This form of payment has been discovered on fifteen different stampless precursor instrument types. The precursor types found to date are the following: 1834 Land Grant; 1855 Bill of Sale; 1855 Deed of Partition; 1877 Conveyance; 1885 Deed of Consent; 1891 Letters of Probate with Will; 1892 Power of Attorney; 1898 Writ of Summons; 1898 Warrant of Attachment; 1898 Writ of *Fieri Facias*; 1881 *Capias ad Respondendum*, 1898 Reconveyance; 1898 Assignment; and the 1898 Mortgage and 1897 License to Search for Gold. Then the Newfoundland government enacted a new Revenue statute entitled *An Act Respecting the Payment of Certain Fees and Charges by Stamps*, 61 Vic., Chapter 14. It was passed on 30 March 1898 and came into force on 1 July 1898. It made provision for the use of seals or stamps to denote the receiving of Revenue fee payments.

A key, unresolved question in the study of the Newfoundland Queen Victoria First Revenue issue was the identity of the printer. The printer's name is not found on the first nine Revenue stamp images; however, in all the philatelic literature it is emphatically claimed that the American Bank Note Company New York was the printer. How this became



written in stone I do not know, but it is most likely because the security printing company printed Newfoundland postage stamps prior to 1898. My findings, however, prove the American Bank Note Company New York was not the printer.

To discover how Newfoundland postage stamp requirements were written into various government reporting journals, I attempted to conduct a thorough search of the journals. Talk about looking for a needle in a haystack! No such details did I find. Archivists at The Rooms and the Newfoundland Reference Research Library suggested looking at the correspondence of the Office of the Colonial Secretary (CSO), the official writer-designate for any official Government of Newfoundland releases. I did as suggested, conducting a detailed search of all the extant letters in the Office's files.

These correspondence files are the original manuscripts, the written logbooks, including general reference indices of the letters written for each year. These indices list many references to letters written to the American Bank Note Company, references often found in an abbreviated, italicized format, e.g., *ABNCo*, *AmericanBankNoteCompany*, *AmBanknote Company* or *ABNCompany*—they often feature joined letters. A brief outline of some letters' concerns can be found written in manuscript shorthand. It seems that much was written about ordering and meeting the postage stamp requirements, but little about the Revenue stamp details.

In this adventure of aggressive searching, I found that all CSO correspondence was carbon-copied onto onionskin-like paper, which shows the page beneath through the one on top. Because CSO letters were typed with wide spacing between lines, often more than just the first bottom sheet shows through the top page. It becomes possible to readily see remnants of at least six pages below the top page. Thus most pages are not clear, even with much fine focusing of the microfiche machine. Most pages are difficult to read and understand.

The Rooms' staff members were most patient and understanding as I performed many repetitious searches through the logbook indices (even offering corrective and enlarging eyeglass lenses!). Remember, this author was at a desk for months on end. Through a most deliberate word-by-word *crawl* I was able to see a very short sentence consisting of the initials of the printing company and the name of the company president. I immediately realized that the company initials written "AmBNCo" were not those of the business for which that person worked. His company was the *other* big security printing company that was in business at this time. A hunt for the specific letter from AmBNCo brought nothing but frustration; it is not readable on the microfiche. The name of the company to whom the letter is addressed is barely discernible; it reads "British American Bank Note Company Ottawa"; the rest of the letter is obscured.

I went back to The Rooms' staff for solutions to my dilemma. I asked if original copies of the CSO letters existed. They said yes, but that they were not for researchers to handle, and that storage was at an off-site location. Gentle pleas for access were denied. No one gets to them, I was firmly told. Next day I brought my sleeping bag. When asked what was going on, I said that I would stay until the light of understanding was visible to my eyes. Well, after a few laughs, the archivist found a way to solve my dilemma.

They would allow viewing of the original onion-skin copy. They could not show or get me a single letter as it was contained in a binder having many sequential years of CSO copied

letters. Being emboldened, I asked if they were willing to allow me to view a binder having that one letter, if I could view ALL the CSO letters! They knew the frustration I was having with the microfiche film, and the viewing would be done in the presence of the archivist. After having endured all those many days of my searching and asking for new search directions they acquiesced. The request went out for the binders. Several weeks later they were delivered to The Rooms' viewing room. Well, what a feeling to handle them!

Talk about thin paper—it's almost as thin as fleeting thoughts! The letter addressed to BABNCo did confirm that the company would print the 1898 Queen Victoria Revenue issue. Another letter confirmed the Revenue stamp printing order for seven specific denominations and their colour. It was delivered in May 1898 to the British American Bank Note Company, Ottawa. But nowhere in the letter or in any other letter was it stated what quantities would be printed. A further letter discussed a Government Council meeting held on 30 April 1898. In it is a reference to the trip of the Attorney General to Ottawa in May to oversee the destruction of the bond plates, belonging to the Government of Newfoundland. Nowhere was I able to find that initial order. It would seem that the Attorney General made the decision about quantities while he was at the printing company. A further letter, dated 29 June 1898 was addressed to all the department heads, reminding them that 1 July 1898 was the date for use of the Revenue stamps. The letter also stated that the stamps were available and that they should seek the stamps required from the Treasury Clerk. The earliest-known use of the Queen Victoria Revenue issue on document that I have seen is dated 8 July 1898; the \$1 and 75¢ values are on that document.

Further delving into the original CSO letter copies revealed that the initial and only order placed for the two high denominations were placed on 5 November and were received on 22 December 1898. That order consisted of 1.5 M of the \$20 brown value and 1.5 M of the \$25 slate value (M = one thousand).

With all of these copies of CSO letters at hand, I undertook a detailed reading search, discovering and recording the quantities reordered. Over time the following reorders were placed: 5¢ (1.5 M); 10¢ (5 M); 25¢ (59 M); 50¢ (15 M); \$1 (42 M); \$5 (9 M). Only the initial order included the 75¢ value, and given its diminished marketplace availability, I estimate the order to have been ~0.5 M. This same reasoning suggests that the initial order for the 5¢ value was 0.5 M, for a total 2 M printed. I offer no opinion as to the quantities of the initial orders for the other denominations.

Having found these details, I then studied the 1898 Queen Victoria Revenues on document. From examples gleaned from the marketplace, I found that the stamps attached were generally cancelled with black ink manuscript or a non-generic cancel. The *Revenue Act* included a regulation that read as follows: *[W] hen seal is affixed to the document and cancelled, registration is assured and payment is deemed as being received by government.* After the Act was in force, the regulation was revised to read...*perforation devices could be used to demonstrate cancellation.*

However, some documents I saw had the stamps cancelled with two different cancelling devices. One such device consisted of a series of holes formed into a characteristic design called the *geometric snowflake*. The documents I have seen suggest that it was employed exclusively by the Newfoundland Supreme Court, and it is found only on the Queen Victoria Revenue stamps.

Collectors and previous students of the Queen Victoria Revenues have emphatically labelled this cancel a punch cancel because this design was sometimes seen as shown in the 50¢ item (see Figure 2), not attached to a document. Searches for documents having this



**Figure 2.** Punch cancel on Newfoundland 50¢ Queen Victoria Revenue stamp.

cancel style on them can be frustrating. Documents that carry these geometric snowflake cancels, they show some connection to Newfoundland Supreme Court decisions. Not many of these would be in the public domain. The stamp and the medium to which it is attached are punched through. Thus it is called a “punch cancel” (see Figure 2).

In my search for documents, I found an item that presents itself differently. The literature has never acknowledged the form of cancel for this issue. It is a Queen Victoria 25¢ Revenue stamp attached to the document, with the geometric snowflake cancel only in the stamp, not through the stamp and medium (Figure 3). This shows that the stamp was pre-punched before being placed onto the document. This manner of cancelling a stamp is by definition called a *perfin*, which stands for *perforated initials*, whereby the stamp is punched but the medium it is on is not. This technique is mostly seen on correspondence of companies with in-house mail-out departments utilizing postage stamps.



**Figure 3.** Geometric snowflake cancel on Newfoundland 25¢ Queen Victoria Revenue stamp.

The second cancel device has the ability to punch the initials “PAID” through the stamp. This type of cancel has not previously been seen or reported on Queen Victoria Revenue stamps (Figure 4), nor am I aware of its appearance on the King Edward VII issue. And yes, that cancel has been seen previously on the King George V third Revenue issue (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Examples of PAID punch cancelling device used on early Newfoundland Revenue stamps.

I am aware that two sizes of the PAID punch exist; the smaller one is 3.5 mm × 8.5 mm; the larger is 6 mm × 18 mm. I have seen the smaller one on the Queen Victoria Revenues, where it has been found in the previously unreported perfin cancel form.

The small PAID perfin on the King George V Revenue issue was seen only on the same documents in association with Queen Victoria Revenues. I am unaware whether they exist on a document with only a King George V Revenue value present.

An exhibit of 1898 Queen Victoria Revenues can be found at <http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/exhibits/walsh-nfrs/frame-test.htm>, or here at this site:

<<http://www.bnaps.org/ore/ore-index.htm>>, where it is stored. I hope that others will continue the search for different types of Queen Victoria legal instruments.

### King Edward VII Revenue issue

While reading the remaining CSO letter copies, I discovered information relating to the next Revenue, the 1907 King Edward VII issue, information contrary to what is found in the published literature. A letter dated 3 October 1906 requests that a die proof be made of the King Edward VII. The request was that the die was to be smaller than the one provided for the Queen Victoria issue. The requested proof was received 16 November 1906 and it had a “British American Bank Note Co., Ottawa” imprint beneath each image. Letters were not found for the Revenue stamp orders but some of the issue was reported as being received on 11 February 1907. The earliest-known use (eku) that I have seen was for the \$1 Edward VII Revenue denomination dated 20 February 1907. A letter placing the order for the \$5 denomination was dated 22 September 1909 with the eku for this value being 9 October 1909.

The King Edward VII quantities ordered are found throughout the many CSO letters. The quantities seen throughout the CSO letters for the different denominations are the following: 25¢ (27.5 M); 50¢ (7.5 M); \$1 (15 M); \$5 (5 M); \$50 (1.5 M); \$100 (2.5 M). The perforation known for this issue is 12 × 12 with the \$100 denomination being known with a secondary 11.75 × 11.75 perforation.

Some values (25¢, 50¢, and \$1) from this issue occasionally show partial watermark. Partial images have been reported [5]. I am unaware of a full image of the watermark.

In my observation of the legal documents in the marketplace, I noticed that documents featuring the King Edward VII are not plentiful. The denominations 25¢, 50¢, \$1, and \$5 are the most common. They are primarily found on legal instruments pertaining to affidavits and mortgages. The \$50 and \$100 values are difficult to find attached to any document.



**Figure 5.** King Edward VII Revenue issue.

### King George V Revenue issue



**Figure 6.** King George V Revenue issue.

As I continued my search of the CSO letters, I found information on the King George V Revenue issue. As before, the death of the ruling monarch created the need for a new design. Upon the monarch's death, a new order of stamped designs of the image of the new reigning monarch was placed. Again, this information is contrary to that found in the published literature. I discovered the ordering date and the quantities printed. A letter dated 16 September 1910 requested a die to be created of the image of King George V. A new die for proofing was received by the Government of Newfoundland (letter not found); this is evidenced by a statement in the CSO letters that on 20 February 1911 the new die was approved, and that an order for the 25¢, 50¢, and \$1 denominations had been sent.

A CSO letter dated 22 April 1911 shows that these three denominations were received. The dates for the other values that I could find show their receipt as follows: the 5¢ on 7 March 1912; 10¢ on 19 February 1915; \$5 on 6 October 1914; \$20 on 23 May 1919, and the \$25 on 6 March 1920. In sorting through the many remaining CSO letters and cables I learned that the following King George V Revenue issue quantities were received by the Newfoundland Government: 5¢ (890.85 M); 10¢ (1346.45 M); 25¢ (378 M); 50¢ (139 M); \$1 (223 M); \$5 (493 M); \$20 (8 M); \$25 (7 M). The correspondence confirms that many orders had to have been placed to the printer; the CSO cables include many references to receipt of multiple quantities of Revenue stamps, including multiple quantities of the same denomination. These fact of these multiple orders makes it quite conceivable that different perforating wheels were employed to keep up with the demand: In addition to the basic perforation of 12 × 12, 11 × 11 can be found; 11 × 11.75 on right side only; 11 × 12; and 12 × 11 perforations. To date, all values except the \$20 have been found with the 11 × 11 perforation. Some letters even referred to the receipt of Tobacco tax stamps; explicitly mentioned is the Cut Tobacco stamp issue that carries the image of the Newfoundland Dog. In later CSO correspondence I found a letter that categorically states that, on 10 June 1944, the remaining quantity of 2,036 of the \$25 value were burnt.

With the King George V Revenue issue the legal instruments dealing with affidavits, bills of sale, mortgages, and probates are generally seen, as are boiler certificates, the latter not common but occasionally seen. I have not, however, seen a boiler certificate with Queen Victoria or King Edward VII Revenue stamps attached, even though boilers were in use during their reigns. My observations of the marketplace show that birth and death certificates are rarely seen with a monarch stamped image on them.

### Caribou Revenue issue

I did not see much information relating to the Caribou Revenue issues in the files that I viewed. But a later correspondence includes a letter dated 31 March 1951 that states that all of the \$50 and \$100 values are gone. In his exhibit, *Til Death Do Us Part*, Peter de Groot presented a fine display of the Caribou issue. In addition, a large Revenue exhibit by Terrance R Harris presented an extraordinary display that covered all Newfoundland Revenue issues, a Transportation Tax stamp, and Tobacco Tax stamps still attached to their used tobacco containers. A most impressive exhibit.

With the Caribou issue, used from 1938 to 1986, I found many different instrument-type documents available, but the Claim of Lien under the *Mechanics Lien Act* is very seldom observed. Certificate of Birth and Certificate of Death documents can be found. However, one particular type of death certificate, the Presumptive of Death Certificate, is rare since it is issued by the courts when a death is deemed to have occurred although no body has been found, most likely in the circumstances of natural disasters.



**Figure 7. Caribou Revenue issues, \$50 and \$100 values.**

All of the registered paper documents held by the Government of Newfoundland were removed from their storage vaults in 1993 and disposed of. Some were shredded, and a goodly number were sent to the landfills both in St John's and in Corner Brook. As an aside, the Revenue act entitled *An Act Respecting the Payment of certain Fees and Charges by Stamps*, 61 Vic., Chapter 14, does include a definite statement that the Registrar of registered deed documents is not to allow them to be out of his control or to be destroyed! Even The Rooms, which had control of some one hundred-year-old registered documents and where some could be observed, sent their holdings to be destroyed, as was confirmed in a court proceeding.

Documents seen in the marketplace have generally come from private ownership or deceased or retired lawyers' holdings, thus their limited presence in the public domain.

## References

- [1] John M Walsh, "Adventures of the Newfoundland 1898 Queen Victoria First Revenue Issue Documents," *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol 66, No 389 (July/August 2015), p 220.
- [2] Peter de Groot, *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*, No 48, March 2005.
- [3] Peter de Groot, *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*, Nos 52, 55, 56, 59, 62, 63, March 2006.
- [4] John M Walsh and John G Butt, *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue (NSSC)*.
- [5] John M Walsh, "Newfoundland Revenue Stamp Watermarks: The Watermarked Stamps of the 1907 King Edward VII and 1910 King George V Issues," *BNA Topics*, Vol 56, No 4, (October-December, 1999), pp 16-18.

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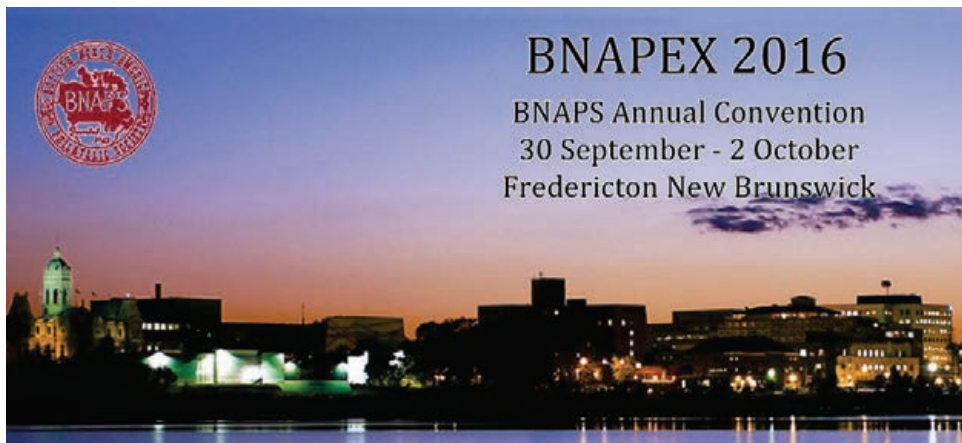
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## Cover stories (18): Intercepted mail – Part 3

Mike Street

*Eighteenth article in a series presenting unusual, rare, or otherwise interesting postal history*

**R**ECAP: In “Intercepted mail – Part 1” [“Cover stories (16),” *BNA Topics*, Vol 66, No 4, 2009], John Wright presented a June 1942 cover, mailed from Ottawa to Peru, that was intercepted by the authorities and returned to the sender before going into the mail stream, because the addressee was on a restricted list. In “Intercepted mail – Part 2” [“Cover stories (17),” *BNA Topics*, Vol 67, No 3, 2010] Arnie Janson showed a 1920s letter intercepted and returned because it was addressed to a business “Suspected to be of a fraudulent character.” For part 3 of this story, CR McGuire, Hugo Deshayé, and Ken Lemke have submitted scans of similar covers from their collections. Dating from 1893 to 1959, all were intercepted by the postal authorities and returned to the sender. My thanks to them for a further look at this practice.

The letter shown in Figure 1 was sent from Ontario to Montreal, arriving there on 10 October 1893; however, mail to The Editor of *The Dominion Illustrated Monthly* was being blocked. Two handstamps were applied to the front. The first, repeated on the back, reads as follows: “SUSPECTED TO BE OF A/ FRAUDULENT CHARACTER.”

The very faint, boxed, six-line second handstamp reads: “P.O. DEPT. CANADA / SUSPECTED TO BE OF A / FRAUDULENT CHARACTER / ??” The last two lines of the boxed handstamp are unreadable, but the text appears to be in English and refers to an Act governing the rejection of the letter.

Postmarks on the reverse of the letter show that it arrived at the Dead Letter Office / Canada in Ottawa on 12 October and was sent out from that office on 13 November 1893. No other information is available.



**Figure 1.** Intercepted 1893 letter from Ontario to Montreal. (Courtesy CR McGuire.)

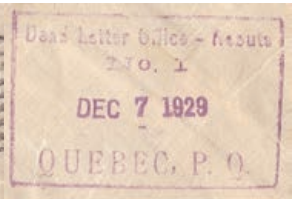
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Keywords & phrases: Intercepted mail, prohibited mail





**Figure 2a.** 1929 letter intercepted because of Fraud. (Courtesy Hugo Deshayé.)



**Figure 2b.** Quebec Dead Letter Office postmark.

one-line “By FRAUD” and “Par Fraude,” and a two-line “Contraire aux règlements / Contrary to regulations.” The Quebec Dead Letter Office postmark [Plain QUE4a-a1], Figure 2b, on the back, is dated 7 December 1929. This is only the tenth report of this DLO strike [1].

A letter from Grand-Mère, PQ, to Three Rivers, PQ, mailed on 7 November 1929, shown in Figure 2a, was intercepted by the postal authorities: three handstamps were applied: A

Mailed from Toronto on 2 January 1931 to “The Goblin Magazine Ltd.” in Montreal, the cover in Figure 3 was turned around the next day by the City Delivery Branch in Montreal. An endorsement in pencil, “Malle Prohibée” is accompanied by a three-line handstamp reading “Mail for this address is prohibited / La correspondance pour cette / adresse est prohibée.”

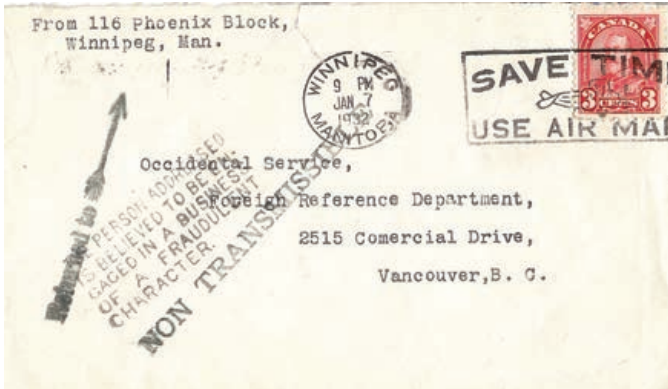


**Figure 3.** Prohibited letter sent from Toronto to Montreal in 1931. (Courtesy Hugo Deshayé.)

A “RETURN TO” finger was also applied to both the front and back of the envelope.

Why this letter was returned is a bit of a mystery. *The Goblin*, founded in 1921, described as “the highest selling magazine in Canada during its publication,” was a very popular journal of Canadian humour of the 1920s [2]. A similar letter, not shown, mailed 31 October 1931 from St Hyacinthe, PQ, to a post office box in Montreal, received the endorsement “Prohibited” in pencil and the same three-line bilingual handstamp as the letter in Figure 3.

This cover was processed by the City Delivery Branch in Montreal on 2 November and the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa on 3 November [3].



**Figure 4.** Non Transmissible letter from Winnipeg to Vancouver in 1932. (Courtesy CR McGuire.)

The character of the addressee on the cover in Figure 4 came into question after it was mailed from Winnipeg to Vancouver on 7 January 1932. This is made clear by the five-line “THE PERSON ADDRESSED / IS BELIEVED TO BE EN-/GAGED IN A BUSINESS/OF A FRAUDULENT/CHAR-ACTER” handstamp applied to the front. It also received the large

“NON TRANSMISSIBLE” handstamp, and a “RETURNED TO” with arrow, again in black, on the front of the envelope. The Vancouver Dead Letter Office processed the letter on 2 February 1932.

International mail was also subject to interception, as seen on the letter shown in Figure 5. Mailed in Buffalo, NY on 20 July 1935, it reached Quebec City on 22 July. The three-line “MAIL FOR THIS ADDRESS PROHIBITED / LA CORRESPONDENCE POUR CETTE / ADRESSE EST PROHIBÉE” was applied and the letter forwarded to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa, where it was processed on 25 July. It is quite likely that this envelope contained money to pay for Irish Sweepstakes tickets, the purchase of which was illegal in both Canada and the United States.



**Figure 5.** Prohibited 1935 letter from Buffalo, NY to Quebec City. (Courtesy Hugo Deshayé.)

The registered letter in Figure 6 was mailed to Hamilton, Bermuda from Nadeauville, Saskatchewan, on 6 October 1936. The two-line handstamp applied, worded differently from the one used on the letter in Figure 3, reads: “Correspondence for this address prohibited. / Correspondence pour cette adresse interdite.” The letter was processed in Montreal on 13 October and at the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa on 15 October. The absence of a

Bermuda postmark and postmarks from cities or towns between Ottawa and Nadeauville indicates that it was returned to the sender in an “ambulance” envelope, likely with a covering letter.

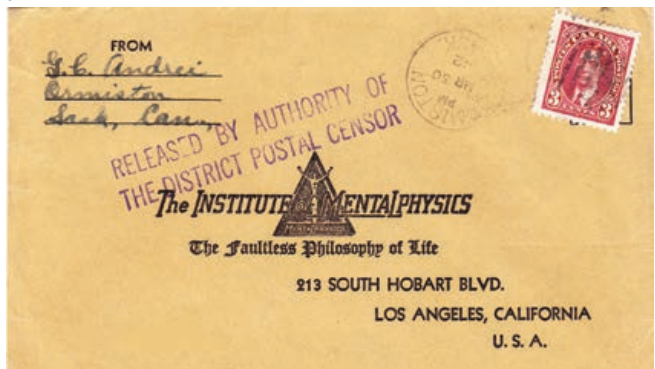
**Figure 6. Prohibited letter sent from Saskatchewan to Bermuda in 1936. (Courtesy Hugo Deshayé.)**



**Figure 7. Prohibited 1937 Ottawa drop letter. (Courtesy CR McGuire.)**

The 2¢ King George V stamp on the cover in Figure 7 indicates that it was a drop letter, mailed in Ottawa on 31 May 1937. The single-line “MAIL FOR THIS ADDRESS PROHIBITED” was applied and the letter processed at the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa on 2 June. The letter was returned to the sender in an “ambulance” envelope.

Scrutiny of the mail increased dramatically during World War II. The letter in Figure 8 was mailed from Ormiston, Saskatchewan to Los Angeles, California on 30 March 1942. Addressed to “The Institute of Mental physics,” it was intercepted and then “RELEASED BY AUTHORITY OF / THE DISTRICT POSTAL CENSOR.”



**Figure 8. Intercepted by the Postal Censor. (Courtesy Ken Lemke.)**

In the security-conscious environment of the time, it is possible that the unusual name of the addressee led someone in the Censorship Office to set the letter aside for further checking.



**Figure 9.** Non-transmissible 1959 letter from Barrie, Ontario, to Edinburgh, Scotland. (Courtesy CR McGuire.)

The reason the letter in Figure 9 was marked “Non-transmissible” is uncertain. Mailed from Barrie, Ontario, to Edinburgh, Scotland, on 16 October 1959, it was processed at the Undeliverable Mail Office [4] in Ottawa, on 19 October. The endorsement in blue at lower right: “Cad \$3.00 (initials) / 40099” indicates that currency—either coins or, more likely, bills—was found in the envelope. The meaning of the endorsement “NSP” is not known, but it may have a bearing on the treatment of this cover.

## References and endnotes

- [1] Brian C Plain, *pers. comm.*
- [2] *The Goblin*; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Alexander\\_Cowan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Alexander_Cowan)  
<http://punchincanada.blogspot.ca/2008/05/richard-taylor-goblin.html>
- [3] Hugo Deshayé, *pers. comm.* and scans.
- [4] The Dead Letter Office was renamed the Undeliverable Mail Office in 1954.

## Additional information

Rick Parama, “Admiral Era Fraud Orders,” *BNA Topics*, Vol 72, No 3, July–September 2015, p 26. This article quotes some of the postal regulations governing the handling of mail believed to be of a fraudulent nature and shows other examples of such mail.

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# Postal history of Alberta: Water Valley and district

*Dale Speirs*

**A**BOUT an hour's drive northwest of Calgary is an area where the foothills begin to transition westward into real mountains.

In the early 1900s, when late-coming homesteaders arrived in Alberta, the good land on the prairies was mostly taken up, so they were forced to try and farm in the foothills. It didn't pay, and the inside edge of the

foothills was as far as the wave of settlement could reach. Part of this area was the Water Valley district. Figure 1 is a modern map of the area in relation to Calgary. Figure 2 shows the original and now defunct post offices of the pioneer era. For scale, the grid roads in Figure 2 are normally one mile apart east-west and two miles north-south, but because of the hilly terrain, many were not built or had to zigzag.

## Water Valley

This hamlet is in the foothills and, while still extant, lost its post office after 2006. It was originally colonized by a few homesteaders and lumbermen, but today relies on tourism. A school district was established there in the 1920s, and a contest was held among the students to name it: "Water Valley" was the successful entry. The post office then took its name from the school [1].

Whatever other troubles may have vexed the settlement over the years, drought was not one of them. The land is moist and forested. Water Valley hangs on today with a few local stores, rodeo grounds, and schools.

Guy McCauley Gazeley opened the first post office in a general store on 1 March 1937 and held the postmastership until 1949. The mail route was from Carstairs. Gazeley was an American immigrant, coming to the area in 1906 and homesteading with his family in an adjacent valley. From the 1920s he lived in Crossfield until he moved to Water Valley in 1937. There he homesteaded again, this time with a general store. He retired in 1949 and he and his wife finished out their days



**Figure 1** (above left). Water Valley and district – modern map.



**Figure 2** (above). Old map of post offices



**Figure 3.** CDS Postmark 1989.

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Keywords & phrases: Alberta postal history, Water Valley and District

in British Columbia where their daughter lived.

Walter Victor May took over the store and post office on 1 December 1949 and remained until 1964, after which his wife Irene took the job until 26 July 1967. The store rotated ownership for the next few decades until the post office was converted in 1993 into a retail outlet [2, 3]. Figure 3 shows a CDS postmark from the post office days, and Figure 4 shows a POCON cancel from the retail outlet. Figure 5 shows the author’s mother, the late Betty Speirs, at the post office in 1989. It changed hands a couple of times more before the outlet closed, although the store is still operating.



**Figure 4.**  
POCON cancel.

Mail service today comes through a group of super-mailboxes and one street letter box for outgoing mail, located on the west side of the rodeo grounds (Figure 6). When I visited the site in July 2012,

I dropped a self-addressed envelope in the letter box to see where it would be cancelled. It received a Cremona pictorial postmark. Besides indicating the mail route, the use of a pictorial postmark indicates that covers with them are not necessarily philatelic.



**Figure 5.** Waterford Valley Post Office 1989.



**Figure 6.** Waterford Valley cluster boxes.

On 20 February 2013, Canada Post issued a set of stamps illustrating the signs of the zodiac. The Aquarius postmark was that of Water Valley—the FDC shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 7 (left).**  
Fictitious Water Valley  
FDC postmark.



**Figure 8 (right).**  
Computer enhanced  
close-up of fake  
postmark.

Since the post office had been closed about five years at that point, this postmark is purely fictitious. Figure 8 is a computer-enhanced close-up of it. I find it difficult to believe that out of all the thousands of existing post offices across this country, Canada Post could not find one—actually in operation—with a name appropriate for an Aquarius stamp.

## Big Prairie

This was a foothills general store with the post office opening on 15 November 1909. JE Tilleard was its first postmaster, serving until 22 June 1914. The proof strike of its postmark is shown in Figure 9. There never was a real village there: The word “prairie” was often used in pioneer days to denote a large pasture or a clearing in a forest, not necessarily the wide-open flatlands we associate with the word today. This post office was the terminus of the Carstairs mail route, and it lay at the very end of civilization.



**Figure 9.**  
Big Prairie  
proof strike.

Arthur Binney took over the store and postmastership from Tilleard, and remained there until his death on 17 May 1933. The store was moved a short distance during his tenure to a new site on his land. Ottawa bureaucrats told him he had to post a public notice about the impending move in case anyone objected, but they neglected to specify where to post it. Binney nailed the notice to a tree deep in the bush at the back of his land! After his death, his clerk Annie Cartlidge took over the job. In 1937, she married and changed her surname to Pawson [4]. She carried on until the post office closed on 29 January 1960.

## Bituma

This settlement began as a sawmill location during a building boom in the pre-World War One era. It was first called Skunk Hollow. No one has been able to determine how the name originated beyond speculating that one of the pioneers tangled with a black-and-white striped miscreant. Bituminous coal was discovered by the lumbermen, and several mines soon opened; however, they were hampered because there was no railroad up into the foothills, and coal had to be hauled out by horse and wagon. In the boom this was barely economical and, once the economy cooled, the mines failed. The inhabitants dispersed and nothing remains of it today [4].



**Figure 10.**  
Bituma  
split-circle  
proof.

The post office was only open briefly at the height of the boom. Thomas Burrows was its sole postmaster, from 1 February 1913 until 20 August 1914, just before the war started. Figure 10 shows a proof strike of its only postmark. When the post office opened, the inhabitants agreed the settlement needed a more dignified name, so Bituma was chosen to mark its coal industry. This post office should not be confused with Bitumont, a different post office located in the Athabasca Tar Sands of northeastern Alberta. Bituma refers to bituminous coal while Bitumont refers to bitumen, the lowest grade of petroleum.

## References and endnotes

- [1] Harry M Sanders, *The story behind Alberta names*, Red Deer Press, University of Calgary, 2003, p 98.
- [2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 19 December 2011, Post offices and postmasters, <[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices)>).
- [3] Neil Hughes, *Alberta Post Offices 1876 to 1998*, Neil Hughes, Edmonton, Alberta, 1998.
- [4] Lorraine Yates, *Bituma and Water Valley*, Jan Truss, Water Valley, Alberta, 1975, p 3, 4, 9.





# A few of the few: Those thirty-six challenging NWT hunting stamps

*Clayton Rubec*

ONE would think that it would not be difficult to find examples of revenue stamps issued in Canada only thirty-five years ago. However, Northwest Territories (NWT) hunting stamps are among the most challenging of Canada's wide range of revenue stamps. This article provides additional detail to two articles I have written on this topic [1, 2] and expanded upon in a book [3].

Between 1979 and 1981, the Northwest Territories Department of Renewable Resources (now called NWT Environment and Renewable Resources) emulated the wildlife management agencies of Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec by issuing adhesive stamps to validate NWT hunting permits. The stamps were purchased and then attached to NWT wildlife license certificates in designated spots. This was the way Alberta, Manitoba, and Quebec handled their wildlife certificates and hunting stamps in that period. In each of these years, the NWT issued perforated white stamps with a brown territorial shield, green type, and red control numbers. The hunting permits requiring these stamps covered twelve wildlife species, including: Barren-Ground Caribou (Figure 1), Black Bear, Dall's Sheep, Grizzly Bear, Moose, Mountain Goat, Musk-Ox, Polar Bear, Small Game, Wolf, Wolverine, and Woodland Caribou. Thus, a complete set includes thirty-six stamps. As far as I can determine, no one has a complete set in his or her hands.



**Figure 1. NWT Hunting Permit for Barren-Ground Caribou.**

The number of different NWT license stamps issued in those three years was small in comparison to the many types of hunting stamps offered in places like Alberta: In 1979, thirty-eight stamps were issued in that province that year. In reality, very few of the NWT stamps were ever even printed. Based on annual NWT hunter surveys from 1982 to 2012, the total number of Resident hunters rose from 1,700 with hunting licenses in 1982 to 2,200 in 1990 and then declined to about 1,200 in 2012. Non-Resident Canadian and Non-Resident Alien hunters have increased these numbers by about five percent each year. The number of licensed hunters in the NWT from 1979 to 1981 was likely similar to that for 1982. Small-game hunter licenses in the NWT over the period 1982 to 2012 ranged from a high of 1,900 per year to about 1,000 per year today. Since 1982, the total number of animals harvested has been surveyed in three areas: the Fort Smith, Inuvik, and Yellowknife regions, representing the heaviest wildlife harvest areas in the NWT. The survey shows a universally

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Keywords & phrases: Hunting Stamps, NWT, revenue

low level of wildlife harvest by hunters in this part of Canada. The total harvest of woodland caribou in 1983 was eighty-four, with an average of about one hundred per year since then. Two hundred and forty moose were taken in 1983; the average now is about two hundred and fifty per year. Nine hundred and twenty barren-ground caribou were taken in 1983; the current average is about 2,000 per year. This has translated into a continuing low number of hunting licenses being sold in the Northwest Territories compared to places such as Ontario where almost 450,000 hunters registered in 2014. It is important to note that of the total NWT population in 1981, 45,740 people, about fifty-one percent were aboriginal. Because of treaty rights and land claim agreements, many of these residents do not require hunting licenses.

A second issue is revenue. Is charging a fee worth all the trouble? Most jurisdictions across North America will agree that we need to manage wildlife use to ensure healthy, sustainable populations of animals in the wild. Licenses are essential for that purpose; although from a revenue perspective, licensing may be of little value. Between 1979 and 1981, license fees cost only \$5 for any Resident hunter (except for Barren-Ground Caribou; the license fee was \$10). Non-Resident hunters' fees were slightly higher. Unlike Residents, Non-Resident hunters also faced paying trophy fees to export an animal or parts thereof: Those fees were \$50 per Black Bear, Wolverine, or Wolf; \$100 for each Barren-Ground Caribou, Woodland Caribou, Mountain Goat, Moose, or Dall's Sheep; \$250 for a Grizzly Bear; and \$500 for Musk-Ox or Polar Bear. There were no Non-Resident trophy fees for small-game export from the NWT in the 1979 to 1981 period.

Today, the fee structure has increased [4]. In 2014, Residents paid \$20 for a hunting license; Non-Resident Canadians (NRC) paid \$40; and Non-Resident Aliens (NRA) paid \$100. However, all NRC and NRA hunters in 2014 still paid trophy fees for each animal they wished to export. Resident hunters were still exempt from these fees. These NRC/NRA fees today are: zero for Small Game licenses; \$200 for each Black Bear, Wolverine, or Wolf; \$300 for a Barren-Ground Caribou or Musk-Ox; \$400 for a Woodland Caribou, Mountain Goat, Moose, or Dall's Sheep; \$600 for a Wood Bison; \$1,500 for a Polar Bear, and \$2,000 for a Grizzly Bear. License and trophy fees also now require payment of the seven percent, federal Goods and Services Tax that did not exist in the period 1979 to 1981.

The two points to be made here are these: (a) Relatively few NWT hunting licenses were or now are being sold, (noting that many NWT aboriginal hunters do not need a hunting license as they are exempt); and (b) Very little revenue was ever or is now generated for the Government of the NWT through hunting license sales. It is no wonder that few examples of the license stamps for the 1979 to 1981 period have survived for thirty-five years. Table 1 summarizes data (up to June 2015) for the NWT hunting stamps now known to exist in five collections of Canadian hunting revenue stamps. A conservative guess suggests that fewer than 35,000 hunting stamps in total for all types of licenses were printed in each of the three years, 1979, 1980 and 1981 (thus a total of 105,000 stamps over three years). While most of these stamps, in full single sheets of twenty stamps, in multi-sheet vendor booklets, were distributed to the numerous communities, private vendors, and Renewable Resources offices across the territory, many were never sold. The extra stamps were returned to Yellowknife at the end of the hunting season; they were supposed to be destroyed.

The control numbers listed in Table 1 for Musk-Ox, Polar Bear, Black Bear, Dall's Sheep, and Wolverine suggest that only between 1,000 and 2,000 copies of each stamp were printed each year. The highest control numbers in Table 1 indicate that about 5,000 stamps were distributed for Barren-Ground Caribou licenses, while 11,000 stamps were distributed for Small Game licenses each year. All were issued as single stamps to hunters to affix to Resident, Non-Resident Canadian, and Non-Resident Alien NWT hunting certificates. I bought one of those licenses as a Non-Resident in 1980. Thus, a rough estimate of revenue from all these license and trophy fee sales from 1979 to 1981 would be under \$200,000 per year. In 2012, with increased license and trophy fee amounts in place, I estimate that hunting license sales might still have only generated \$800,000.

**Table 1. NWT Hunting Permit stamps with Control Numbers known to June 2015**

License Type	1979 Control Numbers Reported	1980 Control Numbers Reported	1981 Control Numbers Reported	Number of Known Stamps (1979 to 1981 Total)
Barren-Ground Caribou	<u>0021</u> (mint) <u>0041</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>2704</u> (used) <u>2719</u> (used)	<u>4385-4396</u> (photocopy of full sheet of 20, not included in count) <u>4603</u> (used)	<u>0208</u> (used) <u>2050</u> (used) <u>2181</u> (used) <u>2217</u> (used) <u>2661-2665</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	14
Black Bear	<u>0026</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>0021-0025</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>1227</u> (used)	<u>1001-1020</u> (photocopy of full sheet of 20, not included in count) <u>1142</u> (used)	<u>0126</u> (used) <u>0834</u> (used) <u>0879</u> (used)	11
Dall's Sheep	<u>0173</u> (used) <u>0261-0265</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>0266</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) 0267 (mint) <u>1104</u> (used)	<u>0801</u> (used) <u>0804</u> (used)	<u>0022</u> (used) <u>0305</u> (used) <u>0506</u> (used)	14
Grizzly Bear	<u>1103</u> (used) <u>1792-1793</u> (mint pair, #1792 damaged) <u>1795</u> (mint) <u>1796-1800</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	<u>0601</u> (used)	<u>0022</u> (used) <u>0302</u> (used) <u>0401-0405</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	17
Moose	<u>0121-0125</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>0126</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) 0127 (mint) <u>2118</u> (used) <u>2228</u> (used)	<u>1783</u> (used) <u>1796</u> (used)	<u>0283</u> (used) <u>1919</u> (used) <u>2008</u> (used)	14

Mountain Goat	<u>0058</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>0060</u> (mint) <u>0561</u> (used)	---	<u>021</u> (used) <u>406</u> (used)	5
Musk-Ox	<u>0041-0045</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>0046</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>0047</u> (mint)	<u>801</u> (used)	<u>061-065</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	13
Polar Bear	<u>0021</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>0041-0045</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	---	<u>021-025</u> (mint)	11
Small Game	<u>0061-0065</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>0066</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>0067</u> (mint) <u>0942</u> (used) <u>10884</u> (used)	<u>3717</u> (used) <u>3992</u> (used)	<u>0499</u> (used) <u>3325</u> (used) <u>3523</u> (used) <u>4101-4105</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	17
Wolf	<u>0404</u> (used) <u>0415</u> (used) <u>1001-1005</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>1006</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>1007</u> (mint) <u>2441-2460</u> (colour photograph of full sheet of 20) (not included in count)	<u>0882</u> (used)	<u>0031</u> (used) <u>0274</u> (used) <u>0291</u> (used) <u>0521-0525</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>0604</u> (used)	19
Wolverine	<u>0121</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count) <u>0141-0145</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>0841</u> (used)	<u>0221</u> (used) <u>0223</u> (used)	<u>023</u> (used) <u>262</u> (used) <u>321-325</u> (mint vertical strip of five)	16
Woodland Caribou	<u>0128</u> (used) <u>1938</u> (used) <u>3369, 3370</u> (mint singles) <u>3371-3375</u> (mint vertical strip of five) <u>3376</u> (mint, photocopy, included in count)	<u>1521</u> (used) <u>1525</u> (used)	<u>0269</u> (used) <u>1994</u> (used) <u>2383</u> (used)	15
<b>Total</b>	89	15	64	168

The data reveal that only one hundred and sixty-eight stamps are confirmed to exist in collectors' hands today: Eighty-nine from 1979, fifteen from 1980, and sixty-four from 1981. As noted above, a total of about 105,000 hunting license stamps likely were sold over those three years. Thus, the surviving stamps represent about one-tenth of one percent of the total

number of possible NWT license stamps printed in that period. Of these, one hundred and ten are unused mint stamps obtained directly from the Department of Renewable Resources by me, by Dr Earle Covert, and by the late Dr Ian McTaggart-Cowan. We were fortunate to obtain these one hundred and ten mint stamps during the 1979 to 1981 period as favour items in the form of single stamps or multiples. The flip side of this is that only fifty-eight used stamps are known. If we had not obtained those few favour copies years ago, little if any knowledge of the NWT hunting stamps might hardly have existed today. Of course, more of these stamps may exist in hunters' desk drawers, philatelic collections, and dealers' stocks. However, thirty-five years after their first issue, these one hundred and sixty-eight stamps are all whose existence I can confirm. I would love to learn of any additional NWT hunting stamps that may exist: Please let me know at <email: rubec@rogers.com>.

The fewest stamps are from 1980. No copies of the 1980 Mountain Goat or Polar Bear stamps are known in collectors' hands. This surprises me: I would have thought the rarest of these stamps would be for Musk-Ox (where only thirteen are known) and Polar Bear (where eleven are known in total over the three years). However, the rarest are, in fact, the Mountain Goat stamps—only five stamps are known (three for 1979 and two for 1981). Mint strips of five specimen stamps once existed for nine types of the stamps from 1979 and seven types of the stamps from 1981, but no mint specimen singles or strips of stamps from 1980 are known. It appears that all of these strips have since been broken up. Photocopies of full sheets for several stamps from 1979 and 1980 have been seen, but I do not believe that any of these sheets ended up in philatelic collections.

The retail value of any of these stamps is very difficult to assess as so few have changed hands over the last thirty-five years. Sales values have ranged from \$35 to \$300 each in recent years.

## Conclusions

There are thirty-six types of NWT hunting stamps: Twelve were issued each year from 1979 to 1981.

- None are listed in any stamp catalogue.
- There are no known complete collections of all thirty-six stamps.
- Used copies are rarer than mint copies of these stamps (but all are rare). Of the one hundred and sixty-eight known stamps, sixty-six percent are mint copies and thirty-four percent are used, a ratio of about 2:1.
- The rarest are Mountain Goat stamps with only five known copies. All other NWT hunting stamp types have between eleven and nineteen known copies.
- No 1980 Mountain Goat or Polar Bear stamps have been seen.
- Of the known stamps, the least common are for 1980 (nine percent). More common are those from 1981 (thirty-eight percent). Most common are those from 1979 (fifty-three percent).
- It is estimated that only one-tenth of one percent of the stamps printed survive today.

- The total revenue generated by stamp sales was low from 1979 to 1981. It is thus not surprising they were withdrawn in favour of a cheaper manual paper license system starting in 1982. This system continues today.

## Acknowledgements

The author thanks Dr Earle Covert, Mr Edgar DeHart, the Estate of Dr Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Mr Dale Stover, Mr Erling van Dam, Mr Bill Walton, and Mr Ed Zaluski for sharing data on these interesting stamps.

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## Significant transatlantic covers: Stolen from—and returned to—archives

*Derek Smith*

As a collector and international exhibitor of stampless transatlantic letters between Europe and the BNA provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, over time I have acquired a number of unique covers vital to the collection. Some time ago, I learned that four of these had been stolen from the University of New Brunswick (UNB) Library/Archives and one from the New Brunswick Museum in infamous thefts that took place in the early 1970s. (Similar thefts were conducted at the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Archives at the same time by the same person [1].)

The thefts from the UNB Archives were of the “Saunders Papers” and the “Winslow Papers.” A number of the sixty Saunders covers have been recovered, but none of the twelve Winslow items has been found. My four were all addressed to John Saunders, who at the time was a Judge of the Superior Court in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

As I understand it, all items stolen at any time in the past remain the property of the victim, and the principle of “replevin” allows the rightful owner to sue for their return (I am thankful to Leonard Hartmann of The Philatelic Bibliopole in Louisville, Kentucky for educating me on the subject). A check of New Brunswick records of thefts from the UNB Archives over the Internet revealed no specific information about the stolen items was available at the time, although the Archives had recorded all of its holdings on microfiche. (All of the missing items have now been listed and the list posted to the UNB Archives website.) Excerpts from New Brunswick replevin legislation that once appeared on a government website are no longer there, but my reading then of the statute left no doubt that I had no claim of any kind, regardless of how long the period of “absence” of the material from the Archives.

As I had no intention of retaining stolen property, I agreed to return the covers to the UNB Archives as soon as acceptable arrangements could be made. Ms Francesca Holyoke, Head of the Archives & Special Collections, UNB Libraries, was most agreeably helpful in the process. The return was completed over a friendly lunch, and the UNB Archives agreed to permit me to write this article. I created the scans while I (temporarily) possessed the items. The first four are from the Saunders Papers. The sellers of four of the five covers from New Brunswick thefts discussed here have offered satisfactory compensation. I kept no records of the fifth: It was falling apart when I acquired it sometime before 2005.

### **1793: Ship letter to St John, NB**

Written “4<sup>th</sup> Sepr. 1793” at Chelsea by James Chalmers, and addressed to Frederick Town [sic], the letter in Figure 1 was carried by an unknown private vessel directly to St John. That port had no “Ship Letter” handstamp at the time, so it was annotated “Shlr” in red manuscript and rated 1N3 Currency–Collect, also printed in red. Included in the charge were 1d payable to the Ship Master and 1N2 postage for a double rated letter from St John to Fredericton (2 x 7Cy). On the reverse, a black 2-line ST. JOHN N:B / NO 6 93 was applied.

---

Keywords & phrases: Theft of covers from archives

Note the red markings that indicate the rate. It had become an accepted, if not mandated, practice in the United Kingdom to use red ink only to denote prepayment of postage, and black to denote collect/due postage amounts.

Within BNA, however, postmasters tended to use red ink for both prepaid and collect. The reply to a query from Francis Freeling (Secretary of the GPO in 1796; letters written by BNA Deputy PMG Hugh Finley and Joseph Peters, Deputy PMG in Halifax) detail the regular use of red in BNA for collect postage [2]. The practice was soon discontinued!

In that period, when marking postage rates of more than one Shilling in Sterling and NB “Currency,” a “/” was used for the former, an “N” for the other. Thus 1 shilling, 2 pence would be 1/2 Stg and in BNA 1N2 Cy. One unit of Sterling was valued at 1.125 Currency.

### 1795: First use of the St John “Ship-letter” hand stamp

The letter to “Fredericktown” [sic] shown in Figure 2, below, was written on 20 April 1795 at London by J Parker. It included a second letter (not available) and was therefore charged a double rate of postage within New Brunswick. It was sent via an unknown vessel to St John where it arrived on “July 8, 95” as noted by a Canada Specialized type III back stamp [3].

It was also struck with the first known St John “Ship-letter” handstamp in black, and rated 1N3 Currency collect (note still in red) to include the ship letter fee of 1d for the Master and 1N2 Cy as a double rate letter from St John to Fredericton.

This strike of the “Ship-letter” handstamp precedes by four years the previously attributed earliest-recorded use in 1799 [3]. By any definition, these two covers are true “gems of early transatlantic philately.”

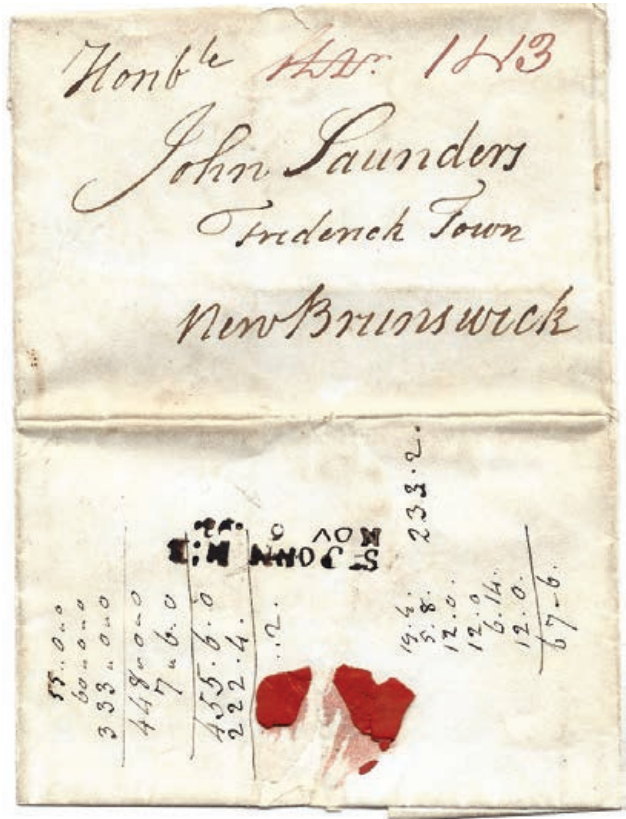
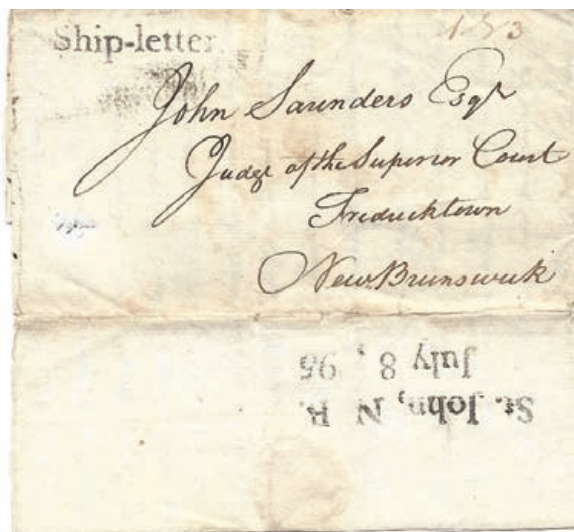


Figure 1. 1793 ship letter to St John, NB.





**Figure 2.** First use of St John “Ship-letter” postmark, July 1795.

**1801: Packet letter, Chelsea to Fredericton**



**Figure 3.** Letter to Fredericton via Halifax in 1801.

Written by James Chalmers and dated 4 March 1801 at Chelsea, the letter in Figure 3 was mailed on 5 March and struck with a double-ring circular date stamp in red – PAID / MR / 5 / 1801. Addressed only to “John Saunders, New Brunswick,” there was no question of its reaching the proper person. Carried by the Falmouth packet *Lady Hobart*, the letter arrived at Halifax on 29 April and was so dated on the reverse with a straight-line handstamp [3].

United Kingdom postage of 1/8 Stg (8d London to Falmouth, plus 1/- Falmouth packet to Halifax) was prepaid and marked in red. Collect BNA internal postage to Fredericton was added, *in black!* – initially 9d Cy only to St John, where an additional 2d was applied to make the correct 11d Cy total rate from Halifax to Fredericton.

## 1802: Packet letter, Chelsea to Fredericton

The next letter shown (Figure 4), also from John Chalmers, was written and mailed at Chelsea, on 2 December 1802, and addressed again just to “John Saunders, New Brunswick”. Packet postage of 1/10 Stg was prepaid to Halifax. The rate for the London-Falmouth leg had been increased to 10d, while the Falmouth-Halifax fee remained at 1/-. It was date-stamped with a red single-ring circular marking – PAID / DEC 2 / 1803.

Packets seldom called at Halifax during the winter months between 1787 and 1823, because bad weather and high seas made conditions dangerous for square-rigged vessels. (An exception was made during the War of 1812.) Instead, they sailed directly to New York as in this case or, from 1806, to Bermuda.

The letter was carried by the Packet *Queen Charlotte*, which sailed from Falmouth on 19 December 1802, arriving in New York on 11 February 1803. The vessel remained in New York for over a month with mail bound for Halifax held on board awaiting the ship’s return voyage, via Halifax, but in spring weather!

The mail was unloaded at Halifax and postmarked HALIFAX / MAR 27·1803 [3]. As before, the letter was rated 9d Cy and routed via St John, where it arrived on 3 April and was struck with a two-line date stamp “St John N.B. / April 3. 1803” [3]. Additional postage of 2d was added to make up the proper 11d collect charge for the Halifax to Fredericton route.

## 1795: Benedict Arnold letter, London to St John

The cover in Figure 5 was claimed by the St John Museum. I do not remember when I purchased it, or from whom and, because it was literally falling apart, I did not bother notating it. Someone had copied the innards, which included the signature of Benedict Arnold, the American Revolutionary War General who went over to the British side. It was returned to the Archives along with the four Saunders letters.



Figure 4. 1802 Letter to Fredericton via New York and Halifax.



**Figure 5.** Letter from Benedict Arnold to Jonathan Bliss, St John.

Written in London, the 1/- packet rate from London to Halifax was prepaid and marked with a red double-circle PAID / DE 9 / 1795 handstamp. It was carried on the *Countess of Leicester*, which sailed from Falmouth in late February, although its arrival date is not specified. There are no Halifax arrival markings. A collect fee of 9d Cy was added in black manuscript for forwarding to St John. As was common in the period, there is no St John arrival marking. Ship Letters always carried them, but packet letters sometimes did not.

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# When Rosecraft ruled

*Gary Dickinson*

**J**OSEPH C Rosenbaum was the pre-eminent producer of first day covers for Canadian stamp issues for two decades. The FDCs he made, under the brand names JCR and Rosecraft, were regarded as exemplary products, to the point that for some years he was the maker of presentation and replacement covers for the Canada Post Office (CPO). This article describes the ascent and later decline and demise of the Rosecraft brand.

## In the beginning

Montreal stamp dealer Joseph C Rosenbaum entered the FDC business gradually, starting with servicing the cacheted covers produced by other makers, including such US stalwarts as Ludwig Staehle and Harry Ioor. His first independent step into the field was the production of a set of ten general-purpose patriotic covers that he used as FDCs for the War Issue of 1942 [1].

Rosenbaum's first signed FDCs appeared under the JCR brand, which he initiated in 1947 with a cacheted cover for the Alexander Graham Bell commemorative issue (Scott 274). Over a ten-year period, he produced FDCs for most of Canada's stamp issues. His final JCR cachet, and his first engraved one, was for the Universal Postal Union issue (Scott 371-372) of 1957. Rosenbaum was not totally satisfied with his success under the JCR logo, and noted in 1968 that his production rarely exceeded 5,000 covers per stamp issue. Sometimes it was as low as 3,000 copies [2].

His major successes came with the Rosecraft brand, which he started in 1957 with the Mining Congress issue (Scott 373). This engraved cachet sold about 12,000 copies, and the numbers steadily increased to about 45,000 per issue within a few years. As Perkins noted, Rosecraft "quickly became the cachet of choice for collectors and servicers, a position it retained until the early 1970s" [3].

## At the apex

The first half-dozen years of Rosecraft's work featured a steady stream of FDCs for all of the commemorative and definitive stamp issues of the period. The cachets were well-crafted and informative, and all were printed in a single colour, usually black. All these early Rosecraft cachets were designed specifically for different stamp issues.

Early in 1962, however, Rosecraft developed a general-purpose cachet featuring the Peace Tower at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The central part of the design showed the Tower, surrounded by a border that showed the ten provincial shields, with a beaver among maple leaves at the top. The first known use of this cachet, which was printed in six different colours (black, blue, brown, green, purple, and red) was with the Education issue (Scott 396) of 1962.

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Keywords & phrases: First Day Covers, Rosecraft, CPO FDC, covers


Although he was not known for extensive advertising of his products, Rosenbaum took out full-page ads in major philatelic periodicals such as *BNA Topics* and *First Days*, in which he announced his new general-purpose cacheted covers. Shown in Figure 1, the ad in *BNA Topics* highlighted the Peace Tower cachet and offered it unused at fifty cents for six envelopes and \$4.50 for one hundred.

In addition to being used by Rosecraft for many stamp issues, the unused envelopes featuring the Peace Tower cachet were sold directly to Rosenbaum's customers who could use them for their own FDCs. Rosecraft also continued to produce special-purpose cachets for each new stamp issue.

The CPO had introduced its own cacheted covers in 1949 with the last King George VI definitive issue (Figure 2). These had two purposes. They were used as replacement covers for the envelopes that had been submitted for day-of-issue servicing by its customers but which had been damaged during the process. The CPO covers were also used to present new Canadian stamp issues to a variety of bureaucrats and distinguished persons in countries around the globe.

The first CPO replacement and presentation cacheted cover went through a series of eight printings between 1949 and 1963. Although the total number of envelopes printed is unknown, half the printings were for only one or two thousand copies and the overall

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5c Sir Martin Frobisher, July 29th	.25	.45	.75
5c P.O. Bicentennial, Aug. 23rd	.25	.45	.75
15c Canada Geese	.40	.95	1.50

add 15c for postage and insurance if you wish to have the \$1.00 stamp sent under separate cover. Assure yourself of all future issues by joining our FDC club. Saves you postage and remittance costs, etc. Statement of your account accompanies each shipment. We operate the largest and most efficient FDC service in Canada. Peelable labels used.

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Singles, \$2.00; Blocks \$4.00; Plate blocks, \$5.00

We will supply our Rosecraft engravings if you wish to service your own covers. Do not mix designs for quantity Price.

4 for 35c (minimum); 10 for 65c; 20 for \$1.10;  
50 for \$2.50; 100 for \$4.50; 500 for \$20.00;  
1000 for \$37.50

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Join Our Envelope Club For Early Automatic Delivery. Minimum deposits suggested. For 4 envelopes each issue deposit \$2.00; for 10 each \$3.00; 20 each \$5.00; 50 each \$10.00 etc.

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**ROSECRAFT COVERS**  
Montreal 28, Canada  
(Produced by J. C. Rosenbaum)

**Figure 1.** Rosecraft advertisement in *BNA Topics*, June 1963.

number was not high. It certainly paled beside the large numbers of FDCs that Rosecraft was producing by the early 1960s.



**Figure 3. CPO Type 1 cachet with Frobisher commemorative.**

For the commemorative-stamp FDCs issued in the three-year period 1961–1963, CPO serviced at Ottawa an average of some 78,000 day-of-issue covers. As Rosecraft was producing close to 40,000 cacheted covers for each stamp issue at that point, that brand may have accounted for about one-half the total FDCs serviced by CPO.

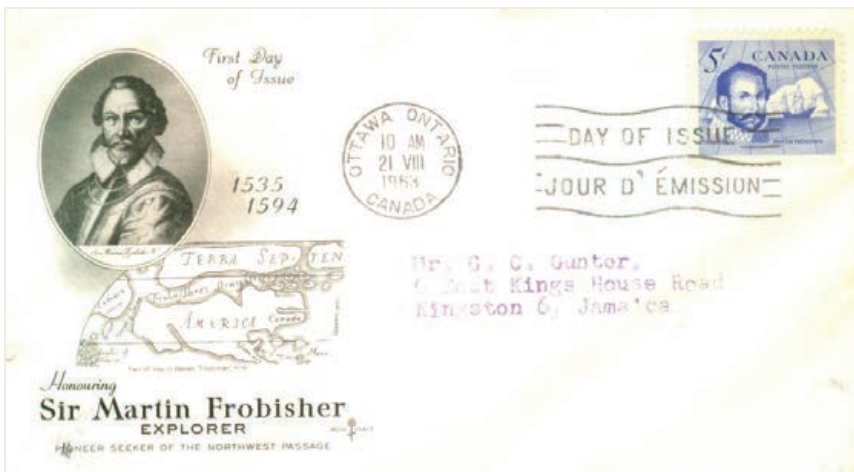
When the post office stopped producing its own cacheted replacement and presentation covers in 1963, it turned to Rosecraft to provide the covers to continue those two services. Although it was not the only FDC maker operating in Canada, it was by far the largest and most consistent producer. The CPO adoption of Rosecraft cachets served as the ultimate acknowledgement of the brand's supremacy.

The first five Rosecraft designs used by CPO ran from 21 August 1963 through 8 April 1964 (Scott 412-416), and all of them were their special-purpose cachets. From that point on, however, the Peace Tower cachet was used exclusively for presentation and replacement covers between 14 May 1964 (Scott 417) and 8 September 1965 (Scott 442), encompassing twenty stamps. Both the special-purpose and general-purpose presentation covers bore a stencilled address and enclosed a letter from the Postmaster General discussing the stamp issue while the replacement covers were usually addressed in pencil [4].

The pivotal stamp in the transition process was the Sir Martin Frobisher commemorative (Scott 412), issued on 21 August 1963. Three different presentation and replacement covers were used for that stamp; the CPO Type I (Figure 2), the Peace Tower design (Figure 3), and the Rosecraft special-purpose cachet (Figure 4).



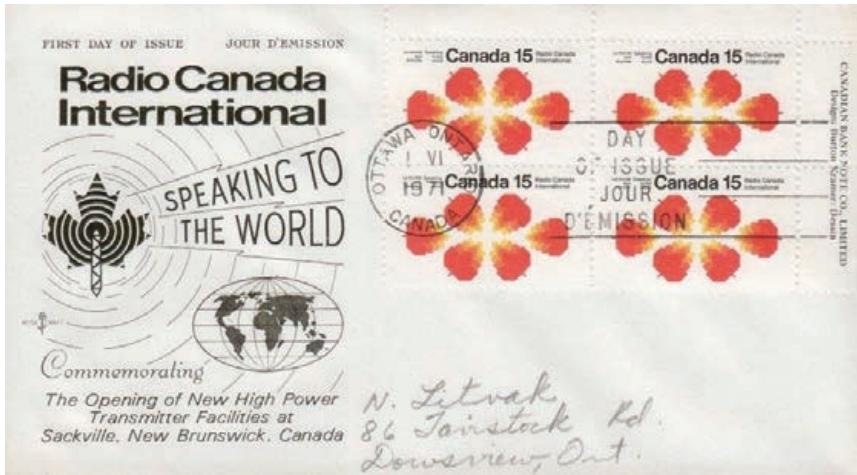
**Figure 3.** Rosecraft Peace Tower cachet used as replacement cover for Frobisher stamp.



**Figure 4.** Rosecraft special-purpose cachet used as presentation cover for Frobisher stamp.

## The demise

The CPO first moved towards a more aggressive position in the FDC marketplace with the Christmas stamps (Scott 443-444) of 1965, reverting to the use of in-house, general-purpose cachets for their presentation and replacement covers. During the next eight years, CPO used seven different primary types of cacheted covers, the last of which was the Indians of the Pacific Coast stamp of early 1974. By that time, CPO was well established as the main producer of FDCs for Canadian stamp issues as it had begun to produce its own special-purpose cachets starting with the maple leaf set of 1971 (Scott 535-538).

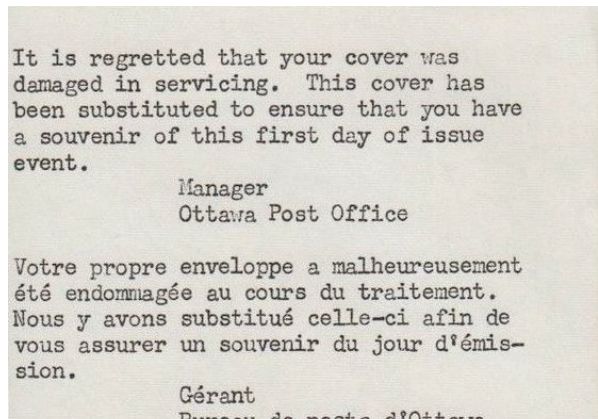


**Figure 5.** Rosecraft special purpose cachet used as CPO replacement cover for RCI issue.

Even so, CPO did revert to the use of Rosecraft cachets for at least two issues on 1 June 1971 with the Radio Canada International and Census stamps (Scott 541-542). By this time, the CPO presentation and replacement cachets had six different types, the Rosecraft special-purpose cachets were also used for those stamps. A Rosecraft replacement cover for the RCI issue is shown in Figure 5, its accompanying insert in Figure 6.

Rosenbaum sold his Rosecraft business to William Assad of Ottawa in 1967 and went into semi-retirement, but the volume of Rosecraft covers continued to increase for a couple of years, averaging 40,000 in the late 1960s, with some issues going as high as 60,000.

Rosenbaum was no longer on the scene when Rosecraft production peaked in the late 1960s and then began to decline because of CPO's dominance in the field. Although Assad struggled on for a while, the business succumbed to competitive and financial realities in 1974. By that point, private-sector cachet-makers in Canada had all but disappeared [5]. The final Rosecraft cachet was produced for the 17 April 1974 first set of semi-official stamps for the Montreal Olympics; however, the general purpose Peace Tower cachet continued in use for years after that because many of the envelopes had been sold to private collectors.



**Figure 6.** Enclosure in Rosecraft replacement cover for RCI issue.



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## Have any of these Fancy Cancels?

David Lacelle








**I**N the first two editions of his *Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950*, David Lacelle reviewed over fifty years of reports of BNA and Canada Fancy Cancellations. Working first from the 1961 and 1981 editions of the Day and Smithies' *Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*, then by checking all numbers of the primary Canada and BNA journals as well as those of cancellation collector groups for more, and with help from many collectors, he has catalogued more than 1,700 fancy cancels. He writes:

*I am now preparing the third edition of the book and am trying to settle once and for all the existence of 55 cancels I have never personally seen on actual covers or stamps, or in scans. In the following table I present my "Eleven Most Wanted" and ask for help from collectors of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Canada/BNA postal history that might carry these cancellations. All have been reported in the past with Post Office (and/or Circle Date Stamp) information, so either mistakes were made or covers existed.*

Image	Type and Information
	Number "110" in white inside black circle, Lacelle L 172, Day & Smithies # 105b. Supposedly used in Stayner, Ontario in 1872. (Stayner did use L 63, a "111" from 1872-1876.)
	Letter "G" in two circles. L 435, Day & Smithies (1961) # 493. Day & Smithies stated that this mark was from "Genoa PQ 1892", but Genoa has not been verified. Could be mistaken for a "C".
	Letter "P" between two dashes in broken circle, Lacelle L 504, Day & Smithies # 533a. Day & Smithies stated that this mark was from "Islington Ont., 1887", but Islington has not been verified.
	Reversed letter "L", Lacelle L 558, Day & Smithies (1961) # 567. "Dunham P.Q. 1874". Dunham may be correct, but supporting information is contradictory.

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Keywords & phrases: Fancy cancellations, existence unconfirmed to date

Image	Type and Information
	<p>Letter “M”, Lacelle L 598, not in Day &amp; Smithies. Reported in <i>Stamp Collector</i>, March 1979, “...from Middlemarch Ontario ... cover dated Jan. 11, 1882...” Middlemarch not confirmed for this mark, but Middlemarch did use a different “M”, Lacelle L 592, in 1876.</p>
	<p>Letter “R” with jagged right leg, in white inside black circle, Lacelle L 742, Day &amp; Smithies # 685a. Day &amp; Smithies stated that this mark was from “Rimouski Que. 1881” but Rimouski has not been verified. If valid, this would be the only fancy cancel known from Rimouski.</p>
	<p>Star, Lacelle L 1028, Day &amp; Smithies (1961) # 141. Possibly from a poor strike or tracing of Lacelle L 1017, used at Toronto July-August 1874. (New York Foreign Mail Office used somewhat similar designs as receiving cancels, however none match exactly.) Also reported in <i>Covers</i> magazine and in <i>Masonic Philatelist</i> (1985).</p>
	<p>Cross, Lacelle L 1148, D &amp; S # 202a. Day &amp; Smithies stated that this mark was from “Almonte Ont. 1875” but Almonte has not been verified. There are several similar cross cancels, and Day &amp; Smithies also listed some as “radial” designs, e.g. their # 802.</p>
	<p>Masonic, Lacelle L 1313, Day &amp; Smithies (1961) # 252. Day &amp; Smithies stated that this mark was from “Yarmouth NS” but Yarmouth has not been verified.</p>
	<p>Bogey, Lacelle L 1354, D &amp; S # 266a. Day &amp; Smithies stated that this mark was from “Fenelon Falls Ont. 1885” but Fenelon Falls has not been verified. Unfortunately there was a collation error in D&amp;S 1981 and #266awas used for two different cancels.</p>
	<p>Geometric or Peace symbol, Lacelle L 1631, Day &amp; Smithies # 802a. First reported in <i>BNA Topics</i> January 1965, p. 12, as being from “Rockland Ont. 1881” but Rockland has not been verified. There is some suspicion that this could be a joke. “Peace Symbol”, which was invented in 1958 as a combination of the semaphore symbols for “N” and “D” (Nuclear Disarmament).</p>

Any information on any of the above items would be appreciated. I can also provide the full list of 55 unconfirmed cancels in paper or PDF form. Please contact me at <[fancycancel@hotmail.com](mailto:fancycancel@hotmail.com)> or Box 233, Merville BC V0R 2M0. Members interested in joining the BNAPS Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings Study Group should contact me at one of those addresses.

## References:

- [1] KM Day and EA Smithies, *Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century*. 1961, 1973, BNAPS.
- [2] David Lacelle, *Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 2007, BNAPS.



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## “Grilled” Canadian Cents Issue stamp?

*Glenn Archer*

THE scans shown here are of a stamp I bought as part of a small, old collection. Nothing in it post-dated 1940, and it contained several unpicked finds, including a perf 12½ three-cent Small Queen (SQ) and a Strand-of-Hair one-cent SQ. The collection probably had not been touched for decades.

On submission to the VGGF, the stamp received a negative opinion and a pink cert, stating that it had been faked to resemble ribbed paper. I can certainly understand the logic behind the opinion, but curiosity tells me there is something further to learn from the stamp; that it should not simply be dismissed as a fake. It is not a likely candidate for faking since:



**Figure 1.** Front of “grilled” Canadian Cents Issue stamp.

- The stamp came from an old, unpicked collection, probably not added-to since before WWII. It seems unlikely that a forger of the time would try to create a new paper type not listed nor described in the literature of the era.

- The stamp shows a known variety (the E flaw) that commands a premium.

I think the ribbing effect was created by a toothed roller similar to a rouletter and applied to the back of the stamp. The horizontal dashes penetrate, but do not puncture, the paper, and they create permanent ridges at the surface of the stamp. The surface of the stamp shows wear at the highest points and some small loss of cancelling ink, so the roller was almost certainly applied after printing and before postal use. Also, I note that the roller is doubled at top.

Furthermore, the roller would almost certainly have to have been applied to an unperforated, un gummed sheet—the pressure needed to penetrate the paper would mutilate a perforated single beyond collecting interest (damaging perforations and distorting the paper so it would never lie flat again). Note that the dashes extend to the edges of the stamp.

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Keywords & phrases: 1¢ Cents issue, paper varieties, Decimal Issue, Grill, ribbing

The stamp perfs  $12 \times 12$  and, in my opinion, the shade suggests it was printed about 1865-66. The paper is the normal white, vertical wove of the period. I have also seen, independently, another stamp showing the identical dashes and ridging effect at front.

My best guess as to the reason the roller was used is that it was an attempt at grilling, similar to the anti-counterfeiting measures the US was experimenting with at the time. If this theory is correct—and I may never know—the experiment was obviously not successful, as the population of these is small, and I have not seen them discussed in the literature before.

I would welcome any comments on the stamp and invite other readers to share any similar items they may have: This stamp is—at least to me—an intriguing mystery.



**Figure 2.** Back of 1¢ Queen Victoria decimal stamp showing possible grill lines.

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# Study group centreline

*Peter McCarthy, OTB*

**C**ENTRELINE presents brief summaries of the specialized research done by BNAPS members, as published in the newsletters of its many Study Groups. This column reviews newsletters received between 15 December 2015 and 28 February 2016.

## Elizabethan II

In the January-February Volume 24 issue of *Corgi Times*, the Elizabethan II Study Group (ESG) newsletter, Editor Robin Harris explains the delay in postage rate changes due to the election of the new government, which also affected issue date of the international rate of the Year of the Monkey stamp. It was only issued on 1 February 2016. Note that there is no reprint of the \$10 Blue Whale Stamp at this time. Also take note that Canada Post is now charging a shipping fee for orders under \$25 and, according to Robin, the fuel charge has apparently been lowered. The new Queen Elizabeth booklet has silhouetted corgis replacing the colour dots along the selvage. Robin gives Andrew Chung's book, *The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers, 4th Edition*, quite a plug. A must-read, I gather. Larry Margetish's Canada's Caricature and *Landscapes Issues* exhibit, which has been turned into a book, is reviewed, and there is a special offer for ESG members. The 2016 UNESCO stamps are illustrated; it is noted that Lowe-Martin is now the printer of the definitives. In the last issue of *Corgi Times*, Robin asked for opinions on homemade 2015 UNESCO definitives. Two responses (out of a mailing to one hundred and twenty-six people) were received. Very disappointing. Mirko Zatka has an interesting article on constant plate flaws on the 1972 Landscape definitive—all new findings. I know Larry is poring over his holdings right now. Robert Elias submitted an article on the guide dot varieties of the lower left inscription blocks of the Wildings and associated high values. Robert's treatment of this complete issue is a treat to behold. Robin shows a metered addressed airmail cover featuring a 45¢ rate that must have been mailed prior to 11 January when the rate increased to 46¢. There is also a rate table showing the increased postage for businesses and individuals using meters. On the last page is a description of Santa Claus letter stamps. Robin is pleading for articles. From one hundred and twenty-six people, surely he should get ten articles.

## Fancy Cancels

Dave Lacelle, the editor of the *Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings* tells us in Newsletter 70 that he is back on track with the preparation of the third edition of the book. Several members—including Ron Smith, Brian Hargreaves, Garfield Portch, Graham Searle, Bill Pekonen, Doug Murray, Joe Smith (who sent in a cover with a screw head obliterator), and Guy Jeffrey—have sent in a varied assortment of cancels. James Wardell sent in a cover with two OHMS overprinted two-cent stamps from the War Issue series, bearing what appears to be half-moon cancels. Mike Street sent in an interesting cover with a French officer cadet training ship marking. In the fakes and forgeries section, Dave shows a nice cover that was sold through auction as legitimate but was actually a fake, unbeknownst as such to the auction house. In a supplement, Dave flags the fact that he is looking for information on the cancels shown there. Help him out if you can.

## Military Mail

The front page of the *Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter* No. 221, edited by Dean Mario, features a Christmas card, sent from Phnom Penh, from the Canadian Delegation of the International Control and Supervisory Commission. The card was submitted by Robert Toombs. David Collyer contributed a very interesting article on the BCATP. (British Commonwealth Air Training Plan) and how mail travelled from training camps in Canada to Australia and New Zealand, illustrating and featuring correspondence sent by Leading Aircraftsman Lawrence William Neale. It's a good piece of postal history.

Wayne Schnarr is editing Volume 1 of the *Catalogue of Canadian Military Mail Markings* and has just about completed chapter one of six. He has a few questions he hopes to answer with the help of the membership. David Hanes sent in examples of cancels used by Canadian Forces strategic bombing mission personnel. Robert Henderson submitted a RCAF Season's Greetings card, and Mario included a card from then-Premier of Ontario, Sir William Howard Hearst, dating back to WW I, addressed to Ontario personnel in the Canadian forces overseas. Rounding out the newsletter is a welcome to the new chairman, Mike Street, and a thank you for the donations to the group.

In Newsletter No. 222 of January 2016, Editor Dean Mario starts with an interesting illustrated cover from Colin Pomfret. It is addressed to a Captain Hugh Peck and was re-directed back to his home address. We may be hearing more of Hugh Peck in the future. Another re-direct via MPO 333 was provided by David Hanes. Is the 1977 Passed by Censor a fake or not? There should be some opinions on that question. David Hanes sent in a POW cover returned to the Dead Letter Branch, Ottawa.

Colin Pomfret shows a post card, from the Korean War period, of a United States Naval Ship (USNS), the *USS General M.M. Patrick*, with a Counterintelligence and Force Protection Operations (CFPO) marking from Tokyo. Mike Street contributed an article on Canadian Joint Staff Mail Free Frank used in London UK. George Sawatzki shows a non-military free frank; he also responded to Wayne Schnarr's query about the various Ottawa/Canada/free keyhole markings.

Colin also provided a post card picturing staff officers at the Goderich Military Camp. The 1¢ Admiral bears a lovely camp marking. Charles LaBlonde shows three Swiss POW covers depicting various routes and censor markings. Dean welcomes new member Willy Schlatter and offers condolences to the family of Conrad Lutes. The newsletter ends with a solicitation of articles. The "in-basket" is empty.

## Newfoundland

Malcolm Back and Bob Dyer are the editors of the *Nenfie Newsletter*, and the study group's Edition 162 begins with Barry Senior's "Perfin Corner," showing three examples of the Knowing perfin, one commercial use and two private uses on post cards. The private uses are legitimate because they were sent by a family member. Bruce Robertson, also known as Cap'n Bruce, chimes in with a most interesting article about a fake DO-X cover dating back to 1932. The DO-X was a ship-like aircraft designed by German engineer, Dr Claude Dornier. The cover (shown in Figure 1, below) is a fake, and the buyer knew that, but it nevertheless provided much research enjoyment. A strong message from Bruce though: Beware of what you buy!

Bob Dyer tells the story of the complete use of the Gilbert set of 1933, and then describes a new variety of the 4¢ Prince of Wales stamp—with help from CA Stillions and John Walsh. Looking at the issue's cover page, we see a franked letter with a 60¢ stamp placed upside down—and wonder why. For



**Figure 1.** Fake Newfoundland DO-X cover.

the answer to this letter and some more unusual covers, the reader is referred to pages 12-13 of the newsletter. Ending the newsletter is CR McGuire's Favourite Newfoundland covers, Part 8, a rarely seen rate to an unusual destination with a military connection.

## Pence-Cents

In Volume 3, No 1 of this study group's newsletter, edited by Jim Jung, Michael Smith's article, "Whitworth's Plate Flaws on the One Cent Decimal Issue," is reprinted by permission. The illustrations show frame extensions, damaged letters, and various marks that appear in the stamp in different positions. Jim Jung, with special thanks to Richard Thompson, tells the story of hunting for the 10d Cartier from the Pence and Cents era, illustrating the various flaws and re-entries found. Ron Majors illustrates a cover sent from Toronto to Rear Admiral Milne, aboard the *HMS Nile* in Halifax. The sender was Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII, who was on his North American tour in 1860. The cover carries the Prince's initials and wax seal on the reverse. A gorgeous piece of postal history. Ron also contributed two other pieces of postal history pertaining to the Royal Visit. Martin Eichele and Richard Thompson joined forces to provide an article on a survey of existing mixed frankings using both Pence and Decimal issues. This ends a well-illustrated and informative newsletter

## Perfins

*The BNA Perforator*, newsletter of the Perfin Study Group is edited by Jim Graham. Issue No. 145 of February 2016 opens with praise for Adobe Photoshop, as the software helped to determine fakes in the 4- and 5-hole OHMS. Jim illustrated how it is done. Kyle Taylor provided a couple of scans to confirm the NYC pattern. Changes made in January 2016 to the fifth edition of the *Canadian Stamp with Perforated Initials* are listed. Ray Waters is working on a book of RCMP-related material, including philatelic items. He is currently hunting for Mountie stamps with perfins. If you can help with this search, please contact him at <dudleydr@telus.net>. Barry Senior sent in a number of scans and wants opinions: Is the

“S” a perfin or not? Opinions, please. Ron Whyte shows covers with dubious use of perfins, asking “Is it or is it not officially used?” Ending the newsletter is an article on JB MacLean corner cards with perfins. Thanks are extended to those who have provided updates.

## Postal Stationery

Robert Lemire is serving as the interim editor of *Postal Stationery Notes*, but the hunt is on for a permanent editor. Newsletter Volume 27, No 3 begins with a report of a new Canadian Express Company Collection Service card by Doug Lingard. Part 2 of the postal stationery cards used for meteorological reports titled the “Georgian Cards” may result in a numbering change if the project is successful. You are therefore asked to submit scans if this current project is to provide input into the next edition of Webb’s catalogue. Pierre Gauthier and Earle Covert provided illustrations showing the guidelines for replying to letters mailed to Santa Claus prior to Christmas 2015. Chris Ellis wrote an article in Volume 20, No 6 about the comic reverse advertisements of the McClary Manufacturing Company of London, Ontario. In this issue we see illustrated updates by Chris and Colin Banfield. Robert Lemire contributed information on cards printed to private order for Ontario Hydro, and he ends the newsletter with an illustrated minor cutting error on a Coho blue fishing fly envelope.

## Precancels

In Issue No. 2 of the *Precancel Study Group Newsletter*, both Chairman Andy Ellwood and Editor Larry Goldberg tell us the membership has increased to fifty-nine since the last newsletter was published. Two new columns have been added: “Show and Tell” and “Precancel Puzzles.” David Marasco’s article asks the question “Were Types R & S precancels printed from the same roller?” and provides illustrations of both types. Bruce Field shows both types on a block of nine. David also submitted an illustrated article about Thin Bar Type A precancels. Kyle Taylor reviews the seventh edition of the *Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue*. In the “Show and Tell” column, Charlie Adrion shows the third known copy of the Montreal Quebec 1-47-1. Larry Goldberg provides a precancel used as a seal on an advertising piece. Chair Andy Ellwood ends the issue—a good one!—with a general challenge for all BNAPS members to study precancel covers and shows an assortment of precancels on cover.

## Railway Post Office (RPO)

In Volume 43 No. 6 of the *RPO Study Group Newsletter*, Editor Ross Gray reports on hammer studies on the Picton & Trenton RPO, ON-457, and on two Toronto & Niagara Falls markings. Rick Parama has been doing research on the Medicine Hat & Nelson RPO and contributes several illustrations and new reports. Much of the newsletter is taken up with early and late dates and first reports of train numbers for various hammers, including some by non-BNAPS members, contributions for which the study group is thankful. The newsletter ends with a request from Rick Friesen for information about RPO markings on the Map Stamp. Rick is trying to put together a comprehensive list. I think the best way to send this information would be to forward scans. Contact Rick via his email address: <rickfriesen5@gmail.com>.

## Re-Entries

Mike Smith is the editor of *Dots and Scratches*, the newsletter of the Re-entry Study Group. In Volume 3, No 1 Mike offers an article of his own, describing discoveries made on the half

penny Unitrade number 8. The illustrations certainly will help people identify what is in their collections. Jim McCormick's article discusses discoveries made on the 6¢ Small Queen, in his own collection and with the assistance of Ted Nixon, Guillaume Vadeboncoeur, and Ralph Trimble, along with conversations with Jim Watt and Glenn Archer. The article originally appeared in the December 2015 issue of *Confederation*, the Large and Small Queen Study Group's newsletter. Michael Smith ends the newsletter with an article on the re-entries on the 1¢ Diamond Jubilee stamp. It is suggested here that if you find anything that you consider odd about a similar stamp in your collection, don't hesitate to contact members of this or any other study groups. They will be more than happy to help out.

## Revenues

In the December 2015 issue of the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*, Editor Chris Ryan begins with Dale Speirs' article on the "Duty Free Markings on Periodicals Received in Saskatoon" and explains the Excise Tax, based on an earlier Chris Ryan article. Dave Hannay's article reports on the discovery of two new Manitoba Vacation Pay Credit Stamps. Illustrations include the pay book from which they came. Richard Fleet's article concerns a correction and an addition to his book *The Law Stamps of British Columbia: The Early Printings, 1879-1912*. Also included is "Cigarette Stamps and Stamping, 1877-1974," Part 2 of Chris Ryan's continuing in-depth article on "Canada's Stamp Taxation of Tobacco Products, 1864-1974."

## War Times

Chairman Bill Pekonen is still looking for an editor for *War Times*, the WW II Study Group newsletter. In issue No 63 (November 2015), Bill shows a letter to the Empire Stamp Co from a POW here in Canada. The war was not going to interfere with his hobby! Shown also is a bilingual Certificate of Medical Examination, a document required of all recruits, and a War Savings form encouraging the purchase of war savings certificates. It features the slogan "Stamp Out Hitler." Both are accompanied by their glassine envelopes. From the *Canada Official Postal Guide* of the era is a listing of the rates of postage on letters and post cards from other countries to Canada.

## Postscript

Philately is a wonderful hobby that brings people together and enables them to further their knowledge by sharing. The editors of these newsletters ask that you share and enrich your knowledge and that of others by writing articles and asking questions.

### STUDY GROUPS AT BNAPEX 2016 FREDERICTON

The following BNAPS Study Groups have asked for a Seminar time slot at BNAPEX 2016 FREDERICTON: **Definite:** Admirals, Air Mail (joint with Canadian Aerophilatelic Society), Canada Post Ephemera and Collateral Material, Christmas, Dead Letter Office, Elizabethan II, Fakes and Forgeries, First Day Covers, George VI, Illustrated Mail, Large and Small Queens, Military Mail, Newfoundland, Pence-Cents, Postal Stationery, Precancels, Re-entries. **Possible:** Fancy Cancel and Miscellaneous Markings, Railway Post Offices, Revenues, Perfins, World War II. The Study Group schedule will be available in the next *BNA Topics* and on the BNAPEX website: <http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex2016/>

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# New issues

William JF Wilson

## No 2 Construction Battalion

**T**HIS year's Black History Month stamp was released by Canada Post on 1 February 2016. It honours No 2 Construction Battalion of World War I, the first and only Black unit to serve in the Canadian military. (Others had served under the British in the War of 1812 and the Upper Canada Rebellion, 1837-39 [1, pp 2f].) Four members of the Battalion are pictured on the stamp (Figure 1). The original photograph, which shows five people, can be found in [1, p 65] and [2]. The fifth person is partly visible on the left side of the official First Day Cover. Four are unidentified in the photograph, but the middle person (second from left on the stamp) is Pte Joseph Alexander Parris (spelled "Paris" in [1]), from Mulgrave, NS,

on the south side of the Strait of Canso. (The information about Parris given here is from [2].) A 1901 census lists his date of birth as 20 March 1899, making him seventeen years old when he signed up for No 2 Construction Battalion at New Glasgow, NS, on 25 July 1916; however, his attestation papers list his date of birth as 21 March 1897. Evidently he lied to the recruiter about his age, as did many young men trying to get into the military. After his discharge, he returned to Mulgrave to work as a labourer, and married Annie Jane Jarvis in 1924. Unfortunately, she died from complications due to congestive heart failure in 1936, and he later married Viola Jane Borden. Together they raised a large family in Mulgrave. Joseph died in 1972.



**Figure 1.** Pte Joseph Parris (second from left) and three other members of No. 2 Construction Battalion.

When World War I began, patriotic fervour ran high in most of Canada. Within only the first two months of the war, the first troops of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) had been recruited,

trained, and sent to Britain. (Unless stated otherwise, all of the following information is from reference [3].) Black people in Canada were just as strongly patriotic as people of other races. As William F Guy (Infantry), of Kentville, NS, said later [1, back cover]: *We knew what we had to do. We did not think about it; we were ready to fight. We were fighting for our country, Canada, to save the country for your parents, for your people to have a country to live in. I never expected to come back.* Yet it is a sad fact that the vast majority of lack volunteers were turned away by recruiters. The reasons given [1, p 7] varied from blatantly prejudiced (e.g., This is “a white man’s war” and “We do not want a chequer-board army”) to tactfully vague (e.g., “We will call you when we need you.”). Some recruiters did not themselves object to Black recruits, but turned them away nonetheless because they felt that their presence in a battalion might adversely affect recruitment (whites might decide not to join). This did, in fact, occur in some instances [1, p 23].



A number of prominent members of Parliament were sympathetic to the participation of black men in the war and were ready to help, notably Prime Minister Robert Borden (MP for Halifax), John Stanfield (MP for Colchester, NS), and Fleming B McCurdy (MP for Shelburne and Queen's, NS, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Militia and Defence, Sam Hughes). Hughes, in fact, informed the recruiters "that coloured men are to be permitted to enlist in any battalion": The instruction had little effect. Each battalion was raised from a specific area of the country, and the commander-in-charge of each battalion decided who was an acceptable recruit [1, p 8], [3, p 179]. Some black recruits did manage to enter various CEF units, but they were far too few to relieve the frustration in the black community. As Gordon Charles Wilson (No 2 Construction Battalion) of Halifax, NS, put it [1, back cover], *Black people refused to accept the attitude that it was 'a white man's war'. As loyal citizens, we wanted to serve our country. It was our duty, our responsibility.*

Given the refusal of almost all battalion commanders to accept black recruits, and the realization that they might face a hostile environment if they were accepted, having separate units entirely or almost entirely comprised of black men began to look attractive both to the military and to the black community. Prominent black leaders such as JRB Whitney of Toronto, and the Reverend William A White of Truro, NS, lent their support. The total number of black people in Canada at the time was only about 20,000, so it seemed doubtful that a black battalion of 1,038 men, all ranks, could be sustained against attrition at the front. A constant influx of new recruits would be required. However, Hughes gave assurances that platoons composed of black soldiers would be welcome to be attached to white battalions, and black leaders began bringing together prospective recruits. Unfortunately, after all this effort, and to the indignation of the black community and the embarrassment of everyone, it actually proved very difficult to find a battalion that would accept such a platoon.

Another possibility remained. A labour unit, the No 1 Construction Battalion, was already being raised under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Ripley, a prominent railway construction engineer. The possibility of a No 2 Construction Battalion, composed of black recruits and white officers, was suggested to the War Office. It was accepted on 11 May 1916 with the condition that the men were to be enlisted as soldiers. Battalion status seemed supportable in this case. The unit would be away from the front and so would not suffer a large attrition. Formal authorization for its formation as a component of the CEF was given on 5 July 1916, and recruitment took place over the entire country (unlike the infantry battalions). Daniel H Sutherland, a contractor from River John, Pictou County, NS, with considerable experience in railway construction, accepted the invitation to command No 2 (after two other men had turned it down). He was commissioned as a lieutenant-colonel. Reverend William A White became the chaplain with the rank of Captain, the only black man to be a commissioned officer in the CEF.

Unfortunately, although probably not surprising, recruitment fell considerably below expectations. While it would be an advantage to have the support and protection of the other black soldiers, the formation of this unit was also a form of segregation, and this would have been unacceptable to many. Also, as one recruiting officer remarked, recruiting was difficult "due to the rough manner in which they have been previously turned down." By the time the battalion sailed for Britain on either 25 March [3] or 28 March [1] 1917, only about 700 black men had joined up. Of these, 598 went overseas. Recruiting had been expanded in an effort to build up numbers, and the 598 included 171 men born in the United States and 66 born in

the British West Indies. They arrived safely in Liverpool on 8 April (this was during the height of the submarine menace in the Atlantic), and they remained in Britain until 17 May. During this time, the unit's War Diary records that "Military training was subordinate to agricultural labour, mostly planting potatoes."

Troops composed of the "subject races" of the Empire were treated differently from white troops by the British military; e.g., confinement to camp, denial of leave, and discouragement from fraternizing with whites—especially white women. The Canadian authorities would not accept these limitations and got around them by posting the unit to the Jura Group of the Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC) near the town of La Joux, France, close to the Swiss border. This placed them within the French Army's lines of communication, in which there was no difference in privilege between the army's metropolitan and their Oriental and African soldiers. Because the unit was understrength, it was also re-designated as a Company with nine officers and 495 men of other ranks. Unfortunately for Sutherland, companies are commanded by majors or captains, not lieutenant-colonels, so to remain with the unit he had to accept a reduction in rank to major.

No 2 Construction Company, CEF, left England on 17 May 1917 and reached La Joux on 20 or 21 May, where they joined No 5 District, Jura Group, CFC. Later in the year, fifty men were sent to Thirty-Seventh Company, CFC, near Peronne, and 180 (including Joseph Parris) to No 1 District, CFC, at Alençon. The rest remained at La Joux.

The skilled labour force in No 5 District was divided into eleven forestry companies, each typically established with six officers and 164 men of other ranks. No 2 Construction Company was considerably larger than this and functioned primarily as an administrative holding unit; i.e., it retained its identity and operated its own camp, but the officers and men were distributed to wherever the various forestry companies needed them.

For example, of 257 "other ranks" in the camp on 1 February 1918, the War Diary records that thirty were working as teamsters, fifty in various mills, fifty in the bush operations of the various companies, thirty in the shipping department, fifteen as cooks, thirty-five on the roads, twenty in "other District employ" and the balance on "Miscellaneous Labour." Moving men around was not unusual in the CFC, so the arrangement seems fair, and it likely made the best use of both skilled and unskilled labour.

The work was arduous, but the available photographic evidence suggests that the atmosphere and camaraderie were more like that of a Canadian logging camp than the usual military camp. Reveille was at 0500 hours, with work starting by 0700. The men typically worked ten hours a day, six days a week, and sometimes also at night and on Sunday. Happily, this routine was broken by occasional entertainment or parades, and leave passes became available to the company at a rate of four or five per day, allowing the men to visit Paris and London.

A company band had been formed during their training in Nova Scotia, with instruments purchased with funds supplied by the prominent construction manager and entrepreneur, Henry Falconer McLean (an honorary colonel of the battalion), and the band resumed playing in France after the instruments arrived.

The war ended on 11 November 1918 and No 2 Construction Company left La Joux for England on 4 December. There, the unit was broken up into regionally-based drafts, all of which left England for home in January 1919. The unit was officially disbanded on 15 September 1919.

In addition to its important role in the CFC, the contribution of No 2 Construction Battalion to black history in Canada is perhaps best described in the final paragraph of John G Armstrong's article, "The Unwelcome Sacrifice: A Black Unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1917-19," [3, p 194]:

*The black community's offer of sacrifice was unaccepted in some quarters, unwelcome in many, and unremarked in most. Still, Canada's blacks learned that there were sympathetic men in the political power structure prepared to consider their represented concerns to the extent that they brought about the formation of a black unit in the CEF. While perhaps all ambitions for the unit were not realized, its identity was preserved until the end of the war, and as such was a source of pride for many of those who served in it. While segregated in their own camps, the black troops appear to have mixed freely with white troops both on duty and at occasional social events. It seems reasonable to assume that many men, both black and white, profited from the interaction. It also seems fair to conclude that this otherwise unpublicized and minor component of Canada's remarkable contribution to the Allied cause represented not only a substantial willingness to share the obligations of citizenship but it may have given both impetus and legitimacy to later black claims to a more equitable share in civic rights and obligations, particularly in Nova Scotia.*

The information in the accompanying table is from the Canada Post website:

<https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/blogs/collecting/list.page?cattype=collecting&cat=stamps>

Canada Post's *Details* publication, and philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Where the number of lithographic colour dots on the stamp selvedge differs from that published by Canada Post, the selvedge is taken as correct. Stamp size, perforations and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) × (VERTICAL).

## References and endnotes

- [1] Calvin W Ruck, *The Black Battalion: 1916-1920 Canada's Best Kept Military Secret*, Nimbus Publishing Limited, Halifax, NS, 1987. A previous edition titled *Canada's Black Battalion: No. 2 Construction, 1916-1920*, published by the Society for the Protection and Preservation of Black Culture in Nova Scotia in 1986, is available online at <http://www.ourroots.ca> (enter the book title in the search bar on the right, then click on the image of the book, then on an item in the Table of Contents).
- [2] Bruce MacDonald, "Pte. Joseph Alexander Parris – A No. 2 Construction Battalion Soldier's Story," from *First World War Veterans of Guysborough County*, a blog by retired social studies teacher Bruce MacDonald (article posted 30 January 2014). Available online at <http://guysboroughgreatwarveterans.blogspot.ca/search?q=parris>
- [3] John G Armstrong, "The Unwelcome Sacrifice: A Black Unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1917-19," in *Ethnic Armies: Polyethnic Armed Forces from the Time of the Habsburgs to the Age of the Superpowers*, NF Dreisziger, ed, Wilfred Laurier University Press, Waterloo, ON, 1990, pp 178-197.

**Table 1. 2016 Commemoratives and Definitives**

	Year of the Monkey	Queen Elizabeth II	UNESCO World Heritage Sites	Black History: No. 2 Construction Battalion
<b>Value</b>	P, \$2.50	P	5 × P (s-t on SS)	P
<b>Issued</b>	P: 11 Jan \$2.50: 1 Feb	11 Jan	11 Jan	1 Feb
<b>Printer</b>	CI	L-M	L-M	L-M
<b>Pane</b>	A, B, C, D, E: <sup>(a)</sup>	Bk <sup>(c)</sup> : 10	Bk <sup>(c)</sup> : 10, 30 SS: 5	Bk: 10
<b>Paper</b>	C	C	C	C
<b>Process</b>	A, B, C, D, E: <sup>(a)</sup>	4CL	5CL	6CL
<b>Qty (1000s)</b>	A: 100 B: 250 <sup>(b)</sup> C: 140 <sup>(b)</sup> D: 130 <sup>(b)</sup> E: 115 <sup>(b)</sup>	Continuous	Bk: Continuous SS: 125 <sup>(b)</sup>	140 <sup>(b)</sup>
<b>Tag</b>	G4S	G4S <sup>(d)</sup>	G4S <sup>(d)</sup>	G4S
<b>Gum</b>	SH, SS: PVA Bk: P-S	P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S	P-S
<b>Size, mm</b>	32 × 32	19.9 × 24 <sup>(e)</sup>	SS: 24 × 20 Bk: 24 × 19.9 <sup>(e)</sup>	32 × 32
<b>Perf</b>	P, D, E: 13.1 × 13.1 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	SS: 13.3 × 13.0 Bk: Simulated	Simulated
<b>Teeth</b>	SS: 21 × 21 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	SS: 16 × 13 Bk: Simulated	Simulated

**Abbreviations for Table 1:**

*number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; Bk = booklet; C = Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); CI = Colour Innovations; 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 = set-tenant; SH = sheet; SS = souvenir sheet.

**Footnotes for Table 1**

<sup>(a)</sup> A: SH 25×P (7CL + embossing + 1 foil stamping); B: Bk 10×P (7CL); C: Bk 6×\$2.50 (7CL); D: SS 1×\$2.50 (7CL + embossing + 1 foil stamping); E: Transitional SS with one \$2.50 Monkey stamp from 2016 and one \$2.50 Ram stamp from 2015 (7CL + embossing + 2 foil stamping).

<sup>(b)</sup> Number of booklets or souvenir sheets.

<sup>(c)</sup> Intermeshed “Canada” on back.

<sup>(d)</sup> The upper and lower tagging bars on each stamp contain symbols related to the stamp subject.

<sup>(e)</sup> Listed as 20.25 × 23.25 (Queen) and 24 × 20 (UNESCO) in Canada Post’s *Details* magazine.

## New book release notes

**B**NAPS has released two new handbooks and three new books in the Exhibit Series since the last issue of *BNA Topics* went to press. All are available through our agent, Sparks Auctions. Our sister society, the Postal History Society of Quebec, has also released a new catalogue.

*Canadian Permit Postage Stamp Catalogue, Fourth Edition*, by Dieter (Dick) Staecker, 2016. Spiral bound, 243 pages, 8.5×11, black and white with a 20-page colour section. ISBN: 978-1-927119-64-8. Published by BNAPS; Stock #B4h079-1. C\$55.95



The *Canadian Permit Postage Stamp Catalogue, Fourth Edition*, is a major enhancement of the Third Edition, which was released in 2007. Continuing to build on the improvements brought about by advances in computer technology that characterized the huge differences between the Second and Third Editions, the Fourth Edition continues the excellent layout work and includes a significant number of new illustrations. A special feature of the Fourth Edition is a twenty-page section showing complete covers, cards, and wrappers in full colour. Some catalogue numbers of the more recent permits listed in the Third Edition have been changed in the Fourth Edition to improve and simplify the catalogue. No further renumbering is anticipated in the future. The catalogue has grown from the 178 pages of the Third Edition to 243 pages in the Fourth.

As in the previous editions, all main permit types have been priced and many valuations have increased. All information obtained in dealer stock and auctions has been considered. Earlier items on complete cover or card are extremely scarce. In addition to the permit indicia, many old envelopes, cards, and catalogue covers have advertising illustrations and/or text and are thus of increased interest to postal history and social history collectors.

After immigrating to Canada from Germany via Australia and settling down, Dick Staecker resumed his childhood hobby of stamp collecting. While looking over some postal stationery at a stamp show, a dealer gave him a box of Canadian permit mail for free, saying he could not sell “this junk.” The “junk” looked quite interesting, since it was properly used through the mail with postage paid, the denomination in the indicia, and old advertising on the covers. Finding that there was no detailed listing of permit indicia, Dick decided to do the job himself. By 1987, he was able to publish his first *Canadian Permit Postage Stamp Catalogue*, eighty-four pages of information essentially new to Canadian philately. Almost thirty years later, the Fourth Edition is three times the size of the First. Recent changes in permit mail styles and mail type names have generated significant interest among collectors and make it very likely that a Fifth Edition of the catalogue will appear in due course.



*Arthur Klass' Christmas Seal Ads on Canadian Post Cards (Second Edition)*; Robert Vogel, Editor, 2016. Spiral bound, 80 pages, 8.5×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-65-5. Published by BNAPS; Stock #B4h-080-1. C\$47.95

The first Edition of *Christmas Seal Ads on Canadian Post Cards* by Art Klass was published in 2003. BNAPS was just getting into preparing and printing books from digital files and had not yet started printing books in

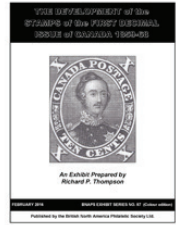
full colour. With Art's encouragement and the help of many collectors, Bob Vogel has undertaken to prepare a Second Edition of the book. From his and his helpers' collections, Bob has obtained information on new cards and new varieties, and also colour scans of many cards. Among the many improvements in the Second Edition are full colour reproduction of almost all known cards, four new card types, thirty-nine new listings, and a new decimal numbering system adopted to allow sequential insertion of new finds in future.

Bob Vogel was co-author of *The National Christmas Seals of Canada Catalogue, First Edition*, with Cliff Beattie and Andrew Chung. He is a well-known collector and author in the field of Canadian First Day Covers.

*The Development of the Stamps of the First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-68*, by Richard P Thompson, 2016. Spiral bound, 58 pages, 8.5×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-59-4. Published by BNAPS; Stock #B4h923-087-1. C\$43.00

In *The Development of the Stamps of the First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-68* Richard Thompson presents a very interesting study focused on the printing aspects of Canada's second stamp issue, the Decimals of 1859. Illustrated and discussed in careful detail are plate proofs, perforations, colours, watermarks, papers, printing orders, plate imprints, and varieties.

Richard Thompson had a schoolboy collection as a child. He converted it to a collection of Canada and the provinces in the 1970s, then put it aside again until 1988. When he was transferred to Montreal he joined the Lakeshore Stamp Club, now *Le club philatélique du Lakeshore*. His first serious collection was of the Four-Ring Numeral Cancels of Canada, which received two National Gold awards, one a Reserve Grand, and an International Large Silver at CAPEX96. The collection in this book started out as a one-frame exhibit of the ten cents Prince Albert stamp but was quickly converted to a collection of all six values of the First Decimal Issue of Canada. It was awarded a BNAPS Vermeil in 1999, 2003, and 2007, and a BNAPS Gold in 2009, 2012, and 2014. Now retired, Richard lives in Victoria, BC.



*Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls, Canada 1801 – 1904*, by Douglas Irwin, 2016. Spiral bound, 136 pages, 8.5×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-60-0. Published by BNAPS; Stock #B4h923-088-1. C\$60

Douglas Irwin's *Postal Beginnings at Niagara Falls, Canada 1801–1904*, the 88<sup>th</sup> volume in the BNAPS Exhibit Book Series, is the result of many years of research into the history of one of Canada's best-known cities and home of a tourist attraction that draws millions of visitors every year.

Careful searching in dealer's stocks and auction catalogues has produced a postal history collection that, appropriately, won the Allan Steinhart Reserve Grand Award at BNAPEX 2015 Niagara Falls.

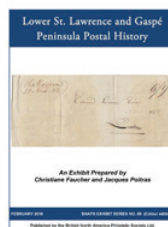
Over the years, the exhibit has also been awarded a Large Vermeil internationally, at SESCAL/AMERICAS 08, and nine, national-level gold medals. In 2007, it competed in the APS Champion of Champions class after winning the Grand Award at the Philatelic Show in Boston. It won the Grand Award at NOVAPEX 2006 and the Reserve Grand Award at ORAPEX 2008. It has been awarded three American Philatelic Congress awards and has been

shown twice in the Court of Honour at the annual Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) convention and exhibition.

Doug has been a member of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) for almost forty years. His first philatelic speciality and exhibiting interest was the Centennial Definitives of Canada, his exhibit of which was also awarded national-level Gold medals. In the mid 1980s, Doug formed the BNAPS Centennial Definitive Study Group and edited its newsletter for many years. He edited the second edition of the original Keane and Hughes *Canada The 1967–73 Definitive Issue*, and he contributed to the Centennial works by both Robin Harris and Michael Milos.

Doug became interested in the postal history of the Niagara Falls area about twenty years ago, first collecting the county of Welland, and then becoming more specialized with material relating to the Niagara Falls area. His other interests include photography, travel, and golf. Doug usually combines either golf or photography with his travels and, to date, has visited fifty-five different countries.

*Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé Peninsula Postal History*, by Christiane Faucher and Jacques Poitras, 2016. Spiral bound, 88 pages, 8.5×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-63-1. Published by BNAPS; Stock #B4h923-089-1. C\$51



Christiane Faucher's and Jacques Poitras's *Lower St Lawrence and Gaspé Peninsula Postal History* was shown for the first time at FILEX 2016, where it received not only a Gold medal but also the Reserve Grand Award. This is the couple's second BNAPS Exhibit Series book, following on their *Postal Usages in the Province of Quebec and Lower Canada until 1831*, published in 2013. This volume illustrates the fascinating postal history of the difficult routes along the lower St Lawrence River and around the Gaspé peninsula.

Christiane Faucher was born in 1950 in Quebec City. She taught chemistry there and retired in 2009. She is the President of the *Société d'histoire postale du Québec* and a member of many philatelic and postal history organizations. Her main collecting interests are official mail postal history and Quebec City's illustrated covers. Jacques Poitras, her husband, is also a retired teacher. He was chairman of both the "Royale 95" and "Royale 2008" exhibitions held in Quebec City. He is currently president of the *Fédération québécoise de philatélie*. He has written many articles on the subject of Lower Canada's early postal history and regularly speaks on the subject at conferences. With Cimon Morin he is the author of the *Catalogue des marques postales du Québec 1743-1867*, launched at the Lakeshore Stamp Club's annual exhibition in April 2016. Both Christiane and Jacques are fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and members of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada and *l'Académie québécoise de philatélie*.

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## New release

*Catalogue des marques postales du Québec 1763-1867, Société d'histoire postale du Québec (SHPQ). Catalogue of Postmarks of Quebec, 1763-1867*, by Cimon Morin and Jacques Poitras, 1st edition, Postal History Society of Quebec, 2016, 157pp, 18×22 cm, ISBN 978-92067-50-3. Price: \$C10 (by mail to: Canada \$C16; US \$C22, elsewhere \$C27).



The goal of the *Catalogue of Postmarks of Quebec* (CMPQ) is to collect, inventory, and illustrate postal markings used by Quebec post offices from the earliest days of the post until Confederation. More than 1,200 postmarks are listed. The presentation of postmarks in CMPQ is by categories, for example: straight line, double circle, etc, in table format. The following items are included in each entry: post office name, illustration, dates of use, size, colour of ink, and type. A footnote added to each listing identifies the years the postmark has been seen by the authors.

The authors consulted archival documents wherein they found a large number of covers that had never been subjected to a philatelic examination. They also benefited from reproductions of items in the collections of postal historians, the many collections featured over the years in auction catalogues, as well as lists published by postal history dealers previously in printed form and now on the Internet. The comments and suggestions of numerous philatelists helped to validate and add to this directory. In all, their census includes over 13,000 pieces of Lower Canada and Canada East mail for the period. It also confirmed several early dates of postmarks.

At the end of this 170-page volume is an index of all the post offices opened before 1 July 1867, with the category of postmarks listed in the CMPQ. The authors believe that the CMPQ will allow collectors as well as specialists in the postal history of Quebec and Canada to better understand the postmarks used in Quebec during the first hundred years of the post. The CMPQ, launched at LAKESHORE 2016 and available at ORAPEX 2016, can also be ordered from the SHPQ by emailing <shpq@videotron.ca>.

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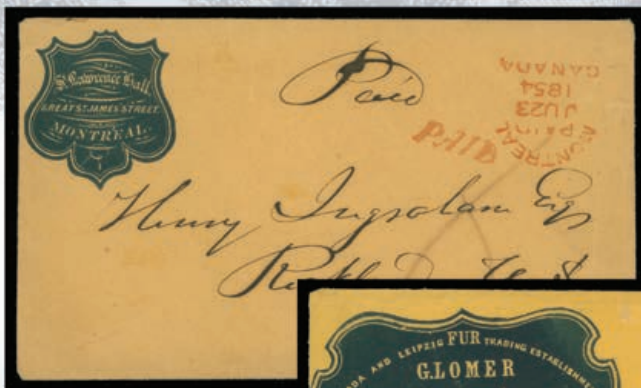
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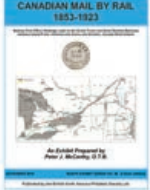

### C\$ Retail

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## Readers write (Continued from p4)

### Follow up on

#### “Little-known facts of WWII: POW mail from Japan”

*John Burnett* submitted this unique follow-up to his “Little Known facts of WWII” article from last quarter. He received an e-mail from a relative of the writer of one of the covers (and he has offered the cover to the family). The e-mail reads as follows:

*It's Saturday morning and I'm catching up on my philatelic reading. No matter how hard I try, I never seem to catch up. The 2016 First Quarter issue of BNA Topics arrived a few days ago and although there are stamp magazines and newspapers in my "to be read" stack that I've had longer, I moved Topics to the top of the pile. I glanced at the table of contents, noted that your article about POW mail from Japan appeared on page 9, and skipped ahead to read it first.*

*Many thanks for this recent article in the BNA Topics. Quite frankly it was with astonishment that I viewed the illustrated POW card. Private R. Dunlop was my Grandmother's first cousin. As such I had the privilege of knowing Robert “Bobby” Dunlop into my mid 20's. Whenever I visited my Grandparents in Stratford Bobby would get a call and would come over for a visit. Some background:*

*During Bob's internment the family went for years without any word of his fate. The card would have been an exception to the general lack of knowledge which persisted during the war.*

*As could be expected Bobby returned in a very poor state but, thankfully, recovered to the extent that in peacetime he remained in the Army rising to the rank of Major.*

*I recall clearly Bobby showing to me the pipe that he made and used (with grass) while a POW. It was made out of brass which had been found in the camp. The stem was about 4 inches long which Bobby painstakingly hollowed out with nails as the boring instrument. A small bowl was similarly constructed. In the context in which the pipe was made I was fascinated by its story.*

*Kittie was the name of Bob's wife. They were married at the time Bob went overseas with the Hong Kong detachment. As a result she would have been the addressee on the card.*

*Am very pleased to advise that, notwithstanding the ill treatment suffered during his youth, Bob lived a long life before passing away out West where he had moved to live with his son Bob Jr. after Kittie's death.*

*It was because of your story that yesterday the Evans family reminisced fondly about Bobby Dunlop. He blessed us all.*

A most touching follow-up, and an example of the amazing possibilities that can arise from collecting and writing about our covers and stamps.

# BNAPS business and reports

## President's column

*George Dresser, OTB*

### World Stamp Show NY2016

**B**NAPS needs your participation. The British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS), the Postal History Society of Canada (PHSC), and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) are jointly sponsoring a society table (#881) at the World Stamp Show New York 2016. This show, last held in the United States in Washington DC in 2006, is a not-to-be-missed, once-in-every-ten-years event.

There is something for everyone at this show—for the beginning collector to the most advanced collector—seminars, society meetings, stamp dealers from all over the world, world class exhibits, major stamp auctions, fun and inexpensive material to buy, expensive and rare, one-of-a-kind material to buy, youth activities, and more. All this will be available at the Javits Center from 28 May–4 June 2016, only a few weeks away.

BNAPS still needs your participation to help staff our table. **PLEASE** contact *BNA Topics* Co-Editor Ron Majors (ronald.e.majors@gmail.com), who has been acting as the liaison for the three Societies, and volunteer just two hours of your time. I attended the Washington DC 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition and, quite frankly, I was a bit overwhelmed, like a three-year-old child in a Toys “R” Us store. Yes, New York City is expensive. But NY2016 has special hotel rates, and the Show itself has no admission fee. If you think about it, you can figure out a way to make it happen. And if you decide to go to NY2016, do let Ron know what days you are going to be there.

### Postal History Society of Canada

Are you a PHSC member? I am. Have you contributed to the success of that Society? I haven't either. We both need to do better. In the Spring 2015 issue of the *PHSC Journal*, (actually received by members late last year or early this year), President Stéphane Cloutier describes the reasons the *Journal* was being distributed so late: a lack of volunteers to help and a lack of articles to print.

In a lengthy column, Stéphane describes the state of the Society and the challenges it is facing. I have no way to compare the two membership lists, but I suspect that many PHSC members are also BNAPS members. The focus of the two Societies is somewhat different but certainly complementary, and many of us benefit from the richness of the journals of the two societies. Since Stéphane's column was published, I have learned that a number of volunteers have stepped forward to help. Perhaps the situation has improved somewhat, but more volunteers are needed and, certainly, more postal history articles are needed.



## **BNAPEX**

Have you ever attended a BNAPEX? If not, BNAPEX 2016 in Fredericton, NB (30 September-2 October) is a great opportunity to do so. The fun and work of being a Society member culminate at the annual convention. This is where you meet other study group members, the elected officers and appointed officials, and knowledgeable collectors with interests similar to yours; this is where you can do business with a delightful group of professional stamp dealers who have the stock and the knowledge to help you advance your collections. Socialize with fellow collectors from several countries and simply kick back and have a good time.

## **Fredericton**

Have you ever visited Fredericton, New Brunswick? I have not. My spouse and I are truly looking forward to our visit during the last week in September 2016. The timing of the convention was chosen to take advantage of the fall colours, which should be at their peak during our visit. In case you are wondering, where we live in Texas we don't have a fall colour season (neither do we have that white stuff that Canadians seem to enjoy so much). Fredericton is an historic city along the banks of the Saint John River, capital of the province, home of the main campus of the University of New Brunswick and to a number of historic residences and the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. There's a lot to do and see, and it's easy to get there. If you are a Canadian and live west of New Brunswick and want to drive there, simply get on the Trans-Canada Highway and drive east until you get to Fredericton (if you are a Canadian and live east of New Brunswick, get on the Trans-Canada and drive west!). You can fly to Fredericton easily from the US. Better still, time permitting, fly to Boston and enjoy a fall drive along the New Hampshire and Maine coasts on your way to New Brunswick. Plan to bring your non-collecting spouse or partner. Enjoy a great vacation visit to New Brunswick. And bring your real camera to get some great fall images.

## **BNAPS Member Links Directory**

This is my third appeal. As of 27 February 2016, 175 members have provided their e-mail addresses on the BNAPS website: Eighteen members responded to my second appeal—an improvement, but clearly a modest one. In addition, many members have provided an e-mail address but no information on their collecting interests. Take a look at the information Gary Steele has provided on his links directory entry. Gary is a judge, an exhibitor, a part-time stamp dealer, and an outstanding collector. I would encourage you to add your collecting interests to your e-mail address (by the way, I am still looking to identify members that collect Fair and Exhibition covers so that we can exchange information).

## **Financial viability**

I can report that, thanks to earlier generous benefactors, BNAPS is financially sound. I serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee and, therefore, I lead the work to manage the Society's investment portfolio. My reading of the state of the global, Canadian, and American economies is currently not positive. The Committee's approach to managing the portfolio is to invest conservatively in high-quality, dividend-paying companies, to not chase yield, and to select companies that we can hold for the long term. Our relatively conservative portfolio did well during the January market downturn: perhaps we were just lucky. I personally think that the next ten years is going to be very iffy for investments. Our annual

withdrawal from the portfolio, \$10,000 US per year, allows the Society to carry out several programs that would not otherwise be possible without a dues increase of about \$10 US per member. If any member has special expertise in the field of investments, please get in touch. I would appreciate your help and would be pleased to add you to the Finance Committee.

## **Elected and appointed officials**

This is an election year for our Society. Are you interested in being an elected BNAPS official? Are you interested in being an appointed official? Are you interested in contributing in any way? Are you interested in moving from being a subscription-only member to being a contributing member? If you have an interest in being an elected official, please make your interests known to Bill Walton, Chair of the Nominating Committee (WaltonWmC@aol.com). However, most of the work of the Society is done by appointed officials and their committee members. For a member who wants to contribute to the Society, this is the best way to put your talents to work. Contact me or any appointed official to express your interests. We need a backup or shadow person for just about every position. If you can contribute even a little time it will be appreciated and you will find it rewarding. Since learning of the challenges being faced by the PHSC, I have become much more concerned about bringing in new faces and new talent into the BNAPS official pool. Many of our key appointed officials are in their 70s. Let's not wear them out.

## **BNAPS books**

This may be the last *BNA Topics* you will receive prior to BNAPEX 2016. So, let me make a suggestion. BNAPS has arguably the finest book-publishing program of any stamp society. A glance at the whole list will tell you that there is something of interest for everyone. Order books before BNAPEX from Sparks Auctions of Ottawa (<BNAPS@sparks-auctions.com> or (613) 567-3336) and Brian Wolfenden will bring them to the convention, saving you the postage. Since Canada does not have the US media mail rate this represents a considerable savings.

See you in Fredericton.

## **From the Secretary—Report date: 26 February 2016**

*Andy Ellwood*

(10 Doris Avenue, Gloucester, ON K1T 3W8, <andy\_ellwood@rogers.com>)

## **Membership fees**

The membership fee is reviewed each year at the Board meeting held just before the Annual Meeting. Members should note that there will be a slight change in membership fees for 2016. The annual membership fee for Canadian members is \$C35; for US members, it will be \$US 30: £26 for United Kingdom members; and C\$40 for members from all other countries. Membership applications submitted during the second or third quarter of the year should be accompanied by seventy-five or fifty percent, respectively, of the annual fee. Applications submitted in the fourth quarter of the year should be accompanied by twenty-five 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. All memberships can be paid via PayPal through the form on the BNAPS website (www.BNAPS.org). You can fill out an application

form (also available online as a pdf file) and send your application form, along with a cheque or money order, to the Secretary (address above).

### **Applications for membership**

After receipt of his or her application, an individual is classified as a new member and the person's name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNA Topics*. Unless an objection from another BNAPS member is received within approximately sixty days, then the applicant is confirmed as a Regular Member.

### **New Members—applied between 29 December 2015 and 26 February 2016**

- R-6860 Matthew Knupp, Pittsburgh, PA
- R-6861 Larry Loring, South Grafton, MA
- R-6862 Robert Irlam, Victoria, BC
- R-6863 Richard Wilson, Bedford, NY
- R-6864 Virginia Smith, Plymouth, MI
- R-6865 Gaetan Paradis, Laval, QC
- R-6866 Clyde Holt, Edenton, NC
- R-6867 Ron Pazdzierski, Kelowna, BC
- R-6868 Peter Baxter, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, UK
- R-6869 Steve Kirstiuk, Surrey, BC
- R-6870 Orie Niedzwiecki, Thornhill, ON

All applicants assigned membership numbers between 6847 and 6859 have been confirmed as Active Regular members of BNAPS with full membership privileges. Their names were published in the previous issue of *BNA Topics* Vol 73, No 1, January-March 2016, p. 69.

### **Members reinstated**

- R-5915 Don S Cal
- R-5696 Edward F Fisher
- R-6270 Louis E Fontaine

### **Members resigned**

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| R-6752 Ronald Emery     | R-6751 Peter MacDonald    |
| R-6025 Wesley N Falor   | R-5785 John P Newman      |
| R-6651 Joanne Johnston  | R-6697 William A Phillips |
| R-6728 Stephen A Klinck | R-5759 Murray A Smith     |
| R-6821 John Lewington   |                           |

### **Address changes: information received between 29 December 2015 and 26 February 2016**

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| L-3678 Patrick J Burns, Salta        | R-5265 Douglas R Karns, Aurora, OH |
| R-6754 François Chauvin, Saint-Denis | R-6215 Alyn G Lunt, Pickering, ON  |
| R-6838 Ronald Giffler, Davie, FL     | Z-99038 Jim McDevitt, Mobile, AL   |
| R-6866 Clyde Holt, Edenton, NC       | R-6454 Ingo G Nessel, Brampton, ON |



R-6867 Ron Pazdzierski, Kelowna, BC  
 R-4876 John D Spangler, Manhattan, KS  
 R-5148 Peter W Strahlendorf, Toronto,  
 ON  
 E-2428 Elizabeth Todd, Tamworth, ON

R-6537 Ralph D Vicero, Palm Springs,  
 CA  
 R-6062 Hugh D Westgate, Shorewood,  
 MN  
 R-6107 Tim Woodland, Maple Ridge, BC

## **E-mail address changes: information received between 29 December 2015 and 26 February 2016**

R-4749 James R Carcary, Mississauga,  
 ON  
 R-4959 Richard R Deshais, West  
 Hartford, CT  
 R-6319 Steve Hilditch, Toronto, ON  
 R-6630 Bev Hills, Campbell River, BC  
 E-2777 Jerome C Jarnick, Troy, MI  
 R-5485 Erwin Jaumann, Gaithersburg,  
 MD  
 R-5265 Douglas R Karns, Aurora, OH  
 R-6366 Ken Lemke, Burlington, ON  
 S-99061 Canadian Museum of History  
 Library / Periodicals, Gatineau, QC  
 R-5957 Peter R MacDonald, Ottawa, ON  
 R-5304 Dr. Iain MacInnes, Skye  
 R-6807 Brian McA'Nulty, Dartmouth,  
 NS  
 R-4262 George W McGowan, East  
 Greenbush, NY  
 R-6648 Peter Noel, Kanata, ON  
 R-4513 Douglas Parker, Peoria, AZ  
 R-4559 Gary Paul, Cornwall, ON  
 R-6018 Joseph A Plut, Alliston, ON  
 R-4693 Dan Rodak, Rochester, NY  
 R-3952 Clay Rubec, Ottawa, ON  
 R-4687 David E Salovey, New York, NY  
 R-6737 Bernie C Smith, Winnipeg, MB  
 R-3498 Mike Steele, London, ON  
 R-6099 William G Sutherland, Langley,  
 BC  
 R-4541 J. Raymond Therrien, Mount  
 Hope, ON  
 R-4722 Robert K Thorne, Brampton,  
 ON

R-6778 George A Vanderburgh,  
 Flesherton (Eugenia), ON  
 R-6537 Ralph D Vicero, Palm Springs,  
 CA  
 R-6062 Hugh D Westgate, Shorewood,  
 MN  
 R-6107 Tim Woodland, Maple Ridge, BC

## **Deceased**

R-6370 Martin B Evans  
 R-6818 John Morrell  
 R-4045 Hans Steinbock

## **Active membership counts**

Regular Members	847
Emeritus Members	127
Emeritus Family	3
Life Members	51

**Total Active Members 1028**

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

# Regional group rant

*David Bartlet*

## Overview!

**S**PRING is on the horizon with a plethora of philatelic events ramping up, and a springtime show available to just about everyone. By the time you read this, I hope you will have participated in one of these shows and attended a Regional Group meeting at a show, or at a regular meeting.

Things are happening in all of the groups; however, their key component is **You**—without your participation there would be no regional groups. Your Regional Group can offer philatelic education, fellowship, and other benefits: if you can't make it to BNAPEX, these are on offer at your Regional Group meetings. Leaders are always interested in discussing ways you could enhance a meeting by doing a presentation or helping organize a meeting.

To find information on the Regional Groups, go to the website at [www.bnaps.org/regional](http://www.bnaps.org/regional). There you will find information about upcoming meetings, contacts for each group, and reports of group meetings. Contact me by e-mail anytime, at [regionalgroups@bnaps.org](mailto:regionalgroups@bnaps.org), and send all your meeting notices and reports to me there.

At the time of writing this Rant (late February), the early winter meetings have been held and the late winter and early spring meeting are on the horizon. The Calgary, Edmonton, Golden Horseshoe, and Prairie Beavers Regional Groups have all met.

I have had the opportunity to attend my Calgary meetings, but also to attend an informative and enjoyable meeting of the Golden Horseshoe Regional meeting on 30 January: a report of that meeting follows below. Watch the website for further information on upcoming and past meetings. I hope some of you have taken the opportunity to attend a meeting in your area, or even if you are just passing through. Regional Group meetings are open to all BNAPS members.

## Reports from around the Regions

Excerpts of the highlights of various regional meetings are shown here: the full reports can be seen on the BNAPS website. Each Regional Group has a webpage there.

### Atlantic

The Atlantic Regional group hopes to hold a meeting in mid-April. If that doesn't happen, the next meeting will be held at BNAPEX in Fredericton, NB (30 September-2 October 2016). Many members of the Atlantic Regional Group will be involved in ensuring that BNAPEX is a great show. Ron Smith is heading up the organization, and volunteers are welcome. Contact Ron at [rsmith0225@rogers.com](mailto:rsmith0225@rogers.com), if you can help.

### Calgary

The Calgary group has met twice since Christmas 2015. Members spent much of the 13 January meeting discussing the proposal to run BNAPEX in Calgary in 2017, assigning a team to work on the immediate issues (accommodations and show space) and the rest of the chores involved in running a convention and show. The remainder of the meeting was spent

discussing the various show-and-tell items members brought. Military-related items dominated. Members presented a variety of postal history covers, as well as borderline material, like War Savings material

At the next meeting, on 10 February, participants again discussed BNAPEX 2017. Plans are solidifying nicely. The Regional Group will host the event with the Calgary Philatelic Society (CPS); most regional group members are also members of the CPS. The meeting also included Bill Wilson's presentation on the Wilding issue with a focus on postal history and rates. This was followed the usual show-and-tell.

## **Dixie Beavers**

The Dixie Beavers had planned to meet at the American Philatelic Society show in Atlanta. However, because the show was moved to downtown Atlanta, a location not convenient to the members, the meeting was cancelled. The group will meet again at CHARPEX 2016 in Charlotte, NC, 30-31 July 2016 as they usually do.

## **Edmonton**

At the February meeting, the usual core group of members discussed and showed examples of a variety of material: Centennial "EXPO67" air letter sheets; modern Alberta town cancels, including POCONS and Edmonton sub-offices; WW II-era meter cancels with a military theme; Eastern Canada illustrated mail with a fishery theme; free franks of the Department of Marine and Fisheries; British Columbia "way mail" markings and Union Pacific Steamship illustrated envelopes; and postal cancels of Glacier, BC.

## **Golden Horseshoe**

At the time of writing, the Golden Horseshoe Regional Group (GHRG) has held one meeting since the last *BNA Topics* report. Saturday 30 January was an absolutely gorgeous day, with temperatures far above the zero Celsius mark, and thirty-three BNAPSers and guests met at the Rousseau House Restaurant. The room was quite vibrant with philatelic talk and lots of browsing through dealers' stocks. It was great to see so many new faces and to get re-acquainted with people we haven't seen for a while. As noted above, I was able to be there. I know many of the members but was formally introduced at the meeting as BNAPS Vice-President of Regional Groups.

Things usually quiet down with the arrival of lunch, but not so on this day. Philately was certainly at the forefront of the conversation. After lunch the more formal portion of the meeting began with announcements. Only a few members are attending the New York World Stamp Show at the end of May, so the Groups' regular next meeting date, 28 May, stands as previously announced. The Secretary gave his annual report and noted that we lost six members in 2015. The Secretary's position is available, but no one seemed anxious to take it on. A number of guests were also welcomed, and we do hope to see them again. With the CSDA getting out of the show business we are now no longer sure of what kind of promotions we will be able to carry out. The auction is always fun, and bidding on the philatelic articles was brisk. Thanks to both the successful bidders and the material's donors. The funds help in the promotion of BNAPS and the hobby in general.

Nick Poppenk was the featured speaker; his subject was the Canadian Postal Code System. Nick, along with Bob Thorne, has been researching the workings of the system for some time. Their tour of Canada Post's Stoney Creek sorting plant resulted in a most

interesting technical presentation. Thank you Nick, and thanks to Simon Cloughton for supplying the electronic equipment.

The plan for the group's 26 March meeting was to welcome guest speaker Doug Irwin, who will "show-and-tell" about the Postal History of Niagara Falls. Doug's exhibit won the Reserve Grand Award at BNAPEX 2015 in Niagara Falls, ON last September and is about to be published as a BNAPS Exhibit Series book. The Group is on the lookout for guest speakers. If you haven't been to a GHRG meeting in the past, try and make it to one before the summer break. We know you will enjoy yourselves.

### **Manitoba NW Ontario**

The Manitoba NW Ontario group is tentatively scheduling a meeting for Saturday, 2 April.

### **Pacific Northwest**

The Pacific Northwest Regional Group is planning its spring meeting for 29April-1 May in Chilliwack, British Columbia. Please see the website for additional information. Any BNAPS members wishing to attend the meeting are very welcome to do so. The schedule includes social activities on Friday evening, Saturday morning philatelic presentations, Saturday afternoon outing including partners, Saturday evening banquet, and Sunday morning philatelic discussions to end the weekend. So please mark these dates in your calendar.

### **Prairie Beavers**

The Prairie Beavers will hold their next meeting on 2 April in College Station, TX. A report of the meeting will appear in the next edition of the Regional Group Rant.

### **St Lawrence Seaway**

The St Lawrence Seaway Regional Group will hold its next meeting on 30 April 2016 at ORAPEX in Ottawa, ON. Aerophilately from Canada to the USA will be featured. A report of this meeting should appear in the next edition of the Regional Group Rant.



## **British North America Philatelic Society**

The Society for Canadian Philately

We are an international organization devoted to the collecting and study of the stamps, markings, and postal history of Canada and the pre-confederation colonies of British North America (British Columbia, Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island)

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*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

**Walsh eCatalogues.** At [www.nfldstamps.com](http://www.nfldstamps.com) are the incomparable colour 2016 Newfoundland Specialized 737 pages and the 2016 British North America Canada Specialized 624 pages. Companion Walsh u-print albums available.

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### WANTED

**DECIMAL ISSUE ON COVER.** (Sc.#14-20), overseas destinations, multiples, rates; also looking for U.S. Civil War patriotics to/from Canada/BNA; phone: 610-399-1509; R. Majors, 253 Caleb Dr., W. Chester, PA 19382; <[ronald.e.majors@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.e.majors@gmail.com)>.

**NEWFOUNDLAND:** Seeking to buy for personal collection any covers with usage of the following stamps (single, multiple, correct or not): 24a, 25, 26, 27a, 28, 31, 32a, 34, 37, 38, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 56, 59, 89, 90, 92, 94-103, 106, 110-113, 121, 123, 125, 126, 139, 141, 143, 152, 157, 159, 167-170, 174, 177, 178, 180-182. Also: FFC as follows (NSSC#): FF8 to FF18, FF20, FF21, FF34, FF37, FF39, FF40, FF42, FF48, FF49. Tom Moyes, 962 La Felice Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028, USA or <[tommymoyes@gmail.com](mailto:tommymoyes@gmail.com)>.

**SANTA LETTERS:** or envelopes with H0H OH0 return address. Any era. Buy or trade. Tony 519-745-2973, e-mail: <[tshaman@rogers.com](mailto:tshaman@rogers.com)>; or Box 46024, Kitchener, ON N2E 4J3.

**BRANDON PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION** or Winter Fair. Covers, postcards, slogan cancellations, 1800s to present. Darcy Hickson, [hicksondj@gmail.com](mailto:hicksondj@gmail.com); ph.204-724-2028.

**SEWELL CAMP** or **CAMP HUGHES**, Manitoba. Seeking roller cancels, money orders, registered mail. All covers, postcards and wrappers considered. Darcy Hickson, [hicksondj@gmail.com](mailto:hicksondj@gmail.com); ph. 204-724-2028.

### LITERATURE

**OLD ISSUES OF BNA Topics Needed:** Volumes 1-15; please consider donating unneeded issues to BNAPS. Contact Ken Lemke, BNAPS Circulation Manager, c/o CFS, 3455 Harvester Road, Unit 20-22, Burlington, ON L7N 3P2 <[kwlemke@sympatico.ca](mailto:kwlemke@sympatico.ca)>.

**OLD ISSUES OF BNA Topics FOR SALE:** Add valuable info to your library. Will do first come, first-served basis. Contact Ken Lemke, information above.

## BNAPS exchange circuit news

*Andy Ellwood OTB*

**T**HIS quarter I have received 55 pages of new material. These pages include material from the early Queens, Admirals, Pre-cancels and a few sheets from various other areas. By the time this goes to press, I expect to receive many more sheets. I still need covers, though, from all periods.

While there have been some significant sales, the inventory is still growing faster than I can keep up with and currently is valued at about \$90,000 (selling price).

Everything is posted to the website for your browsing. Please note that all prices in the Circuit are in Canadian dollars, which can prove challenging for those using Scott catalogues. It is certainly worthwhile to have a copy of Unitrade handy as well. I suggest you check the catalogue values displayed.

Payments can be made in US dollars, but please be careful with the exchange rate that you use for your calculation.

I hope to start a personalized newsletter later this year. I plan to tailor it to individuals so that notices of both new material and soon-to-be retired material would only be sent to members who have expressed interest in specific areas.

I would appreciate hearing your thoughts—pro and con.



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## Executive, Directors, and Officers

*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

<ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca>

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

<nrdyer@comcast.net>

*Vice-President Regional Groups* David Bartlet, 1955-9th Ave NW, Calgary, AB T2N 4N3

<regionalgroups@bnaps.org >

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

<studygroups@bnaps.org>

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

#### ***Serving 2012-2016:***

Ken Lemke, 3488 Rubens Court, Burlington, ON L7N 3K4

<kwlemke@sympatico.ca>

Kevin O'Reilly, PO Box 444, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N3 <kor@theedge.ca>

William W Radcliffe, 500 Columbia Ave, Pitman, NJ 08071-1734

<bsbvp88@hotmail.com>

Gary Steele, 83 Baker Drive, Middle Sackville, NS B4E 1V2 <gwsteele57@gmail.com>

Vic Willson (Chairperson), PO Box 10026, College Station, TX 77842-0026

<lloydwill@aol.com>

#### ***Serving 2014-2018:***

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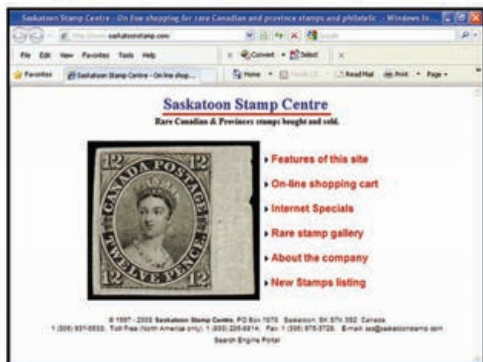
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