

2017 second quarter

BNA Topics



Whole number 551

Volume 74 Number 2



Five-hole perfined OHMS postal band, p 18

The official Journal of BNAPS
The Society for Canadian Philately

\$8.95

FOR SALE

Henk Burgers'
Siberian Expeditionary Force
Grand Award Exhibit
and
Boer War Collection
Plus
Other Military Collections

R F Narbonne, OTB, FRPSC

Telephone: (613) 257-5453

Toll-free 1 (800) 247-5619

Greenwood Stamp Company

136 Morphy St.

Carleton Place ON K7C 2B4

Eastern Auctions Ltd.

Canada's Most Trusted Auction House



Maintaining high standards of quality has always been the key ingredient to our success. A history of unsurpassed results and positive feedback has given us the determination to further solidify our reputation as the world's leader in Canadian Philately.

Dedication to excellence in our business involves many different areas of expertise. We firmly believe in careful advance planning, in-depth research and extensive advertising. Our catalogues provide accurate descriptions and no nonsense cataloguing that prospective buyers have come to appreciate and trust.

Outstanding presentation and promotion is the hallmark of our service to collectors, an advantage benefitting auctioneer and consignor alike.

We invite prospective consignors to recognize and benefit from our extensive resources. Competitive commission rates and liberal cash advances are available to consignors. Prompt payment following the auction is guaranteed.

Eastern Auctions Ltd.

P.O. Box 250 - Bathurst - New Brunswick - E2A 3Z2 - Canada

Telephone 1(800) 667-8267 - Fax 1(888) 867-8267

email easternauctions@nb.aibn.com - website www.easternauctions.com

BNA pics

Volume 74 Number 2 Whole Number 551

The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

Contents

3	Editorial	
5	Readers write (continued on page 58)	
6	Birth and death of Canada's first postage stamp perforator.....	<i>Jonathan Johnson, OTB</i>
10	Canada Post Office postal stationery post bands and wrappers.....	<i>Dr John K Courtis, FRPSL</i>
23	The "D.w." Handstamp: A new theory!.....	<i>Chris Hargreaves</i>
32	Another WWI "Undercover" address uncovered!	<i>Ed Fraser</i>
42	A new re-entry plate position found for the Half Pence, Unitrade #8	<i>Michael D Smith</i>
45	Canada—Little-known facts of WWII Part V: Paper as a munition of war	<i>John Burnett, OTB</i>
49	BNAPS Book release notes	
53	New issues.....	<i>William J F Wilson</i>
62	An ordinary cover?	<i>Robert Thorne</i>
BNAPS Business and reports		
64	President's column <i>Eldon Godfrey</i>	77 BNAPS exchange circuit news
65	From the Secretary <i>Andy Ellwood OTB</i>	77 Classified advertisements
68	Regional group rant <i>David Bartlet</i>	79 Executive and Board of Directors
71	Study group centreline <i>Peter McCarthy, OTB</i>	80 Regional group contact persons

Cover Illustration: Five-hole perforated OHMS postal band

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

Note: Illustrations may not be in original size.

Publication date	21 April 2017
Editors	Jeff Arndt, Ron Majors
Contributing Editors	Robert Lemire, Mike Street
Production Assistant	Lorraine Street
Advertising Manager	Hank Narbonne, 136 Morphy St, Carleton Place, ON, K7C 2B4 (advertising copy to Jeff Arndt <arndt123@aol.com> or by mail to 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033 USA)
Published quarterly by	Philaprint Inc, 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto ON M4T 1A8 © 2017 by Philaprint Inc
Printed by	St Joseph Printing, Ottawa, ON
ISSN 0045-3129	Canadian Publications Agreement 40069611

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

Editorial

Ronald E Majors

Have you thought about donating extra philatelic materials?

I am sure that you, like me, have lots of duplicate stamps and perhaps covers that are sitting in your closet or in your desk drawers taking up space that could be used for current projects and activities. Have you ever thought about getting rid of these items to benefit somebody else, or perhaps earn you a few bucks (or pounds, euros, etc.)? First, if you have any outstanding items, the most obvious choice is to direct them to one of the many auction houses. But, if you have “advanced” items that might get lumped together into a single lot by an auctioneer, then consider selling them through the **BNAPS Exchange Circuit**. More and more BNAPSers are taking advantage of buying and selling items in this manner. For better non-Canadian/BNA materials, one has a choice. In the US, the American Philatelic Society (APS) has a very active program, both circuit mail sales and online in their Stamp Shop, where items can be listed for a nominal commission. In Canada, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) also operates a circuit mail sales program, like the APS, but no online program exists.

But what about those other stamps and covers? It may be that, together, these items may not have enough value to list in a circuit or send to an auction house. Why not consider donating these items to one of the many worthwhile programs available through philatelic societies, stamp clubs, knowledgeable charities, or other legitimate organizations that ensure that the proceeds gets into the hands of the needy? For many years, BNAPS had an ongoing stamp donation program administered by former President Bob Dyer from his California base. The stamps were used at various US and Canadian youth tables at stamp shows but the process became unwieldy and postage costs became intolerable when changes in the US Postal Service postal regulations required all cross-border packages to be sent first class. Nobody on the Canadian side of the border stepped up to continue the program within Canada. So the program ended in 2013, and remaining stamps were gifted to WESTPEX National, an APS-sponsored show. At least one BNAPS Regional Group still carries on a local program (e.g., Golden Horseshoe in Ontario). The Canadian Stamp Dealers Association ran a youth table at its shows but that, too, came to an end. Fortunately, the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show will reinstitute the Young Collector’s Table at its next event, 28-29 October 2017 in Mississauga, Ontario.

However, there are still many fine organizations that actively seek stamps and covers to provide to youth stamp clubs, veteran’s hospitals, and teaching programs. In Canada, the RPSC has established the RPSC Philatelic Research Foundation that accepts donations toward the fulfillment of its mandate to promote youth and new collector philately. Besides providing stamps and supplies to adult leaders for youth tables and booths at shows, regular meetings, or in schools, the Foundation also accepts in-kind contributions of collections and accumulations that are sold at auctions to raise funds to support its programs. In fact, the Foundation will fund serious promotional projects that support youth and new collector activities. In the US, the APS has a very active program called Stamps Teach that provides

information and resources to K-12 educators. The goal of the Stamps Teach program is to develop and share standards-based learning activities that use philatelic articles as instructional tools. Teachers can apply for free textbooks, with lesson plans based on symbols and images found on postage stamps to provide a visual history of the people and events that have shaped the United States. The APS also accepts stamps (mint and used), and the stamps are made available to children's tables at APS and other stamp shows.

Many charities take stamps; a simple Google search will reveal a large number of them. Many of these charities accept stamps but do not have the philatelic knowledge to work with stamp clubs or shows or to optimize the financial return on the donated items, important to those who take advantage of their charitable giving. Many of them turn the donated stamps over to wholesalers or auction houses where the returns to the charity are negligible. However, a worthwhile US charity that I have donated to is *Stamps for the Wounded*. This program, a service activity formerly run by philatelists from the Lions Club, provides stamps (preferably on paper) to hospitalized veterans. The vets are given instruction on the basics of philately (how to soak stamps from paper, mount stamps in albums, and so on). The program is now run by noted philatelist John Hotchner and colleagues who can be reached at <jmhstamp@verizon.net>. Philatelic items can be mailed to Stamps for the Wounded, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA, 220141-1125. In Canada, Oxfam has an active program that turns donated stamps and covers into funds for its ongoing work. Details can be found at <https://www.oxfam.ca/stampoutpoverty> or by mail at Stamp Programme, Oxfam Canada, 39 McArthur Ave, Ottawa ON K1L 8L7, or by visiting the table at the Spring ORAPEX show. Similar charities throughout the world carry on such worthwhile activities, but you should investigate them before sending your donation.

The question always arises about an income tax credit for donating collectibles to charities. I am not trying to give legal advice here, but it is possible to obtain credit though the rules can sometimes be a bit complicated. In the US, if the charity is classified under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3, the IRS allows deductions for stamps/covers. In Canada, if the organizations has obtained official Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) status as a registered charity, donations such as stamps/covers can be used for tax credits. In fact, a tax treaty between the US and Canada allows citizens of each country to get tax credits for gifts to registered charities in either country if certain conditions are met.

However, one of the rules for Canadians is that you must have US income (even from investments such as stocks/bonds) or, vice versa, for an American donating gifts to Canadian charities. Provincial tax rules offer further complications, so check with your accountant. In either country, make sure that you get a written charitable donation tax receipt from your registered charity. One piece of advice: You will not be allowed a deduction based on the minimum Scott or Unitrade catalogue price.

The value of a donation is based on what is called "fair market value," which means what the value would be if one tried to sell the stamps on the open market. To do this, one must get an opinion from a dealer or very knowledgeable collector or, in the case of very large donations, an appraisal by a qualified appraiser is needed. So proceed cautiously if you want to make a large donation.

Rather than worrying about tax deductions, why not enjoy the pleasure of seeing your duplicates or extra materials get into the hands (or albums) of a budding stamp collector?

Readers write

Piercey wins Pratt Award for Newfoundland articles: BNAPS member David Piercey of Edmonton, AB, received this prestigious award from the Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) for his three 2016 articles entitled: “Late Letters and the Newfoundland Mails” (*Postal History Society of Canada Journal*, Winter 2015-2016, Whole No 164); “Early Packet Steamer Services on Placentia Bay, 1888-1900” (*Maple Leaves*, April 2016, Whole No 340) and “The St. John’s East Post Office” (*BNA Topics*, first quarter 2016, Whole No 546).

The CCC Pratt Award is named for Robert H Pratt, the eminent Newfoundland stamp and postal history collector, researcher, and author. In 1997, the CCC initiated the award, which is bestowed on the author(s) of the best judged philatelic article(s) or book(s) published on Newfoundland’s philately. David is known for his in-depth research and well-written articles published in a variety of philatelic journals including *BNA Topics*. He is no stranger to writing awards, having received awards from the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (Geldert Award), and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors among others. The annual Pratt award is a prize of one thousand dollars US.

Erratum

On page 57 of William Wilson’s column in *BNA Topics* 2017Q1, in the third-to-last paragraph, the last sentence of the paragraph was accidentally truncated during the editing and layout process. The sentence should have read:

The detail and historical setting sound quite convincing, which, of course, might be why "[t]he fact that no such woman has ever been reported as missing hasn't dampened the enthusiasm for the story." [2].

Member Klaus Welt writes: Reference 4Q2016 Gilbert article. I’ve a cover with a line perforation stamp. It’s a registered letter from St John’s to Marblehead/Mass, US, from 7 October 1933” The date is confirmed by the cancellations on the backside of the cover, which documents the journey from St. John's via Boston to Marblehead.



(Continued on page 58)

Members, PLEASE!

If you change your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please advise the Secretary.

For information about your dues status, or if you need to submit funds, please contact the Treasurer.

Postal and e-mail addresses for both can be found on page 79 of this issue of *BNA Topics*.

Birth and death of Canada's first postage stamp perforator

Jonathan Johnson, OTB

CANADA'S first stamp *perfin* [*perforated initial*] perforator [1] was born at the Joseph Sloper and Co Royal Tower Works [factory], Blackburn Road, West Hampstead, London, NW6, England, in 1887. It was a small single die Sloper Model #4 perforator, serial number 6863, Figure 1, with the initials "W.J.G"—the upper case "W" and "J" were each followed by a period, but the upper case "G" was not. Joseph Sloper, its designer, invented postal security perforators in 1868 and held several patents on them [2].



Figure 2. Earliest known "W.J.G" perfin.

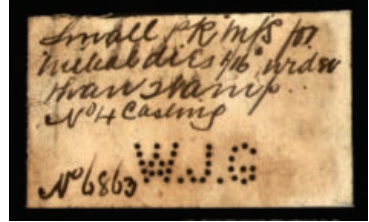


Figure 1. Sloper proof of the "W.J.G" perfin impression.

The "W.J.G" perforator crossed the Atlantic to its new home with WJ Gage and Company at 54 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario, a family-owned firm of wholesale booksellers and stationers. Figure 2 shows the earliest-known dated use of the "W.J.G" perfin, 2 November 1887. The perfin is popular with philatelists as it has been found on 58 Victorian stamp issues. Life was rosy until disaster struck, but more on that later.

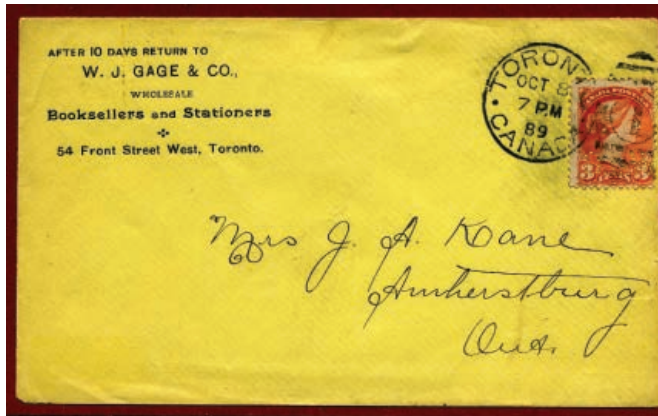


Figure 3. WJ Gage cover with "W.J.G" perfin stamp, postmarked 8 October 1889.

Keywords & phrases: perfin, WJ Gage Company

The WJ Gage cover in Figure 3, opposite, postmarked 8 October 1889, is the earliest-reported cover carrying a “W.J. G” perfin stamp. A “W.J. G” perfin stamp was also used on the illustrated WJ Gage cover in Figure 4, below, postmarked 7 December 1889.



Figure 4. “W.J. G” perfin stamp used on illustrated WJ Gage cover postmarked 7 December 1889.

At 8:04 pm on 19 April 1904, a fire alarm sounded in downtown Toronto. A block north of the Gage building, flames were first noted rising from the elevator shaft of E & S Currie at 58-60 Wellington Street West [3, 4, 5]. The fire reached the WJ Gage offices at 10 pm, and it was deemed under control by 4:30 am. In all, one hundred and four buildings were lost, with damage totaling \$10,387,000. Included in the loss was the inventory of WJ Gage-perforated stamps and their perforator. Two weeks later, demolition teams used dynamite to bring down unsupported brick wall facings. During blasting of a Gage building wall, workman John Croft was killed while investigating a delayed blast. WJ Gage subsequently built a larger factory at 82-94 Spadina Avenue.

The latest-reported usage of the first Canadian postage stamp perforator is a day in February 1904, two months before the first. A year later, another WJ Gage perforator was born at the Joseph Sloper Royal Tower Work. This single die “WJG” perforator—serial number 9274 with no periods after any of the letters—was ordered 7 March 1905 and shipped 14 March 1905. The Sloper proof of the second WJ Gage perforator is shown in Figure 5 [2]. The earliest-reported postmark on a “WJG” perfin is 21 August 1905.

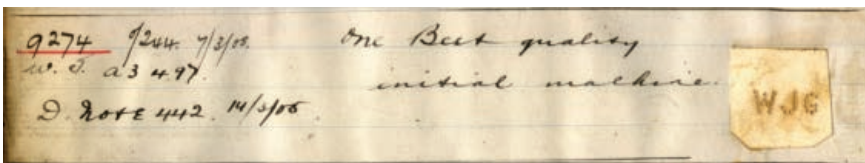


Figure 5. Sloper proof of the 1905 “WJG” perfin impression.

Postscript

The following companies lost their buildings in the 1904 Toronto fire and subsequently used postage perforators:

Company	Perfin	Earliest Postmark
EB Eddy Company	E5	1909-03-06
Gordon MacKay & Co Ltd	G8	1911-02-18
James Morrison Brass Manuf	J11	1913-10-10
McClary Manufacturing	M6	1912-11-22 (Montreal, London & Winnipeg)
Office Specialty Mfg Co	O14	1910-11-04
Warwick Bros & Rutter	W3	1910-05-13
WG Gage and Company	W9	1905-08-21
Gutta Percha & Rubber Ltd	#1	1921-05-08

References and endnotes

- [1] Jon Johnson and Gary Tomasson, *Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials*, 5th Edition. Self-published, available, free, at <http://www.bnaps.org/PerfinHandbook/PerfinHandbook.htm>.
- [2] Joseph Sloper and Company archives, held by The Perfin Society, 1 Nicolson Road, Orpington, Kent, BR5 4EH, United Kingdom. <http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/join/join.html>.
- [3] Toronto Fire of 1904: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Toronto_\(1904\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Fire_of_Toronto_(1904)).
- [4] Toronto Fire of 1904: <https://mcfcrandall.wordpress.com/2013/11/09/great-fire-of-1904-2/>.
- [5] Toronto Fire of 1904: http://torontoist.com/2008/05/historicist_the_4/.

Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation

Canada's Premier BNA Expertizing Service

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS

Each illustrated in Full Colour; 8 ½ x 11 format; hardbound
See website or contact Foundation for more detail

The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and their Use, 2nd edition

By H.E. & H.W. Duckworth

over 400 pages; 80 in colour;
updated and expanded
information on each value.

All values analyzed through
full period of use including
shade varieties

\$125 Cdn. plus shipping

Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era 1870-1897

by J. Hillson & J.E. Nixon

over 240 pages; 170 in colour;
proofs, issued stamps, plates,
shades, re-entries, uses.

Includes Small Queens, Widow
Weeds, and 1891 Canada Bank
Note Co. essays

\$150 Cdn. plus shipping

Order from:

VINCENT GRAVES GREENE PHILATELIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION

10 Summerhill Ave.,
Toronto, Ontario,
M4T 1A8, Canada
Ph. 416-921-2073

vggfoundation@on.aibn.com

www.greenefoundation.ca

March 2017 RICHPEX Auction

Our auction features outstanding Canada & US Postal History, Postcards, Canada & Worldwide stamps, documents, philatelic reference books, and at least 800 intact collections to satisfy the most discerning collector.



1898 REGISTERED 21¢ USA rate to DAWSON-CITY in the newly formed Yukon Territory (JUN13'1898). Dated JUN27'1898 and addressed to Klondike gold rush prospector Edward S. Smith. Arrived on APR7'1899 after 8 months in transit via SKAGWAY and the Chilkoot Pass. Message on the back signed by Edward Smith states the letter was "received the day he bought out his partner's claims". This is the earliest reported registered Yukon territorial cover.

Consignments & Catalogs

The consignment deadline is September 1st each year. Catalogs arrive four months later in January along with internet bidding at Stamp Auction Network. New clients, please order your free catalog early as they quickly sell out.

Ron Leith Auctions Inc.

Canada: Box 430, Abbotsford, BC, V2T 6Z7
 USA: Box 1507, Sumas, WA, 98295 - 1507
 member: RPSC, BNAPS, PHSC, GBCC,
 APS, CPS of GB, USCC, MCS
 phone: 1-604-795-2240
 email: ronleith@uniserve.com
 bids: StampAuctionNetwork.com

Ron Leith
PHILATELIC AUCTIONS
 VANCOUVER, B.C. • CANADA

Canada Post Office postal stationery post bands and wrappers

Analysis of supply and demand and postal history attributes

Dr John K Curtis, FRPSL

A decade or so ago, the author analyzed ninety-six used post office postal stationery wrappers of Canada [1]. Since then, I have continued with daily hand-collecting of information about used post bands and wrappers listed for sale on eBay. The database of worldwide wrappers is now approximately fifty thousand images. Of these, seven hundred and forty-one are post bands and wrappers of Canada; this is the sub-population analyzed in this article. The data provided by the larger sample collected daily since September 2003 is credible with regard to size and the length of the collecting window. While eBay is not the only source of this class of postal stationery, the sample is treated as a proxy of what has been available on the international market.

Post office issues

Most issues of Canada are termed post bands without explanation of the term. In 1907, a two-line text advice was added to some issues that limited their use to "... publishers ... for the sole purpose of mailing second class matter to the United States." These post bands with text wording were called wrappers; Canada is the only country that makes this distinction. Not all wrappers were mailed to the United States. While the vast majority were sent to the US, examples can be found of wrappers sent to France, Germany, Brazil, the UK, and British Columbia, none of which attracted postage-due markings.

The first post office issue appeared on 1 September 1875. The image of the head of Queen Victoria facing right appeared on seven issues over a nineteen-year period. The first issue was 1¢ dark blue, with small scallops in the background around the inner oval of design (E1 using the Higgins and Gage "E" catalogue numbers [3]) (Figure 1). Without recourse to actual wrappers, they can be difficult to identify from Internet images. This wrapper was printed by the British American Bank Note Co Ltd on buff paper and measured 125 × 235 mm. In 1878, for some reason, the position of the indicium was changed to the left-hand side of the wrapper, which was produced in a longer size, 125 × 290 mm. This wrapper is hard to find (E2). In 1881, the location of the indicium reverted to the right-hand side; the length changed again to 280 mm (E3). It is not possible to identify these wrappers from eBay images.

A new design appeared in April 1882. The scalloping was removed, and the numeral was cleaner and simplified, with the rosette beneath replaced with a pointed ornament (E4) on cream paper. Varieties are known in violet blue and blue on yellow. Five years later, in May 1887, the design reverted to that of the first issue, omitting the scallops in the background design (E5). Varieties are known on thin cream paper and on yellow. The last design of this kind was issued in February 1892, with the design amended slightly to rosettes under the numerals (E6) instead of a pointed ornament, following the design of 1882.

Keywords & phrases: Postal stationery, postal bands, wrappers, postal history

Two years later, the colour was changed from blue to black; the size was 125×273 mm. There was a 1¢ black on cream (E7) and a 1¢ black on buff (E7a). These indicia are illustrated, copied from the Kosniowski catalogue with his kind permission [4].



Figure 1. Wrappers with image of Queen Victoria facing right.

There was a change in printer to the American Bank Note Co, with one further issue portraying Queen Victoria appearing in June 1898. The oval design was changed to the more traditional upright rectangle; the colour was changed to green, and the image of Queen Victoria (QV) facing left. The 1¢ green, on buff or cream (E8), is also known on dark brown paper (Figure 2). The death of Queen Victoria led to the October 1903 issue of a King Edward VII, a 1¢ green on buff (E9) with a 1¢ green on oily dark brown variety. In 1907, a text was introduced designated for wrappers, ostensibly for use in sending second class mail to the US. The three issues were a 1¢ green wrapper (E10), a 2¢ carmine wrapper (E11), and an elusive 3¢ violet wrapper (E12) produced in a wider size: 165×380 mm (1¢ and 2¢) and even wider 204×380 mm (3¢). A reduction in postal rates in the following year resulted in the 2¢ scarlet (E13) and 3¢ violet (E14) being surcharged with 1c. In 1910, the 1¢ green wrapper was issued in a different size; it had been 165×380 mm (in 1907) and was changed to 152×343 mm – impossible to identify from Internet images. There were two text varieties: Y of BY is above the first S of CLASS; Y is above the second S. H&G were unaware of these text differences and classified this issue as E15.



Figure 2. American Bank Note Co wrappers.

King George V's coronation in 1910 heralded a number of new issues, the first of which, in 1912, was the Admiral design, with and without the fifth epaulette. The 1¢ green was issued as a post band without the fifth epaulette (E16) and as a wrapper with and without the epaulette (E17) (Figure 3). There is also a further die difference, with the collar at the back of the neck curving up. H&G gives no catalogue number to these varieties. There was a colour change in 1922 to orange, with the two dies continuing, with and without the fifth epaulette. The 1¢ orange was issued in both post band, with missing fifth epaulette (E18), and wrapper with fifth epaulette (E19). In 1927, the indicium was altered to show a cross-hatching background within the oval, and two different dies: one background line below CENT and two background lines below the word CENT, a 1¢ orange post band (E20), and a 1¢ orange wrapper (E21) in both dies.

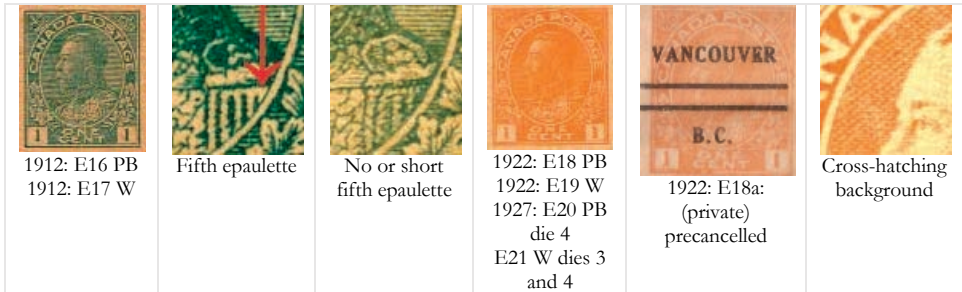


Figure 3. King George V Admiral wrappers.

A new issue appeared in 1928 showing the King's head full-face; this was the 1¢ orange post band (E22) and wrapper (E23) (Figure 4). The design in the top corners was a scroll. On 7 August 1930, the scroll was changed to a maple leaf, and the image of the King was bordered within an arch: 1¢ orange post band (E24) and 1¢ orange wrapper (E25). The colour was changed to green the following year: 1¢ green post band (E26) and 1¢ green wrapper (E27). Two years later, the full-face was changed to a left-facing design: 1¢ green post band (E28) and 1¢ green wrapper (E29), both with crown in upper corners. On 20 August 1935, another design modification showed the King, full face, with crown in the upper corners: 1¢ green wrapper (E30). The last George V issue was issued on 27 April 1935, a 1¢ green post band (E31) facing left, and on 16 February 1936, the same design for a 1¢ green wrapper (E32).



Figure 4. King George V full-face wrappers.

The coronation of King George VI resulted in the production of a new issue in 1938, showing the profile of the younger King: 1¢ green post band (E33), precancelled (E33a) and wrapper in two text dies: B of BY over the first S of CLASS (E34), and over the second S of CLASS (E34a) (Figure 5). The indicium shows the year 1938 positioned below and to the right

of the lower right oval: the numeral 1, imperceptible without a magnifier, appears within. On 12 November 1951, a 2¢ olive-green post band was issued, with 1943 lower right as before (E35) and a precancel (E35a). A few months later, on 2 February 1952, the 2¢ olive-green was issued as a wrapper (E36). The Kosniowski catalogue lists a precancel of this issue (E35a) but there are no copies in the database. The author has never seen an example, although it is mentioned and illustrated in Manley [5]. A 2¢ olive green wrapper was also issued (E36).



Figure 5. 1938 King George V profile wrappers.

The final issues were the Karsh designs of Queen Elizabeth II, commencing in 1953 with 1953 inscribed in the lower right corner: full-face head of the Queen 1¢ brown post band (E37), 2¢ green post band (E38), and 2¢ green wrapper (E39). There was a precancelled green post band (E38a). In 1960, a second Karsh design was issued, with 1960 inscribed at the lower right of the Queen's neck: 1¢ brown post band (E40) and a 2¢ green post band (E41). A precancelled 2¢ green was also issued (E41a). A 1¢ brown with five-line text box "POSTAGE PAID AT MONTREAL// AUTHORIZED AS 2ND CLASS MAIL// BY THE POST OFFICE DEPT.// OTTAWA, AND FOR PAYMENT OF// POSTAGE IN CASH" (40a) is extant but elusive. The final Cameo issue occurred in 1964: 2¢ green post band (E42) and precancelled with five horizontal lines in green (E43).



Figure 6. Queen Elizabeth II wrappers.

Supply on eBay

An analysis of seven hundred and forty-one used wrappers of Canada, hand-collected daily from eBay listings since September 2003 is shown in summary form in Table 1 per "E" type. There is almost a bimodal distribution of wrapper types, with the highest frequency of

appearance being the 1894 QV issues on cream and buff papers (E7, 7a) with 94 examples and the 1938 issue of King George VI E33, 33a) with 173 examples. Together, these four post office types account for thirty-six percent of all extant copies recorded. By contrast, there are twenty-nine “E” types with a frequency of appearance of ten or fewer in one hundred and sixty-one consecutive months of data collecting, with four types with no appearance on eBay. The early issues are particularly elusive; the collector would be hard-pressed to find all the varieties that are listed in Kosniowski [4].

The breakdown by monarch shows that, during the twenty-three years of QV issues, there are one hundred and ninety-nine copies or twenty-three percent of the total. For KEVII, there are fifty-three copies or seven percent covering the seven years of issues. There were one hundred and sixty-seven or twenty-two percent for KGV covering twenty-three years of issues; and two hundred and thirty-three, or thirty-one percent for the thirteen years of KGV. Other country-specific studies have shown that later issues of wrappers are often the most elusive, but this is not the case for Canada, with eighty-nine or twelve percent covering eleven years of QEII issues. There are fewer KEVII examples in proportion to those of other reigns, partly due to the fact that issues covered the shorter period of seven years.

Collectors interested in obtaining a used and uprated copy of each issue should know that there were one hundred and twelve (fifteen percent) wrappers uprated. Almost half of the E issues were not uprated.

Of perhaps more interest is the distribution of wrappers addressed to destinations other than Canada. The proportion of destinations within Canada to those outside Canada is forty-five-fifty-five percent. A careful analysis of each of the seven hundred and forty-one used wrappers shows that wrappers were addressed to twenty-three countries. That fifty-five percent of extant copies are addressed to destinations outside Canada is *prima facie* evidence of the importance of business-related connections of Canada during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.

Postal history collectors may be interested in the twenty-three destinations outside Canada; these, together with their frequency of occurrence, are: USA (two hundred and ninety-four cases), Germany (thirty-three), UK (twenty-eight), France (twelve), Italy (eight), Belgium (six), Austria and Denmark (four apiece), Argentina, India, and Switzerland (two cases each), and single incidences for Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Guatemala, Holland, Java, Montenegro, Sweden, and Turkey.

Table 1. Listing frequencies of Canada PO postal stationery wrappers on eBay: Thirteen and one-half years

H&G E	Webb 2000	Post Office Issues	Total	Uprated	Within Canada	Other Destinations
1	W1	1875 QV 1c dark blue scalloped interior border, 125 × 235 mm, rosette under numeral	1		0	1
2	W1a	1878 QV on left hand side of wrapper	0		0	0
3	W1f	1881 QV 1c blue, longer 125 × 280 mm	0		0	0
4	W2	1882 QV 1c blue, pointed ornament u/numeral	16	3	7	9
5	W3	1887 QV 1c blue no interior scallops	24	4	14	10

6	W4	1892 QV 1c blue, rosette under numeral	24	8	12	12
7	W5a	1894 QV 1c black on cream, 125 × 273 mm	13	2	0	13
7a	W5	1894 QV 1c black on buff, 125 × 273 mm	81	12	42	39
8	W6	1898 QV 1c green, oval design replaced	40	4	23	17
9	W7/7c	1903 KEVII 1c green, 125 × 273 mm	17	4	9	8
10	W7a/7b	1907 KEVII 1c green Wrapper	12	1	0	12
11	W8	1907 KEVII 2c carmine, W	2		0	2
12	W9	1907 KEVII 3c violet, W	0		0	0
13	W10	1908 KEVII 1c on 2c carmine W	15		2	13
14	W11	1908 KEVII 1c on 3c violet W	6		0	6
15		1910 KEVII 1c green W, 152 × 343 mm	1		0	1
16	W12	1912 KGV 1c green, PB no 5 th epaulette	15	3	12	3
17	W12b, d, c	1912 KGV 1c green, W, w & w/o 5 th epaulette	5		0	5
18	W13/13b	1922 KGV 1c orange PB no 5 th epaulette	30	1	23	7
18a		1922 KGV 1c orange precancelled	1		0	1
19	W13d, e, f	1922 KGV 1c orange W, with 5 th epaulette	13	5	2	11
20	W13, b	1927 KGV 1c orange PB 1-line below CENT	4		3	1
21	W13d, e, f	1927 KGV 1c orange, W 1-line below CENT	8	3	0	8
22		1928 KGV 1c orange PB new scroll design	5		5	0
23		1928 KGV 1c orange W new scroll design	3	1	0	3
24		1930 KGV 1c orange PB new arch design	7		2	5
25		1930 KGV 1c orange W new arch design	3		1	2
26	W16, b	1931 KGV 1c green PB	10		8	2
27	W16a, c	1931 KGV 1c green W	0		0	0
28	W17, b	1933 KGV 1c green PB Medallion design	34	2	13	21
28a		1933 KGV 1c green precancelled	2		2	0
29		1933 KGV 1c green, W Medallion design	2		1	1
30		1935 KGV 1c green W front face design	4		2	2
31	W19	1935 KGV 1c green PB Medallion design	6		1	5
32		1935 KGV 1c green W Medallion design	15	2	12	3
33	W20	1938 KGV 1c green PB	143	29	58	85
33a		1938 KGV 1c green PB, precancelled	30	4	0	30

34	W20d, e	1938 KGVI 1c green W, B over 1st S	23	3	3	20
34a		1938 KGVI 1c green W, B over 2nd S	21		4	17
35	W21	1951 KGVI 2c olive-green PB	15	1	8	7
35a		1951 KGVI 2c olive precancel (scarce)	0			
36		1951 KGVI 2c olive green W	1		1	0
37	W22	1953 QEII 1c brown PB Karsh issue	5		4	1
38	W23	1953 QEII 2c green PB Karsh	15	1	12	3
38a	W23a	1953 QEII 2c green PB Karsh precancelled	18		6	12
39		1953 QEII 2c green W Karsh	3		0	3
40	W24	1960 QEII 1c brown PB	10	2	10	0
40a		1960 QEII 1c brown text box	1		1	0
41	W25	1960 QEII 2c green PB	17	7	17	0
41a	W25a	1960 QEII 2c green PB precancelled	10	3	5	5
42	W26	1964 QEII 2c green PB, new design	8	5	8	0
43	W26a	1964 QEII 2c green, PB, precancelled	4	2	4	0
Totals			741	112	336	405

Private printing added

The stamped-to-order system was not available to customers of post office wrappers and post bands. Instead, customers purchased stock of wrappers from the post office and then contracted for private printing to be added, but not by the post office. The distinction is important for postal stationery exhibiting. If the post office adds printing before the wrapper leaves it, the addition of the printing adds a variety which can legitimately be included as such in a postal stationery exhibit. On the other hand, if the printing is applied after the wrapper leaves the post office, it is not a variety and cannot be included in an exhibit of varieties.

Kosniowski's forthcoming catalogue of wrappers of the whole world is the only-known listing of wrappers with private overprinting. His forthcoming two volumes of one thousand pages detail all, known, private overprintings for each country as well as indicia, layout, and text differences. It is a scholarly and meticulous analysis that will be invaluable for collectors of this type of material. For Canada, the list is of eighteen different user names, but because of different settings and indicia, the list is more than forty overall. The names that appear on the wrappers and post bands are listed in chronological order below (Table 2).

Table 2. Listing names on wrappers and post bands

The Barclay (Canada) Wholesaler (ten types)	Marked Copy (two types)
Canadian Library Agency	The Northern Miner
Children's Aid Society of Brandon	Port Dover Maple Leaf
Dominion Alloy Steel Corp.	Science of Living Magazine
Dora Hood Book Room	Stimson's Canadian Development
Dundee Mine	Upper Canada College
The Evening Journal	Western U Gazette (five types)
Ford Employee Stamp Club	[User Unknown] - Secretary
L'Intreprète (four types)	Henry Hechler: Service (ten types)

One other user was the Inland Revenue Service of Canada for its Weights and Measures Service. These bilingual E1 wrappers show font, wording, and text line differences. Together, they account for six varieties (see Kosniowski, 2017 forthcoming). Kosniowski notes that the Canadian Pacific Railway monthly statement of earnings and expenses printed on the inside is not a wrapper but a lettersheet.

Postal history interest

Six post bands have been selected for discussion of their postal history interest. Post band 1 is a late usage of E16, issued in 1912 (Figure 7). There are four strikes of a circular date stamp



Figure 7. Late usage of E16 issued in 1912.

precancelled post band is actually a private precancel, issued in 1927, showing VANCOUVER above two horizontal lines that extend beyond the left of the indicium above BC (Figure 8). This issue appears to be the only type of private precancel [4]. The wrapper is addressed to Williamson Co, San Francisco, but is marked in manuscript *No Such US* [Address]. This precancelled post band sold in March 2015 for USD103.50 with four bidders.

Post band 3 (Figure 9) is the only known example with boxed text left of the indicium on a copy of E40. The text box identifies the origin

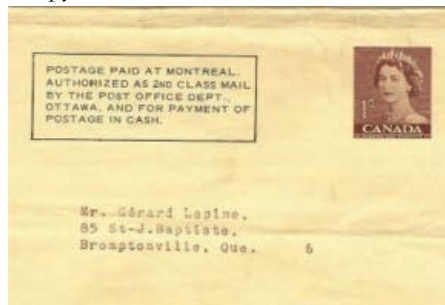


Figure 9. Only known example with boxed text left of the indicium on E40.

JOLIETTE JUL 29 QC, cancelling a 1928 5¢ deep violet KGV (Sc153). There is a single-line purple handstamp SPECIAL DELIVERY paid with a 1922 20¢ carmine special delivery (for first class mail only within city limits) (ScE2). This is the only special delivery adhesive and marking on a post band in the Canadian wrapper sub-population. The wrapper is addressed to Professor Leon Ringuet, Saint-Hyacinthe.

The MARKED COPY E18a

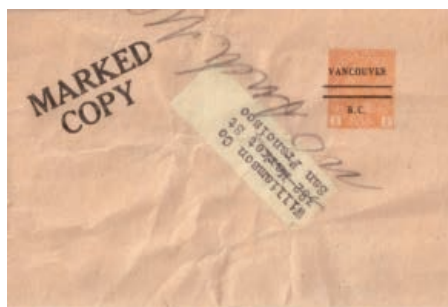


Figure 8. Private precancelled post band issued in 1927.

of the post band as Montreal. Why the text was added is still to be explained. It is addressed to Mr Gerard Lepine, Bromptonville, Quebec.

Post band 4 (Figure 10) is one of two in the database with postage due markings paid with postage due stamps. This 1960 E40 issue post band was addressed to Port Credit, Ontario, where it received a handstamp listing reasons for its bilingual RETURN TO SENDER. *Address incomplete* has been ticked as the reason.



Figure 10. 1960 E40 with postage due markings paid with postage due stamps.

The uprating of a 1963 2c green QEII and tree (Sc402) is tied with a parcel roller. The postage due of 3¢ is presumably a tax for the return of the post band to sender. A manuscript mark cancels the 1935 1¢ and 2¢ dark violet due stamps (ScJ15, 16).

Post bands five and six (Figures 11 and 12) are perforated OHMS in both four-holes and five-holes. The number of holes are measured by the vertical strokes of H on line one and M of line two [6]. The five-line OHMS is difficult to find and this copy sold in December 2015 for USD224.99 to a sole bidder. (Another five-hole OHMS was listed at \$350 and sold to one bidder). Both four-hole and five-hole post bands are cancelled

WINNIPEG 1940 MANITOBA, the first with a duplex eight-barred obliterator 3 MY 9 40, and the second with a repeating roller cancel 1940 MAY 11. Both post bands are addressed to Swift Canadian Co, Winnipeg. There are twenty-six post bands in the database addressed to this company, all of which are E33 post bands and all postmarked 1940 with 20 perforated OHMS. There are authorizing initials, "JHB," in blue crayon. These initials appear on a number of OHMS post bands addressed to this firm. This clustering of post bands addressed to the same firm is a consequence of the culling of business archives and the salvaging of philatelic covers and stationery destined for destruction [2].



Figure 11. Four-Hole perforated OHMS postal band.

Swift Canadian Co was formed in January 1911 by the Swift Company of Chicago. "The basement had meat coolers, soaking vats, pickling facilities, fire pits for smoking meats along with water and heating utilities, coal fuel storage, and an engine room with a 25-ton direct motor compressor. On the first floor was a showroom, market sales area, offices, delivery facilities, and a large beef cooler with rail-hanging capacity for six train-car loads of beef. The second-floor housed freezers, butter churning room, smoking room, and hanging and packing rooms. The third floor contained large freezers, egg candling room,



Figure 12. Five-Hole perforated OHMS postal band.

along with further hanging and smoking rooms. On the roof was a cooling tower for the ammonia-based cooling system which ran throughout the building” [7].

Demand on eBay

A second major database developed by the author records actual sales transactions of used post office wrappers sold on the eBay auction site. Records hand-collected daily since March 2006 shows three hundred and thirteen sales of Canadian wrappers from a total database of nineteen thousand two hundred sales. Details of each sale are fully transparent: The sale price, the number of bids, the number of different bidders, the seller and the seller’s geographic location can all be collected. All but the number of bids are recorded.

A listing by post office type is shown in Table 3. The column summaries detail the number of sales, the overall average realized transaction price, and the average number of bidders per transaction. The number of sales is self-evident, the sum, across all post office types, is three hundred and thirteen.

The overall average realized transaction price is the sum of the realized sales figures divided by the number of sales. It is because averages reveal only a part of the historical story that the detail has been shown in the “sea of numbers”—that is, the actual sales transactions for that post office issue arranged from smallest realization to largest. The number of bidders involved in that transaction is shown in brackets. Table 2 reports what has happened in the last decade and is a factual historical record. An analysis of realized sales showed that one hundred and ninety-four or sixty-two percent of sales were for less than \$10. Another one hundred and one or thirty-two percent fell between \$10 and \$50. Only twenty-four sales reached a sum greater than \$50, of which six realized between \$103 and 350.

The number of bids and the number of bidders are not the same thing. The number of bidders refers to the number of different individuals actively involved in the bidding process during the wrapper’s listing period, which could be a week, more or less. Bidding behaviour can vary greatly, with two or more bidders bidding back and forth during the listing period, or one bidder increasing bid increments by small amounts to test the upper limit of the actual winning bidder. In other words, the number of bids is no guide as to the underlying strength of interest as evidenced by the number of active bidders involved in the transaction. The average number of bidders is the total number of bidders involved in all transactions of that post office type divided by the number of sales. A profile of bidder participation might be a more reliable guide for some collectors.

The overall weighted average bidder score was 2.12, calculated across the three hundred and thirteen transactions. One transaction had ten bidders; one transaction had eight; three had seven; eight had six; twelve transactions had five bidders; twenty-five had four bidders; forty-five had three; seventy-six had two, and there were one hundred and forty-two sole-bidder transactions. Single-bidder transactions accounted for 56.6 percent of the total, thereby resulting in a low overall bidder score.

It is a matter of some debate as to what overall bidder score identifies strength of bidder interest. In a number of country-specific studies, the metric of 2.5 has been the tipping point between high involvement and lower involvement. There is nothing sacrosanct about the score of 2.5; it facilitates the discussion about the intensity of bidder involvement. Stated simply, normally, the more bidders involved in the auction process, the higher the bidder interest and

computed score [2]. The overall score of 2.12 suggests that collector interest in post office postal stationery wrappers from the eBay auction site is muted. Based on this score, Canada is ranked fifty-fourth out of eighty-nine country-specific studies of this nature.

Table 3. eBay Sales of Wrappers of Canada: March 2006 – January 2017

H&G	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) & Number of Bidders per Sale	# of Sales	Mean Sale Price	Mean # of Bidders
1	32.00 (2)	1	32.00	2.00
2	No sales recorded	0	0.00	0.00
3	No sales recorded	0	0.00	0.00
4	3.90 (3), 4.16 (3), 5.00 (1), 5.65 (2), 7.50 (1), 19.38 (2), 49.00 (5), 53.52 (4), 73.51 (3)	10	22.16	2.20
5	3.99 (1), 4.02 (3), 4.13 (2), 5.50 (2), 6.18 (4), 6.50 (1), 8.45 (2), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 10.27 (2), 11.50 (5), 12.05 (3), 15.49 (4), 27.65 (2), 28.55 (5), 29.99 (1), 32.00 (2), 34.33 (3), 36.75 (6), 57.67 (4), 89.99 (4), 140.48 (3)	22	26.72	2.77
6	0.65 (1), 1.51 (2), 1.79 (2), 2.13 (2), 2.38 (3), 2.50 (3), 3.00 (3), 3.84 (2), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 15.00 (1), 15.49 (2), 26.55 (3), 28.00 (3), 33.88 (5), 35.00 (1), 62.10 (10), 69.99 (1)	18	17.98	2.55
7	2.50 (1), 2.58 (1), 3.10 (2), 10.49 (3), 10.50 (2), 12.50 (4), 15.71 (2), 16.02 (2), 19.74 (4)	9	10.34	2.33
7a	2.50 (1), 3.80 (2), 3.88 (1), 4.99 (1), 6.99 (1), 7.83 (3), 8.27 (3), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 12.19 (3), 15.95 (1), 17.09 (6), 32.00 (5), 35.00 (1)	14	12.17	2.14
8	0.99 (1), 1.25 (3), 2.05 (2), 2.27 (3), 2.29 (1), 2.50 (1), 2.50 (1), 3.50 (1), 5.27 (2), 8.09 (3), 8.50 (1), 11.95 (1), 21.50 (3), 23.49 (4), 26.52 (2), 53.52 (5), 76.00 (4)	17	14.24	2.17
9	2.00 (1), 2.03 (3), 7.50 (2), 8.55 (2), 12.61 (6), 26.99 (3), 57.50 (6), 63.58 (8)	8	22.60	3.87
10	4.25 (2), 4.99 (1), 6.50 (4)	3	5.24	2.39
11	16.53 (6), 250.00 (1)	2	133.26	3.50
12	No sales recorded	0		
13	9.50 (2), 10.57 (2), 12.57 (2), 15.89 (3), 22.72 (7), 36.55 (2), 40.14 (1)	7	21.13	2.71
14	5.59 (3), 26.00 (2), 45.48 (1), 61.00 (6)	4	34.52	3.00
15	No sales recorded	0		
16	0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 2.26 (2), 18.94 (1), 49.95 (1), 52.05 (2)	7	18.02	1.28
17	3.00 (1), 5.50 (2), 6.95 (1)	3	5.15	1.33
18	0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 1.51 (2), 2.25 (2), 4.00 (1), 4.00 (3), 4.99 (1), 5.17 (4), 5.19 (3), 5.53 (4), 5.99 (1), 6.63 (5), 6.99 (3), 8.09 (2), 11.50 (4), 11.59 (3), 15.15 (1), 15.50 (4), 22.73 (1), 30.75 (5), 103.50 (4)	21	13.00	2.29
19	0.87 (1), 3.00 (1), 9.51 (2), 9.95 (4), 10.50 (2), 13.87 (2), 18.38 (2), 20.96 (6), 21.50 (3), 31.00 (2), 34.88 (2)	11	15.85	2.45
20	2.50 (2), 3.32 (2), 5.09 (2)	3	3.63	2.00
21	3.00 (1), 0.99 (1), 5.50 (4), 7.59 (2), 8.53 (3), 12.95 (1), 24.95 (1)	7	5.12	2.20
22	1.00 (1), 3.00 (1), 8.25 (2)	3	4.08	1.67
23	4.99 (1), 8.91 (4), 26.00 (2)	3	13.30	2.33

24	1.25 (3), 1.31 (2), 3.00 (1), 15.63 (4), 17.34 (2), 21.50 (5), 21.62 (2), 24.27 (3)	8	13.24	2.75
25	1.25 (2), 9.27 (3), 21.50 (4),	3	10.67	3.00
26	3.55 (3), 6.05 (3)	2	4.80	3.00
27	No sales recorded	0		
28	0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 1.00 (1), 2.30 (2), 2.82 (3), 3.24 (2), 4.60 (3), 5.00 (1), 5.00 (1), 28.40 (2),	11	5.03	1.64
28a	0.99 (1)	1	0.99	1.00
29	1.99 (1), 9.99 (1)	2	5.99	1.00
30	No sales recorded			
31	0.38 (1), 12.50 (4)	2	6.44	2.50
32	0.99 (1), 6.71 (1), 8.32 (1)	3	5.34	1.00
33	0.20 (1), 0.25 (1), 0.25 (1), 0.25 (1), 0.25 (1), 0.25 (1), 0.94 (2), 0.99 (1), 0.99 (1), 1.30 (1), 1.34 (2), 1.50 (1), 1.79 (3), 2.00 (1), 2.00 (1), 2.27 (2), 2.45 (2), 2.50 (1), 2.51 (1), 3.00 (1), 3.00 (1), 3.09 (2), 3.25 (2), 3.95 (1), 3.99 (1), 9.95 (1), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 10.29 (4), 10.50 (2), 11.49 (2), 13.26 (1), 15.00 (1), 19.49 (5), 24.23 (1), 25.00 (1), 26.03 (4), 27.50 (7), 28.36 (1), 34.99 (1), 37.99 (1), 39.57 (1), 50.01 (4), 54.95 (1), 58.55 (7), 69.95 (1), 104.75 (3), 224.99 (1), 350.00 (1)	50	26.40	1.78
33a	0.25 (1), 0.25 (1), 0.50 (1), 0.50 (1), 0.95 (1), 1.25 (1), 1.25 (2), 1.75 (2), 1.75 (2), 1.75 (1), 3.25 (2), 4.00 (1), 9.70 (1), 9.98 (1), 16.16 (2)	15	3.55	1.33
34	1.11 (1), 1.34 (2), 1.99 (1), 3.00 (1), 3.50 (1), 4.00 (1), 5.75 (2)	7	2.96	1.28
34a	0.99 (1), 1.25 (1), 2.75 (3)	3	1.67	1.67
35	3.00 (1), 7.57 (1), 19.99 (1)	3	10.18	1.00
36	No sales recorded			
37	0.94 (2), 2.99 (1)	2	1.96	1.50
38	0.99 (1), 1.60 (1), 2.29 (1), 4.80 (3), 9.95 (1), 14.95 (1)	6	5.76	1.33
38a	3.00 (1), 19.99 (1)	2	11.50	1.00
39	4.28 (2), 9.49 (1)	2	6.88	1.50
40	3.17 (2), 11.26 (2), 12.76 (3)	3	9.06	2.33
40a	No sales recorded	0		
41	0.99 (1), 5.65 (2), 14.95 (1), 24.95 (1)	4	11.63	1.25
41a	4.00 (1), 4.00 (1)	2	4.00	1.00
42	6.49 (2), 9.95 (1), 11.59 (4), 29.95 (1), 31.00 (5), 39.95 (1)	6	21.48	2.33
43	2.25 (2), 6.88 (2), 8.83 (3)	3	5.98	2.33
	Total Sales of Post Office Issues	313	16.61	2.12

Conclusion

There were seven hundred and forty-one used post bands and wrappers of Canada listed for sale on eBay during the past thirteen and one-half years, according to daily hand-collected records maintained by the author since September 2003. This sub-population was culled from the larger database of used worldwide wrappers of about fifty thousand images. Canada issued over forty post office types over a period of eighty-nine years, from 1875 until 1964. The supply entering the eBay philatelic market was constant throughout this time, with a supply reasonably evenly distributed across the five monarchs reigning over the eighty-nine years. An analysis of destinations showed that the wrappers and post bands of Canada were mailed to

twenty-three countries. Unsurprisingly, the US dominates the list. There were eighteen users of post office stock that contracted extra printing to be added and, when indium, wording, and layout differences are taken into consideration, over forty names and varieties are extant. While these are not postal stationery varieties per se, they are sought after for their aesthetic and thematic appeal.

Sales of these wrappers and post bands totalled three hundred and thirteen—this data from another database hand-collected daily by the author since March 2006 of nineteen thousand two hundred sales. The sums realized for Canada were mostly modest, with almost two-thirds of transactions reaching less than \$10. Only six transactions realized more than \$100, while some of the four-hole and five-hole OHMS perfinned wrappers sold for more than \$200. Bidder interest was muted in that the overall bidder score calculated across all three hundred and thirteen sales was 2.12. This score, a proxy of the size of the active collector base for this class of postal stationery, placed Canada fifty-fourth of eighty-nine country-specific studies ranked from high to low overall bidder interest.

Acknowledgement

Allan Gory read and commented on an earlier draft and I thank him for his comments and insights that strengthened the paper.

References and endnotes

- [1] John K Courtis, "Postally Used Post Bands & Wrappers of Canada & Newfoundland: A Survey and Analysis," *BNA Topics*, Vol 63, No 2, April-June, 2006, pp 64-71.
- [2] John K Courtis, "'Clustering': An Introduction to Incidences and Implications," *Postal Stationery Collector*, Vol 20 No 3, Issue 79, August 2014, pp. 85-88.
- [3] Higgins and Gage (1964), *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, California.
- [4] Jan Kosniowski, *Newspaper Wrappers: A Catalogue of Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers from the Whole World* (2017, forthcoming).
- [5] George EL Manley, *Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery Handbook*, JF Webb publisher, Hornby, ON, Canada, 1984, 52 pp.
- [6] William C Walton and Earle L Covert, *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, 6th edition, British North America Philatelic Society Ltd., USA, 1993, 173 pp.
- [7] Manitoba Historical Society website: <www.mhs.mb.ca>.

The POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA offers its members:



APS affiliate 67
PHS Inc. affiliate 5A
RPSC affiliate 3

Join today!

- A gold-medal winning quarterly publication, the *PHSC Journal*
- A research website with searchable:
 - Back issues of the *PHSC Journal*
 - Post office listings of Canada
 - Up-to-date Canadian cancellation databases
 - Articles and exhibits
- Ongoing online project on BNA Postal Rates
- Study groups, many of which publish their own newsletters and databases
- Postal history seminars and awards
- Research funds
- The fellowship and knowledge of other Canadian postal history enthusiasts
- www.postalhistorycanada.net

For a membership application form please visit our website or contact the Secretary:

Scott Traquair, P.O. Box 25061, RPO Hiway, Kitchener, ON N2A 4A5 Canada

EMAIL: secretary@postalhistorycanada.net

The “D.w.” Handstamp: A new theory!

Chris Hargreaves



Figure 1. Postmarked WINNIPEG 9AM FEB 22 1932

IN the previous articles about the “D.w.” handstamp in *BNA Topics* (Whole Numbers 532, 539, 541, and 544), forty-four covers with a “D.w.” handstamp were described. The topic of the “D.w.” handstamp was initially raised in the December 1993 issue of the BNAPS Air Mail Study Group newsletter, when it was illustrated by the cover in Figure 1.

The first response to the question came from Trelle Morrow, who made this suggestion:

It is a private collector's mark, such as some people use in approval books, or for other markings. I have seen several of these covers so marked, and one cover has the sender's return address. It is W.C. Diment, Sintaluta, Sask (Figure 2). So I believe that the Dw endorsement is that of Mr. Diment.

However, it seemed strange that a collector would place a mark partially over a stamp, when there was ample “white space” on the cover, as can be seen on the Figure 1 cover.

Don Amos, who worked in the Winnipeg Post Office after World War II, also responded to the question:

Before I retired I was in the main post office. One day I wanted to check back in the records for

Keywords & phrases: First Flight, Air Mail covers, postal markings, handstamps, Post Office facing slips

someone asking a question about them. I went to the room where the records were. I was told they needed the room and the records were all thrown out! I couldn't believe it. I tried Ottawa but they had no record of them. I have copies of it used in 1930-1931-1932. I have written to all the postmasters of each town and/or city giving all names and details, including Sintaluta in your letter, but never received a reply from any of them. The old-timers must have all gone.



Figure 2. Postmarked WINNIPEG 8AM FEB2 1931.

Trelle may be right, but the general opinion seems to be that it meant “Delayed-Weather”. You are probably aware that the FF from Pembina February 1931 was delayed until the next day because of bad weather.

But it also seemed odd that the Post Office would use a handstamp that just says “D.w.”, as Post Office handstamps normally state the full reason for which they are applied. Also, when abbreviations *are* used, the letters are normally the same size.

The mystery of the “D.w.” handstamp was revisited in 2010 in an article in *The Canadian Aerophilatelist*. This was followed up by articles in the *Jack Knight Air Log* of the American Air Mail Society, *BAMS News* published by the British Air Mail Society, and in *BNA Topics*. This led to additional “D.w.” covers being reported and to a very interesting debate, in which some eminent aerophilatelists supported the “collector’s mark” theory, while others believed it was a “post office marking.”

As more covers with the “D.w.” handstamp were recorded, a number of patterns began to emerge. Murray Heifetz recognized that all the covers were either mailed from Winnipeg, or had passed through Winnipeg.

It also appeared that all the covers were from the period of the Prairie Air Mail Service, which operated between Winnipeg and Calgary, and between Winnipeg and Edmonton, from 3 March 1930 to 31 March 1932. For a long time, the earliest cover found was dated 25 March 1930; the latest was dated 27 March 1932.

The handstamp was also only found on Air Mail covers, but not all the covers had arrived in Winnipeg by air or left Winnipeg by air! Figure 3 was particularly puzzling, as the Siscoe-Amos First Flight took place before the Winnipeg-Pembina link was inaugurated, so this cover would have arrived in Winnipeg by train. It also left by train, as Grande Pointe is about thirty kms southeast of Winnipeg.



Figure 3. Postmarked SISCOE OC28 30.



Figure 4. Postmarked SOUTH BEND IND, APR 16 3PM 1931.

As the enquiry progressed, it became accepted that the covers came from too many sources to all have received a collector's mark from one person. The number of covers also ruled out a suggestion that the handstamp was a "pilot's mark" applied in lieu of a signature, as the covers were flown by many different pilots.

But the "Delayed by weather" theory was also running into problems!

In *BNA Topics* No 544 (2015Q3, July–September 2015, a collection of five covers from the US to East End, Saskatchewan, was described. Three of these covers had a “D.w.” handstamp, (including Figure 4), but two didn’t. The covers had been mailed on different dates between April 1931 and September 1931. On checking the weather reports and forecasts in old issues of *The Winnipeg Free Press*, it turned out that there was no correlation between the dates of the covers with a “D.w.” handstamp and reports or forecasts of bad weather.

The same article described a collection of fourteen First Day Covers for the C3 air mail stamp found by Alain Gauthier. These covers were all mailed to his father-in-law in Ponteix, Saskatchewan, and they included Figure 5, below. Nine of the covers had a “D.w.” handstamp, five of them didn’t. Most of the covers had backstamps from Ponteix, and none of them seemed to have been delayed! The Prairie Air Mail service operated once per day, except Sundays. If the cover pictured in Figure 5 was flown, it would have left Winnipeg at 8 pm on 22 February, arrived in Moose Jaw at 11:10 pm on the 22nd, and been delivered to Ponteix by rail the next day, 23 February.

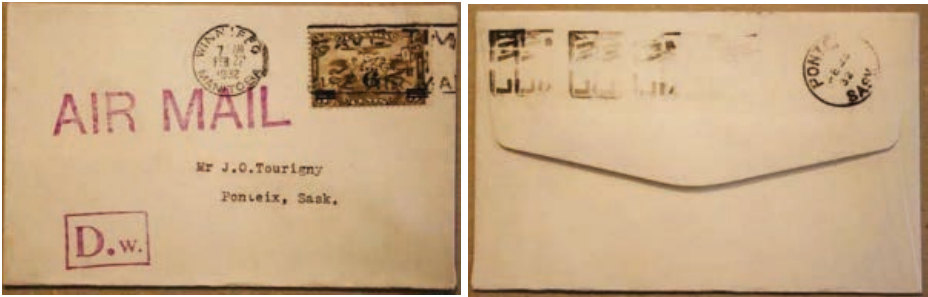


Figure 5. Postmarked WINNIPEG 7AM FEB22 32, backstamped PONTEIX FE 23 32.

But if weather wasn’t a factor, and if the covers hadn’t been delayed, then what did “D.w.” stand for?

During the enquiry, several people wondered whether the “w” stood for weight, and whether “D.w.” indicated the mail had been diverted to a train because the mail plane was overweight. But if this is what happened, how did the cover in Figure 5 get from Winnipeg to Ponteix the next day?

After discussions with Nino Chiovelli and Rick Parama, I obtained copies of a number of railway timetables from 1931 from Ross Gray, editor of the BNAPS Railway Post Offices Study Group newsletter.



Figure 6. The railway route to Ponteix.

It turns out that the covers from Winnipeg to Ponteix could in fact have travelled by train, if the trains left early enough! The railway connections to Ponteix are shown in Figure 6.

- There was one train daily to Ponteix from the east. It left Assiniboia at 2:05 pm and reached Ponteix at 4:22 pm.
- There was one train daily from Moose Jaw to Assiniboia, which left Moose Jaw at 11 am and reached Assiniboia at 1:35 pm.
- There were two trains from Winnipeg to Moose Jaw daily, one in the morning and one in the evening. Train 1 left Winnipeg at 7 pm and arrived in Moose Jaw at 4:50 am.

So. The covers from Winnipeg could have reached Moose Jaw by rail in time to arrive in Ponteix on 23 February, but the decision to divert them to the train must have been made during the afternoon, as Train 1 left before the plane did! The Post Office staff would not have waited until the plane was being loaded before seeing whether or not the mail was going to be over the weight limit.

This led me to wonder how often a decision to send “air mail” by train was made during the afternoon in order to avoid weight problems later in the day?

Then I started wondering if, rather than indicating that mail had gone by rail due to unusual circumstances (such as bad weather), “air mail” was regularly diverted to surface mail to avoid weight problems later in the day, or because the railway mail service was considered more reliable than the air mail service? Did the “D.w.” handstamp indicate a routine “end of air mail service” / diversion of “air mail” in Winnipeg to surface mail?

When the various “D.w.” covers were reviewed, it turned out that they all could in fact have reached their destination as quickly by surface mail from Winnipeg as they would have done if they had been flown beyond Winnipeg! For example:

- The cover in Figure 4 is destined for East End, which was on the same railway line from Assiniboia as Ponteix. Figure 4 would have arrived in Winnipeg on the mail plane from Chicago and Pembina at 1 pm and been transferred to Train 1 which left at 7 pm.
- The cover in Figure 2 was flown back to Winnipeg after the Pembina First Flight. It could then have been sent by train to Sinteluta, which was on a railway line from Winnipeg to Regina, rather than being flown in Regina, and then sent back to Sinteluta by rail.
- The cover in Figure 1 was postmarked in Winnipeg at 9 am on 22 February and is addressed to Calgary. According to *The Winnipeg Free Press* for 24 February 1932, Winnipeg mail closes as follows: For Vancouver, 9 am and 6:30 pm. The Calgary mail would have closed at the same time. Since the rail journey from Winnipeg to Calgary took about twenty-three hours, Figure 1 could have travelled by train and been delivered in Calgary on the morning of 23 February.

An “end of air mail service” marking would also explain some of the most puzzling covers, such as the one shown in Figure 3, which had to have travelled the thirty kms from Winnipeg to Grande Pointe by train; the one in Figure 7 that was handstamped “Insufficiently paid for transmission by air mail”; and the one in Figure 8, which was mailed in 1942. The

cover in Figure 7, sent from England to Banff, Alberta, was franked three pence, but from 4 November 1929 to 22 February 1931, the correct rate for sea mail from Britain to New

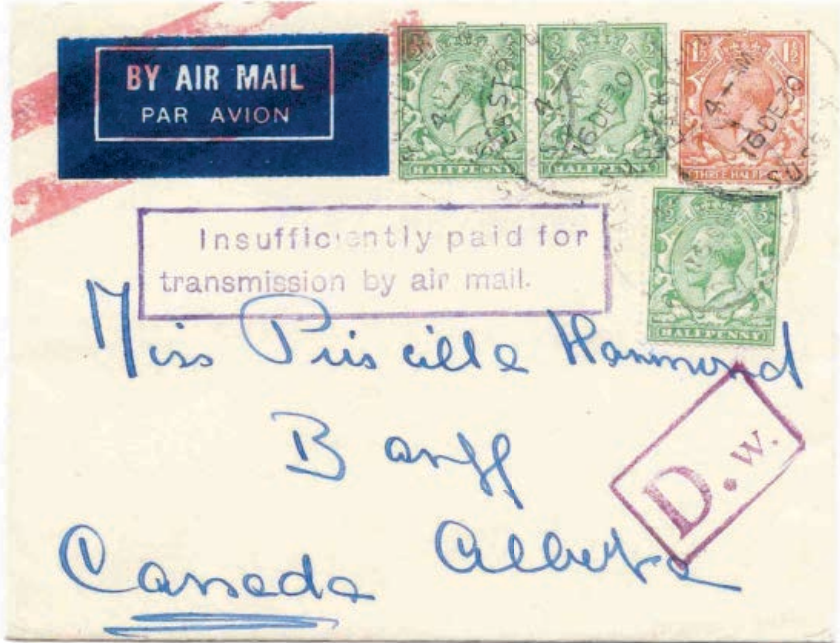


Figure 7. Postmarked EASTBOURNE 16 DE 30.



Figure 8. Postmarked SOUTH EDMONTON, OCT 26 4.30PM 942 (error in datestamp).

York, with onward transmission by air in the US and Canada was four pence. The cover was handstamped “Insufficiently paid for transmission by air mail”, and the air mail etiquette was obliterated. The cover would have arrived in Winnipeg by rail, as there were no air mail services to Winnipeg from the east in December 1930. It would have been stamped “D.w.” to indicate it was to continue from Winnipeg to Calgary by rail, not by the Prairie Air Mail Service.

Figure 8 is the only cover with a “D.w.” handstamp recorded after the Prairie Air Mail Service ended in March 1931. It is addressed to Virginia, Minnesota, which is a small town in the eastern part of the state. By 1942, Trans-Canada Air Lines was operating a regular air mail service across Canada. The cover would have been flown from Edmonton to Winnipeg and then been transferred to surface routes in Winnipeg.

The cover that was most difficult to explain is shown as Figure 9.

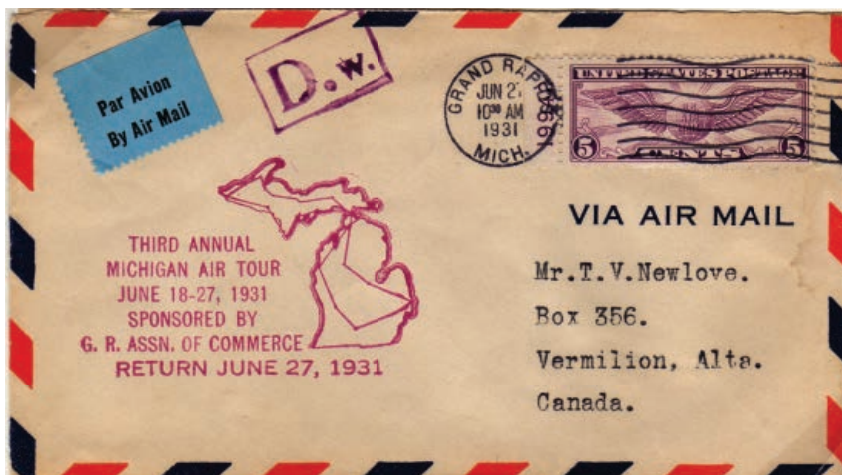


Figure 9. Postmarked GRAND RAPIDS MICH. JUN27 10.30AM 1931.

Figure 9 was postmarked 10.30am on 27 June 1931 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and addressed to Vermillion, Alberta, which is between North Battleford and Edmonton. If the cover connected with the US Air Mail via Chicago that day, it would have arrived in Winnipeg on Sunday 28 June at 1 pm. It could then have left Winnipeg by the Prairie Air Mail service at 7:30 pm on 28 June, arriving in Edmonton at 7:25 am on 29 June. Since the train trip from Winnipeg to Edmonton took about twenty-four hours, it looked as though being diverted to rail would have slowed down its delivery.

However, when I obtained a *Wagborn's Guide* that includes railway timetables for all of Western Canada, it turned out that there was only one train per day from Edmonton to Vermilion, which was on the route from Edmonton via North Battleford, Saskatoon and Regina to Winnipeg. This train left Edmonton at 10 pm each day, so the cover would have arrived in Vermilion at 3 am on 30 June. But if the cover had travelled by “Train No. 5” from Winnipeg, it would have left Winnipeg at 9 pm on 28 June and arrived in Vermilion at 1:40 am on 30 June.

A detailed analysis of the forty-four covers showed that they all either had to travel by surface (road) routes from Winnipeg or would have been delivered as quickly or more quickly

if they had been sent by rail from Winnipeg, than if they had been flown. Full details of the analysis of these covers was published in the March 2015 issue of the Canadian *Aerophilatelist*. A copy can be obtained by emailing hargreavescp@sympatico.ca.

Although diverting covers to surface routes when they were labelled “Air Mail” and franked for air mail may seem somewhat strange, it would in fact have been in keeping with the Post Office policy of sending mail by the fastest possible route. The mail arrived as quickly by rail, and a transfer avoided the risk of delay if there had been a problem with the flight.

When I discussed this transfer with Gray Scrimgeour, he commented that:

Trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific steamship mail followed the procedure called the “first-packet principle.” Mail was dispatched by the steamship that would deliver it to its destination most efficiently (quickly). The same should apply to westbound air mail from Winnipeg - by air if it is beneficial, by train if that route is faster.

The “end of air mail” theory also answers several other questions regularly raised with regard to the “D.w.” handstamp:

- The explanation for the use of an abbreviation rather than a text could be that the Post Office did not want to draw attention to letters that were franked for air mail but were not being flown.
- It explains why use of the handstamp stopped when the Prairie Air Mail service ended, and then resumed after Trans-Canada Air Lines began flying.
- This type of handstamp would only have been needed at Winnipeg because Winnipeg received much more mail from the east that needed to be divided into “forward by air” / “divert to rail”, than Calgary or Edmonton received from the west.

The theory received a generally favourable response when it appeared in an article in *The Canadian Aerophilatelist* and was reported in *The Canadian Stamp News* (28 July 2015). It was also vigorously discussed during the BNAPS St Lawrence Seaway Regional Group meeting in October 2015, and during a presentation at the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society’s “Day of Aerophilately” in Toronto the following month.

I received a couple of questions along this line: “If the covers went by train, why aren’t there RPO. back-cancels?” I discussed this with Chris Anstead, who confirmed the following:

The R.P.O. cancels were normally only applied to mail posted at the Railway Post Office en route, or to special items such as registered letters. The R.P.O. cancels were not usually applied to mail picked up at stations during the journey as the dispatch office cancel would have been applied. The postal clerks sorted incoming mail into pigeon holes, added a facing slip to the contents of a pigeon hole, tying them into a bundles which were placed into “open bags” that were then fastened and delivered to stations en route. Mail already sorted prior to being placed on board was carried in “closed bags.”

I also received a question as to whether I’d checked Ian McQueen’s books on *JUSQU’A* markings. A “*Jusqu’a*” marking was one applied at the start of the journey to indicate how far a letter should travel by air, but Ian’s books also looked at “end of air mail service” markings. However, the books were largely based on Ian’s collection and copies of markings sent to him. Most of the “*Jusqu’a*” markings stated which service was involved, and most of the “end of service” markings were obliterations like the bars on Figure 7. Since the “D.w.” marking was

not identified as an “end of air mail service” marking until now, it could not have been included in Ian’s books. (Unfortunately, Ian died in 2011 and could not contribute to this enquiry.)

There are still questions as to exactly when in the sorting process the handstamp would have been applied, and why it is sometimes found on multiple covers to the same person or place, but not on other covers processed at the same time to the same destination.

There is also a question as to exactly what “D.w.” stood for. “Diverted in Winnipeg” would be logical, but several people reckon a capital “W” would have been used in the grammatically correct 1930s, and that it therefore stood instead for “Diverted westbound”.

If anybody can provide more information, and/or copies of additional “D.w.” covers that can be used to test how well the “end of air mail in Winnipeg” theory fits with additional covers, please contact me (Chris Hargreaves, 4060 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4Y4, <hargreavescp@sympatico.ca >).

Acknowledgements

The research into the “D.w.” handstamp has been a co-operative effort, involving fifty-seven correspondents in six countries. Many thanks to Alain Gauthier, Barry Countryman, Basil Burrell, Bob Dyer, Bruce Normington, Chris Anstead, Dale Speirs, Dave Armitage, Dave Hanes, David Jones, David Kelly, David Reynolds, Denny May, Derek Rance, Diana Trafford, Dick Malott, Dick McIntosh, Don Fraser, Ed Matthews* (now deceased), Garfield Portch, Gary Coates, Gord Mallett, Gray Scrimgeour, Hal Vogel, Hans Steinbock*, Ian Macdonald, Jeff Arndt, Jim Miller, John Bloor, John Lewington, John Symons, John Tyacke, John Walsh, Julian Burgess, Ken Snelson, Kevin O’Reilly, Larry Margetish, Mike Shand, Mike Street, Murray Heifetz*, Neil Hunter, Nino Chiovelli, Norman Seastedt, Paul Varty, Peter Edwards, Peter Motson, Peter Wood, Rick Parama, Robert Timberg, Ron Barrett, Ronald Majors, Ross Gray, Steve Johnson, Tony Hine, Trelle Morrow, William Beaudoin, and William Cochrane for their contributions.

Thanks also to the members of the BNAPS St Lawrence Seaway Regional Group: Andy Ellwood, Bernie Finkelstein, Chris Anstead, Doug Lingard, Gus Quattrochi, Hank Narbonne, Jill Hare, Michael Powell, Peter MacDonald, Ray Villeneuve, Richard Catchpaw, Rick Carson, Robert Lemire, and Tom Hare for a rigorous and enjoyable discussion.

References and endnotes

- [1] *The Canadian Aerophilatelist* is the quarterly journal of the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society. For more information about the CAS, check their website www.aerophilately.ca, and/or contact Chris Hargreaves, 4060 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4Y4 [E: hargreavescp@sympatico.ca] for a complimentary copy of the CAS journal.
- [2] <http://95.131.69.196/~darrenc/video/V6_Demo.wmv>.
- [3] *BNAPS Topics*, Vol 52, No 3, Whole Number 464, July–Aug–September 1995, p 60.

www.bnaps.org



Another WWI “Undercover” address uncovered!

Ed Fraser

IT is common knowledge that, following the outbreak of World War I, a number of mail-forwarding schemes, offering ways for civilian mail to be forwarded to an enemy country or enemy-occupied country, were created. The suspension of ordinary mail service was the usual nearly immediate effect of a declaration of war between countries. Enemy occupation of another country’s territory would likewise cause the exchange of mail to or from that occupied area to cease as well, at least for some period of time.

During WWI, direct mail exchange ceased between Germany and its allies, as well as occupied areas such as part of Belgium on one hand, and France, Great Britain, and their allies on the other. However, open mail exchange was possible and basically allowed or tolerated, if done through a mail-forwarding scheme using an agent in a non-combatant country such as Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, among others. These services were by-and-large created with a humanitarian purpose in mind—to allow for some contact and connection between family and friends in combatant countries or occupied territories.

While exchanges operated by the International Red Cross and the Thomas Cook & Son travel agency are the best known, official references suggest there were many such services. Information about them, however, has not been available to or found by philatelists. Some is buried in historical archives; some is probably long-since lost, and some is yet to be reported as postal history. Illustrated in Figure 1 is a 27 April 1916 cover from Canada to Switzerland identifying, for the first time in a philatelic publication, I believe, a service operating in that country.

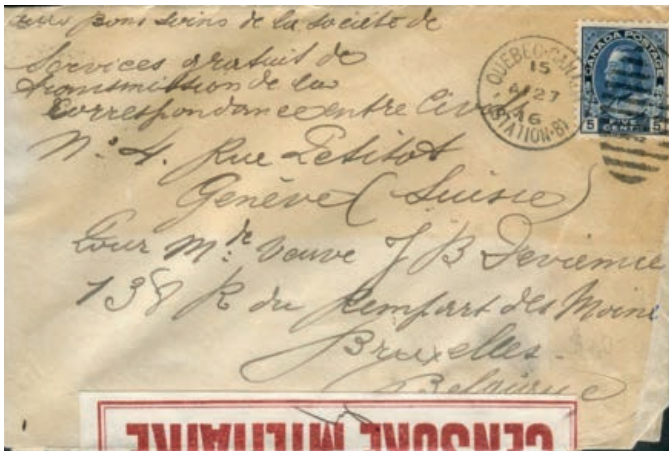


Figure 1. Front of 27 April 1916 letter from Quebec to Brussels, Belgium, via Geneva, Switzerland.

Keywords & phrases: World War I, civilian mail between combatant countries

The manuscript address reads “*Aux bons soins de la société de Services gratuit de / transmission de la / Correspondance entre Civils*” (“To the care of the society for / free services of / transmission of / correspondence between civilians”) /N° 4 Rue Petitot /Genève (Suisse). Below this, in four lines, are the name and address of an individual in Brussels. This cover by itself does not appear to be “undercover” at all, since the full address of both the forwarding agent and ultimate recipient in German-occupied Brussels are given. However, because the complete full routing is clearly visible on the face of the cover, there is no doubt that the Swiss addressee ran a mail-forwarding scheme that circumvented enemy lines.



Figure 2. Reverse of cover in Figure 1.



Figure 3. Belgian postmark obscured by Swiss cancellation.



Figure 4. Complete Belgian military censorship tape.

Pieces of a puzzle: Figure 2 shows the reverse of the cover in Figure 1. In Figure 3, a Belgian military postmark is obscured by a Geneva “RUE DU STAND” district post office cancellation. The Belgian “CENSURE MILITAIRE” tape [1] in Figure 4 is tied by a Geneva “DISTR. LETTR.” receiving office postmark. As far as can be determined, the presence of the Brussels address on the front of the letter caused it to be delivered first to the Belgian postal authorities not controlled by the German army. After processing by the Belgian Military Censorship, the letter was forwarded to the forwarding agency—*la société de Services gratuit*—in Switzerland.

Was this an ongoing service in WWI, and did it extend beyond just linking Belgium and Canada? A partial answer came from finding three additional covers! First, a British cover shown here as Figure 5 is, like Figure 1, addressed to the same Swiss service, but it does not indicate a further addressee or that it contains “mail for an enemy country.” If this cover contained such a letter, I believe that British, or some other country’s censor regulations, required that the envelope feature the notation “enemy mail” or something similar on the

front of the cover. This does not always seem to have happened, though – there is no notation on any of the covers involved here, for example. (This “contains enemy mail” sender’s notation was used during WWI; it did not occur in WWII.)



Figure 5. Letter also addressed to the forwarding service at 4 Rue Petitot, Geneva. Postmarked London 4 January 1916, British censorship label on reverse. Back stamped in Geneva on 9 and 10 January 1916; T025 postage due assessed but apparently not collected.



Figure 6. Mailed at Zakopane (Austrian Empire, now Poland) on 31 October 1915 to Geneva. Backstamped 12 November 1915.

The Zakopane, Austrian Empire (Polish area) cover shown in Figure 6 also addressed to 4 Rue Petitot, was postmarked on 31 October 1915. Censored in Vienna, it got the same receiving cancels as the cover in Figure 1 when it arrived in Geneva on 12 November 1915.



Figure 7. Cover mailed in Laibach (Ljubljana) Slovenia to 4 Rue Petitot, Geneva in November 1915.

A second cover coming out of German controlled areas is shown in Figure 7. Registered at Laibach (Ljubljana), Slovenia, in November 1915, it too was addressed to 4 Rue Petitot, Geneva. Apparently mailed unsealed, it was then sealed—back flap on top of stamps—

probably by the German military censor who applied the circular mark on the front of the envelope. On 25 November 1915 the letter received the same two Geneva postmarks—one of them tying the sealed flap—as the other covers.

These four covers, along with several in other collections, show conclusively that a WWI Undercover mail scheme, previously unreported in the philatelic literature as far as can be determined, operated at 4 Rue Petitot, Geneva. They don't, however, say anything about who was behind it and how long it operated. Thanks to the power of online search engines, parts of those questions have now been answered.

On 31 August 1915, the newspaper clipping in Figure 8 appeared in Issue 49 of the *Bulletin de Meurthe et Moselle*, the “Organ of the Society for Assistance to Refugees Evacuated and Displaced from Meurthe and Moselle,” based in Paris [2]. *Meurthe-et-Moselle*, a “department” (administrative division) in the north-eastern region of France, bordering on Luxembourg and Belgium, was in the path of the early German advances of 1914–15. The text reads:

TO WRITE TO INVADED COUNTRIES

We are informed that it is possible to send letters to people living in the following localities:

Audun-le-Roman, Thiaucourt, Chambley, Saint-Mihiel, Spincourt, Combles, Haumont, Givet, Virieux-Molhain, Laon, Miramont, Carvin.

It is recommended to make letters as short as possible and to limit them to family matters.

Send them to The Office for the Transmission of Civilian Correspondence, 4, Rue Petitot, Geneva, in double open envelopes, the first addressed to the Office (with 0.25fr postage) and the inside one addressed to the recipient in the invaded country. (Include a postal reply coupon, for franking from Geneva to the destination. Get this coupon at the post office.)

While all the localities named in the second paragraph were small towns and villages in the *Meurthe-et-Moselle* region that had been occupied by the German Army, it is important to note that the information supplied also applied to other countries. Unfortunately for the named locations, the situation changed quickly. Exactly three weeks later, on 21 September 1915, the notice in Figure 9 appeared in the *Bulletin de Meurthe et Moselle*.



Figure 8. 31 August 1915 notice about sending letters from France to German occupied areas.

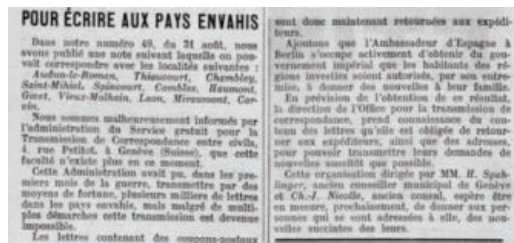


Figure 9. Notice in the *Bulletin de Meurthe et Moselle*, 21 September 1915.

TO WRITE TO INVADED COUNTRIES

In our number 49 of 31 August, we published a note on how to correspond with the following localities:

Audun-leRoman, Thiaucourt, Chambley, Saint-Mihiel, Spincourt, Combles, Haumont, Givet, Vireux-Molhain, Laon, Miramont, Carvin.

We are unhappily informed by the administration of the free Service for Transmission of Correspondence between civilians, 4. Rue Petitot in Geneva (Switzerland), that this service no longer exists at the moment.

This Administration was able, during the first months of the war, to transmit by means of good luck, several thousand letters to the occupied areas, but because of multiple difficulties this transmission has become impossible.

The letters containing postal reply coupons are now being returned to the senders.

The Spanish Ambassador to Berlin is now actively occupied asking the Imperial government to authorize residents of the occupied regions, according to their needs, to send news to their family.

In anticipation of obtaining this result, the management of the Office for transmission of correspondence is finding out from their contents which letters it must return to senders, as well as the addresses, to allow transmission of their requests for news as soon as possible.

This organization, directed by Msrs. H. Spablinger, former Municipal Councillor of Geneva, and Ch.-J Nicolle, former Consul, hopes next to provide people who have written them with brief news of their families.

Because the newspaper which carried these notices is from an area of France that saw much destruction from the Germans and was close to the fully German occupied areas, it was naturally trying to inform residents of its own region. As we can see from the four covers shown in this article, the forwarding service at 4 Rue Petitot continued at least into 1916.

A note about other WWI Undercover Mail Services

As it happened, the two best-known (and in a way competing) mail forwarding services through Switzerland in WWI were also in Geneva, the International Red Cross (which was not really “undercover”), and the Thomas Cook & Son mail scheme (which did not use just “Thomas Cook” in any return addresses). An address Thomas Cook definitely used to receive replies from German controlled Europe was Box 4116, Geneva. Other services operated in different Swiss cities. While no covers from Canada to any of these services are known at this time, it is definitely something to look for!

Here is a partial list of these services, with the date of a known cover of usage:

- (Thomas Cook) Postfach Rhone 4116, Genf (Geneva) – e.g., January 1918
- Madame Goetz, Hotel Du Lac Suhof, Lugano-Paradico – e.g., May 1918
- Internationals Friedensbureau, Bern* – e.g., May 1916
- Bureau International de la Paix, Bern* – e.g., August 1917
- Comité Privé de Correspondances Internationales, 36 Rue Petit Chêne, Lausanne – e.g., April, July, and Oct 1916 (all from Australia)

- * The National Peace Council in England, a peace organization, operated a service using the address International Peace Bureau, Kanonenweg 12, Berne. There is a fair amount of reference information (it makes interesting reading!) and known cover examples from the National Peace Council.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Mike Street for flagging this cover on eBay for me—that started this article off—and for French translations. Thanks also to Graham Mark for his assistance.

References and endnotes

- [1] Graham Mark, personal communication, “The Military Censor re-sealing tape is Belgian and is described in R Silverberg, *Censure et Postes Militaires Belge 1914-1929*, p 55, as a type used at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in 1915-16. There were two printings—in vermilion in 1915 and in carmine in 1916.”
- [2] *Bulletin de Meurthe et Moselle*, Issues 49 and 51, 31 August and 21 September 1915; published at 35 Boulevard Haussman, Paris IX^c.

A special invitation to join...

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA

Member Benefits include:

- **The Canadian Philatelist**
RPSC's international award-winning magazine
- **Sales Circuit**
Dispose of your surplus material & acquire other treasures for your collection
- **Group Insurance**
Preferential insurance premiums for RPSC members
- **RPSC.org**
Special member section available on this award-winning site

For a RPSC membership application form write to:
Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
 Dept. K, Box 929, Station Q
 Toronto, ON Canada
 M4T 2P1

or visit our web site at www.rpsc.org

Mention this ad & receive a \$5.00 discount on new memberships only

Support the Advertisers of BNA Topics

Helping us obtain the stamps and covers we collect

SPARKS

★ AUCTIONS

TED KERZNER'S SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS OF CANADA



Lot 3249 SUTTON QUE. realized \$1,500



Lot 3330 FORMOSA ONT.
realized \$525



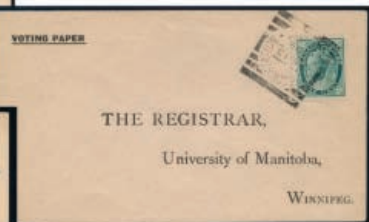
Lot 3230 RICHMOND QUE realized \$625



Lot 3203 GRANBY QUE realized \$1,150



Lot 3257 ACTON ONT realized \$2,100



Lot 3633 MCGREGOR STATION MAN.
realized \$300

Sparks Auctions
1550 Carling Avenue, Suite 202,
Ottawa, ON, K1Z 8S8
tel (toll free): 1-844-252-2032
email: info@sparks-auctions.com

www.sparks-auctions.com

Public Auction June 17, 2017

British North America

Canada from Pence Issues to Back of Book

Including Specialized 1897 Diamond Jubilee



Newfoundland #16 1p red brown
superb mint OG
1951 PF & 1991 Greene certs.



Newfoundland #9
1sh scarlet vermilion
unused; 1977 RPSSL cert.



Canada #13 6p Consort,
perf 11% mint OG;
1975 BPA & 2014 Greene certs.
ex. Ferrary, Glassco, Hewitt



Nova Scotia #6 1sh reddish violet,
superb used; signed by three experts.
ex. Kanai



Canada #27b 6c Large Queen
on watermarked Bothwell paper,
with Kingston '9' cancel



Canada MR2Bi 5c
Inland Revenue War Tax,
outstanding mint NH



Canada 3c Jubilee die proof with ABNC
imprint below; a rare initial stage proof



Eastern Auctions Ltd.

P.O. Box 250 - Bathurst - New Brunswick - E2A 3Z2 - Canada

Telephone 1(800) 667-8267 - Fax 1(888) 867-8267

email easternauctions@nb.aibn.com - website www.easternauctions.com

British Columbia
Featuring the Hugh Westgate Collection
Postage Stamps, Postal Markings, Postal History
during Colonial and Post Confederation Periods

Contact us
 today for your
 complimentary
 catalogue



1860 2½p bright orange rose, imperforate, superlative example among a very small number still retaining full OG; 1983 BPA cert. ex. Glassco (1945), "Provenance" (1983)



1860 2½p bright orange rose, imperforate, an extraordinary example which once graced the famous Gerald Wellburn collection



1860 2½p dull orange rose, imperforate, full margined example with rare SPECIMEN handstamp



1871-1872 Wells, Fargo & Co. Victoria, V.I. printed frank paste-up envelope with impressive 6 cent Large Queen franking

1862 Envelope with impressive BC & US postal franking from New Westminster, via San Francisco to Upper Canada; ex. Wellburn



A new re-entry plate position found for the Half Pence, Unitrade #8

Michael D. Smith

ON a trip up to ORAPEX 2015, a group of collectors made a visit to the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation where we met many of the staff and were shown much of the equipment used in the process of examining stamps. It was a very pleasant visit.

One of the collectors present brought some very nice proof sheets to share, and one that I never thought I would see was presented, a full sheet of the 120-position proof on the 1/2d issue of 1857. The sheet is overprinted “SPECIMEN” so some detail on the stamps is hidden by the overprint.

Dr Jim Watt and I examined the first two columns of the sheet as we had often wondered what might exist there as a re-entry or plate flaw. At position 26 we found a very nice re-entry (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Position 26, very nice re-entry. The arrows above point to position 26.



Figure 2. Plate proof block of six with imprint. The arrows above point to position 26.



Figure 3. Vertical pair; the top stamp is position 26.

I was able to acquire a plate proof block of six with imprint that shows the full detail of the re-entry (Figure 2). I also acquired a used vertical pair with the top stamp at position 26 (Figure 3), confirming that the re-entry was not corrected prior to printing of the stamps.

Keywords & phrases: Pence Issue, re-entry, plating

Here are close-ups of the re-entered proof and the actual stamp for comparison (Figures 4 and 5). The arrows point out some of the details.

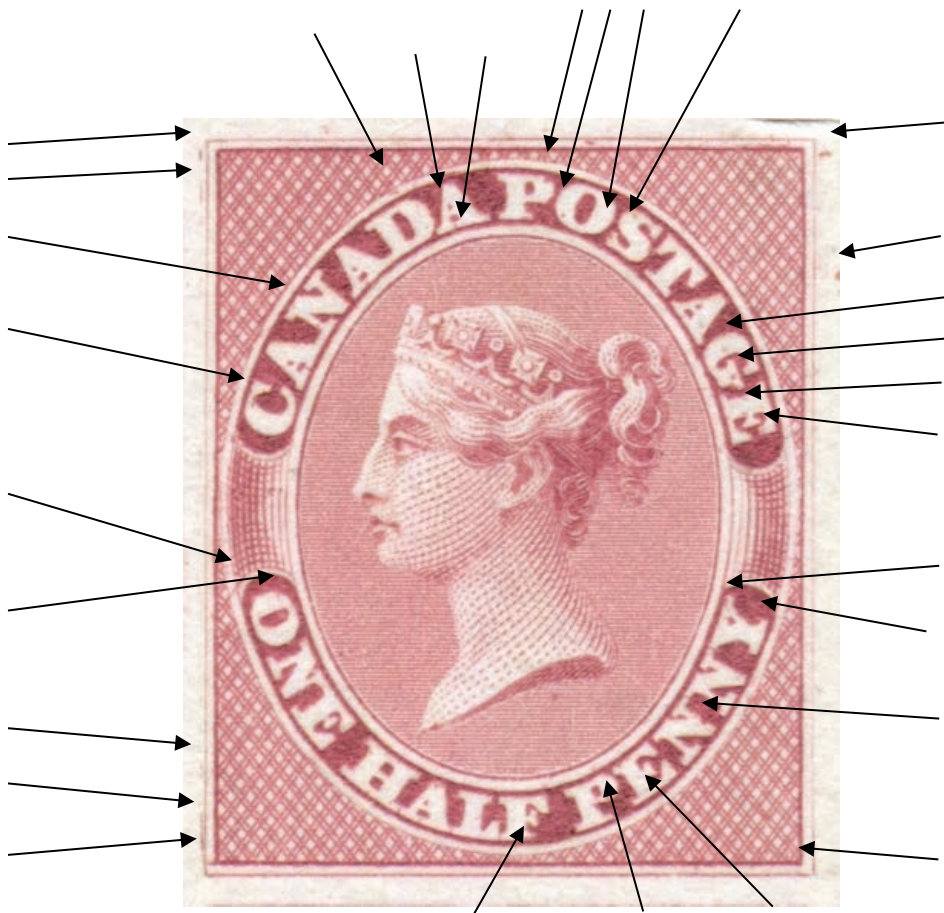


Figure 4. Close-ups of the re-entered proof.

By looking for the characteristics marked by arrows in the proof image, you can look for the same features on this used copy. As usual with these stamps, the paper texture affects the crispness of the re-entry detail but it is present.

This re-entry shares a trait with the major re-entry at position 120, as both have a line in the bottom of the “E” of PENNY. The major re-entry is much stronger and shows different characteristics than the re-entry at position 26.

Could other copies be out there misidentified as the major re-entry? It is interesting—this one, to my knowledge, has never been reported.



Figure 5. Close-ups of the actual stamp.

References and endnotes

- [1] Jarrett, Fred, *Stamps of British North America*, WR Phillips & Co, Toronto, 1929, (Reprinted Quarterman Publications, Inc., Lawrence, MA, 1975).
- [2] Fred Jarrett references the re-entry on page 21. "Re-entries and Other Varieties": "Plate Position 26. Doubling of "PE" and doubling of left frame line at bottom; other letters show doubling and there is a stroke of colour above the last "A" of CANADA."
- [3] *Dots and Scratches*, The Newsletter of the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group (BNAPS), Volume 3, No 1, Whole No 7, 9 January 2016.

Canada—Little-known facts of WWII

Part V: Paper as a munition of war

John Burnett, OTB

THIS little-known fact of WWII is such simply because it has never caught the eye of the collector. To date I have only been able to find one serious piece written on the subject—Bill Pekonen’s 1995 monograph entitled “Canada Re-Use Labels and Envelopes” [1] (copyrighted by the author). I must give him credit for much of the technical information included in this article.

At the outbreak of WWII in 1939, Canada saw fully ten percent of her young people volunteer for war service, putting a crimp in her labour force.

Canada is a vast country, endowed with one of the world’s largest supplies of natural resources, including the soft wood required for the pulp and paper industry. Between 1939 and early 1942, Canada saw a massive ramp-up in the manufacturing requirements to supply finished goods to Great Britain. In addition, demand for paper was increasing exponentially as there was a tremendous growth in business correspondence, military reporting, communication requirements, and letters to and from servicemen in the field. The US was Canada’s largest customer for paper, and its demand for newspaper continued to increase.

Adding to the woes was the fact that paper production is a very large user of electricity, and with the increases in manufacturing, the amount of electricity available for paper production was being curtailed. Over one-third of the electrical energy produced in Canada was diverted to the production of equipment, munitions, and other war-related demands.¹

By early 1943, Canada had introduced restrictions on the manufacture of paper and the paper supply issue became critical in mid-1943. To help the reader understand how much paper was used, I extracted this data from Pekonen’s monograph.

In 1939, Canada produced 3,600,502 tons of writing, book, and wrapping paper, and another 3,000,000 tons of newsprint. By 1942, that had grown to 4,231,767 tons of writing, book, and wrapping paper. Added to that at least 3,000,000 tons of newsprint paper, a nine percent increase in production. This increase in production was accomplished even with a shortage of electrical power and a significant reduction in manpower due to war service. To put this into more understandable terms, there are 200,000 letter-sized sheets of 20 lb. paper per tonne.¹

The introduction of Re-Use labels was intended to encourage the re-use of envelopes, resulting in savings of paper.

Figures 1 and 2 show the front and back of one such label used properly in one of two ways the label could be used. The preferred way was to cover the previous address and not just scratch it off with a pencil or pen. The way my example has been used, shows the other

Keywords & phrases: WWII, military, postal markings, covers

side of the envelope used for the new address and the top quarter of the label was used to re-seal the envelope where it had been carefully opened along the top.

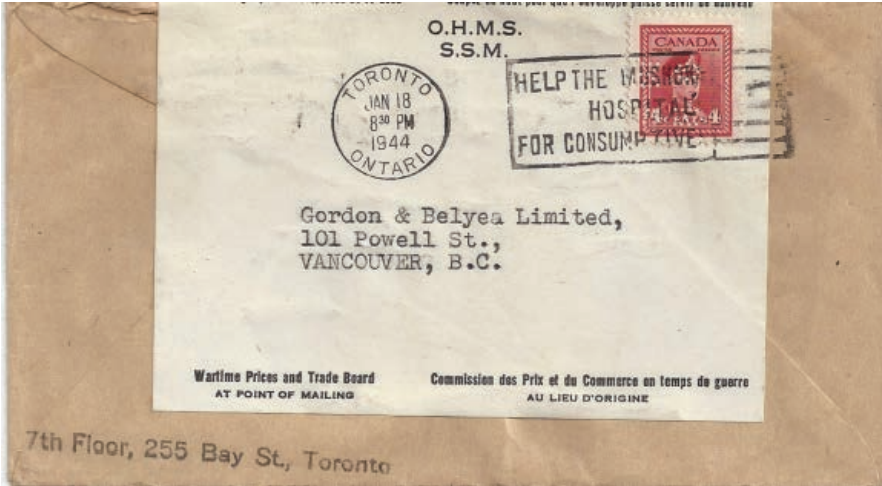


Figure 1. The Re-Use label applied as a seal for the envelope and a new address applied.

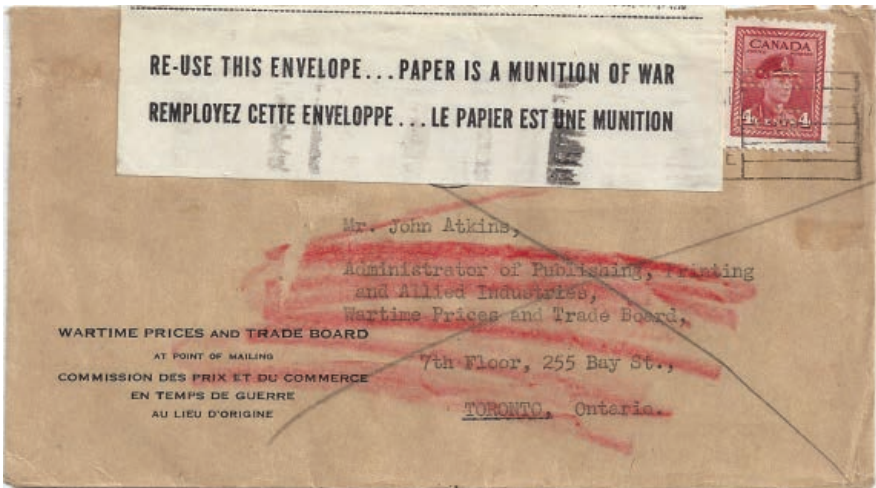


Figure 2. The front of the envelope with the top quarter of the seal used to re-seal the envelope and the original address scratched out.

Here's where the collectability of these labels comes in. Bill Pekonen lists thirty-seven different imprints on the labels and ten distinctive sizes of label. Simple arithmetic says therefore that there are 3,700 collectable labels out there to find!

Figures 3 and 4 show two more examples of what Pekonen refers to as economy labels, smaller in size but, again, with lots of distinctive markings on the labels.



Figure 3. A larger-sized label with a complex part-number. Evidence of this envelope having been used before shown by the remnants of previous label and stamp.



Figure 4. A smaller label on a first-time use envelope. This label has a very simple part number.

Both envelope shown in Figures 3 and 4 were used after WWII. In fact, Bill told me that these re-use stickers are still in use today by some government offices in Canada.


Despite the fact that many millions of labels must have been printed, covers which include them are not commonly found [1]. In his monograph, Pekonen noted that only two mint labels had been found at the time of his writing. If that statement continues to be true, then they are extremely rare. There were other attempts made to force conservation of paper, including slogan cancels about conservation, and the use of scrap paper to make envelopes, subjects outside the scope of this short article.

The Pekonen monograph runs over one hundred and forty-five pages, with probably one hundred and twenty pages of illustrations of the differences Bill was able to identify. I note in

my examples that most of the items I have in my collection are used by government offices, and many utilize perfined stamps. This adds a whole new dimension to collecting these labels.

References and endnotes

[1] Pekonen, Bill, *Canada Re-use Labels and Envelopes*, self-published, 1995.



**A warm welcome to
The Canadian Philatelic Society
of Great Britain**

Founded 70 years ago to promote and study all aspects of philately in British North America (Canada and its Provinces), the Society offers its members:-

- A quarterly award-winning full colour magazine, 'Maple Leaves'
- Auctions each year with many hundreds of lots
- An extensive library of published books and articles
- Exchange packet
- Subscriptions payable in local currency

For more information or membership details visit our website at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk or write to the Secretary: John Watson, Lyngarth, 106 Huddersfield Road, Penistone, South Yorks S36 7BX

Our 2017 Convention will be in Grantown-on-Spey in Highland Scotland from October 4th to 8th.
www.canadianpsgb.org.uk

CANADIAN COIN NEWS PRESENTS
and
CANADIAN STAMP NEWS

NATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP AND COIN SHOW

SPRING SHOW: March 25 & 26, 2017
FALL SHOW: October 28 & 29, 2017

HOURS: Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	ADMISSION: Sat: \$3.00 Sun: FREE	LOCATION: Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale 6750 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Ont.
---	---	--

PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC DEALERS SELLING AND BUYING.
Canadian and world stamps, first-day covers, post cards, Canadian and foreign coins and banknotes, RCM collector coins, medals, tokens, gold and silver, coin and stamp supplies, militaria and other collectibles.

DAILY DOOR PRIZES | SEMINARS | FREE PARKING

For show updates, visit www.stampandcoinshow.com
Email: info@trajan.ca Please contact us: 1-800-408-0352




BNAPS Book release notes

BNAPS has released three new handbooks since the last issue of *BNA Topics* went to press, the ninety-second volume in the BNAPS Exhibit Series, a reprint of an important but long out-of-print postal history book, and the last volume in the International machine cancellations trio. All are available through our agent, Sparks Auctions.

Québec 1763-1867, One Century of Postal History and Postmarks, Un Siècle d'Histoire Postale et de Marcophilie by Grégoire Teyssier. The definitive study of the postmarks of Quebec City up to the time of Confederation, and the first BNAPS exhibit book with an English translation on the pages opposite the French originals. 2017. Spiral bound, 344 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-77-8. BNAPS Exhibit Series No 93. Stock # B4h923-093-1. C\$105.



Grégoire Teyssier's *Québec 1763-1867* exhibit illustrates the different postmarks and cancellations used by the Quebec City Main Post Office and the Government of Canada, from the beginning of the Postal Service in June-July 1763 to Confederation in 1867. The associated postal history of the city—rates, rules, routes—is explained when necessary. The material is presented chronologically, with an English translation on the pages opposite the French originals. The quality of the exhibit was recognized at BNAPEX 2016 FREDERICTON where it won Gold and the Horace Harrison Grand Award

Born in France, Grégoire Teyssier began collecting stamps when he was eleven years old. At fourteen, he plunged into postal history, starting with the postal history of France. On arrival in Quebec in 1980 at the age of fifteen, he found Quebec postal history fascinating and began to collect it. He has written more than fifty articles in French for journals such as *Le Bulletin de la SHPQ*, *Philatélie Québec*, and *The Canadian Philatelist* and, with his friend Marc Beaupré, he published *Initiation aux marques postales du Québec (Introduction to Quebec Postal Marks)*.



Emerging Saskatchewan: The Postal History of Territorial Assiniboia 1882-1905 by Donald W Thompson and Norman E Wagner. The limited printing 2004 original edition has been digitally scanned and reprinted in 2017 to make the information available to a larger audience. 2017 Spiral bound, 342 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour and black and white. ISBN: 978-1-927119-76-1. Stock # B4h087-1. C\$82.

In 2003, Donald Thompson and Norman Wagner published a very small number of copies of *Emerging Saskatchewan: The Postal History of Territorial Assiniboia 1882-1905*, intending to gather new information generated by the book and to produce an updated edition in 2006 or 2007. Unfortunately this did not happen due to Norm Wagner's passing in December 2004 and Don Thompson's illness. The book features two hundred and eighteen pages of very detailed information on all post offices known in Territorial Assiniboia before it was absorbed into Saskatchewan and Alberta when they became provinces of Canada in 1905, as well as over one hundred and twenty pages of supporting material.

Born on 3 March 1927 in Saskatoon, Don Thompson grew up in Zealandia, Saskatchewan. After completing his MD at the University of Toronto, followed by residencies at hospitals in Regina and Calgary and training and teaching at Harvard Medical School, he became Head of Pathology at Toronto General Hospital and taught medicine for more than

twenty-five years at the University of Toronto. Don's keen interest in history was sparked by documents relating to his ancestors' involvement in the colonization of Connecticut, Long Island, and New Jersey from the mid-1600s, and Loyalist settlements in New Brunswick and Ontario in the 1780s. He assembled a noteworthy collection of documents relating to the Hudson's Bay Company and North West Company fur trade, the Red River Settlement, the first and second Riel Rebellions, and pioneer activity in the Canadian West.

Born in Edenwold, Saskatchewan in 1935, Norm Wagner spent his early years in Edenwold, Abernethy, and on the family homestead on the outskirts of Regina. His ancestors on both sides of the family came to Assiniboia in the 1880s. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Toronto in Ancient Near Eastern languages, literature, and history and spent time as an archaeologist in the Near East and in Ontario. Norm created and expanded the highly successful Wilfrid Laurier University Press. After a number of years as a faculty member in Ontario, he returned to Western Canada as President of the University of Calgary. A collector for more than sixty years, Norm was a member of BNAPS for over thirty years. He had one of the largest collections of Canadian precancels and made significant contributions to the published research of Canadian precancels. Other collections included an extensive Canadian perfins collection, early BNA used stamps, and BNA postal history related to Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, again sparked by some finds from his ancestral relatives. He also applied analytic research methodologies to understanding the mysteries of Canada's origins through its postal history. In 2002, he and members of his family founded Auxano Philatelic Services Inc., which published BNAPS books until his passing in December 2004.

International Rapid Cancelling Machines Volume 3 – Quebec, the Maritimes and Newfoundland by Cecil Coutts. The third of three volumes detailing the use of International Machines to cancel Canadian mail, with many contemporary examples. 2017. Spiral bound, 124 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-73-1. Stock # B4h088-1. C\$59.



In the almost thirty-five years since David Sessions' *Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada* was published, a considerable amount of new early/late postmark dates and other data have been reported. In this, the third of three new handbooks, Cec Coutts has completely updated the International machines portion of David's work, covering Quebec, the Maritimes, and Newfoundland. Included is a special section on the Montreal Postage Due International cancellation, unknown when David Sessions' book was published. All data for each town or city with an International machine is presented in table form. On their own, they would not take many pages, but Cec has added many covers illustrating line and Flag cancellations for the locations that had Flags, as well as contemporary post cards – almost all in colour—of virtually every town or city, providing a most interesting view of the 1902-1920 period. The first volume, *Western Canada*, was published in August 2016, and the second volume, *Ontario*, was published in December 2016.

Cec Coutts was born in Meeting Creek, Alberta, in 1932. The Depression led the family to move to BC. After graduating in 1950 from King George High School in Vancouver, he joined the RCMP. A thirty-five-year career with the Mounties was served in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. His stamp collecting days go back to 1954 while he was stationed in Saskatoon. Cec is also the author of three editions of *Slogan Postmarks of Canada* and two editions of *The Handbook of Air Mail Slogan Cancels of Canada*, both also now published

by BNAPS, as well as *Canada Blackout Postal Markings 1942-1945*, the eighty-fourth book in the BNAPS Exhibit Series.

BNAPS books are available from Sparks Auctions, 1550 Carling Avenue, Suite 202, Ottawa, ON K1Z 8S8, Canada. Email: <BNAPS@sparks-auctions.com>. Phone: (613) 567-3336. (If no answer, please leave a voicemail. Your call will be returned.) Internet orders can be placed at <http://sparks-auctions.com/bnapsbooks/>. Prices given above are the retail prices in Canadian Dollars. BNAPS members receive a forty percent discount from retail prices. Shipping is extra. Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard) will be billed for the exact amount of shipping, plus \$2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order, please contact Sparks Auctions in advance. Applicable taxes will be charged on orders delivered in Canada.



Canada Stamp Finder

Specialist in Rare Stamps of Canada and the Provinces

CSDA, RPSC, BNAPS, APS, ASDA, NSDA, PSSC, CCNY, RPSL, CPS of GB, PTS & IFSDA.



Canada Scott #120a DP **50c Black Admiral**

Large engraved die proof die sunk on india paper (60 x 73mm) on large card (127 x 167mm) in black (colour of first issue), from the original die with American Bank Note imprint and no die number, Very Fine and Extremely Rare.

Net: \$3,950.00 CAD

Your Want List Specialist for Unique, Elusive or High Quality Stamps of Canada or the Provinces. A Boutique approach to Philately for the discerning and advanced collector. Call us today!!! Buying or Selling!!!



Ms. Maxime Stephanie Herold


P.O. Box 92591, Brampton Mall, Brampton, ON, L6W 4R1

Tel: + (905) 488-6109 • Fax: +1 (323) 315-2635

Mobile: +1 (514) 238-5751 • Toll Free: 1 (877) 412-3106

Email: canadastampfinder@gmail.com • www.canadastampfinder.com





La Société d'Histoire Postale du Québec

(The Postal History Society of Québec)

invites applications for membership

The SHPQ publishes (*en français*) an award-winning quarterly journal.

Sec'y Christine Faucher, 265 du Chalutier #306, Québec QC G1K 8R3

chrisjac@megaquebec.net

www.shpq.org



BNAPEX 2017 Calgary

Please join us in Calgary from 1-3 September 2017 for the 69th annual Convention of BNAPS. The convention will enable you to renew acquaintances that you made in Fredericton at BNAPEX 2016. The convention will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation and will be held at the downtown Hyatt hotel.

In addition to the show, exhibits, and Study Group meetings, there will be plenty to do in Calgary. We invite you to see some of the many attractions in town such as the new National Music Centre, the zoo, the science centre, the Glenbow Museum, and many other local places of interest.

If your desire is to go further afield, travel an hour west to visit Banff and the Rocky Mountains, walk on a Glacier at the Columbia Icefields; or travel ninety minutes east to the Royal Tyrell Museum and see the dinosaurs; or travel to the south to visit Waterton Park, Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump, or the Star Trek museum in Vulcan.

So please make it a date—1-3 September 2017—to have an adventure in Calgary and to enjoy some western hospitality.

New issues

William J F Wilson

Mathieu Da Costa

THIS year's Black History stamp commemorates Mathieu Da Costa (Figure 1), a person about whom very little is known. He is, nevertheless, historically significant. This is in part because he may have been the first black person to have set foot in what is now Canada, or at least the first of whom we have a record. But there is more.



Figure 1. Mathieu Da Costa.

Brunswick. The winter was harsh and long, and more than half of the people died of scurvy. In response, in 1605 Dugua moved the colony to Port-Royal in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley.

Other countries, however, were also interested in the fur trade, and they weren't overly inclined to respect a French monopoly. Among these countries was the Netherlands. In the spring of 1606, seven Amsterdam merchants joined with Captain Hendrick Lonck to form a fur-trading company. They also chartered the *Witte Leeuw* (White Lion), a three hundred and twenty ton merchant ship, and armed it heavily. Dugua had a fleet of four ships and, in July or August 1606, while trading for furs along the St Lawrence, the *Witte Leeuw*, under Captain Lonck, encountered two of Dugua's ships near Tadoussac. Dugua's ships were no match for the *Witte Leeuw*, and the Dutch relieved the French ships not only of their furs but also of their cannons, cannon mounts, and munitions. This in itself was a heavy blow to Dugua; but, in addition, the Amsterdam merchants pressured Henri IV to end Dugua's monopoly and restore free trade. At Dutch instigation, Brittany and Normandy did the same, and the Parisian hatters joined in. (The latter were upset at paying higher prices for pelts to make beaver hats under the monopoly than under free trade.) In response, Dugua's monopoly was revoked in 1607, resulting in the breakup of his company and the return of the settlers to France. Two people of Dugua's company petitioned the king to reinstate the monopoly, which he did for one year in 1608 as compensation for Dugua's losses, and then the monopoly ended.

The story as we know it begins in 1603, when King Henri IV of France granted Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons, a ten-year monopoly on the fur trade in New France [1]. In return, Dugua was required to establish a colony in New France, and to transport sixty settlers there per year. Dugua set sail from France on 9 April 1604 with at least one hundred and seventy men (of whom about sixty colonists stayed for the winter) and an unpaid volunteer named Samuel Champlain. After a few weeks of exploring, they built a settlement on St Croix Island near the mouth of the St Croix River, between Maine and New

Dugua decided to remain in France to protect his interests, but his commitment to the colonization of New France remained firm and, in 1608, he sent Champlain to establish a new settlement. The result was the founding of Quebec, about 200 km upstream from Tadoussac. (The information in this and the preceding paragraph is primarily from Kupp [2].)

Now, how does Mathieu Da Costa fit into this story? In February 1607, Dugua sent his secretary, Jean Ralluau (a lawyer), to Amsterdam to protest Lonck's seizure of Dugua's ships. The Dutch records state that he was accompanied by "een Swart genamd Matheu" (a dark man named Matheu) [3]. The same person is also called Matheus de Cost and similar names in the Dutch records, and Mathieu de Coste in French records. The latter also refer to him as "naigre," which might mean either "black" or "mixed race." One source [3] writes: "Implied but not stated was that Da Costa had been working as an interpreter, or had contracted to do so, when Dutch interests had intervened. One might conclude that Da Costa had been involved in the Dugua's trading activities along the St Lawrence River, but that is not clarified." Events then took an unexpected turn. Records indicate that in 1607 the Dutch company was preparing to return to Canada and, when Ralluau returned to France, Da Costa either went over to the Dutch or was kidnapped [2, 3]. Ralluau, evidently considering this to be a serious loss, returned in haste to Holland, but he was unable to secure Da Costa's return [2]. What Da Costa did for the rest of 1607 is unknown, however, as it appears that the Dutch company did not sail after all.

The next three records of Da Costa's whereabouts are as follows: In May 1608, while in Amsterdam, he signed a three-year contract to sail with or on behalf of Dugua as an interpreter "*pour les voyages de Canada, Cadie et ailleurs*" at an annual salary of sixty crowns, or about one hundred and ninety-five *livres* [3]. ("Cadie" is Acadia, and "Canada" refers to the lands along the St. Lawrence. Note also that "*les voyages*" is plural.) This was a good salary [3]. For comparison, on Champlain's 1608 voyage, a tailor received an annual salary of sixty *livres*, and a maker of edging tools received one hundred and fifty *livres*. Da Costa's contract was to begin in January 1609, but a record in the spring of 1609 places him in Rouen. In the next (and last) record that we have, he is imprisoned in Le Havre in December 1609 for "insolences." What the "insolences" were is not stated but, given the attitudes of the day, it may just show that he had an independent and outspoken spirit [3]. No record has been found to show whether or not he was able to make a voyage to New France in the summer of 1609.

Da Costa's name occurs again in court cases that dragged on for the next ten years, but these were brought by the French to recover expenses incurred in retrieving him from the Dutch, plus some later expenses. Da Costa himself does not appear to have been involved. "Whether he had gone on to work for Dugua de Mons or for others, or had disappeared without a trace, or had died, was not mentioned in these court cases [3]."

That's all we have. Even if we could somehow know that he did visit New France as an interpreter, it tells us nothing about where he came from, who he was, or how he developed his skill at languages. A look at the conditions of the day, however, suggests a couple of possibilities. (A thorough and interesting discussion can be found in [3], from which this information is taken.)

During the fifteenth century, Portuguese sailors explored farther and farther south along the African coast, reaching the Gold Coast (now Ghana) in 1470. Over time, they built up a lucrative enterprise trading for African gold, pepper, other commodities, and (with tragic

consequences) slaves. Initially, there would have been no common language. However, in coastal areas where trading took place, a makeshift language, often called a pidgin, soon developed that used both Portuguese and African vocabulary. As time passed and more people spoke it, it gradually evolved into a fully-fledged language known as a creole.

Generally, the Portuguese were not interested in learning either the African languages or the new creole, nor were the Dutch, English, and French who came later. Instead, they hired Africans as their interpreters. As a result, a specialized and highly valued kind of individual emerged known as a *grumete*—an African who was knowledgeable in creole, various African languages, Portuguese, and often other European languages. Many also played active roles in trading, and they sometimes helped navigate ships along the African coast. Another group that developed, known by the Portuguese as *lançados*, consisted of Portuguese men (and, later, other European men) who lived among the Africans in the principal trading posts. These men often took African wives, so their descendants were Euro-African. They (the descendants) had Portuguese first names and family names and dressed in European style. Being knowledgeable in the languages, cultural traditions, and business approaches of both sides, they were ideally suited to manage trade deals between Europeans and Africans. In the case of both the *grumetes* and the Euro-African descendants of *lançados*, knowledge was passed down from generation to generation and was kept as a close family secret to reduce competition.

Mathieu Da Costa was African or Euro-African, and he was skilled in languages. It is quite possible therefore that he was either a *grumete* or a descendant of a *lançado*.

Did Da Costa actually set foot in Canada? (The ideas in this and the next two paragraphs are adapted from [3].) The historical record is silent on this point, but it is quite possible that he did fulfill his 1608 contract by sailing with Champlain or someone else. We also know that, by early 1607, he was already regarded by the French and the Dutch as a valuable interpreter for voyages to New France—so much so that the Dutch were willing to steal him from the French, and the French were willing to go to great lengths to get him back. This suggests (but does not prove) that he had sailed with them before, perhaps with Dugua at St Croix and Port Royal or with the Dutch on the *Witte Leeuw*.

If he did visit Canada, was he the first black person to do so? Fur trading in the sixteenth century was done primarily by fishing and whaling crews to augment their income. Rather than learn new languages themselves, some may have brought a *grumete* or a Euro-African descendant of a *lançado* with them—a person with the skill needed to learn new languages quickly. Thus, in the hundred years between first contact and Da Costa's time, there may well have been others; we simply have no record of them.

Finally, what would make Mathieu Da Costa a good subject for a stamp, when we know almost nothing about him with any certainty? One answer is that he may indeed have been the first black person to have reached what today is Canada, or at least the first of whom we have a record. However, another is that, even if, in the end, he never did travel to Canada, he symbolizes others who very likely did. These interpreters did more than just interpret. Rather than the two parties trying to negotiate while the interpreter translated, it was more efficient for the interpreter to do the negotiating. This required skill not only at negotiating, but also at keeping the bargaining process friendly. A trading session that turned ugly could not only ruin the deal but also cost lives on both sides. Thus, Da Costa and/or other people like him could

have made a significant contribution to maintaining peaceful relations between the native peoples of New France and the newcomers from Europe.

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

- [1] Jean-Yves Grenon, "Pierre Dugua de Mons : Lieutenant General of New France," in *Champlain: The Birth of French America*, Raymonde Litalien and Denis Vaugeois, eds., McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004, pp 143-150.
- [2] Theodore J Kupp, "Quelques aspects de la dissolution de la Compagnie de M. de Monts, 1607," *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, Vol 24, No 3 (décembre 1970), pp 357-374 (in French).
- [3] AJB Johnston, *Mathieu Da Costa and Early Canada: possibilities and probabilities*, Parks Canada, Halifax. (The year of writing is unspecified; the latest reference quoted in the paper is for the year 2000.) Available online at <<http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/portroyal/edu/edu1f.aspx>> (or search the Web for the article title and select the choice that contains this URL).

Abbreviations for Table 1 (next page):

*number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; AD = Avery Dennison paper; Bk = booklet; C = Tullis Russell Coatings (coated paper); CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company; CI = Colour Innovations; G*number*S = general tagging (*number of sides*); L-M = Lowe-Martin; P = permanently equal to the domestic rate; P-S = pressure-sensitive; PVA = polyvinyl alcohol; SH = sheet stamps; s-t = se-tenant; SS = souvenir sheet.

Footnotes for Table 1:

- (a) A: SH 25 × P (4CL + 1 foil stamping); B: Bk 10×P (4CL); C: Bk 6 × \$2.50 (4CL + 1 foil stamping); D: SS 1 × \$2.50 (4CL + 1 foil stamping); E: Transitional SS with one \$2.50 Rooster stamp from 2017 (4CL + 1 foil stamping) and one \$2.50 Monkey stamp from 2016 (7CL + embossing + 1 foil stamping).
- (b) Number of booklets, or souvenir sheets.
- (c) One tagging bar contains the words "CANADA 150".
- (d) The Year of the Rooster permanent stamp sheet is printed with the stamps in four different orientations, intermeshed: upright, inverted, and sideways with the top to the left and top to the right. If the sheet is positioned with the corner stamps upright, then the perforations are 12.5 horizontally and 13.1 vertically. The different stamp orientations then produce two perforation varieties for the stamps: 12.5 × 13.1 (20 × 21 teeth) and 13.1 × 12.5 (21 × 20 teeth).
- (e) Intermeshed "Canada" on back.
- (f) The kiosk stamps were first sold on 31 October 2016 in kiosk machines in Vancouver, but they were not announced and made available nationally (P stamps only) through the Philatelic Service until the January 2017 issue of the *Details* booklet. Lowe-Martin prints the stamps (4CL + 1 metallic ink) on Avery Dennison paper in strips with five different designs, without denomination. These are then loaded into the kiosk machines, and the machine places the

selected denomination and a fourteen-number code on the stamps by direct thermal printing at the time of purchase. As a result, each denomination occurs with the same five designs.

Table 1. 2017 Commemoratives and Definitives

Stamp	Year of the Rooster	UNESCO World Heritage Sites	Kiosk Stamps	Mathieu Da Costa	Canadian Opera
Value	P, \$2.50	5 × P (s-t on SS)	P, \$1.20, \$1.80, \$2.50 ^(f)	P	5 × P (s-t on SS)
Issued	9 Jan	16 Jan	31 Oct ^(f)	1 Feb	4 Feb
Printer	L-M	CBN	L-M	CBN	CI
Pane	A,B,C,D,E: ^(a)	Bk: ^(c) 10, 30 SS: 5	Strip of 5	Bk: 10	Bk: 10
Paper	C	C	AD	C	C
Process	A,B,C,D,E: ^(a)	4CL	^(f)	5CL	6CL
Qty (1000s)	A: 80 B: 270 ^(b) C: 100 ^(b) D: 200 ^(b) E: 100 ^(b)	Bk: Continuous SS: 100 ^(b)	Continuous	140 ^(b)	Bk: 130 ^(b) SS: 100 ^(b)
Tag	P: G4S ^(c) \$2.50: G3S ^(c)	G4S	G1S	G4S	Operas: G3S ^(c) Singers: G2S ^(c)
Gum	SH, SS: PVA Bk: P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S	P-S	P-S	SS: PVA Bk: P-S
Size, mm	32 × 32	24 × 20	55 × 24	33 × 25	32 × 32
Perf	SH: ^(d) SS: 12.5 × 12.5 Bk: Simulated	SS: 13.3 × 13.0 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	Simulated	SS: 12.5 × 12.5 Bk: Simulated
Teeth	SH: ^(d) SS: 20 × 20 Bk: Simulated	SS: 16 × 13 Bk: Simulated	Simulated	Simulated	SS: 20 × 20 Bk: Simulated

Readers write (continued from pg. 5)

continued re Gilbert article, *BNA Topics* 2016Q4:



Norris Dyer added: I had a sock-on-the-nose postmark of 28 10 33, as the earliest known use of a line perforated Gilbert. Based on the email from a Klaus Welt showing the cover above with a 7 OC 33 postmark, it means the second printing that included all the line perfs was no later than this date.

The “St. John’s East” Post Office. *David Piercey writes.* Since completing the article (part 1 1Q2017) I have found a photograph (Figure 1) in the Newfoundland Provincial Archives of what may depict the inside of the East End Post Office. Identified by the Archives only as “two women working in a post office”, there are enough defining characteristics that seem to indicate the picture is of Miss Jessie Bulley and perhaps Miss Frances Meehan, sometime after the Post Office moved to new quarters in the Waverley Hotel, and after Miss Meehan had been hired as the assistant. This would date the photograph to between late 1906 and about 1912. The photograph clearly shows a money order wicket and a stamp wicket in fairly substantial, well-constructed room; a safe and a work table; post boxes; and what appears to be electric lighting for the room. The younger of the two women is holding a postmarking device, and there are additional postmarking devices lying on the table. I am unaware of any other Post Office, including among those in the outports, which had two women working in such similar accommodations



Figure 1. The Rooms Provincial Archives Division, B14-26, Two women working in a post office [ca. 1890]. Provincial Archives photograph collection. Published with permission.

**Participate in BNAPS
Study Groups and Regional Groups**

BNAPS Book Department

c/o Sparks Auctions

1550 Carling Avenue, Suite 202, Ottawa, ON K1Z 8S8

(613) 567-3336. (If no answer, please leave a voicemail. Your call will be returned.)

BNAPS@sparks-auctions.com



Sparks Auctions is the agent for the BNAPS Book Department. Specific inquiries should go to Brian Wolfenden, who can be reached at the address above. The entire BNAPS book inventory can be viewed on the Internet at: <http://sparks-auctions.com/bnapsbooks/>

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

New Titles

C\$ Retail

	<p><i>Québec 1763-1867, One Century of Postal History and Postmarks, Un Siècle d'Histoire Postale et de Marophilie</i> by Grégoire Teyssier. The definitive study of the postmarks of Quebec City up to the time of Confederation, and the first BNAPS exhibit book with an English translation on the pages opposite the French originals. 2017, spiral bound, 344 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-77-8. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 93. Stock # B4h923-093-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$105.00</p>
	<p><i>Emerging Saskatchewan: The Postal History of Territorial Assiniboia 1882-1905</i> by Donald W. Thompson and Norman E. Wagner. The limited printing 2004 original edition, digitally scanned and reprinted in 2017 to make the information available to a larger audience. 2017 Spiral bound, 342 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour and black and white. ISBN: 978-1-927119-76-1. Stock # B4h087-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$82.00</p>
	<p><i>International Rapid Cancelling Machines Volume 3 – Quebec, the Maritimes and Newfoundland</i> by Cecil Coutts. The third of three volumes detailing the use of International Machines to cancel Canadian mail, with many contemporary examples. 2017 Spiral bound, 124 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-73-1. Stock # B4h088-1. C\$59.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$59.00</p>
	<p><i>Travelling Post Office Postmarks of Newfoundland & Labrador (Second Edition 2016) – A Study of the Postmark Hammers</i>, compiled by Brian Stalker, edited by Ross Gray. The Second Edition, completely reformatted using new listing numbers, incorporates around 300 updates since publication of the First Edition. 2016, spiral bound, 136 pages, 8.5×11, black and white with some colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-74-7. Stock # B4h084-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$47.00</p>
	<p><i>Travelling Post Office Postmarks of Newfoundland & Labrador Compendium of Related Information</i>, compiled by Brian Stalker, edited by Ross Gray. The Compendium summarises twenty years of research and will aid anyone wishing to identify the routes taken, the vessels and the mail officers who handled mail to and from outports around Newfoundland and Labrador's coastlines. 2016, spiral bound, 388 pages, 8.5 × 11, black and white with some colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-75-4. Stock # B4h085-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$78.00</p>

Pricing

BNAPS Books are published with only a Canadian retail price shown. BNAPS members receive a forty percent (40%) discount from this price. There are three reasons for doing this. We want to have greater market penetration outside traditional BNAPS venues. Showing only retail prices helps in this effort. Secondly, with the fluidity of currency markets, quoting US\$ prices can lead to inequities either for BNAPS or the purchaser. Finally, quoting only one price reduces the likelihood of mistakes.

More New Titles (See website for complete list) C\$ Retail

	<p><i>International Rapid Cancelling Machines Volume 2 - Ontario</i>, by Cecil Coutts. The second of three volumes detailing the use of International Machines to cancel Canadian mail, with many contemporary examples. 2016, spiral bound, 164 pages, 8.5×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-62-4. Stock # B4h082-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$68.00</p>
	<p><i>The Stories of the Riel Uprising at Fort Garry and the Northwest Rebellion in Saskatchewan</i>, by Donald W. Thompson. An interesting combination of rare postal history and equally or even rarer historical documents. 2016, spiral bound, 98 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-61-7. Stock # B4h923-092-1. BNAPS Exhibit Series #92.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$52.00</p>
	<p><i>Postal History of the Great War Internment Camps in Canada</i>, by J. Michael Powell. An incredible amount of research shines light on a previously little known aspect of Canada's World War I history. 2016, spiral bound, 676 pages, 8.5×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-69-36-2. Stock # B4h083-1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$175.00</p>

New Books

Be among the first to receive new books! We will notify you by e-mail whenever a new BNAPS publication is available. Simply go to: <http://sparks-auctions.com/bnaps-books-mailing> to subscribe.

Shipping

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

Payment

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

An ordinary cover?

Robert Thorne

AN ordinary cover from the front, and most people—including me—would place it in the recycling bin. A Montreal 1961 meter that pays the printed matter rate. The window envelope does not even tell where the cover is going (Figure 1).



Figure 1. 1961 Montreal meter, paying the printed matter rate.

Well, okay, if you look very close there are a couple of marks on the bottom, but nothing special. So, why would anyone write up this cover? First: I collect machine cancellations, so there is no reason to keep this cover. No stamp, so no reason to keep it. Montreal is a very large centre, so no reason to keep it. Guess it belongs in recycling.

But, since I collect machines, I am interested in the mechanization of mail processing. Today (2016), mail has few markings—a simple Inkjet and a four state barcode on the front. The backs have a VES marking on them. Consequently, I do look at the back of covers in case there might be something different on them. Older covers do not have mechanization marks on the back, so I would not normally look at the back of a 1961 cover.

So, why did I look at the back? Well, I picked a handful of covers out of an old box in my basement and looked at them. A friend had given a talk at the BNAPS Golden Horseshoe Regional Group about mechanization and the VES marks on the back of today's covers, so I turned the handful over because there were some modern covers among them.

At least one might justify looking at the back (Figure 2).

Keywords & phrases: Rates, meters, tagging

In 1961, Canada Post was looking at finding ways to modernize its systems. The US and British systems had begun using new equipment by then, but the Postal Code was still ten years away.

Barcode on the back—wonder how it got there? Now look at the date on the front. 1961? Did barcodes even exist in 1961? A quick look on the Internet reveals that barcodes seem to have begun appearing in the 1930s. A patent existed and, circa 1961, it was in the process of being sold. Additionally, there were trials of barcodes by US railroads to identify

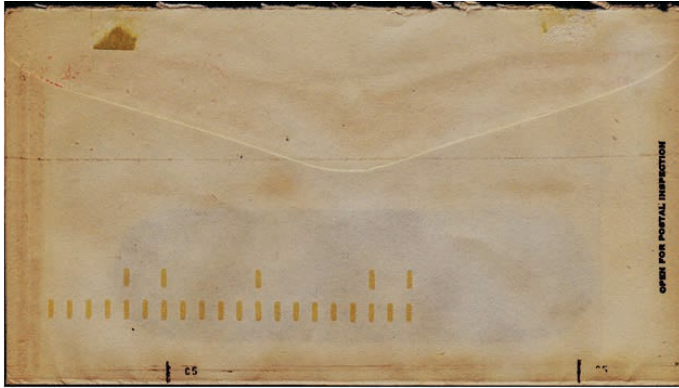


Figure 2. Back of Montreal meter with barcode on the back.

rail cars. So, other industries would have known of the potential of barcodes. Computers were also being developed at this time.

Did someone in the Canada postal system experiment with computer barcodes? At the 1957 UPU congress in Ottawa, participants were introduced to a postal sorting system developed in Canada. I

also found an article in the Canadian postal employees' magazine, *Postmark Canada*, from October 1960, outlining the project. Canadair, the forefather of Bombardier in Montreal had been given a purchase order to refurbish the sorting machine showcased in 1957, and to manufacture six coding desks. A trial was expected in about six months, i.e., sometime around March 1961. The timing is correct; the technology was available—and at least being considered. Could the barcodes result from this project? Beginning in 1971, the postal code was coded on the front, and it looks similar to the barcode on the reverse of this cover.

Next, we look at the black marks on the bottom. The order to Canadair had two parts; to refurbish the sorting machine, then to make coding desks which would have been similar to the desks used with the Transforma machine in use in Peterborough, Ontario, at the time. Bear in mind that it was during the same period that the Sefacan machine was in use in Winnipeg. This was also the time of the Burroughs sorting machine trial in Winnipeg.

If you look at covers from the early 1990s, you will find black letter/numeral marks on the reverse of many covers addressed to larger mail recipients. These appear to be similar to the black marks on the bottom of this cover, with black letter/numeral marks that seem to parallel the 1961 marks. All of these factors have led me to think that the 1961 cover is from the Canadair trial. If so, Canada took thirty years to incorporate the improvements.

Now, here's a question I have posed to myself. In the same handful of covers was one cover from the Marks Stamp Company, addressed to me. Could I have put the cover away in 1961 because it looked different?

No way; but what a story it makes.

BNAPS business and reports

President's column

Eldon Godfrey

WHAT springs into your mind when you see the abbreviation “VC”? In my case, the immediate reaction is the *Victoria Cross*, the highest award of the United Kingdom’s honour and awards system. Did you think the same? Well now, should there be a meaning of “VC” unique and special to a member of the British North America Philatelic Society? Let me suggest “VC” should mean *Volunteer(ism) and Communication* to every member.

In my last President’s column, I highlighted the many opportunities available in BNAPS through which volunteers can reap satisfaction derived from their sense of ownership and accomplishment and individual experiences as a new plan is activated or a core change in practice is achieved. Perhaps YOU will be BNAPS’ newest volunteer.

This leads us to communication; “the sending, giving or exchanging of information or ideas” [*Webster’s Encyclopedic Dictionary*, 1988]. The words sending, giving, and exchanging each imply a transaction between two or more persons: the sender and the receiver(s); the giver and the recipient(s); the exchange partners.

For BNAPS, the principal organs of communication, as sender, received by all members are the quarterly publication of *BNA Topics* and the annual notification of dues sent out by our treasurer. The BNAPS website (www.bnaps.org) makes the most up-to-date items of interest readily available to all with internet connections. A secondary source of information is the various Study Group Newsletters, subject specific in nature and of more limited distribution. However, for many specialists, these newsletters provide significant value since they offer more in-depth coverage in their main area of interest(s).

The other communicator in this process is YOU. The Editors of *Topics* make it possible for you, through the “Readers Write” column, to ask questions about your collection or a specific item, to question views expressed by other writers, and to voice your opinions and concerns. It is through your suggestions that new ideas can be explored and improvements made.

Let’s take another look at the BNAPS website. I am certain the website contains something for everyone. A visit to the “homepage” opens the door to BNA philately providing a listing of Study Groups and Regional Groups (and their future meeting dates), entry to the BNAPS Sales Circuit, an index of available BNA-published books, BNAPEX convention news, Upcoming Events, What’s New, and the Publications and Online Library. Within this library is the valuable Horace W Harrison Online Library that provides



searchable issues of *BNA Topics* from 1944 to date; various Study Group Newsletters and indexes of Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSofGB) *Maple Leaves*; and the *Postal History Society of Canada Journal* (PHSC). All of these sources provide invaluable philatelic writings and research.

While making a recent visit to the website, I decided to consult the Members Directory; remembering the directory is only accessible to members. I was looking at the directory with the hope of finding others who share a common collecting interest; however, of greater concern to me was the discovery that entries for only two hundred and seventeen of our 1,031 members (twenty-one percent) are to be found in the directory and, of those, only eighty-nine of those have some comment about themselves and/or their collecting interest. How can we help each other when we do not know who “we” are? While I recognize and accept individual concerns for privacy, the Members Directory specifies only the name of the member together with his/her e-mail address and provides an opportunity to share the members’ personal interest. Can the Members Directory be of undiscovered benefit for you?

Around the world, organizations such as our BNAPS and related philatelic societies, including CPSofGB, PHSC, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) and American Philatelic Society (APS) to name just a few, are asking difficult questions regarding the future of philately.

When addressing these questions, we must realize the future of philately does not lie in the hands of a few visible individuals who serve their respective societies. The prosperous future of philately is the responsibility of each one of us—it cannot and must not be taken for granted.

Until next Quarter, I wish you all happy treasure hunting.

With warm regards,

Eldon

From the Secretary—Report date: 15 March 2017

Andy Ellwood, OTB

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

Membership fees

Membership fees for 2017 are C\$35 for Canadian members, \$30 US for US members, 26 Pounds for UK members and C\$40 for members from any other country. The membership fee schedule has been confirmed (with no change) by the AGM. Applications submitted during the second and third quarter of the year are 75 and 50 percent of the annual fees, respectively, while those submitted in the fourth quarter are 25 percent plus the full fee for the coming year. Three-year memberships can be obtained at a ten percent reduction. Application fees can be paid through PayPal, using an online application available on the BNAPS website (www.BNAPS.org) or by sending a cheque to the Treasurer or to the Secretary.

Applications for membership

After the receipt of an application for membership, the applicant is classified as a new member. The person's name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNA Topics*. If no objection from any other member is received within approximately sixty days, the applicant is confirmed as a Regular Member.

New members—applied from 24 December 2016 to 15 March 2017

R-6913 Robert T Bourque, St. Michael
Barbados

R-6914 Brian Davis, Eugene, OR

R-6915 Luc Freve, Quebec, QC

R-6916 Ron Rhodes, Renton, WA

R-6917 Louis Abbott, Gatineau, QC

R-6918 Adrian Speyer, Dollard-des-
Ormeaux, QC

R-6919 John Saunders, Kemptville ON

R-6920 Barry McGuire, Okemos, MI

R-6921 William Carson, San Clemente,
CA

Z-99126 Herb Colling, Editor, TCP,
Belle River, ON

All applicants assigned membership numbers between **6904** and **6912** 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 74, No 1, p. 64.

Deceased

R-4298 Arthur Klass

R-5373 Fred J Ostapchuk

L-4278 Alice A Rosborough

Resigned

R-6683 William R Beck

R-6637 Brendan Boelke

R-6665 Cliff Brown

R-6873 Lloyd Capps

R-6426 Alfred Carroccia

R-5945 Jean-Guy Dalpe

E-2386 J Graham McCleave

E-3026 Herbert K Nishio

R-6688 Lane Robson

L-4379 Michel Rocheleau

R-6727 Chris Ross

R-5794 Ron W Rush

R-6617 Barry L Shaulis

R-6883 Frederick C Skvara

R-5856 John D Thompson

Members reinstated

R-5136 David N Swinford

Postal address changes

between 24 December 2016 and 15 March 2017

R-6225 Glenn Archer, York, ON

R-6884 Nic Bender, Veenendaal, The
Netherlands

R-6913 Robert T Bourque, St. Michael,
Barbados

R-6620 Gary J Brown, Briar Hill,
Australia

E-3478 John T Burnett, Madison, AL

R-3678 Patrick Burns, W. Vancouver, BC

R-6914 Brian Davis, Eugene, OR

R-5853 Hugo Deshayé, Quebec, QC

R-6889 David L Dubois, East Falmouth,
MA

R-4606 Patrick Durbano, Markham, ON

R-6240 Bob Finlay, Hemel Hempstead
 R-6915 Luc Freve, Quebec, QC
 R-4603 Peter Geoffroy, Dublin, Ireland
 R-6172 Larry Goldberg, Buffalo Grove,
 IL
 R-6344 Thomas J Malicki, Mississauga,
 ON
 R-6905 Robert Pinet, Toronto, ON

R-6916 Ron Rhodes, Renton, WA
 R-6386 Anthony B. Thompson, Saltsjo-
 Boo, Sweden
 R-6053 Ryk S Venema, Leeuwarden, The
 Netherlands
 R-6195 Gunnar Zetterman, Stockholm,
 Sweden

Email address changes between 24 December 2016 and 15 March 201

R-5072 Francois Alarie, Fermont, QC
 R-6225 Glenn Archer, York, ON
 R-6263 Laurent Belisle, Montreal, QC
 R-5918 J Douglas Cook, St. John's, NL
 R-5862 Robert W. Cumming, Toronto,
 ON
 R-4958 Hugh P Delaney, Calgary, AB
 R-4606 Patrick Durbano, Markham, ON
 R-6644 William Ferguson, Burlington,
 ON
 R-4780 Walter Frank, Winfield, BC
 R-6603 Alain Gauthier, Shell Lake, SK
 R-4603 Peter Geoffroy, Dublin 16
 R-6172 Larry Goldberg, Buffalo Grove,
 IL
 R-6330 Peter Hellsten, Winnipeg, MB
 S-99059 Wisconsin State Historical
 Society, Madison, WI
 R-6808 Bruce Hodina, Oak Forest, IL
 R-6392 Robert J Montpetit, Ajax, ON

R-6890 Dawn Nickerson, Yarmouth, NS
 R-6101 James O'Connor, Toronto, ON
 R-4339 Dr. Everett L. Parker, Glenburn,
 ME
 R-5137 Robert M Philmus, Montreal, QC
 R-4637 David G. Robinson, Toronto,
 ON
 R-6553 Russell D Sampson, Mansfield
 Center, CT
 R-6486 Kirk Stephens, Sylva, NC
 R-5752 Gordon Turnbull, Winnipeg, MB
 R-6537 Ralph D Vicero, Palm Springs,
 CA
 R-6846 Tony Walker, Windlesham
 R-6797 Donald Wood, North Bay, ON
 R-5552 William J Woolsey, Ladysmith,
 BC
 R-5783 John Michael Wright,
 Eastbourne, England

Total active members: 1008

Note: Exchange/non-member subscriptions (19) are not counted as active members.

BNAPS Book Department announcements available by e-mail

To receive occasional e-mails from the BNAPS Book Department announcing new releases, additions to the list, and special offers, go to the BNAPS webpage (<http://www.bnaps.org/books/books.php>), and look for "Click here to subscribe to BNAPS Books" at the bottom of the page.

Regional group rant

David Bartlet

Overview

HAVE you been to a Regional Group meeting yet this year? Only a few Regional groups have been active during the winter. Is it time now for you and your group to have a get-together at some local show and enjoy the sharing of philatelic information and the camaraderie of your fellow philatelists? It is a wonderful time to learn and to see the passion that others have for the hobby. Please review the website or *BNA Topics* to see where your closest Regional Group is and participate in that meeting, or even help set one up. To find information on all the Regional Groups at www.bnaps.org/regional where you will find information about upcoming meetings, contacts for each group, and reports of previous meetings. I can be contacted by email at any time at regionalgroups@bnaps.org. Please send all your meeting notices and reports to me there. With winter almost over (as I write), Regional meetings have been held by the Calgary, Dixie Beavers, and Golden Horseshoe groups. I attended a great meeting held by the Golden Horseshoe group in January and look forward to visiting with the St Lawrence Seaway group at ORAPEX, and the Pacific Northwest group later in September.

Excerpts from the reports of the various regional meetings are shown here; the full reports can be seen on the website on the webpages for each regional group.

Atlantic

The next Atlantic Regional group meeting will be held in the fall at NOVAPLEX.

Calgary

The Calgary group met monthly in January, February, and March. Meetings run from 7-9pm, with ten minutes of general business, a presentation, then a round table show and tell.

The January 11 meeting presentation was done by Jim Taylor, who presented a talk on foreign destinations of pre-UPU mail from Saint Pierre and Miquelon with the use of Nova Scotia and Canada postage stamps. At the February 8 meeting, Jon Johnson introduced two Canadian Merchant Navies: (1) the ships that made up the Canadian Merchant Navy, and (2) the men and women who staffed Allied merchant and passenger ships. The postal history encompasses Part 2, as Navy ships were notoriously poor at writing home! Dave BARTlet made the presentation in March, showing a computer display of a new exhibit he is working on about Canadian Cello-Paqs and the varieties that exist on the panes and packaging.

Dixie Beavers

The Dixie Beavers saw sixteen members and guests attend their January 28 meeting during the Southeast Regional Stamp Show in Atlanta, Georgia. The group recruited a new member for BNAPS and saw three members who had never attended any BNAPS function before.

The group has made their meetings into a social event, with much camaraderie and fun had by all. John Burnett spoke on "Little Known Facts of WWII." The show featured three BNAPSers exhibiting, with CA Stillions and Dennis Amos both garnering Gold medals and John Burnett a large Vermeil. The show was the very first national show to utilize the new APS point system for judging, and everyone seemed very pleased with it. The Dixie Beavers

will meet next summer at the Charlotte, North Carolina show, CHARPEX, 29-30 July in Worrell Hall, Central Piedmont Community College. This is a fun show held in an auditorium with nearly perfect lighting for a philatelic exhibition. There is no charge to exhibitors for frames and the judging is always of the highest calibre.

Edmonton

The Edmonton Regional Group continued with its monthly meetings in this quarter.

Golden Horseshoe

Thirty enthusiastic philatelists showed up at the Rousseau House Restaurant for a pleasant day of philately and companionship on Saturday 28 January, when the group held its first meeting of 2017. The meeting had BNAPS book updates from Mike Street, a BNAPEX 2017 update from Dave Bartlet, and an auction followed by the presentation of Ken Lemke, whose subject was “Grand Trunk Railway View Cards in the Victorian and Edward VII Periods.” The presentation was very informative. Ken detailed not only the production and printing processes but also the uses of the cards. His exhibit was awarded Silver at BNAPEX 2016 FREDERICTON and Vermeil at CANPEX 2016. Not bad for a first-time exhibitor.

At the meeting on Saturday 25 March 2017, members and visitors had the opportunity to browse through a large box of miscellaneous covers donated by a member and to buy any that appealed at \$0.25 per cover. Later that day, Stuart Keeley gave a very interesting illustrated talk on the Cinderella labels produced by and for philatelic exhibitions in Canada from 1925 to 1972. Members were surprised to learn about the number of these items and the variety of designs. Thanks to Stuart: he will be back with Part 2 of the presentation soon.

Golden West

The Golden West Regional Group will hold its next meeting at WESTPEX, at the San Francisco Airport Marriot Hotel from 1-2PM on 28 April 2017. A presentation by Arno Kolster entitled “The Canadian Centennial Definitives 1967-1975” is planned.

Manitoba NW Ontario

The Manitoba NW Ontario is planning meeting in the spring with the date to be determined.

Midwest

The Midwest Regional Group will hold its next meeting at the APS Stamp Show in Richmond, Virginia 3-6 August 2017. See the website for further information.

Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest Regional group has scheduled a meeting in Penticton, BC, on 29-30 September to 1 October 2017. It should be a great weekend during the grape harvest!

Prairie Beavers

The Prairie Beaver Chapter of BNAPS is planning to meet on Saturday 27 May for a one-day meeting in Convent Station at St Mary’s Catholic Center. Please watch the website for further information.

St. Lawrence Seaway

The next meeting of the group will be held on 6 May 2017 at ORAPEX in Ottawa. All collectors are welcome to attend the meeting.

DEVENEY STAMPS

ESTD 1977

- * Canadian Revenues
- * Canadian Precancels
- * Early Canadian Stamps
 - * Mint
 - * Used
 - * Re-Entries & Varieties
 - * B.O.B.
 - * Town & Fancy Cancels
- * Canadian Provinces



WWW.DEVENEYSTAMPS.COM



Toll Free: 1.888.232.0282

info@deveneystamps.com

Study group centreline

Peter McCarthy

CENTRELINE presents brief summaries of the specialized research done by BNAPS members as published in the newsletters of its many Study Groups. This column reviews those received between 15 December 2016 and 15 March 2017.

British Columbia

British Columbia Postal History group's newsletter, *British Columbia Research*, is edited by Andrew Scott. Andrew opens the March issue with a favourite cover, which, in this case, is a registered one sent from MPO 1124 Boundary Bay, BC to Leeds, England on 24 October 1944. The MPO was only open for one year: 16 October 1944 to 31 October 1945. The use of this base is well described. (FYI, Andrew, the registration marking is listed on page 150 of Sayles catalogue.) Next is an article about Edgar Dewdney and Gastown (later to become Granville), and the letter and cover which eventually found their way into the Wellburn collection. Also shown are the eight cork cancels used in the Granville post office in its twelve years of operation. Gray Scrimgeour contributes an illustrated article about how mail was handled from the US to Victoria and Vancouver, and the regulations that had to be followed. Wells Fargo appeared to be the principal carrier. Morris Beattie came in with a story of the Bear Creek post office and its *raison d'être*. This post office was only in operation for four years, and it had four postmasters in that time. Morris believes only about five postmarks are known. Tracy Cooper tells the story of the McCuddy post office and the fact that it was open less than a year and brought in a grand total revenue of \$49.81. Andrew Scott illustrates and writes about Vancouver's registration boxes. Rob McGuinness tells an interesting story of an undeliverable piece of mail being returned to the sender in an ambulance cover, with markings from the UMO. In the Miscellaneous Corner, Gray Scrimgeour submits two covers, one with a corrected registration marking and another from the Lower Fraser River Crossing Improvement Association, another from Tracy Cooper showing two wax seal dies and asking where they may now be. There is also a commercially used dog sled piece of mail from 2016. The last page lists recently opened BC post offices, and Canada Post is reminded to correct its new Genelle date stamp.

Dots and Scratches

Dot and Scratches is the newsletter of the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study group; it is edited by Michael Smith. In the February issue, Michael announced his retirement from his day job. That means he will have all the time in the world to do the newsletter. Right! Enjoy Michael. Back to matters at hand. Michael starts with a full picture of a siderographer at work, along with a description of his profession, followed by an article based on a submission by Guy Jeffrey of the diamond flaw in the Queen's hair on a 1¢ Small Queen. Large, blown-up illustrations are provided throughout the newsletter, making it very easy to identify the points described. John Hillson provides some "Philatelic Phun" (as he puts it) by pointing out various guidelines, guide dots, and burnish scratches that he has found on the Ottawa printing of the 2¢ Small Queen. The article is extremely well illustrated and should have you re-examining your examples. Guy Jeffrey sent scans of two examples of the Hurst major re-entry on the 3¢ Small Queen, although he does seem to have some doubts about it.

The 6¢ Small Queen has been the cause of some hot debates: Jim McCormick concedes that, as he presents his finds with illustrations on plate position 96. According to John Hillson's letter, there are very different opinions concerning the 6¢ Small Queen. Ending the newsletter is an article by Michael Smith titled "6¢ Small Queen Ghostly Head, A Theory of the Cause of the Rejected Plate." Well Michael, you may have started something, if anyone else dares get their feet wet!

Elizabethan II

Robin Harris, editor of *Corgi Times*, the Elizabethan II Study Group newsletter, begins the January-February issue by announcing the fiftieth anniversary of the Centennial definitive issue and, on page 51, includes personal insights from members about the issue. In case you don't remember them, Robin illustrates all the stamps. Group member Julian Goldberg submitted an article on the Centennial 5¢ booklet pane, shortpaid Mail Card, and Centennial Regular Issue Order Form. The Kiosk stamps are back again and were offered by the Philatelic Branch as a strip of five in booklet form. As reported in the newsletter, they are also available through the Edmonton and Richmond Hill outlets. Canada celebrates its one-hundred-fiftieth birthday this year, and Canada Post is printing "CANADA 150" on new releases—but you will need an ultraviolet light to see it. Lowe Martin is now printing the Beneficial Insects definitive. In the Year of the Rooster pane of 25 stamps, each stamp is printed at 90° degree rotation to every adjacent stamp. In addition to the CANADA 150, this year's UNESCO definitive booklets also have a hidden printing noting the location of each stamp. Robin tells us, but I won't. Rounding out the newsletter is an article by Bill Robertson on the 1970 Christmas issue, pointing out the types of papers and varieties.

Fakes and Forgeries

At BNAPEX 2010 in Victoria, BC, members who showed an interest in forming a BNAPS study group met. All that was required at the time was a volunteer with the time, editorial software, and skills to be the newsletter editor. Ken Pugh, who was part of the initial get-together, mentioned that more than six years later, the group is still looking for that volunteer. At BNAPEX 2017 in Calgary Ken will again host a seminar to discuss formation of such a study group and hopefully connect with members who can help with our newsletter. For the Calgary meeting, interested BNAPS members are encouraged to bring along BNA fakes and forgeries items for discussions. Anyone interested in participating can contact Ken Pugh at kpugh@shaw.ca or phone (604) 858-0544.

First Impressions

In the Spring issue of the First Day Cover Study Group newsletter, editor Gary Dickinson begins with an article in which he revisits the Regina Cachet maker Hans Zoell. Several members collaborated in putting this article together. Bob Vogel shows two FDCs signed "L.J.B." and four FDCs that are unsigned but appear to have been designed by the same person. Bob would like to know both if anyone else has similar cachets as well as the identity of the cachet maker. Barry Douche followed up on his article of two issues earlier by sending in a dozen scans of Christmas cachets produced by Robert Cole. Barry wants to know if there are others after the 1981 Christmas cachets. Three unusual covers follow: A George Eppstadt sixtieth anniversary of Confederation from Ken Thibault; An RPO first day of issue of the New Brunswick seal issue from Peter McCarthy; and an Inuit FDC from Rob



Cachet colour variety for #519-528

McGuinness showing a Pelly Bay stone cut cachet. John van der Ven wrote an article on a cachet maker from the 1960s, Albert Luiszer of Bristol, Pennsylvania, and describes the examples shown. Donald Leblanc, a new member to this group, brings two passions with him from the King George VI Study Group: The War Issue and the Royal Visit issue.

Donald, having blown his retirement fund at auction for FDCs of both

issues, is now looking to catalogue both and would like participation from interested members. He can be contacted at jeanmall@hotmail.com. Concluding the newsletter, Ken Thibault tells us all about CW George, the different names he used and why, and the various cachets he produced. Overall, *First Impressions* is a very colourful newsletter, as depicted in the cover shown here.

George VI

Ken Lemke is the editor of the King George VI Study Group newsletter known as *The Post & Mail*. This issue begins with a cover story by Gary Steele, showing an 8¢ single use on cover to Estonia, an extremely difficult destination. Eldon Godfrey continues with Part 8 of his Foreign Exchange Control Board articles. This part deals with Permit Application Forms. Donald Leblanc has a very interesting article on the Royal Visit of 1939—Part IV entitled “The Impossible Plate Blocks.” This article explains what the “Impossibles” are and why. If you are blessed enough to have any of these plate blocks, please send scans to Donald at jeanmall@hotmail.com. Editor Lemke then gives the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation—and its Harry Sutherland Library—a plug, noting what is available and describing the helpful staff who will assist you. Joe Trauzzi sent in a cover with a 5¢ Mufti addressed to the Tongan Islands via Tin Can Mail. “Fun Time Philately” as Joe calls it. Ken ends the newsletter with pictures of BNAPEX 2016 in Fredericton.

Military Mail

Dean Mario is the editor of the *Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter*. Appropriately, he opens the December 2016 issue (No 225) with a Christmas Day greeting from France sent by a member of the CEF from the 29th Infantry Battalion’s Tobin Tigers. Dean goes on to explain all the markings. Sadly, the obituary of long-time member Colin Pomfret appears in this issue. Colin, who died on 28 October 2016, was a very quiet but active member of this study group and of BNAPS.

Mike Street sent in an interesting card and article titled “Canadian Civilian use of ‘On Active Service’ Endorsement During the Korean War.” The card was apparently sent by an entertainer in Canadian Concert Party No 6. Mike is proposing another *Military Postal History Anthology*. Please contact him if you are interested in editing or providing a contribution. Jon Johnson sent a scan of a Ste Anne de Bellevue Military Hospital 1919 Christmas card. These are hard to come by, and Dean would appreciate seeing more if you have them. Mike

reported on the study group's meeting in Fredericton. Congratulations are extended to Brian Plain, Gray Scrimgeour, and Robert Toombs on being awarded the ER (Rich) Toop memorial award. David Collyer added more information on Peter McCarthy's cover from Switzerland, which appeared in issue No 223, a cover inspired by one of Colin Pomfret's. If you are not aware of Michael Powell's book, *Postal History of the Great War Internment Camps*, a description is included here. David Hanes sent in an illustration of a greeting card from Texas sent by a member of the Royal Flying corps training there. Dean Mario also illustrated Christmas greetings from the RAF/RFC, *HMHS Aarguaya* by Jon Johnson, Naval greetings and a second patriotic by Robert Henderson. David Hanes sent in an RAFTC cover that is not very common. The last article in this issue, from John Watson, is about Nursing Sister Tuekett who was stationed at the Shepherd's Hotel, Cairo and is dated 1916. Illustrations of the cover accompany the article, and it seems to have tweaked some memories. Dean ends the newsletter with season's greetings from him and Mike.

Dean starts newsletter No 226 with an article by Jon Johnson, telling of the Canadian Hospital Ship *Letitia* used to carry POWs in a 1945 exchange arrangement. This interesting article is illustrated with a souvenir card and a cover from the Captain of the *Letitia*, WR Northridge. Wayne Schnarr is requesting any information that will help in putting together the *Military Mail Markings* catalogue series. Examples of the format being used is included. Robert Toombs presents part one of a series entitled "Canadian Armed Forces in the Indian Ocean during the Second World War featuring RCAF Trans-Ocean Flights." Robert would like to see mail of the Indian Ocean theatre and more emphasis on the involvement there of Canadian forces. Four lovely illustrations are included and explained. Paul Binney is performing a study on the Boxed Numbered RCAF WW II Censor Marks used at bases in Newfoundland and Labrador between 1942 and 1945. Paul includes a classification table illustrating the boxes and their variations, and a second table shows the usage of each one. Your input is solicited and may be sent to Paul at pbinney@persona.ca. Courtesy of C Ron McGuire, you'll note the label on a mailing envelope that reads REMEMBER CANADA'S HONG KONG VETERANS-POW's 1941-1945. Dean finishes the newsletter with a very warm greeting for the New Year.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Editor Dean Mario, whose mother passed away in late March (Editor).

Newfoundland

The editorship of the *Newfie Newsletter* is split between Study Group Chairman Norris (Bob) Dyer and Malcolm Back. On the front page of issue No 166 is an illustration of a Perkins Bacon Trade Sample Card accompanied by an invitation for you to visit the bnap.org site to view a PowerPoint presentation by CA Stillions on Robert Pratt's slides. Bob Dyer and Ron McGuire have teamed up to show how to convert a \$1,500 cover to a \$750 cover.

Barry Senior found a lot of Lobster and Salmon stamps in an antique shop that has provided new information on the subject but doesn't solve the mystery. David Piercey writes about how every cover tells a story. How right he is—and, to prove it, he tells the story of *The Evening Herald* and its surroundings. Malcolm Back adds to the newsletter with a lovely, first flight, AC Roessler cacheted cover.

In the “My Favourite Newfoundland Cover” section, Ron McGuire illustrates and writes about four patriotic covers cards and covers, the JC Wilson & Co Boer/Spanish American War Patriotic envelopes and cards, and an EB Eddy branch envelope. Hal Vogel sent a question to Bob Dyer about a Universal Postal Union card with a Halls Bay TPO marking. Who better to give the answer but Brian Stalker, as he relates the story of the Halls Bay railway and mail service. David Piercey sent in a post card asking the question of whether the St John’s split ring is one that was previously unreported. Member participation is solicited. The newsletter ends with a Fredericton BNAPEX report and a financial statement.

Pence-Cents

In this January issue, edited by Jim Jung, Study Group Chair Ron Majors found out what it’s like to share. You may remember that, in the last issue, he showed a rare cover to Scotland with a pair and a single 5¢ Beaver. Well, between Guillaume Vadeboncoeur and Michael Smith, in addition to a great rate, a major re-entry was found. Jim Jung writes an article on the 1/2¢ printed matter rate and illustrates the scratch on the position 99 stamp on his printed matter cover.

Scott Robinson sent in part one of a well-illustrated article on the repeating constant varieties on the 7½d stamp and Michael Smith wrote an article on a possible early state of pane B, position 2 of the 3d Beaver. Jim came across a nice cover front that appears in the “Postal History Corner”: not Canadian but very interesting. It is of Lord Melbourne, former Prime Minister of England. Richard Thompson concludes the newsletter with the third installment on the printings of the 12 ½¢ value from the first decimal issue of Canada (1859–1868). The illustrated article takes us from the twelfth through to the nineteenth printings.

Postal Stationery

From Robert Lemire, the interim editor of *Postal Stationery Notes*, the February issue begins with Pierre Gauthier’s observation of a difference between the Star Trek post cards mailed to promote their presence in New York and the cards sold over the counter. The New York card has a pinkish tag on the card depicting Scotty. Mike Sagar writes about an error on the Star Trek Captain Kirk card, having received permission from the Editor of *Postal Stationery*, the journal of the United Postal Stationery Society, to show it. Robert reports that more postage-prepaid cards have been issued by Canada Post: three UNESCO and two Year of the Rooster cards.

In Robert’s “PCF Corner,” Raymond Gagné reports two new Château Frontenac cards. Robert also writes about minor changes to and the change of the view on card CST 7607. Robert, Pierre Gauthier, and Mike Sagar have teamed up to give information on the 17¢ envelope. It is referred to as a “Reprise of Some Old Information.”

George Dresser sent in a King Edward VII envelope mailed from Maple Creek, SK, to Turks Island, West Indies—a lovely cover to an unusual destination. The 2016 Santa letter stationery is illustrated, thanks to Earle Covert and Pierre Gauthier. Mike Sagar reports that one of his customers has a 17¢ Fisher post card that is untagged. Has anyone seen or heard of a similar item?

Pierre Gauthier reports on a newly discovered privately pre-cancelled card used by the Richards Glass Company. Robert writes about a mystery item—aerograms without dots and no tagging. This has remained a scarce item for forty years. Check your Aerograms, folks. Mike Sagar reports a previously unreported user for a 5¢ Cameo special order envelope originally used by the Waterloo Cattle Breeding Association. Concluding the issue, Mike Sagar provided a scan probably meant to be a First Day cover, but that just didn't happen.

Precancels

Larry Goldberg, the editor of the *Pre-Cancel Newsletter*, has a couple of important points in the editor's message that should be noted, in particular the requirements for the submission of articles. Art Halpert wrote a well-illustrated article on constant varieties in some Fredericton pre-cancels. In the 'Show and Tell' portion, Garfield Portch sent in a cover with a 1¢ QV numeral, pre-cancelled with a major variety that looks like a white moustache under the Queen's nose.

Bruce Field submitted a spectacular "Every Household Delivery Card," with ten 5¢ and thirty 20¢ type 10 Toronto pre-cancels. I wonder if numeral specialist David McLaughlin saw these two items. Finally, in 'Show and Tell' and ending the newsletter, is a Montreal pre-cancel on a Edward VII 5¢ stamp with the Portcullis re-entry provided by George Dresser.

Revenues

The *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* is edited by Christopher Ryan. In the December 2016 issue, he gets things going with a Julian Goldberg article with a sheet perforation configuration for the Winnipeg Wildlife conservation stamp. Illustrated is a full sheet of the 1967 issue with a perforated left margin and straight edges on the other sides. Also illustrated, with permission, are the two Rosback perforators used. Julian goes on to explain the gauge used and the perforation varieties along with errors on the stamps. Christopher writes part 14 of Canada's stamp "Taxation of Tobacco Products Between 1864 and 1974. This is all about snuff stamps and stamping; some nice-looking stamps are illustrated. What an exhibit just these alone would make!

War Times

In the November issue of the *War Times* newsletter, editor Bill Pekonen begins with a Barry Brown story tracing the War Times Revenue Tax on matchbox containers. Dave Lacelle wants to know all about the homemade 'V' cancel used at Bolney, SK.

Next comes an illustration of a Victory Bond Drive Flag used to encourage bond sales. This one is purple instead of red and does not include the wings of the approved design. The clarification of subscriptions in the nine Victory loans is followed by an analysis of Victory Loan results. Depicted are covers of private companies under government control. According to Bill, these are very scarce.

Cec Coutts sent in an item left over from Blackout days that wound up in the Dead Letter Office with some interesting markings. Ending the newsletter is an assortment of coloured Christmas cards designed specifically to promote the sale of War Saving Stamps. Christopher Ryan wrote quite an interesting article on the fact that Canada's inland revenue and postal war tax stamps did not specifically finance war expenditures during the WWI. The revenue generated went into the government's general operating fund.

BNAPS exchange circuit news

Andy Ellwood, OTB

THE Exchange Circuit has about 150 new sheets of material that may be of interest. They include a wide range of subjects as well as many sheets of perfin, precancel and quite a few QE. Over the next few months, I will be retiring many of the older sheets as I expect the number of new sheets to rise yet again. Contact me at 613-737-2137 or by email at andy_ellwood@rogers.com.

Classified advertisements

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

FOR SALE

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

WANTED

CANADA CAMEO FULL SHEETS, Scott #401-405 and Sc#046-49; please contact Thomas G. Salopek at 780-489-6504 or by e-mail: tomsalopek@yahoo.com.

CANADA CAMEO COVERS (Scott #401-405) to foreign destinations; please contact Thomas G. Salopek at 780-489-6504 or by e-mail: tomsalopek@yahoo.com.

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, Ontario L7N 3P2 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.

POSTAL HISTORY COVERS & POSTCARDS



LAKESHORE SHOW - March 31, April 1-2, 2017

POSTALIA SHOW - April 8-9, 2017

ORAPEX - May 6-7, 2017

ROYAL 2017 ROYALE - May 26-28, 2017

MONTREAL OLD PAPER SHOW - June 3, 2017

PHSC – SYMPOSIUM July 20-23, 2017

BNAPEX 2017 CALTAPEX 1-3 Sept, 2017

EASTERN ONTARIO PC SHOW Sept 9, 2017

CANPEX Oct 14-15, 2017

OTTAWA FALL STAMP FAIR Oct 21-22, 2017

JOIN OUR EMAIL PRICE LIST AND NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

Hugo Deshaye (Philatelist) Inc.

CSDA – BNAPS – PHSC – RPSC – APS - TPC – CCQ - CPS of GB – SHPQ - USPCS

P.O. BOX 88250, QUEBEC CITY, QC, CANADA G3J 1Y9

WWW.HDPHILATELIST.COM - HDPHIL@VIDEOTRON.CA

HUGO@HDPHILATELIST.COM - (418) 655-4132

Executive, Directors, and Officers, Regional Group Contacts

British North America Philatelic Society Ltd.

Society Home Page: <http://www.bnaps.org>

Elected officers: Executive

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

<ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca>

First Vice-President, Ken Lemke, 3488 Rubens Court, Burlington, ON L7N 3K4

<kwlemke@sympatico.ca>

Past President George Dresser, 501 Fairview Ave, College Station, TX 77840-2933

<g-dresser@suddenlink.net>

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

<regionalgroups@bnaps.org >

Vice-President Study Groups William W Radcliffe, 500 Columbia Ave, Pitman, NJ 08071-1734

<bsbvp88@hotmail.com>

Secretary Andy Ellwood, 10 Doris Avenue, Gloucester, ON K1T 3W8

<andy_ellwood@rogers.com>

Treasurer Jean-Claude Michaud, PO Box 31248, Halifax, NS B3K 5Y1

<jcm.ph@ns.sympatico.ca>

Elected Officers: Board of Directors

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

Serving 2014-2018:

Jeff Arndt, 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033 <arndt123@aol.com>

Mark Berner, 3767 Notre Dame West, Montreal, QC H4C 1P8 <drmberner@videotron.ca>

Richard Fleet, 1570 Buckingham Close, Victoria, BC V8N 5J2, 250-721-2880

<jrfleet@shaw.ca>

P Charles Livermore, 100-08 Ascan Ave, Forest Hills, NY 11375

<charleslivermore@hotmail.com>

Adri Veenstra, Dr Joop den Uylsingel 34, Arnhem, 6836 GR, Netherlands, +31 263232416,

<a.veenstra@chello.nl>

Serving 2016-2020

Barry Casanova, 12193 Woodford Dr. Marriottsville, MD 21104 <bwcasanova@msn.com>

Robert Lemire, PO Box 1870 Deep River, ON K0J 1P0 <rlemire000@sympatico.ca>

Ron Majors, 253 Caleb Dr, W. Chester, PA 19382-6177 USA

<Ronald.e.majors@gmail.com>

Peter R MacDonald, 1264 Sherman Dr, Ottawa, ON K2C 2M8

<petermac613@gmail.com>

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

Regional group contact persons

Atlantic Provinces (NS, NB, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador): J A Forbes, Jr, PO Box 38205, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X2 <JAFRBS@aol.com>

Calgary (Calgary and surroundings): Jon Johnson, 39 Highgrove Cres SW, Calgary, AB T2V 3K8 <jcperpins@hotmail.com>

Dixie Beavers (Alabama, Georgia, both Carolinas, Mississippi, Tennessee): John Burnett, 127 Bluebelle Dr, Madison, AL 35758, <jb45855@aol.com>

Edmonton (Edmonton and surroundings): David Piercey, 181 Blackburn Dr, Edmonton, AB T6W 1B6 <dpiercey@telus.net>

Florida: Mark Isaacs, PO Box 52453, Sarasota, FL 34232 - Tel: 941-951-1419.

Golden Horseshoe (Southern Ontario, Western New York, Northern Ohio, Eastern Michigan): Peter McCarthy, 573 Griffith St, London, ON N6K 2S5 <BNAPS-GHRG@bnaps.org>

Golden West (California, Arizona, Nevada): Joe Schlitt, PO Box 263, Knightsen, CA 94548-0263 <wylecotejs@earthlink.net>

Lower Canada (Québec): Hugo Deshayé, PO Box 1000 Stn, Forces Box 444, Courcellette, QC G0A 4Z0 <hdphil@videotron.ca>

Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario (Manitoba, Northern Ontario, Minnesota, North and South Dakota): Don Fraser, 1183 Warsaw Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1C5 <dafrase1@mts.net>

Mid-Atlantic (Virginia, West Virginia, DC, Delaware): Jeff Arndt, 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033 <arndt123@aol.com>

Midwest (Indiana, Western Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska): Richard Judge, 2900 Lincolnwood Dr, Racine, WI, 53403-3738 <CH2Se@sbcglobal.net> Tel: 262-554-7958.

Northeastern (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts): P Charles Livermore, 100-08 Ascan Ave, Forest Hills, NY 11375 <charleslivermore@hotmail.com>

Pacific-Northwest (BC, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Yukon): Peter Fralick, PO Box 34, Hagensborg, BC V0T 1H0 <peterfralick@hotmail.com>

Prairie Beavers (Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana): George Dresser, 501 Fairview Ave, College Station, TX 77840 <g-dresser@suddenlink.net>

St Lawrence Seaway (Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec): Co-chairmen: Chris Anstead, 3258 Elphin Maberly Road, McDonald's Corners, ON K0G 1M0, <acropolis@superaje.com>; Don Ecobichon, RR1-1512 Chaffeys Lock Road, Elgin, ON K0G 1E0.

Vice-President, Regional Groups: David Bartlet, 1955-9th Ave NW, Calgary, AB T2N 4N3 Canada, <regionalgroups@bnaps.org>

CANADIAN STAMPS

Choice Early Classics to Modern Varieties

Browse & Shop
THOUSANDS
of Canadian and
British North America
Stamps and
Philatelic Literature.



www.saskatoonstamp.com

Our Website offers a secure **On-line Stamp Store** where you can browse through and order from our large stock of **Canadian and BNA Stamps** and **Philatelic Literature**. You can also start a **Want List**, read interesting **Articles**, browse through our **Rare Stamp Gallery** and more.



Our Current Private Treaty Catalogue of
Canadian & British North American Stamps is **FREE ON REQUEST**.
Download your copy from our Website's **Recent Mailings** page or
Call, E-mail or Write for a printed copy.

CANADIAN ERRORS — BOUGHT * SOLD * TRADED

Internationally Recognized as a Leading Dealer in Canadian Errors and Varieties

SASKATOON STAMP CENTRE



PO Box 1870, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S2

Call TOLL FREE 1-800-205-8814 in North America

Phone: (306) 931-6633



E-mail: ssc@saskatoonstamp.com Web site: www.saskatoonstamp.com

LOOKING FOR CANADA, PROVINCES, GREAT BRITAIN, BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OR FOREIGN?

For almost a century we have been helping philatelists worldwide build their collections. We are sure to have something for you, as every auction includes extensive offerings of postal history, proofs, stamps and covers, from classics to modern, with better individual items or sets to country collections and huge worldwide lots.



Call or write to receive a free printed catalogue by mail or view our sales in their entirety, including all photographs, at www.maresch.com.

SELLING?

We are always seeking better collections for our auction sales, held at least three times a year. With thousands of eager local and international collectors participating, we will maximize your results. Please call us toll free at 1-800-363-0777 to discuss offering your treasures in our fully illustrated colour catalogues.

r. maresch & son

CANADA'S PREMIER STAMP AUCTION HOUSE SINCE 1924

5TH FLOOR 6075 YONGE ST TORONTO ON M2M 3W2 CANADA
(416)363-7777 WWW.MARESCH.COM FAX (416) 363-6511