

2020 fourth quarter

BNA Topics



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Letter sent postage free by John England dated 18 December 1840 with type 2 of the double circle "Lachine L.C" postmark, p53.

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BNA Topics



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Contents

3	Editorial	
4	Readers write	
5	Postal potpourri 24: Illustrated permits	Earle Covert, OTB
13	Bileski's Newfoundland mini-collections, 1937–1940	Anthony Thompson
28	HMCS <i>Athabaskan</i> , Canadian WWII Destroyer	Jonathan Johnson, OTB
33	2¢ Small Queen bisects on Halifax covers	Tom Meyerhof
36	Wilding letters to a French soldier in Algeria	Jeffrey Arndt
38	BNAPS non-exhibit awards for 2020	
42	Newfoundland revenue discoveries as found in the issues of 1898 Queen Victoria, 1907 King Edward VII, 1911 King George V, and 1938–1964 Caribou	John M Walsh, FFRPSC
51	Postal beginnings at Lachine, Quebec	Cimon Morin

BNAPS Business and reports

55	BNAPS book release notes	67	Study group centreline Peter McCarthy
56	Book reviews	74	Regional group rant David Bartlet
61	New issues William J F Wilson	77	BNAPS contacts lists
62	President's column Ronald E Majors, OTB	79	Exchange circuit news
64	From the Secretary P Charles Livermore, OTB	79	Classified advertisements

Cover Illustration: Letter sent postage free by John England dated 18 December 1840 with type 2 of the double circle "Lachine L.C" postmark.

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Editorial

BNAPS in a new world

William J F Wilson

I started writing this editorial at home on a day when, if the world had been different, I would have been viewing exhibits, attending Study Group sessions, and sitting at dealers' tables at BNAPEX 2020 in Halifax. The world has changed a lot since we met in Ottawa a year ago, so let's take a look at one of the ways in which we have met this challenge.

As expected with the pandemic, Dave Bartlet's Regional Group Rant in last quarter's *Topics* reported that the number of in-person meetings had dropped to zero. However, our Society has adjusted, and Dave has filled me in on some of the story. The Newfoundland Study Group, he says, early on broached the idea of meeting over Zoom. Charles Livermore, BNAPS Secretary, was involved in the group's discussions in early May, and he went on to test the free public Zoom account. It soon proved unsatisfactory: Every attendee is automatically cut off after forty minutes and has to rejoin the meeting to continue. Charles, therefore, decided to move to the Zoom subscription service that BNAPS now has. This subscription account was established in the Secretary's name on 25 May.

Even in last quarter's *Topics*, Dave was able to report that three regional groups had already held successful Zoom meetings. In the present quarter, Zoom meetings have been held by the Calgary and the Golden Horseshoe Regional Groups, and the Newfoundland and the Large and Small Queen Study Groups. People from sea to sea to sea in Canada, and as far away as Sweden and Qatar, attended the Newfoundland meeting; members of the Edmonton, Pacific Northwest, and St Lawrence Seaway Regional Groups attended the Calgary meeting; and members from Edmonton and Europe attended the Golden Horseshoe meeting—all this without leaving the comfort of their own homes. At the Calgary meeting, the talks were presented by Ingo Nessel in Ontario, and Kirstin Jakobson, who was in Montana at the time. Another three regional group meetings have been scheduled over Zoom for later in September or in October.

The Zoom initiative, therefore, seems to have been successful. It can't replace all the interactions we enjoy when we meet in person, such as greeting people as they walk into the room, impromptu discussions before and after the formal part of meetings, and the opportunity to exchange material with other members. As seen in the descriptions above, however, it has brought at least one significant advantage. People located far outside an area can attend that regional group's meeting with a few clicks of the mouse, and can participate in Show-and-Tell. They can even be guest speakers and give slide presentations as easily as if they were there in person. To set up a Regional or Study Group meeting, contact Dave Bartlet at <regionalgroups@bnaps.org> or Charles Livermore at <charleslivermore@hotmail.com>. They will build the meeting and host it for you, and get you up and running.

We can only wish that pandemics would never happen. None of the above diminishes in any way the serious, and sometimes tragic, consequences that COVID-19 has brought to many people. Nevertheless, BNAPS has responded, and we can be encouraged by the strength of our Society in these difficult times.

Readers write

Andrew Scott's Sea Island Post Office and Air Force Base (BNA Topics, July-September 2020), **Dean Mario** writes: Andrew Scott's cover was most interesting. Here are a few related comments: According to Les Allison and Harry Hayward's *They Shall Not Grow Old: A Book of Remembrance* (Brandon, MB: The Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum, 1996, p 448), AC1 Ian Thompson Machum was from Halifax, NS and was buried in Halifax's Camp Hill Cemetery. He was killed 16 January 1943, age 20, in a crash of Harvard aircraft #3238. He was part of #14 Canadian Squadron. Sadly, his brother, W02 (Pilot) Donald Blair Machum, also aged 20, was killed in action 29 May 1944, returning from a Nickel (propaganda leaflet) raid over northwest France when he and his Wellington #HE 199 crew were shot down at Gillingham, Dorset, England by friendly Mosquito night fighters. Donald Blair Machum was mentioned in Dispatches.

I am intrigued by the cover's Examiner label and RCN tombstone censor. It is certainly possible that the cover originated at Esquimalt, BC, but as Machum was from Halifax, NS, might it be also not be possible that the cover originated from a sailor (friend/relative) at Halifax (processed there with the security hubless cancelling machine)? Was Examiner DB/C.183 located in Halifax or on the west coast?

Editor's Reply: A good question from Dean. A list on page 34 of Peter C Burrows' *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, Section 7, Canada and Newfoundland*, says that Censor/Examiners 151 through 199 were located in Vancouver, BC.

Unusual handling of mail from Britain:

Phil Visser writes: A recent eBay purchase arrived from the United Kingdom on 5 August 2020. A quick look suggested that Royal Mail had used the same two-line, spray-on slogan cancel thanking healthcare workers for their service during the current Covid-19 crisis as has been used in Canada. I put the cover aside, thinking that maybe someday it would be part of an exhibit. On a second, closer, look, however, I realized that the spray-on cancel was Canadian, not British as I had originally thought. An even closer third look showed what appears to be a very faint British ink jet cancel and a lime-green British barcode which presumably directed the letter to Canada. On its arrival in Canada a postal worker put the letter through a Canadian cancelling machine, thus avoiding the dreaded pen cancel on the stamp from my local post office.

A fourth, even closer look revealed that the letter had been handled in Vancouver, determined by the "V7B" in the second line of the spray-on, just over the Coronation Street actress' face on the stamp. This was most unexpected since the distance from London to Montreal or Toronto is much shorter even than flying over the "top" of the world to Vancouver. It may also be noted in the image above that the letter was cancelled in Vancouver on 29 July 2020 at 1500 (200729 15).



"I can't abide to see people gossiping."

Postal potpourri 24: Illustrated Permits

Earle L Covert, OTB

ON 5 May 2013, Canada Post Corporation (CPC) formally introduced new regulations allowing pictures, text, and logos to be included in postal mailing permit indicia, now called “Illustrated Permits.” Prior to this, several prominent businesses used small logos or text in these permits and, apparently, this was tolerated. These are now being called “Illustrated Permit Precursors.” Figure 1 below illustrates a number of Precursor examples.



Figure 1. Examples of Illustrated Permit Precursors used by Canadian companies and organizations: Southam Addressed Admail, Reader's Digest, Sears Canada, and the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting.

It has been said that mail is more likely to be opened if it has a stamp—which usually features a picture of some kind—on it; however, putting stamps on envelopes is very labour intensive. A picture *in* a permit is a compromise. In June 2013, Lowe-Martin, one of Canada’s Security Printers, outlined what the new requirements were: “Canada Post has given marketers more real estate to promote their organization. The upper right corner of the envelope, self-mailer or postcard can now be used for marketing purposes.”

Illustrated Permits can be customized to display an organization’s logo, products, or services, or marketing messages. Specification templates were made available on Canada Post’s website (Figure 2). Each custom template is composed of reserved elements, as follows: the perforated border (really a pseudo perforation), Canada Post’s name and “Wing” logo, and the postal service name. The customer number is to be inserted in a *sans serif* font such as Arial or Myriad, and between two and five mm tall. Most Illustrated Permits are printed on the envelope, but a few, such as those used by the Canadian Red Cross, have been printed and applied as self-adhesive labels.

Initially, Illustrated Permit indicia were to be used for Lettermail and Addressed Admail

Keywords & phrases: Illustrated postal permits, design changes allowed in 2013

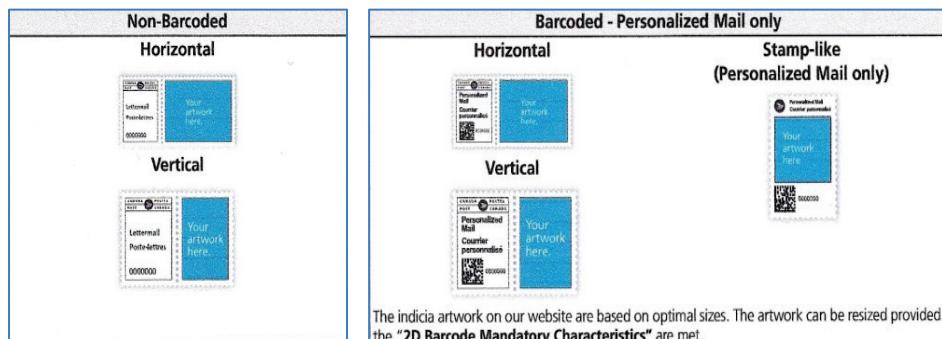


Figure 2. Approved Illustrated Permit formats; illustrations from Canada Post's website, 2016.

(which was changed in 2016 to Personalized Mail). In 2016, the Post Office introduced Postal Code Mail (Figure 3). A Quick Response QR code (which CPC refers to as a Barcode) inside the Permit tells the CPC sorting machine to which account to charge the postage.

A QR code outside the indicia with three sideways chevrons (>>>) tells the machine the account number plus the street address to jet-spray on the envelope. The text in the indicia on this type of illustrated permit is “Postal Code/Code Postal.” Since 2016, the requirement for chevrons has been dropped.



Figure 3. Horizontal and vertical formats for Illustrated postal permit indicia.

The visual area (the blue section in the image above) is set aside for various elements: customer's logo, text, and graphics or image. Customers need Canada Post's approval before using it on any mailings.

Once approval has been obtained, the indicia may be used any number of times. Canada Post will approve (usually in about three days) artwork—images and text—submitted by email if, in Canada Post's opinion, the artwork is suitable for general family use.

CPC has also replaced Unaddressed Admail with Neighbourhood Mail but, as of August 2020, no Neighbourhood Mail has been seen used in an illustrated permit.

Dimensional Addressed Admail and Dimensional Personalized Mail have been seen in Illustrated Permits. The use of “Dimensional” is intended to indicate that there was something in the envelope that was not flat, such as a pen. One drug company used Dimensional Addressed Admail to send an apple (in a box) to physicians, to eat while reading the company's advertising. Use of this permit term on a flat letter is incorrect.

The same permit numbers have appeared on Illustrated Permits from totally unrelated businesses which use a common mailing house. The mailing house uses its own permit number on mail it sends out for multiple customers. Occasionally, envelopes or cards will have one or two sets of small numbers under the permit or elsewhere on the address side of the envelope. These are not a postal requirement but are likely used by the sender to identify mailings.

Canada Post does not release data on individual users, only on overall use of Permit Mail, and cannot tell what was in a permit, *i.e.*, an image or text, other than the permit number.

Examples of Illustrated Permits used for different types of mail service follow. The name of the service being used is adjacent to the illustration. If the sending organization is anglophone, the English text is first, *e.g.*, Lettermail – Poste-lettres. If francophone, the French text appears first, *e.g.*, Poste-lettres – Lettermail. The permit number, which identifies the organization paying the postage, is always included,



Lettermail – Poste-lettres: Original early designs, Postage paid/Port payé omitted.

Left: Horizontal design; Centre: Vertical design – French version; Right: “Stamp-like” design.



Lettermail – Poste-lettres: Revised designs, Postage paid/Port payé included.



Addressed admail – Médiaposte avec adresse: the most common type of permit mail.

Left – French version; Centre – English version; Right – English version “Stamp-like” design.

In late 2017, “Personalized Mail – Courrier personnalisé” replaced Addressed Admail, with a QR code added inside the permit frame beside the permit number. It is believed that when read by a QR code reader, the contents identify the internal CPC account number necessary to charge the customer directly, without human intervention.



Personalized Mail – Courrier personnalisé: with QR code inside the permit frame.

Left – horizontal; Centre – vertical; Right – No picture or advertisement.



The author has not yet seen this type of permit used correctly. It is not supposed to be used on flat envelopes.

Dimensional Personalized Mail -- Courrier personnalisé extradimensionnelle

Left: Horizontal – French version; Right: “Stamp-like” English version.



Publications Mail – Poste-publications: Left: Horizontal; Right: Vertical.



Postal Code Mail – Courier code postal: Left: English version; Right: French version.



Postal Code Mail: Left – chevrons omitted, QR code adjacent to permit elements; Right – chevrons omitted, QR code separated from permit elements by text and a logo.



Example of Postal Code Mail -- the QR code gives the Canada Post sorting machine the postal code and address, including street, house/apartment number or the post office box number, but not the name of the addressee. The Canada Post machine then prints, in this case, the post office box number of the intended recipient.



Addressed Admail with RPG-PRG return Instructions, QR code outside permit: Left: RPG | PRG text left and below permit; Centre: Similar but RPG/PRG; Right: Similar to left but "Stamp" format [RPG=Return Postage Guaranteed. PRG=Port de Retour Garantie.]



Addressed Admail with RPG-PRG return Instructions, no QR code: Left: Horizontal format, French version; Centre: Vertical, English version; Right "Stamp" format, French version.



Personalized Mail, QR code inside permit frame and RPG-PRG return Instructions outside the permit frame. Left: Horizontal format, English version - Upper permit is the common one; Centre: Vertical format, English version; Right: "Stamp" format, French version.

Errors



Indicia text should be "Poste-lettres," not "Poste-lettres as in this example."

To see the illustrated lists that have been collected, go to:

<http://www.bnaps.org/ore/Covert-IllustratedPermits/Covert-IllustratedPermits.htm>

If you have items not illustrated here, (1) if you don't collect them, please send them to me—Earle L Covert, PO Box 1190, Raymond, Alberta T0K 2S0; (2) if you collect them, please send a scan at 300 dpi of the entire front of the item to ecovert6@gmail.com. Thanks for your help!

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Bileski's Newfoundland mini-collections, 1937–1940

Anthony Thompson

THIS is a story about Newfoundland imperforate stamp pairs printed in the late 1930s at the Perkins Bacon printing works, Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1, when Alfred John Hubbard (Figure 1, left) was Managing Director, and sold by Kasimir Bileski (Figure 1, right) forty years later. Many of the readers of this article likely have examples of these proof pairs and will certainly have seen them. These items have a wonderful history, and I am going to attempt to unravel some of it here!

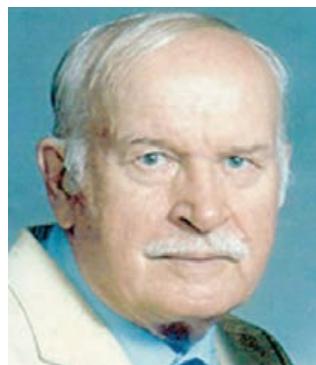
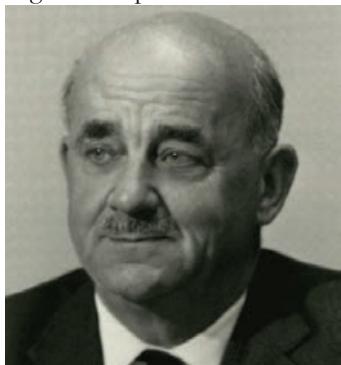


Figure 1. Two of the principal characters in this story: (left) AJ Hubbard, Managing Director, WW Sprague and President, RPSL (1973–1976) [12] (photo with kind permission of the Royal Philatelic Society London), and (right) Kasimir Bileski, Stamp Dealer, Winnipeg (1920–2005) [15].

The main philatelic items discussed here were sold by Bileski as four separate mini-collections, consisting largely of plate proof pairs:

- 1932 5¢ caribou (Sc 191) 8-9 items
- 1938 Royal Family (Sc 245-248) 4 items
- 1938 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 246) 6 items
- 1938 4¢ Princess Elizabeth (Sc 247) 8 items

and many were printed on a wavy bookend *moiré* paper. Bileski promoted the rarity of items he sold by including descriptive typewritten notes with the stamps he offered for sale.

Background

Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd moved to its printing works in Southwark Bridge Road, London (Figure 2), in 1904 [1, 2], where most of Newfoundland's stamps were printed between 1929 and 1941. Perkins, Bacon & Co Ltd ceased trading at the end of 1935, and all its philatelic items and reference books were acquired by Messrs Charles Nissen, Harry Nissen, and Thomas Allen.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, Bileski, Perkins Bacon printers

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The reference books and other documents were presented to the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in January 1936. The philatelic items, including many progressive die and plate proofs, likely entered the collector's market via this route [3, 4].



Figure 2. The third character in this story is this building, the Printing Works, Southwark Bridge Road, London, operated under Perkins Bacon (1904-1935) and WW Sprague (1936-1941) [2].

The printing works were acquired by WW Sprague & Co Ltd in 1936, with AJ Hubbard, Sr—who had been a dominant force in Sprague since 1900 [5]—as its new managing director. The equipment and staff remained, though the Southwark Bridge works buildings were destroyed during a bombing raid on the night of 10 May 1941 [6, 7]. The company changed its name to Perkins, Bacon Ltd in 1939. It was later amalgamated with Sprague in 1966 [8], which in turn was taken over by the Metal Box Group in the mid- to late-1960s [9, 5]. Perkins Bacon's and Sprague's contracts with Newfoundland were managed through John Dickinson, who also owned Croxley Mill and supplied the stamp paper from 1929 [10]. These contracts were taken up by Waterlow & Sons Ltd from 1941 until Newfoundland's confederation with Canada in 1949. The source of the bookend paper is not known, but it likely came from Croxley Mill. It is interesting to note that, in 1964, it was still not realised by the philatelic community that Perkins Bacon/Sprague had not printed Newfoundland stamps since 1941 (CA Stillions editor's comment in the *Newfie Newsletter* [10]), a fact identified in 1965 when Waterlow took over the printing [6]. Curiously, these Newfoundland printings were not mentioned in the list of stamps printed by Waterlow in 1852-1952 [11].

Hubbard's eldest son, AJ (John) Hubbard, Jr, was born in 1902 and joined Sprague after he graduated from Cambridge University, likely in the mid-1920s. He was Managing Director for many years and retired as Chairman about 1968. He then moved to Bermuda (Figure 3a). He became an honorary fellow of the Royal in 1945 and was elected its President in 1970-1973. He died in 1976 [12, 13]. He was a keen Newfoundland philatelist and became a BNAPS

member in May 1959 with a stated interest in Newfoundland proofs, stamps, covers, and airmails (Figure 3b). In 1973, he received the RPSL Tilleard Medal for his display on Newfoundland.

But 2 years ago I was alerted to the fact that the Chairman of Perkins Bacon who had retired to Bermuda had a file of Newfoundland sheets. When he passed away I bought this file from the estate and found it was indeed a treasure. One sheet of each and not one of these was ever in the Nissen purchase! In the Nissen lot there were up to 5 sheets of most.

(a)

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Hubbard, Alfred John, 186 City Road, London E.C.1, England
 (C-C) NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage.
 Covers. Mint and used airmails and on cover. Proofs.
 Proposed by A. H. Kessler, No. 334.

BNA TOPICS • MAY 1959 129

(b)

NEWFOUNDLAND

#246. The 1938 Queen Mother stamp.

Here is a specialized group of varieties hitherto completely unknown to philately for the past 40 years, all of the greatest rarity as only 100 of everything as enclosed (counted as singles) exist. These came from the sheets found in the estate of the Chairman of Perkins Bacon.

(c)

Figure 3. (a) Text extracted from (a) an extra Bileski note included with the 1938 4¢ Princess Elizabeth (Sc 247) mini-collection, (b) AJ Hubbard's BNAPS membership application (re-formatted), and (c) Bileski's notes on the 1938 3¢ Queen Mother mini-collection (Sc 246).

The Newfoundland items in the Chairman's estate were acquired by Kasimir Bileski in 1976 for the princely sum of \$300,000. Included were many unique sheets printed during the Sprague period, but likely nothing from the Perkins Bacon period; those were reportedly all sold to Charles Nissen in 1935. The purchase also included many imperforate sheets from Waterlow's Newfoundland printings, which were not of the punched-type stored in the Waterlow archives, because of an arrangement reached between the two companies. This is likely the source of many of Newfoundland's later imperforates in the marketplace today. Bileski, in his notes, often refers to the Chairman's Newfoundland collection, so it seems that Hubbard actively pursued his interests in acquiring unusual items from Waterlow. Bileski

records that many of the items were unique sheets and had never been seen before—they surfaced for the first time some forty years after their production (Figure 3c). Bileski asserts that he acquired virtually all of the Chairman's Newfoundland stock, but notes that some went to Stanley Gibbons and possibly others [14]. Bileski mostly cut his sheets into pairs for collectors, but he also cut singles and some larger multiples. Bileski was known to have a huge number of approval clients who would be sent stamps “on approval”—they would be accompanied by his descriptive notes, created to facilitate the sale [15].

Bileski's mini-collections

Bileski often offered several related stamps for sale as a single item in a mini-collection, usually of the same issue or denomination. They were accompanied by Bileski's famous typewritten notes, and many of these mini-collections remain intact to this day. They were acquired from the estate of the Chairman of Sprague, John Hubbard, and consist of sheets of Newfoundland stamps printed at Sprague's Southwark Bridge Road works during 1936–1941 and Waterlow's Paul Street works during 1942–1949. Four mini-collections from the Sprague period are discussed here.

(1) The 1932 5¢ caribou (Sc 191)

The 1932 5¢ caribou stamp was issued on 2 January 1932 in violet brown (die I, Sc 190) and later in 1932 in deep violet (die I & II, Sc 191). The latter stamp has many shades, most of which are close to deep violet; however, a pale violet shade and a deep reddish-brown violet shade were issued between 1939 and 1941 [16]. These were printed by Perkins Bacon in 1932–1935, by Sprague in 1936–1941, and by Waterlow in 1941–1949 (as Sc 257). The 5¢ stamp paid the base rate to the US and countries that were part of the British Empire from 2 May 1932 to 1949. Its postal use from issue to 2 May 1932 seemed to be for inland parcels up to seven lbs. The 5¢ stamp also paid the domestic registration fee [17].



Figure 4. 1932 5¢ die II caribou (Sc 191) mini-collection sold by Bileski (see Table 1; [19]). These were printed on unwatermarked wove paper, except for numbers 4, 8, and 9, which were printed on blue bookend paper. Images cropped from imperforate pairs.

This mini-collection (Figure 4) is comprised of nine imperforate pairs and has only been seen by the author as PDF digital images from the collections of CA Stillions and Jean-Claude Vasseur. Bileksi's notes record the printer's sheet annotations, which give printing dates of 23 September 1938 and 15 November 1938 (plate 4), 7 March 1939 (plate 2), and 12 January 1940 (plate 5) (Table 1). It is perhaps surprising to see that plates 2, 3, 4, and 5 were all used during the short Sprague period. The 5¢ stamp seems to have shown considerable plate wear with a loss of background shading. Perhaps that is why seven plates were used in total [17, 18]. This was more than the number used for each of the 1¢–4¢ stamps, which were printed in greater numbers. One possible cause for this is the fine shading behind the stag's head that gives a perception of distance, an effect created by shallow engraved lines that would have disappeared after slight plate wear. Such fine shading was not used on the other low values.

Table 1. Bileksi's notes accompanying the 1932 5¢ caribou die II (Sc 191) mini-collection (probably incomplete); see Figure 4.

Description in Bileksi's notes ^(1, 2)	Paper
1. Unusual thin paper proof—the only one like it in the Chairman's possession. Entire sheet was rubber stamped at random intervals with "Plate Ptrs (printers?) 7 March 1939." At top right in margin was written "6800 Hand Plate Order No. DB291 (signed) A.S.C." Plate # was 2 reversed.	thin unwatermarked wove ⁽⁴⁾
2. From plate 2. (2 was reversed).	unwatermarked wove
3. Another from plate 2 (reversed). Slightly different shade.	unwatermarked wove
4. Plate 3. ⁽³⁾	blue bookend
5. Written at top was note "very first stage." Pencil corrections on sheet. Plate 4.	unwatermarked wove
6. From plate 4.	unwatermarked wove
7. Plate 4 different shade. Written bottom right of sheet "Sept 23 rd , 1938."	unwatermarked wove
8. Note book-end back. Plate 4. Written at bottom right: "Last impression 5,500 pulls 15/11/38."	blue bookend
9. Final bookend proof – see back. Plate used was #5. Along left hand side was written: 8,000 (sheets) 12/1/40 (signed) A.S.C.	blue bookend

⁽¹⁾ Bileksi's notes were incomplete and probably missing introductory text.

⁽²⁾ The row numbers correspond to the numbers on the stamps in Figure 4.

⁽³⁾ This pair was not included in a second, similar mini-collection belonging to JC Vasseur (pers. com.).

⁽⁴⁾ Paper thickness measured by Eastern Auctions (Yohann Tanguay, 3 September 2020) at 0.0035" which is normal for this issue.

These proofs also show considerable shade variation. Plate 3 is pale violet, the three examples of plate 4 are pale violet, violet and deep violet, and the plate 5 example is deep violet. This agrees with Moll's observations that there were three distinct shades, pale violet (Figure 4, stamps 4, 8), violet (Figure 4, stamps 1-3, 5-7, 9) and a deep reddish-brown violet (probably not represented in this mini-collection) for the stamps printed between 1938 and

1941 [16]. The written descriptions on the record sheets indicate these were printed from different orders, and it seems there were changes in the composition of the ink.

Two proofs have surface markings. One, possibly unique among all of the Sprague printings, has “7 Mar 1939” stamped at random intervals, and was claimed to be printed on an unusually thin paper with the printed annotation “Plate Ptrs.” at the top of the sheet (Figure 4, stamp 1) [19, p 77]. This has been “interpreted that the pull was for the printers” [18]. The other proof shows pencil marks (Figure 4, stamp 5; also on Figure 7, stamp 1 (enlarged in Figure 8c)) and the sheet annotation “very first stage.” This sheet may well have been used to set up the press blanket and makeready for the printer prior to the print run [20].

Three of the pairs are printed on blue bookend paper. Two of these were dated 15 November 1938 and 12 January 1940. They clearly served as record sheets with marginal annotations of the number of pulls. A third annotated record sheet was printed on plain wove paper, and is dated 23 September 1938 (Table 1). There is also a 5¢ caribou proof printed on red bookend paper [21]. It was not included in this mini-collection but was presumably in Bileksi’s possession.

Bileksi’s complete notes for this mini-collection have not been seen, only the short descriptions of the actual individual items. It is likely, as was his habit, that there was descriptive prose before and after this, but no comments can be made on this until a complete copy is seen.

(2) 1938 2¢-7¢ Royal Family issue (Sc 245-248)

The 1937 Coronation stamps (Sc 230-243) were to be withdrawn on 31 December 1937. The intention was to revert to the issue released in 1932, but with updated designs for the 2¢, 3¢, 4¢, and 7¢, showing portraits of the new Royal Family following the death of King George V on 20 January 1936. The new designs were intended to be released on 1 January 1938 [22], but

this could not be achieved, and a new release date in March 1938 was suggested [23]. The eventual release date was 12 May 1938. In 1938, the 2¢ stamp paid for local letters, the 3¢ for foreign post cards, the 4¢ for inland letters, and the 7¢ for foreign letters; all were printed by Sprague [17].

Bileksi sold a set of four proofs as a mini-collection, with the lower three denominations on bookend paper and the 7¢ on thick wove paper (Figure 5). A transcript of his typewritten descriptive



Figure 5. T1938 Royal Family (Sc 245-248) mini-collections sold by Bileksi (see Table 2; Courtesy Rob Taylor of TaylorStamps, eBay item 193246824498). Images cropped from imperforate pairs. Stamps 1 and 3 are on blue bookend, 2 on green bookend, and 4 on thick wove paper.

notes makes for interesting reading (Table 2). The first paragraph records that this set of unusual proofs supplemented his earlier sale of an imperforate (presumably watermarked and without gum) set. No marginal printer's annotations were reported, yet he calls these "the final proofs," printed "as a sort of farewell as Perkins Bacon printers were on the point of disbanding." This company went into receivership in 1935. Sprague printed the 1938 Royal Family issue, and they stopped printing after the works was bombed in 1941 (clearly they could not have planned for this event!). The second paragraph says that three were on bookend paper, and the other on a thick white wove. This supports an earlier suggestion that the 7¢ does not exist on bookend paper [20], otherwise it would surely have been sold along with these three lower values that were on bookend paper.

Table 2. Bileski's notes accompanying the 1938 Royal Family (Sc 245-248) mini-collection
(See Figure 5)

¶	Description in Bileski's notes
1	NEWFOUNDLAND #245-248 The FINAL PROOFS You will recall I sold you #245-248 in imperforate pairs. Now I have purchased a most unusual lot of proofs in the color of issue but not the usual type of proofs made at the start of the printing. These 4 sheets that I brought were the final ones ever printed for these stamps; as a sort of farewell as Perkins Bacon printers were on the point of disbanding after 100 years of printing stamps (including the all important penny black in 1840).
2	Note what was written on the sheets – at least on 3 of them. 3 come on an unusual "book end" proof paper, the other on a normal thick white wove.
3	These 4 sheets were meant to go into the Perkins Bacon Archives and if that had happened they would have long since been on the market as in the 1940s the effects of the Company were sold and many great philatelic treasures from very many countries were dispersed on the market.
4	These 4 sheets however did not appear until 1976 almost 40 years after they were printed. They were found amongst the effects in the estate of the chairman of Perkins Bacon.
5	What is of the greatest interest is that no other color proofs of these 4 stamps exist. None so are listed anywhere. Of the enclosed only 50 pairs each do exist.
6	I've cut up sheets into pairs as they match the imperf pairs nicely. Still singles would do just as well and if singles are wanted OK to separate them in half. Price for singles is \$200.00. Price for pairs \$400.00.

K. Bileski

Bileski, in the third note above, again seems to confuse events, as the Perkins Bacon archives were sold in their entirety in 1935 to Charles Nissen and colleagues—not in the 1940s as suggested in the notes. The 1938 Royal Family issue was printed by Sprague, and the archives under their ownership formed part of the Chairman's collection that Bileski himself acquired in 1976. This is confirmed in the fourth note, above.

Bileski then mentions that no other colour proofs of these four stamps exist; however, they are known today printed on a thick wove paper (probably the same as used for the 7¢ in this sale). These may have also been in the Chairman's collection, or they may have come on to the market via another route, but Bileski did not know of their existence when he wrote this Royal Family note.

The final paragraph is interesting, as he sold this mini-collection of imperforate pairs for \$400. Assuming Bileski worked in Canadian dollars, then his asking price in the late 1970s was similar in absolute terms to what the set sells for at auction today. However, in real terms, \$400 in 1976 dollars is equivalent to about \$1,800 today!

(3) 1938 3¢ Queen Mother stamp (Sc 246)

This 1938 3¢ Queen Mother mini-collection comprised four imperforate pairs and two perforated singles from six numbered sheets, along with his descriptive notes (Figures 6, 8a,b; Table 3). Bileski states that sheets 1–3 are colour trials, and sheets 4–6 are annotated proofs on bookend paper printed in the correct dark carmine shade. Printing dates are 28 July 1938, 10 October 1938, and 11 February 1939.



Figure 6. 1938 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 246) mini-collection sold by Bileski (see Table 3).

Images cropped from imperforate pairs for stamps 1 and 4–6. Stamps 1–3 are on watermarked stamp paper; 4 on red and yellow; 5 on green; 6 on blue bookend paper.

Sheet 1 appears to have been creased during printing, and it is quite likely that this was rejected prior to gumming. Bileski describes this as a rose carmine colour trial, but the colour looks like the printed stamp (Figure 6, stamp 1; Figure 8a). Sheet 2 was perforated and said to have been printed in aniline ink in a lighter shade than the printed stamps (Figure 6, stamp 2) [24]. The “pink” stamp from sheet 3 appears to have been produced from a very poorly wiped plate that gave a pink cast to the un-inked areas, with obvious streaking of colour away from the inked areas, making it difficult to determine its shade (Figure 6, stamp 3; Figure 8b). It is possible that this sheet was rejected after gumming. The remaining three sheets were kept as archival records of each print run. They were printed on green, blue, and red and yellow bookend paper (Figure 6, stamps 4, 5, 6). These were annotated with the date and number of



Figure 7. 1938 4¢ Princess Elizabeth (Sc 247) mini-collection sold by Bileski (see Table 4). Images cropped from imperforate pairs for stamps 1–7. 1, 2 and 4 are on thick wove paper, 3 and 6 on card, 5 on green bookend, and 7 and 8 on watermarked stamp paper.

sheets printed and must have represented three separate additional orders following the initial printing, which must have been done about April 1938.

In my opinion, all these stamps are printed in the same carmine colour—the shade differences are insignificant. It is hard to separate them so much when judged against the SG Colour Guide [25]. I assigned the name carmine to six 1938 3¢ Queen Mother stamps, in contrast to Bileksi's assignment of rose carmine, deeper rose carmine, pink, and colour of issue (Table 3). Scott calls the issued stamp dark carmine, and Stanley Gibbons calls it carmine.

Table 3. Bileksi's notes accompanying the 1938 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 246) mini-collection (See Figure 6)

Description in Bileksi's notes	Colour [25], paper and thickness
NEWFOUNDLAND #246. The 1938 Queen Mother stamp. Here is a specialised group of varieties hitherto completely unknown to philately for the past 40 years, all of the greatest rarity as only 100 of everything as enclosed (counted as singles) exist. There come from the estate of the Chairman of Perkins Bacon.	
1. Imperf pair on watermark ungummed paper in a trial rose carmine color.	Carmine, stamp paper (wmk) 0.0035"
2. Single perf rare trial color, a deeper rose carmine but printed in an analine ink. See back of stamp.	Carmine (duller?), stamp paper (wmk) 0.0043"
3. Single perf rare trial color PINK, totally unlike issued dark carmine.	Carmine (paler? and smeared), stamp paper (wmk) 0.0041"
4. Pair first work progress proof in color of issue, printed on lattice weave design bookend paper at the end of printing 13,640 sheets by July 28 th , 1938.	Carmine, red and yellow bookend paper 0.0039"
5. Pair second work progress proof in color of issue printed on green design bookend paper at the end of printing 3500 additional sheets by Oct. 10 th , 1938.	Carmine, green bookend paper 0.0043"
6. Pair third work progress proof in color of issue printed on blue design bookend paper at the end of printing 10,500 additional sheets by Feb 11 th , 1939.	Carmine, blue bookend paper 0.0039"
The color trials are rarities. It is not possible to find similar colour variations in the mass of issued stamps and as proof of this, note the three proof pairs printed at different stages over six months. In every case they are the correct dark carmine as used for the issued stamps.	

(4) 1938 4¢ Princess Elizabeth stamp (Sc 247)

This 1938 4¢ Princess Elizabeth mini-collection included seven imperforate pairs and one perforated pair from eight numbered sheets, together with his descriptive notes that gave a production timeline (Figure 7; Table 4). Sheets 1 and 2 were printed on the patterned side of the bookend paper and were not "double prints" as stated by Bileksi, but offsets. This is more obvious in the sheet 2 where the offset is seen as a mirror image, as expected (Figure 8c,d). The first sheet is also not "in an unfinished state" as stated, but appears very under-inked and has printer's marks in pencil that highlight two features on the stamp (Figure 8c). It is likely that sheets 1 and 2 were made whilst setting up the printing machine and adjusting the press blanket and makeready [27, 28]. These "running waste" sheets had then been used as inter-

leaves to stop the transfer of wet ink from one freshly printed sheet to the next when being stacked.

The images on sheets 3 and 4 are a darker shade, but they are also heavily inked. It is difficult to know the purpose of using the thicker card in sheets 3 and 6. As noted by Bileski in relation to sheet 3, it may be to inspect the quality of the impression, as the card did provide a “Finished fine clear print” (Figure 8e). Sheets 5 and 7 show strong slip (“kiss”) print impressions (Figure 8f), with the printed perforated stamp from sheet 8 showing a slight slip print. Those printed on card do not show any signs of slip print shadowing, and perhaps the card was used to investigate this undesirable effect. In my opinion, stamps on sheets 1 and 5-8 are a similar light blue, whereas Sheets 2-4 were dark blue when compared to the SG colour guide [25]. There were slight shade differences between these two colours, but the variation is slight. Scott and Stanley Gibbons both call the issued stamp light blue.

Table 4. Bileski's notes accompanying the 1938 4¢ Princes Elizabeth (Sc 247) mini-collection (See Figure 7)

Description in Bileski's notes	Colour [25], paper and thickness
The Specialized Collection dealing with the 4¢ Elizabethan Newfoundland 1938 Stamp #247	
1. The very first plate proof. Printed on face of bookend paper and really a double print as numerous background lines (not the wavy pattern of the bookend paper) show the other print. Plate is in an unfinished state to say the least.	Light blue, blue bookend paper 0.0038” (Probably plate 2 [26])
2. Second trial plate proof, this time on face of an orange colored bookend paper. Again this was a double print. Plate now gives a strong well advanced print.	Deep blue, red bookend paper 0.0038”
3. The finished plate is now printed on a thick card paper. Finished fine clear print.	Deep blue, card 0.0055”
4. The plate is now tested out on unwatermarked wove paper approximately same weight as the paper to be used for actual stamps.	Deep blue, wove paper (unwmk, no gum) 0.0038”
5. So far in first 4 stages no attempt made to use the pre-selected shade of blue. A trial print is made using nearest possible shade of blue. It is on the back of the bookend paper stock.	Light blue, green bookend paper 0.0042”
6. Next a different shade of light blue is printed on card paper.	Light blue, card 0.0053”
7. A third light blue is finally chosen and a print on an ungummed but WATERMARKED paper of issue is printed. This sheet plus all the other 6 is put away in the Perkins Bacon Archives. Also on this #7 sheet is recorded the subsequent story of this stamp. At various times the printer indicated the various printings with a grand total of 50,300 sheets.	Light blue, stamp paper (wmk, no gum) 0.0036”
8. One perforated finished sheet of #247 was put in the Archives. It is not at all the light blue as issued but is a beautiful bright blue.	Light blue, stamp paper (wmk, gum) 0.0039”

Bileski presented this series as a timeline, and his notes regarding the ungummed watermarked imperforate sheet 7 say, “Also on this #7 sheet is recorded the subsequent story of this stamp. At various times the printer indicated the various printings with a grand total of 50,300 sheets.” What did Bileski mean here? This number is likely too high to be the number printed from a single order, and the use of “grand” indicates it was the sum of previous orders that Bileski has seen recorded on this and other 4¢ record sheets. Yet he does not mention

these numbers in his notes for the other sheets in this mini-collection (unlike in two of the other mini-collections, the highest number printed in a single order being 13,640 sheets; Table 3 sheet 4). Most likely, the annotation was something like that seen on a 1¢ record sheet “Finish of Order No. T.6072 (10,710) 21250 Total Pulls:- 31,960 7/2/39 A.S.G” (Figure 8e in [20]). If so, then this does not provide “the subsequent story,” as presented in Bileksi’s notes for this mini-collection, though the story does make for a nice read.



Figure 8. Unusual features on the Bileksi proofs for the 1938 3¢ Queen Mother (Sc 246)

(a) Sheet 1: creasing on paper; (b) Sheet 3: pink background and smearing on stamp paper, and the 4¢ Princess Elizabeth (Sc 247); (c) Sheet 1: poor impression and printer’s mark over blue bookend pattern; (d) Sheet 2: offset over red bookend pattern; (e) detail on Sheet 6: card (top) and Sheet 8: final stamp (bottom); and (f) Sheet 5: kiss print on green bookend paper.

Bileksi’s 4¢ Princess Elizabeth mini-collection does not contain all the bookend varieties, as it is also known printed with blue bookend paper on the reverse side. As shown in Figure 5, stamp 3, the 4¢ on blue bookend paper was included in the Royal Family mini-collection, so perhaps this was the only sheet in the collection acquired from the Chairman.

Discussion

Kasimir Bileksi included detailed typewritten notes with these four mini-collections. They are written in his somewhat poetic style that is enjoyable to read and makes the items sound rare

and desirable! And indeed the items in these mini-collections are rare, but do they support the statements claimed in his notes?

First, his notes are inconsistent in that different notes focus on different themes. For example, there is no mention of the shades in the 5¢ caribou mini-collection, though here the shades are many and distinctly different. But he talks about the shades for the 3¢ Queen Mother and 4¢ Princess Elizabeth mini-collections, which are more subtle and seem very exaggerated to me. The inclusions of the printer's annotations also seems inconsistent: provided in the 5¢ caribou and 3¢ Queen Mother, but omitted from the Royal Family and 4¢ Princess Elizabeth mini-collections (which were presumably on some sheets at least).

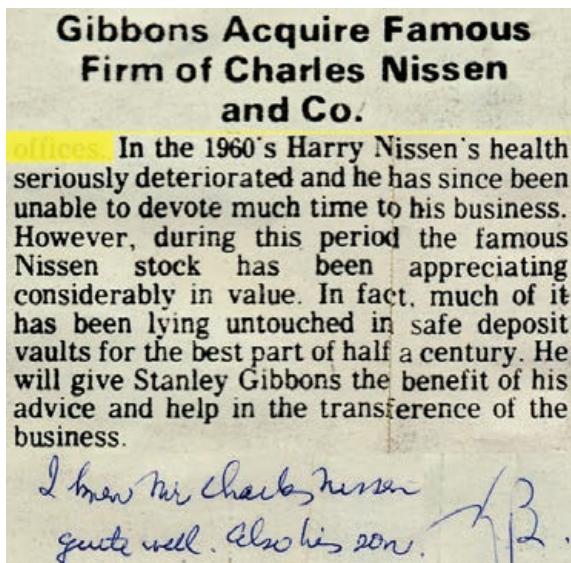


Figure 9. Photocopy of end of an article sent by Bileski to potential buyer with his handwritten note "I knew Mr Charles Nissen quite well. Also his son. KB". (Source: unknown, probably published in 1977).

Imperforates of most of the other values, and the 1938 Royal Family issue, were first listed by Stanley Gibbons sometime between 1960 and 1967 [29]. The only new listing up to 2007 is the 8¢ that was listed in the 1972 catalogue. The NSSC lists every stamp in the 1st Resources issues as occurring imperforate [17]. The "big" finds of the Newfoundland stamps were the Nissen purchase in 1935 and the Bileski purchase in 1976. The Nissen purchase may have accounted for the ten imperforate Stanley Gibbons listings in 1937, but why did Stanley Gibbons suddenly list an additional ten imperforate stamps sometime between 1960 and 1967? And why has Stanley Gibbons not listed all the stamps in the 1st Resources issues as existing imperforate? Was there another big find in the 1960s?

A clue may come from an article that was sent to a potential buyer by Bileski along with his accompanying typewritten notes for the 4¢ mini-collection shown in Figure 7. The article must have been published around 1977, and the reference to the "famous Nissen stock" was

Second are the stories, like the farewell printing of the Royal Family mini-collection and the timeline in the 4¢ Princess Elizabeth mini-collection. These are wonderful, but perhaps just a little embellished to entice a purchase from prospective buyers.

A further comment relates to Bileski's statement on the Royal Family mini-collection, "What is of the greatest interest is that no other color proofs of these 4 stamps exist. None so are listed anywhere. Of the enclosed only 50 pairs each do exist." We now know that this set also exists as proofs on thick wove paper, but around 1976 this was unknown to Bileski. It is interesting that imperforate pairs of the 5¢ caribou (and of nine other stamps in the 1st Resources issue) were already listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1937.

almost certainly to the Perkins Bacon archives purchase in 1935 (Figure 9). The date of 1977 matches the date Bileski acquired the Chairman's collection. The article also tells us that much of the Nissen acquisition remained intact and may have entered the market very much later. The timing is incorrect for the inclusion of the imperforate stamps into the Stanley Gibbons catalogues in the 1960s, but could account for additional sources in the late 1970s. In contradiction to this, Bileski in another note included with this sale states that "the lot Nissen got has long since been dispersed."

In summary, Kasimir Bileski operated mainly through an extensive approval service to his good clients. In the absence of the Internet and colour scans, the use of approvals was an excellent way to get stamps out to customers. The approval service is still very important today, of course, though it is handled slightly differently, with coloured scans being sent via email rather than through the postal system. For example, the Saskatoon Stamp Centre sells over seventy percent of its stamps directly to waiting clients via specific wants lists, and these too come with descriptions. One item they currently have on offer is a 1932 3¢ Queen Mother mini-collection described as "246P Plate Proof VF-SUPERB Unlisted 3c Elizabeth FOUR IMPERFORATE PLATE PROOFS PAIRS ungummed on wmkd wove paper & "BOOKEND PAPER" with backs showing wavy lines on green, blue, & yellow. ONLY 50 pairs of each recorded by Bileski." [30]. Certainly an attractive offer that recognises Bileski's contribution to philately, but the stories Bileski would have told being replaced by a one-hundred-percent accurate, factual modern style. Personally, I like both the old and the new, but with changing times come changing ways!

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre for sharing his knowledge on Kasimir Bileski and Newfoundland's stamps printed on bookend paper; Jamie Hennebury and Jean-Claude Vasseur, for responding to an information request sent out by Martin Goebel of the BNAPS Newfoundland Study Group by sending scans of their valuable stamp items and associated explanations; and CA Stillions for more general information. Last and not least, I thank Gary Lyons and Eastern Auctions for posting past catalogues on their website—a fantastic source of information!

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Matters military 19: HMCS *Athabaskan*, Canadian WWII Destroyer

Jonathan Johnson, OTB

HMCS *Athabaskan*, the second of two Tribal-class destroyers ordered in 1940 from Vickers Armstrong of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, by the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), was commissioned on 3 February 1943. Tribal-class ships were designed as modern, fast, powerful destroyers with an emphasis on guns instead of torpedoes. Of four Tribal destroyers built for Canada during WWII, the *Athabaskan* was the only one to be lost in action.



Figure 1. HMCS *Athabaskan* (G07) at anchor [1].

supplies for the Norwegian forces at Spitsbergen Island in northern Norway. Upon returning to Scapa Flow, *Athabaskan* collided with a boom defense vessel on 18 June, requiring another month of repairs.

On 27 August 1943, while on anti-submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay, *Athabaskan* was hit by a German glider bomb. It struck her port side under the bridge, passed through the ship, and exploded outside the ship's starboard side. Crippled, she returned to port at twelve knots. After four months of repairs were completed, in December 1943 she became part of the escort of Convoy JW55A to Murmansk, Russia. Upon returning to Plymouth Command *Athabaskan* was assigned to the Tenth Destroyer Flotilla. For two months, *Athabaskan* patrolled off the coast of France, supporting British mine-laying operations and generally disrupting German naval operations, in the month and a half leading up to D-Day. On 26 April 1944, along with a cruiser and four other destroyers, she contributed to the sinking of German torpedo destroyer T29.

Three days later, while supporting another mine-laying operation three and one-half miles off Brest, France, *Athabaskan*—along with HMCS *Haida*—was in combat with several German torpedo destroyers. After one, T27, was driven ashore in flames, *Athabaskan* was hit by a torpedo from German destroyer T24. Attempts to save the ship became pointless fifteen minutes later when the aft magazine exploded.

After eight weeks of working-up, HMCS *Athabaskan* was sent to patrol the Iceland-Faeroes Passage, searching for blockade runners. Two weeks later, *Athabaskan*'s hull required repairs after being damaged in heavy seas. In early June 1943, she took part in Operation Gearbox III, landing men and

Keywords & phrases: HMCS *Athabaskan*, WWII naval operations, POW mail

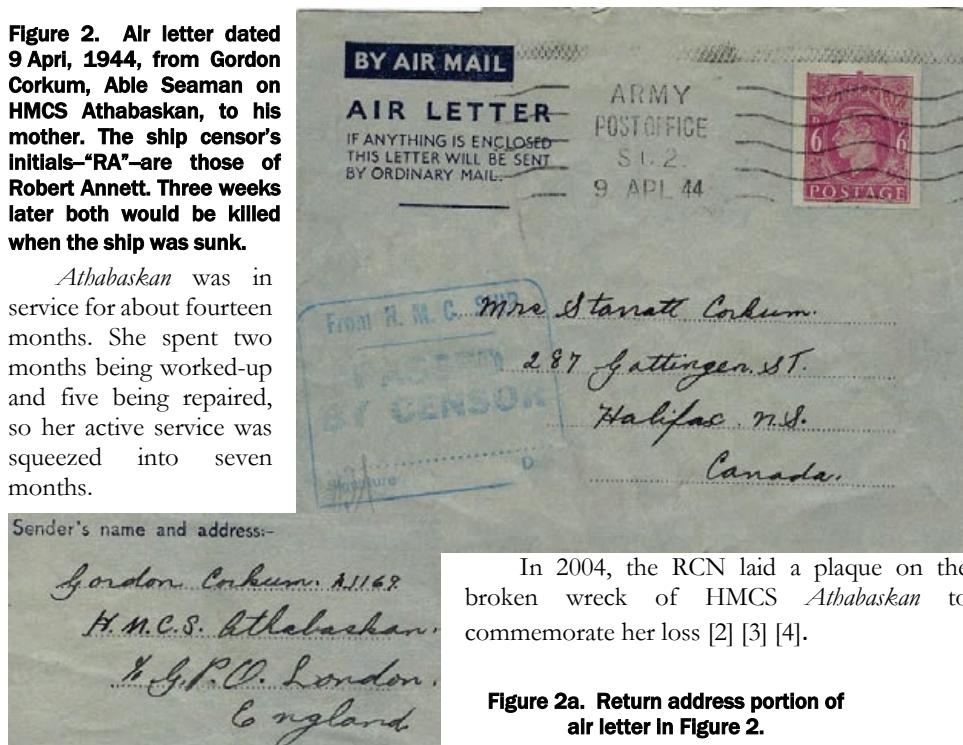
Out of a crew of two hundred and fifty-five, one hundred and twenty-eight men were lost, eighty-three were taken prisoner by three German minesweepers, and forty-four were rescued by *Haida* and her motor cutter.

Figure 2. Air letter dated 9 April, 1944, from Gordon Corkum, Able Seaman on HMCS Athabaskan, to his mother. The ship censor's initials—"RA"—are those of Robert Annett. Three weeks later both would be killed when the ship was sunk.

Athabaskan was in service for about fourteen months. She spent two months being worked-up and five being repaired, so her active service was squeezed into seven months.

Sender's name and address:

Gordon Corkum, A1168
H.M.C.S. Athabaskan,
H.G.P.O. London,
England



In 2004, the RCN laid a plaque on the broken wreck of HMCS *Athabaskan* to commemorate her loss [2] [3] [4].

Figure 2a. Return address portion of air letter in Figure 2.



Figure 3. POW post card from Canadian sailor at Marlag Camp to Wren at HMCS Stadacona, Halifax.

The POW airmail post card seen in Figure 3, postmarked with a location mute dater on 9 August 1944, was sent by Stoker Anthony Goulet at Marlag und Milag Nord camp to Wren E Mitchell at naval base HMCS Stadacona (Halifax). It received both Canadian and German censor cachets. The required postage for airmail service was paid separately, indicated by “Taxe Percue.” Had the card been sent by surface mail it would have been postage free.

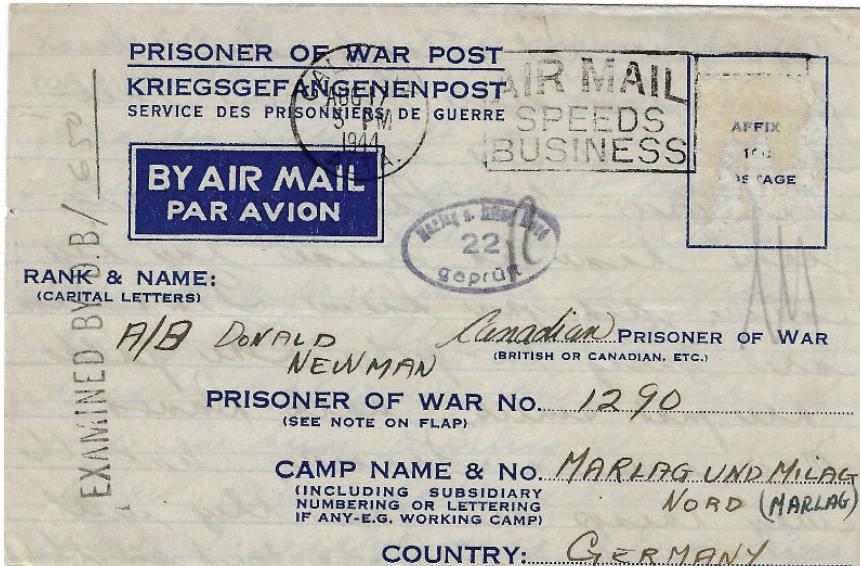


Figure 4. POW letter sheet dated Calgary 17 Aug 1944, to Able Seaman Donald Newman.

Figure 4 shows a Prisoner of War air letter sheet, postmarked at Calgary on 17 August 1944, sent to Able Seaman Donald Newman in German POW camp Marlag und Milag Nord. Both Canadian and German censor cachets were applied. This was the first letter sent by his girlfriend, Helen Adams, after his capture. Ten cents postage was required for airmail service from Canada to a POW. The stamp was torn off, likely by a German censor, to remove the King's portrait. A date in pencil on the reverse, 3 December 1944, was probably the date Newman received the letter.



Figure 5a. Sender's return address blacked out by censor, presumably because it referenced a military unit, and replaced with “M.P.O. 304 / OTTAWA.”

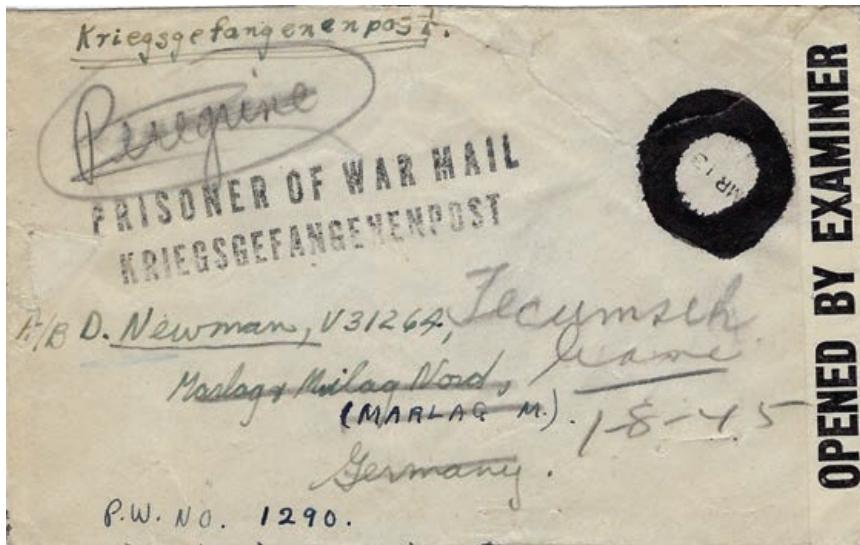


Figure 5. Cover to POW at Marlag camp that arrived after he had been liberated.

The cover shown in Figure 5, which carries a censored postmark dated 13 March 1945, was sent to Able Seaman Donald Newman at the German Marlag und Milag Nord POW camp by Sgt BJ Wallace. Ottawa censor tape DB/556 resealed the cover. Sgt Wallace's return address on the reverse was blacked out (Figure 5a), presumably because it contained a military unit address, and replaced with "M.P.O. 304 Ottawa." The cover has a Canadian bilingual "Prisoner of War Mail" cachet but no German censor mark, which raises the question of whether or not the letter actually left Canada. (Having been liberated on 1 May 1945, Newman was not at the POW camp after that date.) The cover was redirected to HMCS Peregrine (Halifax), a naval demobilization camp, then forwarded on 1 August 1945 to naval base HMCS Tecumseh (Calgary), the closest RCN base to Able Seaman Newman's home. It should also be noted that surface mail to POWs was permitted to be sent postage free.

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- [2] <https://www.cp24.com/we-remember-the-athabaskan-1.722814> accessed 30 Mar 2020
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A POW's Account of the Loss of *Athabaskan* in 1944, accessed 30 Mar 2020.
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2¢ Small Queen bisects on Halifax covers

Tom Meyerhof

IT is generally accepted that, in the Maritime provinces, bisected stamps were regularly tolerated in the nineteenth century even though they were contrary to postal regulations. As early as 1863, the *Canadian Postal Guide* [1] included this text: *A mutilated stamp or a stamp cut in half is not recognized in payment of postage.* The same or similar wording subsequently appeared over the years in successive editions.

In Halifax, a number of covers are known to have been mailed as drop letters and franked with vertically bisected 2¢ Small Queen stamps. They were all postmarked in October or November and in the mid-1880s according to Hillson and Nixon's Small Queens book [2]. It is their belief that those dated in the 1880s were likely produced by a member of the Halifax Post Office either for amusement or to meet a temporary shortage of 1¢ stamps. They dismiss the alternate theory sometimes put forth that they were created by Henry Hechler, a Halifax stamp dealer, for sale to collectors wanting unusual items, as none found on cover bear his distinctive handwriting. Consulting several Postmaster General reports [3] during this period revealed that between twenty and twenty-two clerks worked continuously at the Halifax Post Office handling the mail.

I recently came across a bisected Halifax cover in a Gary Lyon Selected Rarities catalogue (Figure 1) that caught my eye. I recalled that a similar cover appeared in the Hillson and Nixon Small Queen book and that, in the May 2019 Spark Auction of John Hillson material (Figure 2), this latter cover had again appeared. The two covers are shown below. Both were



Figure 1. Bisect from Selected Rarities Catalogue XXXII, p 24, Gary J. Lyon (Philatelist) Ltd, June 2020.

Keywords & phrases: Small Queen, bisects, maritime

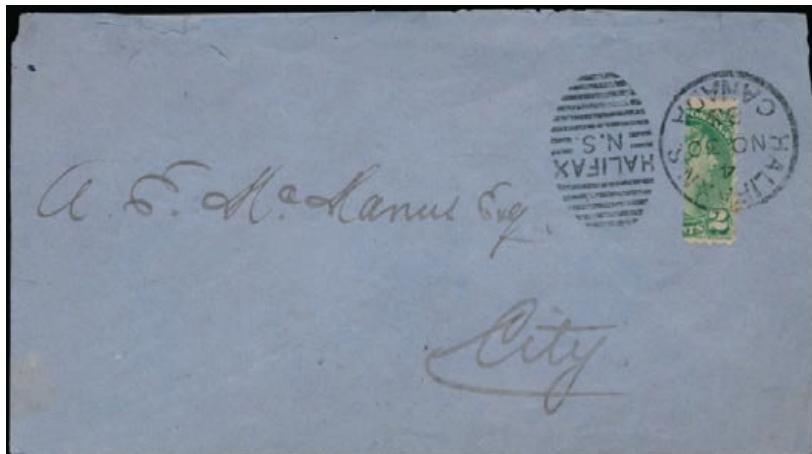


Figure 2. Bisect from Sparks Auction lot 99, 20 May 2019.

addressed in the same handwriting, but not by Henry Hechler. What also caught my attention was the fact that they were both mailed on the same date, NO 30 '85, with the same "4" time mark. The bisects even appeared to have come from the same stamp. After stitching the stamp images together, I was satisfied that they were indeed two halves of the same stamp (Figure 3).



Figure 3. The two bisects, reunited.

To learn more about the addressees, I consulted the McAlpine Halifax City Directory for 1884-85 [4]. In it, AE McManus was listed as a tailor and, while there was no CC Clarke listed, there was a C Clark listed who sold refreshments. In the McAlpine directory for 1886-87, AE McManus was still listed as a tailor, and a C Clarke—now written with an "e"—as a saloon keeper a few doors down from their former residence on the same street. So it is likely the same individual to whom the cover was addressed. This suggested to me that the correspondence could be business rather than personal mail.

This fortuitous Small Queen stamp reunion was reminiscent of a 6¢ Small Queen reunion [5] [6], and the earlier reunited pair of 7½d Queen Victoria Pembina

pence twins that were written up in the 1950s [7] [8]. The latter reunited pair was sold in 2016 by Eastern Auctions [9].

Another bisect cover (Figure 4) [10] [11] [12], this time addressed to A Stephen & Son, a Halifax furniture dealer, and dated NO 30 '84, exactly one year earlier, was addressed by the same person who created the previous matched bisect covers. Two other 2¢ vertical bisect Halifax drop rate covers—each addressed in different handwriting (not that of Henry Hechler) and dated NO 11 '86 and OC 28 ?? to other recipients—were found in the Philatelic Foundation certificates database, with all three receiving genuine certificates issued before 1970. Another similar cover—cancelled NO 28 '85, in different handwriting, addressed to a

bank manager—was found in an early *BNA Topics* article [13]. Still another in different handwriting, to yet another addressee cancelled DE 4 '84, was found in a search of previous Schuyler Rumsey auctions.



Figure 4. Philatelic Foundation certificate #92,230 (“it is a genuine philatelic usage”).

In addition to these covers, many similar bisects can be found on pieces with dates in the same months and years. From this limited research, legitimate Halifax business mail rather than philatelically contrived Hechler covers seems the most likely explanation for these bisected covers. It is definitely likely that an enterprising Halifax postal clerk created them for his own or the recipient's amusement. Had there been a legitimate local shortage of 1¢ stamps, far larger numbers of such 2¢ bisect covers should have come to light over the years.

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- [6] J Burnett, *BNA Topics*, Vol 51, No 4, November–December, 1994.
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- [10] TA Holmes, *Opinions: Philatelic Expertizing: An Inside View*, EC Pope (ed), Philatelic Foundation, 1983, p 120.
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Wilding letters to a French soldier in Algeria

Jeffrey Arndt

THE happy winner of an eBay lot of three QEII Wilding covers to North Africa, I originally thought the soldier to whom they were addressed was on a Canadian peacekeeping mission for the United Nations in North Africa. My supposition—that the letters were sent to a French Soldier stationed in Algeria—was incorrect.

On 1 November 1954, a long-smouldering movement for independence from France ignited among non-European citizens of Algeria, when fighters of the National Liberation Front (FLN) attacked military and civilian targets throughout Algeria. The war continued into the early 1960s. Following referenda in both countries on General de Gaulle's Algerian policy and long negotiations, Algeria finally won independence in February 1962.

All three covers are addressed to a member of the French Army serving in Algeria, North Africa, Soldat Jean-Paul Burnhard, S.P. 89019, C.C.A.S. 1, A.F.N., North Africa. Through email correspondence [1] I learned that:

- Serial numbers starting with "89" were assigned to French Army units serving in Algeria.
- AFN = Afrique Française du Nord (Algérie, Maroc, Tunisie) = French North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia)
- CCAS = *Compagnie de commandement d'appui et de soutien* = Command Company for Battlefield and Rear-echelon Support.

Interestingly, each of the three letters received slightly different postal treatment. The first cover, shown in Figure 1, mailed on 22 November 1960 from Vancouver, BC, was received in Algeria on 27 November 1960. Three 5¢ Wilding stamps pay the airmail rate for up to $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce to "B" countries, Europe and Africa [2].

The cover shown in Figure 2, franked with two 5¢ and three 2¢ Wilding stamps, was mailed on 22 December 1960 and received on 21 January 1961. Two different bilingual "Shortpaid for Air Conveyance" handstamps, one in larger type than the other, were



Figure 1. Letter from Vancouver, BC, to a French soldier serving in Algeria.

Keywords & phrases: Wildings, letters to Algeria, air mail rates



Figure 2. Second letter to French soldier in Algeria, routed through Canadian Base Post Office in Montreal.



Figure 3. 1 Base PO postmark.

The cover was directed to the Canadian Military's 1 Base Post Office in Montreal, Figure 3, possibly because a Canada Post Office clerk mistakenly thought it was going to a Canadian serving in the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) then serving in Egypt. The second "Shortpaid" handstamp might have been applied at 1 Base Post Office.

The third cover, Figure 4, has single 5¢ Wilding and 20¢ Pulp and Paper stamps overpaying 25¢ postage to North Africa. The cover is dated 16 February 1961 and was received on 20 February 1961. It appears that the sender received different rate information from that given when the first two letters were mailed.

References

- [1] I would like to thank Christian Malter of L'Embras, France, and Mike Street for their help and assistance determining the story of these covers
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Figure 4. Third letter to French soldier in Algeria, franked with 25¢ postage.

applied, most likely because the letter weighed more than $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce, and the sixteen cents postage applied was not enough to pay for airmail service to North Africa. The correct postage would have been thirty cents for a letter up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

BNAPS non-exhibit awards for 2020

IN “normal” years, we present exhibit awards (Palmares) for best BNAPEX exhibits in this issue of *BNA Topics*. However, in 2020, BNAPEX was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, our regular BNAPS non-exhibit awards will be briefly covered here. If you would like to get the full details about each award, please consult the BNAPS website under Service Awards. They are listed alphabetically.

ER (Ritch) Toop Memorial Award—for publication of best book, pamphlet, or article representing significant and substantial research on Canadian or BNA military postal history in the previous year (2019): **Jonathan C Johnson** for *WWI Canadian Army Nursing Sisters Serving Overseas*. BNAPS Exhibit Series Book No 105.

Hall of Fame Award: chosen by the President, to honour members who have made significant general or specific contributions to the Society. There are three recipients:

David M. Lacelle—widely recognized for his formation of the Fancy Cancel Study Group (SG), and for his publications of BNAPS Fancy Cancel books. His passion for fancy cancels has brought a wealth of knowledge to collectors of BNA material.

Doug Lingard—extremely active in service to BNAPS, Doug has served on Executive Committee, Chairman of BNAPEX 2001, organized the Flag Cancel Study Group and published a book on Canadian Flag Cancels, and is an accomplished exhibitor and philatelic judge.

Charles Livermore—Second Hall of Fame Award; has held almost every office in BNAPS: President, Board Chair, Director, and Secretary, one of the most time-consuming volunteer activities in BNAPS. Serves as Historian, Chair of Membership and Finance committees. Recent *e-Letter* for rapid communication to members was his idea.

Jack Levine Fellowship Award—**Mark Oakley**, Pacific NW Regional Group. This award given to a “spark plug” who has made major contributions to the success of a regional group.

John S Siverts Award—**Andrew Scott**, *The BC History Newsletter* of British Columbia Postal History SG. Award is for best SG Newsletter of previous year (2019).

Order of the Beaver (OTB) Lifetime Achievement Awards: Selected by OTB members, it is given to individuals who have contributed widely to Canadian/BNA philately both inside and/or outside of BNAPS. This year’s recipients are:

Dean Mario—edited *Military SG Newsletter* for twenty-five years; a prolific writer in major Canadian/BNA publications (sixty citations), Siverts Award (1997), VGG Award (2001).

Ian Kimmerly—dealer and advocate of Canadian philately for many years, stamp columnist for *Ottawa Citizen* (seven years) and *The Globe and Mail* (seven years), honorary member of Ottawa Philatelic Society and named Philatelist of Year by ORAPEX (2012); BNAPS book distributor for many years.

Ralph Trimble—known for detailed work on re-entries and varieties of Canadian/BNA stamps and for famous website (re-entries.com); founder of BNAPS Re-Entry SG and edited newsletter for many years, President of PSSC for thirteen years; on VGG Foundation Expert Committee.

Vincent Graves Greene Award-Alexander Globe, best article or series of articles in *BNA Topics* for the previous year (2019). Canada’s Post Office in the 1850s and its multiple 4-ring and 2-ring oblitterators, *BNA Topics* 76(1) and *BNA Topics* 76(3), 2019.

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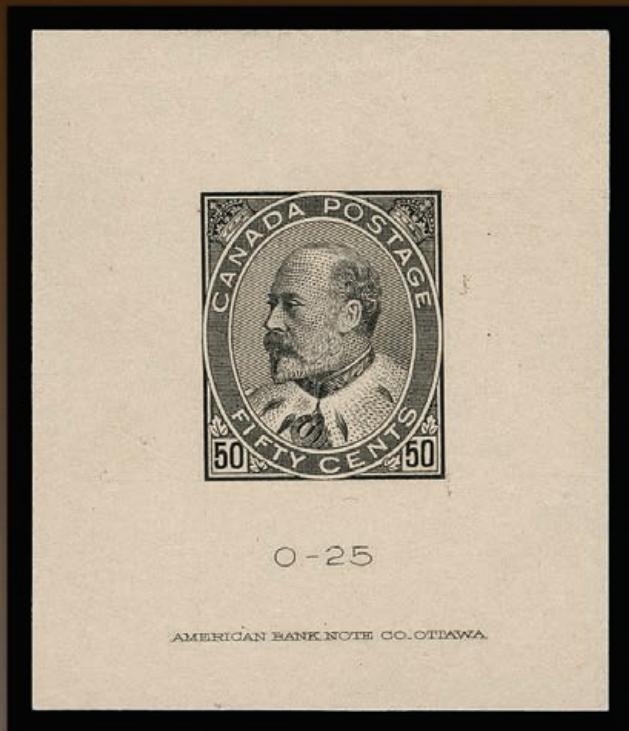
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Newfoundland revenue discoveries as found in the issues of 1898 Queen Victoria, 1907 King Edward VII, 1911 King George V, and 1938–1964 Caribou

John M Walsh, FRPSC

INFORMATION gleaned from philatelic literature shows that not much has been written about the first revenue issue of Newfoundland, the nine values of which are shown in Figure 1. It seems that what was available to philatelic writers at the time were the basic stamps from the issue and a few documents, known as legal instrument types, having the issue denominations on them.

The denominations pictured here, 5¢ to \$1, have the not-often-seen special perfin /punch described later in this article, and known to collectors as the snowflake cancel. To date, this cancel is known only on these denominations. The other values show a two-line punch CANL'D C.S.O. cancel style. I have also seen this cancel style used on later revenue issues, where it is used on pieces relating to passport applications.

Most students of postal history avoided collecting and exhibiting the legal instrument documents because of their large standard size, 8 1/2 x 14 inches. Any who dared to follow these document studies soon found that there were no



Figure 1. The 1898 Queen Victoria revenue issue of Newfoundland.

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland revenues, Victorian, Edwardian, King George V

published rate structures. In addition, stamps to denote payment of the required document fees were often applied to the inside pages or on the back of the front page. I have found that, when exhibiting, this particular problem can be overcome by adhering a photocopy over the front-page boilerplate, while a solution for mounting documents in exhibit frames can be found in [1].

Terrence R Harris, stamp collector and researcher, has contributed to our knowledge of Newfoundland revenue rate findings. He spent many hours (days even!) in the Newfoundland Colonial Building archives in St John's, trying to find the acts that would yield information on the rate structure. His findings were incorporated into his revenue exhibit, *Newfoundland Fiscal Stamps and Usages* [2, 3].

Another relentless archive researcher hunting for the elusive Newfoundland revenue rate structure(s) was the late Peter de Groot. His attack plan took him deep into the bowels of the University of Toronto archives, where sequential years of published Newfoundland Government Acts and Journals are held. There he spent many a day and month poring over volumes of dusty tomes. (Remember, they are government-published details!) His initial attempt to begin his reporting was in [4], where his call-to-arms is found for any Newfoundland Revenuers to join him to study periods of use, rates, and uses of the inland revenues of Newfoundland. He began to publish his findings [5]. Peter de Groot offered his research to the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (NSSC), as did Terry Harris. NSSC accepted the research findings from both and created table setups to incorporate their findings. Peter's setup method in the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* was somewhat different.

I am unaware of any pre-1898 information that Peter may have found. To build on Peter's post-1898 *Revenue Act* findings, I delved into the archives held at the Newfoundland Museum housed in The Rooms in St John's. Time spent searching there was similar to the de Groot and Harris adventures. Details of the pre-1898 *Revenue Act* findings as found, located/published in Newfoundland Government Acts and Journals by me are listed in the same table setup as in [6].

The Newfoundland Government's official registration of legal documents, which began 27 March 1862, showed that costs were pre-printed and fee payments were recorded by a clerk in manuscript form. This manner has been discovered on fifteen different stampless precursor instrument types. The precursor types found to date are the following: 1834 Land Grant; 1855 Bill of Sale; 1855 Deed of Partition; 1877 Conveyance; 1885 Deed of Consent; 1891 Letters of Probate with Will; 1892 Power of Attorney; 1898 Writ of Summons; 1898 Warrant of Attachment; 1898 Writ of Fieri Facis; 1881 Capias ad Respondendum; 1898 Reconveyance; 1898 Assignment; 1898 Mortgage; and 1897 License to Search for Gold.

A new revenue act was passed by the Newfoundland Government on 30 March 1898, entitled *An Act Respecting the Payment of certain Fees and Charges by Stamps, 61 Vic., Chapter 14*. It came into force 01 July 1898; it incorporated the use of seals or stamps to denote the receiving of revenue fee payments.

A key unsolved part of the Newfoundland Queen Victoria first revenue issue was identifying the printer. The printer's name is not given on the first nine revenue stamp images, but in all the philatelic literature it is emphatically stated that it was the American Bank Note Company New York. How this became written in stone I do not know. Most likely, it is because this security printing company printed Newfoundland postage stamps before 1898.

However, my research findings, presented here, will prove that that the American Bank Note Company New York did not print the 1898 issue.

Picking up on how Newfoundland postage stamp requirements were written into various government reporting journals, I attempted to make a thorough search through them. Talk about looking for a needle in a haystack! No details were found. The Rooms and the Newfoundland Reference Research Library archivists suggested looking at the Colonial Secretary Office (CSO) correspondence, their reasoning being that the Newfoundland Colonial Secretary was the writer-designate for any official Newfoundland Government releases.

I conducted a detailed search of *all* the written letters in the CSO correspondence files. These files—made available to researchers, me included—are the original manuscript record-keeping logbooks that have general reference indices listing the letters written in each year. The logbook indices include many references to letters written to the American Bank Note Company. The references to the printing company are often done in an abbreviated italics format, *e.g.*, *ABNCo*, *AmericanBankNoteCompany*, *AmBanknote Company*, or *ABNCompany*; often with joined letters. A quick, short indicator of the topic of the letter is sometimes written in manuscript shorthand. I found many references to the ordering of and obtaining the postage stamp requirements, but not to the revenue stamp details.

In this adventure of aggressive searching, I found that all correspondence by the CSO was carbon copied onto onionskin-like paper; and I do mean onion-skin thinness! As one should be aware, with onionskin-like paper, the page beneath shows through the one on top. Because of the manner of the CSO typing, where much line spacing is present, it is found that more than the first bottom sheet is presented through the top page. It was possible to readily see sections of at least six pages under the top sheet. Therefore, none of them was very clear. Even with much fine focusing of the microfiche machine, the pages can be very difficult to read and understand.

The staff of The Rooms was most patient and understanding while I performed many repetitious searches through the logbook indices. Large, corrective eyeglass lenses were even proffered! Remember, the author is at their desk/room for months on end. In a most deliberate word for word crawl a very short sentence was viewed. It consists of the initials of the printing company and the name of the company president. Wonders to behold! I immediately realized that the company initials, “AmBNC_o,” were incorrect. This individual worked for the *other* big security printing company in business at this time. A hunt for that specific letter brings nothing but frustration; it is not readable on the microfiche. The name of the company to which it is addressed is barely discernible—“British American Bank Note Company Ottawa”—but the letter is obscured.

Back to the staff for solutions to my dilemma. I asked if original copies of the CSO letters exist. They said they do, but researchers are not permitted to handle them and that storage was at a location off-site. Gentle pleas for access were denied. I was firmly told that no one gets to them. Next day, I brought my sleeping bag. Asked what was going on, I said that I would stay until the light of understanding was visible to my eyes.

After a few laughs, the archivist found a way to solve our dilemma. They would allow viewing to see the original onionskin copy. They could not show or get me a single letter as it was contained in a binder having many sequential years of CSO copied letters. Emboldened,

given that they were willing to allow me to view a binder containing that one letter, I asked that if I could view ALL the CSO letters! They knew the frustration I was having with the microfiche film and that I would be looking at the material in the presence of the archivist. After having endured these many days of my searching and asking for new search directions, they acquiesced. The request went out for the binders. Several weeks later, they were delivered to viewing room of The Rooms.

What a feeling, handling these letters. Talk about thin paper, almost as thin as fleeting thoughts! The letter addressed to BABNCo did confirm that the company would print the 1898 Queen Victoria revenue issue. Another letter confirmed the revenue stamp printing order and colours for seven stated denominations. It was delivered in May 1898 to British American Bank Note Company, Ottawa. But nowhere in the letter (or any of the others) was it stated what quantities would be printed. A further letter discussed a Government Council meeting held on 30 April 1898. In it is the reference to the Attorney General going to Ottawa in May to oversee the destruction of the bond plates belonging to the Government of Newfoundland. Nowhere was I able to find that initial order. It would seem that the Attorney General made the decision about quantity while he was at the printing company. A further letter, dated 29 June 1898, was addressed to all the department heads reminding them that 01 July was the date for first use of the revenue stamps. The letter also stated that the stamps were available, and that the departments should get their stamp requirements from the Treasury Clerk. The earliest-known use of the Queen Victoria revenue issue on document that I have seen is from 08 July 1898. The \$1 and 75¢ values are on that document.

Further delving into the original CSO letter copies revealed that the initial and only order of the two high denominations was placed on 05 November and received on 22 December 1898. That order consisted of 1.5 M of the \$20 brown value and 1.5 M of the \$25 slate value, where M = one thousand.

With all these CSO letter copies at hand, I conducted a detailed reading search, looking for, discovering, and recording the quantities reordered. Spread over time, orders were for the following amounts: 5¢ (1.5 M); 10¢ (5 M); 25¢ (59 M); 50¢ (15 M); \$1 (42 M); \$5 (9 M). As only the initial order included the 75¢ value, I estimate, from its diminished marketplace availability, that the order was for 0.5 M. This same reasoning suggests the initial 5¢ order was for 0.5 M, for a total 2 M printed. I offer no opinion as to the initial order numbers for the other denominations.

Having found these details, I began a study of the 1898 Queen Victoria revenues on document. From examples gleaned in the marketplace I found that the stamps attached were generally cancelled with black ink manuscript or a non-generic cancel. One provision of the bill which would become the *Revenue Act* read as follows: “when seal is affixed to the document and cancelled, registration is assured and payment is deemed as being received by government.” After the act was in force, the following provision was included: “perforation devices could be used to demonstrate cancellation.”

Some documents, however, showed stamps cancelled with two different cancelling devices. One such device consisted of a series of holes formed into a characteristic design. This design has been named the “geometric snowflake.” The documents reviewed suggest that it was employed exclusively by the Newfoundland Supreme Court. It is found only on the Queen Victoria revenue stamps.

Collectors and previous students of the Queen Victoria revenues have emphatically labelled this cancel a punch cancel, because the design was sometimes seen applied to something other than a document, as in the 50¢ item shown in Figure 2. Searches conducted for documents with this geometric snowflake cancel style on them can be frustrating. When found, they show some connection to Newfoundland Supreme Court decisions, so not many of these would be in the domain of ordinary public lawyers. When seen, however, the stamp and the medium to which it is attached have been punched through—thus its name.

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

The second cancel device has the ability to punch the initials PAID through the stamp, as shown on both of the stamps in Figure 4. This cancel manner has not been seen or reported on Queen Victoria revenue stamps previously. As to the King Edward VII issue, I am not aware of its appearance. And, yes, that cancel has been seen previously on the King George V third revenue issue, as shown on the upper stamp in Figure 4. I am aware that two sizes of the PAID punch exist; the smaller one is 3.5 mm × 8.5 mm, while the larger form is 6 mm × 18 mm. I have seen the small one on the Queen Victoria revenues, where it has been found in the previously unreported *perfin* cancel form.

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

An exhibit of 1898 Queen Victoria revenues can be found in reference [7], or in [3], where it is stored. I hope others will continue the search for different types of Queen Victoria legal instruments.

While reading the remaining CSO letter copies, I discovered information relating to the next 1907 King Edward VII revenue issue that contradicts what is found in the published literature. A letter, dated 03 October 1906, requests a die proof to be made of the King Edward VII stamp. The request stated that the die was to be smaller than the one provided for the Queen Victoria issue. The requested King Edward VII die proof was received 16 November 1906, and it had an imprint of the printing company—British American Bank Note Co.,



Figure 2. Geometric snowflake cancel style.



Figure 3. Geometric snowflake style perfin.

Ottawa—incorporated beneath each image (Figure 5). Orders (letter not found) for the revenue stamps were clearly sent, because some of the issue was reported as being received on 11 February 1907. The earliest-known use (eku) that I have seen was for the \$1 Edward VII revenue denomination and is dated 20 February 1907. A letter ordering the \$5 denomination was dated 22 September 1909, with the eku that I have seen of this value being 09 October 1909.

The King Edward VII quantities ordered are found throughout the CSO correspondence. When tabulated, the quantities I saw for the different denominations are (where M = thousand): 25¢ (27.5 M); 50¢ (7.5 M); \$1 (15 M); \$5 (5 M); \$50 (1.5 M); \$100 (2.5 M). The perforation known for this issue is 12 × 12, with the \$100 denomination being known having a secondary 11.75 × 11.75 perforation.

Some values (25¢, 50¢, and \$1) from this issue have been found with an occasionally appearing watermark. Some parts of the discovery images have been reported in [9], where images are shown. I am unaware of a complete view of this watermark image.

In my observation of the legal documents found in the marketplace, it is noticed that documents featuring King Edward VII are not plentiful. The 25¢, 50¢, \$1 and \$5 denominations are the ones usually seen. Mostly they are found on legal instruments pertaining to affidavits and mortgages. The \$50 and \$100 values are difficult to find attached to a document.

Continuing with the search of the CSO letters, I found information about the King George V revenue issue (Figure 6). As previously, the death of the ruling monarch meant a new design was needed. The procedure was to initiate a new order of stamped designs featuring the image of the new reigning monarch. Again, the information I discovered—the ordering date and quantities printed—ran contrary to the published literature. A letter dated 16 September 1910 requested a die to be created from the portrait of King George V. The Newfoundland government received a new die for proofing (letter not found), because the CSO letters state that on 20 February 1911 the new die was approved and that an order for the 25¢, 50¢, and \$1 denominations had been sent. A CSO letter dated 22 April 1911 shows that these three denominations were received. I found the dates of receipt of the other values as follows: 5¢ on 07 March 1912; 10¢ on 19 February 1915; \$5 on 06 October 1914; \$20 on 23 May 1919; and the \$25 on 06 March 1920.



Figure 4. "PAID" cancel style.



Figure 5. King Edward VII revenue issue, with the printer's name below the image on the stamp.

In sorting through the many remaining CSO letters and cables, I learned that the following King George V revenue issue quantities (where M = thousand) were received by the Newfoundland government: 5¢ (890.85 M); 10¢ (1346.45 M); 25¢ (378 M); 50¢ (139 M); \$1 (223 M); \$5 (493 M); \$20 (8 M); \$25 (7 M). The correspondence indicates that many orders had to have been placed to the printer, because the CSO cables make many references to the receipt of multiple quantities of revenue stamps, many for the same denomination. From these multiple orders, it is quite conceivable that different perforating wheels were employed to keep up with the demand, because it is found that, besides the basic perforation of 12×12 , there is also 11×11 ; $11 \times 11 \times 11.75$ on right side only; 11×12 and 12×11 perforations. To date, all values except the \$20 value have been found with the 11×11 perforation. Some letters even referred to the receiving of Tobacco Tax stamps. Explicitly mentioned is the Cut Tobacco stamp issue, having the image of the Newfoundland Dog. Late in the CSO correspondence I found a letter that categorically states that on 10 June 1944 the remaining quantity of two thousand and thirty-six copies of the \$25 value were burnt.

With the King George V revenue issue, legal instruments dealing with affidavits, bills of sale, mortgages and probates are generally seen. With this issue, another instrument that is occasionally seen, but not common overall, is the boiler certificate. I have not seen a boiler certificate with Queen Victoria or King Edward VII revenue stamps attached, even though boilers were in use during their reigns. My observations of the marketplace show that death certificates are rarely seen with a stamp featuring an image of the monarch on them, nor have I seen birth certificates with monarch-imaged revenue stamps attached.

To conclude, I did not see much information relating to the Caribou revenue issues (Figure 7) in the files that I viewed. But a late batch of correspondence has a letter of 31 March 1951 that states that all the \$50 and \$100 values are gone. Peter de Groot showed a fine display of the Caribou issue in his exhibit, "Til Death Do Us Part." A large revenue exhibit by Terrance R Harris presented an extraordinary display that covered all Newfoundland revenue issues, a Transportation Tax stamp, and included the Tobacco Tax stamps still attached to their used tobacco containers. A most impressive exhibit.

With the Caribou issue, due to its long period of use from 1938 to 1986, I find that many different instrument type documents available, but the Claim of Lien under the *Mechanics Lien Act* is very seldom observed. The Certificate of Birth and Certificate of Death documents can be found. However, the second type of death certificate, Presumptive of Death Certificate, is



Figure 6. King George V revenue issue.



Figure 7. Caribou revenue issue.

rare as this certificate is issued by the courts for a death being deemed when no body has been found, most likely due to or because of a natural disaster.

All the registered paper documents held by the Newfoundland Government were removed from their storage vaults in 1993 and disposed of. Some were shredded, and a goodly number were sent to the landfills both in St John's and in Corner Brook. Landfills do encourage dump diving! As an aside, the revenue statute, entitled *An Act Respecting the Payment of certain Fees and Charges by Stamps, 61 Vic., Chapter 14* does have a definite statement built into it saying that the registrar of registered deed documents is not to allow them to be out of his control, or to be destroyed! Even The Rooms, which had control of some one hundred-year-old registered documents, and where some could be viewed, had their holdings sent to be destroyed. This was confirmed in a court trial.

The documents seen in the marketplace have generally come from those with personal ownership, and from destruction of deceased or retired lawyer file holdings. This accounts for their limited presence in the public domain.

References and endnotes

- [1] John M Walsh, "Adventures of the Newfoundland 1898 Queen Victoria First Revenue Issue Documents," *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol 66, No 389, July/August 2015, p 220.
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BNA PHILATELIC INFORMATION

There is a wealth of material about BNA philately on the BNAPS.org website, including hundreds of back issues of *BNA Topics*, many BNAPS Study Group newsletters and also online resources and exhibits.

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Postal beginnings at Lachine, Quebec

Cimon Morin

LOCATED in the southwest part of the Island of Montreal, about nine miles from the Montreal post office, and upstream of the Lachine Canal, the Lachine borough was colonized during the first development of New France. The first land concessions were granted in 1667. The Lachine Canal, constructed to bypass an area of shallow rapids in the St Lawrence River and to connect the port of Montreal with waterways to the west, was opened to navigation in 1825. Its name, *La Chine*—French for China—came from explorers hoping that a route to China lay in that direction.

Gateway to the network of canals connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the heart of the continent, the Lachine Canal was the precursor of the transportation revolution in Canada at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It also played a decisive role in the industrial development of Montreal, especially as a supplier of electrical energy. The development, in

1847, of the hydraulic potential of the canal attracted industries to the neighbourhood, leading to this corridor becoming one of the main centres of manufacturing production in Canada, from the beginnings of industrialization [1]. By 1851, Lachine had a population of one thousand inhabitants [2].

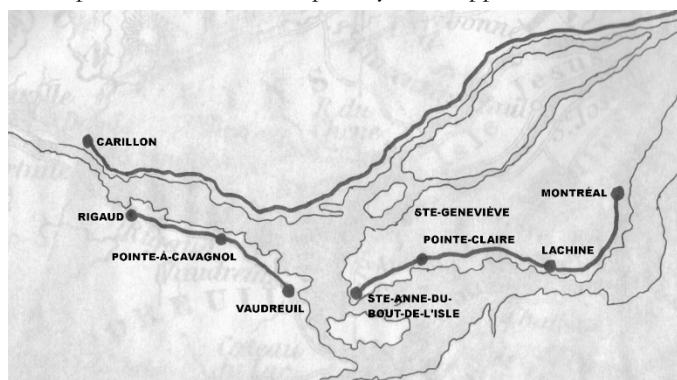


Figure 1. Map of west end of Montreal Island and surrounding area.

on the post office situation in the province of Lower Canada, TA Stayner stated that, since becoming Postmaster General of Lower and Upper Canada in 1828, he had opened new routes, including that to Lachine. In 1829, mail was transported once a week from Montreal to Lachine on the road leading to Châteauguay and Beauharnois; in 1832, this was increased to three times a week. Mail from Montreal to Kingston, UC, also passed through Lachine five times a week. In 1835, a regular postal route on the west side of the Island of Montreal was inaugurated from Lachine to Rigaud via Pointe-Claire, Sainte-Anne-Bout-de-l'Isle and Vaudreuil, a distance of thirty-six miles.

In an 1832 report [3]

Table 1. Postmasters of Lachine

Postmasters	Period
Curtis Elkins Crossman	6 April 1829 – 5 July 1836
John England	6 July 1836 – 16 March 1855

Keywords & phrases: Lachine, early Canadian postal routes, Island of Montreal

Curtis Elkins Crossman

We know little about Curtis Elkins Crossman. Born about 1798 in the US, he married Mary Jane Robertson in Montreal in 1828 and died there on 26 July 1847 at the age of forty-nine. He was one of the captains of the St Lawrence steamboat that sailed on Lake Saint-Louis [4].

Crossman was appointed postmaster of Lachine on 6 April 1829 [5] by TA Stayner. In 1832, 1833, and 1834, his salary was a fixed amount of £20 per year [6]. In 1833, he hired a clerk named John England, who

replaced him in 1836. In 1842, CE Crossman was listed in the *Montreal Directory* as an accountant, with an office at the corner of Wellington and Prince Streets in Montreal [7].

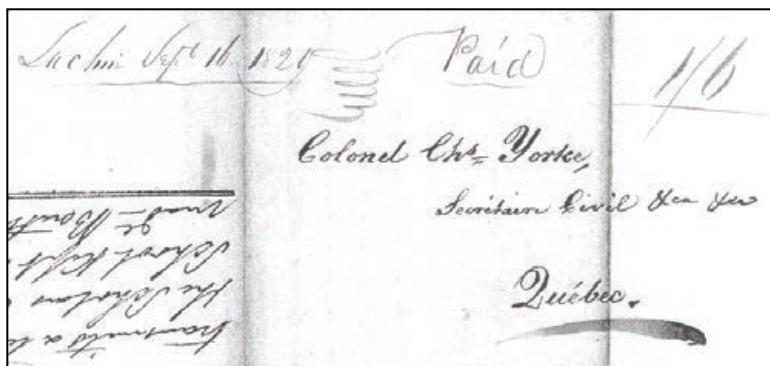


Figure 2. Manuscript “Lachine Sept 16 1820” postmark written by Post-master CE Crossman on letter to Quebec City [LAC, RG4-A1, vol. 297, no 636]

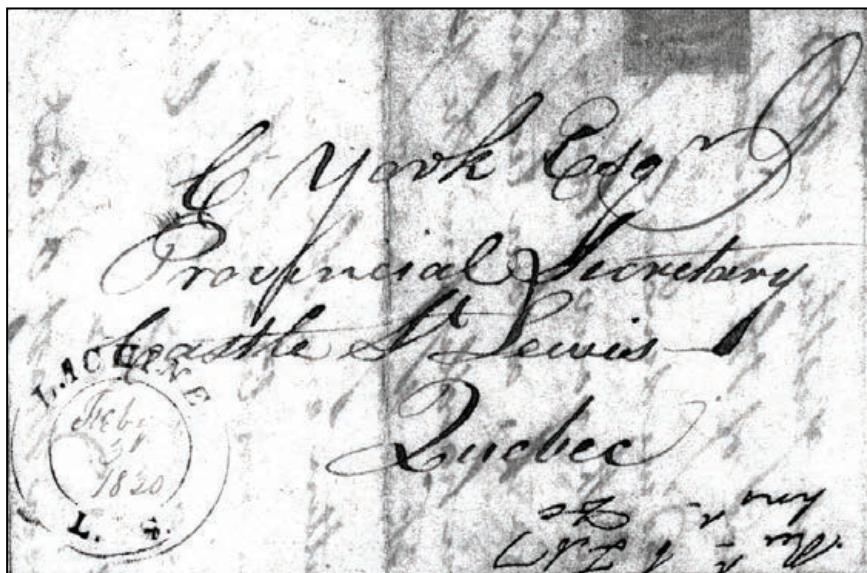


Figure 3. Double circle Lachine postmark, type 1, dated February 23, 1830 [LAC, RG4-A1, Volume 308, No 662].

John England

John England was born about 1802 according to the 1851 census of Canada [8]. In May 1833, he was listed as an accountant [9]. In the *Canada Directory* of 1851, he declared himself a merchant as well as postmaster.

England officially became postmaster of Lachine on 6 July 1836. During the commission of inquiry into the post office several years later, he declared that he received a fixed salary of £25 per year [10] in addition to 26s per year for stationery and 8s for lighting. He also mentioned that he employed a worker at £20 a year for various tasks in his store. More than one-third of the space he rented for his business was occupied by the post office. He estimated his postage allowance at £2 per year, and that he sent out about twenty-eight letters per year [11]. From 1845, the postmaster of Lachine would receive a salary based on the twenty percent commission on postage sold, like all the other postmasters in Lower Canada. According to TA Stayner's estimate, this would work out to be around £38 per year for Lachine. This change was approved by the British Postmaster General on 17 June 1845 [12]. John England remained postmaster until 16 March 1855 [13].

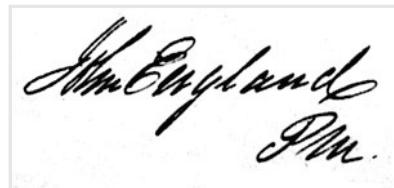


Figure 4. Signature of Postmaster John England [LAC, RG4-B52, Vol 3, Part 1, no 121].

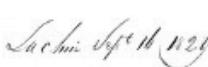
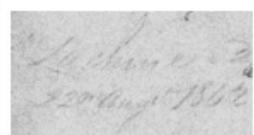
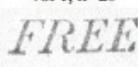


Figure 5. Letter sent postage free by John England dated 18 December 1840 with type 2 of the double circle "Lachine L.C" postmark [LAC, RG4-B52, vol 3, part 2, no 181].

Table 2. Lachine Post Office: number of letters received each week [14]

1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	Average
91	69	62	71	101	104	86	83

Table 3. Early postal markings of Lachine

		
1829–1832 LAC, RG4-A1, vol 297, n° 636	1840–1842 LAC, MG19-A2, S2, vol 2, n° 34	1830–1838 Collection David Ewens
		
1839–1845 LAC, MG19-A2, S2, vol 1, n° 20	1842–1849 Proof	1849–1869 LAC, RG4-C1, vol 283, n° 3584
		
1842–1843 LAC, MG19-A2, S2, vol 1, n° 5		

References

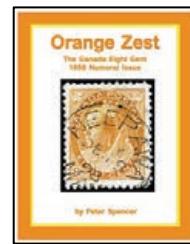
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- [2] The *Canada Directory* containing the names of professionals and businessmen, in the cities, towns, and principal villages of Canada by Robert WS Mackay, Montréal, John Lovell, 1851, pp 130–131.
- [3] *Report of the Special Committee of the House of Assembly on the Post Office Department in the Province of Lower Canada*, House of Assembly, Québec, 1832, p 36.
- [4] Frank Mackey, *Steamboat Connections: Montréal to Upper Canada*, 1816–1843, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000, p 96.
- [5] Library and Archives Canada (LAC), MG44B, Vol 3, p 311.
- [6] Second report of the Special Committee appointed to inquire into the Postal Department, seeking an effective remedy for the defects of its organization, Appendix GG to volume XLVth of the Journals of the House of Assembly of the Province of Lower Canada, 1836, sections 48–50.
- [7] Robert WS Mackay, *The Montréal Directory for 1842–3*, Lovell & Gibson, Montréal, 1842, p 38.
- [8] LAC, Microfilm C-1130, p 35.
- [9] *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ), Greffe du notaire Guy Étienne, 7 mai 1833*. Registry of Notary Guy Étienne, 7 May 1833.
- [10] LAC, MG44B, vol 28, p 248.
- [11] LAC, RG4-B52, vol 3, part 1.
- [12] LAC, MG44B, vol 28, p 248 and vol 33, pp 269–271.
- [13] <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/fra/decouvrez/patrimoine-postal-philatelie/bureaux-maitres-poste/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=9631&>. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/postal-heritage-philately/post-offices-postmasters/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=9631&>
- [14] LAC, MG44B. Various statistical reports found in vols 14 (1842) to 58 (1848).

BNAPS book release notes

BNAPS is pleased to announce the release of a new book in Peter Spencer's series on the 1898 Numeral Issue of Canada. BNAPS Member Hugh Rathbun's new book on the Pictorial Cancellations of Nova Scotia is also now available.

Orange Zest: The Canada Eight Cent 1898 Numeral Issue, Peter Spencer. The eight-cent value of the Numeral issue receives the same careful treatment as the other five values have in Peter Spencer's carefully researched series. 2020, Spiral bound, 94 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-09-6. Stock # B4h104-1. Price: C\$34

Orange Zest: The Canada Eight Cent 1898 Numeral Issue is the ninth volume in Peter Spencer's series on the plating of Canada's Queen Victoria era Numeral Issue. Three books, *Pretty in Pink* (2005), *The Joy of Panes* (2015) and *The Thirty-Six Types* (2017) covered specific aspects of the two-cent value of the issue. *The Wearing of the Green* (2006) covered the 1¢ Numeral, *Blue Opaline* (2007) and *Victoria's Secret Slips* (2012) looked at the 5¢ Blue Numeral. The other books in the series were *Mrs. Brown: The Canada Ten Cent 1898 Numeral Issue* (2008) and *Olive Oyl: The Canada Twenty Cent 1898 Numeral Issue* (2010). In addition to examining close to one hundred thousand dated copies of Numeral stamps and plating them, Peter has also illustrated the main varieties in extraordinarily sharp photographs. All in all, an incredible amount of work, and Peter is not finished. At least one more book is in preparation!



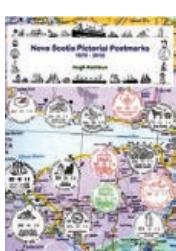
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Another BNA publication: Nova Scotia Pictorial Postmarks



Editor's Note: A large illustrated cancellation on a letter from my (MS) sister in Oxford, Nova Scotia, the "Wild Blueberry Capital of Canada," caught my eye. A note in Newsletter 83 of the BNAPS Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Study Group made it clear that Oxford is not alone in using this type of cancel.

Nova Scotia Pictorial Postmarks 1975-2018, Hugh Rathbun, 2018, self published. Cirulox bound, 210 pages, 8.5 × 11. Price: C\$25 + \$C10 shipping. Available from Hugh Rathbun, 37 Elmridge Dr., Waverly NS B2R 1C7, or hrathbun@eastlink.ca.

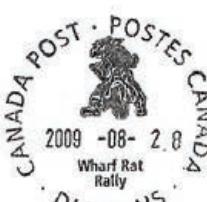
Beginning in the mid-1970s, rubber pictorial postmarks, a relatively new postmark category, began to appear regularly in Nova Scotia. In the early years, these markings saw primarily philatelic usage. Since the mid-1990s, pictorial postmarks have been the date stamp most

frequently used in many post offices. In some rural offices, and even in larger towns such as Glace Bay, New Waterford, and Liverpool, there have been years when the pictorial marking was the only date stamp in use.

The study of pictorial postmarks has become complicated for two reasons. First, with increased postal usage, pictorial markings wear out and are often replaced by another of similar design. Second, since approximately 2000, the instruments have had rotating date dies, with the year dates (20xx) expiring after a period of ten or twelve years. Replacements are rarely completely identical to the original postmarks; in some towns, there have been three or four replacements. Pictorial postmarks may have had their origin as philatelic fluff, but things have changed and they have become an area worthy of serious study by postal historians.

This is where *Nova Scotia Pictorial Postmarks 1975-2018* enters the picture. In all, four hundred and seventy-five different Nova Scotia pictorial postmarks are not only well illustrated but also carefully described, with Early and Latest Reported Dates (ERD and LRD) measurements and details of the design and reason for the postmark being created. A typical listing is illustrated below.

CPC proof: 2009 06 30 (sign displayed at Digby post office)



ERD: 2009 08 28 **LRD: 2017 12 31**

"Wharf Rat / Rally"

Diameter: 37 mm

Pictorial element: A motorcyclist.

In 2005, Digby promoted a gathering for motorcyclists called the Wharf Rat Rally. In 2009, lead hand Joanne Mattinson obtained a postmark to promote the event, with its first day of use being on August 28, the first day of the rally. 17,000 motorcycles were expected for the 2009 event.

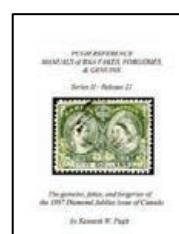
A picture is worth a thousand words!

Book reviews

Jeff Arndt

Pugh Reference Manuals of BNA Fakes, Forgeries, & Genuine, Series II - Release 21 - The genuine, fakes, and forgeries of the 1897 Diamond Jubilee issue of Canada, 2020, Kenneth Pugh, self-published; 58 three-hole pages punched for a standard 8 1/2 x 11" North American binder (not supplied). A colour DVD of the release is available.

Ken Pugh continues to add to his reference manuals on fakes and forgeries—this volume is focussed on the historic 1897 Diamond Jubilee series. Included in this reference work is a photographic guide to the genuine stamps and some of the forgeries that have appeared on the market. These include proofs, cancels, pre-cancels, and regular issued stamps. What surprised me was that the forgeries and fakes covered a very lengthy period, starting with forgers in the early twentieth century and

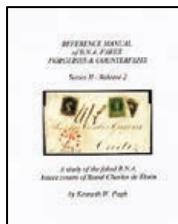


including contemporary forgers, who do their work on computers. I have some examples of these forgeries and agree that the typographic forgeries are clearly poor quality and should not fool anyone, but they are presented for completeness. The lithograph and engraved forgeries, as well as cancellations, are much more difficult to tell apart. This work does an excellent job outlining how to tell a genuine item from a forgery.

The format of Series II is different from that of the older Series I (1977-1981) of eleven releases in three small binders, each treating various topics. Each volume in Series II stands alone and can be updated with new pages as new information comes to light. With this format, the entire release does not have to be reprinted.

Price \$C45 + shipping. DVD (\$C25) is extra. Confirm cost including shipping with Ken Pugh before placing an order. For availability and dealer discounts, contact the author and publisher, Ken Pugh, 604-858-0544, kpugh@shaw.ca, Facebook “Ken Pugh Stamp Forgeries” or on the Web at <https://kenphughphilately.wordpress.com/>.

Pugh Reference Manuals of BNA Fakes, Forgeries, & Genuine, Series II - Release 2: The BNA faked bisect covers of Raoul Charles de Thuin, 2002. Kenneth Pugh, self-published; 117 three-hole pages punched for a standard 8 1/2 × 11" North American binder (not supplied). A colour DVD of the release is available.



This reference manual deals with faked BNA bisects and faked bisect covers from Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Detection techniques are included to enable the reader to check their bisects. Raoul Charles de Thuin dedicated his life to manufacturing philatelic fakes that he knew would eventually be sold as genuine. He never really atoned for his misdeeds. Even after being “commissioned” by the American Philatelic Society to stop creating his fakes.

It is clear that bisects are easy to forge: fortunately for philatelists, most are not difficult to detect. Three major rules are presented. The first is to always be suspicious of bisects, especially if they are not affixed on full covers. The second is to do a good job researching the genuine items being imitated, as de Thuin did *not* do. He relied on the third rule—*i.e.*, that many dealers and collectors do insufficient research on the covers they obtain before they purchase.

The modern collector is in luck because De Thuin’s rates and cancellations were often easy to discern as bogus. De Thuin routinely made bogus cancels, sometimes using the same town cancel to cancel covers originating from different provinces. Unfortunately, too many collectors and dealers do not see the value of a basic reference library. This manual is an excellent value for a basic and not so basic reference library.

Price: \$C65 + shipping. DVD (\$C25) is extra. Confirm cost including shipping with Ken Pugh before placing an order. For availability and dealer discounts contact the author and publisher, Ken Pugh, (604) 858-0544, kpugh@shaw.ca, Facebook “Ken Pugh Stamp Forgeries” or on the Web at <https://kenphughphilately.wordpress.com/>

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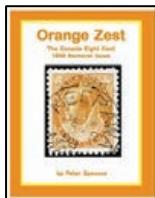
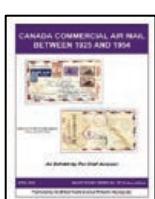
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C\$ Retail

	<p>Orange Zest: The Canada Eight Cent 1898 Numeral Issue, Peter Spencer. The eight-cent value of the Numeral issue receives the same careful treatment as the other five values in Peter Spencer's carefully researched series. 2020, Spiral bound, 94 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-09-6. Stock # B4h104-1.</p> <p>Price: C\$34</p>
	<p>First Day Covers of the 1939 Canada King George VI Royal Visit Issue, Donald J Leblanc. Over 450 pages illustrating and describing the myriad First Day Covers that were issued for the set of three 1939 Royal Visit stamps. 2020, Spiral bound, 464 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-07-2. Stock # B4h103-1.</p> <p>Price: C\$81</p>
	<p>Canada Commercial Air Mail Between 1925 and 1954, Per-Olof Jansson. A very interesting selection of covers from the earliest days of air mail services in Canada to the post-war expansion in the early 1950s 2020, BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 107. Spiral bound, 136 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-08-9. Stock # B4h923-107-1.</p> <p>Price: C\$38</p>
	<p>Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1977, Gary Dickinson. An illustrated catalogue of the first day covers produced by private individuals and organizations for Canadian stamps issued over five decades. 2020, Spiral bound, 222 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-05-8. Stock # B4h101-1.</p> <p>Price: C\$44</p>

Pricing: BNAPS has discontinued the practice of having a retail price with a 40% discount for members. Effective 1 November 2019 the prices shown on the website and in this advertisement have been calculated or recalculated to be close to the former “Member Price” amounts.

More New Titles

C\$ Retail

	<p>Collecting First Day Covers of Canada, Gary Dickinson. A comprehensive overview of collecting and studying first day covers for Canadian stamp issues. 2020, Spiral bound, 144 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-06-5. Stock # B4h102-1.</p> <p>Price: C\$36</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>Price C\$38</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>Price C\$32</p>

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New issues

William J F Wilson

Canada Post's stamp program and the pandemic

WITH the COVID-19 pandemic increasing in intensity during the spring, Canada Post temporarily suspended their stamp program. The 20 May 2020 History of Radio in Canada stamps described in Table 1 of last quarter's column were the last to be released before this happened. There are no new stamp issues for this quarter.

For a while, there was uncertainty about how the program would restart. Before the suspension began, the January–March 2020 issue (No 2) of Canada Post's *Details* booklet had scheduled Vintage Travel Posters for 30 June, and Legends of Ballet on a date to be confirmed. After the program was suspended, however, *Details* Nos 3 and 4 (April and May 2020, respectively) showed the next release date as having been postponed to 21 September, when the annual Canada Post Community Foundation stamp would appear. Legends of Ballet was postponed until further notice; Medical Groundbreakers was listed with "issue date to be confirmed"; and Vintage Travel Posters was rescheduled to June 2021.

Due to the pandemic, *Details* Nos 3 and 4 were available only in digital format. Canada Post recognized, however, that some customers might not be able to access the digital versions, so in August they produced a Special Edition (unnumbered) in print and online that contained the information from both *Details* Nos 3 and 4. In this edition, the continuation of the program seems to have been resolved. Medical Groundbreakers is listed for release on 10 September, Community Foundation on 21 September, Diwali on 15 October, and Mary Riter Hamilton on 28 October. Legends of Ballet is not mentioned.

As I complete this column on 10 September, Medical Groundbreakers has just been added to Canada Post's website as being on sale today, under the "Shop latest stamps" button. As there is no new *Details* booklet yet, I will include it in next quarter's column.

Thus, the pandemic has resulted in a gap of one hundred and twelve days (a little over three and a half months), between 20 May and 10 September, with no stamps at all being released. Compared to other, much more serious consequences of COVID-19, this is a very minor impact. It is still interesting, though, to see how far back one has to look to find a longer gap. The most recent that I could find was forty-six years ago, a period of one hundred and thirty-four days between the Christmas stamps of 7 November 1973 and the Summer Sports issue of 22 March 1974. There was also a gap of one hundred and thirty-two days, between 7 November 1994 and 20 March 1995, in which no new stamps were issued; but some earlier definitives were reprinted during this time with a new printer, new paper, and/or new perforation gauge, so the gap was not truly empty.

The pandemic has been difficult in many ways, and society owes a great debt to front-line workers in essential businesses, and to those who have worked hard to help us recover from or stay safe from COVID-19. Among the latter people are doctors, nurses, EMT attendants, those who care for the elderly, those who manufacture and distribute masks and ventilators, and those working to develop vaccines. Many of these people have put their own lives in danger in the process. We might hope that Canada Post will issue stamps to commemorate their efforts, and to express our gratitude to them.

BNAPS business and reports

President's column

Ronald E Majors, OTB

It is my pleasure to assume the duties of President, following the 2020 virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 6 September 2020. In considering the list of Past Presidents of BNAPS, including many legends of Canadian philately, I am very honoured and humbled to take on this major responsibility and hope I can continue to contribute to the Society's success. Like many members, for years I was content getting my quarterly issue of *BNA Topics*, reading the announcements and those articles that were of interest, and then filing it away for future reference.

Just over a decade ago, as I was approaching retirement, I decided to get more involved, and to give something back to the hobby that I had enjoyed for many years. I took on some volunteer jobs within BNAPS and began to exhibit my decimal postal history collection. Since I had been a part time technical editor in a scientific journal for over thirty years, I took on co-editorship of *BNA Topics*, joining our current co-editor, Jeff Arndt. It was a great experience and helped to broaden my exposure to other areas of Canadian philately. That led to taking on other volunteer activities and becoming a member of the board. I hope that some of you can follow suit and join us in helping to run the society. As many of us are getting on in years, we need a new generation to step up and start contributing. Current job holders would be more than ready to train and mentor you for a volunteer activity that can make use of your skills and interests.



The months leading up to the beginning of my presidency have been tumultuous. The COVID-19 pandemic was just getting started when Past-President Lemke wrote his last President's message. With millions coming down with this disease and hundreds of thousands of people dying, the pandemic has hit every country in the world, even places so remote you would think that the population would be safe. New phrases have popped up like "social distancing," sports "bubbles," "ZOOM Meetings," "virtual contact," and "staying-in-place," where most people, who can, are working from home. Physical contact has been curtailed, large groups can no longer assemble, faces must be covered with masks. Basically, all stamp shows and philatelic gatherings, including BNAPEX 2020, have been cancelled for the year. Vaccines are on the way, but may not get to the public until the next issue of *Topics* is ready, and possibly later.

But despite this present doom-and-gloom, many bright spots have emerged. ZOOM and similar online meeting services have become routine ways to visit with family, friends, and philatelic colleagues. Just last weekend, BNAPS made ample use of this tool to hold the meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) and the AGM. Regional Groups and Study Groups

have met, and members from all over Canada, the US, and elsewhere can sit in on and participate in meetings it would have been almost impossible for many to attend in earlier years because one would have had to travel to a BNAPEX convention to meet with other parties. Although physical stamp shows are on hold, philatelic societies are now holding virtual stamp shows where exhibits, lectures, bourses, and stamp auctions are held online. No, it is not the same as being there face-to-face, touching those precious covers with your own hands and looking at those stamps with your magnifying glass. But, under the circumstances, you can protect yourself from the coronavirus and still get a chance to participate in a philatelic activity with friends and colleagues by doing it online. With so many collectors staying-in-place and finding time to spend working on those collections and albums that have been neglected for a long time, auction houses and many stamp dealers are seeing growth in their businesses due to the more active collecting.

Thanks to outgoing and welcome to incoming executives

The Annual General Meeting has resulted in changes in Officers and Directors. First, I would like to thank Ken Lemke who now becomes Past-President and joins the Board in that position. Working with Ken as his First Vice-President (First VP) has been a real pleasure. Ken kept me abreast of all goings-on within BNAPS management, which would have allowed me to step in and assume the role of President should the need have evolved. He was an excellent mentor, providing guidance that should help me to cope with the daily issues that arise in our Society. I will still consult with him as Past-President. Joining the officers, David McLaughlin will now become First VP. David is well known in Canadian philatelic circles, not only as an award-winning exhibitor, but also as co-ordinator of many Canadian philatelic exhibiting activities on a worldwide basis. I'm lucky to have such a knowledgeable person to be at my side on many philatelic issues, and I welcome him to our Executive Team. Ron Smith (New Brunswick) takes over as VP Study Groups (SG), and I thank Bill Radcliffe for handling the VP SG activities for the past four years.

Robert Lemire, who has held many offices and board positions, and publishing responsibilities, has decided to take a rest and focus just on publishing. Robert is responsible for getting *BNA Topics* to the printer and making sure it gets in your mailbox in the fastest possible way. He still provides guidance to the *Topics* co-editors and, along with Mike Street, gets our books through the publishing process. Joining the Board are two Quebecers, Rick Friesen and Luc Frève. We welcome them and look forward to their contribution to our Board. Mark Berner, also of Quebec, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors at the meeting that preceded the AGM.

I look forward to working with Mark to continue moving BNAPS in a positive direction. Barry Casanova should be thanked for his service as the past Chairman. We are lucky to have Barry continue to serve, as he was re-elected to the Board for another four-year term. Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the decade of service by George Dresser, who led the BNAPS Finance Committee. With a steady hand implementing the conservative investment philosophy of the Committee, George has helped to ensure that BNAPS will be financially strong for years to come.

Highlights of meeting of board of directors and annual general meeting

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

From the Treasurer, J-Claude Michaud: The financial health of the society is sound and no change to the dues is needed for 2021. Nevertheless, like other philatelic societies, BNAPS is experiencing a slight drop in membership because of the death or resignation of members, or if members are dropped for not paying their annual dues. This happens only when, despite being contacted by email several times by the Treasurer, a member doesn't pay his or her dues. Sometimes, though, members find out that they have been dropped for non-payment of dues although they had no intention of leaving the society. I have even found myself forgetting about dues payment—so now I try to pay three years' dues in advance and get a ten percent discount in the process. The Board has organized a follow-up program to contact members who have resigned or dropped for non-payment of dues by telephone. J.-Claude reported that, because of this program, this past year we had the lowest number of members ever being dropped for non-payment of dues.

From Convention Committee Chair Earle Covert: The BNAPEX 2021 convention will be held in conjunction with the Winnipeg Philatelic Society in Winnipeg on 3-5 September 2021. The local Committee is working hard getting ready for this event. Like the rest of us, Earle will revisit the status of the pandemic at the beginning of 2021, in case things are not progressing well in ways that might have an impact on the holding of the convention. The 2022 Convention will return to Calgary on 2-4 September 2022.

From CAPEX 2022 chairman, David McLaughlin: Plans for CAPEX 2022 (Toronto) are moving along, but there is concern that, if there were a continued decrease in the number of stamp shows in 2021 (due to lingering COVID-19 issues), there might be a consequent increase in the number of international shows in 2022. That might have an impact on attendance at CAPEX 2022. BNAPS is a sponsor of this show, which will be the biggest single frame-only exhibit ever held, with over four hundred frames being planned.

... Remember, philately moves forward no matter what happens in the world. Stay safe!

From the Secretary—

Report date: 15 June–15 September 2020

P Charles Livermore, OTB

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

Membership fees

Membership fees 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) at the 2020 AGM. The fee for applications submitted during the second and third quarter of the year are seventy-five and fifty percent of the annual fee, respectively, while the fee for those submitted in the fourth quarter are 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. Application fees can be paid via PayPal, using an online application available on the BNAPS website (www.BNAPS.org), or by sending a cheque to the Treasurer or to the Secretary.

Applications for membership

After the receipt of an application for membership, the applicant is classified as a new member. The person's name and membership number are printed in the next issue of *BNA Topics*. If

no objection from any other member is received within approximately sixty days, the applicant is confirmed as a Regular Member.

New members—applied

All applicants assigned membership numbers from **7092 and 7097** have been confirmed as Active Regular members of BNAPS with full membership privileges. Their names were published in the previous issue of *BNA Topics*, Volume 77, Number 3, 2020.

R-7098 Ivan Robichaud, Nigadoo, NB
 R-7099 Michael Harris, Surrey, BC
 R-7100 Renee Stratulate, Los Gatos, CA
 R-7101 David Law, Toronto, ON
 R-7102 Lise Perron, Montreal, QC
 R-7103 William Olsen, Edmonton, AB
 R-7104 Bond Rideout, St. John's, NL

R-7105 David Greenspoon, Reisterstown, MD
 R-7106 John Beddows, Gananoque, ON
 R-7107 Jamie Hennebury, Mount Pearl, NL
 R-7108 Donald Quinn, Toronto, ON
 R-7109 John Callow, Whitby, ON

Deceased

E-3126 Peter Douglass
 E-3380 Zygmunt Lindauer
 E-2795 Vaughan A Macpherson

E-2130 Norman Shelson
 E-2160 George F Smalley
 E-3245 EH Witt, Jr.

Members dropped for non-payment of dues

R-5072 Francois Alarie
 R-4144 Ronald Battersby
 R-6391 Douglas S Cayer
 R-7063 Heather Combaluzier
 R-6020 NF Lee Dowsley
 R-7057 Eric Eden
 R-7030 Cameron Fleming
 R-6854 Ken Forrester
 R-6603 Alain Gauthier
 R-6177 Robert Gibeault
 R-7008 Michel Guilbault
 R-5290 James E Kloetzel
 R-7047 Mike LaLonde
 R-6895 Peter Leffler

R-7028 Don Macdonald
 R-6465 Allan Maki
 R-5889 Richard J McIntosh
 R-5571 Claude R Melancon
 R-4493 Peter G Moisan
 R-6711 Gary C Norris
 R-6876 Joseph Perrone
 R-5031 John Roger Rossiter
 R-6929 Gary Smith
 R-7036 Nell Spicer
 R-6652 Michael Stewart
 R-7037 Robert Thomas
 R-6962 Peter Wiegand
 R-4863 Gerald F Wiley

Members resigned

E-3099 George Arfken
 E-2749 Lex C De Ment

E-2928 James W Felton
 E-3401 Dooley S Kiefe

Postal address changes

E-2923 Colin Geoffrey Banfield
 Norwich, Norfolk, UK
 R-5732 Abraham Costin, Toronto, ON
 E-3262 JA Forbes, Jr., Dartmouth, NS
 R-6413 Paul H Grimm, Berwick, NS

R-6406 Tony Hine, Toronto, ON
 R-6151 David McLaughlin, Whitby, ON
 R-4849 Charles JG Verge, Toronto, ON
 R-4095 Carl K Newswanger, Independence,
 OR

R-6700 Tadas A Osmolskis, Silver Spring,
MD

R-6044 Don G Slaughter, London, ON
Email address changes

R-5244 Brian Cameron, Ottawa, ON
R-5732 Abraham Costin, Toronto, ON
R-7096 Francois Deschamps, Laval, QC
E-3447 Joseph Di Ciommo, Hamilton, ON
E-3262 JA Forbes, Jr, Dartmouth, NS
R-6635 James Jung, Markham, ON
R-4492 Ronald D Leith, Abbotsford, BC
R-4247 James H Luetje, Summerfield, FL

Members with unknown addresses

R-5972 Orville F Osborne, Toronto, ON

R-6030 Clarence E Wigmore, Prince George,
BC

R-5077 Robert McLeish, Perth
R-6497 Daniel A Michaud, Fredericton, NB
L-4308 Albert N Pearson, Boissevain, MB
R-5674 Velma J Taylor, Nanaimo, BC
R-6030 Clarence E Wigmore, Prince George,
BC
R-6390 Terence Wilson, Calgary, AB

Active member and non-member count by membership type

Total active members: 967

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



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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

Study group centreline

Peter McCarthy

CENTRELINE presents brief summaries of the specialized research done by BNAPS members as published in the newsletters of its many Study Groups. This column reviews those received between 15 June 2020 and 15 September 2020.

British Columbia

The front page of the September issue of the *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter*, edited by Scott Andrew, shows a post card sent in by Tim Woodward. It shows the house in Pitt Meadows that was built by Alvo von Alvensleben, an alleged spy. It is cancelled with the rare Pitt Meadows, BC split ring. Gary Steele asks questions about a cover that he illustrates – it appears to have a piece from another envelope pasted onto it bearing an uncancelled 3¢ stamp. The cover received a Special Agent stamp and an oval cancel. Gray Scrimgeour wrote an article on the Chantrell Family Correspondence, based on twenty covers. This interesting six-page article is illustrated with covers from 1876 to 1894. It is very good social history. Gray Scrimgeour and Tracy Cooper teamed up to write an article on two unpaid 1866 covers from the US to Victoria. Both covers are from Westfield, NY, with a pencilled “10¢” due written over “15.” One was sent three months after the other, and the rate is explained. Tracy Cooper sent in two articles. The first is an early British Columbia cover to Chile dated 5 July 1873, with 26¢ postage paid with Small Queens. The second is an early mailing to Skeena River addressed to Walter Englehardt. Tracy claims that researching these historical covers brings great enjoyment. Andrew Scott comes in with a cover to an unusual destination, the second in a series of articles. It is addressed to Laghouat, Algeria, with an altered registration box and four 5¢ and one 15¢ UPU stamps. Morris Beattie ends the newsletter with Part 4 of his article on miscellaneous markings of Powell River.

Confederation

Confederation, edited by Vic Willson, is the newsletter of the Large and Small Queen Study Group. The June issue reported that twenty-five members attended the 30 May Zoom meeting. Bill Burden provides a scan from a pitted plate in answer to Jim André’s query, from a previous newsletter, about the 6¢ Small Queen. Jack Forbes sent in two articles—the first about the discovery of a new early period of use for the 8¢ Small Queen on cover. The second article is about the largest number of copies of the 8¢ Small Queen on piece, including the seal. Both items are nicely illustrated. Tom Meyerhof writes about the 3¢ Large Queen plate flaw, with reference to various philatelists who have studied it. Tom then comments on the scanner accuracy of measuring perforations, an article which appeared in the March issue of the newsletter. Brian Hargreaves asks questions about dates on a 2¢ Large Queen and whether there is a coincidence in the date span between his copies of the 15¢ watermarked Large Queen and that of Gerald Wulkowicz. Earl Noss sent in an illustration of a block of four 2¢ Small Queens with the neck flaw. Vic Willson shows a block of four of the 12½¢ Large Queen with dots in the right “1” of the “12” on two stamps. Both Vic and Jim Watt think that it is from position 19–20 and 29–30 of one sheet. Wayne Smith sent in a list of scarce states and territories in the US to which Large Queen covers are known. Ending the newsletter is a scan showing a short transfer on a 3¢ Small Queen.

Dots & Scratches

Dots & Scratches is the Re-entries and Constant Plate Varieties Study Group newsletter. The July issue, the first for the year 2020, introduces Scott Robinson as the new editor, replacing Michael Smith after his five-year tenure. A lovely tribute was paid to Michael for his service. The first article, “The Enigmatic Retouched Version of the ‘Blue Nose’ re-entry,” was written by Scott Robinson. It illustrates the re-entries and doublings on the King George V 5¢ blue Medallion issue. Michael Smith submitted a very interesting illustrated article on a constant plate variety on the \$5 Diamond Jubilee stamp. Jim McCormick is very much into the 6¢ denomination from the Small Queen issue; he provided an update on his continued study of that particular stamp in this well-illustrated article. Scott Robinson introduces a new regular column on the varieties of the Map Stamp of 1898. In this issue, he deals with the understanding of the plates and states of the stamp. This interesting stamp should generate a lot of interest. Another new regular column that will give members a chance to participate is called New Finds and Discoveries. In this issue, Earl Noss shares two varieties found on the 13¢ stamp from the 1935 Pictorial issue. Ending the newsletter is an explanation of the varieties found on the 5¢ Small Queen that appears on the cover of the newsletter.

Elizabeth II

COVID-19 has affected new issue supply to some post offices, according to Robin Harris, editor of *Corgi Times*. He reports in the May–June issue of not seeing any new stamps until the end of May. He does show a bilingual slogan cancel paying tribute to healthcare workers. Because of the pandemic, the last two issues of Canada Post’s magazine *Details* are only available digitally. The April issue announced the reprinting of the 2019 Queen Elizabeth booklet stamp in a limited run, minus the security feature under-print on the reverse of the adhesive. An error has been reported on the V-E Day booklet. Eric Fernberg was referred to as *Erin* Fernberg. John Aitkin contributed a piece about his belief that \$8.36 paid the rate for a seventeen-pound first class letter. Robin has issued a challenge to submit what the 1970 Christmas stamp issue meant to you (see below). Possible topics are listed. Ingo Nessel submitted an article of two surface covers to the UK and gives a lot of praise to the tome *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era from Canada 1952–2005* by Chung, Machum, and Narbonne. The first cover is franked with a 2¢ Wilding, indicating a greeting card. Sent unsealed, it is accompanied by an NAACP label. The second is franked with a 5¢ stamp from the Cameo issue, paying the rate up to one ounce. Part 2 of Scott Traquair’s article on random selection of uses and rates of the Centennial issue \$1 stamp follows, and Mirko Zatka adds Part 2 of his in-depth article on Lowe-Martin Vertical Coil and Booklet Production. It will continue in the next issue, focussing on the next orchid flower sets. Bob Anderson ends the newsletter with an extensive, well-illustrated article on the use of the “A” stamp.

In the July–August issue of *Corgi Times*, Robin says it has been a quiet philatelic summer, so not much appears here. The Fall 2020 stamps to be released are listed. Two new members, Michael Harris and Michael Pierce, are welcomed to the study group. Robin has a to-do list for some time in the future, and he calls on everyone to get involved with the fifty-year anniversary of the “What Christmas Means to Me” issue. You don’t have to belong to the group to participate. Submissions need to be in by 1 November 2020. Contact Robin for suggested topics.

Peter McCarthy submitted a portion of his exhibit on the 15¢ Mountain Sheep from the 1972–1977 definitive issue; and, in a regular feature that wraps up the newsletter, Robin looks back fifty years at the commemorative stamps of 1970. This is really worth a read, because it is far more detailed than the blurbs given by Canada Post at time of issue. Yes, it has been fifty years since the *Enchanted Owl* stamp was issued.

Fancy Cancels

The work of fourteen contributors brought the June–July issue of *BNAPS Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Newsletter* to eighteen pages. Robert Coulson has developed a program that enhances cancels. Interested? Email Dave Lacelle, newsletter editor, for more information. There are revisions to previous newsletters, and also to the third edition of the handbook. Ron Smith continues with material that is Part 2 of a series, mainly a variation of crosses. Vince Chermishnok asks if a CDS is “U.C.” or “W.C.” (Canada West reversed) for a Colbourne cancel. Mike Halhed sent in several illustrations of various cancels used by the Pembroke post office, and Philip Visser sent in several postal history items with fancy cancels used in the Owen Sound (Ontario) area. Graham Searle has reviewed parts of his collection, and as a result corrects some former listings. Robin Simpson also sent in items that correct former listings, and Mike Street added more foreign markings on Canadian mail. Guy Jeffery sent in a postal stationery card with a cancel that is considered a new listing, and Dave explains scaling, noting that item 995 is described as dubious. Jim McCormick sent in two Orillia covers with cancels described as flowers, or even as the Orillia “O”. Jim also sent in a cork cancel from Stayner, Ontario, that was apparently cut and made into a second cancel, and a strike from Murray Harbour South, PEI that is considered dubious. In the Fakes, Bogus, and Spurious section, there is only one item. Ron Smith has produced quite an article on the Fredericton “F”. He is conducting a study to define whether it is spurious or not. Maybe the members can help. To end the newsletter, Dave throws in an illustrated plug for Hugh Rathbun’s book, *Nova Scotia Pictorial Postmarks 1975–2018*.

First Impressions

First Impressions is the First Day Cover Study Group newsletter, edited by Gary Dickinson. Gary, by the way, would like to hear from anyone interested in taking over as newsletter editor. In the July–September issue, Bob Vogel tells of pre-1950s commercial first day covers, and shows two—one with the three 1939 Royal Visit stamps, and the other with the stamp commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Alexander Graham Bell, issued 3 March 1947. Both have interesting stories. Charles Verge sent in scans of two covers commemorating the Sixth Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Conference. The cachet of one is properly printed, while the other is partly inverted. It appears the receiver was also the sender.

John van der Ven writes yet another well-researched story of the artist Robert F Bolton, and illustrates some of the first day cover cachets he designed. In Sparks’ October sale, the early portion of John’s FDC collection will be up for auction. Donald LeBlanc submitted a five-page article, with illustrations, on the Schnurr cachets for the 1939 Royal Visit issue. It is quite a story! Donald LeBlanc has written a book on the first day covers of the 1939 Royal Visit. Published by BNAPS, it is available through Longley Auctions, BNAPS’ book distributor.

The October–December issue of *First Impressions* came a little early. It starts with the first of a series by Bob Vogel on commercial first day covers—this part features Atlas Chemical Industries. Bob created a table of covers produced by that particular company that starts with the 1964 Royal Visit and continues to the 1980 Christmas issue. Several cachet producers are represented. John van der Ven shows an FDC from Falcon Stamps of Wingham, Ontario, to Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, and asks if others exist. Charles Verge forwarded a pair of advertisements for FDCs prepared by Herman Jacobi. This is followed by an article that is actually a comment on the difference in cancellation size between official first day covers and post office covers. It's a good read. John van der Ven writes about first day covers produced by the Royal Trust Company. It includes a short history of the company and provides two pages of illustrations. He also would like information on the possibility of cachets being produced by Butler Publications. Gary Dickenson ends the newsletter with an illustrated article featuring FDCs by Kevin Colton.

King George VI

King George VI Post & Mail is the newsletter of the King George VI Study Group, edited by Ken Lemke. On the cover of Issue No 40, Gary Steele (who collects destinations in the Mufti era) shows and explains a cover addressed to Iran in 1942. John Burnett submitted two articles. The first, “Canada—Little Known Facts of WWII,” deals mainly with Japanese mail routes to Canada and the amount of mail that never left the POW camps. The second article also about little-known facts of WWII, and looks at repatriated non-combatants. The ship *MS Gripsholm* from neutral Sweden was used in the exchange of internees. John illustrates a cover sent to Signalman L Dowling, care of the *Gripsholm*. Russell Smith sent in what he terms as a not quite King GVI. It is a letter addressed to Hungary and returned dated 1957. Peter Kritz found a variety on a pair of 4¢ Postes-Postage coils that he illustrates. Bill Longley asks why King George VI postal routes are ignored. This is a good question and a good article. John Watson sent in twenty interesting covers depicting routes, rates, and reasons for rates, along with questions and comments for others. Gary Steele tells of the single use of the 50¢ Vancouver Harbour stamp in an article; he deems it to be very scarce. In a column written by Stephen Prest, King George VI articles that appeared in Volumes 73 and 74 of *BNA Topics* are revisited. This article ends the newsletter.

Military Mail

Reg Côte opens this July *Canadian Military Mail* newsletter, edited by Dean Mario, with a piece about modern Christmas military postmarks. Only ten such postmarks were produced; numbered from 1 to 10; all dated 2012. Reg has number 6 and is looking for the rest. Jon Johnson has done a great deal of study on what can be thought of as the humanitarian side of military mail—hospital ships, military nurses, and the merchant navy, to name a few. In this article, Jon explains how to identify WW II covers posted on board HM Transport. That explanation and the websites identified are a bonus to military mail collectors.

It appears that the next couple of items were prepared by the editor. The first is a cover with a 12 October 1918 S-5 APO marking that extends Proud's latest-known by three days. The second is an article on seldom-seen and seldom-studied WW II parcel rates and tags. Two examples are illustrated, with the invitation to send scans to the editor. Gordon McDermid offers an article on WW I casualty mail; in particular, KILLED IN ACTION and the seldom

seen F.P.O. 184 cancel. It concerns Pte. Thomas McQuaig of Vankleek Hill, Ontario. It's a very interesting, well-illustrated story of military casualty mail. To end the newsletter, John Watson contributed a cover addressed to General AE Curry that is marked "Return to Canada," with more markings on the back, some of which are seldom seen.

Newfoundland

Malcolm Back, editor of the *Newfoundland Newsletter*, announces that the newsletter is now to be found on the BNAPS website and explains how to search various items. He also mentions the success of the first Zoom meeting held in mid-June, and says he is looking forward to another in the near future. The previous newsletter featured an attractive Rev Butler cover that housed the 1932 price list. Ron McGuire has such a cover and explains what he thinks is the reason behind it. He also explains the Washington coat of arms. Andrew Hussey revisits the A.& S.L. overprint and perfin, after finding an overprint without periods on a 2¢ copy of the Caribou issue.

David Piercy continues illustrating his exhibit of the cancellations of Newfoundland and shows three exhibit pages (to be continued next issue). John Walsh has done a very good article on the re-entry on the 30¢ value of the John Cabot Issue of 1897, and has nicely incorporated varieties from other values. AB Thompson wrote about the single and double panes of the Last Resource Issue, featuring the 1¢ pile of cod stamp. The principal plates involved seem to be plates 42430 and 43965. A second article by the same author again deals with the 1932 1¢ pile of cod. This, however, is on the difference in size between the Perkins Bacon printing and the Waterlow printing. Robert Moore shows and explains a blotchy ink variety of the 20¢ Transatlantic Beacon stamp. Ending the newsletter is a twenty-four-picture grid of the twenty-six people who attended the online meeting.

Pence-Cents

The front page of the June issue of the *Pence-cents Era* newsletter, edited by James Jung, features a pair of 10p Cartier stamps of different widths that were for sale in the Sparks auction. Stéphane Cloutier sent them in, along with an explanation. In reader emails, Jack Forbes said he would like to know about the cancel marks on two blocks of New Brunswick 12½¢ stamps. Michael Smith continues with Part 2 of his piece on the 3p Beaver flaws, looking at the "full stop 3" "tool mark in the upper right 3," and "dot below the C of CANADA" flaws. Did you see the photo sent in by Ralph Trimble of a woman who, in 1919, was airmailed wearing a helmet covered by postage stamps? She travelled to San Diego as cargo. Michael Smith recently purchased a specimen block of the 3p Beaver and wrote an extensive article on the various flaws. It is quite a study that refers extensively to Ken Kershaw's work, *Volume 5 The Three Penny Beaver Plate Proof A*. It ends the newsletter.

The cover page of the August *Pence Cents Era* features the 10¢ Consort stamp with the plate flaw from a late printing, sent in by Earl Noss. Jim Jung explains the ½p Inland Revenue stamp on a newspaper from England, with the bonus that it bears a major re-entry. Jim then reports on some Sparks Auction lots with undescribed varieties. Ron Majors, who specializes in cross-border mail during the pence-cents era, did a fine illustrated story on covers to a Canadian gold miner in California during the gold rush days. The covers in question are addressed to Thomas McQueen in Grass Valley. Michael Smith sent in part 5 of Canada's 5¢ Beaver proofs—eleven pages of enlarged illustrations.

Perfins

The *BNA Perforator* is the Perfins Study Group newsletter, edited by Jim Graham. The September issue has a very good article by Bob Szymanski on the valuation of perfins. Russell Sampson shows a perfins on cover of Canada Foundries and Forging Ltd, dated 14 November 1928, two years later than the previously known latest period of use. A table that was omitted from the final paragraph of an article in the previous newsletter is included. The article was by Russell Sampson and entitled “Perfin Covers with World War II Canadian FECB Authorized Cachets.” Bob Szymanski writes of an Australian perfins collection received with a series identified as N.S.C. (National Surety Company) that, under close scrutiny, turned out to be National Supply Company. Jon Johnson and Gary Tomasson provide an update to the catalogue that is quite extensive. Closing out the newsletter is a request for information from Jim Graham about a cover with what looks to be a CNR perfins from RMS *Colborne* to a Mr Claude W Parker. Any information about this cover will help.

Postal Stationery

In the July issue of *Postal Stationery Notes*, edited by Robert Lemire, the front page shows a previously unreported CPR pictorial post card featuring Montreal's Windsor Station on a French-only form. This is a beautiful card, sent in by Pierre Gauthier. Robert's article “Printings of the railway advice flimsy forms Part 10: Complexities of the 4¢ CP Express Cameo Issue Printings” follows. It shows a table of the forms ordered, dates printed, quantities, and dates of payments received. This is followed by a short article on the five 1994 Red Cross special issue post cards, issued as a fund raiser.

Chris Ellis continues with Part 2 of an article on illustrated cards used by the National Drug and Chemical Company of Montreal, illustrating cards used between 1912 and 1920. In the PCF (*Post Card Factory*) corner, reports regarding the new Webb's catalogue are sent in by Michel Gingras and Erhard Nachtigall. Don't expect to hear much from the Post Card Factory for some time, due to mandatory closure because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bill Walton closes out the newsletter illustrating how to identify heading types of four types of early post cards.

Railway Post Office (RPO)

In the April–June issue of the *Canadian R.P.O. Study Group* newsletter, Ross Gray, the editor, marvels at the amount of new data continually being reported. I remember Bill Robinson expressing that feeling some twenty years ago. Grégoire Teyssier discovered a new Gaspe & Matapedia RPO on a 1919 cover. This is followed by seven pages of new reports from Jack Brandt, mostly facing slips with early and late dates of clerk stamps and the odd new find, along with some new train numbers.

Chris Anstead reports the finding of two new Montreal & Toronto clerk handstamps. Richard Cromwell shows an unattached clerk handstamp under a St. Thomas & Courtright handstamp on a facing slip. Simon Taylor-Young sent in a page of new reports of ERDs, LRDs, times, directions, and train number changes. Ross Gray provided some new updates and a few interesting notations about cancelled mail. Ending the newsletter are reports from Morris Beattie of a late date for a C.P.Ry. M.C. / BRIT. COL. marking, and an early date from Dave Freeman of a G.B.& L.E. Ry/M.C. marking. All these updates are illustrated.

Revenues

Christopher Ryan is the editor of the *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*. The June issue begins with an article by Dave Hannay on the second issue of the British Columbia law stamps with perforated selvedge, an uncommon variety. Included in this issue is the press release about the nine revenue stamps stolen from a FedEx truck after having been shipped by the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic research Foundation's Expert Committee. Steve Moreland sent in two illustrations, the first being a Quebec law stamp with LC set-off on back and a medicine label of 1919 with set-off on back. Chris writes an article illustrating a \$2 second issue on a promissory note, only the second known to the author. Jim McCormick presents colour transitions of the twenty-five-cent electric light inspection stamps of the 1897 series, with an opinion on the reason why the remainder of the series came in a different colour. Dave Hannay tells of the newly discovered varieties on the Saskatchewan electrical inspection provisionals. Fritz Angst shows pre-printing paper creases on four stamps of the first bill issue stamps, and a document bearing fifty-three British Columbia law stamps, the largest assemblage of stamps on one document that he has seen. Fritz Angst sent in an illustration of an Ontario bartender's licence from 1906–1916, about which Chris wrote an explanatory article. Chris then finishes the newsletter with part 3 of the Ontario Law Stamps Tariffs of 1864 to 1961. This part deals with the lower courts between 1864 and 1961, special stamp fees and admissions, and certificates of practice. It is a well-researched, four-page article.

Squared Circles

The *Roundup Annex* is the newsletter of the Squared Circle Study Group, edited by Gary Arnold. Page one of the June newsletter shows updates for several hammers from Nova Scotia to Alberta, including LRDs and previously unreported items. Bill Wegman sent in four examples of time mark updates for the York Street, Toronto hammer. Most of the remainder of the newsletter is taken up with new reports out of Quebec, which are Handbook updates. Here you will see those from Acton Vale to Lévis. It is presumed that the remainder of Quebec handbook updates will appear in the next issue, and it's great to see one study group interacting with another. The last article of the newsletter is a comment from Ross Gray to Rick Friesen concerning dates and train numbers for the Que. & Camp. M.C. squared circle RPO.

Postscript

Congratulations to Andrew Scott and the British Columbia Postal History Research Group for having won the Siverts award for the best newsletter of 2019—well deserved. May you continue your interesting work for a long time to come. The rest of the newsletter editors also merit congratulations for the work they do under sometimes difficult conditions. To the members: these are your Study Groups, and the only way to have interesting newsletters is to provide articles and not to leave it all up to the editors.

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*.

Regional group rant

David Bartlet

Overview

REGIONAL group activity is always slow in the Summer, and face-to-face meetings in most areas are either not presently allowed or not advised for the age group of our membership. BNAPS' use of Zoom for meetings is working very well, with the convention Board meeting and AGM both held on the platform. Both the Golden Horseshoe and Calgary Regional Groups have held well-attended Zoom meetings, and the Prairie Beavers, St. Lawrence Seaway, and Pacific Northwest Regional Groups expect to meet on Zoom in the coming months. They provide opportunities to meet people you have not met and might otherwise not meet in person, because of geographical distance. I hope to encourage all regional groups to meet this way: just contact me and I can schedule your meeting.

The Fall season has now allowed many restrictions to be lifted. However, if you are working on your collection or preparing an exhibit, there are still no shows active where you can meet your favourite dealer. Many dealers have moved online or have email lists in which you can participate to find items you are looking for. If you think you can't join Zoom meetings because your computer has no camera, that is not the case. The camera solely allows other attendees to see you. As long as you have speakers on your computer, just join the Zoom meeting with what you have and you can view the whole meeting as if you were there. Webcams can also be purchased for as little as \$30.

I can be contacted by email at any time at regionalgroups@bnaps.org. Please send all of your meeting notices and reports to me there, and we will post them on the website and on the Facebook pages. Watch the BNAPS website for upcoming meetings; information is always posted there. If you want to attend any meeting—and you are welcome to attend all regional group meetings, either in person or via Zoom. If you need a link for an online meeting, contact your Regional chairman, or me, and we will help. The reports below are about Summer months, so the level is normal. Please view the Regional Groups webpages to see when things are happening in the various groups and what transpires at those meetings.

Around the regions report

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

On Wednesday 2 September, six members of the Atlantic Regional group met for lunch. Jack Forbes, Sean Weatherup, Gary Coolen, John Hall, Keith MacKay, and Gary Steele gathered at the Inn on the Lake. We were all happy to see more than one familiar face at a time, and to be able to show new finds and acquisitions, research, and questions of importance.

Jack Forbes displayed a significant parcel piece with several 8¢ Small Queens, along with several other unusual covers from the Mitchell Mining find. Sean showed a few Nova Scotia RPO items. Gary passed around an album of Montreal Dead Letter Office material that he acquired from the Brian Plain collection. Keith showed two covers addressed to Inkerman, NS; however, there is no record of that post office in any of the records he was able to access.

Those present weren't able to identify the area where Inkerman might have existed. Members agreed that, in general, buying activity has slowed somewhat during the COVID-19 period.

Calgary

The Regional Group held its first Zoom meeting of the Fall on 9 September, with twenty-three participants. BNAPS members from Edmonton and Pacific Northwest joined in too. The meeting commenced with some administration items, followed by a presentation by Ingo Nessel on the “1985–1989 Fifty Cent Parliament Building Booklets,” and Kristin Jakobson with “The US Post Office Acts 1791—Present.” This was followed by a Show-and-Tell.

Dixie Beavers

Meetings have not been held, and at present none are scheduled.

Edmonton

As with all groups, not much has happened in this last quarter. The Edmonton Group joined in with the Calgary Zoom meeting that was held on 7 September.

Golden Horseshoe

The Golden Horseshoe Regional Group held its second virtual meeting via Zoom on 22 August. Twenty-seven people attended. In these times of restricted gatherings, face masks and social distancing, Zoom is a wonderful way of staying in touch with each other. Ingo Nessel gave a wonderful presentation of the “1985–1989 Fifty Cent Parliament Building Booklets.” Ingo pointed out the identification of papers, method of printing, some varieties, and especially rates and destinations. It must be said that Ingo has some pretty neat and seldom-seen destinations. Mike Street gave an update on new publications. Bill Longley gave an interesting talk – offering twenty suggestions for collectors who say that there is nothing more to collect! They included things like various types of cancels, matching names to events – and not all have to empty the bank account. The GHRG is planning a third meeting for Saturday, 26 September, at 1pm.

Lower Canada

No meetings were held, and at present none are scheduled.

Manitoba—Northwestern Ontario

No meetings have been held by this group since February, but they are hard at work on the Winnipeg 2021 BNAPEX convention so that you will have an enjoyable time there.

Midwest

No meetings held or presently scheduled.

Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic

No meetings held in the quarter, and none presently scheduled.

Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest Regional group had its annual meeting scheduled in Vernon at the end of September, but it has been cancelled due to COVID concerns. As a substitute, a Zoom meeting will be held on the same weekend.

Prairie Beavers

The Prairie Beavers decided to meet via Zoom in October after cancelling their spring meeting.

St Lawrence Seaway

The Group may be holding its Fall meeting over Zoom in October.

La Société d'histoire postale du Québec (*The Postal History Society of Quebec*) invites applications for membership

The SHPQ, host of BNAPEX 2018, publishes (*en français*) an award-winning journal.

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

Rob Leigh 10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto, ON M4T 1A8 Canada
email: secretary@postalhistorycanada.net

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British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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

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BNAPS exchange circuit news

Andy Ellwood OTB

AS many have come to realize, there is a significant shift of interest underway in philately. National governments continue to produce millions of stamps to publicize their interests., but the significant decline in personal and business mail continues. It is slowly disappearing, rapidly being replaced by the telephone and the computer!!!

How long has it been since you received mail with a stamp on it? And so, one wonders what the future of philately will be. Certainly, using stamps to pay for sending a message or greetings is slowly becoming only a small part of the mail service. So, will collecting stamps become an activity that mainly focuses on the past?

The **Exchange Circuit** continues to offer sheets of material in which the owners have lost interest as they move on to other areas. More than forty new sheets have been received recently; some focus on offering inexpensive items which should be of interest to junior collectors. At the same time, older sheets of more expensive stamps are slowly being retired.

Interest is increasing in BOB material such postage dues, pre-cancels, and revenues. These areas now seem to be more appealing to established philatelists. I remain convinced that the value of the Exchange Circuit will continue; however, its future and the nature of its offerings are as uncertain as is nearly everything philatelic these days. So we will soldier on for at least another year, or three. Your thoughts on this are welcome.

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