

CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVES
STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER
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BNAPEX '86: This years BNAPEX convention will be held over the Labour Day weekend, but unlike past conventions, this years will run Friday, Saturday & Sunday. This makes it much easier for members to attend and convention chairman Chuck Firby has informed me that very low priced single day passes will be available. We have not had a study group meeting for about a year and one half now, and so we are planning on getting together at BNAPEX '86. Would those members planning on attending, please drop me a line to say what you would like to see discussed.

Study group chairman John Burnett has brought up an interesting point. Study group members who are into exhibiting their Centennials can probably identify with this problem. Judges are not capable of judging many of the specialized exhibits and this is particularly true when it comes to modern Canada. John would like to see the study groups, through BNAPS, create a small guide book on judging BNA material. John would like to see us set down the basic ideas on what is important in judging Centennial material. This is something that we could thrash out in the next two newsletter and thus have something to present at BNAPEX. THIS MEANS I HAVE TO START HEARING YOUR IDEAS IMMEDIATELY ON THIS JUDGING MANNER. What should a good Centennial exhibit include? What rarities should we have? What basics should we cover? How do we deal with the paper fluorescences, especially the hibrites (is a Centennial exhibit complete without a 6¢ orange, Winnipeg tagged hibrite & the \$1.50 hibrite booklet of the 6¢ black)? What about the forgeries? How much emphasis do we put on tagging and its varieties?

As you may be aware, the financial responsibility for the annual BNAPS convention rests solely on the local sponsoring regional groups; BNAPS does not provide any funding whatsoever. In the past, some of the groups have gone "into the red" hosting the conventions. The Detroit-Windsor Regional Group has initiated a raffle to help raise funds to offset a portion of the 25000+ dollar budget for BNAPEX '86. Copies of a flyer for this draw are enclosed with this newsletter. Remember, you need not be present to win. Upon receipt of your cheque, the raffle ticket stubs will be mailed to you.

The fluorescent study currently being carried out by the group is progressing at this time; I have heard from four members at time of writing this newsletter (mid February) and I am still hoping to hear from many more. We will have an update probably in the next newsletter; additions to both the Milos'listing and the tables in the second edition of "Canada, The 1967-73 Definitive Issue".

In this newsletter, we feature an article by John Aitken discussing "Centennial Bisects" and an article by Mike Painter on "Paper Fluorescence", tying together the various scales used by the many handbooks and catalogues. We also show some new booklet varieties.

Your newsletter is always in need of articles and information on varieties. There are still a lot of specialists in the group whom we have not heard from. Let's put an immediate effort into the fluorescent paper study and send me your thoughts regarding the judging disparity facing Centennial exhibitors.

John Aitken has sent in an interesting article regarding a couple of covers shown on page 8 of this newsletter. Let's hear from some other study group members on an interesting cover or other item in your collection.

Following the recent increase in postal rates a number of London sub-offices posted signs to the effect that they were out of one cent and two cent stamps.

This brought to mind an earlier rate increase and an article entitled "The Gray Creek Bisects".

In vol. 24 (1973) of the Canadian Philatelist R. Thurlow Fraser reported finding five covers with 2¢ Centennial bisects sent from Gray Creek, B.C. in August 1971. After this find he visited the community and was surprised to learn that 2¢ bisects had also been used from Gray Creek following the Jan. 1, 1972 postal rate increase.

Thurlow attributed the use of bisects to a combination of a shortage of one cent stamps and public reaction to the rate changes. (He does not explain the latter point further.)

According to Thurlow up to 100 examples of the 6¢ + 2¢ bisect combination were mailed. All those he found were non-philatelic and had been sent in August 1971.

The bisects used in combination with 7¢ stamps were mailed in March 1972. The examples he reports appear to be philatelically inspired.

Two photographs were included with the article. They show a 6¢ Centennial + 2¢ bisect, and a 7¢ Centennial + 2¢ bisect. In both cases the 2¢ has been vertically bisected.

Shown here is a commercial cover from Gray Creek B.C. The postmark is faint and could be either July or August 10, 1971. A 6¢ black and a vertically bisected 2¢ Centennial were used to pay the postage. The bisect is marked 1¢ in blue ballpoint pen. Thurlow's article does not mention or show such a marking.

Also illustrated is a cover from Black Creek B.C. dated July 17, 1971. Here a manuscript 1¢ has been employed.

Although I suspect bisected stamps were not usually acceptable, I don't know what the correct procedure was. Was there one, or was it left up to the discretion of the postmaster? Certainly, use over a possible seven week period makes one wonder.

Mrs E. Syfchuck
Gray Creek
B.C.



Mc Connell Nursery
Port Burwell
Ontario

Cover from Gray Creek, British Columbia, dated either July or August 10, 1971 with 6¢ black and bisected 2¢ paying 7¢ first class rate. The 2¢ bisect has a 1¢ written on it in blue pen

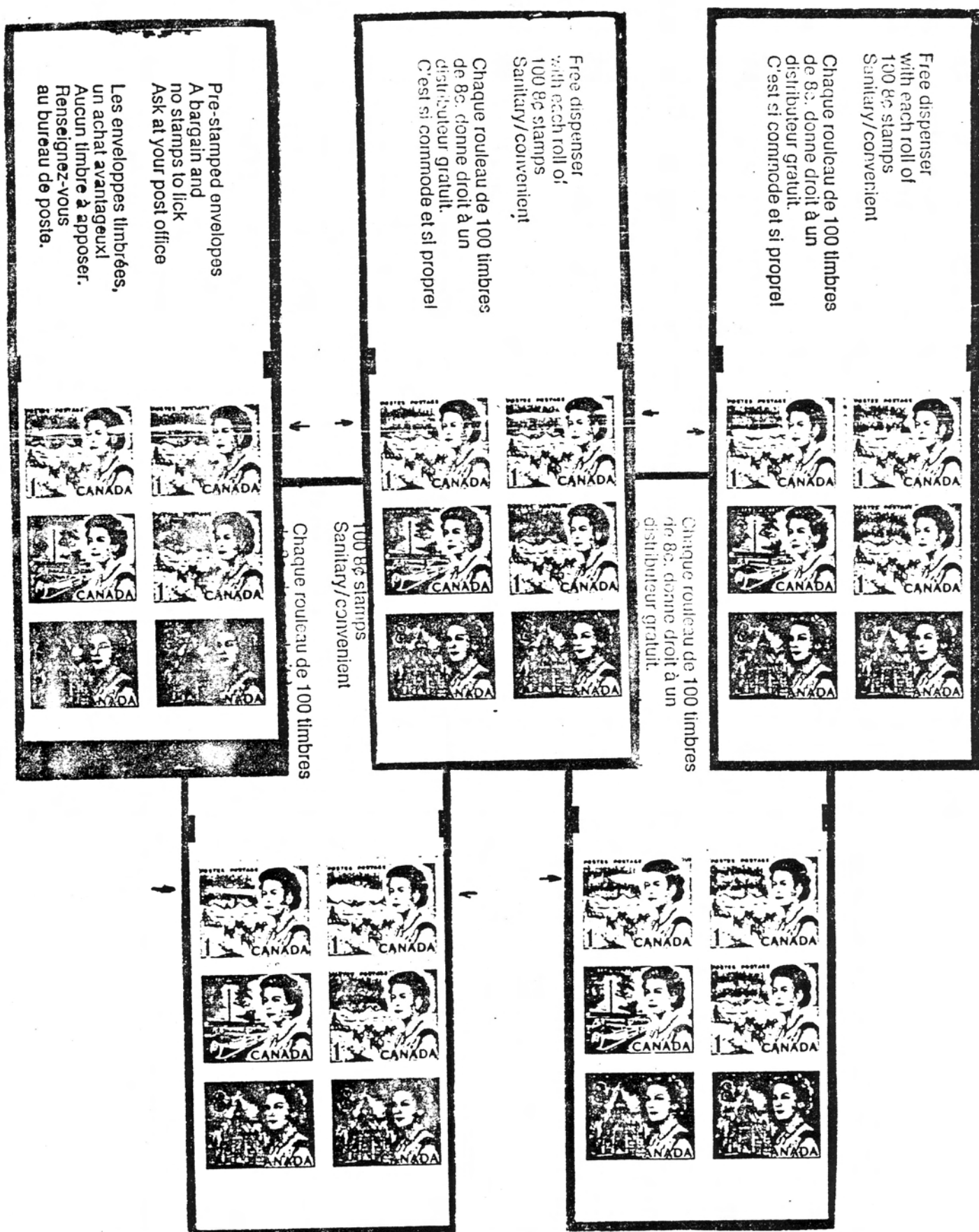
MRS G. CARLSON.
BLACK CREEK.
B.C.



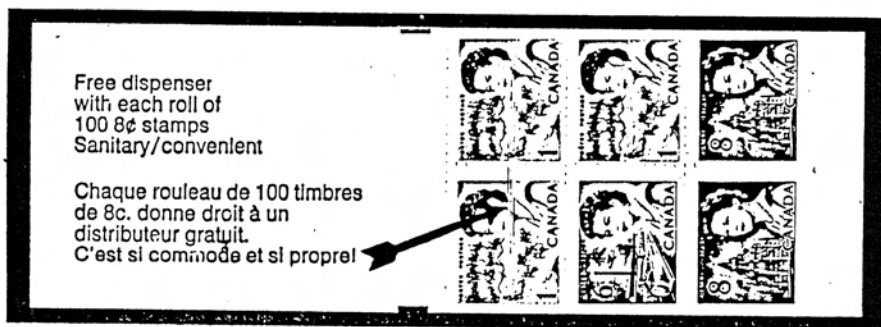
The Mc Connell Nursery Co Ltd
Port Burwell. Ontario.

Cover from Black Creek, British Columbia with 6¢ black and a manuscript 1¢ paying 7¢ first class rate,

Bill McCann has shown me five examples of Bk 69 with a horizontal portion of the upper two 1¢ stamps missing. Four of the booklets have a clear sealing strip while the fifth has a black sealing strip.



Peter Lehman has sent us an example of Bk 69cii with three fine, parallel brown lines running through the top two 1¢ stamps. DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE ANY INTERESTING BOOKLET VARIETIES TO SHOW US???



Mike Painter has sent in this short article on fluorescence. We will be giving an update of our fluorescence study in the next newsletter. HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOU YET???

Ultraviolet Fluorescence in the Centennials

A number of grading systems have been used to describe the appearance of stamps under ultraviolet light, and some of the terms they use are confusing. For example, "dull" may mean plain, non-fluorescent paper to one person, the slight fluorescence at the low end of the fluorescent papers to another, or the very dark, non-reflective kind of paper (such as occurs on some panes of booklet #54) to yet another. This article is not an attempt to standardize terms, but rather to correlate several of the systems in use, which will also show where several terms differ.

As several previous authors have pointed out, fluorescence is made more complicated by the fact that some references combine descriptions under ordinary light with those under ultraviolet, by differences of perception due to individual lamps and eyes, by the subjective nature of colour descriptions, by the different degrees of specialization desired by different collectors, and by the changes in fluorescence which may occur in used stamps. The background on which a stamp is lamped and the tagging it may have can also confuse the eye.

The table on the next page attempts to equate several systems which have been suggested at one time or another. The boundaries between grades are not always definite and I hope the authors will advise if I have failed to interpret them properly. The stamp numbers which are given as examples of particular grades (and which seem to be stamps which do not vary in fluorescence) are the old Canada Specialized numbers (i.e. the same as Scott, but with the i suffixes).

With my lamp (Raytech LS4) I'm not sure I can distinguish the top three or four Keane/Hughes grades from each other, nor the bottom several grades of the Hanson scale. I seem to detect several differences in the plain papers (very dark, dark purple or violet, greyish, yellowish and whitish) but they seem to grade imperceptibly into each other so they are hard to pin down. The fluorescent papers also seem to grade from one to another so that borderlines are hazy. I find the border between plain paper and the least fluorescent of the fluorescent papers is sometimes uncertain, too.

Although the following table doesn't resolve any differences in terminology, it may help translate from one scale to another.

M.F. Painter

[illegible]

7. Scott Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps & Covers, 1985
8. Canada Specialized Postage Stamp Catalogue, 1984
9. The Charlton Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Postage Stamps, 1982.
10. K. Bileski, Canadian Postage Stamps 1953-1974, 1975
11. Gary J. Lyons, "Coding & Arranging Your 1967 Definitives" Topics, Apr/74
12. Kenneth G. Rose "Tagging Along" Topics, Nov/74
13. Michael Milos, "Identifying Paper Varieties" Can. Phil. Mar/Apr/77
14. Larocche (Referred to in Milos article)
15. D. Gronbeck-Jones, Centennial Definitives of Canada, 1981; and Caricature and Landscape Definitives of Canada, 1979
16. Glenn F. Hanson "A Chart of the 1967 Definitive Issue Using Ultraviolet Light" Topics, Feb/74
17. P.W. Keane & J. Paul Hughes "Canada, the 1967-73 Definitive Issue" 2nd Ed. 1984, G.S. Wegg Limited. (Irwin & Freedman)