

I hope that everybody has had an enjoyable holiday season. I am listing all of our paid up members at the end of this newsletter. Up to now, about one half of our members have submitted some type of information for our newsletter. Our survey was very successful and some members put a great deal of thought into what they would like to see discussed (more on the survey on page 5 and in the next newsletter).

Here are a few interesting items which recently went in Bob Lee's October auction: The 1¢ offset is rather spectacular (as good as the 6¢ black), the preprinting paper creases are interesting and the misperfed 20¢ block seem to be scarce.



Here is an interesting idea for future study, We should be able to put together a rather complete list of perforation shifts (ie, into the stamp design). If anyone has any misperfed Centennials, please send us a good, clear photocopy (preferably against a black background) and we will report on these in a future newsletter.

In our first newsletter, we asked whether anyone would provide us with more information on Bk 69 (25¢ brown historical) with one brown cover and one blue cover. This variety is mentioned in the book by Hughes and Keane (page 61) and as Bill Stegenga has pointed out, this passage only mentions that the variety occurs on the historical booklets, so it could just as easily be Bk 71 (50¢ blue historical) as Bk 69. But intuition has prevailed and three of our members have provided us with information (there seems to be a lot more varieties in the 25¢ brown historical booklets than in the 50¢ blue booklets and so our intuition had the law of averages on its side).

Herb Marrion has written to describe Bk 69 with two different coloured covers. The back cover is the normal brown while the front cover is a greyish green, lighter in colour than the inside "pre-stamped envelopes...." but of the same shade. The pane of stamps is untagged, on low fluorescent paper in the 1820 Stage Coach cover with a black sealing strip (it appears from the description that the booklet is 69i (D.I.)).

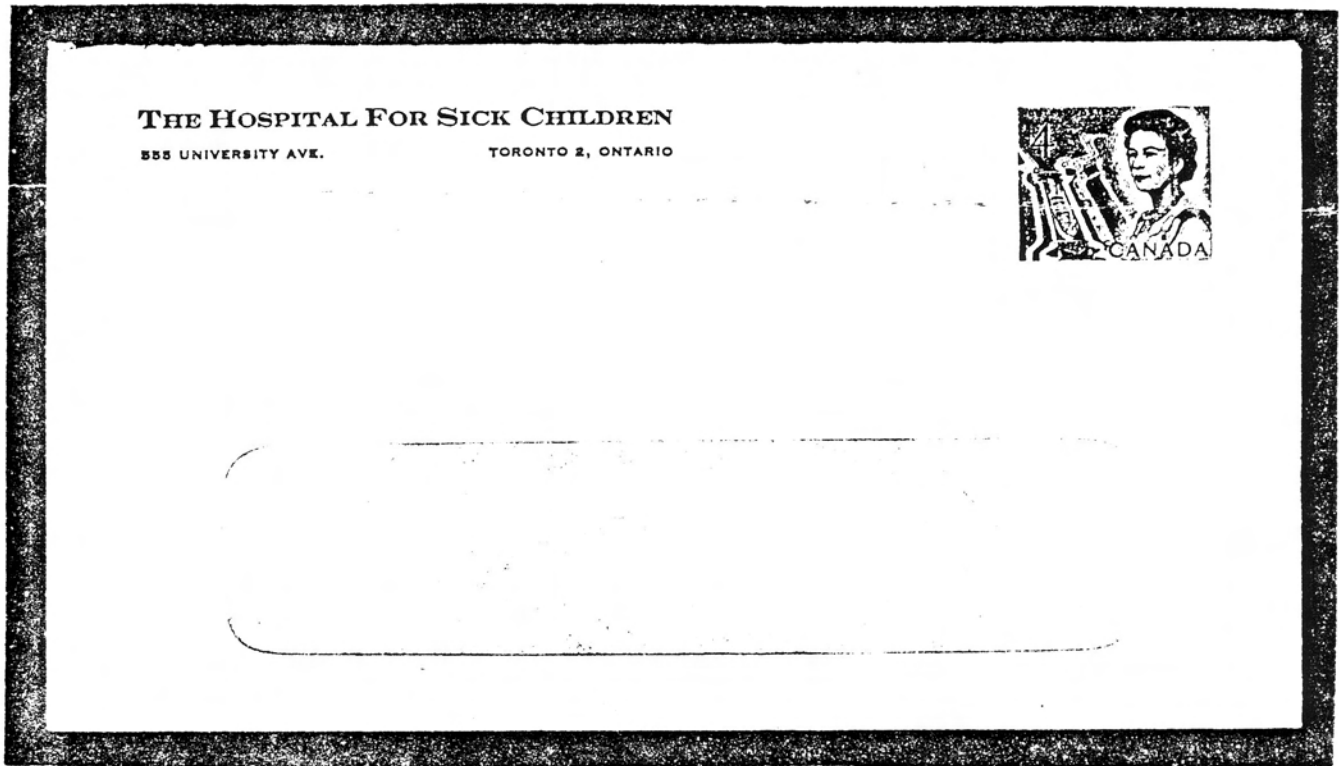
Ted Harris has sent us a copy of a similar booklet. It is also Bk 69i, untagged on low fluorescent paper in an Early Canadian Post Office cover with a black sealing strip. Unfortunately a photocopy of this item shows no difference from a regular booklet.

Our discussion of these booklets has prompted Fred Toulch to show us a third example of this variety. It is Bk 69cii, tagged on strong white fluorescent paper with a clear sealing strip in the cover depicting an early Canadian Post Office. This would seem to indicate that either the cover stock was printed well in advance of the panes (as Bk 69i appeared in March of 1972 while Bk 69cii appeared in Nov. of 1972) or the variety appeared over the length of about half a year.

An unsettled question from our first newsletter has to do with counting marks on the 1971 - 1973 booklets. Does anyone have counting marks on any of these booklets?

Bk 66 type II
Bk 68 small label type II
Bk 68 large label type II
Bk 69a type I
Bk 69b type I
Bk 69c type I

Below is a Special Order Centennial Stationary item unlisted in the book by Hughes and Keane. It is a white #8 envelope with window and 4¢ carmine stamp from The Hospital for Sick Children (in blue). This particular cover has been sealed (and presumably used but bearing no cancellation), then slit open along the top.



We are always looking for interesting Centennial items for the newsletter. If you have a unique piece or see something in an auction catalog (etc.) that would be of interest to the study group, send us a photocopy. Please don't forget to describe the item (gum (if mint), tagging type, paper fluorescence).

Murray Freedman (who is currently on sabbatical leave in Boston) has called to answer a few requests from the January newsletter. On examining his plate blocks of the 6¢ black (460ci), he has found the fine horizontal black line above stamp 2 (upper left plate block) but has not found this line above stamp 10 in his upper right plate blocks.



Murray has also found the cutting (?) marks we mentioned (on 544vi and 544ix) on a 8¢ dextrine gum Ottawa tagged lower left corner (544iii) and on a lower right corner of the 7¢ Winnipeg tagged (543ii).

Dave Bartlett has shown me an example of Bk 62 (6¢ black, dextrine gum, perf. 10) with portions of numbers on the selvedge. This brings our total to three different books so far (Bk 58, Bk 59 and Bk 62).



HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

We urgently need information to clear up some conflicting data we have on the wrappers (pictured at left) which came on the 6¢ coil stamps. If anyone knows for sure which coil stamps were in each wrapper, please let us know IMMEDIATELY as this information is urgently needed for the next TOPICS article. All three wrappers are white with black printing. The

middle wrapper has a maroon line through it while the bottom wrapper does not.

MORE URGENT INFORMATION NEEDED. Here is another matter which seems to have conflicting data. The photo at left shows possible starting strips for the 6¢ orange and black coils. An imperforate strip of four "FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY" labels is attached to the back of the first coil stamp. Some dealers and collectors say that some of these coils were indeed produced in this manner, while others say that the Post Office never produced these (we have heard that the Post Office has indeed denied that these coils were produced with testing labels attached).

And then again, there is a well known dealer in Toronto who remembers these testing labels coming on the 6¢ black only. If anyone has any information which can feed this fire of controversy (or put it out), please reply IMMEDIATELY (as we would like to discuss this matter in the next TOPICS article also).

A variety which can be found on the 5¢ precancelled coil is a break in the precancel bars. In some instances, a section of one bar (in the middle pair of bars) can be found missing as shown at left. This variety is mentioned in our March-April TOPICS article but further investigation is needed, so we are also discussing it in this newsletter. It is interesting to note that the portion of the precancel bars which is missing is the same in each pair of stamps. Note the left most bar in the left pair of bars opposite the break. There is an oblong section of missing ink in the centre of this bar (→) and it is the same on both pairs. Also, in the right most bar in the right pair of bars opposite the break, there is weakening of the bar (←) in both pairs of stamps. It seems to indicate that this is a constant repeating variety. Has anyone else seen this on any 5¢ coils or



on the 3¢ precancelled coil? Does the missing pattern match the 5¢ coils shown here? Please send us a photocopy of any example and we will report on the results in a later newsletter.

Chester Soule has written to ask if each different brown cover design on Bk 69 can be found with both "Free dispenser..." and "Pre-stamped..." inscriptions in grey on the inside of the front cover. I have found that each cover has one unique inside inscription and it is the same regardless of the pane fluorescence or tagging or type of sealing strip. All of my 69 booklets fall into the following categories:

Free dispenser

Royal Mail Truck, 1921
1923 motorcycle
Aircraft Curtis JN4
Early Canadian post office, 1818
1926 Royal Mail Wagon

Pre-stamped

1910 motorized vehicle
1820 stage coach
1855 "Eastern City"
J. Arthur Lemay sketch
1914 Model T

Does anyone have any exceptions?

David Gronbeck-Jones has taken the information presented in our first TOPICS article of last year (The PVA Gum Enigma, Jan.-Feb. 1981) and some of the matters we discussed at our study group session at BNAPEX'81 and written a very interesting article in Canadian Stamp News. I imagine many of our members don't receive this publication and so we are including his article in the newsletter.

Canadian Stamp News, November 10, 1981-Page 7



**David
Gronbeck-Jones**

**Papers,
Perfs &
Phosphors**

The Centennials

A highlight of the annual convention of the British North America Philatelic Society, held this year in Ottawa on September 24-26, was the gathering of philatelists of like interest in seminar groups to discuss their specialty.

This past meeting saw a significant session comprising many of the most noted students of the Centennial Definitive stamp series issued from 1967 to 1972, and quickly becoming one of Canada's most interesting stamp issue groupings.

Unlike the study of many older issues, for which collectors have had access to official post office records over the years, the Centennials group has many items which have become well-known, but which remain shrouded in mystery because of the silence of the post office. These items will be the subject of the next few columns, and the collective opinion of the members at the seminar may be of interest to you.

Several interesting pieces were shown of the 15¢ denomination depicting the Harris painting "Bylot Island". Some of these were accidental fold-over pieces which were either mis-printed or mis-cut. Spectacular in appearance, these gave important clues to procedures used by the security printers.

One such piece was the Winnipeg tagged version of the stamp, which because of the fold-over showed the full lower right plate imprint and additional plate marking in the form of parallel lines. These lines were so close to the imprint that it would be impossible to produce a pane with imprints without the lines being included in the margin.

Of course Winnipeg tagged stamps in this series were not issued with imprints on the pane selvage, and the parallel lines would be an indicator that the selvage must be cut off to exclude all plate imprints. That's easy. But what if the printer were required subsequently to produce more panes (not tagged) with imprints for philatelic stock? It would be impossible once the plate was so marked and a new plate would have to be made.

This information leads one to believe that philatelic stock with imprints on each pane (where it exists on the plate) is produced first. Subsequently, the plates are scored and all further printings must be non-philatelic stock. Whether tagged or not is irrelevant as tagging is applied by a separate process not connected with the main plate in this issue.

I had previously determined that for the high values of the Centennials that six pane impressions are on the plate, and only four of these have imprints. I saw one such plate at a post office display during the opening of the National Postal Museum. This is a "hard fact" that many collectors still have trouble coming to grips with, as all post office explanations in such organs as the Philatelic Bulletin have neglected to so state.

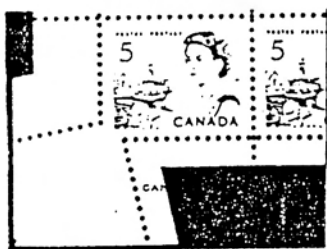
Now the puzzler. How did a corner block of the 15¢ Plate 1 ever get printed with PVA gum? This possibly unique item was discovered only last year. If what has been previously stated is the case, wouldn't the Plate 1 have been scored with the parallel lines before Plate 2 was made? How could the printer "dig up" an obsolete plate and start reprinting from it philatelic stock?

I feel the answer has been hinted at in the most recent Philatelic Bulletin, No. 81-2. In a description of the steel engraving process, it is stated: "During its lifetime, this plate/cylinder may be dechromed and rechromed many times. The cylinder or plate eventually wears out."

I believe that the parallel lines we examined were scored onto a chromed plate, and when the chromium was removed, the plate was restored to its original state (no parallel lines). This would account for why a plate can print, and then not print these mystery lines successively throughout its life.

It also fills us in on the marketing practices of the Post Office. In this case, a plate was "put to bed" and new plates produced when it still had life in it which was subsequently "resurrected". Thus not all plates produced are really needed; they are produced for philatelic sales reasons.

We discussed the "airplane in the sky" booklet variety in our first newsletter. We have found this constant variety (which occurs on the 1¢ stamp, R 2/2) in booklets 69i, 69ci, 69cii and 69d (Canada Specialized booklet numbers). Since we have doubled our membership since the summer, we will again inquire as to whether anyone has seen this variety on any other booklet type 69 (especially the 25¢ non pictorial cover booklets)?



are visible. We are still interested in hearing from other members who have similar miscut corners.

We first showed the miscut corners of the 15¢ Bylot Island in our premier column in TOPICS (Jan.-Feb, 1981). The scratch marks defacing the plate inscription are clearly visible in the photographs in this article. We later requested in our first newsletter, that members send us photocopies or photographs of any miscut corners which they have seen. Bob Prince has sent a photocopy of the 5¢ dextrine gum, lower left corner which has been folded prior to trimming. Part of the Canadian Bank Note Company inscription is visible in the lower margin but no scratch marks

Also in our first newsletter, we asked if anyone has seen or heard of Bk 60 (\$1.50, 6¢ orange) occurring on hibrite paper. Bill Stegenga has written to inform us that he has a copy of this booklet on a definite fluorescent paper with fluorescent fibres. He states it is well above the 0 or 1 levels mentioned in the table in the book by Hughes and Keane but it is definitely not hibrite. We have also seen this level of fluorescence occurring on this booklet (and mention it in our May-June TOPICS column of 1981). Here is a definite example where the fluorescence tables (of Hughes and Keane) need revision.

About one half of the members responding to the survey suggest that the group undertake a paper fluorescence study. A few members have asked where the dull paper varieties (mentioned in the price lists of Bob Lee and Jim Hennok (for example)) fit in the fluorescence scale of Hughes and Keane. Murray Freedman has agreed to co-ordinate a paper fluorescence study by the group. We will look for Murray's ideas on this subject in a future newsletter.

We would like to thank Mike Street for his efforts in producing our columns in TOPICS. It is nice to see good reproduction of the photographs and our contact address among the BNAPS study groups in the Nov.-Dec. '81 issue. We apologize if our comments at the end of our October '81 newsletter sounded like they were criticizing Mike Street. Please be assured that he made every effort to get good reproduction of our photographs in our TOPICS column.

The Toronto area members of the study group got together last fall and decided on suggested additions and revisions for the Centennial listing in the Canada Specialized catalogue. These were presented to Art. Leggett and I was personally assured that they would be given consideration. The Toronto members also got together over the holidays for some "Christmas cheer" and to discuss some interesting material sent to myself by study group members for examination. E. von Hagen sent some interesting items which included two blocks of the 6¢ orange with fluorescent number overprints (we requested information on these varieties in earlier newsletters). Does anybody else have any information on these varieties before we (stick our necks out and) discuss these items in our next newsletter?



And finally, response to questions asked in Newsletter #4 has been terrible. Only 3 members have answered one or more of the requests. We are looking for information on plate cracks, cutting marks on BABNCO corner blocks, a re-entry type line on the 6¢ black and coil varieties. Surely there are other members who can help us here.

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OUR THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED INFORMATION OR MATERIAL FOR STUDY

IF ANY OF THIS INFORMATION IS USED IN OTHER NEWSLETTERS OR PHILATILIC PUBLICATIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE BNAPS CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVES STUDY GROUP BEING ACKNOWLEDGED.