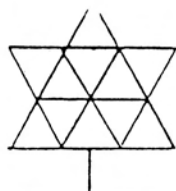


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Editor: Douglas Irwin
2250 Lawrence Ave. East #406
Scarborough, Ontario
M1P 2P9

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is now time to renew your membership for 1984. Our 1984 dues are \$8. IF PAYING THE DUES BY CHEQUE, PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO DOUGLAS IRWIN.

CORRESPONDENCE

In an effort to keep study group costs down, I have been enclosing many correspondences along with newsletters. If you desire faster replies, please include return postage with correspondence.

NEW HANDBOOK SECTION

The long awaited Centennial section of the Canadian Stamp Handbooks series edited by Michael Milos is now available from your local dealer or directly from Unitrade Associates, P.O. Box 172, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1B2 for \$5.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling plus 42¢ sales tax for Ontario residents. I cannot very well review this section as I was one of the contributors so look for reviews in upcoming issues of BNA TOPICS or the Canadian Philatelist. This section consists of about 45 pages in loose leaf format on high quality paper and will fit into a binder with other sections of the handbook series.

DOTS ON THE 8¢

Mike Painter has sent me 31 covers showing dots on the 8¢ library (see page 2 of our last newsletter), all stamps being Ottawa tagged. Once again, perfectly centered copies seem to have the dots through the perfs, but most copies are centered to the bottom and thus show the dots along the top edge of the stamp. I have charted the distribution of dates on these covers. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who has an earlier dated copy of the 8¢ with these dots

1973						1974	
June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
4	1	2	1	8	4	9	2

8¢ MISPERFS

There seems to be only one perforation shift on the 8¢ library where the vertical perforations have been shifted into the stamp design. Shown below are various sheet positions of this perforation shift



OPAL BOOKLET VENDING MACHINE ITEMS

The Opal Manufacturing Company Limited of Toronto, had supplied the Canada Post Office with postage stamp vending machines since 1955. The operation of privately owned stamp vending machines was common practice under Post Office regulations as their convenience proved attractive to hotels and retail businesses (and to their customers) and was a useful supplement to postal service outlets. In 1970, the Canada Post authorized the Opal Manufacturing Company to vend through their own privately maintained vending machines in Toronto, a specially prepared 20¢ postage stamp booklet that sold for 25¢. This booklet contained a pane arrangement of four 2¢ centennial stamps and four 3¢ centennial stamps with a blank gutter in between (a pane arrangement that did not exist in any other official booklet of the centennial issue). The booklets were printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, using new printing plates prepared from the original engraved dies. The stamps were printed in sheet form and line perforated 12 on a coated, hibrite paper, not found on any of the sheet values (or any other booklets) of the centennial issue.

The original format of the booklet pane included perforations through the folded centre gutter. Approximately 225,000 of the total 2,200,000 booklets printed appeared with the horizontal perforations along the centre fold. However, it was felt that these horizontal perforations through the gutter was unnecessary and it was discontinued. Figure 1 shows both the horizontally perforated gutter (right) and the more common unperforated gutter (left). Although a very large quantity of booklets were prepared with horizontal perforations through the

gutter, many faked examples of this variety have appeared on the philatelic market and figure 2 shows two faked booklets.

The covers for these booklets (figure 3) were pre-printed in large sheets and rouletted on the fold. The individual panes were attached to the inside of the booklet cover by a selvage strip while the booklets were held closed by spot gumming (normal booklets have the pane attached to the inside of the front cover; a variety exists where the pane is attached to the back cover). The booklets were delivered in a criss-cross fashion in lots of 50 for insertion into the Opal vending machines. The stamps were purchased by the Opal Company from the Canada Post at face value. These booklets were issued on October 26, 1970.

The vending machines for private use were identical to the machines used by the Canada Post Office throughout Canada, except for the colour of the cabinet and the design of the instruction plate. Some of these private vending machines were sold to store owners while Opal Manufacturing Company leased out additional vending machines during 1970 and 1971. This leasing programme was discontinued and the machines were returned to the Opal Company.

Changes in regulations regarding the sale of postage stamps through privately owned stamp vending machines were announced by the Postmaster General on March 20, 1972. Under the new regulations, permits would only be issued if the stamps are sold at face value. The Post Office Department allowed a 5% discount to the permit holder or agent on purchases of \$50 and over. The Opal Manufacturing Company's supply of 20¢ booklets became depleted in 1972. The machine operators who already had permits for vending machines prior to March of 1972 were given a choice: they could either apply to Canada Post for a permit to purchase the official Post Office 25¢ booklets or they could purchase envelopes from

2 →



4 →

CANADIAN POSTAGE STAMPS
TIMBRES POSTE CANADIENS

FACE
VALUE
4 x 3¢ / 20¢
VALEUR
NOMINALE

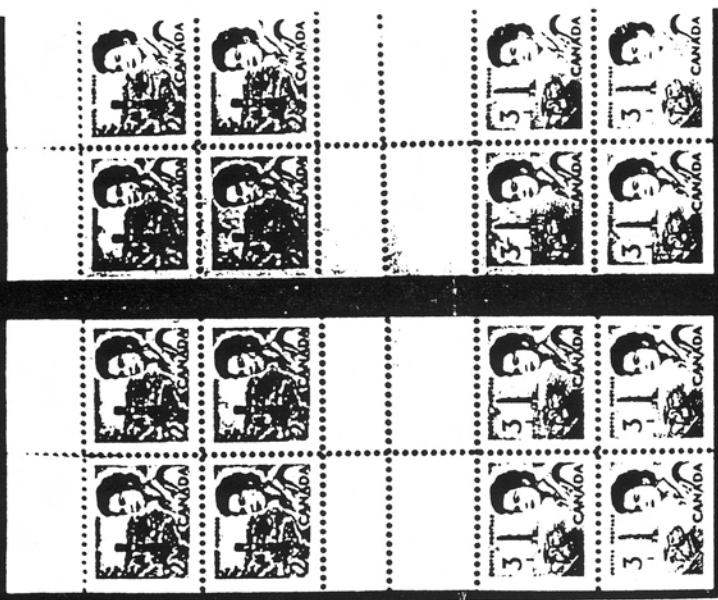
MADE EXPRESSLY FOR
"ADRECELIEMENT POUR"

OPAL MANUFACTURING
CO. LIMITED
TORONTO 15, CANADA

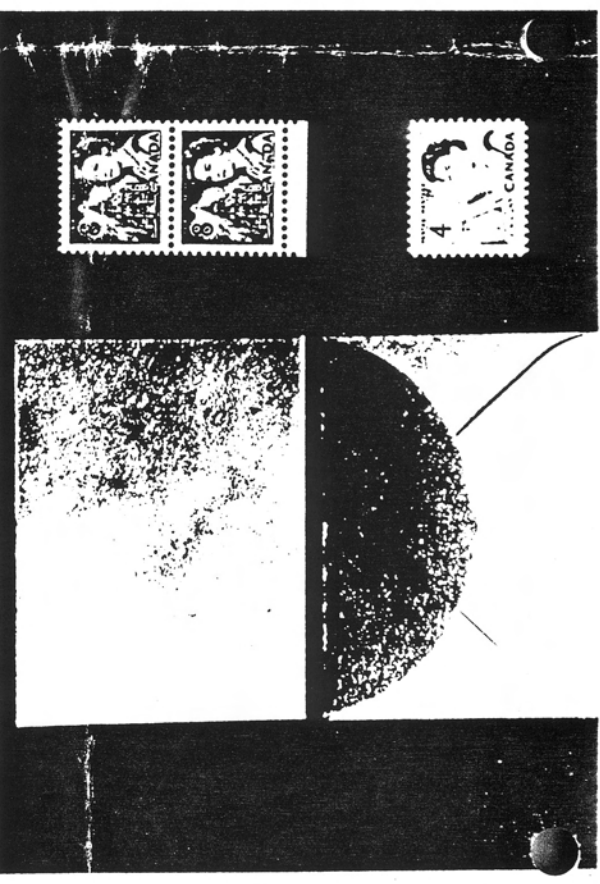
THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING
CET ESPACE EST DISPONIBLE POUR ANNONCES

FOR INFORMATION, WRITE
TO: OPAL MANUFACTURING
CO. LIMITED
70 SHEPPARD STREET
TORONTO 15, ONTARIO

1 →



3 →



the Opal Company and fill them with sheet stamps purchased by the machine operators from a local post office.

In the summer of 1972, a plain manila envelope, the same size as a sealed booklet, appeared in some vending machines. These envelopes were dispensed for 25¢ and contained centennial sheet stamps at a face value of 20¢. These plain manila envelopes are shown in figure 4.

Some operators chose to prepare cardboard folders containing postage stamps with a face value of 20¢ to be dispensed from private vending machines. Figure 5 shows a buff coloured cardboard folder enclosing two 2¢ centennial definitives and one 4¢ centennial definitive. The stamps were loose inside the folder, which was held closed by a staple and a rubber stamp was used to print the contents in green ink on the front cover.

Manila envelopes with advertising on the front appeared in November of 1973 in some Opal vending machines (figure 6). The envelopes with advertising were made up for one vending machine operator but upon the death of this operator, the Opal Manufacturing Company purchased the remainder of these envelopes and distributed them (it is interesting to note that the address on the envelopes for Multiple Housing Services is that of the Opal Manufacturing Company).

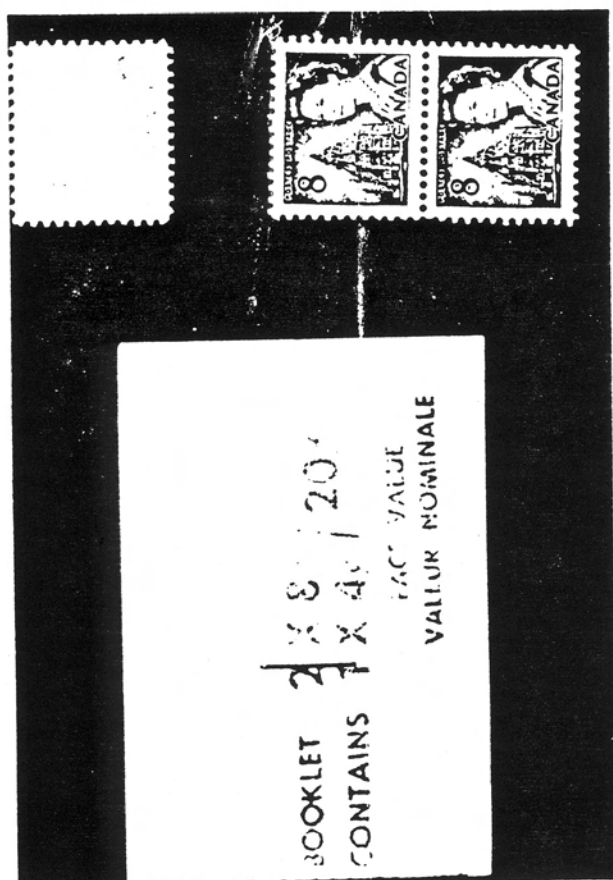
The centennial definitives were replaced by the caricature definitives late in 1973. As post office stock of centennial stamps became depleted, caricature definitives began to appear in these advertising envelopes early in 1974.

In August of 1974, the Opal Manufacturing Company began supplying plain white envelopes to the operators of vending machines. These envelopes were filled with caricature definitives, marking the end of centennial stamps being dispensed from Opal vending machines.

Acknowledgements and further reading:

Information on envelopes used by the Opal Manufacturing Company was graciously supplied by Guenter Jansen. Various articles on Opal booklets have appeared in BNA TOPICS¹ and the newsletter of the BNAPS Centennial Definitives Study Group².

- 1a P. J. Wiedemann, BNA TOPICS, volume 28, number 7, page 202
- 1b M. Dicketts, BNA TOPICS, volume 30, number 6, page 140
- 1c P. J. Wiedemann & E. H. Hausmann, BNA TOPICS, volume 30, number 10 page 257
- 2a L. C. Irwin, BNA TOPICS, volume 38, number 3, page 48
- 2 BNAPS Centennial Definitives Study Group Newsletter
Number 9, May 1982
Number 10, January 1983



↑ 5

↓ 6

