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Double-weight UPU letter to Tallinn, Estonia from Montreal (1938), p. 9

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Cover Illustration: Double-weight UPU letter to Tallinn, Estonia from Montreal (1938), p 9

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Editorial

Ronald E Majors

Out with the old ...

in with the new!

This will be my last issue of *BNA Topics* as Co-Editor. It has been my pleasure to have served the Society in this role. It has been a learning and rewarding experience, but after thirty-three years as an editor of a scientific publication as well as five years as *Topics* Co-Editor, it is time to serve the Society in other ways and to give someone else a chance to take on this important volunteer job.

I have enjoyed interacting with many authors and working closely with elected and appointed officers of BNAPS in my role of handling most of the business sections of *Topics*. In my opinion, *BNA Topics* is and has been a top-notch philatelic journal, truly reflecting the varied interests of BNAPS members.

It was a pleasure working directly with Jeff Arndt, who will continue as Co-Editor, and with Lorraine Street who helps to finalize each issue. Also, thanks go to former Co-Editors Robert Lemire and Mike Street for their support, especially at the beginning. I hope to find time to do more writing and exhibiting and, as the newly elected First Vice-President, to work alongside our new President, Ken Lemke, and with the Board of Directors on the many issues facing BNAPS as a philatelic organization.

It is my pleasure to introduce my “replacement” as the new Co-Editor of *BNA Topics*: Dr. Bill Wilson. You should all be familiar with Bill; he has been the author of the quarterly column “New Issues” for over twenty-seven years: The column in this issue is his number 105. With his vast experience in writing for *Topics*, transition to Co-Editor should be a breeze. I would like to provide a little more personal information on Bill.

Bill was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and arrived in Canada at the tender age of eight months. Bill grew up in Duncan, BC, on Vancouver Island, and graduated from the University of British Columbia (BSc in Physics), the University of Waterloo (MSc in Astronomy), and the University of Calgary (PhD in Astrophysics).

He then became a faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Calgary for thirty-five years, teaching and doing research in astrophysics (stellar structure and evolution and stellar pulsations). He retired in 2012. Like many of us, Bill started collecting stamps as a child, soon began to specialize in Canada, and added Canadian postal history (Edward and Elizabethan eras) in the 1980s.

I wish to congratulate Bill for taking on this important volunteer job and to further thank him for his many contributions to BNAPS as a *BNA Topics* columnist.



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The orange 8¢ stamps of the 1930s issues, paying the 5¢ first ounce and 3¢ second ounce UPU rates

Gary W Steele, OTB

FROM 1930 to 1942, Canada issued 8¢ orange stamps for the Arch issue, Medallion issue, 1935 Pictorial issue, and 1937 Mufti issue, a unique happening over a twelve-year period. Although they were used to pay for the double-weight Universal Postal Union (UPU) fee of 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for the second ounce, few collectors have actually seen or owned any of the elusive rate covers paid by 8¢ orange stamps.

Prior to 1 July 1930, the UPU letter rate was 8¢ for the first ounce and 4¢ for each additional ounce. On 1 July 1930, the rate from Canada to UPU countries changed to 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for each additional ounce. This rate remained in effect right up to 30 March 1954.

The blue 8¢ Scroll stamp was still available to pay the double-weight UPU fee of 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for the second ounce. However, as the colour of stamps used for the first ounce UPU rate of 5¢ was also blue, the Canada Post Office issued the new 8¢ stamp in orange to conform to UPU colour regulations.

The 8¢ orange Arch issue stamp, issued on 5 November 1930, was the first of the four 8¢ orange stamps. With the introduction of the War Issue 8¢ brown Farm Scene on 1 April 1943, this streak of using 8¢ orange stamps, which lasted for twelve years and five months, was broken. Some examples of the different 8¢ orange used properly in period follow.



Arch Issue to Hungary

Figure 1. Double weight registered UPU letter to Hungary from Winnipeg, Manitoba partly paid by 8¢ Arch stamp in 1932.

The 8¢ Arch stamp on the letter to Hungary shown in Figure 1 paid the double-weight UPU rate, 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for the second ounce. The additional 10¢ Sir

George-Étienne Cartier stamp paid for registration. The cover was mailed at Winnipeg, Manitoba Sub Office No 6 on 21 July 1932.

Keywords & phrases: 8¢ orange definitive stamps, 1930s

Arch issue to Switzerland

Figure 2. Double weight registered UPU letter to Switzerland from Chatham, Ontario partly paid by 8¢ Arch stamp in 1932.

The cover shown in Figure 2 is almost a duplicate of that shown in Figure 1. In this case, the destination was Switzerland. It was mailed in Chatham, Ontario, on 30 May 1932.



Medallion issue to Denmark

On 1 December 1932, a new, low-value definitive set, the Medallion issue, was introduced. Included in the set was an 8¢ orange stamp, which replaced the 8¢ orange Arch issue stamp.

The letter in Figure 3, mailed from Halifax to Vejen, Denmark, on 30 January 1933, was franked with an 8¢ Medallion stamp paying the 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for each additional ounce, double UPU rate.



Figure 3. An 8¢ Medallion stamp paying the double-weight UPU letter rate to Denmark in 1933.

The orange 8¢ stamps of the 1930s issues, paying the 5¢ first oz and 3¢ second oz UPU rates 7

Medallion Issue to Estonia

Figure 4. Double-weight registered UPU letter to Tallinn, Estonia, from Toronto, Ontario, partly paid by 8¢ Medallion stamp in 1936.



The cover in Figure 4 is almost a duplicate of those in Figures 1 and 2. In this case, the destination was Tallinn, Estonia. The full postage was paid by an 8¢ Medallion stamp and a 10¢ Sir George-Étienne Cartier stamp. It was mailed in Toronto, Ontario, on 29 May 1936.

1935 Pictorial Issue to Germany

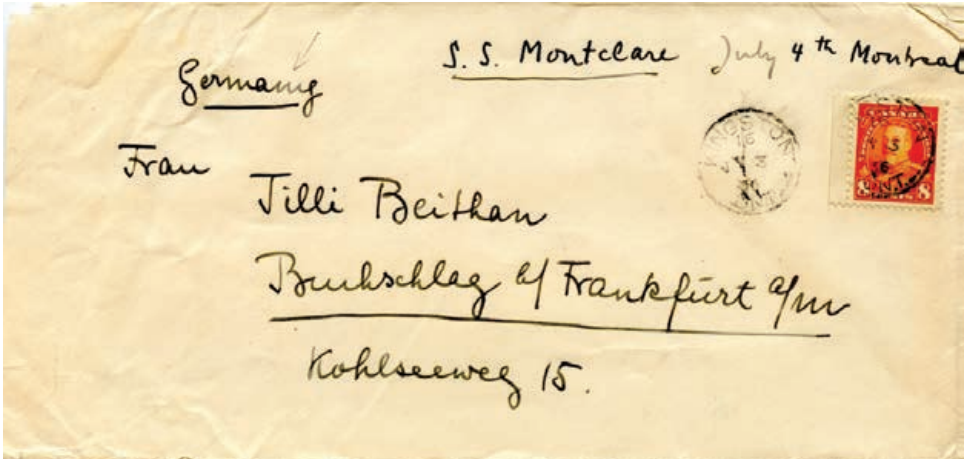


Figure 5. Double-weight UPU letter to Germany from Kingston, Ontario, in 1936.

The Medallion issue was short-lived, lasting only thirty-one months to June 1935. With the introduction of the full set of values up to \$1 of the King George V 1935 Pictorial issue, its 8¢ orange stamp was now the new kid on the block.

The letter in Figure 5, mailed from Kingston, Ontario, to a suburb of Frankfurt, Germany, on 3 July 1936, was franked with an 8¢ Pictorial issue stamp paying the 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for each additional ounce double UPU rate.

1935 Pictorial Issue to Denmark and Sweden

The covers in Figures 6 (right) and 7 (below) were both franked with an 8¢ Pictorial issue stamp to pay the double UPU rate, 5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for each additional ounce. The letter in Figure 6 was sent to Askov, Denmark from Venn, Saskatchewan on 21 July 1936, while that in Figure 7 was mailed from Toronto to Malung, Sweden on 14 September 1936.



Figures 6 (above) and 7 (below). Double-weight UPU letters to Denmark from Venn, Saskatchewan (above) and to Sweden from Toronto (left), both in 1936.



1935 Pictorial issue to China

Since all 8¢ orange stamps were printed in small quantities and demand for them was not as great as for lower values, there was some overlap in usage periods.

The UPU double weight letter to North China in Figure 8, paid by an 8¢ Pictorial, was mailed in Windsor, Ontario on 16 November 1937, several months after the next 8¢ orange stamp was released.

Figure 8. Double weight UPU letter to North China from Windsor, Ontario in November 1937, redirected several times.



The orange 8¢ stamps of the 1930s issues, paying the 5¢ first oz and 3¢ second oz UPU rates 9

1937 Mufti Issue to Estonia and Italy



Even with the interruptions caused by the death of King George V and subsequent abdication of King Edward VIII, the 1935 Pictorial Issue lasted a very short one year and 11 months in service before the introduction of the 8¢ Mufti on 15 May 1937.

The covers in Figures 9 (left) and 10 (below) were both franked with an 8¢ Mufti issue stamp to pay the double UPU rate, 5¢ for the 1st ounce and 3¢ for each additional ounce.

The letter in Figure 9 was sent to Tallinn, Estonia, from Montreal on 12 May 1938. The one in Figure 10 was mailed from Winnipeg to Tanzaro, Italy, on 23 May 1938.

Figures 9 (above) and 10 (right).
Double weight UPU letters to Tallinn, Estonia from Montreal (above), and to Italy from Winnipeg (right), both in 1938.



Due to the Second World War, from late 1939 onward mail was suspended to over 85 countries, most of them UPU destinations in Europe, Asia, and Africa. This dramatically restricted the time frame of usage of the 8¢ orange stamps for double-weight UPU letters.

References and endnotes

- [1] According to FWL Keane in *BNA Topics*, Volume 11, No 4, Whole #112, April 1954, p. 101. "On 1 July 1930, there appears to have been an all-over reduction in rates to the UPU countries, resulting in four colour changes." One of these was the 8¢ blue to 8¢ orange.
- [2] Monthly and weekly *Canada Post Office Official Postal Guide Supplements* used for Mail Service Suspended countries.
- [3] *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps 2016*, for dates of issue of stamps discussed.
- [4] Personal research by the author; sources no longer available.
- [5] Gary W Steele, Usage of the 1937 8c Mufti Stamp, *BNA Topics*, Vol 70, #1, Whole #534, January-March 2013, p. 29.
- [6] An 8¢ rate for air mail up to one ounce to the United States was in effect from 1 August 1932 to 30 June 1934. However, this is not considered a UPU rate as various special treaties were signed between Canada and the United States dating back to the 1800s.



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Newfoundland 1887 ½¢ Dog: A detailed study of its correct release date, and other discoveries

John M Walsh, FRPSC and Julian J Goldberg

THIS 1887 ½¢ denomination printed by the British American Bank Note Company, Montreal, as stated on the top and bottom marginal imprint inscriptions, has an interesting pedigree. Many sources in the old, often-mentioned reference literature, have given different versions for the timetable of its printing and release. In this study, we present in reverse chronological order a list of these sources and the information they provide on the initial rose red Newfoundland ½¢ Dog date of release. This information is all incorrect. Below the list we provide the correct answer from a source original to the time period.

1. The Walsh 2006–2016 *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* states the date as 01 November 1887. This catalogue on another page does state the ½¢ postal rate change for newspapers as occurring in October 1887.



Figure 1. The 'dog scratch' variety (the stamp in the bottom row, second from left, above the word "American"). Image courtesy of Jean-Claude Vasseur.

2. The Unitrade/Scott 2005–2016 *Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* identifies the date as 1888.
3. The Canada Postal Archives Database created 2001, and now archived, states 11 February 1888 with the image of a ½¢ rose-orange Newfoundland Dog. Also stated is

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland; 1887 ½¢ Dog issue

BNA Topics, Volume 75, Number 4, October–December 2018

January 1888. This site being archived means that any new discovery information will not be added.

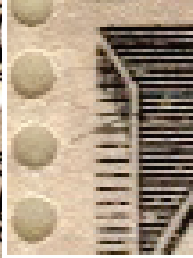


Figure 2. (Far left) An enlarged view of the “dog scratch” variety described in Figure 1. The plate scratch is to the left of centre in this image. A closer view is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. A close-up of the plate scratch in Figure 2.

4. Walsh and Butt’s 1998 *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* gives the date as 15 February 1887.
5. The Unitrade/Scott 1997 *Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* gives the date as 1888.
6. In 1973, Robson Lowe in *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Vol. V North America* states 1887 as the year for the Newfoundland Dog 1/2c rose. He does mention the 1/2c colour trials in black, green, blue, and brown, but he does not use the words “colour trial plate proofs” as he has used when writing on earlier issues. Notice, in what follows, that Minuse and Pratt in 1970 specifically state “color trial plate proofs.” Lowe at another location in his book does mention the 1887 postal rate of 1/2c for newspapers.



Figure 4. A block with the major re-entry on the lower-right stamp. Enlarged views are shown in Figures 5 and 6.

Image courtesy of Jean-Claude Vasseur.

7. The 1970 Kenneth Minuse and Robert H Pratt book *The Essays & Proofs of British North America* gives the dates of 1887–96 for the ½¢ Dog dies. They mention colour trial plate proofs in yellow brown, yellow green, red brown, dark brown, light green, dark green, blue (shades), orange red, black, and deep red. A colour trial plate proof is a descriptive term applied when a sheet of paper has printed in colour upon it a complete image of the developed printing plate. Many colour trials may be made before the colour of the issue design is decided.



Figure 5. Enlarged view of the lower-right stamp in Figure 4, showing locations of re-entries.

8. In 1968, L Searle Holmes in his *Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America* records “Newfoundland Dog ½¢ rose-red 1887, ½¢ black 1894, and ½¢ orange-red 1896.

9. In 1942, Winthrop S Boggs in *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland* writes, “[I]n 1887 a reduction in the rate for newspapers made it necessary to issue a ½¢ stamp ...” and “... that the image is of the famous Newfoundland Dog



Figure 6. Detail of Figure 5, showing re-entries.

which is a breed peculiar to the island and is the first postage stamp ever issued to have a dog on it.” A most complimentary description. He does not give a specific release date for this ½¢ denomination. He does state that a new 10¢ value was made at this same time, and that other denominations from 1880 were used in colour changes. Release dates are not clearly stated. However, a January 1888 issue date is stated. A most confusing assortment of non-specific dates for the denominations!

10. In 1922, Bertram WH Poole in *Postage Stamps of Newfoundland Booklet Number Thirty-seven* writes, “[I]n 1887 a change in the postage rates on newspapers resulted in ½¢ stamps being necessary. When a supply was ordered a supply of a new 10¢ value was also requisitioned.” He describes the ½¢ and 10¢ designs in detail. He then states, “[T]hese new stamps were placed on sale about October 1887.” The ½¢ denomination colour is stated as rose-red. He further states that, in 1894, the ½¢ was issued in black and then, in 1896, the ½¢ was issued in a shade of vermilion. The information he provides is correct because of what follows next.
11. The 1886 *Newfoundland Yearbook and Almanac* states that the newspaper postal rate is 1¢. The same source also states that the postal rate has changed to ½¢ for “newspapers” and came into effect for October 1887. The authors proffer that all know, to provide for this rate change, as was often done, a new ½¢ stamp would have to be provided by the Post Office. No other ½¢ stamp had previously been issued.

In searches by co-author Walsh (at <http://www.rpsc.org/tcp/cphalifax.php>), an original monthly magazine was found. It is the monthly printed *The Halifax Philatelist* of November 1887, Vol 1, No 11, published and printed in Halifax, NS. In it, the following factual statement is found on p3: “Newfoundland.—A new stamp value ½ cent, colour red brown, has made its appearance. In the centre is a dog’s head. The 1 cent brown has been changed to green.—see cut page 14.” On page 14 is an advertisement from Larsen Brothers of Halifax showing an image of the Newfoundland ½¢ Dog issue and stating “We have just received the FIRST and LARGEST consignment of the new issue of Newfoundland Stamps which we offer at the following prices....” The prices given for the ½¢ red brown are, per 10 at \$0.10, per 50 at \$0.45, and per 100 at \$0.80. The 1¢ green is also priced.

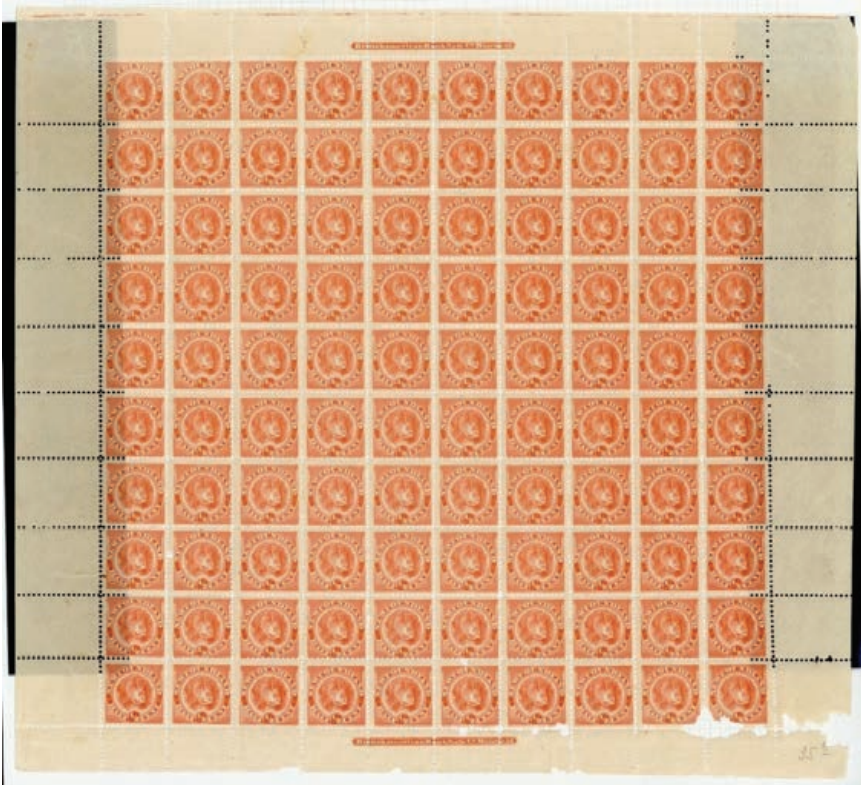


Figure 7. A sheet of orange ½¢ Dog stamps, courtesy of Spink UK.

The present authors suggest that, as with all printed monthly journals, there is a lead-up time prior to the information being printed. This lead-up is necessary to enable development time for the next issue. This advertisement lends credibility to the assertion that the imaged ½¢ value was designed and printed prior to the date by which it was needed. The *Newfoundland Yearbook and Almanac* stated that the postage rate was to be changed effective October 1887. For a dealer in another country to have a viewed saleable stamp imaged product, the dealer would have to have received and seen the item before placing the advertising order that appeared in the 1 November 1887 issue.

As to the exact day of release in October 1887, co-author Walsh has not seen it identified anywhere but believes it was most likely at the start of October 1887. To the authors' knowledge, no postally-used ½¢ item cancelled in October 1887 is known. Given the apparent intent for having this stamp denomination, *i.e.*, "to mail newspapers," it is most probable that all used copies of the stamps were destroyed after reception. In reality, most were used to start the next morning's fire. It was common practice to use the paper from the previous day for this purpose.



Figure 8. A partial sheet of black ½¢ Dog stamps, with the major re-entry at position 12 (the second stamp from the left in the second row). The upper-left corner block is shown enlarged in Figure 10, and further enlarged in Figure 11, to show the major re-entry. Library and Archives Canada, R2470, item 59 detail [1200 dpi].

The editor of the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (NSSC) will change the release date to October 1887 in the next edition. NSSC did quote the stated date that had been identified in a journal of that period, but the editor of that journal did not take into account the lead time needed to get the information into print. Nor was the October 1887 start for the Post Office rate change taken into account.

While working this timeline, co-author Goldberg found an item in the stamp news forums dealing with a possible plate scratch seen by Robert Coulson on this ½¢ Dog stamp (<http://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=51904>).



Figure 9. A partial sheet of black ½¢ Dog stamps. The “dog scratch” variety is at position 95 (the fifth stamp from the left in the bottom row, above the word “American”).
Library and Archives Canada, R2470, item 58 detail [1200dpi].

In the discussions on the forum, Robert Coulson provided an enlarged digital cut of the scratch. Upon seeing it, the present authors became intrigued and wanted to find its plate position, so we sent several emails asking for positional blocks of the dog stamp. From Jean-Claude Vasseur came an image (Figure 1).



Figure 10. (See caption for Figure 8.) Library and Archives Canada, R2470, item 59 detail [1200 dpi].

Figure 11. (See caption for Figure 8).
Library and Archives Canada, R2470, item 59 detail [2400 dpi].



In this prominent positional plate location, he had found the “dog scratch” variety, as we called it, at position 95. Figures 2 and 3 provide detailed views. This variety has been found on the ½¢ Dog issued in the colours of rose-red, orange-red, and black. Thus the original printing plate was used in the printing of this issued stamp design, but whether it is on the

colour trial plate proofs, the authors are unable to con-firm. A positional piece from those proofs would be required. Non-positional colour trial plate proofs as seen by the authors on the website of Canada Postal Archives do not show such a variety. Does anyone have such an item? Confirmation for collectors would be appreciated.



Figure 12. Small die proof, darker colour.
Library and Archives Canada,
R5369 v5-5 (1) detail [1200 dpi].

a search for full sheets, asking Eastern Auctions's Gary J Lyon, and John I Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre. There were no sheets in their holdings. On the Internet, we found auction firm Spink UK (<https://www.spink.com/lot/16034002147>). They had sold an orange sheet (Figure 7) on 24 October 2016. But upon examination of the image provided, there was not enough detail to enable the “*major re-entry*” or the “*dog scratch*” varieties to be seen. Possibly



Figure 13. Small die proof, lighter colour.
Library and Archives Canada,
R5369 v5-5 (5) detail [1200dpi].

In the same email from Jean-Claude Vasseur was another interesting image of the Newfoundland ½¢ black dog. It contained the “*major re-entry*” stamp variety not known to us but known to some collectors. An Internet search found <http://www.re-entries.com/>, where this variety item is shown by the website owner Ralph Trimble.

To our knowledge, no one has identified its plate position. The image provided by Vasseur (Figure 4) has the left sheet margin still attached. It shows that this variety is positioned on the lower-right stamp in this block; *i.e.*, in the second vertical column from the left (Figures 5 and 6). A major breakthrough to enable a refined search was presented.

Armed with this information, we undertook a search for full sheets, asking Eastern Auctions's Gary J Lyon, and John I Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre. There were no sheets in their holdings. On the Internet, we found auction firm Spink UK (<https://www.spink.com/lot/16034002147>). They had sold an orange sheet (Figure 7) on 24 October 2016. But upon examination of the image provided, there was not enough detail to enable the “*major re-entry*” or the “*dog scratch*” varieties to be seen. Possibly the new owner could do a confirming search for these positional varieties?

Further Internet searches found that the Canada Postal Archives, now known as Library and Archives Canada, has several positional ½¢ black dog stamp blocks. The authors contacted Pascal LeBlond there. He placed co-author Walsh in contact with archivist James Bone. Archivist Bone went on the hunt—searching through the archive files to find these large positional blocks of the ½¢ Dog image. And did he ever succeed! Together they form the complete left side of the full sheet.

When Bone found them, he did a 1200 dpi scan of the two blocks (Figures 8 and 9). From a study of these detailed scans, the “*major re-entry*” was found in the second left vertical column and

positioned in the second horizontal row. This is position twelve, as shown in Figure 10. To better clarify this position twelve image, archivist Bone had a 2400 dpi scan made.



Figure 14. Faint horizontal lines in the letters “U” and “N”. Library and Archives Canada R5369 v5-5 (1) detail.

A detail digital cut (Figure 11) enlarges the “major re-entry” variety. The other block (Figure 9) shows the “dog scratch.” This block provides confirmation of the discovery made by Jean-Claude Vasseur, that the “dog scratch” variety can be seen at location 95 in the bottom inscription block.

Among the email replies Archivist James Bone sent us were two scans that contained images of the Newfoundland ½¢ Dog in conjunction with other stamp images from that time period. From our perspective, these images appear to be printed on India paper and stuck on

card. These are usually referred to as small die proofs. The images are presented in Figures 12 and 13. Detailed study of these two die proofs revealed that, on the darker coloured one (Figure 12), there are several faint horizontal lines visible in the “UN” of NEWFOUNDLAND. They are shown in Figure 14 and, more prominently, in Figure 15. In addition, on the right side oval there is a large curved re-entry line. It is outside the oval, surrounding the second “ND” of NEWFOUNDLAND, as shown in Figure 16. This is not apparent in the lighter image die proof (Figure 13), seemingly having been burnished out. At the lower right, however, there are diagonal lines leading from the “EN” in CENT going across the beaded inner oval (Figure 17). When the stamps on the printed sheet are viewed, most of these diagonal lines have been removed, and only remnants are present.



Figure 15. Faint horizontal lines in the letters “U” and “N”. Library and Archives Canada R5369 v5-5 (1) detail.



Figure 16. Re-entry line outside the oval beside “D”. Library and Archives Canada R5369 v5-5 (1) detail.



Figure 17. Diagonal lines leading from “EN” in “CENT”. Library and Archives Canada R5369 v5-5 (5) detail.

It leads to the thought that, once this diagonal line had been nearly burnished, another die was struck and used to make the plate proof. However, these two dies do not show re-entry markings on the left side oval or in the letters. This suggests that the plate proof sheet design was found to be weak at that location twelve, and improvement was deemed necessary to reinforce those selected engraved areas.

From this exciting search—involving help from Coulson, Vasseur, LeBlond, Bone, and Library and Archives Canada—the elusive positional pieces holding the “*major re-entry*” and the “*dog scratch*” varieties were found and confirmed. Many thanks to them for their supportive help. Even after one hundred and thirty years, fresh discoveries are possible!

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The mysterious postal stationery card Webb Catalogue #P18b: New discoveries and insights, Part 1

Chris Ellis, Robert Lemire, Pierre Gauthier, and William Walton

THIS paper compiles, and also updates with new finds, information concerning one of the rarest of all Canadian official issue postal stationery cards: the One Cent Red/Rose Carmine Victoria Leaf issue, with a 75 mm long address space line (Webb P18b, Unitrade UX18a). This card differs from the regular and quite common P18 Victoria card [1], which has a different 83 mm address line in a shorter, thicker font (Figure 1). Part 2 of the paper will appear later.



Figure 1. Comparison of P18 (upper) and P18b (lower) address lines.

The origins of P18b have remained obscure, despite the fact that several individuals, including the authors [2-5], have researched this issue over many years. There does not seem

Keywords & phrases: Postal stationery, advertising card, ABN Co.

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to be any specific information on the P18b card and its origin in post office records. We also stress that one of us (Ellis) has long been interested in stationery cards mainly for the privately added advertising, and what it can tell us about the companies that used these cards—an attempt to put a “human face” on these pieces of paper. However, among other things, what we hope to demonstrate in this paper is that a knowledge of the advertising uses of the card can tell us about the postal history and vice versa.

Background

The One Cent Red Leaf card was issued in early 1898. It was specifically designed such that businesses could add privately printed advertising to the card front/address side. Prior to December of 1897, it was illegal to put anything other than the address on the front of stationery cards [6-8]. Hence, the cards themselves were not designed to have such advertising added, with much of the front space consisting of banners and other post office designed/approved printing. As a result, any illegally added private front printing was prohibited from passing through the mails, and any cards with such printing are exceptionally rare. Apparently, however, businesses had been petitioning the post office to allow such front ads and in a “NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC” issued on 9 December 1897 (reproduced in [6] and [7]), it was announced that such advertising would be allowed, subject to certain conditions. Of note, there had to be at least a ¼ inch blank space around the stamp impression. In addition, at lower right, below the inscription “THE SPACE BELOW IS RESERVED FOR ADDRESS ONLY.”, there had to be a blank space at least 3¼ inches long by 1½ inches high. The “NOTICE” included a diagram to aid the users (Figure 2) and other information of significance. Specifically, it stated that the post office would make the cards available to users,

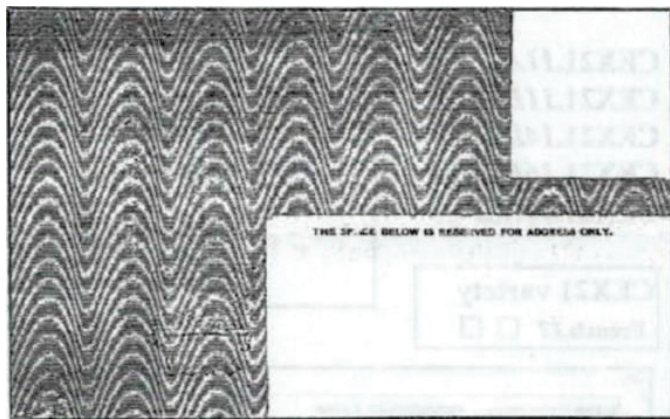


Figure 2. Diagram from December 1897 NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC showing areas (shaded) that could be used for advertising purposes.

not just as singles but also in panes of sixteen or eight un-severed examples, and that one could not just walk into a local office and obtain the cards. Businesses had to contact the local postmaster in writing, specifying how many cards they needed and in what format (*e.g.*, as unsevered multiples or single, already-severed cards). For large orders, private local printers of the advertisements preferred to use multiples and then sever the individual cards for use. While earlier cards had been printed in multiples before severing and distribution to the post office itself, this Red Victoria issue represents the first time that unsevered examples could readily reach the general public. Major users, such as the CPR and GTR railroads and express companies, had long used cards to which they had added privately printed advertising/forms on the back alone. For ease of

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printing, one suspects these users had been petitioning the post office to make these multiples available.

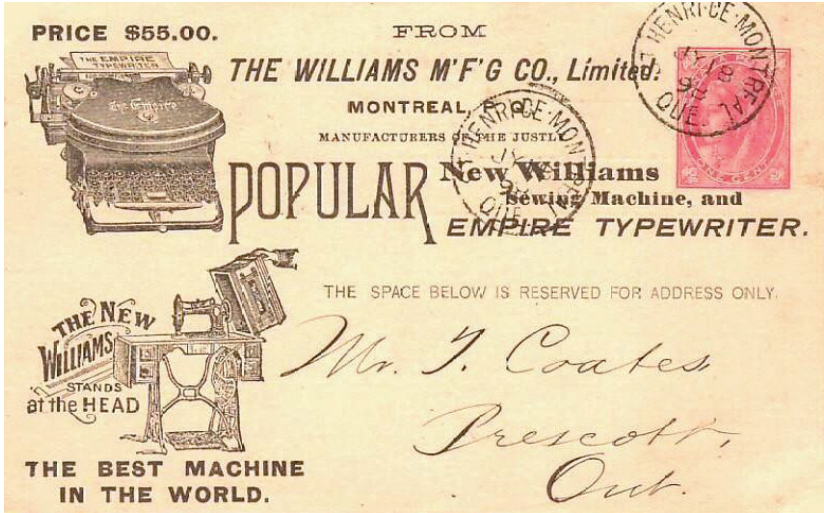


Figure 3. P18b used by Williams Manufacturing, Montreal, 18 July 1898.

While the post office announced its intentions in December 1897, it did not actually order any Red Victoria cards from the printer, the American Bank Note Company in Ottawa (hereafter ABN), until 18 January 1898, when an order for 250,000 cards was placed [2, 4].

Table 1. Delivery dates for first order of red Victoria cards

Date	Quantity 16-On	Quantity 8-On	Quantity Single
19 January	10,000	5,000	-
20 January	16,000	6,000	3,000
21 January	6,000	15,000	3,000
22 January		Saturday: no delivery	
23 January		Sunday: no delivery	
24 January	-	64,000	10,000
25 January	-	70,000	6,000
26 January		Wednesday but no delivery	
27 January	-	-	15,000
28 January	-	-	1,000
29 January		Saturday: no delivery	
30 January		Sunday: no delivery	
31 January		Monday but no delivery	
1 February	-	-	10,000
2 February		Wednesday but no delivery	
3 February	-	-	10,000
Totals	32,000	160,000	58,000

Clearly, ABN had been anticipating this order, as the company started to deliver the cards to the post office the next day. In fact, this first order was delivered over several days, from 19 January to 3 February. These deliveries included cards in unsevered multiples of sixteen

and eight cards (16-on and 8-on) as well as singles (Table 1), based on data from ABN ledger record order/delivery books provided by William Pawluk to Robert Lemire [2, 4]. The post office did not make another order of cards until 4 February 1898, and ABN did not begin delivering that second order until 14 February 1898 [4]. Eventually over 6,000,000 Red Victoria cards were printed [1, 4].

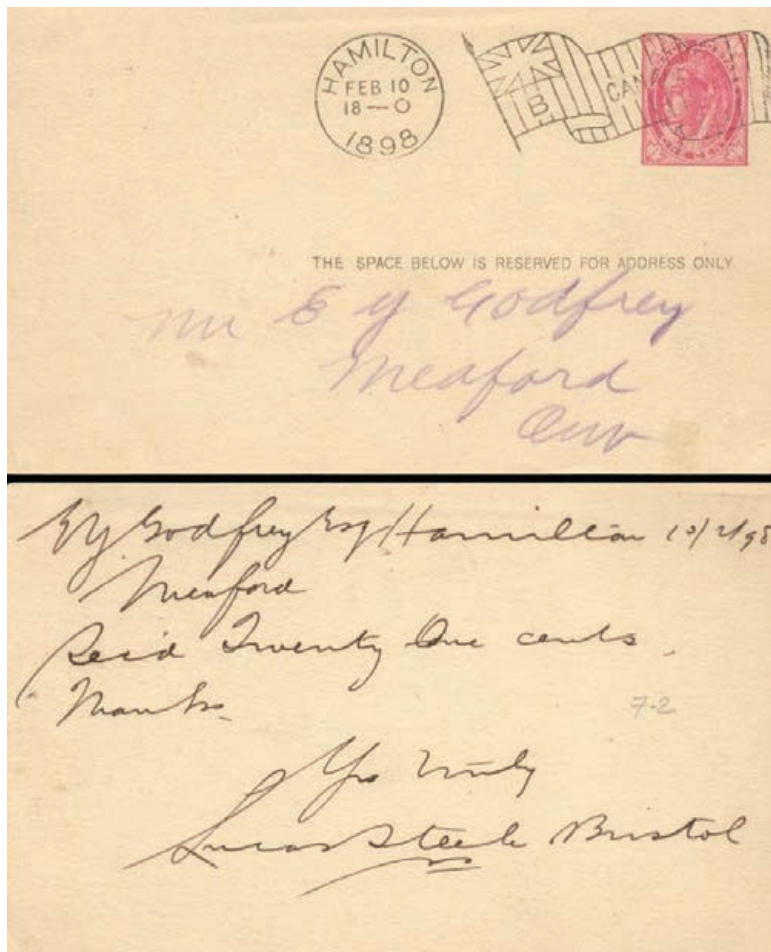


Figure 4. Front and reverse of P18bm, lacking any printed advertisement, used by Lucas, Steele and Bristol, Hamilton, 10 February 1898.

While there are clear indications that the presence of a P18b card was noted as long ago as 1900 [9], for many years this variation in Red Victoria cards was largely ignored. Modern research on what came to be called P18b can be traced back directly only to the 1960s. In 1965, Charles Arnold [10] reported on a single card with the 75 mm address line used on 18 July 1898 by the Williams Manufacturing Co of Montreal (Figure 3). Subsequently, the 75 mm version was listed by Jim Webb in the first edition of his catalogue, published in 1971 [11].

Walton, who prepared the second edition of the C section for Higgins and Gage's postal stationery catalogue (written in 1972 and 1973, and published in 1974 [12]), also recorded this card form. These reports were echoed by Mark Arons, another American philatelist, in 1974 [13]. Almost all these authors believed these to be an address line added to a card that was issued blank, except for the stamp impression. The shorter address text was seen as a product of a private printer rather than an official government issued card printed by ABN. The only exception was Webb [11], but he did not distinguish such "private order" cards from regularly issued ones in the 1971 edition of his catalogue. Researchers saw this card as one of a private order, because the post office did provide cards without the address line to some users who wanted to print larger ads. On cards with Red Victoria indicia, the *Hospital for Sick Children* is the only user known to have successfully ordered and employed otherwise blank private order cards—although they did not begin to do so until January 1901 [14, p. 98; 15, p. 47]. In addition, some later officially released cards—normally produced without postal texts/headings of some kind—were known, to which specific business users had privately added printing mimicking known postal texts (*e.g.*, [14, p. 73, "Notes" section]).

Table 2. Information on used P18b cards

Date	User	Comments
Jan. 28, 1898	Unknown user, Hamilton, Ontario	Commercial Use
Feb. 7, 1898	Unknown user, Montreal, Quebec	Commercial Use
Feb. 10, 1898	Lucas, Steele and Bristol, Hamilton, Ontario	Manuscript use; no printed advertisement; see Figure 4
March 3, 1898	Lucas, Steele and Bristol, Hamilton, Ontario	Kiji & Uriba Tea front ad in red ink; L. S. & B. and Empire Coffee ad in red on reverse salesman's calling card; Dunnville, Ontario squared circle cancel; see Figure 5
March 16, 1898	Meakins and Co., Montreal, Quebec	Reverse with manuscript text indicating order shipped to customer
April 19, 1898	Lucas, Steele and Bristol, Hamilton, Ontario	Circle Tea ad; London, Hamilton & Toronto MC cancel
April 30, 1898	H. Shorey and Co., Montreal, Quebec	See Figure 9
May 2, 1898	Meakins and Co., Montreal, Quebec	See Figure 12
May 21, 1898	H Shorey and Co., Montreal, Quebec	Robert A. Lee Auction, February 24, 2001; Reverse of card not documented
June 28, 1898	Dominion Express Co., Montreal, Quebec	Beachville, Ontario use (manuscript); see Figure 8
July 8, 1898	Non-commercial use, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia/Hunter(s) River, PEI	Hunters River, PEI cancel; no printed advertisement; see Figure 7
July 18, 1898	Williams Mfg. Co., Montreal	St. Henri de Montreal cancel; see Figure 3
Aug. 4, 1898	Landry & Co., St. John, N.B.	See Figure 19 in Part 2 of this paper
Sept. 5, 1898	Meakins and Co., Montreal, Quebec	See Figure 12
Jan 7, 1899	H Shorey and Co., Montreal, Quebec	See Figure 9
Jan 24, 1899	H Shorey and Co., Montreal, Quebec	See Figure 10
Feb. 1, 1899	H Shorey and Co., Montreal, Quebec	See Figure 10
Feb. 27, 1899	Non-commercial use, Hamilton, Ontario	Hamilton cancel; no printed advertisement; see Figure 6

The late Horace Harrison, however, believed P18b to be actually an officially issued postal card and argued about this origin with Walton. It is probable that Harrison reasoned there was

no point to privately ordering a card without the address line and then turning around and printing that line! Regardless, Walton argued that if this were an official issued card, then, rather than the isolated example(s) available to researchers at the time, other business users of the cards would need to be discovered to confirm this interpretation.

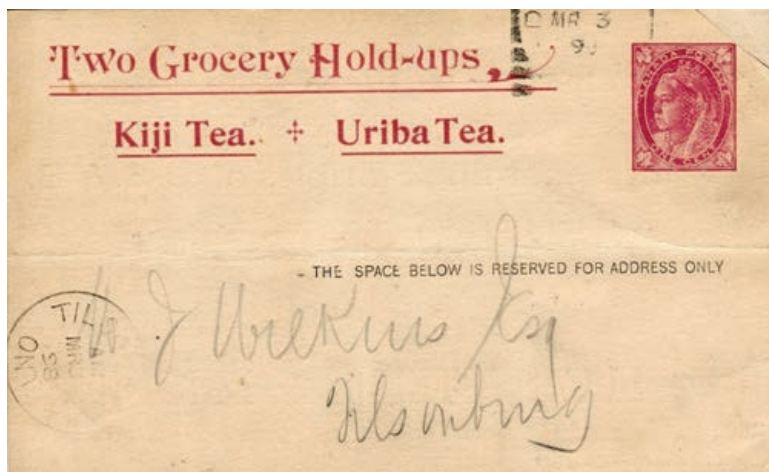


Figure 5. Card used by Lucas Steele and Bristol Salesman from Dunnville to Tilsonburg, Ontario, 3 March 1898, the earliest recorded P18b card with a printed advertisement added on the front.



Figure 6. Non-commercial use of P18b. Used by stamp collector/dealer from Hamilton, Ontario, 27 February 1899.

Subsequently, other cards were reported and, despite having exactly the same address line in the same font, they were documented to have been used by several different business firms in different centres (albeit, at the time, only Montreal and Hamilton; see below). This result strongly indicated an official issue. Hence, a Postal Stationery Study group headed by Walton

[5] concluded in 1983 that the cards were an official post office release printed by ABN and the card was listed as such in the subsequent Webb catalogue 5th Edition of 1988 [15].

Thus, it took almost ninety years for the P18b card to be widely recognized as a likely officially released card, which of course indicates it is a rare issue. But how rare is it? Harrison in 2000 [16] reported that fewer than ten copies, mint or used, were known. By 2007, nine used copies, one mint blank copy (*e.g.*, no printed advertisement) plus two examples miscut from 16-on or 8-on multiples were documented [4]. Today we can now document, with varying degrees of completeness of the information about specific cards, that at least eighteen used copies, one mint blank copy, and three miscut items exist(ed). Clearly, they are still much rarer than the regular P18 card. Of the millions of these printed, many survive. We summarize information about the known P18b cards in the following section and, of course, we would appreciate reports of any card examples other than the ones we list or show herein.

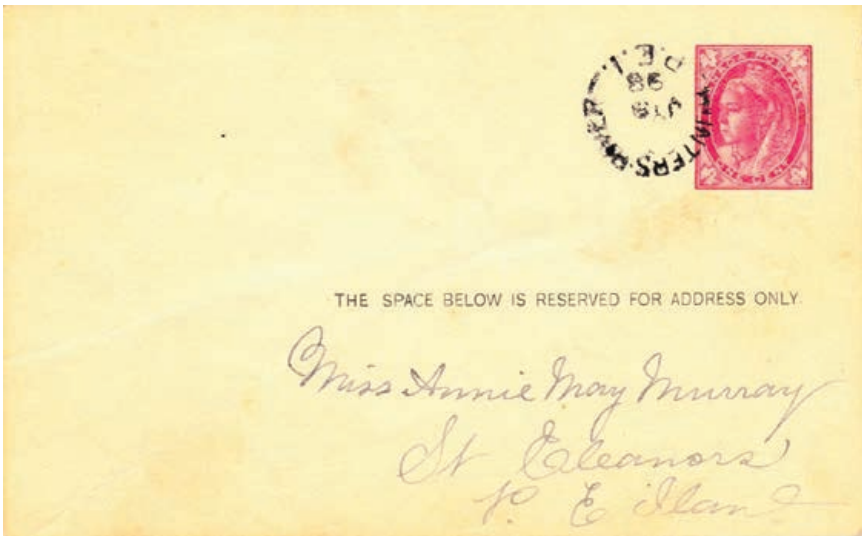


Figure 7. Non-commercial use of P18b. Used at Hunters River, PEI (origin in New Glasgow?), July 8, 1898.

The used cards

As noted, we have reliable reports of eighteen used P18b cards (Table 2). Of the eighteen cards, for some we only have partial information. In particular, although we know of two cards that existed, based on previous studies or data reported by others, our information on these items, used on 27 January and 7 February 1898, is limited. In one of these cases, the specific example of which is unknown, the card was in Horace Harrison's collection but was lost in a fire at his residence [17]. The current whereabouts of the other card is unknown. There are also some other examples for which our information is incomplete. For example, there is the one card for which we do not have a reverse image and so cannot determine some specific aspects of its use. Whatever the case, our data indicate that sixteen of the eighteen used cards were employed for commercial purposes, which is not surprising, given that they were designed for business use. Of these business usages and, again, not surprisingly, we know that

fifteen of the sixteen with good data have added printed advertising fronts. The only documented exception is an example used on 10 February 1898 (Figure 4), but the reverse of that card has a script return indicating it was used by Lucas, Steele and Bristol, a Hamilton wholesale grocery firm. Another card from that same company, used on 3 March 1898, is the earliest-recorded P18b example with an added, front-printed advertisement (Figure 5; Table 2). The two examples that were not used commercially include a card used by a Hamilton philatelist (James Harris) to order stamps from a UK address (Figure 6), and a second card used to send a message to a relative (Figure 7). The latter is addressed to St Eleanors, PEI. It has a New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, manuscript heading on the message side, suggesting an origin there, but the card is postmarked with a Hunters River, PEI, split ring cancel, and the message mentions that relatives are going to “Hunter River.” Thus, it seems likely they took the card along and mailed it there. In any case, these P18b non-commercial usages and their origin in a previously unreported province (PEI or NS), as well as the presence of unused and miscut cards (e.g., all without any suggestion of privately added printing), provide added support to the conclusion that these were officially issued postal cards with the shorter heading printed by ABN.



Figure 8. P18b used by Dominion Express Co agent at Beachville, Ontario, 23 June 1898 (reverse manuscript date).

Of the commercial usages, it is notable that multiple examples of these cards are known used by three of the business firms, including five used by H Shorey and Co, Clothiers, Montreal; three used by Lucas Steele and Bristol, Hamilton; and three used by Meakins and Co, Brushmakers, Montreal Branch [18] (Table 2). None of these companies, or those with single reported cards, could be considered “major” large-scale users, with the exception of a card recently reported that was used by an agent of the Dominion Express Company at Beachville, Ontario [19]. This card (Figure 8) has a miniature money order facsimile dated “1897” printed on the front, which is the exact same private ad as the card reported in Webb’s catalogue on P18 as #DMX1A [14, p. 165].



Figure 9. P18b cards used by H Shorey and Co, Montreal, 30 1898 and 7 January 1899.

The reverse of those cards is the same standardized form used by that express company for many years. That particular advertising card on P18 is quite rare and apparently is the earliest dating of the Dominion Express series of facsimile money order card advertisements. To date, the example on P18b is the only card known for the several major advertising series listed in the Webb catalogue. None are known, for example, for the major railroad advertising series like the GTR and CPR, probably because, as we will discuss below, those firms did not

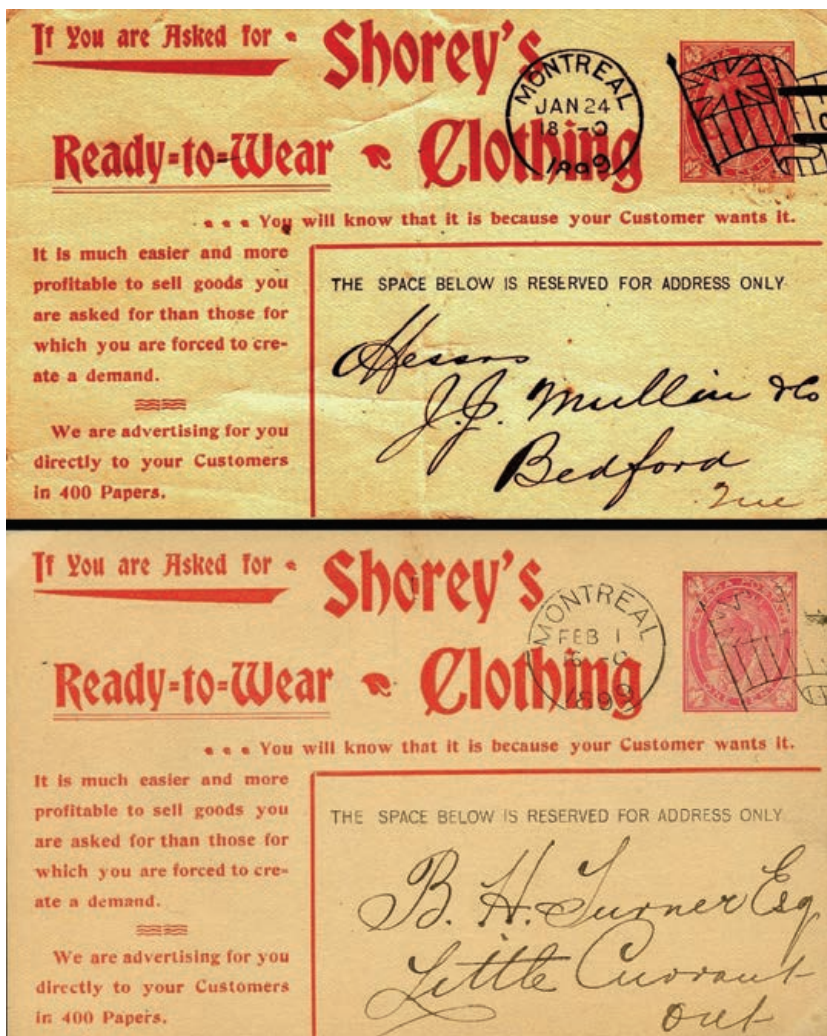


Figure 10. P18b cards used by H Shorey and Co, postmarked Montreal, 24 January and 1 February (manuscript date January 31), 1899.

start using cards with front ads until late March of 1898 [20, pp. 53-63] or after the P18b post office stock was exhausted.

In the case of the H Shorey cards, all the front ads are exactly identical (e.g., Figures 9 and 10). In addition, as we will discuss more below, for the four cards for which we have information on the reverses, all those ads are exactly the same (Figure 11). The three known Lucas, Steele and Bristol cards have different usages. As indicated above, one has no added printing, but the other two have different front ads: one for Kiji and Uriba teas and another for Circle Tea (see [16, p. 3]) as well as different reverses.

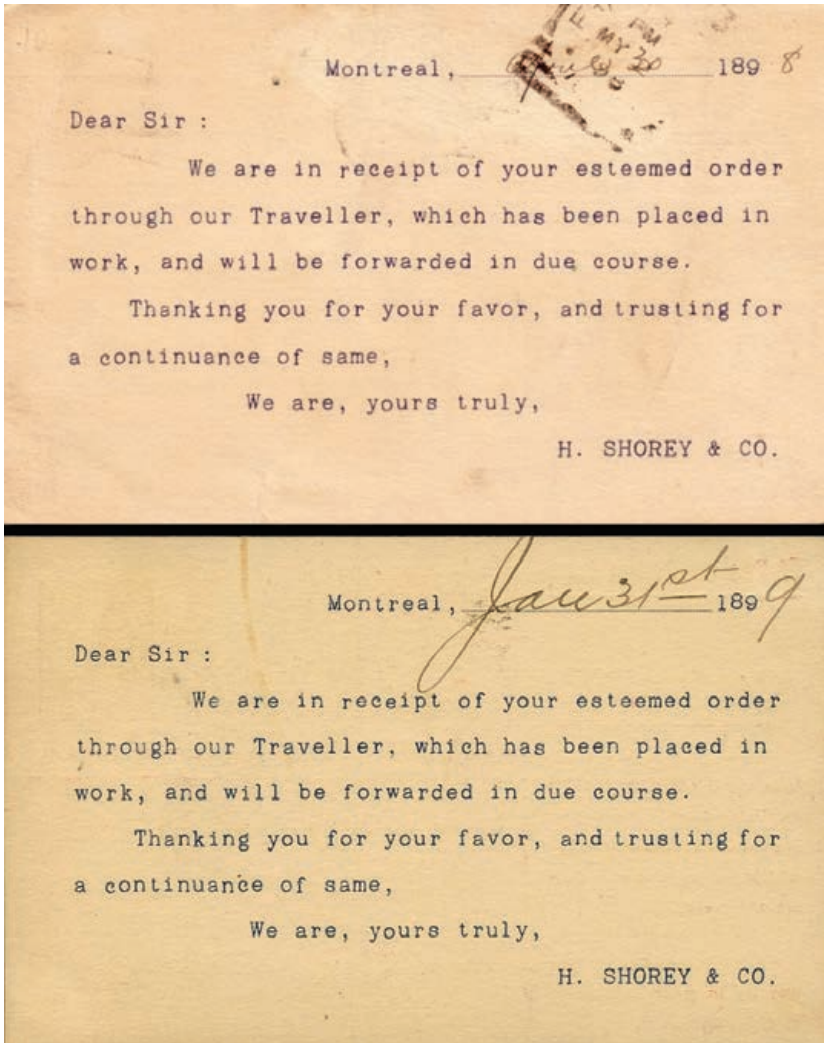


Figure 11. Reverses of Shorey cards shown in Figures 9 and 10 used on 30 April 1898 and 1 February 1899.

The Meakins and Co front ads are also all identical (*e.g.*, Figure 12) but the reverses differ. The earliest-dated example has no printed reverse, but instead is blank with a manuscript message acknowledging that an order was sent out to fulfill a customer's order. The other two Meakins cards feature exactly the same printed salesmen's calling cards, although the commercially printed name of the particular salesman varies (Figure 13). The identical printed front ads may indicate the cards were printed at the same time in 1898, with varied reverses designed for different purposes [21].



Figure 12. Meakins and Co., Montreal ads on P18b fronts, used May 2 and September 5, 1898.

Notably, we are only aware of Meakins cards on the regular P18 card that have slightly different front text ads, and all were not used until early in 1899.

Although future discoveries might uncover other examples, currently only two of the P18b cards have privately added advertisements for which identical examples are also known printed on the P18. One is the Dominion Express Co card described above. Dominion Express was founded in the 1870s in Winnipeg, but moved its head office to Toronto in the 1880s when it was bought by Canadian Pacific and became their associated express company [22, 23]. As a coast-to-coast company, they undoubtedly added printing to thousands of cards, virtually all of which feature a standardized reverse sent to anyone who had a package or

shipped goods to pick up from the local agent. Therefore, while it is possible, it is hard to conclusively document that exactly the same privately added printed money order advertisements on both the P18 and P18b actually came from the same print run by that company.

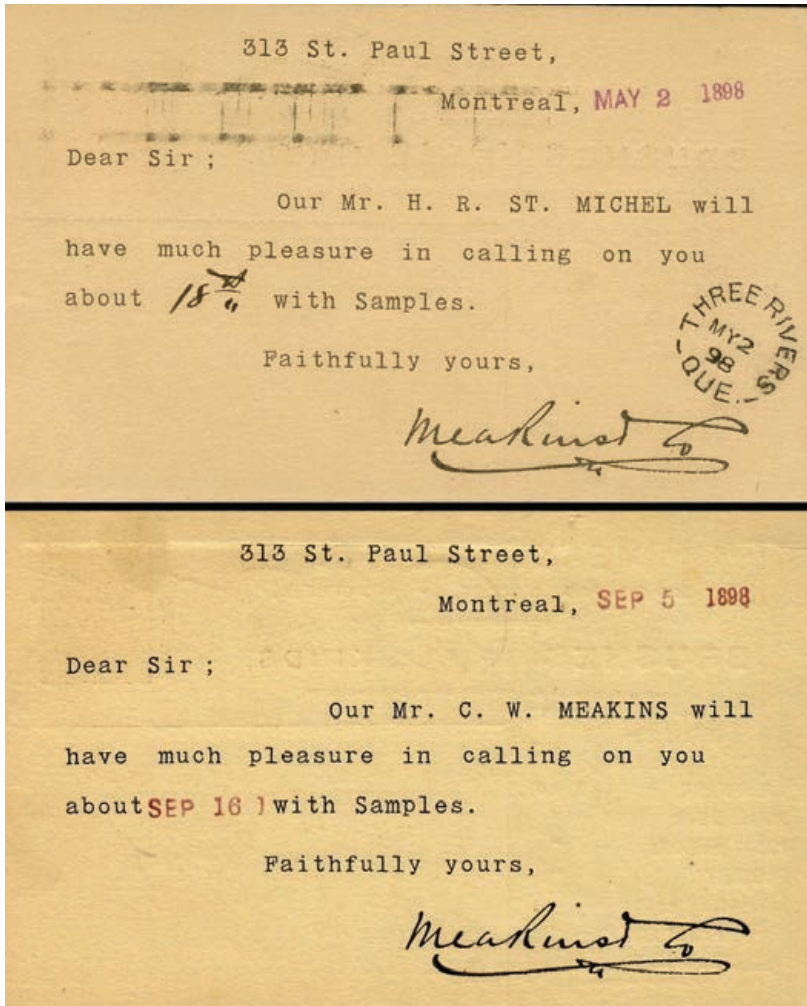


Figure 13. Reverses of Meakins and Co cards shown on Figure 12.

The other card with the same ad on P18 and P18b is the Circle Tea advertisement card used by Lucas, Steele and Bristol (see [16, p. 3; 17]), both used in April 1898. Not only are the fronts identical, but the reverse on both is the same salesman's calling card that features an ad flogging a particular product: "Shinon" metal cleaner. Lucas, Steele and Bristol were a much smaller-scale card user than was Dominion Express.

Although it is anecdotal evidence, one suggestion of small-scale use is the fact that in the experience of the authors any advertising cards used by this firm are rare and quite hard to find. Also, although the company boasted of doing business coast-to-coast [24], all the cards sent to customers (as opposed, for example, to orders sent to suppliers) were used as salesmen's calling cards sent to the local grocers in the Hamilton to London vicinity [see 17, pp. 17-21]. In addition, we know the company changed its calling cards very quickly. We can document eleven such cards, with different front and matching different reverse ads, used between 3 March and 22 August 1898 alone. As Harrison [16, pp. 20-21] stresses, the salesmen called on certain clients one to two times a month and every time, they seem to have used a different ad card to announce their visits. The reason for rapid replacement is that each card did not just announce a salesman's arrival date. The cards also flogged a particular and different product that the company seems to have had a surfeit of at the time, such as the *Shimon* cleaner, or a product used seasonally with primarily short-term appeal, such as lime juice (e.g., Figure 14). These factors, including the usage of both in April 1898, lead us to believe that the Circle Tea advert cards on both P18 and P18b had their private printing added during the same small print run in, or just before, April 1898. The Lucas, Steele and Bristol cards also have other implications for the history of P18b, as we will discuss later.

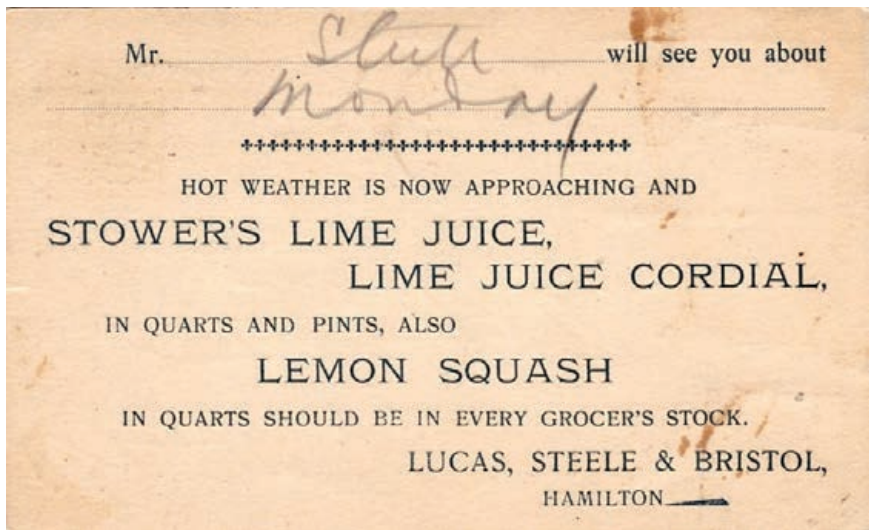


Figure 14. Reverse of a P18 Lucas, Steele and Bristol salesman's (Mr. Steele) calling card with a seasonal advertisement for lemon juice, used 10 June 1898. Card addressed to merchant in Dundas, Ontario.

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Anthony Thompson

Introduction

THE Universal Postal Union (UPU), based in Berne, Switzerland, has coordinated the exchange of mail between countries since its first meeting in 1874. The UPU became a specialised agency of the United Nations in 1948, and it continues to provide guidance on important international postage matters to this day. One of its first duties was to establish unified postal rates for letters, postcards, and printed papers to foreign destinations and, later, for setting a colour-coding system of blue, red, and green, respectively, for the basic rates (see review by Egly [1] and Gough [2]). Member countries of the UPU were required to adhere to the regulations adopted at the UPU congresses, held more or less every four years (but with a large gap from 1906–1920).

The setting of unified postage rates by the UPU for international letter, postcard, and printed paper mail was first proposed in 1874. The postage charge for each class of mail had to be agreed to by each member country, and it needed to be in a common currency that was easily convertible. The unit of currency adopted by the UPU was the franc and later, in 1920, the gold franc. This system of currency lasted until 1989, when the UPU Washington Congress abolished the gold franc in favour of the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) currency standard. The UPU reviewed the postal rates at each congress. A colour-coding system was first discussed in 1879, but only formally adopted in 1897, and made mandatory in 1906.

This study examines Newfoundland's compliance to the UPU regulations for the value and colour of the stamps used for the basic rate postage for foreign letter, postcard, and printed papers, from 1 January 1879 when Newfoundland joined the UPU, to 31 March 1949 when Newfoundland joined Canada.

Access to UPU Conventions and detailed regulations

The UPU documents are not formally in the public domain but are, of course, available to members. Many of the Conventions can actually be found through web searches, and some include supporting documentation such as the final protocol and detailed regulations that assist in the execution of their instructions.

Some working definitions

Foreign (or International) mail is mail sent outside of the country. There was a “full rate” that was applied to UPU member countries not formally or administratively connected with the sending country, and often various reduced rates for dependencies or colonies. For example, the British dominion, Newfoundland, often had reduced rates to Great Britain, British Empire countries, Canada, and the US. Supplements or additional taxes could also be levied, making

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it more expensive to send mail to certain destinations. The UPU rates and colours applied to the “full rate” foreign mail posted within the Union (*i.e.*, to member countries of the UPU).

- *Letters* did not appear to be defined within the earlier UPU conventions, but size and weight restrictions were defined by 1920.
- *Postcards* were described in Article XV of the detailed regulations of the 1897 Washington Convention.
- *Printed papers* cover a range of items that could be mailed at reduced rates. The UPU Paris Convention of 1878 under Article XVII of the detailed regulations lists printed matter [=printed papers] as “*Newspapers and periodical works, books stitched or bound, pamphlets, sheets of music, visiting cards, address cards, proofs of printing, with or without manuscripts relating thereto, engravings, photographs, drawings, plans, geographical maps, catalogues, prospectuses, announcements and notices of various kinds, whether printed, engraved, or lithographed, and, in general, all impressions or copies obtained upon paper, parchment, or cardboard, by means of printing, lithographing, or any other mechanical process easy to recognize, except the copying-press.*” Often newspapers and periodicals could be mailed at even lower rates, as was the case in Newfoundland for some periods, but the UPU printed paper rate refers to the “full” rate and not these further reduced rates.
- *Commercial papers and samples of merchandise* are additional classes of mail that may have the same basic rate as printed papers but, in Newfoundland, typically have respective minimum charges of five times and two times the printed paper rate.

UPU rates

The basic rates for the first weight class for foreign mail are provided in the UPU currency of francs or gold francs in the Conventions (Table 1).

Table 1. Rates in centimes for the first weight class for foreign mail as specified in the UPU Conventions

Year*	Rate (and range or alternative) in centimes		
	Letter	Post card	Printed paper**
1874-1878	25 (20-32)	12.5 (10-16)	7 (5-11)
1879-1920	25	10	5
1921-1924	50	30	10
1925-1929	25 (20-40)	15 (10)	5 (3)
1930-1934	25 (20-37.5)	15 (10)	5
1935-1939	25 (20-35)	15 (10)	5
1940-1947	20	12	4
1947-1949	20	12	8

* Year refers to the Congress dates. Implementation of these rates may have been up to one year later as the Conventions do not enter into force immediately after adoption.

** The same reduced rates applied to printed papers, commercial samples, and samples of merchandise. However, there was a minimum charge for the latter two categories so, in effect, the minimum rate only applied to printed papers.

The UPU, at times, also gave a range of rates or alternatives to help countries set rates that compared reasonably to the rates set by national administrations within their own

countries. With the exception of the 100 percent increase in the letter rate in 1920, the other changes have been more modest never exceeding 50 percent.

UPU colour coding

The origin of the colour coding must have been initiated at the UPU Paris Congress in June 1878 [2,3], though there is no mention of this in the meeting's Convention and final protocol. UPU Circular No 31 was mailed to members on 7 August 1878, requesting information to support the colour-coding system. Based on the responses, the UPU distributed Circular No 45 on 8 February 1879, informing members of the outcome of survey and requesting that the twenty-three members who agreed to the colour scheme, and the seven members that abstained, to adopt blue, red, and green respectively for the twenty-five, ten, and five centime stamps (Figure 1). Three members did not support the scheme and were not bound by this decision. Newfoundland joined the UPU in 1879 and did not take part in this survey. Gough [2] reports that the colour system was included in UPU Circular No 45, and there must have been a decision at the Paris Congress to adopt the results of this survey. However, clearly there were outstanding issues to a unified colour scheme as not all members agreed, and it was not at this time formally adopted as a UPU decision. Nineteen years later, however, the colour-coding scheme was adopted and included in the UPU Washington Congress in 1897, where Article VI paragraph 1 of the detailed regulations states:

... as far as possible in the following colours:

Stamps of 25 centimes in dark blue;

Stamp of 10 centimes in red;

Stamp of 5 centimes in green.

The colour coding was not mandatory until the UPU 1906 Rome Convention repeats the above but omits the “*as far as possible.*” The 1920 Madrid Congress links the colours more precisely to the class of mail (Article VI.1 Detailed Regulations):

The stamp representing the postage on a single-rate letter, in dark blue;

The stamp representing the postage on a post card, in red;

The stamp representing the postage for the first unit of weight of other articles, in green.

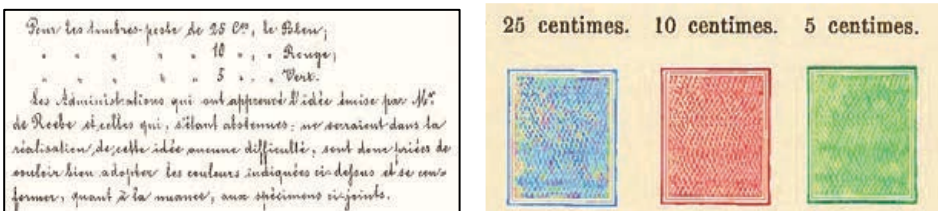


Figure 1. UPU Circular No 45 of 8 February 1878 (a) requesting members that approved the colour scheme, and those who abstained, to adopt the standard colours in their next issue, following (b) the examples provided in the Circular's attached Annex. (Courtesy of the UPU.)

The 1920 Madrid Congress, however, notes in Article V of the final protocol of the detailed regulations that “*Exceptionally, Administrations which, by reason of the instability of their currency, are not in a position definitely to fix the equivalents of the typical Union rates, are not bound to observe strictly the terms of Article VI, § 1, of the Detailed Regulations relative to the colour of postage stamps.*” The 1934 Cairo Congress uses blue for the letter rate, but no distinction is made here

between dark blue and blue. The colour-coding system was in place until 1952, when it was formally withdrawn at the UPU Brussels Congress.

The colour coding applied to the first weight unit for letters under 15 g from 1874-1906, and under 20 g (=1 ounce) thereafter, and for postcards where there were no weight units. Printed papers had a first weight unit of 50 g (=2 ounces), but commercial papers and samples of merchandise had the same weight classes as printed papers, but respective minimum charges of five times and twice the printed paper rate. (The minimum charge for samples of merchandise was removed at the 1947 Paris Congress.) Therefore, effectively, the first weight class applied to printed papers only, not to commercial papers and samples of merchandise. Hence the green colour coding applied to the first weight class for printed papers only.

Conversion of UPU centimes to local currency

The UPU member countries were supposed to use postage rates at a currency equivalent to that rates set in the UPU Conventions in francs (= 100 centimes). The UPU franc was not a currency of an individual country, but that of the Latin Monetary Union (LMU) that was based on the French gold franc. At the 1920 Madrid Congress, the UPU franc was defined in terms of its gold content as having 0.2903 g of fine gold. The gold equivalent could more easily be used to calculate postal rates for those countries not using the franc as their currency, and especially since some of the countries using the franc were undergoing massive inflation.

The UPU published tables of equivalent rates between the franc (or centime) and local currencies, or provided the equivalent value of postage for the various classes. Initially, the UPU would set the local currency equivalents and expect member countries to adopt these rates. For example, the detailed regulations in the 1906 Rome Convention indicate, under Article IV, "Fixing the Rates of Postage," that "... *the Administrations of the countries of the Union which have not the franc for their monetary unit, or which maintain postal Agencies outside the Union, levy their rates of postage according to the following equivalents:-*" and provide the table giving the equivalents. An option available to countries was to adopt a different rate subject to negotiations with the Swiss Postal Administration. Any amended rates would be notified to all member countries, as they were used in the calculation of postage dues.

This approach changed slightly at the 1920 Madrid Congress, in that the member Countries set the initial equivalents. Article 12 of the 1920 Madrid Convention states: "*In all countries of the Union postage rates are fixed at equivalents corresponding, as exactly as possible, in the actual currency of each country, to the value of the gold franc.*" However, Article II of the final protocol of the 1920 Madrid Convention states: "*Each country of the Union, whether or not it has the franc for its monetary unit, is empowered to fix in its own currency, by agreement with the Swiss Postal Administration, the equivalents of the rates prescribed by the present Convention*" followed by some constraints for the lower and upper limits for the equivalents. Article IV of the detailed regulations on fixing of postage rates states the process for achieving this, *i.e.*, "*The Administrations of the countries of the Union charge their postage rates according to the equivalents fixed in execution of article 12 of the Principal Convention. Each Administration must arrange with the Swiss Postal Administration whose duty it is to notify the equivalents through the International Bureau. The International Bureau draws up and distributes to the Administrations a table indicating, for each country, the equivalents of the postage on a single-rate letter, of the second letter rate, of the post card rate, and of the rate for other articles per unit of 50 grams.*" Further changes could be made if currency values fluctuated.

(Continued on page 42)

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(Continued from page 39)

This option is similar in the 1934 Cairo Convention, except that a range of rates was provided and so “*Each country shall have the right to increase up to 40 per cent or to reduce by as much as 20 per cent the postage rates prescribed by Article 34, § I ...*” thus constraining each country to fixing equivalents to a UPU-adopted range of rates. In the following years, up until the 1947 Paris Congress, it continued to be the national Administrations that fixed the equivalents in local currency used for postage, though they were supposed to be guided by the value of the gold franc.

Examples of the rates in the equivalence tables published soon after the various UPU Congress sessions between the UPU Centime rate and Newfoundland cent are given in Table 2. These equivalents are guided by the value of the gold franc, but the actual equivalents used could deviate from this for a number of reasons.

Table 2. UPU rates provided in centimes and equivalents in Newfoundland cents given in the UPU detailed regulations or in UPU published equivalent rates tables

Congress	Letter		Post card		Printed paper	
	UPU centimes	Nfld cents	UPU centimes	Nfld cents	UPU centimes	Nfld cents
1878 Paris	25	†	10	†	5	†
1885 Lisbon	25	5	10	2	5	1
1891 Vienna	25	5	10	2	5	1
1897 Washington	25	5	10	2	5	1
1906 Rome	25	5	10	2	5	1
1920 Madrid	50	‡	30	‡	10	‡
1924 Stockholm	25	‡	15	‡	5	‡
1929 London	25	6	15	4	5	1
1934 Cairo	25	7	15	3	5	1
1939 Buenos Aires	20	7	12	3	4	1
1947 Paris	20	7	12	3	8	‡

† Newfoundland was not a UPU member until 1879.

‡ Equivalent rate for Newfoundland cents was not given

International postal rates in Newfoundland

The Newfoundland postal rates are published in the Acts of the General Assembly of Newfoundland and in the *Year Book* and *Almanac of Newfoundland* (1874-1932), *Hand Book Gazetteer and Almanac* (1933-1949), and Post Office circulars (1936-1948) [4]. An accurate summary is provided by the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* [5]. The rates shown here are to foreign destinations outside of the British Empire (Figure 2). Increased rates applied to many distant destinations until 1893, and reduced rates applied to British Empire destinations in all years (though neither of these is regarded as the basic foreign rate).

The Newfoundland postal rates are in approximate accord with the UPU regulations for the various classes for most periods, especially when the ranges provided by the UPU are taken into account. It is possible that there were some discrepancies from the mid-1920s, but it is not possible to comment further without details of the official UPU equivalents.

In addition, the UPU tried to maintain a ratio of 5:3:1 for the three mail classes. Letter and postcard rates are generally clear and easy to determine. Printed paper rates are

complicated and often unclearly reported with poor discrimination between newspapers and other printed matter and between local and foreign destinations.

Table 3. Stamps issued by Newfoundland for the basic foreign rate postage showing the rate and period in use. Non-compliance with the UPU colour system is shown in read and underlined for year of issue.

(A) Letters

5 cents – 1879-1921



6 cents – 1922-1931



7 cents – 1932-1949



(B) Postcards

2 cents – 1879-1924



2 cents (continued) – 1879-1924



4 cents – 1925-1931



3 cents – 1932-1949



(C) Printed papers

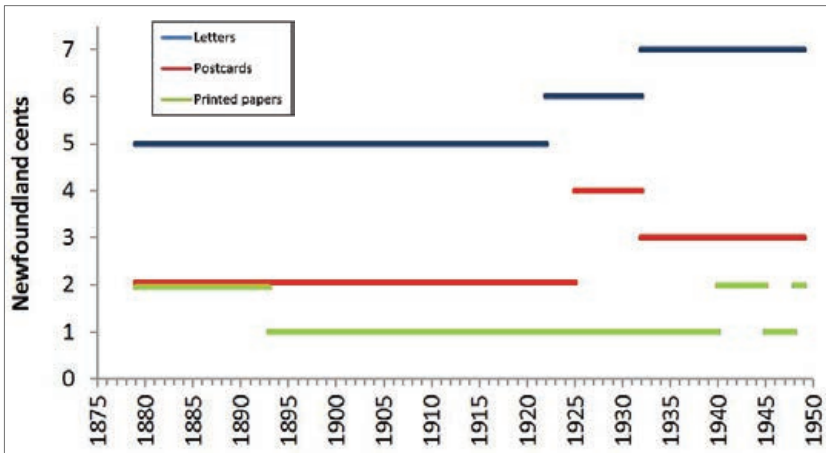


Figure 2. Basic Newfoundland postal rates to foreign destinations for 1879-1949.

Colours of Newfoundland’s basic rate stamps

The UPU stated that the three classes of foreign mail: letter, postcard, and printed paper, were to be printed in blue (or dark blue), red, and green, respectively. This was first suggested in 1879 in a circular to be adopted by member countries. It was adopted by the UPU in the convention of 1897 and made mandatory in 1906. It was repealed in 1952. The rates for these classes were mandated by the UPU in centimes, often with some latitude, and equivalent rates

confirmed by member countries. The Newfoundland postal rates for these three classes have changed over the years—generally, but not always—upward. The rate changes never occurred in all classes of mail in the same year, and these changes posed challenges for the UPU colour-coding system.

Did Newfoundland conform to the UPU colour-coding system?

Examination of the colours used in the three classes shows that, in most cases, the UPU colour-coding system was followed by Newfoundland for foreign letters (sixteen of nineteen stamps), postcards (eleven of twenty-one stamps), and printed papers (fifteen of twenty-one stamps) from 1879-1949 (Table 3).

Gough [2] recorded that Newfoundland was fully compliant with the UPU colour scheme in 1880/1887/1887 for the letter/postcard/printed paper rates, following the printing in 1887 of the 2¢ orange. There seems to be some confusion with the printed paper rate by Gough (2002), who seemed to assume that it was 1¢ for this period, whereas it was 2¢ from 1879-1892, and then dropped to 1¢ in 1893. Gough also felt that the printing of the 1¢ green (SG 50) in 1887 made the UPU compliant for the printed paper rate, whereas in fact the rate was 2¢ at this time and Newfoundland had a green stamp for that since at least 1879. However, what Gough did not record was that Newfoundland printed a 2¢ green and 1¢ brown in 1896, both of which were non-compliant with the UPU colours for their respective postal rates.

Boggs [6] noted that the colour changes in 1898 resulted in Newfoundland conforming to the UPU colour coding for foreign mail, as required by the 1897 UPU Convention. Again, this is only partially true, as the 5¢ stamp issued in 1897 was violet (a change from the blue colour normally used for the 5¢ value) and was only changed back to blue in 1899.

Postcard rates in 1879-1880

The foreign postcard rate, if it existed, was 2¢ and the 2¢ stamps at this time were green, continuing a colour usage from earlier years. Newfoundland did issue postcard stationery in 1879 and used red (or shades of red) for the 2¢ postcard, probably in recognition of discussions for colour coding at the UPU in 1879 and Newfoundland joining the UPU in this year.

Non-conforming colours in 1896-1897

Stamps were issued in non-conforming colours for the three classes of foreign mail just prior to the colour-coding system being included in the 1897 Convention. These stamps were soon re-printed or re-issued in the UPU colours within a few years and Newfoundland remained compliant until around 1923.

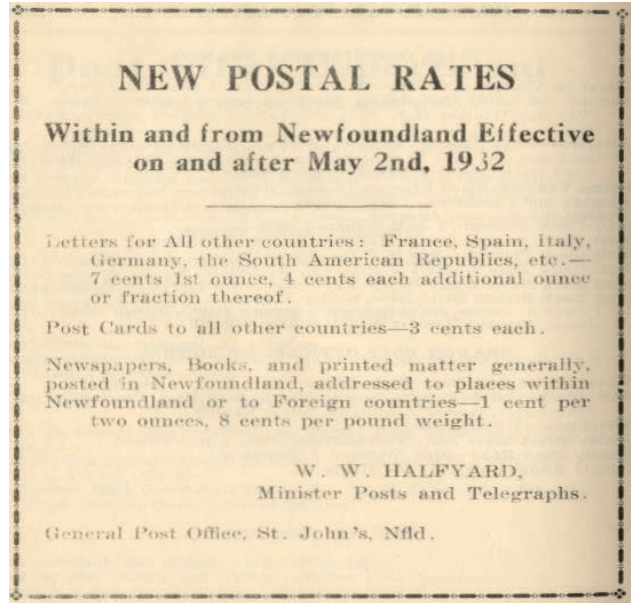
The non-compliant 6¢ slate of 1923

Newfoundland increased its letter rate from 5¢ to 6¢ in 1922. This was not reflected in the colours of the 1923 pictorial issue. The 5¢ was printed in ultramarine, conforming to the old letter rate, whereas the 6¢ for the newly adopted letter rate was printed in slate. This was not correct until the 1928 issue, perhaps because slate was considered a shade of blue.

The non-compliant 4¢ mauve of 1928

Newfoundland increased its postcard rate from 2¢ to 4¢ in 1925, but the issue of 1928 has the 2¢ in carmine and the 4¢ in mauve, thus again not updating the colours to match the rate increase. The two subsequent printings of this set kept to the original non-compliant colours for postcards.

Figure 3. Newfoundland postal rates for foreign mail in 1932 (from the *Year Book and Almanac of Newfoundland 1932*—local and Empire rates are not shown).



Non-compliance in 1932

The 1932 set was issued on 2 January and then re-issued on 15 August with some colour changes and a new value. On 2 May 1932, the basic rate for letters increased from 6¢ to 7¢, for postcards decreased from 4¢ to 3¢, and remained at 1¢ for printed papers (Figure 3). The issue of the 7¢ on 15 August 1932 was for foreign letters, as there was no other class with a 7¢ rate at that time. The 2 Jan 1932 had compliant stamps for printed papers and letters, whereas the 15 August release had no compliant stamps (Table 4). One possible explanation for the lack of compliance in the 15 August re-issue could be that the rate changes were not as expected. The 15 August set would have been fully compliant if the rate changes on 2 May had been different, *i.e.*, 2¢ for printed papers, 4¢ for postcards and 6¢ for letters, but this is speculation and turned out to be not the case.

Table 4. Colours and usage for the 1932 issue showing colour changes in the second printing. Non-compliance with the UPU colour system is shown in red.

Value	2 Jan 1932	15 August 1932
1¢	green (for printed papers)	grey (for printed papers)
2¢	Carmine	green
3¢	orange-brown	† (for postcards)
4¢	bright violet (for postcards)	carmine
6¢	light blue (for letters)	†-
7¢	†	red-brown (for letters)

† No stamp issued

The issues of 1933-1949

Newfoundland became compliant for the letter rate from 1933, issuing the remaining six 7¢ stamps in blue. Stamps for the 3¢ postcard rate continued to be issued in chestnut or orange brown for the 1933 and 1937 issues, and then in the compliant carmine from 1938. The stamps for the printed paper rate were only compliant when the rate increased to 2¢ on 11 July 1940 until 18 July 1945, and again from 1 July 1948 until confederation, when the 2¢ green could be used. The stamps issued in 1933, 1937, and 1941, when the rate was at 1¢, were grey and thus non-compliant.

The puzzling case of the 1937 Coronation “Omnibus” issue

A memo dated 13 October 1936, written by the Dominions Office, London, in response to a telegram from the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, St Johns, discussing the Newfoundland Coronation issue gives [incorrectly] the foreign postal rates for letters, postcards, and printed papers, as 7¢, 4¢, and 2¢, respectively (Figure 4). There was no 7¢ in the issue, and a 5¢ purple was substituted, but the 4¢ and 2¢ were printed in red and green, thus conforming to the UPU colour system for postcards and printed papers, had the rates been 4¢ and 2¢. However, the actual rates in Newfoundland for these classes in 1937 were 3¢ and 1¢ respectively. The issue was therefore non-compliant.

Figure 4. Extract from Dominions Office, London, memo dated 13 October 1936 concerning the Newfoundland Coronation issue (The National Archives, UK, D035/502/7).

3. The answer to Mr. Trentham's query at the end of his letter as regards colours is that apart from the requirements of the International Postal Convention Colonies are perfectly free to choose their own colours which will probably vary therefore according to taste. (Under the Convention the minimum international printed paper rate is required to be green, the minimum international post card rate red and the minimum foreign letter rate blue. These rates in Newfoundland I take to be 3 cents, 4 cents and 7 cents respectively. Newfoundland have not included the latter in the 3 Coronation issues, substituting the Empire and U.S.A. letter rate of 5 cents).

But why did Newfoundland choose non-compliant colours for the 3¢ postcard rate in August 1932, 1933, 1935, 1937 (not 1938-1941 where the 3¢ was red), and 1¢ printed paper rate in non-compliant grey in 1932, 1933, and 1937, when the 2¢ was in green (that at least made it compliant for 1940-1945 and 1948-1949)? It seems from the Dominion's Office memo that Great Britain was supporting the UPU colour coding at this time (even if they did not know Newfoundland's foreign postal rates).

Summary

Newfoundland followed the values and the colours for foreign mail that was adopted by the UPU, with some puzzling exceptions. These exceptions can sometimes be explained by changes in rates, where the correct colour was issued later. In other cases, particularly in the 1930s and 1940s, some of these exceptions have no obvious explanation.

Acknowledgements

This article started from a simple question: Why did Newfoundland change the colour of its 1932 1¢ stamp from grey to green? I never found out, but I did find out much I didn't know in the process! I am grateful to Michael Furfie and Kenneth Snelson, who explained many theoretical and practical aspects of UPU international postage rates and their conversion to national currencies. Special thanks to Solange Avila for help with sourcing various documents.

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Repeating constant plate varieties on the 7½d: Part 1 of 2

Scott Robinson

LIKE many collectors, my holdings and experience in handling the pence issue from the province of Canada are severely limited due to the scarcity and high cost of most stamps in the issue. The green 7½d is particularly challenging for the student of constant plate varieties, since the coarse paper and heavy inking of many copies make the study of fine details difficult at best. Even the well-known, major re-entry can be very difficult to spot. Fortunately, the 7½d does have some other prominent constant varieties that do show up on plate proofs and stamp copies. In this first of two articles on this issue, I will examine three plate positions that I believe show a constant variety that originates from the same cause.

A couple of years ago, while viewing a high-resolution scan of a plate proof, I was struck by some odd markings that appeared at the top of the design at several positions. A quick look at my 2015 Unitrade stamp catalogue revealed a listing for #9iv, which was described as “flaw in '1d' of fraction, UR triangle (pos 39 and 63)” and accompanied by a rather grainy black-and-white image of the upper right corner, showing marks similar to what I had noticed on my plate proof scan. However, a further review of my scan revealed no trace of this variety at position 39 or 63. Clearly, some investigation of this variety was in order.

The Unitrade catalogue began listing this variety back in 1999. A grainy image was added to the listing in 2000, and the plate positions were added in 2015. This variety has actually been documented for much longer than that. Back in the April 1954 issue of *BNA Topics* (Vol 11, No 4, Whole No. 112), Fred Jarrett and Jim Smart described a constant variety on this issue that they referred to as a “burr above ½” in the 7½d value at the top right corner of the stamp. The article included images of two stamps that showed the variety (although they were not quite identical in appearance) and also mentioned its existence on proofs. Just over forty years later, in 1995, Dr Jim Watt published an article in *BNA Topics* (Vol 52, No 1, Whole No 462) that paid tribute to the previous article and provided much more information on this variety. He concluded that the variety existed in two locations, which he plated as positions 47 and 83.

He also recognized that these positions exhibited substantial marks in their upper margins, and that there was a strong triangular mark beside the “d” in the top left 6d value. In fact, Dr. Watt's article focused mostly on the left-side triangle flaw, and he used its appearance as the primary method for distinguishing between the two plate positions. Examples of these positions in proof form are shown in Figure 1.

Careful examination of plate positions 47 and 83 reveals that, in addition to the strong marks in the left and right top value areas, there are also additional marks in the top margin, the Queen's portrait, and in the letters and white frames of the top half of the stamp design. While many of the marks are similar, they are clearly not so alike that they would come from flaws on the transfer roll in laying down or re-entering the plate. Yet their similarity would be unlikely to derive from random plate damage.

Keywords & phrases: Large Queens, military, postal markings, plating



Figure 1. Plate proofs of positions 47 and 83
(Courtesy of John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre.)

After examining several proof scans carefully in Photoshop, it became clear to me that the strength and sharpness of many of the marks was good evidence of a misplaced entry. I also noted that some research by Ralph E Trimble and Michael D Smith, as reported at re-entries.com, had come to the same conclusion. I contacted Unitrade Editor, D Robin Harris, to pass along the misplaced entry conclusion and the correct plate positions. I was pleased to see that the listing for #9iv was corrected and new images added for both positions in the 2016 edition of the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*.

My next step was to try to find an explanation for these misplaced entries. I began my research by looking for examples of actual stamps with the variety. After some online research and contact with other collectors, I was provided with several examples of the variety. I noticed that two of these copies, including one that had been certified as #9iv, did not correspond very well with the variety as seen at plate positions 47 or 83. Upon further review of my plate proof reference material, I found a third position on the plate that showed a similar but significantly weaker variety that did match perfectly with the two stamp copies. This was at plate position 69 and is shown in Figure 2.

Notice that the variety from position 69 has much less damage to the 7½d value on the right side, and it exhibits almost none of the dark triangle shown on the left-side 6d value at positions 47 and 83. Like the other positions, it does have many marks throughout the top half of the stamp, including the top margin and Queen's portrait. Note also that, although the dark triangular mark is not shown on the left side, there is still a light halo around the "d" in the top left 6d value as seen on the stamps with the triangle.

Now with similar varieties appearing at three positions on the plate, it seems unlikely that this would be caused by a random misplaced entry or dropped transfer roll when the plate was laid down. It also occurred to me that with all the marks appearing in the top half of these stamps, these varieties were reminiscent of the famous "Double Epaulette" variety that



Figure 2. Plate proof and stamp of position 69.

(Courtesy of John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre. Stamp copy courtesy of Jim Jung.)

appears on the ten-cent Prince Albert value of the First Cents issue. It is well documented that the Albert variety is caused by a misplaced entry appearing in the bottom half of the stamp such that the extra entry is almost exactly a full half-stamp out of alignment.

The 7½d plate proofs show occasional traces of horizontal and vertical guidelines in the margins between the stamp impressions that were used to help the siderographer lay down the individual impressions on the plate. Even more common are the guide dots and traces of horizontal guidelines that appear across the centre of many stamp impressions on the plate. I wondered if it was possible that the siderographer had mixed up the centre guidelines with the guidelines in the stamp margins to cause an impression to be laid down exactly a half-stamp out of alignment. To check this theory, I used Photoshop to examine the relative positions of the misplaced entries.

My technique is to overlay a translucent image of a regular stamp over one of the varieties to see where the marks might align. I chose to first check position 83 since it had the most frequent and most evident marks. By moving the translucent stamp image around, and flipping it on and off, it is possible to see where the extra marks on the variety might align with a second impression from the misplaced entry. Much to my delight, the extra marks at position 83 could be almost entirely accounted for by a misplaced entry exactly half-a-stamp too high. This technique is hard to visualize from a static image, so I have created a grey image of position 83 with all the extra marks highlighted in purple. This technique is shown in Figure 3, along with a version showing the translucent overlay of the misplaced entry impression.

Examination of the images above makes it clear that virtually all the extra marks in the variety (in purple) are accounted for by the dark areas of the overlaid misplaced entry that occurs exactly half-a-stamp too high. Some extra marks in the stamp above, from position 71, are also accounted for by the overlay. A more detailed view is provided in Figure 4, a close-up



Figure 3. At left is a plate proof of position 83 with misplaced entry marks highlighted in purple. At right is the same image with an overlay showing the location of the entire misplaced entry.

view of position 83 with variety marks highlighted in purple, and overlay showing the location of the misplaced entry.

Figure 4 shows clearly that the most obvious areas where the purple marks coincide with the dark areas of the misplaced entry are the prominent marks (1) in the denominations at the top of the stamp. These marks come from the dark areas in the centre of the text oval of the misplaced entry. Another conspicuous area of interest is the curved line and dot (2) that appear to the right of the Queen's portrait. Notice how these correspond perfectly with the dark areas of the "7" from the lower right denomination area of the misplaced entry. The single horizontal guideline that commonly appears across the centre of this stamp is replaced by segments of a double line (3) that corresponds exactly with the lower frame lines from the misplaced entry. The smaller variety marks in the letters, the white portrait ovals and



Figure 4. Close-up view of position 83, with variety marks highlighted in purple and showing the overlay.

the portrait of the Queen, come from the dark areas between “SIX PENCE STERLING” and the drop-shadows of the lower value areas of the misplaced entry. The most significant mark that does not correspond with a dark area of the misplaced entry is the mark (4) that appears below the Queen's eye. This mark and perhaps some of the other marks near the eye may just be random, minor plate damage as appears throughout many areas of this plate.

I have also tested plate positions 47 and 69, and they both show the same clear evidence of a similar misplaced entry that is half-a-stamp too high. Each position does have some very minor marks that cannot be accounted for. I believe that some of these marks and the lighter halos that appear around the dark marks in the top value areas (particularly at the right of position 69) may come from an attempt to remove the original misplaced entries. Attempts to burnish out entries on the plate can create additional minor tool marks or cause the plate to have an uneven surface for the new entry.

In summary, it is my supposition that positions 47, 69, and 83 of the 7½d plate have similar misplaced entries that are caused by a previous application of the stamp impression exactly half-a-stamp too high. Virtually all the extra printed marks from these positions can be accounted for by the remnants of such a previous entry. Other very minor marks may be caused by attempts to remove the misplaced entry or by random damage that is prevalent throughout this unhardened plate. The misplaced entries were probably created during the initial plate preparation, as they appear on multiple proofs and can be found regularly on actual stamp copies. Part 2 of this article will highlight another repeating constant plate variety on the 7½d that remains undocumented and uncatalogued.



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BNAPS book release notes

BNAPS is pleased to announce the release of four new books, the 101st volume in the BNAPS Exhibit Series and three new handbooks, including the much-awaited 3rd Edition of the Fancy Cancel handbook. All BNAPS books are available through our agent, Sparks Auctions.

The Herb McNaught Single Frame Award Exhibits 2009-2017. A panoramic view of many of the different and varied aspects of BNA philately. 2018, Spiral bound, 200 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-93-8. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 101. Stock # B4h923-101-1. C\$83.

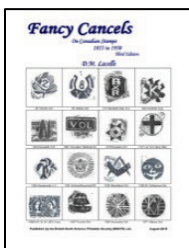


The late Herbert Louis McNaught (1919-2008), a stamp collector since 1934, became interested in the stamps and postal history of British North America and joined BNAPS in 1992. He first exhibited at BNAPEX 1994 in Burlington, VT, and followed this with exhibits in 1995, 1998, 2003, and 2005-2008. Three of his exhibits, *The Half-Cent Small Queen*, *The 1897 Diamond Jubilee Issue*, and *The 1908 Quebec Tercentenary Issue* were each published as a volume in the BNAPS Exhibit Series.

In addition to developing multi-frame exhibits, Herb became very keen on sixteen-page single-frame exhibits and created his *The Half-Cent Small Queen Issue of 1882-1897* exhibit, of which he was very proud. After Herb's passing in 2008, his family created the Herb McNaught Single Frame Exhibit Award, to be presented at the annual BNAPEX convention exhibition to the best Single-Frame exhibit receiving Silver or higher. Winners of the award receive a plaque, a cheque for a small honorarium, and a commemorative pin. In addition, each winner's name and the exhibit title are engraved on a plate that is attached to the full-size Herb McNaught trophy, which is on display every year at BNAPEX.

Illustrated in this, the 101st volume in the BNAPS Exhibit series, are the winning exhibits from each of the 2009 through 2017 BNAPEX conventions. The exhibits have been collected in a single volume so that philatelists can see not only the philatelic material they contain, but also how a successful single-frame exhibit is structured. With luck, other collectors will, in future, develop single-frame exhibits of their own, using these as examples.

Two BNA single-frame exhibits which won awards *before* the McNaught Award was created are also included in this book. They are Jonathan Johnson's *Canadian Military Hospitals at Sea*, the first BNA Single-Frame Exhibit to win a major award anywhere and, appropriately, Herb McNaught's own *The Half-Cent Small Queen Issue of 1882-1897*.



Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950—Third Edition, David Lacelle, More than 350 additions, revisions, and updates to the 2nd edition confirm the continuing interest in this popular field. 2018, Spiral bound, 250 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-90-7. Stock # B4h093-1. C\$56.

DM (Dave) Lacelle's *Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950 – Third Edition* is the latest BNAPS publication. For more than fifty years, Dave has been cataloguing and maintaining a database of thousands of bits and pieces of information relating to more than 1,700 different Fancy

Cancels. Due to the invaluable input of the 80-plus members of the BNAPS Fancy Cancels & Miscellaneous Markings (FC&MM) Study Group, over the ten-year period since publication of the second edition the author has compiled more than 350 additions, revisions, and updates. In addition, there are three new appendices relating to a series of fake cancels, the removal of previously “unconfirmed” cancels, and one on “joke” markings.

Dave Lacelle started collecting stamps as a young lad and soon specialized in Canada, with the intent of having a complete collection by age twelve. As so often happens in real life, some other things (bicycle, girls, university, job, etc.) got in the way for a while. At about age ten, Dave received a small tobacco tin containing Scott No. 41s, the Three Cent “Small Queen” issue, from a kindly aunt in Montreal. There were about thirty Small Queens (an awesome duplication to a ten-year-old!), with all but one having either circular date stamp or machine cancels. He asked his local stamp dealer about the oddity and was told that it was a “cork” cancel, probably from an old whiskey bottle cork. The seed was planted, and from this single cork cancel a much later collection grew, as well as a BNAPS study group, and both the first and second editions of this book.

Dave still has this first cork, and has enjoyed the sixty-year hobby which came from it. He would like to ask collectors to please practice “random acts of kindness,” as his aunt did. You never know when such an act can have a long-term, positive effect upon a young person.

First Day Covers of the H&E Stamp Company; Gary Dickinson. A definitive study of the more than three hundred First Day Cover cachets produced between 1954 and 1978 by two men operating from a basement print shop. 2018, Spiral bound, 86 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-91-4. Stock # B4h094-1. C\$32.

First Day Covers of the H&E Stamp Company is Gary Dickinson’s fourteenth BNAPS book about different aspects of Canadian First Day Covers. In this volume, he describes and illustrates the contribution of a small Ottawa firm, the H&E Stamp Company, founded by Earl Graziadei and Harold Crick during the 1950s and 1960s, which could easily be considered the highpoint of Canadian FDC publishing. From its beginning in 1955 until the business closed in 1972, the small company operating primarily from Graziadei’s basement print shop was one of the leaders in the Canadian FDC marketplace. For a few short years in the mid-1950s, their cacheted covers were the *de facto* leaders of the pack.

Dr Gary Dickinson worked in British Columbia secondary schools, colleges, and universities for thirty-five years until he retired in 2001. He spent his last twenty years in education at Okanagan College and Okanagan University College, where he served as South Okanagan Regional Director for five years, and Dean of the Faculty of Adult and Continuing Education for fifteen years.

He was also Acting Vice-President, Academic for the year-and-a-half prior to his retirement. Gary has continued his association with Okanagan College by chairing its Central Okanagan Advisory Committee and serving on the Research Ethics Board. He was co-founder of the BNAPS FDC Study Group and is editor of its newsletter, *First Impressions*. Gary and his wife Barbara have six grown children and were foster parents for twenty years.





The Caneco Connection—A Study of the First Day Covers of the Canada Envelope Company; Robert D Vogel. For more than twenty years, a Canadian envelope manufacturer used its own products to celebrate Canada by sending complimentary beautifully cacheted First Day Covers to its customers and friends. 2018, Spiral bound, 326 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-92-1. Stock # B4h095-1. C\$112.

Bob Vogel's *The Caneco Connection—A Study of the First Day Covers of the Canada Envelope Company* is the latest BNAPS handbook. In 1954, the Canada Envelope Company (Caneco) began to prepare not only First Day covers with suitable cachets for the stamp issue being commemorated, but also printed inserts with information relating to the subject(s) of the stamp issue. The FDCs were usually addressed to specific representatives of CANECO customers, but some were addressed to individuals without a company reference, likely friends of employees and, eventually, possibly to FDC collectors who had asked to be included in the mailings.

After studying his collection, Bob found that other companies were utilizing the same envelope but with their own return addresses on the reverse. This was cause for further study. Bob found that, starting in the late 1960s and the early 1970s, Elliott-Marion, Dominion Engineering Works, and James H Wilding, all Montreal businesses, chose the same cachet and, in most cases, similar information inserts. When Caneco ceased production of its own cachets in 1973 and substituted Rosecraft and NR Covers cachets to continue their first day cover program, James H Wilding and Dominion Engineering Works followed suit. These two companies continued with their programs until 1975 and 1983 respectively. Caneco continued its program until 1984 when it ceased to be in business.

Bob Vogel became a serious philatelist in 1964, collecting mint and used Canada. In 1970, his interest turned to the postal history of Muskoka District, and he gradually assembled a comprehensive collection and exhibited it at the local level. During the mid-1990s, his interest changed to the postal history of Berlin/Kitchener, Ontario, focusing on the machine cancels of that community, which he exhibited at a national level. Bob's sideline collections include WWII Patriotic Meter Slogans, 1932 Sepia View Postal Stationery, Canadian Christmas Seals, Postal Stationery relating to Christmas Seals, and Canadian First Day Covers. In 2016, he prepared the Second Edition of the late Art Klass's *Christmas Seal Ads on Canadian Post Cards* for BNAPS.

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New issues

William JF Wilson

The longest-living vertebrate on Earth

CANADA Post released a set of five stamps on 13 July, depicting sharks that inhabit or visit Canadian waters. At least twenty-eight species have been recorded here [1], with fourteen of these occurring commonly, so one might hope for an annual series of shark stamps. However, I have found no indication that this is other than an isolated set.

All sharks are interesting. However, one species in this set stands out because of a surprising statement that Canada Post makes in its write-up for the stamps; namely, that the Greenland shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*, Figure 1) “enjoys a longevity greater than any other vertebrate on Earth, more than 400 years, in fact!” The claim seems almost incredible, and raises an interesting question. How do we know this? How can we measure the longevity of something that lives for more than four hundred years? The answer, it turns out, gives some interesting insights into scientific sleuthing.



Figure 1. The Greenland Shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*).

For example, consider this: Sharks are difficult to study. If you’re on the ocean looking at seabirds, anything within binocular range is readily accessible, but how do you study a shark that’s hundreds of metres below you in an ocean where you can barely see below the surface? You can’t even tell if it’s there or not, let alone how old it is, which way it’s going, how it finds its food, whether it’s male or female, or if it’s pregnant. Given these difficulties, it’s not surprising that a “... list of the unknown features of Greenland shark biology appears to dwarf that which is known, and includes a lack of knowledge of its longevity and growth rate, any aspects of its reproduction, fecundity, size of female maturity, mating or pupping grounds, population structure, migrations or even confirmation that it predates versus scavenges its prey [2].”

Some things that we do know about the Greenland shark are that it is “... the largest fish in the polar oceans, very abundant in some areas, a frequent bycatch in some fisheries, and one of the largest carnivorous sharks in the world [2].” They are found in the Arctic from Canada to Norway, and they have a wide distribution around the North Atlantic. In a study from 2007 to 2009 [2], Greenland sharks captured and released in Cumberland Sound (Baffin Island) in the Canadian Arctic travelled as much as 1,600 km northward between Baffin Island and Greenland in about six months, reaching as far north as 76° latitude. Most of their time was spent about 200 to 500 m below the surface, with minimum and maximum depths of 0 (surface) and 1,562 m. Others that were captured and released along the edge of the continental shelf off Nova Scotia travelled as much as 1,500 km southwest in about the same length of time to the latitude of North Carolina, far offshore beyond the continental shelf.

These spent most of their time about 600 to 1,200 m below the surface, with minimum and maximum depths of 144 and 1,816 m. The ocean there is about four km deep, so 1,816 m is about halfway to the ocean floor. (The data were obtained by attaching a tag to each shark that recorded and archived the data until a pre-set date. It then automatically released from the shark, popped up to the surface, and transmitted the data to a satellite.)

The paper above [2], describing the longevity and growth rate of Greenland sharks as being unknown, was published in 2015. Only a year later, a paper was published by Nielsen *et al.* [3] that addresses this very issue, and which provides the answers to the questions above about Canada Post's statement. (The discussion that follows is based on this paper.) The method used in the paper moves from the simple concept that the longevity of any species must be at least as great as the age of the oldest individual of that species we can find. Right away, though, we hit an obstacle. When we catch a Greenland shark, how do we know its age?

The answer would be easy if we had the growth curve for Greenland sharks; *i.e.*, if we had a graph that shows how long a typical Greenland shark is (plotted along the vertical axis) in each year of its life (plotted along the horizontal axis). Then, when we catch one, we could just measure its length and use the growth curve to find the age at which a Greenland shark has that length. The question then becomes, how do we find the growth curve?

It turns out that, for other shark species for which the growth curve is already known, the curves all have the same form, or general shape. What changes from one species to another is how much this curve is stretched or compressed vertically (some species grow to be very large, others remain smaller), and how much it is stretched or compressed horizontally (some species grow more slowly, others more quickly). Thus, the problem tackled in the paper was to take the known form of the growth curve for other shark species, and to fit it to a set of known lengths and ages for a representative sample of Greenland sharks.

Nielsen *et al.* obtained twenty-eight female Greenland sharks that had been taken as unintended bycatch by fisheries research vessels, commercial fishing boats, and scientific longlines in the ocean around Greenland. Healthy ones are released back into the ocean, but these twenty-eight, of lengths from 81 cm to 5.02 m, had lethal injuries and were humanely euthanized. (Female Greenland sharks are larger than males, so choosing all of one gender is important for uniformity.) These were assigned numbers 1 through 28 in order from shortest to longest, and therefore (one assumes) from youngest to oldest.

The next task was figuring out their ages, and Nielsen *et al.* were the first to do this for Greenland sharks. The lens in a shark's eye grows as the shark grows, and the first little bit of the lens (the "eye lens nucleus") forms while the shark is developing inside its mother. The age at death of a Greenland shark can then be found by dissecting its eye and using radiocarbon dating to find the age of the eye lens nucleus. The ages found this way had relatively large uncertainties, but there were two lengths for which much more accurate ages were known, and these helped to anchor the growth curve. One was the length of a newborn Greenland shark (age zero), which is close to 42 cm; and the other comes from a health hazard. Atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons began in the 1950s, and this caused the amount of radioactive carbon-14 in marine animals to start increasing dramatically around 1960. The eye lens nucleus of sharks 1 and 2 had strongly-elevated amounts of carbon-14, that of shark number 3 had only a slightly-elevated amount, and those of the twenty-five older sharks had carbon-14 levels that were normal for the pre-bomb era. Thus, the twenty-five older sharks

were born before the carbon-14 spike began, and shark 3 (length 2.20 m) was born just after it began. This gave a birth year of 1963 plus or minus five years for shark 3. A statistical analysis of the lengths and ages then gave the growth curve.

Two results from this growth curve are as follows:

(1) The curve predicts that Greenland sharks grow to a maximum length in the range from 5.04 to 5.88 m. The largest records for Greenland sharks do indeed lie in this range, which lends confidence in the reliability of the derived growth curve.

(2) The longest and therefore oldest shark in the sample (shark 28, length 5.02 m) is well into where the growth curve flattens out as sharks approach their maximum length. This confirms that it was a relatively old shark. Its age was 392 years plus or minus 120 years when it died; *i.e.*, to the 95 percent confidence level, it was between 272 and 512 years old.

We can now see where Canada Post's statement comes from, that Greenland sharks have a longevity of more than 400 years. If we take an age of 392 years for shark 28, and also recognize that it died prematurely, then the longevity of the species must be more than 400 years. (If there were young Greenland sharks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 1608 when Champlain sailed by to found Quebec, they could still be alive today.) However, this conclusion is not completely certain because, given the uncertainty range found above, the longevity could actually be as low as 272 years (plus a bit).

The previously-measured greatest longevity among vertebrates was 211 years for the bowhead whale, *Balaena mysticetus* [3]. Thus, even taking the lower value of 272 years, the Greenland shark is the longest-living vertebrate so far known on the Earth. It is not, however, the longest-living animal of any kind so far known. This honour goes to the ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*), a clam with a longevity in excess of 500 years. (This figure comes from counting annual growth increments in the shells of several individuals, the oldest of which turned out to be 507 years old [4].)

Another result from the paper has bearing on the conservation of the species [3]. It had previously been shown that females are more than four metres in length when they reach sexual maturity. The growth curve found by Nielsen *et al.* now shows that a length of four metres corresponds to an age of 156 years plus or minus 22 years; *i.e.*, they do not start giving birth until they are more than 134 years old. As noted above, they are abundant in parts of their range, so they do not appear to be in trouble at the present time. However, the time to reach sexual maturity is an important component in the recovery time of a species if its population ever plummets. With a time to sexual maturity of more than a hundred years, we need to be careful what we do to Greenland sharks.

The information in the accompanying tables 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).

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- [2] Steven E Campana, Aaron T Fisk, and A Peter Klimley, “Movements of Arctic and northwest Atlantic Greenland sharks (*Somniosus microcephalus*) monitored with archival satellite pop-up tags suggest long-range migrations,” *Deep Sea Research II*, Vol 115, 2015, pp. 109-115.
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- [4] Paul G Butler, Alan D Wanamaker Jr, James D Scourse, Christopher A Richardson, David J Reynolds, “Variability of marine climate on the North Icelandic Shelf in a 1357-year proxy archive based on growth increments in the bivalve *Arctica islandica*,” *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, Vol 373, 1 March 2013, pp. 141-151.

Table 1. 2018 Commemoratives.

Stamp	Astronomy	Sharks	Weather Wonders	Birds	Emergency Responders
Value	2 × P (s-t on SS)	5 × P (two s-t and three s-t on SS)	5 × P (two s-t and three s-t on SS)	5 × P (s-t on SS)	5 × P (s-t on SP)
Issued	29 Jun	13 Jul	26 Jul	20 Aug	14 Sep
Printer	CI	L-M	L-M	CBN	CI
Pane	Bk: 10 SS: 2	Bk: 10 SS: 5	Bk: 10 SS: 5	Bk: 10 SS: 5	Bk: 10 SP: 5
Paper	C	C	C	C	C
Process	7CL	4CL	4CL	6CL	5CL
Qty (1000s)	Bk: 180 ^(a) SS: 85 ^(a)	Bk: 250 ^(a) SS: 85 ^(a)	Bk: 400 ^(a) SS: 85 ^(a)	Bk: 400 ^(a) SS: 25 ^(a)	Bk: 400 ^(a) SP: 80 ^(a)
Tag	G4S ^(b)	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	Bk: P-S SP: PVA
Size, mm	38 × 30	28.8 × 28.8	40 × 32	20 × 24	48 × 26
Perf	Bk: Simulated SS: 13.2 × 13.3	Bk: Simulated SS: 12.5 × 12.5	Bk: Simulated SS: 12.5 × 12.5	Bk: Simulated SS: 13.0 × 13.3	Bk: Simulated SP: 13.3 × 13.1
Teeth	Bk: Simulated SS: 25 × 20	Bk: Simulated SS: 18 × 18	Bk: Simulated SS: 25 × 20	Bk: Simulated SS: 13 × 16	Bk: Simulated SP: 32 × 17

Footnotes for Table 1:

^(a) Number of booklets, souvenir sheets, or special panes.

^(b) The date and time when each photograph was taken, the latitude and longitude of the location, and the camera settings are printed in the tagging, visible under ultraviolet light.

Abbreviations for Table 1:

*number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; Bk = booklet; C = Tullis-Russell 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; s-t = se-tenant; SP = special pane; SS = souvenir sheet.



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Scott #1454i VAR

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XF NH Fault Free	\$8,950.00 CAD
Set of Vertical Imperf Pairs:	\$3,750.00 CAD
Minor gum bends:	\$2,685.00 CAD

Canada Scott #1454i VAR	84c Weihnachtsmann "Accent over E of NOËL"
Cat Value: Unlisted Pairs:	\$1,250.00 CAD each
Corner Blocks (Blank)	\$2,950.00 CAD each

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BNAPS business and reports

President's column

Ken Lemke, OTB

THIS is my first opportunity to address you, the members of BNAPS as your President for 2018-2020. This is indeed an honour given the rich history and leadership of the Society. Our Society has always benefited from the wisdom, dedication, and hard work of many members.

As I write this, I have just been informed that BNAPEX 2018 Quebec will be the second-largest convention in the history of BNAPS. This is due to the exceptional effort of the organizing committee, and they are to be congratulated for this achievement. The Co-chairmen of the Convention were Grégoire Teyssier and Jacques Poitras, and their committee, consisting of Hugo Deshayé, Yan Turmine, Luc Freve, Eldon Godfrey, Lise Gosselin, Cimon Morin, Christine Faucher, Léopold Beaudet, RF Coté, and Dave Bartlet. I am sure the members of BNAPS will join me in thanking the BNAPEX 2018 Quebec committee for this outstanding achievement.



While results of the election have not been announced as I write this column, the following Directors are retiring: Richard Fleet and Adri Veenstra, and we thank them for their service and dedication. We look forward to Richard and Adri continuing to support the Society in other capacities. Current directors Charles Livermore (Chairman of the Board), will become Secretary and Ron Majors, the First Vice-President. Secretary Andy Ellwood, after many years of service as a director and, most recently, Secretary, has decided to retire. The position of Secretary is critical in the operation of the Society, and we extend a hearty 'thank you!' to Andy for his outstanding service. Andy will continue as Chair of the Pre-Cancel Study Group as well as Co-ordinator of the Sales Circuit.

President Eldon Godfrey now ascends to the chair of Past President. During the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Eldon. He has been an outstanding mentor; I am most appreciative. The final Board change is that George Dresser will also be retiring. He has served the Society in a variety of functions including two terms as President and Past President and will continue as Finance Committee Chair. Thank you, George!

I would be remiss if, on behalf of the members of the Society and the Board of Directors, we didn't thank all the volunteers: Study Group Chairs and Editors, Committee Chairs, Regional Group officials, and other appointed officers. These are the real "worker bees" of our Society, and they make sure we are strong and healthy. If you are not familiar with who these individuals are, I would encourage to consult the back pages where these individuals are listed, or visit the website at www.bnaps.org.

As I write this message, the BNAPS Board of Directors meeting has not yet occurred, but on pre-reading the various reports for the meeting, there are three areas that I would like to bring to the attention of the membership:

(1) The Study Group (SG) Centreline reporter (Peter McCarthy) reports that some newsletters are not being published as regularly as they once were, primarily due to fewer article contributors. SG editors work hard and, on occasion, they write most, if not all, of the articles to have enough content to publish their newsletters. We can all help the Study Group editors by submitting articles. The articles do not have to be multi-page documents or in-depth studies, although those are welcome. A short article of a discovery, a new variety you found, a favourite cover, etc., will help your editor and, I can assure you, be of interest to the other members of your SG.

(2) We are a volunteer organization; if you haven't volunteered to help, please consider doing so. More volunteers will make the work load lighter for the current volunteers. As a volunteer myself, I know it can be an enjoyable and fruitful experience. If you are interested in getting involved, you can contact me (kwlemke@sympatico.ca) or any member of the Board of Directors. When you do, it would be most helpful if you indicate where you think you could help. If your SG, Regional Group, Committee, etc., could use a helping hand, simply let me or a member of the Board know, and we will make every effort to get you some help.

(3) Reports from all philatelic societies are indicating a decrease in membership. At BNAPS, we have been fortunate that our recent decline has been minor; however we cannot ignore the trends. In the months ahead, it is my hope that we will increase our efforts to promote the Society and inform people as to who we are, and the benefits of membership. In the interim, if you know someone who collects BNA and is not a member, introduce them to BNAPS by giving them a copy of *BNA Topics* that you may not need or want anymore. Encourage them to visit our website and, if you know their collecting interest, direct them to look at the SG newsletters. I believe one-on-one contact with potential members may bear positive results.

*Until the next time – Happy Stamping,
Regards, Ken*

From the Secretary—Report date: 12 June to 2 October 2018

P Charles Livermore, OTB

(100-08 Ascan Avenue, Forest Hill, NY 11375 USA, <secretary@bnaps.org>)

Membership fees

Membership fees for 2018 are C\$35 for Canadian members, \$30US for US members, 26 Pounds for UK members, and C\$40 for members from any other country. The membership fee schedule was confirmed (with no change) by the AGM. Applications submitted during the second and third quarter of the year are seventy-five percent and fifty percent of the annual fees, respectively, while those submitted in the fourth quarter are twenty-five 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

R-7002 Garland Shepard, Cameron, MO
 R-7003 Mike Schneider, Quesnel, BC
 R-7004 Gaetan Guilbert, Gatineau, QC
 R-7005 William Fisher, Whitby, ON
 R-7006 Geoff Pinkerton, New Westminster, BC
 R-7007 Timothy Baikie, Toronto, ON
 R-7008 Michel Guilbault, Ste-Julie, QC
 R-7009 Steve Raine, Airdrie, AB
 R-7010 Mark Armstrong, Manila, ON
 R-7011 Neil Walsh, Ottawa, ON

R-7012 Butch Terpening, Port St Lucie, AL
 R-7013 Edward Case, Philadelphia, PA
 R-7014 Jack Myers Jr, Bellefonte, PA
 R-7015 Jean Wang, Toronto, ON
 R-7016 Jim Etherington, Lewes
 R-7017 Jacques Mailloux, Quebec, QC
 R-7018 Jeffrey Anderson, Brookfield, WI
 X-7019 Cheryl Grantham, Lunenburg Cty, NS *
 R-7020 Michael Lamothe, Montgomery,

All applicants assigned membership numbers from **6988** and **7001** 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 75, No 3, 2018, p. 55.

Deceased

E-3606 James W Brennan
 R-5202 Bruce Field
 E-2707 JM Sendbuehler

E-3656 Donald A Ure
 E-3575 Owen L White

Members reinstated

R-6020 NF Lee Dowsley
 R-6406 Tony Hine
 R-6028 Robert K Lunn
 R-5348 Philip J Spingler
 R-6145 Eugene J Zhiss

R-5972 Orville F Osborne
 R-6781 Barry Pitt-hart
 R-6156 Peter A Rafle

Members dropped

None.

Members resigned

None

Postal address changes

E-3478 John T Burnett, Madison, AL
 R-6187 Vince Colwell, Courtenay, BC
 R-6994 Brian Damien, Brunswick, ME
 R-6569 Louis De Nobile, Lasalle, QC
 R-6619 Sebastien Delcampe, Tubize
 R-7005 William Fisher, Whitby, ON
 L-3936 J Stuart Harper, Naramata, BC
 E-2104 JB Harper, London, ON
 E-3315 Carl W Knightly, Jr., Bangor, ME

R-6892 Max Lynds, Houlton, ME
 R-7017 Jacques Mailloux, Quebec, QC
 R-7009 Steve Raine, Airdrie, AB
 E-2883 Douglas J Squires, St. John's, NL
 Z-99119 Lorraine Street, Halifax, NS
 R-6898 Robert H Szymanski, Milford, MA
 R-7012 Butch Terpening, Port St Lucie, AL
 R-4849 Charles JG Verge, Toronto, ON
 L-3898 Ted Wright, Toronto, ON

Email address changes

R-6137 Barry W Casanova, Marriottsville, MD E-2104 J.B. Harper, London, ON

Members with unknown addresses

L-5217 P. Donald E Abel, Westbank, BC

ACTIVE member and non-member count by membership type

Total active members: 996

Note: Exchange/non-member subscriptions (22) are not counted as active members.

* “Exhibitor” (X-) is a new type of member. At the 2018 Board of Directors meeting, to encourage BNA non-member exhibitors to join BNAPS, a motion was passed to offer a free one-year membership to non-members with a BNA exhibit at a national show (US/Canada). If the individual accepts and applies for the free membership, he or she is given a membership number just like Regular members; however, to keep track of them, they are given a newly minted membership type, “Exhibitor.” If they decide to continue their membership beyond the free period, they retain their membership number, but the type is changed from “Exhibitor” to “Regular member.”

BNAPS elected officers: Executive and Directors

British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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

Elected officers: Executive

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

<kwlemke@sympatico.ca>

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

<Ronald.e.majors@gmail.com>

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

<ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca>

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

<charleslivermore@hotmail.com>

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

<jcm.ph@ns.sympatico.ca>

Elected officers: Board of Directors

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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>.

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A report on BNAPEX 2018

Ronald E. Majors

THIS year's seventieth BNAPEX returned to Quebec City, Quebec after nearly a forty-year hiatus. Held on the weekend of 21-23 September 2018, the hosts went all out to make this one of the best attended as well as one of the most organized meetings in recent years. This time, BNAPEX was supported by La Société d'histoire postale du Québec and La Fédération Québécoise de philatélie, which co-hosted the meeting. The event was co-chaired by Jacques Poitras and Grégoire Teyssier, along with their very capable "team" of volunteers, ensuring an enjoyable time was had by all, members, guests, and dealers alike. At the awards banquet on Sunday evening, held at the Hotel Plaza Quebec, I estimated there were over one hundred and fifty attendees. They came from all over Canada and the United States, and a few from Europe as well. (A few people who had to leave early missed that night.)



Figure 1. Ribbon cutting ceremony at BNAPEX 2018 with dignitaries (left to right): Grégoire Teyssier (co-Chair); The Honourable J Michel Doyon, Lieutenant-Governor of Québec; Mrs Michelle Morin-Doyle, Deputy Mayor, representing Mayor of Québec City; Mr. Michael Agner, Consul, Consulate of the US in Quebec City; Eldon Godfrey, Past President, BNAPS; Jacques Poitras (co-Chair); Christiane Faucher, President Société d'histoire postale du Québec.

could sip their wine and other refreshments while gazing at the historical relics and learning about the First Nations people who occupied these lands for years. Dinner was held in a restaurant adjacent to the Museum.



The conference celebrated three important events in Canadian history: (1) the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice that ended WWI; (2) the 100th anniversary of the Canada's first official postal flight; (3) the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the *Act to Confer the Right of Suffrage on Women*, which gave women the right to vote in federal elections.

The social program included a guided tour of Old Quebec City, a culinary tour with several tastings, and a scenic cruise along the St Lawrence River. Unfortunately, the leaves hadn't prominently showed their fall colours but everybody seemed to have a good time.

A special treat for attendees on Saturday evening was a trip to the Huron-Wendat Hotel Nation where attendees

The exhibits were of the highest calibre as expected at a specialist meeting like BNAPEX. A total of twenty-four Golds, nine Vermeils, twelve Silver and one Silver-Bronze medals were awarded at the Awards Banquet (see **Palmares in**

Figure 2. All 160 frames (the maximum) were occupied by forty-six exhibitors.



Figure 3. Dealers were kept busy.

the next issue of *BNA Topics* for details). A total of one hundred and sixty frames representing an increase over last year's meeting in Calgary were displayed. A special thanks to the BNAPEX judging crew—Mike Street (Chief Juror), Peter McCarthy, Ken Lemke, Hank Narbonne and Mark Berner—for their time-consuming effort to thoroughly go through the forty-six single- and multi-frame exhibits including six eight-framers.

I think that many in attendance will agree that the Study Group (SG) meetings continued their tradition of excellence. Most had good attendance with computer presentations, “show and tell,” lectures or other means of presenting interesting material that members brought along, including their purchases at the bourse. Overall, a total of fifteen SGs had meetings. I attended several. I noted the attendance numbers of some SGs: Large & Small Queens (14), Pence-Cents (24), and Newfoundland (14). In addition, other seminars or meetings were held, including the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, Regional Group coordinators, and La Fédération québécoise de philatélie. The Library and Archives Canada, Vincent Graves Greene Foundation, and the American Philatelic Research Library had a joint information session. This meeting was probably the best-attended meeting, and the directions on how to take advantage of the resources of these philatelic facilities and help offered by the librarians were invaluable. A kick-off meeting of the newly formed Lower Canada Regional Group also drew a large number of people, since this meeting place was in the backyard of its members.



Figure 4. Horace Harrison Grand Award winner Michael Powell is presented with a Huron pottery vase replica by Mike Street, Chief Juror.

Dealer activity seemed to be strong throughout the three-day bourse. A total of twenty-one dealers were present—a few more than at BNAPEX 2017. Most dealers focused on postal history, but plenty of stamps (BNA and non-BNA), post cards, and other philatelic items could still be had. Many dealers were supportive of the BNAPEX activities; they should be thanked for their financial- and physical-contributions.

BNAPEX 2018 souvenirs were also in evidence. Items available included the popular 1¢ Macdonald Caricature stamp precancelled Quebec City overprint (regular and inverted), covers with the same stamps, anniversary stamps and covers with Picture Postage commemorative covers, and personalized stamps for the first Airmail service, Woman's Suffrage, and Armistice (described earlier). Many of these items are still available. Check with the bnapessouvenirs@bnaps.org, for more information and to order. The travelling postal museum made its appearance in the hotel lobby after a resounding, successful viewing at Postal History Symposium in Hamilton in July. Thanks go to Grégoire Teyssier who assembled it.

Finally, thanks go to Adri Veenstra, Charles Livermore, and Yan Turmine for supplying some photos of the show.

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Regional group rant

David Bartlet, OTB

Overview

SPRING may have been slow to come in many places this year, but when summer came it had to be amongst the warmest in a few years. Generally, a quieter time in philately as many of you went away for a vacation or maybe attended the Hamilton Postal History Symposium. Regardless of where you went, I hope it was enjoyable. The summer can be a good time to write that next exhibit up, and I can tell you that I spent many hours doing just that in July and August. You will be reading this when Fall (maybe Winter for some) is in full swing and, of course, your thoughts will be of the fond memories of the BNAPEX 2018 convention in Quebec City. I can be contacted by email at regionalgroups@bnaps.org. Please send all of your meeting notices and reports to me there, and we will post them on the website and on the Facebook pages. Excerpts of the reports of various regional meetings follow. Full reports and their activities can be seen on the webpages for each regional group.

Atlantic

Their last meeting was held at NOVAPEX on the weekend of 15-16 September 2018. A report of that meeting will be provided in the next Rant.

Calgary

The Calgary group held their first monthly meeting of the “new year” on 12 September with ten members present. Jon Johnson presented his latest research on the rare Canadian Maritime Mail Cachet. Members in attendance also provided additional Show-and-Tell items that they had acquired over the summer. The business meeting covered topics such as the Christmas dinner (yes already), a potential BNAPEX bid for 2022, and a joint meeting in November with the Edmonton Regional group.

Dixie Beavers

The Dixie Beavers held their semi-annual regional meeting on 29 July 2018 at CHARPEX (Charlotte, North Carolina). Nine members and guests had a very nice social and educational meeting. Piedmont Community College was a great meeting location with superb lighting and meeting rooms. The bourse is very good, with dealers now bringing Canadian material to the show as the Dixie Beavers attendance and requests for Canadian material is being heard.

CHARPEX also hosted the German Philatelic Society, but BNAPS members made up a large portion of the exhibits with CA Stillions receiving a Large Gold medal for his excellent *Newfoundland's Last Definitives: The Perkins Bacon and Sprague Printings* and John Burnett a Gold for his *Canada—Usage of the Stamps of 1937-1942 for Domestic and Mail to the USA*. Other members took home medals for non-BNA material.

During the meeting, John Burnett put on a PowerPoint presentation on his 1937-42 material. CA Stillions discussed a couple of SS *Eros* covers he has acquired that add to the census of covers and, to date, one is the only Newfoundland cover to be reported from the sinking of the *Eros*, and the other, the only cover from Great Britain (it was being forwarded back to Great Britain) to be reported. John Burnett was able to acquire another SS *Eros* cover originating in Japan, addressed to England (via fastest route), transiting through Canada to join *Eros* in Quebec. Burnett said he believed this was the only Far East cover recovered from

Eros. These three covers are important enough to the *Eros* story that it was decided a follow up article must be written and submitted to *BNA Topics* for publication.

The Dixie Beavers are planning their next regional meeting in Atlanta in January 2019. Burnett encourages all members living in the Southeast US to come, as the show hotel has granted excellent rates (less than \$100), and a free, full English breakfast for each day stayed.

Edmonton

The Edmonton Regional Group has continued with monthly meetings, which are quite informal. Members bring in items to discuss in the group. Generally, there are six members in attendance at each meeting, but now with the regular attendance of Jim Watt from Hamilton, we are now regaled with much more in the way of classic Canada pence issues, in addition to our regular discussion of Alberta and BC postal history and related post cards.

Golden Horseshoe

The Golden Horseshoe group meets five times a year at the Rousseau House from 10am-4pm, with a pre-meeting of discussion and visiting local dealers. After lunch, the meeting begins with business and a presentation. Their first meeting was postponed to 27 October due to conflicts and the late date of this year's BNAPEX. At the next meeting, Brian Peters will present a talk on Canadian Revenue Stamps.

Manitoba NW Ontario

The Manitoba NW Ontario Regional Group have set a date of 6 October for their meeting at Dakota House. Details on the website.

Midwest

The Midwest Regional Group directed by Richard Judge will meet at Chicagopex 2018 on 16-18 November. The Group will hold a "meet and greet" on Friday, 16 November at 1pm in the Stanford room. A short talk on the fluorescence of the 2¢ Admiral issue along with a "show and tell" by members present. You are most welcome and encouraged to give a short presentation. A computer and projector will be available.

Lower Canada

The Lower Canada group held its inaugural meeting on Saturday, 22 September at BNAPEX in Quebec City. The initial meeting was attended by twenty-seven people, of whom twenty were potential attendees of future meetings.

The group is being led in the interim by Hugo Deshayé and Mark Berner. Discussed were such topics as frequency and location of meetings, with the next meeting tentatively scheduled for Montreal around the time of the Lakeshore Stamp club spring exhibition.

Attendees provided contact information so that they could receive emails with regards to additional details on the setup. In the last half of the meeting David McLaughlin, made a presentation on Householder mail.



Inaugural meeting of the Lower Canada Regional Group at BNAPEX 2018.

Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest Regional group will hold their annual meeting in conjunction with VICPEX in Victoria BC at the Comfort Inn 4-5 October 2018. Attendees will not only obtain philatelic knowledge but partake on a great show at the same time. A registration form for this event is on the Regional webpage of the PNWRG.

Prairie Beavers

The Prairie Beavers meet in College Station, TX, and will next meet on 20 October.

St. Lawrence Seaway

The Group will hold its fall meeting in Perth on Saturday 13 October. They will have a trading session and each member is to bring a small one- to eight-page exhibit to present.



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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 June 2018 and 15 September 2018

Admirals

The last *Admiral's Log* was issued in December 2013 but its editor Leopold Beaudet assures all that the study group has been anything but dormant, with many articles waiting to be published. This June 2018 issue is shortened due to the enclosure of Randall W Van Someren's 110-page book



Figure 1. 2¢ Green Admiral block with Type D1 inverted lathework (eBay, 2018)

The Colours and Shades of Canada's Admiral Stamps. From the John Smallman collection is an illustrated article featuring imperf pairs with vertical guidelines from the 4¢ to the \$1 value. John passed away in October 2017 and these eight pairs were sold through Eastern Auctions last February. Randall W Van Someren sent in a very interesting illustrated article of an extraordinary re-entry on the 1¢ green Admiral. Jonathan Woensdregt wrote an article on the 2¢ green Admiral type D1 with inverted lathework (Figure 1). Unfortunately he was not the winning bidder on eBay for this lot! John Smallman's article on the imperf and part-perf 2¢ plus 1¢ brown Admiral stamp illustrating pairs; Eirwyn Jones showed a pair of imperf 2¢ plus 1¢ brown with a punch hole in the center of the left stamp and would appreciate any further information the members may have. John Smallman also had a further article showing a phantom R-GUAGE with

original guide dots on a block of eight o\$1 Admirals. Richard Hautala illustrates a new mystery mark on the 7¢ red-brown stamp and Michael Smith points out a horizontal line flaw on the 10¢ blue. Jim Jung illustrates and discusses the "smoking Admiral" on the 10¢ bistre brown stamp along with two marks on the left frame. Leo Beaudet shows a 1¢ Admiral with a long curved line in the bottom margin and asks if anyone else has a copy. Dave Bartlet discusses an essay for the 1¢ green booklet and also shows a complete booklet with pyramid lines.

British Columbia

The September issue of the *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter* edited by Andrew Scott begins with a favourite cover, provided by the late Jim White, from Empire Valley Post Office (P.O.) addressed to Caspar Phair. The history of the area P.O. and Caspar Phair is described. Tracy Cooper, The associate editor of the newsletter, writes Part 2 of the early Canadian Pacific Railway mail service in BC with new observations on the "End of Track" P.O. with assistance from the files of Alex Price and a listing of all reported "BC End of Track" postmarks; a great historical article. Two letters sent in by Jim White. One dated 1899 from the Postmaster Inspector's office reporting a mail stage robbery and the other dated March 1898 again from the Post Office Inspector advising the postmaster at Boundary Falls of an over supply of stamps. Next is a lovely cover with a previously unreported Anyox registered oval marking in red. Gray Scrimgeour writes of a way to identify southbound foreign air mail No 2 between Seattle and Victoria. Morris Beattie continues with Part 2 of the postal history of the Powell River region showing the various circular date stamps used between 1945 and 1997. The newsletter closes with a listing of recent BC post office openings and changes and also a few new date stamps and oddities.

Elizabeth II

Robin Harris is the editor of *Corgi Times*, the newsletter of the Elizabethan II Study Group. In the July–August issue we are advised of a new postage rates taking effect 19 January 2019. The \$4 Big Horn Sheep stamp to be issued 10 October was originally to be issued as a \$3 denomination. Larry Margetish tells us that what we have understood to be *Bylot Island* depicted in the 15¢ Centennial stamp is really a painting of Lawren Harris' *Greenland Mountains*. Georg Gerlach writes about the 2018 Sharks press sheet issue and their scarcity. One can read all about Canada Post's new concept stores on their website. There is an update on three more Kiosk locations with illustrations of the stamps available. Ingo Nessel continues with Part 3 showing how people used the low values of the 1985 Parliament booklet stamps after the first class 34¢ stamp was removed. Here he writes and illustrates on international usage. Andrew Chung has put together a nicely illustrated article on the Maple Leaves in four seasons issue of 1971. The catalogues will only show the four stamps but in this article Andrew shows the various presentation folders that were given at various functions. Larry Margetish ends the newsletter with an article on addressed airmail and the use of the 5¢ pre-cancelled stamp from the Caricature issue.

Military Mail

Mike Powell gets page one of the August issue of the *Canadian Military Mail Study Group Newsletter*, edited by Dean Mario, with a cover censored with a two-line Dominion Police censor marking, the only known until Mike recently added another to his collection. Jon Johnson contributes a story with an illustrated cover of the *S.S. Georgian*, former Great Lakes steamer renamed *H.M.C.S. Avalon II*. John Burnett did quite a story on the non-use of postage stamps on mail originating from *H.M.C.S. Avalon*, the land base in St. John's, Newfoundland, instead using a triangular handstamp. Quite a tribute is paid to H.K. Kim Dodwell, a former member who passed away last year. Mike Street and Jon Johnson reported on member meetings and awards at ORAPEX and the Edmonton Spring National. Ending the newsletter is an illustration of an updated and revised secret label.

Newfoundland

Malcolm Back is the editor of *The Newfoundland Newsletter*. In number 172 of July–September Malcolm states there are no articles in the bank. He requested articles for the 100th anniversary of the Alcock and Brown crossing of the North Atlantic for the spring issue to be dedicated to the event. Terry Rhodes sent in an article on the unique printing error on the Queen Alexandra: a diagonal white line runs through the stamp. John Walsh asks the membership about a rated cover that he has. Dean Mario submitted a cover with enclosure addressed to John Trapnell, the jailor at Harbour Grace, related to a light bill. Dean has another article on the Tessier Stamp Dealing correspondence from the famous Arcade Bournemouth Stamp Company. John Walsh provided his opinion on the crosshatched variety, an article that appeared in the last newsletter by Anthony Thompson. Bruce Robertson tells the story of two Newfoundlands, the second being in New Jersey. In newsletter 171 Carl Newswanger had an article pertaining to a scarce postcard with inquiries. Brian Bursey and Brian Stalker provided him with the answers and a further article. Anthony Thompson writes about the watermarks on the Newfoundland 10¢ postage due stamp and the watermarks on Newfoundland's last stamp. Anthony continues with another article on Newfoundland lathework with possible

answers to the functions of the lathework. Bruce Robertson concludes the newsletter illustrating incoming covers to Rev. E.A. Butler, the famous dealer of Sandy Point.

Pence Cents

The August issue of *Pence Cents*, edited by Jim Jung, begins with an in-depth listing by Wayne Smith of the usage of the 1859 Decimal issue after the release of the Large Queen stamp. The article is titled 1859 Issues Covers—Post April 1, 1868, and it includes a 5½-page listing. Members' input on newly discovered covers is requested. Jim Jung has written a very well illustrated article on collecting the imprint positions of the 10¢ Prince Consort stamp. This also is a 5-page illustrated article. Ending the newsletter is a report on the 2018 Postal History Society of Canada Symposium held in Hamilton.

Postal Stationery

The August issue of *Postal Stationery Notes*, begins with an illustration of an “envelope proof”, and an explanation of why it more likely resulted from tests for a card printed to private order. Bill Walton has an extensively illustrated article reporting two newly discovered cards with private precancels and then presents a summary of copies of the first standard precancelled post cards. Robert Lemire shows a photocopy of a 6¢ CP Express flimsy that he has not seen despite help from prominent collectors. The card could be from one of several printings described in the Archives. Bill Walton submitted a 3¢ George VI express card overprinted twice. New Toronto PCF cards are illustrated. Ending the newsletter is Part 4 of the series on printings of the railway advice flimsy forms, this time dealing with the Moore and Drummond printings of the 2¢ Karsh issue CN cards.

Railway Post Office

Ross Gray begins the April–June edition of the *Canadian R.P.O. Study Group newsletter* with a lovely cover bearing a previously unreported clerk handstamp reading W'PEG & HUM. R.P.O./J.G. HOOD, now numbered WT-883.55. Ross has done a corrected hammer study on the MONCTON & CAMP P.C./DAY hammer and a new study on the TOR. HAM. & LONDON R.P.O. Jack Brandt, a non-BNAPS member, has contributed five pages of various updates. Ross Gray provided three pages of updates along with updates from Brian Stalker—early and late dates, newly reported train numbers, directions and unusual clerk stamps. Brian Copeland wrote an interesting article on the “West of Winnipeg” hammers used on the C.P.R. trains showing a geographic pattern of usage between 1886 and 1900. Brian is looking forward to reader response in a continuation of the study.

Revenues

The June issue of the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*, edited by Chris Ryan, has a request from John Harper for serial numbers pertaining to his survey of caddy and boxes tobacco stamps. Dave Bartlet and Dale Speirs found a City of Calgary incinerator stamp that is still being investigated. Fritz Angst has submitted three illustrated items. One is a reconstructed Nova Scotia Amusement tax exempt ticket. Another is a doubled serial number on a weights and measures stamp, and the third is a pane of twenty of the 10¢ 1893-1906 Quebec law stamp with horizontal counter lines. Dave Hannay illustrates the final series of the Vancouver Airport improvement fee tickets that ended in June of 2004 and provides an explanation of the fees. Dave also sent in two documents bearing British Columbia hospital aid tax stamp. Chris Ryan outlines the design and procedures for the new Cannabis excise stamps. He then ends the

newsletter with an extensive article illustrating the numbering machines used by the American Bank Note Company in Ottawa to print numbers on various revenue stamps—primarily the Wetter Company machines and devices.

Re-entries

This newsletter of the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties study Group called *Dots and Scratches* is edited by Mike Smith. In Volume 5, No. 3 issue. Mike begins by illustrating and pointing out an interesting plate flaw on the ½p stamp from the Pence issue and continues with another plate flaw on the ½p, position #11 above the ‘G’. It is a smear between the right frame lines above the ‘G’. The 5¢ Beaver stamp has always made for interesting study and here Mike shows a pair on cover with a small printing flaw, identifying the plate position. Mike continues with an article on a flaw in a proof pair of the 5¢ Beaver, and ends the newsletter by illustrating a lovely block of four Queen Victoria 3¢ stamp from the Numeral issue with a major re-entry.

A special edition of *Dots and Scratches* was issued illustrating genuine and fake proofs of the 1865 second issue of the Bill Stamp. The eBay sales of these fakes created quite a response on Facebook. A good special newsletter.

The August issue, Volume 5, No. 4, of *Dots and Scratches* has an interesting illustrated cover. It shows Whitworth’s flaw number 3, two dots in the N of ONE on Unitrade #14TCii. Michael continues with a plate flaw scratch in the N of the ½¢ orange plate proof 8TCi, and then writes about a 10¢ Prince Consort, on cover, Unitrade number 17, being position 97 on the early state of the plate. Michael then goes modern and illustrates the “tear at the side of the nose” on the 8¢ Queen Elizabeth stamp from the Caricature & Landscape issue. Concluding the newsletter is an article on the Newfoundland 5¢ harp seal stamp showing the misplaced entry on position 95.

Squared Circles

The squared circle study group newsletter, *The Roundup Annex*, edited by Gary Arnold, provides information about updates on known strikes. In the August issue is illustrated a nice Farnham, Quebec first reported use on a Map stamp, and a lovely clean cover with a first reported Belleville use of a “5” time mark strike on cover. Then there is a London Precursor first use reported of a hammer using coloured ink, in this case red. Bill Pawluk is credited with the submission of a lovely cover bearing not only three Hartney, Manitoba strikes but also an equally clear RPO squared circle marking of the SOURIS & WINNIPEG No. 2 hammer. Brian Copeland provided an exhibit page of Nanaimo squared circle strikes on different Small Queen stamps from the state 1 period of use.

Postscript

At the Awards Banquet at BNAPEX 2018, the John S Siverts Award was given to Robin Harris, the editor *Corgi Times*, the newsletter of the Elizabethan II Study Group. The newsletter was voted by the award selection committee as the best newsletter for 2017. We say congratulations to Robin, and his contributing authors. However, it is also believed all the BNAPS newsletter editors need to be recognized for the great work they do under sometimes difficult circumstances. Many of the articles that appear in your newsletters would be most welcome for *BNA Topics*.



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