

2020 first quarter

BNA Topics



Whole number 562

Volume 77 Number 1



The ship *Eliza* under sail, p 4

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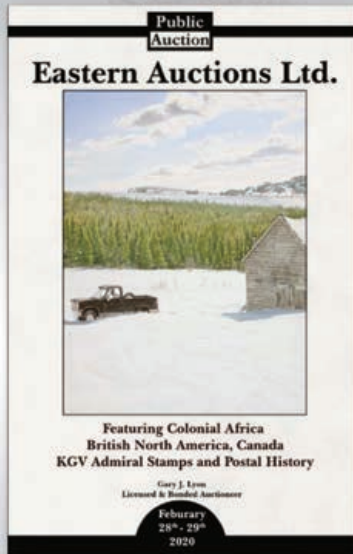
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BNA pics

Volume 77, Number 1, Whole Number 562

The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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

Note: Illustrations may not be in original size.

Publication date	20 January 2020
Editors	Jeff Arndt, William JF Wilson
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Production Assistant	Lorraine Street
Advertising Manager	Hank Narbonne, 136 Morphy St, Carleton Place, ON, K7C 2B4 (advertising copy to Jeff Arndt <arndt123@aol.com> or by mail to 4121 Marble Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033 USA)
Published quarterly by	Philaprint Inc, 10 Summerhill Ave, Toronto ON M4T 1A8 © 2020 by Philaprint Inc
Printed by	St Joseph Printing, Ottawa, ON
ISSN 0045-3129	Canadian Publications Agreement 40069611

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

Guest editorial

Welcome to Halifax/Dartmouth!

Gary Steele and John Hall

BNAPEX 2020 is just eight months away, and planning has been ongoing for almost a year. Building on the success of last year's BNAPEX in Ottawa, the Nova Scotia Stamp Club will play host to BNAPS from September 04 to 06, a show sure to be awe-inspiring and reflecting the famous hospitality of the Maritimes!

The show and awards banquet are booked for the recently extensively refurbished Hilton, right next to the also recently renovated Angus L. Macdonald Bridge, minutes by ferry across the harbour from downtown Halifax. We hope to see members take advantage of the convenience and special rates for BNAPEX show attendees staying at the DoubleTree. (Be sure to mention you are reserving for BNAPEX.)

One of the high points of the show is a planned Friday evening boat tour of Halifax Harbour, with the guest of honour being a two-pound lobster (and all the fixings) for each Registrant.

Spousal programs are still under development—there are a lot of choices for the committee to select from and for attendees to explore on their own. Tours are available to scenic places such as Peggy's Cove, and the town of Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On the Halifax side, there are many museums, including the Nova Scotia Art Gallery, the Halifax Citadel, the Nova Scotia Archives, and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

If you are into genealogy or family history in general, you should visit the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, where records are available on all arriving passenger ships and immigrants between 1928 and 1971. Also highly recommended are the day tours of the wineries of the Annapolis Valley, with many award-winning wineries offering taste samples. (Hint: try the [Ice Wines](#), for which they are famous.)

Exhibitors are reminded to get their entry forms in early as one hundred and sixty frames is the limit for the show. (Atlantic region clubs have many talented exhibitors wanting to be part of the show—the last BNAPEX in Halifax in 2008 had two hundred and eighty frames booked!)

We would love to see a record number of BNAPS members at our show. As any Exhibition Committee will tell you, a lot of work goes into these conventions. All we ask in return is that you come and support your society.

The BNAPEX 2020 website is being finalized and will be online very soon. Copies of the exhibit entry forms will be included in this issue of *BNA Topics*, and Registration forms will be distributed in the April–June *BNA Topics*. Please check the website often for updates and new information.



Angus L. Macdonald Bridge
(Photo: Wikipedia)

Entires posted from Halifax to New York in 1810—Part I

Martha Harris (Introduction and references by Winston Williams)

SOMETIMES, the contents of letters are as interesting as the postal markings. Presented here is the first of three entires, written by Martha Harris between 6 and 25 April 1810, to near relatives. They were posted from Halifax NS to N^o 15, White Street [1], New York, each pencilled L35, L36, L37 in order of date. All three were annotated as “rec^d. May 15, 1810”—dated April xx 1810 M(artha) Harris to xxx Greene, & all with circular handstruck POST PAID (25 mm, good strikes) in black and red manuscript 4½ on obverse, handstruck straightline HALIFAX APR 23 [2] (poor to good strikes) on reverse.

The three letters provide an interesting description of what life was like for passengers on a packet ship in the early nineteenth century, both on the Atlantic and in port in Halifax. The second and third letters will appear in upcoming issues of *Topics*.

First letter, dated from 6 April to Friday 20 April on board the packet *Eliza* (Figure 1) to W Greene Esq.:

From my little boudoir on board his
B. M. Pacquet *Eliza*, April 6th

With a heavy heart did I watch the boat on shore which conveyed my dear Brother, for as my cousin(?) & you in every sense of the word. I remained moreover on deck till we had passed the Ford(?) on Governor Island [3] – I then retreated to my little Cabin, where I sat in a gloomy meditation for near two hours almost chilled to death with cold. The Captain



Figure 1. The packet *Eliza*.

accompanied by Mr Harris roused me about this time by enquiring if I was ready for some soup. I answered in the affirmative. And accordingly sat down to dinner which consisted of an excellent ham and roast and boiled beef, Madeira and Port. The Captain said he had not time to get the fruit out. But I understood we are to have a dessert every day. I do not yet know the names of my companions two or three excepted. One of them an Englishman to whom you

Keywords & phrases: Ship mail, Halifax, New York

addressed some conversation yesterday, he introduced himself to me a supposing me to be the lady whom he had heard Mr Sharples mention. He is a near relation of Wikorgas(?) Mr Le Bacton Parker and came here only in January last with a view of settling here, but became so thoroughly disgusted that he is in all imaginable haste to return to his own happy clime. And declares he shall not regret either the expense or trouble of this voyage as it will only make him more thoroughly convinced there is no country like Old England – Mr Van Ness is the next on my list. Whose extreme good humour and lively sallies had the same effect upon me as yours always have, and almost “drove dull care away.” His ready wit was directed to a gentleman from The Southware whose name I have yet to learn, but who had never been to sea before, and began to feel a little giddy. Why Sir you will be sick you will die? Have you made your Will? No rejoined the other, neither do I think I shall die or you would not tell me so, but you must certainly feel the motion of the ship as well as I. No upon my soul I do not replied Mr Van Ness, upon which he looked almost angry. What adjoured him I felt it. Mr Van Ness has brought six packs of Cards dice and plenty of books which he has offered to me. After dinner the Capt gave the King, which occasioned a sneer(?) [end page 1] from the Southern Gentleman, which passed unobserved to all but myself and the Gentleman to whom it was directed. He afterwards remarked he should like to see the King, which we told him he could readily do at Windsor – were there any Taverns there. Oh yes said Mr Van – where you must pay a shilling for an egg 5 for your bed and so on in proportion, cost you about a guinea and a half per day but what does that signify. After dinner I went upon deck, thinking it more proper than returning to my cabin, where I must unavoidably hear all that was going on. Here everything struck me with horror. The wind high, the sea rough. New York in perspective, Sophie(a?) Mary Whitaker and Emily all rose to my view and I raised them in idea several times – as I stood leaning against the side of the vessel and shuddering with cold and disagreeable reflections. How many times was I on the point of exclaiming with Petaech I am indeed “a Land Animal” I afterwards retired again to my Cabin where I remained till Tea some 9 oclock. Mr Van Ness hoved(?) and hoped I had spent an agreeable afternoon, which forced a smile. I soon after retired and slept tolerably well considering I was not encircled by the soft arms of dear little Whit, did he enquire for his Aunt? I soon however awoke the deck tones of “quarter less five” roused me from my not very sound slumber. I have just finished breakfast, adieu till tomorrow Thursday evening 12 April [4]. This day week I came on board and have not yet reached Halifax from which we are more distant upward of 200 miles. I am now become tolerably well acquainted with my companions and will introduce them to you in form. 1st Mr Harris a gentleman from Bristol, engaged I believe in Mercantile Pursuits. He is a gentleman and sings a most excellent song. 2nd Mr Smith from Boston, he has already visited France and England twice before, this is his third voyage, he is a sensible intelligent man(?) has seen a great deal of the world and his conversations consequently very pleasing. 3rd Mr Van Ness a cheerful young man who from travelling and mixing with the world (having been in England and elsewhere) has lost that extreme slipness(?) so peculiar to the Dutch 4th Mr Wilkins a young man from Baltimore engaged in business which has lead him to India once or twice, neither pleasing nor the reverse – 5th Mr Carrol from Washington engaged in agricultural pursuits he is going to Ireland to prosecute a suit against a man of the same name, who has taken a 100 acres of land there to which Mr Carrol is immediate heir very good natured and pleasant as is Mr Norris from where I know not. Mr Genon is the next an Englishman and relations of Mr Morgan well enough, then comes Mr açon(?) [5] an intelligent sensible Irishman an Engineer and Citizen of the United States. This little Gentleman seemed very much disposed to treat

me with a good deal of neglect. But today he overheard me talking with Mr Smith about some great characters in England, and he took the first opportunity of addressing *[end page 2]* me and I found he visited Mr Jackson – General Morcan(?) & co since which he has been much more polite – We have likewise a Mr Bennet a Merchant of Halifax where we shall leave him, and take in most likely 5 or 6 more passengers chiefly Officers who are to go home in the first conveyance. The Captain is in every respect a sailor and a very good one. He told me he would have taken Mr Paserca and Mr Comachs home with all his heart, had he had the least idea they wished it if only they had said half a word Sunday night we had a most violent storm of Thunder, Lightning and rain. About 10 it set in a North Wester which blew without intermission until yesterday morning during which time I was obliged to lie in my berth, watching with something like fear, the water rush upon deck over my little illuminated binnacle or Patent Skylight. I could not keep anything on my stomach and was so very sore from the motion of the vessel that I could hardly lift myself up. I thought frequently of my dr Sister who I am sure could have supported it, this evening I have been upon deck. Never did I recollect so grand a scene the sky was cloudless shining with innumerable stars and a bright moon reflecting her image upon the blue sea, which was so perfectly calm, excepting where our vessel glided majestically along through a sheet of white foam, for the wind was fair and we were going 7 knots *[missing 3 cm of paper]* perceived any motion in the Ship. Thursday 19th It is a week since I wrote *[missing 3 cm of paper]* have had another heavy gale of wind which has carried away our top [6] *[missing 3 cm of paper]* [b]een confined again to my berth and suffered very much by the *[missing 3 cm of paper]* s. Today we have hailed a British Sloop of War, bound *[missing 2 cm of paper]* Johns, with sealed orders. She did not know her destination till the way out to sea. She left England 4 weeks since. Her principal news is the amiable arrangement of American affairs between Mr Pinkney and Marquis Wellesley L^d Chatham's resignation and a vote of Censure having passed the house upon his Conduct [7], for having presented a private memorial to the King. The marriage of Napoleon with Maria Louise of Austria which must have taken place by this time [8]. Captain McKessie came on board to drink wine with the Captain He was in full dress regimentals gold epaulets & co. He appeared quite a gentleman I only saw him from my Cabin, although the Captain sent for me twice to tea. I could not summons courage enough to go out and therefore sent him word I was unwell. Friday, Captain Sampson last night accompanied Capt M to his ship and did not return until tea when he evidently appeared intoxicated something was said about the detention(?) of the vessel(?) from this interchange of visits. The Capt immediately became furious. He swore he would pull the first man by the nose who would dare to question his conduct. I retreated to my cabin and went to bed which very soon shock under me from fear, for never was anything so perfectly mad as Capt S. I barricaded myself in but yet had an opening to see in the Cabin, never was such a scene *[end page 3]* never did I see a Man so transformed he flew around brandishing a stick and had it not been for Mr Harris I do not know what would have been the consequence He frequently mentioned how frightened I should be, but it was ineffectual. He might just as well have calmed the raging sea – Mr Harris as he said the next morning that he was quite alarmed for he did not care what he did in his rage against the Americans who presumed to find fault with his laying to, to go aboard the Jenobia [9]. I rather think they were pretty well alarmed as they were as still as possible, one of them confided he had not closed his eyes the whole night. Mr Harris at length got him to bed about 2. The next *[to other side of letter]* morning he appeared a little abashed, it is not likely to happen again and he is a most excellent Seaman. Mr Trash(?) the master who came to our house with the Capt. is as you discussed a most

excellent officer. He fought like a lion on board a Pacquet attacked by a Privateer of much superior force and finally obliged her to yield. Mr Fox(?) our first mate is very skilful and there is such strict discipline that I have not much fear, indeed I am wonderfully supported in that respect and frequently wonder at myself adieu my dear Brother, many thanks for your kindness and the anxiety I know you feel for me. Believe me your very affectionate Sister Martha Harris
(*Letters 2 and 3 to follow. Ed.*)

References and endnotes

- [1] In 1807, White Street was a small street bounded by Broadway to the east and what is now West Broadway to the west, three streets south of Canal (William Bridges Plan of the City of New York).
- [2] A 38mm wide rim. I think Type HAL-10, as HALIFAX appears to be 34mm, not 35-36mm, but H & vertical size more like HAL-9 [*The Nova Scotia Post, its Offices, Masters and Marks 1700-1867* by JJ MacDonald].
- [3] Presumably Fort Jay on Governors Island, one-half mile south of Manhattan island tip.
- [4] The date, “12 April,” added by recipient?
- [5] I expect Mr Maçon (see next footnote) described in letter 2 as French.
- [6] Mr Francis D Masson (presumably Anglicised version of Maçon) letter headed Clifton, (Eng.) 20th June 1810, to an engineer, extract from *Archives of Useful Knowledge* published 1811: “My voyage from New-York to Halifax, in the British Packet *Eliza*, was so very tempestuous and unfortunate, (having carried away our foremast,) that I did not make any thermometrical observations; but when we sailed from Halifax, on the 27th April, ...”.
- [7] Passed on 5 March 1810.
- [8] Napoleon’s first marriage ceremony to Maria Louise was on 11 March 1810.
- [9] I can’t find a ship of that name. I expect a wrong spelling of HMS *Zenobia* (1807), an 18-gun Cruiser-class brig-sloop (constructed by Josiah & Thomas Brindley, King’s Lynn), as the writer does have some misspellings and describes the ship as “a British Sloop of War” and refers to Captain McKessie. Her commander was Alexander Richard (or K?) Mackenzie (born 1770, so that ties in to the writer’s reference to “middle aged Scotchman”), from the ship’s commissioning to 1812.

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WWII Ocean-going Canadian Merchant Navy postal history—Part 2

Jonathan Johnson, OTB

AS World War II progressed, the need to get supplies across the world's oceans continued to grow. From just 1,350 sailors on thirty-seven ships at the beginning of the war, Canada's Merchant Navy (CMN) grew to 8,350 seamen, all of whom wanted to be able to get mail from home and to send letters back. The postal system that was developed to look after their needs is being described for the first time in this series of articles. The first installment was published in the Fourth Quarter 2019 issue of *BNA Topics*. Readers should note that there is a correction to a detail in Part 1 at the end of Part 2.

(2b) Mail from merchant seamen

In the last year of the war there was no change in the way seamen sent their letters through the civilian mails (Figure 14, below), but when some Allies implemented concession rates for military airmail, Canadian merchant seamen were also permitted to take advantage of this faster service (Figure 15, opposite). An unusual situation could occur where the airmail fee was not sufficient to reach the destination by air. If airmail postage ran out, a "*Jusqu'à*" cover would be created, when the processing post office cancelled, with red bars, the airmail markings on the cover and sent the cover onward by surface mail (Figure 16, opposite).



Figure 14. Cover from Seaman N Thorne on SS *Tecumseh Park* in Australia, date censored, transit postmark Vancouver 9 August 1944. Return address—Box 9000 Montreal.

Keywords & phrases: Military postal history; Canadian Merchant Marine; World War II



Figure 15. US military airmail concession rate of 6¢. Cover from SS Mount Douglas Park, posted at US Fleet Post Office, Cristobal, Canal Zone, per US Travelers Censor 59007.

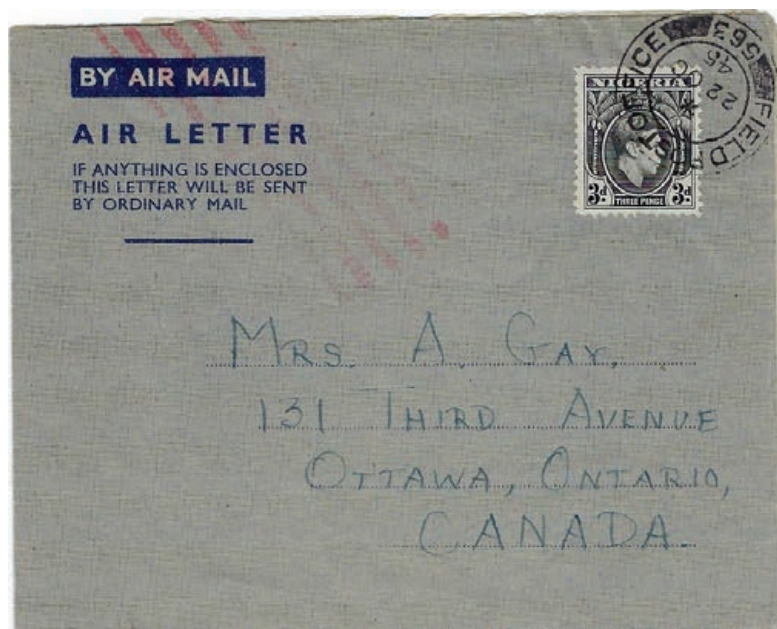


Figure 16. British naval airmail concession rate of 3d. Air Letter from SS Noranda Park, posted at Lagos, Nigeria. A *Jusqu'a* cover—airmail crossed off in England, continued via surface mail.

(3) Expansion of Merchant Navy Mail Handling— June 1944 to September 1945

(3a) Mail to merchant seamen

Due to the volume of mail addressed to Box 9000, on 29 May 1944 Naval Post Office (NPO) 407 [6], a facility at HMCS *Hochelaga* in Montreal, was opened to primarily handle merchant ship mail. Petty Officer J Herbert RCNR was named Postmaster. The physical post office was set up by the Canadian Postal Corps, and its equipment was supplied by the Canada Post Office Department. This was one of the few non-accounting naval post offices, meaning that it did not provide counter service [no postage stamp sales]. NPO 407 primarily processed mail inbound from CMN seamen, mail outbound to CMN seamen and mail for RCN corvettes based in Montreal. Official National Defence Department for Naval Services mail was authorized to be posted postage free (Figure 17, below). It is possible to find contrived covers with sample postmarks and cachets used at NPO 407 (Figure 18, opposite).

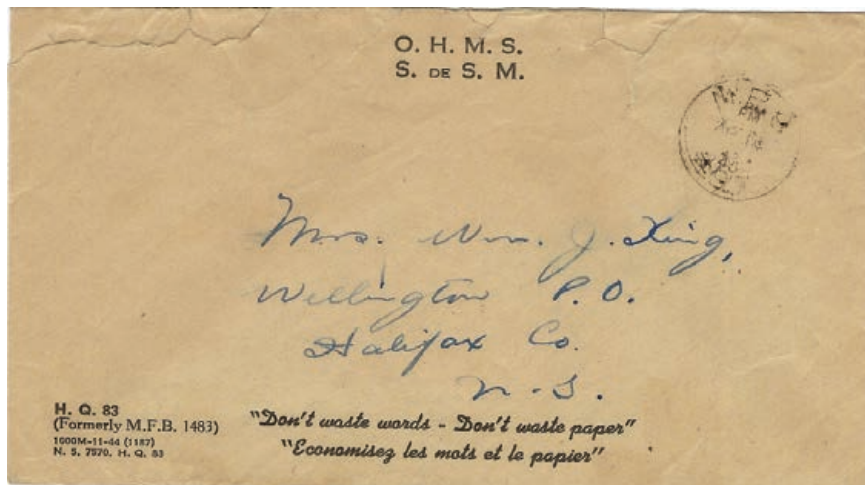


Figure 17. NPO 407, 14 Apr 1945 postmark on Official cover to Wellington, NS.
Manual return address of “Box 9000 Montreal” on the reverse.

The success of the “Box 9000, Montreal” system also led to the opening of a second Box 9000 office on 30 Aug 1944, “c/o PO Box 9000 Vancouver.” This office was located at NPO 1117, HMCS *Burrard*, 572 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC, the FMO for the Pacific Ocean. Because the Vancouver Box 9000 saw a smaller volume of mail than its Montreal counterpart, the Box 9000 Vancouver office was only staffed by WRCNS Lt Kay Bancroft and one Wren (Figure 19, opposite). A sailor could use either Box 9000, Vancouver or Montreal, as his return address. Seamen serving in the Pacific could, of course, expect quicker movement of their mail if they used Box 9000, Vancouver.

In their first week of operation, mid-July 1943, Wrens at PO Box 9000 Montreal processed two hundred and eighteen letters. In December 1944, Wrens at the two Box 9000 offices processed forty-eight thousand, one hundred and twenty-seven letters!

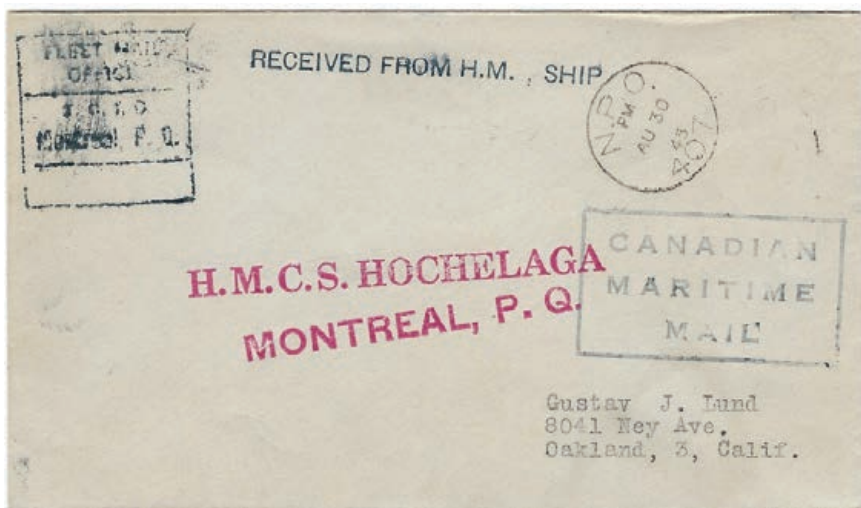


Figure 18. NPO 407, 30 Aug 1945 postmark on cover contrived by Gustav J Lund, with “Canadian Maritime Mail” cachet. “Fleet Mail Office, NOIC Montreal PQ” cachet.



Figure 19. An 18 April 1945 cover to Seaman RJ Swain on SS *Richmond Park*, c/o PO Box 9000, Vancouver, forwarded to Box 9000, Montreal, then returned to sender.

At the 21 Feb 1945 ICOMPMS meeting Captain E S Brand, RCN Director of Naval Intelligence and Trade, notified the attendees “that relatives were being advised to place a ten cent stamp on airmail to seamen to provide for forwarding same” (Figure 20, next page) [7].

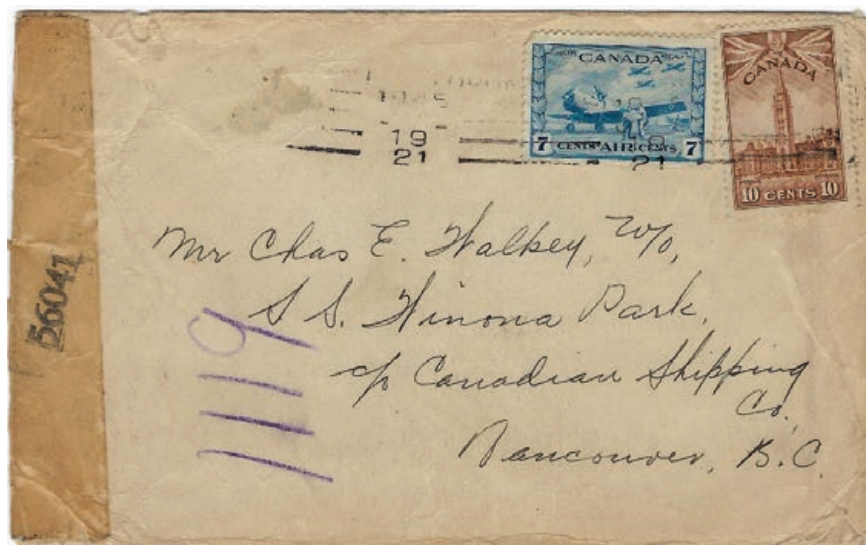


Figure 20. Cover with extra 10¢ postage requested by c/o PO Box 9000 Montreal for airmail forwarding. Addressed to Charles Walkey on SS *Winona Park*, c/o Canadian Shipping, Vancouver.

(3b) Mail carried by merchant ships

When merchant ships carried sealed bags of mail as freight, no transit markings could be placed on the letters contained. An exception was the mail in the bags destined for Australia that were damaged when the freighter SS *Green Hill Park* exploded on 6 March 1945 while loading at the CPR dock in Vancouver, BC. After the subsequent fire was extinguished, the mail was salvaged. Of the three covers viewed by the author, only one received a “Salvaged from / ship fire / Vancouver BC” cachet (Figure 21, opposite). The damaged covers were returned to sender in an ambulance envelope.

(4) Merchant Seamen given postage free privileges— April 1945 to January 1946

A few weeks later, at the 15 March 1945 ICOMPMS meeting, the topic of free postage for merchant seamen overseas was raised. The committee was unable to resolve the issue prior to the end of the war.

(4a) Mail to merchant seamen

No change in handling mail to merchant seamen.

(4b) Mail from merchant seamen

However, unbeknownst to the Committee, Mr H Beaulieu, then Director of Administrative Services, Post Office Department of Canada, on or about 3 April 1945 released a directive for mail despatched from merchant ships of Canadian registry. Each ship was provided with a rubber stamp (Figure 22, opposite) with a rectangular border surrounding the words

“Canadian Maritime Mail” (CMM). On each ship, a post box was to be installed, in which the crew could post their letters.



Figure 21. Salvaged cachet on cover from the explosion and fire on SS *Green Hill Park* at Vancouver 6 Mar 1945.



Figure 22. “Canadian Maritime Mail” cachet on 8 Apr 1945 Armed Forces Air Letter from Seaman N Martin on SS *Tweedsmuir Park*, in port (Montreal?), posted free.

Letters and post cards posted on the high seas, (words underlined in the directive), could be mailed postage free when the cachet was applied. Upon arrival in port in the British Empire, USA, Dutch East Indies, or Egypt, this mail was to be handed to military or naval postal authorities in a closed bag, addressed to the nearest Canadian Fleet Mail Office via surface mail. For ports other than those in the preceding list of countries, the mail was to be sent individually following normal peace-time procedures, and in these cases the CMM cachet was to not be used. Once the precedent was set, there were bound to be examples of postage free mail from merchant seamen without the CMM cachet, both dated mail (Figure 23) and undated mail (Figure 24). The ship's Master, or his designate, was responsible for the proper handling of this mail. Contrived ship covers with the CMM cachet, but with postage, have been found dated as late as 1953, indicating that the CMM cancel stayed on board some ships after they were sold following the war.

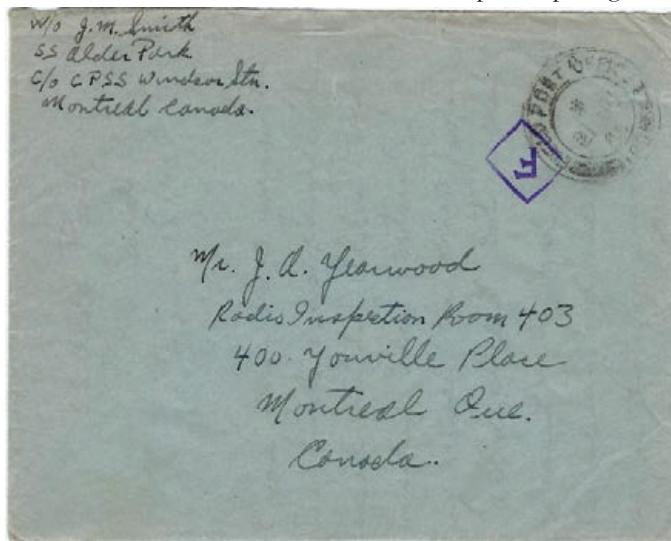


Figure 23. Postage free cover from SS Alder Park, Port Said, Egypt, 18 Jun 1945. Left open for censor "F", then sealed.

A 2 July 1945 airmail letter from the Canadian Postal Service (Overseas), London, to the Director of Postal Service, Ottawa, contains a list of existing British General



Figure 24. Undated SS Sibley Park cover posted free at Durban, South Africa with the British maritime mail cachet applied at London, England.

Post Office (GPO) military concession rates and the GPO's proposed new concession rates. Of note is a change to free air conveyance for airmail letters up to 1 ounce and air letters. It was thought these changes might decrease the weight of letter mail from the overseas forces to Canada. No record of Canada accepting this proposal has been found

as of January 2020 [8], but, on 16 January 1946, Canadian Overseas Postal Depot SC2 in London allowed a merchant seaman to send his airmail cover postage free (Figure 25).

The Privy Council's Order-in-Council 1945–P.C. 4157, dated 7 August 1945, approved postage free surface mail for the Canadian merchant navy when overseas, but only if mailed at a naval or military post office.



Figure 25. SS *Cromwell Park* cover dated January 1946 with Canadian Overseas Postal Depot SC2 machine cancel over British maritime mail cachet, posted airmail and postage free.

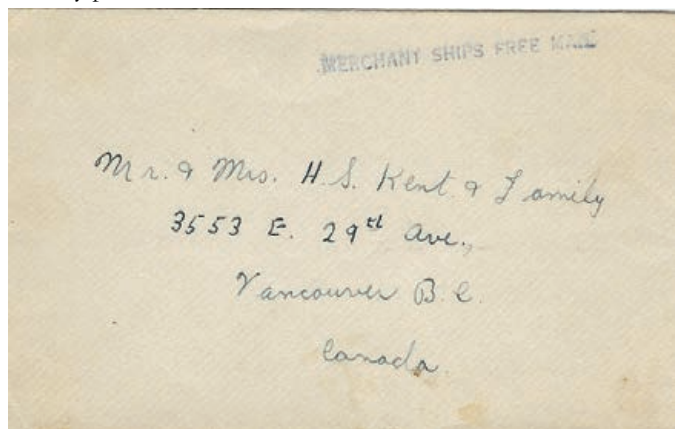
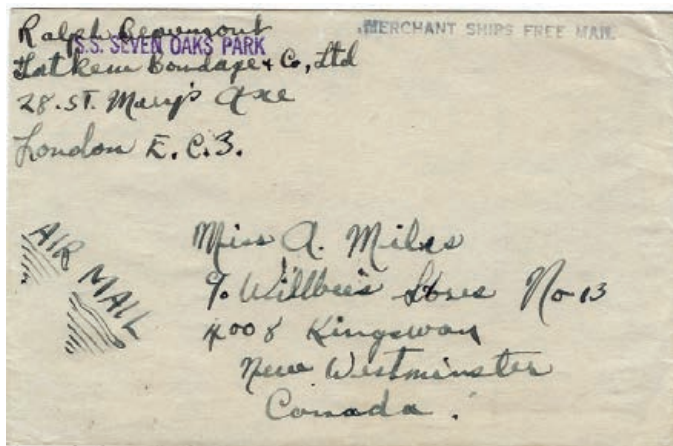


Figure 26 (above). "Merchant Ships Free Mail" cachet on undated cover from R Kent to his parents, Mr & Mrs HS Kent.

The author has seen two undated "Merchant Ships Free Mail" cachets which are believed to have been applied as a result of 1945–P.C. 4157. One (Figure 26) was sent surface mail and the other, presumably later, by airmail without postage (Figure 27).

Figure 27. Undated cover with "Merchant Ships Free Mail" cachet, from Ralph Beaumont on SS *Seven Oaks Park*, London, England, posted free airmail.



(5) Return to peacetime mail handling–October 1945 to December 1946

The end of the war, VE-Day, 8 May 1945, and VJ-Day, 14 August 1945, meant the security and censor restrictions were no longer necessary on merchant seamen's mail.

(5a) Mail to merchant seamen

In early September 1945, the Box 9000 staff began forwarding CMN mail to the company managing each ship (Figures 28 and 28a). Both Box 9000 offices ceased operating on 15 September 1945. The Box 9000 cardex file cards were burnt in a furnace. Closure of the Box 9000 Montreal and Box 9000 Vancouver programs meant the merchant navy mail handling process returned to what existed prior to their implementation. Mail was addressed either c/o the steamship company (Figure 29) or directly to the ship (Figure 30, opposite).



Figures 28 and 28a. Cover to Charles Walkey, SS *Mohawk Park*, Box 9000 Vancouver, 10 September 1945, five days before both Box 9000 offices were closed. Forwarded to Canadian Australasian Line (cachet on reverse) for onward transmission to seaman.



Figure 29. UK Forces Letter from N Cardiff, Wales, 7 November 1945, to seaman John Gay on SS *Noranda Park*, Nigeria forwarded to Cunard White Star Line, Montreal for forwarding to the seaman.

(5b) Mail from merchant seamen

Mail from a merchant seaman would be bagged on the ship, then sent surface to the closest FMO for forwarding by surface postage free (Figure 31).

Figure 30. Canada Air Letter from Toronto, 12 October 1945 directly to seaman Frank Mitchell on SS Yamaska Park, Marseilles, France.



(5c) Closure of Naval post offices

NPO 407 Montreal closed on 30 September 1945. Naval mail and post office equipment was forwarded to NPO 409 Montreal, HMCS *Donnacona*. Half a year later, NPO 409 closed, on 28 February 1946. NPO 1117 Vancouver closed on 10 November 1945, with its mail forwarded to NPO 1120 Vancouver, HMCS *Discovery*. NPO



Figure 31. Cover from seaman RW Brown, SS *Cromwell Park*, posted free 26 Nov 1945, delivered to Fleet Mail Office, Vancouver.

1120, Vancouver, closed on 2 March 1946. The post office equipment for both NPO 1117 and NPO 1120 was returned to the Equipment and Supply Branch, Post Office Department of Canada. On 31 December 1946, all free postage privileges and special reduced postage rates for members of the Armed Forces were withdrawn.

Before WWII ended, the Canadian Government was already beginning to dispose of the *Park* ships that they owned. Most of the ships were sold, and renamed, by the end of 1946. Some of the surviving non-*Park* ocean-going ships' registrations were transferred off-shore. Both the ocean-going Canadian Merchant Navy and the RCN Box 9000 program to deliver mail promptly to merchant seamen scattered around the globe ceased to exist. The steamship companies resumed receiving and forwarding mail to their employees.

The author would be grateful if readers could advise him of any WWII Canadian Merchant marine mail, especially if PO Box 9000 is included in either the to or from addresses, as well as any covers carrying the boxed "Canadian Maritime Mail" cachet, especially if the Box 9000 Censor number is different from the numbers listed in Note 5 above. Contact Jonathan Johnson (jcjperfins@hotmail.com).

Supplemental notes

[1] Most documents indicate the number of merchant seamen increased to twelve thousand. The author is of the opinion that this number includes seamen working in the Great Lakes and coastal waters. The average crew on an ocean-going merchant ship was forty, which fits with the ocean-going total of eight thousand three hundred and fifty seamen identified by the Wartime Information Board.

[2]	<u>Manning Pool</u>	<u>Opened</u>	<u>Address</u>
	Halifax, NS	September 1941	Mulgrave Park, North Barrington St
	Montreal, PQ	January 1942	510 Craig Street East
	Vancouver, BC	May 1942	500 Dunsmuir Street
	Saint John, NB	July 1942	9-15 Canterbury Street
	Sydney, NS	never opened	used Allied Merchant Seamen's Club

[3] Lt Norah Janetta Cooper WRCNS (SB) was awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire) on 16 June 1945 for her work with the "c/o PO Box 9000" program.

[4] The covers were resealed with "P.C.90 / OPENED BY EXAMINER / DB/N....." labels. Of thirteen resealed covers viewed, one hundred percent were resealed with just one-half of a label divided horizontally. Censor numbers were not written on the labels. As the war progressed, the absence of a resealing label indicates that some covers received the censor cachet without being opened.

[5] The CMN DB/N censor cachets appear to be from the same number series, font, and size as the RCN censor cachets. A review of the censor numbers indicates there may not be duplication of censor numbers between the RCN and CMN. As the CMN censors were recruited from the RCN Ottawa censors, each censor may have been issued a numbered censor canceller and retained their canceller when they changed locations. DB/N censor numbers

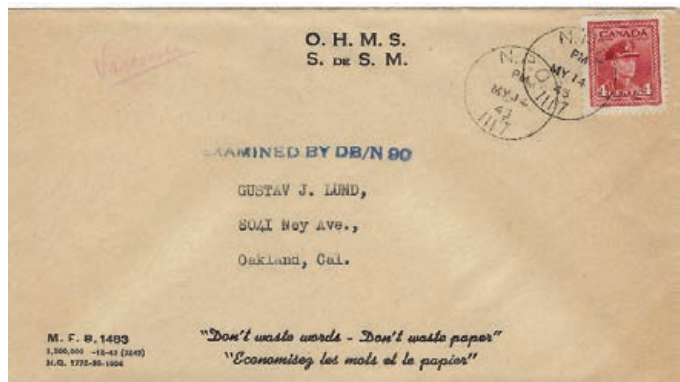


Figure 32. Contrived 14 May 1945 Lund cover with NPO 1117 postmark, proving naval DB/N 90 censor was located in Vancouver, BC, not Ottawa, ON or Montreal, QC.

seen on mail to Box 9000 Montreal are 24, 38, 118, 143, 162, 196 and to Box 9000 Vancouver, 3, 25, 90, 132 (Figure 32).

[6] NPO 407. The last two digits indicate this is the 7th m/n (military/naval) post office to open in Military District #4 (Quebec). The RCN was responsible for delivery of NPO mail to, and pick up mail from, a designated local post office. The Post Office Department of Canada made periodic inspections of the NPOs to confirm that mail handling and security standards were maintained.

[7] In February 1945, the airmail rate to Great Britain and Europe was 30¢ per half ounce. To the United States, it was 7¢ for the first ounce and 5¢ for each additional ounce. It is presumed that the requested 10¢ for forwarding was copied from the overseas air letter sheet rate of 10¢ for both military and civilian mails.

[8] At various military meetings, the topic of postage free airmail was raised. At all meetings it was decided that the airmail concession rate need not be changed. For covers stopped for lack of airmail postage, the mail was released because returning it to the sender or destroying it was not satisfactory. No record was found as to these shortpaid covers being placed in the surface mail bag or airmail mail bag. It should be mentioned that if an airmail plane had extra space, sealed bags of surface mail would be loaded until the plane was full.

Correction

In the caption for Figure 7 on page 7 of Part 1 of this article the location of the “Marlag und Milag Nord” POW camp was incorrect. “Marlag und Milag Nord” was actually in northern Germany, near Westertimke, 58 miles SW of Hamburg.

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US Naval Air Station at Halifax in WWI

Colin Pomfret [1]

LATE in WWI, German submarines began to reach across the Atlantic. The Canadian anti-submarine patrol was inadequate for the task of controlling them. In the summer of 1918, the Canadian government built a base at Eastern Passage in Halifax Harbour for the use of American naval aircraft, which patrolled the harbour and approaches to it with Curtiss flying boats. After WWI, the base was expanded and became HMCS Shearwater [2].



Figure 1. Post card to his mother from an American sailor stationed at the US Naval Air Station, Halifax dated 29 September 1918.

In the post card in Figure 1, an American sailor stationed at the “US Naval Air Station / Halifax N.S. / Canada” wrote to his mother in Ohio, clearly anxious because he had not had any mail from home. He ended the card, “I’m having a good time but I would like to hear from you.” A “U.S. Naval Air Station / Halifax, N.S. / Censored” handstamp was applied, presumably by an American naval censor. The “Sailor’s Mail” endorsement at upper right ensured that the card would travel though the Canadian and American postal systems without postage stamps being required.

References and endnotes

- [1] Colin Pomfret passed away in Waterdown, Ontario on 28 October 2016. A long-time member of BNAPS, Colin was noted for his ability to patiently sort through covers and post cards looking for text and/or markings relating to Canadian military postal history.
- [2] <http://www.shearwateraviationmuseum.ns.ca/history/beginning.htm>.

Keywords & phrases: United States Naval Air Station, Halifax, WWI



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SS *Propontis*

Colin Lewis, FCPS

THE SS *Propontis* was an iron-hull vessel built by CJ Mare & Co of Blackwall, London, weighing five hundred and thirty-one tons. It was launched on 19 November 1849. The ship was operated by the General Screw Steam Shipping Company, and she spent the early part of her life carrying goods, including mail, to Mediterranean countries. From 1851, she plied her trade to South Africa and other African nations, including numerous voyages to Sierra Leone. From the middle of 1853, she was voyaging frequently to India, and continued to sail to the African Continent.

In April 1856, she sailed from Liverpool to London to collect a submarine cable for Canada, commissioned by the Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company [1]. She set sail for St. John's on 2 June 1856 and arrived in port on 21 June. The cable was scheduled to be laid across the Cabot Strait from Cape Ray at the southwest corner of Newfoundland to Aspey Bay, Cape North, Cape Breton Island. The laying of the cable commenced on 10 July,

Figure 1. The only surviving mail carried by the SS *Propontis*.
From Pratt [4].



and was completed in fifteen hours [2].

Prior to her departure from London, a notice appeared in the *London Times* on 28 May 1856. It read, in part: "Steam from London to St. John's, Newfoundland carrying a bag from the post office."

Robert Pratt, in a 1974 article in *BNA Topics* [3], states that, as far as can be determined, the *Propontis* established two firsts for Newfoundland. It carried the first GPO-controlled mail to be transported direct to St. John's. All previous packet sailings were to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The *Propontis* also enabled the first operable telegraph connection between Newfoundland and the North American continent.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, transatlantic mail, postal markings.



Figure 2. Mourning cover from the UK to St. John's, Newfoundland, posted 29 May 1856. The receiver cancel at St. John's is shown in Figure 3.

Pratt states in his “magnum opus [4]” that the only surviving mail carried by the *Propontis* is a part cover to St. John's, which he illustrates on page 291 (Figure 1). A key feature of the part cover is the St. John's receiving mark on the reverse.

Although the dated receiver is June 24th, whilst *Propontis* arrived on the 21st, the digit “4” has been inserted inverted. Pratt's opinion was that the numeral four had been inverted intentionally, to represent the numeral one that had likely been mislaid. He went on to write that it is the only recorded instance of an inverted four being used.



Figure 3. Reverse of the cover shown in Figure 2.

However, a mourning cover I purchased from a prominent Canadian dealer at the bourse of the 2008 BNAPS convention in Halifax shows the same inverted indicium for the same date. No other incoming mail arrived at St. John's on 21 June.

This cover was mailed at Gateshead (Co Durham) on 29 May 1856, and arrived at London on 30 May (Figures 2 and 3). The London inland transit mark is clear on the reverse, whilst the small partial handstamp at the base is also a London mark, applied to mail going overseas, and can be read under close scrutiny.

The cover has been mailed unpaid and therefore would have been 6d Sterling collect on delivery at St. John's. The 5d handstamp is an accountancy mark, indicating the amount of postage due, in Sterling, to the UK from Newfoundland. The St. John's arrival mark on the reverse clearly shows the June date with an inverted numeral four.

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- [3] Robert H Pratt, "A historic letter," *BNAPS Topics*, Vol 31, No 3, March 1974, pp 45f.
- [4] Robert H Pratt, *The Nineteenth Century Postal History of Newfoundland*, published under the auspices of the Steinway Fund Collector's Club, 1985.

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A favourite cover: Free frank cover with a QUEBEC squared circle cancel

Laurent Bélisle

IN 2013, I acquired this cover with a type II QUEBEC, CANADA. 4/JY22/96 squared circle cancel (Figure 1) from dealer Hugo Deshayé—along with some twenty others—during the Lakeshore Stamp Club stamp show. I only looked at it briefly, thinking the stamp had fallen off, but as the QUEBEC cancel was very clear, it made this an interesting cover. Last year, while preparing my exhibit on Quebec Squared Circle cancels, I gave the

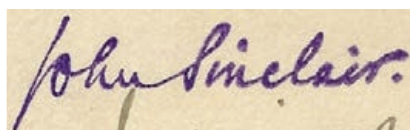


Figure 1. QUEBEC originating cover with squared circle cancel.

cover a second look and found out that I had made a mistake. The stamp was not missing: it is a FREE FRANK cover. It is the only FREE FRANK cover I know of with a QUEBEC squared circle cancel.

It has no FREE or OHMS markings, but a handstamp, with a facsimile signature, can be found in the upper right corner (Figure 2a). It identifies the sender as John Sinclair.

The only other marking on the back shows that this cover is an official envelope from THE CITADEL



(a)



(b)

Figure 2. (a) Handstamped signature on cover in Figure 1. (b) Inscription on back of cover.

QUEBEC (Figure 2b). An Internet search of the name John Sinclair (6,640,000 results), a reference to the Citadel (24,900 results) and the year 1896 (753,000 results), was not helpful.

The question becomes: Who has FREE FRANK privilege? On Canada Post's website [1], the following information is available under the heading "Government mail free of postage; franking privilege": "Government mail free of postage allows for mail (with the exception of Parcel Services, options and special services) to be sent to and from the following

Keywords & phrases: free franking, Quebec, squared circle cancel

individuals free of postage provided that both sender and receiver are in Canada: the Governor General, the Speaker or Clerk of the Senate or House of Commons, the Parliamentary Librarian or the Associate Parliamentary Librarian, Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Commons, the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner or Senate Ethics Officer, the Director of the Parliamentary Protective Service, the Parliamentary Budget Officer.’

A search for the holder of these positions in 1896 revealed no one named John Sinclair. I wrote on a Saturday to the archives of the Citadel, and I received the response on Monday. John Sinclair was identified as the Secretary to John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon (Figure 3), who was the “...1st Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair KT GCMG GCVO PC (3 August 1847 – 7 March 1934) ... Born



Figure 3. John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, 1st Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, the seventh Governor General of Canada [2].



Figure 4. Miss Eloise Ann Skimmings [4].

in Edinburgh, Hamilton-Gordon held office in several countries, serving twice as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1886; 1905–1915) and serving from 1893 to 1898 as the seventh Governor General of Canada [3].” As the representative of Queen Victoria, the Governor General had FREE FRANK privilege. The handstamp of his secretary’s signature made this an official letter. The CITADEL is the second official home of the Governor General.

I was intrigued to discover information about the recipient of my cover. It is addressed to a “Miss Eloise Skimmings” in Goderich, and further research on the Internet was fruitful. A Miss Eloise Ann Skimmings (spelled with one “m”) lived in Goderich at that time. She was born in Goderich, Huron, Ontario on 29 December 1837, and she died there on 8 April 1921. “Described as ‘one of Goderich’s best-known citizens’ and known as ‘The Poetess of Lake

Huron,' Eloise Ann Skimings was a musician, music teacher, and composer of songs like 'I'm Thinking of Thee, Alice.' Correspondent for the CLINTON NEWS-RECORD in a column called 'The News from Goderich,' she also contributed poems to a number of journals and issued a volume of verse entitled GOLDEN LEAVES (1890) ... This book was one of only two, penned by Canadian women, to be exhibited within the Library of the Women's Building at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. ... Possibly Principal of Goderich Model School for a time, the always colourfully dressed Eloise attracted the attention and friendship of fellow Goderich resident and photographer, Reuben R Sallows, becoming over time one of his favourite models. Images of Eloise adorned in elaborate coronation gowns and unusually lavish accessories became popular post cards, while the model in turn dedicated several of her poems to the Sallows family and, on behalf of Goderich, commemorated important town guests through verse [5].'' This cover is now one of my favourites, as it has both an interesting author and recipient.

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In Memoriam

John M. (Jack) Wallace, OTB

1921–2019

JACK Wallace, member of the British North America Philatelic Society since 1952, Order of the Beaver (2000), passed away in Victoria, British Columbia on 4 November 2019. He will be missed by many philatelic friends and especially in British Columbia, where Jack was born, educated, and enjoyed his family.

A professional civil engineer, Jack worked all over British Columbia and the Yukon, mapping and recording water resources. This established his love for travel, mainly by trains and ships, later shared with his wife Bev. Jack and his family also enjoyed skiing on local mountains.



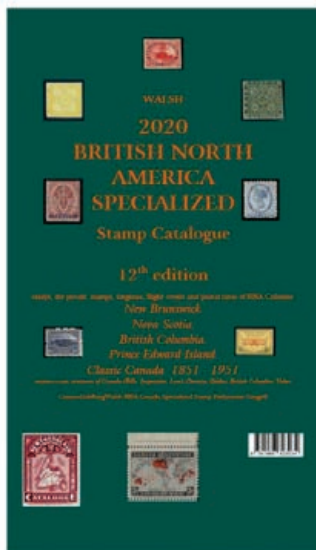
Jack was a lifelong collector of stamps and postal history, specializing in the Colonial period of the Crown Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. This philatelic enthusiasm was shared with his friend, the late Gerald E Wellburn FRPSC, FRPSL, RDP, and their collaboration continued for nearly forty years. One of their joint study projects was on the Numeral Cancellations assigned after 1859 to Post Offices in British Columbia. The book, *The Stamps and Postal History of Vancouver Island and British Columbia—1849–1871*, published in 1987, was another shared project. A beautiful display of the Gerald Wellburn collection, the book was encouraged and edited by Jack Wallace. It and the BNAPS Exhibit Series book, *British Columbia and Vancouver Island with BC Numeral Cancellations Supplement*, (# 52, 2011), showing Jack's exhibits of BC and Vancouver Island, allow us to enjoy details of rarely seen philatelic material assembled and studied by Wellburn and Wallace.

Jack supported many philatelic organizations including the Royal Philatelic Society London (Fellow), Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (Fellow), Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSofGB), Postal History Society of Canada, and the 21 Club in Vancouver. He served on guiding Boards of both RPSC and BNAPS (1982–94). Jack was committed to attending philatelic society meetings—often with Bev, who joined BNAPS in 1987—they enjoyed over twenty-five Annual BNAPS Conventions, so perhaps their favourite was BNAPS. The “Wallace team” hosted the 1991 BNAPEX Convention in Vancouver with the Pacific Northwest Regional Group, and many friendships were forged with that group. Bev and Jack also attended many CPSofGB conventions.

Jack also exhibited his Gold Medal collection throughout Canada, the United States, New Zealand (1980, 1990), and the UK (London 1990, 2000). Jack's last exhibits, which included early airmail usages in British Columbia, were shown in Victoria in October 2019.

I will miss my friend Jack, but I will remember his great enthusiasm and interest in history and philately, with its challenges and fun.

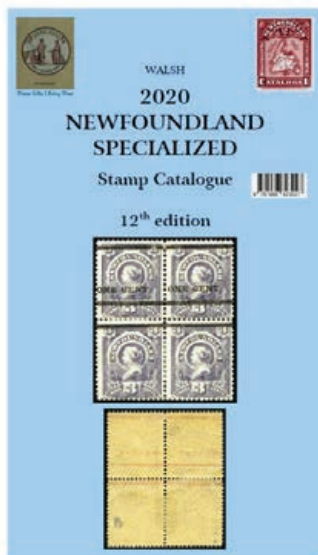
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“Aniline” stamps of Newfoundland—fluorescence and bleeding

Anthony Thompson

PUBLICATIONS, stamp catalogues, and auctions use the term “aniline” to describe certain stamps. For example, the *London Philatelist* mentions “aniline” in one hundred and fifty-seven articles and notes between 1892 and 2010. Most occurrences simply refer to a type of colour, e.g., “aniline mauve” or “orange (aniline),” and some describe the colour as bright or brilliant. Some mention that the ink had penetrated to the back of the stamp, that the image was blurred, or that the ink was not colourfast. “Aniline” ink has reportedly been used for the stamp, overprint, surcharge, and cancellation. The colours include mauve, purple, violet, carmine, red, pink, rose, orange, yellow, yellow-brown, brown, green, and more.



Figure 1 Examples of colour showing on the back of the stamp: From left to right - Canada 1893 (Sc 41), Barbados 1875 (SG 71), Bahamas 1883 (SG 45), Canada 1898 (Sc 86), and Australia 1960 (SG 334). (Canada 3¢ courtesy Jack Forbes Jr).

Stanley Gibbon in 1971 states that “*Aniline colours are derived from coal-tar and have a particular brilliance which generally shows through to the back of the stamp*” [1]. This was later modified to “*An aniline colour meant originally one derived from coal-tar; it now refers more widely to colour of a particular brightness suffused on the surface of a stamp and showing through clearly on the back.*” [2]. Other definitions include aniline as being a water-soluble and fugitive ink (<https://en.mimi.hu/philately/aniline.html>), showing fluorescence under ultra-violet light (<https://philaindia.info/glossary-of-philatelic-terms/>), and as substandard synthetic inks used to replace organic pigments during World War I and giving a pinkish hue on the back of the stamp (<http://stampsmarter.com/Learning/GlossaryHome.html>). Williams and Williams [3] defined aniline as “*An aromatic, colorless, oily and volatile fluid, slightly soluble in water but readily dissolved in alcohol or ether. Aniline, derived from coal-tar, is of great importance as a source of dyes.*” They also define the term “aniline colour,” philatelically, in two senses: “*(a) as designating a water-soluble dye in the red color-range, usually qualified “scarlet,” which suffuses the paper and shows through the back to a marked degree, and which, when inspected by ultra-violet rays, fluoresces brilliantly, with a golden or flame*

Keywords & phrases: printing; aniline ink; Newfoundland

color—for example, Great Britain 1912 1d. aniline scarlet; (b) as designating any dye which suffuses the paper and exhibits marked fluorescence when inspected by ultra-violet rays.” Judge [4] provides some more general definitions applicable to different user groups, but in terms of philately, Judge uses the definition above provided by Williams and Williams. Scott, in the introduction to its Canada and Provinces 2019 catalogue, lists aniline as a colour and says, under the header “Soluble Printing Inks,” that water affects all aniline inks, but the catalogue does not actually list any aniline stamps [5].

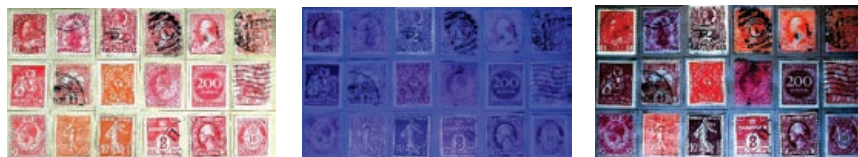


Figure 2. Mixed red shades under visible light (left), longwave UV light (centre), and longwave UV light with white balance adjusted (right).

Aniline is a colourless liquid that was initially distilled from coal tar and later synthesised. In 1856, William Perkins accidentally made an intensely coloured dye when reacting aniline with other chemicals, whilst attempting to make synthetic quinine to cure malaria [6, 7]. The dye, called mauvine, was the first synthetically produced dye and revolutionised the colours available to the garment industry [8]. Prior to that, dyes were mostly made by extraction from certain plants and animals [9].

Other aniline colours were soon synthesised, though they had a reputation for lacking colour fastness and being somewhat soluble in water, which could make it run through the paper [3, 10–12]. Reference to stamps “*printed in aniline (tar) colours*” was made as early as 1894 [13]. Though references to “aniline” stamps abound, it is likely that the actual number printed using the aniline-derived dye is quite limited [9, 11].



Figure 3. Normal (left) and UV (right) photographs of Canadian stamps issued in 1995 (Sc 1366) and 2008 (Sc 2258), showing fluorescent tagging and a fluorescent barcode applied by the Swedish postal authority “Postnord” in February 2019.

Fox [9, 14], referring to GB’s 4½d surface printed issue of 1880–1900 (SG 206), states *P.S.G.B. III confirms the green variations and states that the carmine “varies”, referring to an “aniline” carmine which shows diffusion of colour to the back of the stamp. Nothing in the Ink Records could account for these various “shades,” but it is possible in 1892 that lakes from synthetic dyes (‘Anilines’ though not all derived from aniline) were used for shading the Cardinal Carmine (see Ink No. 1039) which is believed to have been a mixture. Several basic and ‘aniline’ acid dye lakes show sufficient solubility to diffuse from the ink film to the back of the paper.*

In spite of advanced techniques currently available to analyse the properties of inks used on postage stamps [e.g. 4, 15], there are relatively few occasions on which the actual pigments used have been identified. A trawl through the eBay sales, shows that most stamps are called “aniline” based on the bleed through of the ink to the back of the stamp.

This paper examines various stamps listed as “aniline” and describes their appearance and reaction under ultraviolet light.

Printing inks and terms



Figure 4. Great Britain stamp (1869, SG 109) printed with the first commercially available aniline dye – mauve (left). There is no bleed through (centre) and no fluorescence under UV (right).

solid using a precipitating agent. If poorly prepared, some of the water-soluble component remains, and the colouring will run and diffuse through the paper and eventually be seen on the back side of the stamp.

Colour and bleeding

The colour of a stamp is dependent on the dye used in the printing ink, though the colour can be modified considerably by the recipe used to make the ink [16]. For these reasons, it is impossible to determine the dye from a casual examination of the stamp. Identification of the actual dye used can be a complex process using the most advanced laboratory apparatus [e.g.,

[4, 8, 15].



Figure 5. The 1895 4 öre stamp from Sweden viewed under normal (far left, left, far right) and UV (right) light. The top stamp is described as “carmine and blue” (Facit 64) and the lower stamp as “bright carmine, blurred print (‘aniline ink’), and ultra-marine blue” (F 64d).

Ultraviolet light and fluorescence

The light produced by the sun or an electric light bulb is light mainly in the visible spectrum which can be split into its component “rainbow” of colours using a prism. Visible light goes from violet to red with wavelengths of 380–740 nanometres (nm). A stamp viewed

Printing ink comprises two main constituents: a dry colouring substance called the *pigment* and a liquid that holds the pigment called the *medium*, *varnish*, or *vehicle*, which in intaglio print printing, line-engraving, lithography, offset-lithography, and relief printing is essentially, *linseed oil*, more or less thickened by heat [3]. The pigment often comes from a water-soluble *dye*, which has been precipitated to an insoluble

Stamps described as “aniline” often have a richer vivid colour that has a slightly oily appearance, and show bleeding of the colour through to the back of the stamp. The use of aniline ink has been linked to a blurred image, as seen on Sweden’s 1895 4 öre bright carmine and ultra-marine blue (Facit 64d) [17]. A selection of stamps showing bleeding to the back is shown in Figure 1.

under white light absorbs all colours except the stamp’s colour, which is reflected, and our eyes register it as a particular colour [18, 19]. The type of white light depends upon the light source, and this affects the colour we see, though our eyes adapt so things don’t look yellowish under a tungsten light bulb and blueish under a fluorescent tube.

Light with wavelength shorter than violet is called ultraviolet (UV). The commonly available UV light sources for philately are longwave UV (around 365 nm) for detecting

fluorescence and shortwave UV (around 254 nm) for detecting phosphorescence. Wavelengths longer than red are called infrared (IR) and are not normally used in philately.

Many substances glow under UV light [20], and ours eyes adapt somewhat to the blue colour and make them appear whiter. Stamps can be viewed and photographed under visible, UV and IR light and many show fluorescence [21–23].

A stamp illuminated by

UV light should not show any colour and look black, hence the early use of the term “black light.” The UV lamps available to philatelists emit light in the visible spectrum in addition to UV, and so stamps viewed under UV light can still be seen, though they have a blue cast. Filters can be purchased that block visible light and allow only the UV light to pass, but these are very expensive. However, some printing inks fluoresce. Fluorescence occurs when molecules absorb light of one wavelength and then emit it at a different shorter wavelength and appear to glow. Most commonly, a florescent red stamp will produce an orange/golden glow under longwave UV. Many dyes used to print stamps fluoresce, *e.g.*, the aniline-derived dyes eosin (glows golden under UV) and fluorescein (glows green to yellowish-green under UV), and the natural dyes madder and cochineal, show fluorescence [16, 17, 24, 25]. The colour and intensity of the fluorescence depends upon the dilution of the fluorescent substance and the presence of other pigments [18]. The shortwave UV light (mine at least!) emits excessive white light in the visible spectrum, which tends to mask any fluorescence. Other parts of the postage stamp can also exhibit differences under UV, *e.g.*, the paper, printing ink, colour, watermark, surcharge, postmark, gum: a UV light is indeed very useful [21, 22].

Photographing stamps under UV light

Stamps showing strong fluorescence under UV can be photographed, even with a phone’s camera. However, better-quality photographs are obtained from a high-quality system camera with a stand and macro lens (see Figs. 4a and 5a in [26]). The auto-focussing works satisfactorily, and it is best to use a moderate aperture, say $f/5.6$ –8, to allow for focussing deficiencies and the narrow depth of field. The ISO (film speed) should be set to around ISO100 to ensure the best quality picture, and exposure times are often in the 0.5–20 seconds



Figure 6. The 1942 35 öre Christian X Denmark stamp viewed under normal (far left and left), UV (right) light and magnified (far right). The top stamp is described as “red-lilac” (Facit 302a) and the lower stamp as “aniline-rose” (F 302b).



Figure 7. Photographs of dry-printed (EKU 1956; USA Sc 1036a; top) and tagged dry printed (1963; USA Sc 1036e; bottom) 4¢ Lincoln stamp under normal (left), longwave UV (centre), and shortwave UV (right).



Figure 8. UV (white balance adjusted) plate block collage of mint, dry-printed 4¢ Lincoln stamp (EKU 1956; USA Sc 1036a): (a) before soaking, and stamps from the same block after soaking in water for (b) 5 minutes at 15°C, (c) 15 minutes at 40°C, and (d) 15 minutes at 100°C.



Figure 9. Dry printed 4¢ Lincoln stamp (EKU 1956; USA Sc 1036a) under normal light showing mint (top) and after soaking for 15 minutes at 100°C (bottom).

range. Colour temperature should be set and not left to auto, to ensure consistent results. I normally use 2700K, which is a warm “yellowish” setting that tends to counteract the excessive blueness, so the colour is closer to that seen by the human eye. The best file format is RAW, which has no camera processing. Next best is TIFF and, finally, JPEG, which has the most camera processing. Post-processing is most successful with RAW files and least successful with JPEG files. Typical processing includes adjustment of the brightness, contrast, and colour balance.

Equipment used

All references to UV light in this article, unless otherwise stated, refer to longwave UV.

The 110/220 volt plug-in type UV lights designed for bank notes with two 6W UV tubes produce a brighter light and are better for photography, but the handheld battery-operated ones with a single 4W tube also work well. Ideally, two are needed, one on each side of the stamp to ensure even illumination.

The scanner used for the whole-stamp images was a Canon CanoScan 8800F. The cameras were a Canon 5D IV or 7D II, with Canon EF-S 60mm f/2.8 Macro and Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1-5x Macro Photo lenses, used for the UV and magnified images, respectively.

Red stamps

Figure 2 shows a selection of red to red-orange stamps photographed under visible (left) and UV light (centre and right). The white balance of the right image was digitally-adjusted and the contrast increased to show the stamps colour changes more clearly. Numbering the stamps in this figure from top left to bottom right, numbers 4, 5, 6, 9, and 14 emit fluorescence and appear to “glow”; numbers 9 and 14 are redder, whereas nos. 4, 5, and 6 are more orange. Stamp numbers 9 and 15 appear as similar shades of orange-red under visible light, but appear

bright red and brown respectively under UV. Much more extreme reactions under UV are shown in Figure 3 and are aids developed for automatic sorting [3, 5].



Figure 10. Newfoundland 1897 35¢ ice berg off St. John’s “aniline” stamp (Sc 73) viewed under normal (far left, left, far right) and UV (right) light. The top stamp is normal and the lower stamp is “aniline”. (Courtesy: Jean-Claude Vasseur).

The first aniline stamp

Mauvine was widely used after its discovery in 1856, mainly in the garment industry, but also for certain postage stamps. The colour mauve became fashionable in Paris in 1857 and reached London the following year [6]. Mauve became a common colour on the stamps of Great Britain from around 1865, though in the main it seemed to be derived from cochineal



Figure 11. Newfoundland 1911 4¢ Prince Albert “aniline” stamp (Sc 107var) showing extreme bleed-through on the back (right). (Courtesy: Eastern Auctions).

(known chemically as carminic acid and obtained from certain scale insects). Only the six-penny stamps of 1869 have been positively identified as containing mauvine (SG 106-109; [9, 27]). Examination of three postally used (and hence previously soaked in water) of these six-penny stamps showed that they did not have particularly bright colours, fluoresce under UV, or show bleed-through (Figure 4). From the outset, there seems to be a discrepancy in what would typically be described as “aniline” and the properties of an actual aniline stamp.

Williams and Williams [3] state that mauvine was used for colouring the Great Britain 1881 one-penny stamps (SG 170-174), though an examination of ink formulations indicates that this is very unlikely [9]. Williams and Williams also indicated that these stamps fluoresce a brilliant golden colour, but I did not observe this on the four copies examined.

Typical “aniline” stamps

Sweden’s 1895 4 öre bright carmine and ultramarine blue (Facit 64d) shows some classic features associated with aniline stamps (Figure 5). The carmine centre is indeed much brighter

than the normal stamp and fluoresces a rose-pink under UV light. It also shows an “oily” translucent bleed-through on the back of the stamp, differing from the normal stamp that often shows a clear image on the back. The image also has a slightly blurred appearance, and the ink has “leaked” out of the engraved lines, making them irregular with a suffusion of light pink colour (Figure 5 (far right)). Facit [28] lists five colour varieties of this stamp, each assigned to a specific printing (F 64a-e), and a continuum of the characteristic features listed above is seen when multiple copies are lined up and compared. However, certain stamps clearly exhibit all these “aniline” features and can be clearly identified as F64d, whereas others go into the “not sure” category!



Figure 12. Newfoundland 1911 4¢ Prince Albert normal mint (top row), “aniline” mint (centre row), and “aniline” used (Sc 107) under normal (left) and UV (right) light. (Photos courtesy of Rob Moore).

magnified image lacks detail and looks quite blurred.

Caution: The US 1954–1968 4¢ Liberty stamp

The 1954–1968 4¢ Liberty stamp, showing a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, was printed by both the wet and dry methods, with the latter tagged from 1963—all appearing as the same red-violet colour. There is little reaction of the dry-printed stamp (Sc 1036a) under longwave and shortwave UV light. However, the tagged variety (Sc 1036e) is slightly brighter under longwave UV light, and much darker under shortwave UV light (Figure 7). Thus, the use of UV lights provide colour information not seen under normal lighting. The tagged stamp also shows phosphorescence under shortwave UV light.

The dry-printed, mint stamp does not fluoresce under UV light, but it does after soaking in water, as noted by Williams and Williams [3]. The fluorescence increases with more extreme soaking, and after boiling for fifteen minutes it assumes an “aniline” appearance with marked fluorescence (Figure 8) and bleed-through to the back (Figure 9). This finding, and others

The 1942 35 öre Christian X from Denmark (Facit 302b) also has a variety showing classic “aniline” features (Figure 6). The aniline-rose variety has a brighter and richer colour, shows considerable bleed-through to the back, and glows a bright orange-red under UV. It shows all the features of the more modern definitions of aniline. However, I have another copy (not illustrated here) that is the colour of the normal stamp, shows no bleed through, and clear, but much weaker, fluorescence. Like the Swedish stamp above, there are copies that cannot be clearly assigned to the “aniline” variety. I can find no reference as to if this stamp is printed from an aniline-derived dye. The suffusion of colour is so extreme that the

discussed below [29], show that care must be taken when describing mint or used stamps as “aniline,” as they can be “made” by various inappropriate treatments.

Newfoundland

Unitrade in 2008 [30] and SG in 2007 [31] list only one Newfoundland stamp described as “aniline”; namely, the 8¢ Prince George in the 1911 Royal Family Issue, described, respectively, as *blue aniline blue paper* (Sc #110) or *aniline blue* (SG #123), that can be found in mint and used condition. This stamp also occurs as a normal variety described as blue (Sc #110a) or greenish-blue (SG #123a). The two varieties are similarly priced in catalogues and are both rather expensive compared to the other values in the set.



Figure 13. Newfoundland 1911 normal (Sc 110a, top) and “aniline” variety (Sc 110, bottom) of the 8¢ Prince George stamp under normal (far left, left and far right) and UV (right) light.

Unitrade [32] recently listed a variety of the 5¢ 1941 Cabot stamp (Sc 270iv) as *Aniline-type ink (blotchy print)*. Walsh and Butt [33] also list the 4¢ (NSSC #99a) and 15¢ (NSSC #106b)

from this 1911 series as aniline and as having been circulated for postal use. The only other listed aniline stamps are also by Walsh and Butt [33] (NSSC 129a, 232a, 233b, 234b, 245b, 246c, 247c, 253a), though these appear not to have been circulated and no price is given for stamps in a postally used condition.

1897 35¢ Iceberg off St. John’s (recess ABNCo)

The normal appearance of the 1897 35¢ iceberg off St. John’s stamp (Sc 73) shows no bleed-through to the back. However, as with many stamps, a few exhibit “aniline” characteristics with the image showing on the back (Figure 10). The colour of the stamp under normal light is similar, though the “aniline” stamp looks to have a slightly richer colour. This is in slight contrast to the magnified image that shows less inking on the “aniline” stamp but a slight suffusion of colour into the paper. There is no noticeable fluorescence under UV. There is however a marked difference in the appearance of the gum. The normal stamp has a thick brownish-yellow cracked gum typical of this issue, whereas the “aniline” stamp has a thinner white, cracked gum.

1911 4¢ Prince Albert (recess De La Rue)

This stamp (Sc 107var; Figure 11) was not examined by the author, but a scan provided by Eastern Auctions show substantial bleed-through to the back. UV fluorescence has been reported on the “aniline” variety [34].

This stamp is typically seen with either no ink on the back or patches of ink on the back and, occasionally, examples are seen with a suffusion of colour on the back (Figure 12). Under UV light, the stamp with patchy ink on the back shows a clear golden fluorescence, which is even more apparent in the stamp with the suffusion of colour.

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1. Going beyond what is usual, regular or customary



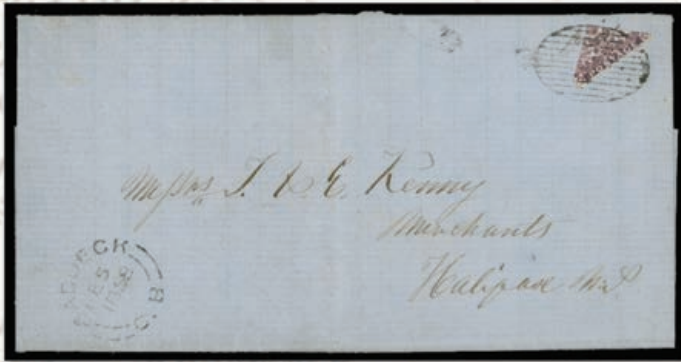
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1911 8¢ Prince George (recess Alexander & Sons)

This stamp occurs in two listed varieties (Sc #110 and #110a; Figure 13, p 39) The “aniline” stamp is slightly brighter, with the ink clearly showing on the back. Neither variety showed fluorescence under UV light. The images on both are clear and sharp, with no noticeable difference in the impression. However, the “aniline” variety has a blue hue surrounding the pigmented lines in all areas, except where there was a larger white space. For example, the blue ink can be seen to have diffused towards the centre of the white area in the “8”.

1938 3¢ Queen Mother (recess Sprague, at ex-Perkins Bacon works)



Figure 14. Newfoundland 1938 normal (Sc 246, top) and “aniline” variety (Sc 246var, bottom) of the 3¢ Queen Mother stamp, showing front and back. (Scans courtesy Rob Moore).

The 1938 3¢ Queen Mother stamp (Sc 246) is another stamp that has been found showing some bleed-through on the back, though no reaction under UV light (Figure 14).

1939 4¢ surcharge on 5¢ Royal visit (recess Bradbery Wilkinson)

The 1939 aniline 4¢ surcharge on 5¢ Royal visit stamp (Sc 251var, NSSC 234b) here examined is slightly brighter than the normal variety and clearly shows that the blue colour has bled through to the back, and a light blue edging occurs around the engraved lines (Figure 15, opposite). Otherwise, the image quality is the same and neither shows fluorescence under UV. Other similar stamps recorded as aniline [33] and not available for examination by the author are the 1939 5¢ (Sc 249var, NSSC 232a) and the 1939 2¢ on 5¢ (Sc 250var, NSSC 233b). It is not known how many sheets of the aniline stamps have been recorded, but the price is around 320 times the value of the normal stamp, indicating that they are rare [33].

1941 3¢ Queen Mother and 2¢ King George VI (recess Waterlow & Son)

The 1941 3¢ Queen Mother stamp (Sc 255) occurs as a normal stamp issued postally, and a “no cross hatch” variety that occurs from only two or possibly three sheets that were never issued for postal use (Figure 16, opposite; [35, 36]). The variety has a richer, deeper, brighter colour, tending towards rose- carmine, shows some bleed-through to the back, and does not show fluorescence. This stamp has not been recorded as “aniline” but is included here because of its similarity in appearance to the “aniline” varieties of the 1941 15¢ seal stamp and the 1947 5¢ Cabot stamp. The variety has a very blurred image that has masked many of the engraved details and obscures the cross-hatching in the background, hence the reference to a “no cross hatch” variety. The cross-hatching is actually present and can be seen in most of the varieties upon close inspection.

Another stamp in the same series, the 1941 2¢ King George VI (Sc 254var) shows similar characteristics (Figure 17, p 44). No other information can be found about this stamp and, at present, no other copies are known to the author. This copy showed no reaction to UV light, and all the comments made in the paragraph above apply.

1941 15¢ baby seal (recess Waterlow & Son)



Figure 15. Newfoundland 1939 4¢ surcharge on 5¢ normal (Sc 251, top) and “aniline” variety (Sc 251var, bottom) of the Royal visit stamp, under normal (far left, left and far right) and UV (right) light.

clearly defined detail, with some feather of the ink in areas of darker colour, for example, at the edges of the white “15”. The aniline stamp has a very blurred appearance by comparison, and the detail on the head of the seal is difficult to discern. This is because the pigmented ink has been displaced beyond the edges of the recessed engraved lines and into the “white” areas which have now become much narrower. This is clearly seen by a comparison of the two “15”s where the “aniline” stamp shows less white space.

1947 5¢ Cabot (recess Waterlow & Son)

The 1947 5¢ Cabot in the *Matthew* stamp occurs as a normal stamp and an “aniline” variety (Sc 270, 270var; Figure 19, p 44).



Figure 16. Newfoundland 1941 3¢ Queen Mother normal (Sc 255, top) and “no cross hatching” variety (Sc 255v, bottom) under normal (far left, left and far right) and UV (right) light.

The 1941 15¢ baby seal occurs as a normal stamp and an “aniline” stamp (Sc 262, 262var; Figure 18, p 44). The “aniline” variety is known from only one sheet and has not been used postally, *i.e.*, it was never an issued stamp.

The “aniline” stamp has a richer, deeper, brighter colour tending to a deep claret colour. The image could be weakly seen on the back of both 1941 stamps, though more so on the “aniline” stamp. Neither showed noticeable fluorescence under UV light.

The normal stamp shows clearly defined detail, with some feather of the ink in areas of darker colour, for example, at the edges of the white “15”. The aniline stamp has a very blurred appearance by comparison, and the detail on the head of the seal is difficult to discern. This is because the pigmented ink has been displaced beyond the edges of the recessed engraved lines and into the “white” areas which have now become much narrower. This is clearly seen by a comparison of the two “15”s where the “aniline” stamp shows less white space.

The “aniline” variety is known from only one sheet, was not used postally, and has a richer deeper brighter colour tending to a deep rose-lilac in colour.

The image could be weakly seen on the back of both 1941 stamps, though more so on the “aniline” variety. Neither showed noticeable fluorescence under UV light.



Figure 17. Newfoundland 1941 2¢ King George VI normal (Sc 254, top) and variety (254var, bottom). (Photos courtesy of Rob Moore)

The normal stamp shows clearly defined detail with some feather of the ink around areas of darker colour. The “aniline” variety has a very blurred appearance by comparison, and detail is lacking. This is due to ink that has been displaced beyond the edges of the recessed engraved lines.

Discussion

The first stamp described here as “aniline” was the 1897 35¢ Iceberg off St. John’s. Examination of this stamp by experts from Eastern Auctions and Stanley Gibbons noted that the “aniline” stamp was the result of being stored under slightly damp conditions for extended periods of time, and this resulted in both the bleeding to the back and the change in the appearance of the gum.

The other earlier stamps of Newfoundland, described here as “aniline,” come from the 1911 Coronation series with the 8¢ widely listed, and the 4¢ and 15¢ listed in NSSC (2016), and the 3¢ from an Eastern Auctions mail sale (lot

2042, 20 June 2018). NSSC (2016) also lists the 8¢ from the 1923 pictorial issue. Only the 1911 8¢ was examined here (Figure 13). This “aniline” variety arose from a thinning of the ink, done to assist in the first printing, and not from a change in the dye used [37, 38]. This was noted

by Stanley Gibbons in their 1982 and subsequent catalogues, stating *Although No. 123 has a typical aniline appearance it is believed that the shade results from the thinning of non-aniline ink* [2]. Scott in 2019 described this stamp as *blue (paper colored through)* [5]. However, Lowe [39] offers another opinion as to the cause of this variety, and says *The so-called 8c. aniline blue was made by holding a sheet of the normal stamp in front of a steaming kettle*. This may in-



Figure 18. Newfoundland 1941 15¢ baby seal (Sc 262), normal (top) and “aniline” variety (Sc 262var, bottom) under normal (far left, left, and far right) and UV (right) light.

deed simulate the bleeding, but my mint “aniline” copy shows no signs of gum disturbance or gum leaking to the fibres of the perforations, which would result from steaming. It is worth noting that the “aniline effect” on Canada’s 3¢ Small Queen issue (Figure 1) does not appear on that denomination until the arrival of the second Ottawa printings (evident in usages after mid-1892). During that specific printing period, several shades of this stamp occur with aniline characteristics. In many instances, similar shades are evident without any indication of the presence of aniline, despite being from the identical printing periods [40].

The 1911 4¢ Prince Albert (Sc 107var) “aniline” appears to be rather rare (Figures 11 and 12). This variety was first reported in 1951 as being lighter and redder in colour than the normal, showing marked bleed-through to the back and a brilliant red glow under UV, whereas the normal stamp showed no bleed-through and no fluorescence [34]. This “aniline” variety is listed in NSSC ([33] (NSSC 99a) as *aniline ink*. The author examined two mint and one used stamp, with the latter showing a little bleed-through and a reddish fluorescence. However, progressive soaking of one of the mint stamps for fifteen minutes at 15° C, then 40° C, and finally 100° C, produced a stamp showing increasing bleed-through and reddish fluorescence. Therefore, the aniline variety of used stamps can be made by inappropriate treatment.



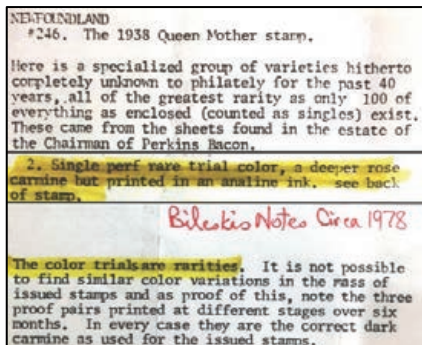
Figure 19. Newfoundland 1941 5¢ Cabot (Sc 270) normal (top) and “aniline” variety (Sc 270iv, bottom) under normal (far left, left, and far right) and UV (right) light.

ink suffusion and gleaned advice from two prominent philatelists showed that inappropriate storage could cause this effect [29]. The same experts, in recent personal communication with the author, (8 Apr 2019) noted that:

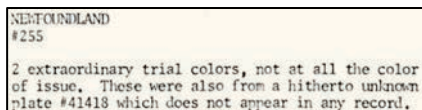
- Stamps enclosed in soft plastic 8½×11 paper money sheets. The early ones had chemical softeners that were not stable and seemed to cause the ink to “sort of” melt and leach through the paper and turn the gum blue. This ONLY seems to have affected “Blue” stamps. (John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre);
- This type of “variety” can come out of the brown philatelic service envelopes, which included cardboard and some type of interleaving material. If they were in there for many years, the aniline [effect] seems to happen. Exposure to some combination of heat/moisture may also give the same result. (Gary Lyon, Eastern Auctions).

The latter group of “aniline” stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons between 1941 and 1949 is similar in appearance (Figures 16–19). The 3¢ “no cross hatch” has never been listed as aniline, and the 1941 15¢ “aniline” and 1947 5¢ “aniline” only by NSSC [33]. They all have a similarly blurred image, show little bleed-through and have no fluorescence. The use of aniline ink has been previously linked to a blurred image, as seen on Sweden’s 1895 4 öre bright carmine and ultramarine blue (Facit 64d) [17]. These Newfoundland varieties were never issued for postage and originated from Kasimir Bileski stock (at least all exist with his characteristic typed descriptions; see Figure 20).

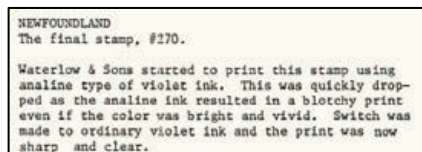
The “aniline” varieties of the 1939 5¢ (and 2¢ and 4¢ surcharge) Royal visit stamps (Sc 249-251, Recess Bradbury Wilkinson) were first listed in NSSC in 1992 and in subsequent catalogues with the comment “Walsh seen” [33]. These are also listed in the King George VI catalogue (S37-39) [41]. This “aniline” variety is occasionally offered for sale, but it is not common. An examination of copies of the Newfoundland Royal visit stamp and the two surcharges that showed “aniline”



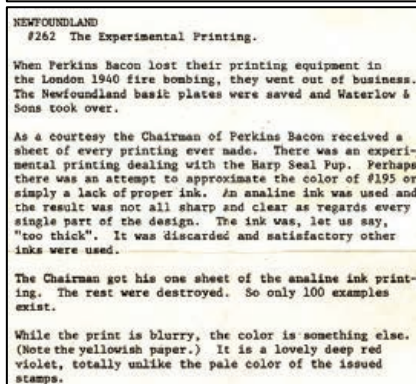
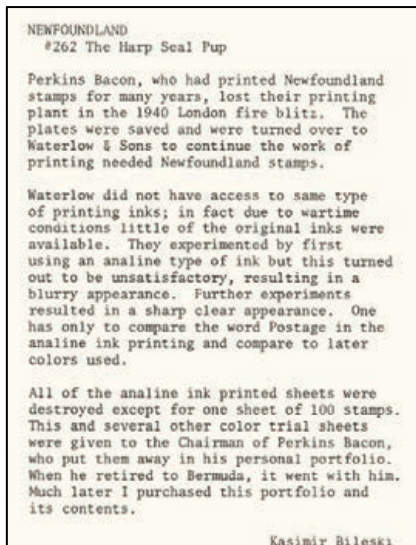
a



b



c



d

Figure 20. Bileski's typed notes accompanying (a) 1938 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 246var, aniline), (b) 1941 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 255var, no cross hatch), (c) 1947 5¢ Cabot (Sc 270var, aniline), and (d) 1941 15¢ seal (Sc 262var, aniline).

It is believed that there were only two sheets of the 3¢ and single sheets of the 15¢ and 5¢ stamps and, with one hundred stamps per sheet, these are rare items. What is confusing is why the 15¢ and 5¢ have been classified as "aniline" stamps, as they do not fit the characteristics of aniline colours provided by Stanley Gibbons. Several of these aniline varieties have been given certificates of genuineness; however, it should be remembered that the

certificate simply matches the stamp to the identified catalogue number and/or its description. It usually does not comment on whether the catalogued stamp is correctly described as “aniline.”

Sheets of the 1938 Queen Mother (Sc 246), 1941 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 255, no cross hatch, recess Waterlow), the 1941 15¢ seal (Sc 262, aniline, recess Waterlow), and the 1947 5¢ Cabot (Sc 270var, aniline, recess Waterlow) were acquired from Waterlow by John Hubbard, Chairman of Perkins Bacon, and kept in his personal collection, which he took with him to Bermuda. Long afterward, these were acquired by Kasimir Bileski, whose typewritten notes mention the 1938 3¢, 1941 15¢, and 1947 5¢ as being colour trials in aniline ink that resulted in an unsatisfactory, blotchy image. The 1941 3¢, which has a similar blurred image, was also acquired and sold by Bileski (presumably from the same source) that he refers to as “colour trials” but aniline is not mentioned. As always, Bileski’s notes include a nice story emphasising some unique feature of the stamp he is selling (Figure 20). It is uncertain when Bileski acquired John Hubbard’s collection, but in the 1980s seems likely. The 3¢ no-cross-hatch and 5¢ Cabot were first listed in NSSC in 1988 [42], and the 15¢ baby seal first appeared in 2002 [43]. These listings remain in subsequent NSSC editions.

Final thoughts

The definitions of “aniline” provided at the start of this article include, in addition to bleed-through to the back of the stamp, something extra. Stanley Gibbons [1, 2] refers to a particular brightness or brilliance of colour, and Williams and Williams [3] to UV fluorescence. It is difficult to assign any of the Newfoundland stamps examined here, that show occasional bleed-through, a slightly lighter colour, and/or a blurry appearance, perhaps assisted by improper treatment or storage, as “aniline.” Such stamps have not been identified to a distinct printing, and it is difficult to see why they have been listed as “aniline” in some catalogues. For this, the “aniline” variety should be printed with a different ink to the normal stamp, and should have an extra quality beyond the bleed-through, such as a distinct UV fluorescence, significant brilliance of colour, or an oily appearance. This should be seen on fresh mint and postally used stamps. Having said this, the cause of the blurred images seen on Newfoundland’s Waterlow printings (Figures 16-19) remains a mystery!

Acknowledgements

This article was written with the help and advice from many collectors, including those who provided material used in some of the figures. I would particularly like to thank CA Stillions and John Wiseman for their stimulating emails containing a wealth of information.

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US censors' marks used in Canada

John Burnett, OTB

I was exhibiting my King George VI, 1937–1942 “Mufti Postal History” at VANPEX in 2005; I had received my expected Vermeil and was attending the Chief Judges’ walk-through and comments section, when my friend and long-time fellow BNAPSer, Bill Topping, approached me and said, “Come with me. There is something I want to show you in your exhibit.” Do you know that feeling of “Oh God, what the heck did I do wrong in the exhibit?” It has been my experience that most people who approach you like that only want to rub your nose in an error they have found in your exhibit.

Not Bill, though. He wanted to point out a cover (shown in Figure 1), explain that it was a significantly rare finding, and tell me I should find a way to explain its rarity in my exhibit.



Figure 1. One of only two covers I own with the Censor marking from the US, applied to a cover with a Canadian censor tape, done while the US Censor was in training.

The story he gave me was an interesting one and one I want to share with you. Maybe with some feedback from the readers of *BNATopics*, we can define the rarity of this cover!

As we all know, Canada joined Great Britain in declaring war against Germany in September 1939, while the United States did not join the conflict until after the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

With that attack, the United States found itself unprepared for some wartime functions. One of these functions was operating a censorship department on a wartime footing. On the other hand, Canada had been censoring mail to all foreign destinations (including the United States) since late 1939.

Keywords & phrases: World War II, censor marks

The United States asked Canada to help in the training of censorship officers, and sent a number of them to postal inspection sites to work shoulder-to-shoulder with their Canadian counterparts. The process was simple; the Canadian opened the letter, carried out whatever censoring was required and passed the letter to his American trainee, who then saw what the Canadian had done. The US censor then handstamped the envelope with the US censor mark, and handed the envelope back to the Canadian, who then sealed the envelope with his or her censoring tape.

Figure 1 shows a cover addressed to Kauai, TH (Territory of Hawaii). This very attractive Hudson's Bay advertising envelope mailed from Vancouver BC on 29 December 1941 has to be a very early dual-struck envelope. I can only guess that it took a couple of weeks to get this set up and running. The envelope has been sealed with a censor tape marked "C.284" and bears the USA two-ring "PASSED BY CENSOR" also on the front.



Figure 2. The author's only other dual censored cover.

I have been told—but have never seen written proof—that there were dual censors set up at Vancouver BC, Toronto ON, Montreal QC, and Halifax NS. Bill Topping also said his research showed that this dual censorship existed from December 1941 until March 1942, which means there is a very small window of opportunity for collectibles out there.

This discovery prompted me to search my WWII collection and the inevitable shoe box of yet-unmounted covers. After going through everything I own, I discovered only one other dual-censor cover (Figure 2). This letter is postmarked in Toronto. It is from a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force (the envelope has the RCAF logo on the back flap) and is addressed to San Francisco, California. The US censor mark is in blue on the front, and Canadian censor tape has been used to seal the envelope.

For the past ten years I have made a conscious effort to find more of these dual-censored envelopes and so far have not been successful in my quest. Perhaps we BNAPSers should try to put a census together, because I believe our specialist society probably owns the vast majority of the covers that still exist.



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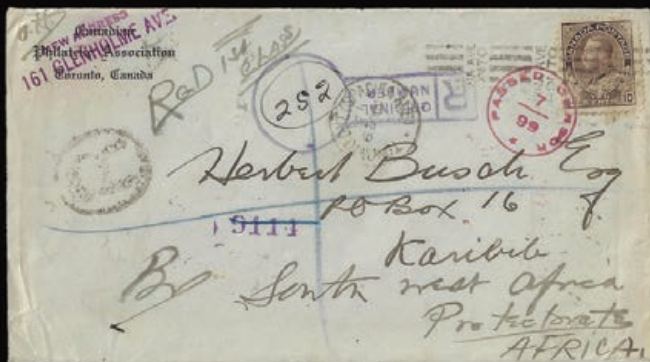
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Readers write

John Graham writes: In the 2019 second quarter edition of *BNA Topics* there was a very interesting article detailing new research on Canada's air mail rates in 1928 (when an official air mail rate was first introduced). The article notes that the 5-cent rate agreed upon by Canada and the US came into effect, in the US, on 1 August 1928, "*but, for unknown reasons, it was not publicized in Canada*". The article then indicates that this has created some confusion among authors as to the date on which the 5-cent rate came into force in Canada. However, it would seem logical that given this was a bi-lateral agreement it most likely came into effect in Canada on 1 August, as well; albeit not with great fanfare. Allan Steinhart notes, on p 49 of his classic work, *The Admiral Era: A Rate Study 1912-1928*, that Mail Order No. 186 of the Vancouver Post Office, dated 7 August 1928, advised that "*all concerned are informed that by agreement with the United States Postal Administration the air mail fee for all classes of mail matter posted in Canada intended for transmission over any United States Air mail route has been lowered to 5 cents for the first ounce...The above rate prepaid by Canadian Postage stamps, includes both the postage and air mail fee.*" First of all, this means that there had to have been communications between Ottawa and at least some post offices on the subject prior to 7 August 1928, although these appear to be lost over time. In addition, the Order is framed in the past tense: "*the air mail fee...has been lowered to 5 cents...*," strongly suggesting this occurred before the date of the Order and again making it likely that the new rate, and the agreement whereby each country would honour each other's air mail stamps, came into force in Canada on 1 August 1928.

The Editors would like to congratulate Anthony Thompson for winning the 2018 Pratt Award, for two articles published in *BNA Topics*, the official publication of the British North America Philatelic Society. The titles were "Gum: The Late Newfoundland Issues Printed by Perkins Bacon, Waterlow, and Others" and "Newfoundland's Foreign Mail – Basic Rates and Colours for the Letter, Postcard, and Printed Paper Stamps."

The Editors would also like to congratulate Peter Motson for winning this year's "Founder's Trophy" at the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain Convention, on 12 October 2019. The trophy, which is given for Original Research in British North American Philately, was awarded to Peter for his book, *Krippner Covers North America*, published by BNAPS in July 2019.

Correction – The list of the 16th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition Awards in the Readers write section of the 2019 fourth quarter edition of *BNA Topics* did not mention that, in addition to the Gold medal awarded to the BNAPS Re-entries website, Webmaster Ralph Trimble also received the "Best in Class" award and Felicitations of the Jury. We apologize to Ralph for failing to mention this additional recognition for his hard work.

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President's column

Ken Lemke

IT has been a busy time since BNAPEX 2019 Ottawa. Some things will be touched on in this report and, by the time you receive this issue of *BNA Topics*, they may be in place. A good place to check on new events is the BNAPS award-winning website www.bnaps.org. The website received a gold medal at the 16th annual National New Zealand Philatelic Literature Exhibition. In addition, the exhibit series books *Newfoundland's Last Definitives: the Waterlow Printings* by CA Stillions received a silver medal, and *World War One Canadian Nursing Sisters Serving Overseas* by Jonathan Johnson received a large Silver. You will find the website is constantly evolving and updated by Webmaster Léo Beaudet and Assistant Webmaster David Bartlet.



We continue to introduce the wider philatelic community to our authors, researchers, books, and members' works. We have submitted applications to enter *BNA Topics*, the BNAPS website, and two of our Exhibit series books into the London 2020 Literature exhibit. As I write this report (December, 2019), we have not received a response to our applications.

As reported in my last column, Sparks is no longer handling sales of the BNAPS books. I am pleased to confirm that Longley Auctions will be handling sales of the BNAPS books. The inventory has been transferred, and Longley Auctions is accepting orders. Longley's website is www.longleyauctions.com, and the email address is bill@longleyauctions.com. In addition to the BNAPS' books, Longley Auctions is also selling the new *Webbs Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland* (8th Edition).

The new Webb's has been completely updated, with a new numbering system, new discoveries, and new pricing since the last edition (eighteen years ago). The catalogue also has a high percentage of colour images. BNAPS members Bill Walton and Earle Covert (Webb's editors) are to be congratulated for this truly amazing catalogue and for their major contribution to the philatelic community.

By the time you read this, another initiative, an eLetter—the brainchild of Secretary and Membership Committee Chair Charles Livermore—should be in place. The eLetter is part of the ongoing effort to expand and improve BNAPS' benefits to its members. Charles describes the purpose and intended contents of the eLetter as follows:

"To increase communications with our members the BNAPS Membership Committee is initiating a monthly eLetter. The first issue will appear in January 2020 and will be sent to all BNAPS members with an email address.

“The eLetter will (1) contain news of our Regional and Study Groups; (2) relevant notices from our various Committees; (3) biographies of the individuals who make BNAPS work; (4) illustrations, a) from our online exhibits section; b) from various Study Group newsletters; c) from *BNA Topics* itself; (5) information about upcoming auctions with significant BNA materials; (6) information about selected major shows across Canada and the US.

“Illustrations in the eLetter will have no more than a one or two sentence explanation but will link back to an original article should the reader want more information.

“Your participation is critical. The success of the eLetter depends on you sending news of your activities on a regular basis. Additionally, each group, each committee has stars—individuals who stand out for their contributions—send their pictures and a brief biography for inclusion in the eLetter.

“If you know of a stamp group that is growing, it is a rarity—most are suffering membership losses. The eLetter is an effort to slow the decline and increase our membership retention. Time will tell if it’s going to work but it’s a no-cost, minimal effort to send the eLetter. Please help to make it a success.

“The eLetter will be led by Phillip Atelic (here in the office we call him Phil). You can send material to him via Charles Livermore at charleslivermore@hotmail.com. He’s in regular touch with Phil.

“Note: The eLetter will be sent to everyone with an email address AND will offer, in every email, the opportunity to stop receiving the eLetter. Members will not receive subsequent eLetters if they so choose.”

On another front: The year 2020 is an election year for BNAPS. The Nomination Committee of Bill Walton, Vic Willson, Hugo Deshayé, and Chris Green will be contacting members to seek candidates to stand for election.

Finally, preliminary information regarding BNAPEX 2020 Dartmouth/Halifax should be on the BNAPS website and in the BNAPEX 2020 advertisement in this issue of *BNA Topics*. Start making plans to attend, and make your attendance part of a vacation. In my opinion, trips to the East Coast whether through Canada or the US (I love Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park) are special.

Please share your thoughts and ideas in order to help BNAPS continue its growth and improvement of benefits to our membership.

Best regards,

Ken Lemke

**From the Secretary—Report date: 15 September—
15 December 2019**

P Charles Livermore, OTB

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

Membership fees

Membership fees for 2019 are C\$35 for Canadian members, \$30 US for US members, 26£ for UK members, and C\$40 for members from any other country. The membership fee schedule was confirmed (with no change) by the 2019 AGM. People who apply for membership during the second and third quarter of the year pay seventy-five percent and fifty percent of the annual fees, respectively, while those who apply in the fourth quarter are charged twenty-five percent of the annual fee, plus the full fee for the coming year. Three-year memberships can be obtained at a ten percent reduction in cost. Application fees can be paid via PayPal, using an on-line application available on the BNAPS website (www.BNAPS.org), or by sending a cheque to the Treasurer or Secretary.

Applications for membership

When BNAPS receives an application for membership, the applicant is classified as a new member, and the person’s name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNAP 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

All applicants assigned membership numbers from **7057** to **7067** have been confirmed as Active Regular members of BNAPS with full membership privileges. Their names were published in the previous issue of *BNAP Topics*, Volume 76, Number 4, 2019.

R-7068 Robert Lootens, Utica, MI
R-7069 Robert Stock, Victoria, BC
R-7070 Blair Ashford, St. Thomas, ON
R-7071 Matthew G Rhodes, Cleveland, OH
R-7072 Bin Fang, Haidian, Beijing
R-7073 Paul Smith, New Lowell, ON
R-7074 Jean-Francois Bertrand, L’Orignal,
ON

R-7075 Robert Graham, Spruce Grove, AB
R-7076 Chris Larsen, Kingston, NS
R-7077 Kent Sillars, Langley, BC
R-7078 Rob Hammond, Guelph, ON
R-7079 J Fred Pritchard, Ebony, VA
R-7080 Robert Boone, Middletown, CT

Deceased

R-5987 Gary L Nummelin
R-4625 Rick G Penko

E-950 JM Wallace

Members reinstated

R-5063 Ben-Zvi S Cohen

R-6842 Philip Visser

Members dropped

None

Members resigned

R-5960 William T Averbeck
R-6910 Neil L Hunter
R-6956 Eirwyn Jones
S-99055 METRO TORONTO Library

R-6000 Gordon G Mallett
R-6649 David Spivack
R-6249 Ron C Thompson
R-7027 Frog Wensley

Postal address changes

R-6901 Jason M Archibald, Richland, WA
E-2923 Colin Geoffrey Banfield, Norwich,
Norfolk

R-6932 Paul Bradford, Lasalle, ON
E-3678 Patrick J Burns, West Vancouver,
BC

R-7063 Heather Combaluzier, McDonalds
Corners, ON

R-6561 Michael D Conroy, Stratford, PE

R-6968 Rejean F Cote, Rimouski, QC

R-6589 Sean Dail, Raleigh, NC

R-6743 Mike Halhed, Ottawa, ON

R-4586 John S Keenlyside, Vancouver, BC

R-6974 Bob Kerby, Oakville, ON

Email address changes

R-7034 James Andre, Kennewick, WA

R-6794 Ronald Coughlin, Beaconsfield, QC

R-6589 Sean Dail, Raleigh, NC

R-6940 David Eisenhauer, Beaverton, OR

R-6852 John Graham, London, ON

Members with unknown addresses

R-6793 Joseph Bell, Waterloo, ON

Active member and non-member count by membership type

Total active members: 974

Note: Exchange/non-member subscriptions (18) are not counted as active members.

E-3649 Malcolm F Leitch, Vancouver, BC

E-3282 George E Macmanus, Ottawa, ON

R-6986 Thorbjorn Naess, Svelvik

E-3198 Rick Parama, Toronto, ON

R-6220 George E Pond, Waterford, ON

R-6110 Elizabeth F Sodero, Halifax, NS

R-5618 Jane MF Sodero, Halifax, NS

R-6966 David Vandenbrink, St Thomas, ON

R-6500 RJ Graham, Markdale, ON

R-6761 Ed Kroft, Vancouver, BC

R-5797 John A Trosky, Rutherford, NJ

R-6531 Robert D Vogel, Barrie, ON

R-5808 Eugene M Yount, Jr., Rochester, NY

E-2883 Douglas J Squires, St John's, NL

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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 September and 15 December 2019.

British Columbia

The “Favourite Cover” in the December issue of the *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter*, edited by Andrew Scott, has four re-used 51¢ stamps taped to a large cover from an RCMP office. It was caught and a marking applied indicating “\$2.29 postage due.” Andrew is looking for an explanation to the mystery charge. Another piece discusses a large hoard of Brighthouse covers that was recently auctioned. Sam Brighthouse was one of three people who tried, unsuccessfully, to manufacture bricks in what was to become west-end Vancouver. Ed Manning contributed a good article on the Fort Shepherd, BC, postal cover of 1862 that connects a gold rush with the Hudson Bay Co. The cover itself is from the Gerald Wellburn gold rush collection. Brian Copeland also submitted a good article on the Victoria squared-circle time-mark patterns, with a table of use for each time-mark. Tracy Cooper revisits the Shuswap & Okanagan RPO article by Morris Beattie, showing a STEAMER ABERDEEN cancel on cover and a ticket-stamp-like cancel and claiming that no proof date has been reported of the cancel. Peter Jacobi shows covers from the Woodward’s department store, noting the date of the opening of the first store in 1892 and the sale of the chain to the Hudson Bay Co. in 1993. Glenna Metchette tells the story of a WW II airgraph mailed to Chilliwack and the reason for it. The last article in the newsletter is from Gray Scrimgeour telling of the censorship of US mails in Vancouver. He would like to hear from others who may have examples of the same.

Confederation

The newsletter of the Large and Small Queens Study Group *Confederation* has returned under the leadership of Darin Cherniwchan as chairman and Vic Willson as the editor. In this, the November issue, Vic thanks Glen Archer for his years as editor of the newsletter, and he lays out the future of the newsletter and the expectation of membership participation. The newsletter then begins with the “Faux Offset” of the 1¢ Small Queen. This apparently occurs in the stacking of sheets while the ink is still wet. Good illustrations accompany the article. Jim McCormick then discusses new information on the 15¢ Small Queen balloon flaw. Vic Willson illustrates the second of the only two-recorded 5¢ Large Queen paying the double, five-cents-per-half-ounce rate to Great Britain within the period 1875–1877. Glen Archer sent in a well-illustrated article on the correspondence between Archdeacon William West and a Mrs Shirley of Oxford, England, on missionary work and life in York Factory in the 1870s, with thanks to Graham Searle for providing the source material. A list follows, provided by Wayne Smith (with help), of off-cover early use of Large Queens before 1 April 1868. Ending the newsletter is an illustration, sent in by Earl Noss, of a cover and stamp showing the blob under the ear of the 1¢ Small Queen. According to Bill Burden, it is the first he has seen on cover.

Elizabeth II

In the September–October *Corgi Times*, the newsletter of the Elizabethan II study group, Robin Harris begins by mentioning the sixtieth anniversary of the issue of the St Lawrence Seaway stamp, and the book written by Charles Verge, listing the sixteen known inverts on cover and the unrecorded post card being offered by Saskatoon Stamps, making this the seventeenth error on cover. Also note the typo on the first day cover of the William Barker, VC stamp. Robin also gives his opinion on the Leonard Cohen stamp and wants to know what you think of the nine-stamp issue. Robert Elias wrote a report on the Show-and-Tell at the BNAPEX convention in Ottawa. There were enough excellent Show-and-Tell presentations there to provide this newsletter with good articles that would help eliminate the large “Articles Urgently Needed” reminder. Stamps have been found that were apparently cancelled prior to being applied to envelopes: The question is whether these should be considered to be precancels. Robin digitally reproduced the 1979 fourteen-cent Quebec Carnival stamp with its seven varieties. Kathy Hartley, the reference librarian at the Harry Sutherland Library, submits quite a piece on Leonard Cohen, the stamp launch, and the cancels that were offered. Luc Frève writes about two covers with Toronto Exchange Office backstamps not seen before. The newsletter ends with an anonymous writer tells about more misprinted self-serve kiosk stamps.

In the November–December issue of *Corgi Times*, we learn of another product recall. This time, it is the Magi Christmas stamp issued on 4 November. Apparently there were examples printed on the gum side that will not stick to envelopes. Another article shows an updated chart for the Beneficial Insects stamps. The CBC television program, *Murdoch Mysteries*, went philatelic in its 4 November airing, and people have answered the September–October issue question on “Frustration with Canada Post.” Robin reports on the launch of the Red River Resistance stamp that took place at the entrance of Upper Fort Garry in downtown Winnipeg. Next is a reprint article from the Canadian Philatelist on the Mega roll stamps, and how to identify the difference between them and the stamps from the one hundred roll. Robin next discusses the repeating Canada underprint on the self-adhesive \$1.20 Climbing Mt Habel stamp of 2016 and the \$2.50 Grey Owl commemorative of the same year. Andrew Chung sent in a scan of the 2019 pane of Christmas seals. These are distributed nationally except for Quebec, which issues its own Christmas seals. Robin then presents his choice of the best twelve stamps that illustrate the *Twelve Days of Christmas* story, reproduced from the website vox.com. The problem with that story is according to scripture no mention of the number of Magi or Kings appears. (Chapter 2 in the Gospel of Matthew). Check out the table of stamp face values on annual collections presented by Mirko Zatka. Thanks to Earle Covert for sending an image of this year’s Santa Claus envelope. Peter Skwarczynski looks at the handcrafted textile stamps from the annual collection and mentions folded and unfolded strips. The newsletter ends with a contribution from Ella Anioia, Manager, Stamp Program Development, Canada Post, who discusses the process, from thought to launch of a stamp.

Fancy Cancels

The *BNAPS Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Newsletter* is edited by Dave Lacelle. In the November issue, Dave announces that Mike Halhead is becoming the associate editor. Dave notes that he did get through Hurricane Dorian in Lunenburg, but got tangled up with deer near Fort McLeod—an adventure that ate into his pocketbook somewhat. Norbert Hobrath has an interest in oval cancels, and their use is explained. While in Ottawa, Dave had a chance

to examine Bill Wegman's fancy cancels, and here he shows and explains some of them. A number of members sent in a good variety of interesting cancels. David Dawes sent in what appears to be a cracked paint cancel and Luc Frève sent in a nice leaf design cancel, while Mike Street contributed a series of various paquebot cancels on Canadian stamps. How would you like to receive a piece of mail with a skull-and-crossbones cancel? Well, Daryl Friedhandler sent one in, and Dave has contributed a small story to go with it. Paradise Valley had one on a US #65 in its December auction that was listed at \$300. Guy Jeffries sent in a couple of covers, one with a Carillion fancy cancel, the other with a Masonic symbol. Mike Halhed also contributed by sending in a map stamp with a toolhead cancel. Make sure and take note of the fakes, bogus and spurious items. Closing the newsletter is an illustration of a compilation created in 1960 by the Fancy Cancel group.

Military Mail

In the December issue of the *Canadian Military Mail* newsletter, editor Dean Mario and chairman Mike Street wish all the members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The members are also thanked for the support given. The front page shows a Canadian Airborne Regiment Christmas greeting card—featured is the regiment crest. Wayne Schnarr provides a good report on the seminar meeting held at BNAPEX in Ottawa, along with an outline of what is to come. Wayne sent in the censorship regulations for troops at Havre during WW I. Hal Kellett sent in two photographs of “Y” Force taken in Jamaica. One is of FD Ford Martyn of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, who would be taken prisoner in Hong Kong and survived. Robert Henderson sent in a 1945 Christmas card provided to 1945 war prisoners in Canada. Neil Ritchie continued his article about mail sent through the military postal system by a civilian. Robert Toombs sent in a UNEF (*United Nations Emergency Force*) Christmas greeting card. To end the newsletter, Dean pays tribute to Michael Powell, Alan Baker, and Jon Johnson for their achievements at exhibitions outside of Canada.

Newfoundland

Malcolm Beck begins the October–December issue of *The Newfoundland Newsletter* with a BNAPEX report, and continues with a palmares of the study group members who walked away with awards. They were quite impressive and congratulations are offered. He then continues by showing three pages from David Piercey's exhibit on “The Cancellations of Newfoundland 1865–1908.” Rob Moore has put the 2¢ King George VI under the microscope and is looking for information on the apple-green shade. Bruce Robertson then mentions the Sandy Point, St George's oval cancellation that adorned the Rev Butler covers, but then shows a boxed violet St George's cancel and asks if anyone can shed light on its use. Brian Stalker submitted an article on the box cancellations of Bell Island and Bell Island Mines. Again, assistance from members is required in identifying a cancellation. We have another call for help from Bruce Robertson about a Toronto 10 DUTY FREE stamp on the front of a Rev Butler cover, franked with a block of four Grenfell stamps. The question is whether there was a duty tax between Canada and Newfoundland at one time. Brian Hargreaves' very interesting article on airmail through Botwood between 1939 and 1945, based on his presentation to the Newfoundland Study Group at BNAPEX in Calgary. This piece ends the newsletter.

Perfins

Jim Graham is the editor of *The BNA Perforator* newsletter of the BNA Perfin Study Group. In his opening remarks, he announces that Barry Senior has stepped aside as Treasurer and been replaced by Russel Sampson. The highlight of the BNAPEX session for this group was the release of the sixth edition of *The Canadian Perfin Handbook*. With that comes five and one-half pages of updates supplied by Gary Tomasson. Russel Sampson contributed four articles. The first is on the latest-reported usage of the Steel Company of Canada perfin. It seems it was later than stated in the handbook. The next is a new latest-reported usage discovered on the New York Life perfin using a Blink Comparator. The third article tells you in fourteen steps how to scan a perfin on cover to produce a high-contrast image of the pattern. The fourth article deals with a mystery of a 2¢ Admiral MR4 with a mysterious five-hole perforation on a lovely Fry's Cocoa cover. Jim Graham then writes a mystery article on the Sun Life perfin. Jim is looking for some help on this one.

Railway Post Office (RPO)

The newsletter of the *Canadian RPO Study Group* is edited by Ross Gray. Shown on the front page of the July–September issue is a new early period of use of a P.E. ISLAND / M.C. cancel as a transit backstamp. Two hammer studies are done by Ross: TOR. & OWEN · SOUND / M.C. and BRIDGE & LONDON / · R.P.O. Sean Weatherup submitted a long article on an exceptional hoard of RPO cancels from Gary Steele. These are all western clerk handstamps, some previously unrecorded, others are late period of use, new train numbers, *etc.* There are several new reports from Simon Taylor-Young, Chris Anstead, Jack Brandt, Bill Longley, and Ross Gray. From the Ross Gray collection, a cover originating from Windsor has the boxed Registered strike with the “G.W.R.” removed, and several other RPO markings addressed to Simcoe that travelled on the Canada Southern Railway and the Port Dover & Lake Huron Railway. An interesting cover—followed by an interesting story from the *Strathroy Age Dispatch* of 14 May 2019 of a former mail clerk, Norm Giffen, remembering the Canadian railway mail service.

Ross Gray reports in the October–December issue a surprising fifth hammer discovery of C.P.R.Y. M.C. / BRIT. COL. marking dated 20 April 1885 on cover. Brian Copeland analyzed the routing, and Ross did a hammer study of all five hammers. Sean Weatherup gave a detailed report of the RPO seminar held at BNAPEX in Ottawa, and also an in-depth Treasurer's report, which reports an increase in the dues. The rate will remain the same but it will be for twelve months and four issues instead of eighteen. Sean also reports there is very little left in the William G Robinson Award fund. The plaques cost \$19 each, and there are nine on hand. The balance of the newsletter is taken up with new reports sent in by Simon Taylor-Young, Jack Brandt, Morris Beattie, Peter McCarthy, Brian Copeland and Ross Gray.

Revenues

The November *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*, edited by Christopher Ryan, contains three stories written by Christopher himself. The first is titled “Excise Licenses for Maltsters, 1867–1948.” Also illustrated is an excise license from 1902, accompanied by an interesting story of the duty levied on malt and the reason for the license discontinuation. The next article is titled “Canadian Consular Fee Stamps with an Australian Connection.” This is a four-page article, including references. Involved in the story are Canada, Australia, and the 1956 Suez Crisis.

The newsletter also illustrates a 1958 document validating seals and signatures, all for a \$2.50 fee represented by Canadian Consular Fee stamps. It is intriguing and no doubt a great deal of reading was required to put the article together. The final article is on the Ontario Law Stamp Tariffs 1864–1961. This is the second installment, titled “Superior Courts, 1913–1961, and the Mechanics’ (and Wage Earners’) Lien Act.” Reference notes and tables are included.

Squared Circles

The Roundup Annex is the newsletter of the Squared Circle Study Group; it is edited by Gary Arnold. Opening the newsletter are new reports. Rick Friesen chaired the study group session at BNAPEX in Ottawa, and his presentation is available to anyone upon request. In the report that he submitted, there apparently was much discussion about the electronic handbook, and whether it should be made available to the general public or restricted to BNAPS members. Please send your thoughts to Rick. Ending the newsletter is an update on the Rat Portage “64” for “94” year error submitted by Brian Copeland. You are asked to please submit any strikes from April to November with the year “64” if you have any.

Postscript

Congratulations to all newsletter editors for all the hard work you do. To readers of this column: We hope these reports stimulate your interest in joining one or more study group and contributing to their newsletters. In some cases, if it weren’t for the contributions of non-BNAPS members, newsletter content would be quite sparse. May this New Year be a philatelic bonus to you. May peace and health be yours.



CANADIAN PHILATELY FROM ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

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Our 2020 Convention will be held at Eastbourne on the south coast of England from 28 September to 2 October.

www.canadianpsgb.org.uk

Regional group rant

Dave Bartlett

Overview

THE winter season will be well upon us when you read this Rant. Most groups will have met once or twice in the fall and winter, since BNAPEX. This is the time for Regional Groups to not only spread the word about the wonderful world of BNAPS, but about your own Regional Group as well. Not only would you be exchanging information amongst the members of your group, but if you can take information back to your local club and assist them with their many tasks, then your work for the winter will have been successful. Your local meetings should inspire you to share the knowledge of what you collect—why not start creating an exhibit out of some story you would like to tell.

Upcoming group meetings scheduled for the winter include Atlantic, Calgary, Edmonton, Golden Horseshoe, Prairie Beavers, and Lower Canada. Reports below are from nearly every corner of the Regional Group domain. Please view the Regional Groups webpages to see when things are happening in the various groups and what transpires at those meetings. I can be contacted by email any time, at regionalgroups@bnaps.org. Please send all your meeting notices and reports to me there, and we will post them on the website and Facebook pages.

Around the region reports

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

Atlantic

Fourteen BNAPS members attended the annual meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Regional Group, held during NOVAPEX 2019 at the East Dartmouth Recreational Centre on 21 September 2019. Among the attendees was Lee Latta, one of the last Railway Mail Clerks in the area. Representatives from the Fredericton, New Brunswick area as well as from various parts of Nova Scotia attended the meeting. Jane Sodero has recently relocated to the Halifax area and was warmly welcomed at the meeting.

The Halifax/Dartmouth area will be the host location for BNAPEX 2020—the annual Convention, Exhibition and Bourse of the British North America Philatelic Society. At this meeting of the regional group, representatives outlined the planning process to date. The convention will be held at the Hilton DoubleTree in Dartmouth over the Labour Day weekend and will include up to one hundred and sixty frames of exhibits.

Members also discussed the potential for staging some Exhibiting Seminars in the Halifax area. It was suggested that more collectors would be encouraged to exhibit at upcoming shows if guidance was provided. Guy Jeffery volunteered to take this suggestion to the Nova Scotia Stamp Club executive to see if they would support this initiative.

Further to exhibiting, it was suggested that promoting one-page exhibiting could also help people get a feel for exhibiting—this suggestion is also being taken to the NSSC program director to see if a plan might be initiated to make this a regular feature of monthly meetings.

The meeting ended with a Show-and-Tell. A variety of items was shown, including the Bartlett letterhead, Royal Train covers, Fancy cancels and Plating of the 8c Small Queen.

Calgary

The Calgary Regional Group has met three times over the last quarter. On 9 October, Dave Bartlet made a presentation on the Alcock and Brown flight; unfortunately, equipment problems meant the presentation couldn't be completed. The meeting was also hampered by the weather; only five members were able to attend. The presentation will be made again at a joint meeting of the Regional Group and the Calgary Philatelic Society on 8 January 2020.

On November 13, Jon Johnson made a presentation of interesting covers with a military flavour to eleven members. A Show-and-Tell followed the display of members' interesting postal history items. During the business portion of the meeting, the possibility of holding BNAPEX in conjunction with the Calgary Philatelic Society's 100th Anniversary was discussed and follow-up will be undertaken re a facility contract for 2022.

Twelve members attended the final meeting of 2019 on 11 December. Eldon Godfrey made a presentation on Patriotic Cachets and Cancels from the WWII era. An extensive collection of period covers was shown. A Show-and-Tell followed, with members showing a variety of related covers and cancels in similar areas. During the business portion of the meeting, members agreed that we should support the idea of holding BNAPEX 2022 in Calgary, and with a preliminary contract from the hotel, the group agreed to continue and provide a deposit for the convention. The end of the year was celebrated at a dinner buffet attended by twenty members and partners on Friday, 20 December.

Dixie Beavers

The next Dixie Beavers Regional meeting will be held at the Southeastern Regional Stamp Show in Atlanta on the last weekend in January. The Dixie Beavers will meet at noon on Saturday January 25. John Burnett will present "The Mufti Issue of 1937-42 Used Within the Americas." There will also be a "Buy, Sell, and Trade" session during the meeting.

Anyone in the region or beyond is welcome to attend this meeting.

Edmonton

Five members of the Edmonton group met for the annual Christmas dinner on 18 December at a local German restaurant. A brief discussion of some Alberta and BC postal history material ensued.

The group continues to meet monthly, with members bringing their own material for Show-and-Tell, for information, and for general discussion. Any visiting BNAPS'er is welcome to attend.

Golden Horseshoe

Eighteen members of the Golden Horseshoe group met on Saturday, 28 September at the Brewers Blackbird Kitchen & Brewery (formerly Rousseau House Restaurant). The meeting commenced at 10 am, with members visiting with dealers in attendance. At noon, lunch was served to those who ordered a meal. At 1 pm, the formal meeting commenced with meeting notes and an auction. Mike Street reported on BNAPEX 2019—a very good weekend!

A very special announcement advised members that Sparks Auctions will no longer be the distributor of BNAPS books. Bill Longley of Longley Auctions will be taking over, and the transfer and set-up was finished by the end of November. Peter McCarthy was going to talk about the varieties of the fifteen-cent Mountain Sheep stamp from the Caricature and Landscape issue, but technical difficulties prevented the presentation from being shown. Peter instead talked about what it takes to help make the Golden Horseshoe Group function. He also updated members on personnel changes coming to the GHRG, and invited those present to help take the GHRG into the next few years.

The second meeting of the fall was scheduled for Saturday 30 November; however, renovations at the restaurant prevented the meeting from being held. In 2020, with the renovations to be completed, meetings will move to the last Sunday of the month, so the next meeting will be on Sunday, 26 January 2020, followed by 22 March and 24 May.

Lower Canada

The Lower Canada/Bas Canada Regional Group will hold its next meeting on Sunday, 22 March, the weekend of the Lakeshore Stamp club show.

Manitoba—Northwestern Ontario

The group has been meeting to prepare for BNAPEX 2021, so that all can have a great convention in Winnipeg.

Midwest

The Midwest Regional Group held its annual meeting at CHICAGOPEX in November. The show was well attended and included a good number of dealers in BNA philately, notably Roy's Stamps from St Catharines, Ontario. Visiting BNAPS members from afar included Denise Stotts of the Prairie Beavers and Scott Henault of the Northeastern Region, who joined for Richard Judge's presentation on the Prussian Blue shade and Ron Dewey's presentation on hotel covers. Ron brought along multiple examples of vintage CP hotel covers. But the item that generated the most interest was a nice Chateau Laurier Hotel cover sent via the Hindenburg, postmarked on 6 May 1936, a year to the day before the famous disaster. The cover was franked with a 50¢ Grand Pré and a 10¢ RCMP (Scott 233). Richard hopes to host another meeting in Hartford, CT in August during the American Stamp Show. Please consider attending and bringing along some material to share.

Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest Regional group met Thursday 26 September 2019 at the Coast Hotel in Langley BC, just before the national-level show, VANPEX, which has been absent for ten years. It was hoped that members would come out to VANPEX and join in with the Pacific Northwest group regional meeting, and see the show, which runs from Friday to Sunday. On Wednesday evening, members met in the hospitality suite-- a variety of topics and tales were discussed and told before members adjourned for dinner or sleep.

On Thursday morning, eighteen members turned out for the meeting and presentations. Each of the presenters at this, the annual meeting in Langley shared a plethora of philatelic information with us. In a few paragraphs, I would like to summarize their work. If your own

area of interest intersects with theirs, I would encourage you to contact them directly to exchange notes. Just drop me an email and I will forward it to our presenter.

Michel Anderson, a Canadian Director with the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, had encouraging words on the sharing of information within the philatelic community. He looks to BNAPS members for their expert knowledge in their fields of interest. He asked if we could share our expertise for the general benefit of all the members of the Federation, in particular by submitting articles of interest to the NW Fed newsletter, of which we all receive a copy by virtue of our group's own membership in the NW Fed.

Harold Krische presented on the mailings of the American Aid to German Prisoners-of-War from an address in Buffalo, New York. His presentation was incredibly interesting and richly illustrated, with many artifacts showing the transfer of aid packages from camps in Canada, Bermuda, and Bahamas. One card advised that a number of German POWs had been transferred from Ontario to Alberta and it was colder than expected—"please send gloves!" Other interesting facts presented were that there were POW camps in the Caribbean for women, and that many of the German POWs were from North Africa.

Tim Woodland gave us a very interesting tour of the BC Coast, richly illustrated with BC Town cancels.

Dave Bartlett's presentation took philatelic research to a whole new level. Not only did he have special covers on the Alcock-Brown first transatlantic flight in June 1919, but he created the covers, got on a plane, flew to Ireland from NL, retracing the route and recreating the entire journey. If you would like some of these specialty covers for your collection, you can contact Dave directly through the BNAPS website.

Bill Pekonen gave a rundown of the multitude of forms used by the post office. Part of his discussion included showing the handbook of forms, listing all those used by the PO. The book was printed in a landscape format, double-sided, and some two hundred pages long. 200 pages. And note, the book doesn't include the forms—it's just an index of the forms. Each PO had a copy to use as a reference. It contains hundreds if not thousands of forms.

Peter Newroth continued his discussion from 2018 on the New Brunswick Decimal Issue and his continued research. Peter recounted his trip to the New Brunswick archives, and the discussion of the political and socio-economic events of the day brought it all into context.

Most members went for the casino buffet supper, then everyone reconvened for an extensive auction and some "arm-twisting" by auctioneer Mark Oakley, which completed the meeting.

Prairie Beavers

Thirteen members of the Prairie Beavers met on Saturday, 19 October in College Station, TX, at St Mary's Student Activity Center. The first presentation was George Dresser's "Mammals 1988–1992" exhibit and collection. Most of the time was spent on a discussion of the transition from a BNAPS exhibit to an APS exhibit, reflecting the differences in assumptions and requirements between those for a specialty exhibit and a traditional APS exhibit. Elements discussed were suggestions for the synopsis and title page, general style for pages, and discussion of the amount of material that should be shown for a stamp, such as single imprint block versus all four corner imprints. George managed to get through only about ten pages, because of the extended discussion, which everyone enjoyed (except perhaps George, given

the amount of remounting he probably has to do to show in APS). After lunch and a short business meeting, Jeff Switt gave a talk on the postal history of the FDR set of stamps issued in 1946.

A clothesline presentation followed, comprised of new imperforate stamps as well as



Figure 1. Prairie Beavers, 19 October 2019. Seated left to right: John Furlong, Denise Stotts, David Nickson, Mike Yestrumsky. Standing George Dresser, George Watkins, Jay Stotts, Jeff Switt, Ron Strawser, Gary Giroux, Vic Willson and Eigil Trondsen. Image by Vicky Furlong.

some essays for nineteenth-century British and Canadian stamps proposed by de la Rue; a hand drawing accepted for the biplane of the Patricia Airways stamps; Centennial issue forms for AR, keys, receipts, short-paid addresses, *etc.*; Canadian precancels; a parcel front paying \$54 to France, 2011, with four \$8 Grizzlies, two \$2 Polar Bears, and sixteen \$1 Loon stamps—probably not exhibitable given that it's covered with clear tape; a block of four of the 12½¢ Large Queen plate proof, one of three known and the largest plate proof multiple of the issue; a used multiple 3 × 6 of the 12½¢ Large Queen, ex-Brigham, and the largest known multiple of the issue.

The day closed with dinner at C&J Barbecue, one of the area's good Texas BBQ places.

The next meeting will occur on a convenient Saturday in March or April 2020.

St Lawrence Seaway

The St Lawrence Seaway Regional Group met in Perth on 19 October. After a morning of trading, the afternoon meeting began with a lively discussion and opinions on the BNAPEX get-together in Ottawa.

The Show-and-Tell brought out some rarities in attendees' collections. The diversity of BNA collecting interests is always intriguing. A number of attendees adjourned to a local restaurant to continue discussions over supper.

The next meeting of the group will be held at ORAPEX on 2 May, 2020

New issues

William JF Wilson

Rupert's Land and the law of nations

CANADA Post released a stamp on 6 November to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Red River Resistance (Figure 1). Montreal-based artist Gérard DuBois based his illustration on an historic photograph entitled “Councillors of the Provisional Government of the Métis Nation [1],” and a lithograph of Upper Fort Garry from a book by Henry James Warre [2]. Warre travelled from Fort Garry to the Oregon Territory and back in 1845-46, and painted watercolours of many of the locations he visited. According to the title page of the book, the lithographs were created by the publisher, not by Warre himself, but they are based on Warre’s watercolours. Reference [3] shows a comparison of the Fort Garry lithograph to Warre’s original watercolour.



Figure 1. Louis Riel (centre, seated) and his council with Upper Fort Garry behind.

railroad, and for security the railroad had to be on Canadian soil [5, pp 34f]. Third, by 1863, the United States was also talking about annexing Rupert’s Land. To avoid remaining forever a small country, Canada had to take action.

With expansion in mind, a provision to add new territory to the Dominion of Canada was included in the *British North America Act* of 1 July 1867, as Section 146 of the *Act* [6]. Then, in December 1867, in the first session of the first Parliament after Confederation, the Government of Canada addressed a request to Her Majesty to transfer Rupert’s Land and the North-western Territory (consisting of the whole of mainland North America west of Rupert’s Land and north of the 49th parallel except British Columbia and Alaska) to Canada. The North-western Territory was Crown land [7, p 458], but Rupert’s Land was held by the Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) under a fur-trading monopoly granted by royal charter in 1670. The HBC therefore had to submit a Deed of Surrender to Her Majesty, surrendering all rights to Rupert’s Land, before the transfer could proceed. Her Majesty also needed the

The council shown in Figure 1 was formed in response to a drive by Canada in the 1860s to expand westward to the Pacific, without feeling the need to consult with the people already living on these lands. This westward push was driven by at least three factors. First, economic prosperity at that time depended on agricultural growth, and the agricultural growth was sustained by immigration and cheap farmland [4, pp 43f]. However, the last undeveloped, public farmland in Canada West was sold in 1855, and the Canadian Shield was not suitable for farming. Long-term prosperity, therefore, required annexing the fertile prairies of Rupert’s Land. Second, John A Macdonald was trying to entice British Columbia into Confederation with a transcontinental

permission of the British Parliament to accept the surrender, and to effect the transfer of the land to Canada. These permissions were granted by the *Rupert's Land Act* of 31 July 1868 [8]. Included in the *Act* was a stipulation that "...such Surrender shall not be accepted by Her Majesty until the [terms of transfer] shall have been ... embodied in an Address to Her Majesty from both the Houses of the Parliament of Canada...."

Clearly, Canada could not send the required Address until it and the HBC had reached agreement on the terms of transfer. This posed a problem, because the HBC felt that they were owed at least £1,000,000 for the land [5, p 46], whereas Canada's position was that the HBC had no legal claim to the land and, therefore, Canada owed them nothing at all [7, pp 466, 470f]. After months of negotiations, the general terms of an agreement were accepted by the HBC on 9 April 1869, and Canada's acceptance soon followed [7, pp 476 ff]. The price was set at £300,000, and the projected date of transfer was 1 December.

With the permission of the HBC [5, p 52], Canada began surveying before even taking possession; and on 20 August 1869, Col John Stoughton Dennis arrived in Red River for this purpose. His instructions were to use Ontario's system of rectangular townships. The problem was that six thousand francophone Métis, four thousand anglophones of mixed blood, and two thousand francophone and anglophone white settlers were already settled in the Red River area [9, p 64], and many of them were worried by Canada's walk-in-take-over attitude. The rectangular townships, for example, conflicted with their already-established pattern of farming, which was in the French-Canadian style of narrow strips of land extending two miles back from the river [10, p 88]. The part of each farm near the river was cultivated, and the rest was unfenced native prairie that neighbouring landowners generally used in common to graze cattle, sheep, or horses. Despite the absence of fences, however, each landowner had no doubt about his legal right to his own strip of this land.

Dennis realized that the two land-use patterns clashed, and he advised the government to consult with the local residents [10, pp 90 ff]. He then ordered his men not to survey existing farmland. On 11 October, however, without realizing how the unfenced portions of the farms worked, a team of surveyors entered the pasture land of André Nault, a white settler and cousin of Louis Riel. Nault couldn't speak English and the surveyors couldn't speak French, so Nault went for help. Among the seventeen men who returned with him, only Riel could speak English. He told the surveyors, "You go no farther." The surveyors withdrew.

Encouraged by this success, the Métis formed a National Committee with a president, twelve councillors, and Riel as secretary. They called for volunteers, and within two or three days, five hundred armed men had shown up for duty [10, p 99 ff]. The person designated to be Lieutenant-Governor of the combined Rupert's Land and North-western Territory after annexation, William McDougall, was on his way to Red River via Pembina, just south of the border in the US. When he arrived at the border on 30 October, the Committee ordered him not to cross without permission. He crossed anyway, and an armed Métis patrol intercepted him on 2 November. They gave him until sundown to get back south. He obeyed.

On 19 November, the HBC signed the Deed of Surrender, surrendering to Her Majesty all rights to Rupert's Land. However, as described above, Her Majesty was unable to accept the surrender (or effect the transfer) until Canada had sent the required Address. Given the unrest in Red River, Macdonald instead recommended that Her Majesty postpone the transfer until peace was restored [5, pp 25-28]. Nevertheless, despite having been told to do nothing

[10, pp 111 ff], McDougall snuck briefly across the border on 1 December and proclaimed annexation. Col Dennis also posted copies of the proclamation at Fort Garry.

McDougall's proclamation was manifestly false, because it attributed to Her Majesty a land transfer that Her Majesty had not yet actually performed [10, p 130]. Nevertheless, it did have consequences. Both Macdonald (although he was not happy about it [11]) and Riel [10, pp 137 ff] now felt that the HBC's government in Rupert's Land had been annulled without having been replaced by any other government. Rupert's Land was therefore in a state of anarchy, and, in Macdonald's own words, it was "...quite open by the law of Nations for the inhabitants to form a Government *ex necessitate* for the protection of life and property [11]."

On 24 November, to better represent the diversity of the Red River area, the Métis had enlarged the council of twelve by adding an equal number of non-Métis. Then, on 8 December, in a *Declaration of the People of Rupert's Land and the North West* [12], Riel declared "...that we have on the said 24th of November, 1869, above mentioned, established a Provisional Government, and hold it to be the only and lawful authority now in existence in Rupert's Land and the North-West..." The people "had generously supported" the HBC government, but, "contrary to the law of nations," the HBC was transferring the land to Canada "...by transactions with which the people were considered unworthy to be made acquainted." They objected to "the announced form" of the government that Canada was attempting to impose as contrary to their rights "as British subjects," and "...we hold ourselves in readiness to enter in such negotiations with the Canadian Government as may be favourable for the good government and prosperity of this people."

These passages make it clear that the Red River Resistance was born of a people who were loyal to the British Crown, but who were being completely ignored in the high-level negotiations between Canada, Britain, and the HBC. Whether one regards the HBC as having ceased to be the government of Rupert's Land on 19 November when they signed the Deed of Surrender, or (because Her Majesty had not yet accepted the surrender) on 1 December when McDougall made his false proclamation, or simply because the HBC was no longer exercising control, the Provisional Government was legal, and the people of Red River were now in a position to negotiate entry into Canada on their own terms.

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

<https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/blogs/collecting/list.page?cattype=collecting&cat=stamps>
Canada Post's *Details* publication, and philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Where the number of lithographic colour dots on the stamp selvage differs from that published by Canada Post, the selvage is taken as correct. Stamp size, perforations and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) × (VERTICAL).

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- [2] Henry J Warre, *Sketches in North America and the Oregon Territory*. Lithographed, printed, and published by Dickinson & Co, 114, New Bond Street, London, 1848. The book can be viewed at <https://archive.org/details/cihm_17245/page/n5>.
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- [4] Doug Owran, *Promise of Eden: The Canadian Expansionist Movement and the Idea of the West, 1856–1900*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1992.
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- [10] Joseph Kinsey Howard, *Strange Empire: The Story of Louis Riel*, Swan Publishing Co., Toronto, 1965.
- [11] Letter from John A Macdonald to William McDougall, 27 November 1869. Library and Archives Canada, MIKAN 123044, images 7-10. See reference [1], above, for method of access.
- [12] Library and Archives Canada, MIKAN 3993000. See reference [1], above, for method of access.

Table 1. 2019 Commemoratives

Stamp	Christmas: Shiny and Bright	Christmas: The Magi	Red River Resistance	Hanukkah
Value	P, \$1.27, \$2.65 (s-t on SS)	P	P	P
Issued	4 Nov	4 Nov	6 Nov	14 Nov
Printer	CBN	L-M	L-M	L-M
Panc	P: Bk 12 \$1.27, \$2.65: Bk 6 SS: 3	Bk: 12	Bk: 10	Bk: 10
Paper	C	C	C	C
Process	4CL	3CL	5CL	6CL
Qty (1000s)	Bk (P): 800 ^(a) Bk (\$1.27): 300 ^(a) Bk (\$2.65): 310 ^(a) SS: 70 ^(a)	500 ^(a)	130 ^(a)	Bk: 130 ^(a)
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	Bk: P-S SS: PVA	P-S	P-S	P-S
Size, mm	22 × 24	30 × 24	38 × 38	28 × 35
Perf	Bk: Simulated SS: 12.7 x 12.5	Simulated	Simulated	Simulated
Teeth	Bk: Simulated SS: 14 x 15	Simulated	Simulated	Simulated

Footnotes for Table 1:

^(a) Number of booklets, coil packets, or souvenir sheets.

Abbreviations for Table 1:

*number*CL = (*number of colours*) colour lithography; Bk = booklet; C = Tullis-Russell coated paper; CBN = Canadian Bank Note Company; 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; SS = souvenir sheet.

Book release notes

BNAPS is pleased to announce the release of two new handbooks, both related to Christmas. Please also see the note at the end of this article regarding changes in BNAPS' new book distribution arrangement with Longley Auctions.



The National Christmas Seals of Canada 1927–2018 Second Edition, Cliff A Beattie, Andrew Chung, and Robert D Vogel. A profusely illustrated and amazingly detailed catalogue of all the different aspects of the Christmas Seals released in Canada since 1927. 2019, Spiral bound, 182 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-02-7. Stock # B4h099-1. Price: C\$38.

The second edition of *The National Christmas Seals of Canada* includes new National Christmas Seals since 2008; Quebec Christmas Seals and Country Hearts and Country Valentines to 2018; and Spring Seals to 2019, plus new discoveries and updates. New topics include the Annual Christmas Seal Sale and Campaign Letters; Christmas Seal Errors, Freaks, and Oddities; and Ornaments and Christmas Seals issued by the provincial associations of the Lung Association.

Andrew Chung has been active in Canadian philately since the mid-1970s. His collecting interests are Canada Christmas Seals, Replacement and Publicity first day covers of the Canada Post Office, postage due use, postal notes and money orders, postal rates and fees of the Elizabethan era, Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS) presentation items, and reply coupons (including Newfoundland).

Cliff Beattie began collecting in 1960. In 1970, his collecting endeavours expanded to include Canadian National Christmas Seals, including the Local Christmas Seals issued by various sanatoriums in Canada. In 2008 he collaborated with Andrew Chung and Bob Vogel to create a first edition of the National Christmas Seals of Canada Catalogue and now, in 2019, he has again worked with Andrew and Bob to create the Second Edition.

Bob Vogel began collecting mint and used Canada in 1964. In 1970, his interest turned to the postal history of Muskoka District and he gradually assembled a comprehensive collection, exhibiting it at the local level. In the mid-1990s, his interest changed to the postal history of Berlin/Kitchener, Ontario, focusing on the machine cancels of that community, and he exhibited at the national level. In addition to his involvement with the Christmas Seal catalogue, Bob is also the Chairman of the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group.

Letters from Santa, David A Hanes. A very colourful journey through the Christmastime letters from Santa Claus to children originated by the T Eaton Company in the early 1900s, and later by the Robert Simpson Company and the Canada Post Office, continuing into the 1960s. 2019, Spiral bound, 104 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-03-4. Stock # B4h100-1. Price: C\$32.

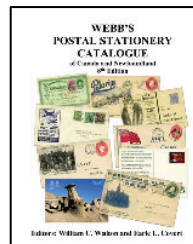


The first Eaton's Santa Claus letter was prepared and sent to children in 1905, the same year the first Santa Claus parade was held in Toronto. A new Eaton's Santa Letter was prepared each year until 1967. Between 1928 and 1930, the Robert Simpson Company in Toronto produced at least two Santa Claus letters. From 1972 until 1983, several regional departments of the Canada Post office, later the Canada Post

Corporation, intermittently prepared Santa Letters. *Letters from Santa* includes illustrations of all Santa Letters known, to date. The author hopes that with publication of the book more letters will come to light.

Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada & Newfoundland, 8th Edition, William C Walton and Earle L Covert, Editors. Walton Covert Philatelic Publications, Published by Unitrade Associates. Webb 8, as it will be called, contains eighteen years worth of additions, changes, and new finds in the Canadian Postal Stationery field. 2019, spiral bound, 494 pages, 8.5 × 11, full colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-03-4. C\$84.95. Order from Unitrade Associates:

<http://www.unitradeassoc.com/Nowavailable.htm>



Bill Walton and Earle Covert, Co-editors of the Webb catalogue since the fifth edition in 1987, have done it again. A massive undertaking, Webb 8 includes extensive renumbering to make it easier to get away from sub-listings—a, c, g, b, k, etc.—wherever possible. In the Preface, the Editors write, “Renumbering seemed unavoidable to us. The numbering system Jim Webb developed for his first (1971) edition worked well, but has become increasingly cumbersome as countless new discoveries have been made and added to the listings. We reluctantly concluded, as we ran out of letters to fit under major numbers, that the time had come to correct this. The headaches involved for collectors (including ourselves) and dealers are obvious, but with time the new numbers will become familiar—old time collectors will remember the need to convert from Holmes numbers to the new Webb numbers.” To help collectors navigate these changes, a Concordance gives the old numbers and the corresponding new numbers.

There are at least twenty new sections in the 8th edition. A number of these represent new classes of postal stationery issues such as Lowe-Martin Create a Postcard, Santa envelopes and cards, Canada Post promotional cards, and the returned Dead Letter envelopes. Newer stationery issues are included up to June 2019 (Covered bridges issue for post cards; Bighorn sheep for envelopes) The Editors write, “We continue to offer listings of material we feel is of interest to collectors, and have now included the 1899 Vancouver views.”

An Addenda to Webb 8 covering Canada Premium Products, Priority Post, Express Post, Private Order Special Letters *etc.*, is also available online, at no charge, here:

http://www.bnaps.org/ore/WaltonCovert-PSC/WaltonCovert-PSC_Contents.htm

Attention BNAPS Members!

Effective 30 September 2019, Longley Auctions became the Agent for the BNAPS Book Department sales. To shop for available BNAPS books go to:

<https://longleyauctions.com/product-category/bnaps-books/>

Please note: To simplify the process of buying books, BNAPS has decided to replace the “Retail Price to Member Price” discount and to price all books, both existing and new titles, at what will be close to the previous “Member Price” level. These new prices are now in effect for all titles.

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Members, PLEASE!

If you change your address, phone number or email address,
advise the Secretary.

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

Postal and email addresses for both are on p 77
of this issue of *BNA Topics*.

BNAPS exchange circuit news

Andy Ellwood, OTB

THE effort to restructure the Circuit to provide a range of less expensive stamps and covers continues. However, there are still several stamps that are priced in the low hundreds. For example, I notice that there are now several copies of Canada #4 and another of #5, at prices as low as twenty percent of catalogue. A couple of contributing members have decided to reduce their prices by fifty percent. This is a good move on their part in their efforts to find new homes for items no longer wanted.

Sales have been somewhat successful, but it is expected to take a while for the lower prices to become well known. Certainly, the attraction of lower prices will encourage members to fill in some of the holes in their collections with better copies or to strike out in a different direction in their collecting. All material is displayed on the BNAPS website.

I have noticed that some members are exploring areas which are “off the beaten path.” These include back-of-the-book, printing varieties, colour variations, date collections, etc.

If you are intrigued by areas which are not overly popular nor expensive, but are relatively available, take a peek at the Exchange Circuit spread sheets on the website. You may be somewhat surprised at what is available and at the relatively inexpensive cost. An email to me can let you explore different areas. You can review the material in your own home, in your own time, and the only cost is the postage to return it to me.

Classified advertisements

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

FOR SALE

WALSH BRITISH NORTH AMERICA Specialized Stamp eCatalogue 11th edition, 2018, Colour 674 pages; and **WALSH NEWFOUNDLAND** Specialized Stamp eCatalogue 11th edition, 2018, Colour, 823 pages. www.nfldstamps.com.

WANTED

SANTA LETTERS or envelopes with H0H OH0 return address. Any era. Buy or trade. Tony Shaman, 66 Sweetbriar Dr., Kitchener, ON N2M 4S6, 519-745-2973; e-mail: <tshaman@rogers.com>.

LITERATURE

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

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

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