CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVES STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER
Number 47
SPRING 1990

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LAMBETH, ONT.
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Hello again. This is later than planned. Daughter Rosalind arrived May 8, three weeks early, disrupting my schedule. Thank you all for your patience and your encouraging letters, both of which are much appreciated.

I am pleased to acknowledge a financial contribution from Ray Metcalf, and material for the newsletter received from Guenter Jansen, Andrew Chung, Andrew Liptak, Ralph Mitchener, Robert Lemire, John Jamieson and Scott Traquair.

FOLLOW UP TO LAST ISSUE

Guenter Jansen has sent in two excellent examples of the split rubber sealing strip used in the Howarine process. He also enclosed a copy of the 1971 Philatelic Bulletin referring to the Opal booklets. This is reproduced on page 299.

Here is a second attempt at showing the dot variety from Ed Butler. I hope nobody suffered eyestrain looking for it last time. It showed on the original and on the first copy that the photo-copying was done from, but didn't appear in the newsletter copies for some reason.

ADVERTISING POLICY

Chris Weeda of Weeda Stamps Ltd., 420 W. Pender St., Vancouver B.C. V6B 1T5 writes: "We have a huge hoard of unpicked Centennial issue on single paper with a tremendous yield of varieties....We would like to wholesale the majority of this out in large lots. Our price: $6 / kg. if bought in 25 kg. lots ($150). Smaller quantities at $10 / kg., postage extra."

I have included this ad for the benefit of any interested members. I'm sure we all look for opportunities to add to our collections. As well, judging by my experience with the ads in the Postal Stationery Study Group newsletter, these can lead to very satisfying contacts with other Study Group members. In my opinion this benefits both parties AND makes the Study Group stronger. So, if you have something to offer, or a wantlist you want help with, send it along. In future please enclose $1 for every 25-30 words (name and address included).

CANADA

THE 1967 - 1973 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

TWENTY-FIVE CENT BOOKLETS
THE EIGHT CENT SLATE SERIES.

TAGGED GENERAL TYPE V, (OP4) 2 BAR - 4MM

TEXT "A"

PAPER: WHITE
U.V.R: LOW FLUORESCENT

A
PAPER: WHITE
U.V.R: MEDIUM FLUORESCENT

ISSUED: DECEMBER 30, 1971
BLACK SEALING STRIPS
GUM: P.V.A.

2mm SPACE

CANADA

THE 1967 - 1973 DEFINITIVE ISSUE

TWENTY - FIVE CENT BOOKLETS
THE EIGHT CENT SLATE SERIES.

PANES NOT TAGGED

TEXT "A"

PAPER: WHITE
U.V.R: MEDIUM FLUORESCENT

PAPER: HIBRITE
U.V.R: HIGH FLUORESCENT

ISSUED: DECEMBER 30, 1971
BLACK SEALING STRIPS
GUM: P.V.A.

VERT SMALL SPACE

NOTE: RIGHT FRAME LINE IN SIX CENT BLACK IS VERY WEAK.

NOTE: HORIZONTAL LINES OF PERFORATIONS IS SHIFTED UP, CUTTING INTO DESIGN.

INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS

BOOKLETS FOR PRIVATELY-OWNED VENDING MACHINES

Enquiries have been received concerning stamp booklets being sold through privately owned vending machines of the Opal Manufacturing Company, 20 Sheffield Street, Toronto 385, Ontario.

The Canada Post Office has authorized this Company to vend through their own privately maintained vending machines a commercial booklet containing 4 x 2¢ and 4 x 3¢ postage stamps. The retail price of the booklet is 25¢, representing a premium of 20% over face value as allowed by Departmental regulations governing the operation of privately owned vending machines.

The stamps are purchased by the Opal Company from the Department at face value. The differential in manufacturing cost, compared with postage in standard form, is borne by the Opal Company. This arrangement is an economic, commercial alternative to having folders or booklets made up by other means or methods. There are advantages to the Post Office, including revenue and security control.

The operation of privately owned stamp vending machines has been common practice under Canada Post Office regulations of long standing. Their convenience has proved attractive to hotels and retail businesses and to their customers for many years and is a useful supplement to our postal service outlets.

Following is the pertinent data of interest to collectors concerning the manufacture and distribution of these booklets:

- Printer, Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa.
- Booklets are prepared with a single sheet containing 4 x 2¢ and 4 x 3¢ stamps using new plates prepared from the original engraved dies.
- Printing Process: Engraved.
- Printed in sheet form.
- Perforated 12 gauge.
- The original format of the booklet pane included perforations through the folded center gutter. Approximately 225,000 of this type were produced. This feature has since been discontinued.
- Covers pre-printed in sheet, rouletted on fold.
- Individual panes affixed to book cover by selvage strip.
- Booklets held closed by spot gumming.
- Booklets are delivered criss-cross fashion in lots of 50 for insertion in Opal machine.
- No other format is used for delivery.
- Quantity printed – continuous.

There are no restrictions on the area of distribution. The Opal Company has begun a programme of installing, servicing and maintaining privately owned postage stamp vending machines in Toronto and area. If the programme is successful the firm intends to gradually expand these operations to other centers.

Because of the specific commercial connotation of this booklet and because of the 20% premium price allowed under the regulations governing privately owned vending machines, we do not propose to offer the booklets through the philatelic service. They are available from the Opal Company.

FIRST DAY COVER CACHETS

For several years now I have been a regular reader of LINN'S stamp newspaper in an attempt to broaden my stamp-collecting horizons and refresh my interest. From time to time an article or a regular column appears that particularly catches my fancy. This happened last year when the U.S. issued a $2.40 Priority Mail stamp and the Post Office was the sole provider of the First Day Cover cachet.

That brought back memories of when Canada Post got into the First Day Cover business. It happened during the Centennial period, and resulted in many of the private cachet makers leaving the scene.

When the event in the U.S. occurred I was finding my Centennial collecting a bit stale. I needed a change and a boost. At the same time I confess to a certain amount of prejudice against such "philatelic" creations as First Day Covers. However, the LINN'S First Day columnist wrote such interesting articles and seemed to be having such a good time that I was tempted to suspend my disbelief.

What really won me over was the discovery that two of my closest collecting buddies--hard-core postal history collectors--were (quietly) collecting First Day Covers! Heretics? Not at all! They are having a good time at it, and since I started looking for Centennial cachets, I am too.

Marcel Cool has called collecting FDC's a combination of collecting art and postage stamps.

Over the next few issues of the newsletter I hope to convey some of the charm of First Day Cover collecting through the medium of the Centennial issue.

CANADA POST OFFICE REPLACEMENT / PRESENTATION FDC

Earlier I mentioned that Canada Post got into the First Day Cover business during the Centennial period. I had always thought that was the case, but I was surprised to discover differently.

It is correct to say that the mass circulation of Canada Post cachets began in 1971. Marcel Cool's "The Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers" lists and prices them. However, official cachets have been created since the Post Office began providing First Day of Issue service in 1949. The Cool catalogue has a partial list of these but does not price them.

With the help of Andrew Chung, the Study Group has obtained from Ralph Mitchener information about the pre-1971 official First Day Covers. These notes are taken in part from the display in the National Philatelic Collection, panels 1 and 2, frame 25, case 5, which Mr. Mitchener helped prepare.

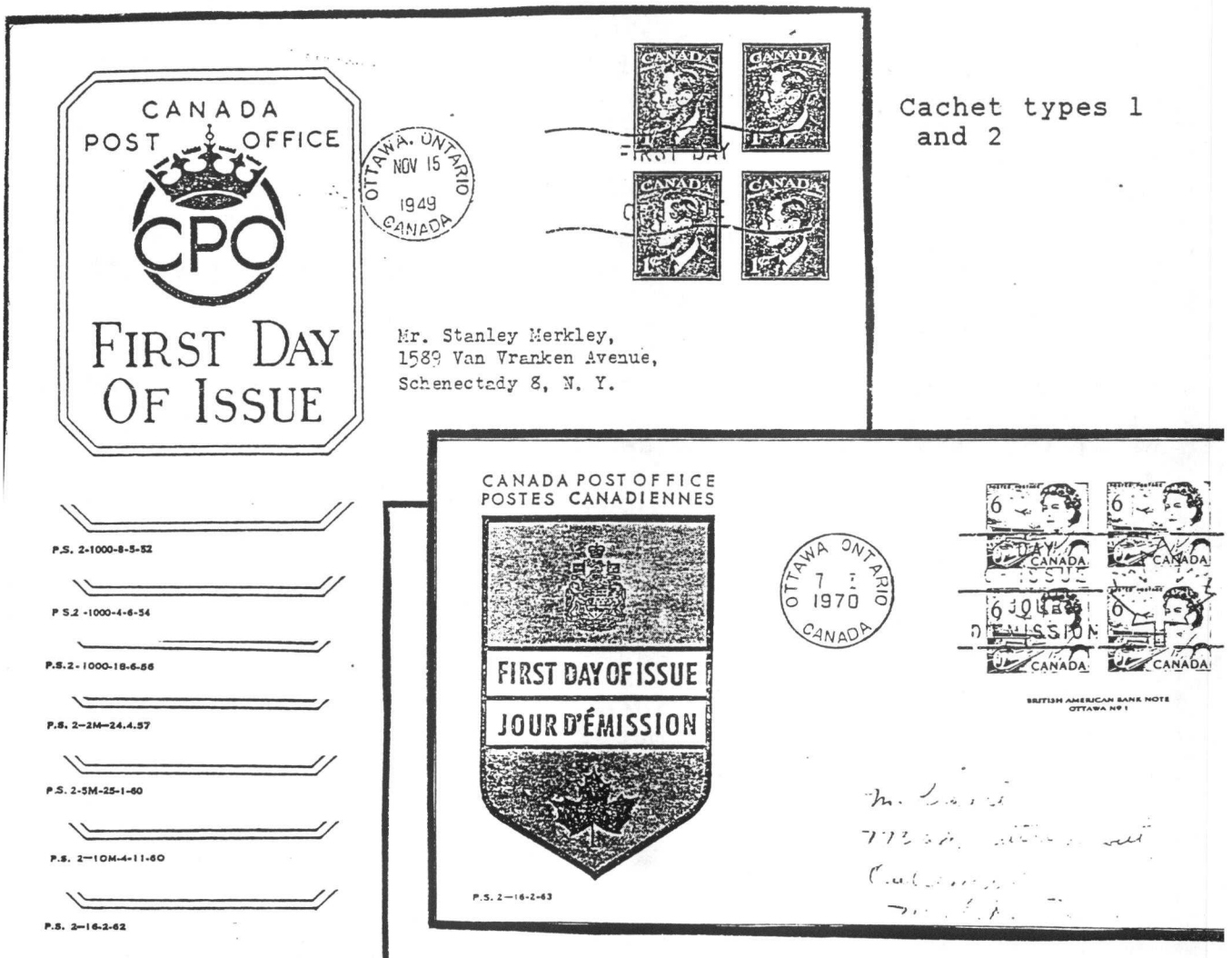
"These special envelopes were prepared to replace collectors' envelopes lost or damaged in servicing. These envelopes were later used officially to mail information about new issues to the philatelic press, for presentation, and beginning 20 April 1960, to send complimentary covers to overseas officials.

"During the time these envelopes were available, commercial first day covers were used for customers who wanted an exact replacement of their original cover.

"The use of these envelopes as replacement and official covers was discontinued in 1971 when the Post Office began designing First Day Covers for each new issue. Official covers used after 1971 may be very rare. However, a few were used until early 1974 and possibly later, for some of the covers prepared for official records."

Ralph has provided a summary of the useages he has found on the replacement cachet covers.

A note about the colours on the cachets. Type 1 is black only. Type 2 is blue. Type 3 is black except for the red flags. On Type 4 the flags and CANADA POST OFFICE POSTES CANADIENNES are red, the rest is black. Type 5 is black except for the red leaf and inscription FIRST DAY OF ISSUE JOUR D'EMISSION. That inscription is again red on Type 6, but the rest of the cachet is grey. Type 7 is sage green, outlined in gold. Also gold is CANADA POST OFFICE POSTES CANADIENNES.



Cachet types 1 and 2

CENTENNIAL YEAR OF CONFEDERATION

CENTENAIRE DE LA CONFÉDÉRATION

1867 | 1967

CANADA POST OFFICE
POSTES CANADIENNES

OTTAWA ONTARIO
10 AM
8 II
1967
CANADA

CANADA POSTES POSTAGE 25

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
JOUR D'ÉMISSION

CANADA POST OFFICE

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

OTTAWA ONTARIO
30 XII
1971
CANADA

DAY
OF ISSUE
JOUR
D'ÉMISSION

JOUR D'EMISSION

POSTES CANADIENNES

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE JOUR D'EMISSION

CANADA POST OFFICE

POSTES CANADIENNES

CANADA POST OFFICE

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE · JOUR D'EMISSION

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
JOUR D'EMISSION

OTTAWA ONTARIO
8 V
1968
CANADA

INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL DECADE
1965-1974
CANADA

DAY
OF ISSUE
JOUR
D'ÉMISSION

CANADA POST OFFICE
POSTES CANADIENNES

MR. G.C. GUNTER,
6 EAST KINGS HOUSE RD.,
KINGSTON 6, JAMAICA.

EN

B40.2

Note the Type 3 cover-showing useage to an overseas official?

R. D. MITCHENER
1253 SHERMAN DRIVE
OTTAWA ONTARIO
CANADA K2C 2M7

Nov. 16, 1

Summary

Table 1. ~~Tentative~~ data on Canada Post official replacement FDCs

Type #	Cachet	Usage Seen: Earliest Date	Scott #	Latest Date	Scott #
1.1	CPO (plain)	Nov. 15/49	284-8	Nov. 3/52	320
1.2	CPO (P.S.2-1000-8-5-52)	Nov. 3/52	320	June 10/54	337-42 1/
1.3	CPO (P.S.2-1000-4-6-54)	Apr. 4/55	352	Mar. 7/57	365-8
1.4	CPO (P.S.2-1000-18-6-56)	Mar. 7/57	365-8	Jan. 22/58	375
1.5	CPO (P.S.2-2M-24.4.57)	June 4/58	378	Sept. 10/59	~~388~~ 393
1.6	CPO (P.S.2-5M-25-1-60)	Apr. 20/60	389	Apr. 19/61 ~~Mar. 10/62~~	393 ~~392~~
1.7	CPO (P.S.2-10M-4-11-60)	Mar. 10/61	392	May 3/62	397
1.8	CPO (P.S.2-16-2-62)	June 13/62	398	Aug. 21/63	412
2	Blue (P.S.2-16-2-63) 2/	May 8/68	481	Jan. 7/70	460
Rosecraft cachet period 3/		Aug. 21/63	412	Sept. 8/65	442
	- Individual issue cachets 3/	Aug. 21/63	412	Apr. 8/64	416
	- General purpose cachets 3/	May 14/64	417	Sept. 8/65	442
3	Crossed red flags	Oct. 13/65	443-4	Oct. 12/66	451-2
	- also used in 1968	Feb. 15/68	478	May 8/68	481
4	1867-1967 Centennial	Jan. 11/67	453	Oct. 11/67	476-7
5	Red stylized maple leaf	May 8/68	481	Mar. 24/71	534
6	Sprig of leaves	Apr. 14/71	535	Feb. 22/74	573-4
7.1	Gold and green map (with F.D. of I. inscription) 4/	Apr. 7/72	560	May 16/73	616
7.2	As 7.1 (no F.D. of I.) 2/	Nov. 1/72	607	Nov. 29/72	610

1. A [very] late usage, Oct. 9/58 (Scott 364), also seen.

2. I have only seen the two usages noted. Others should exist.

3. Identified as to Canada Post usage by [at least] two types of stencilled addresses.

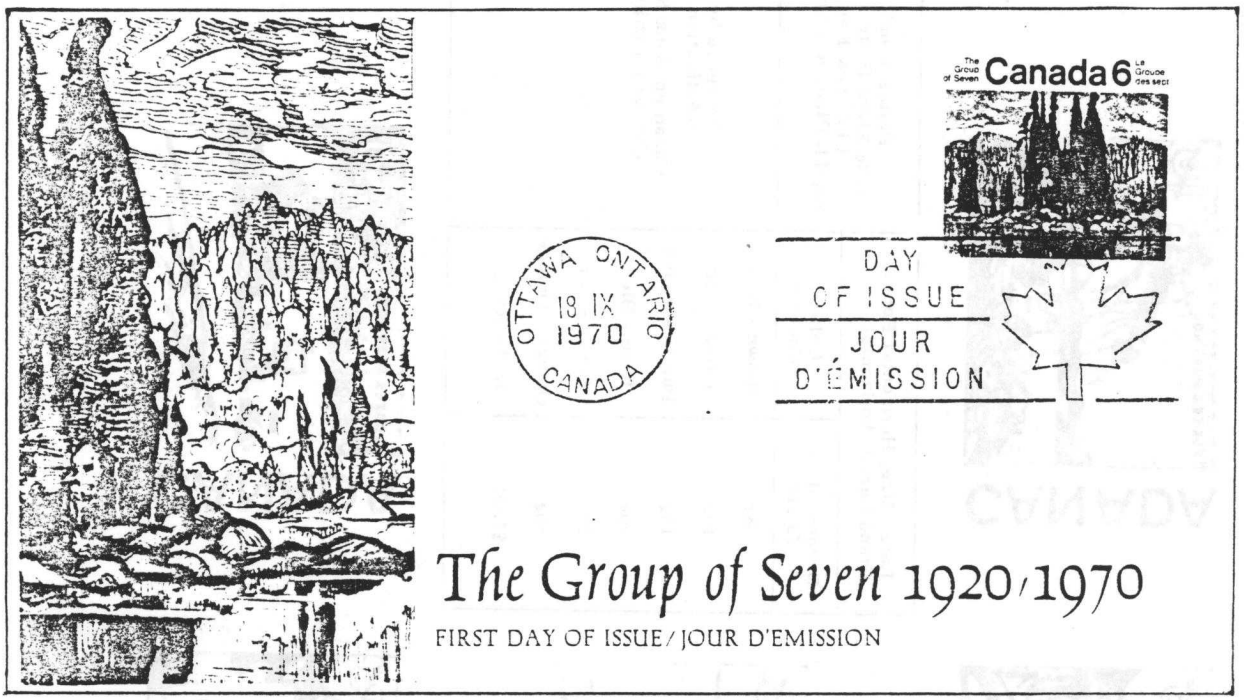
4. Only seen with stencilled addresses.

AN UNLISTED CANADA POST OFFICIAL CACHET?

Back in November 1970 the London Philatelic Society was favoured with a visit from Mr. Frank Flatters of the Post Office marketing department. He brought with him the news that the Post Office was getting into the First Day Cover Cachet business, and he brought a sample of what would be offered. Everyone present was given a copy of the Group of Seven FDC with its dark green cachet.

This cover bears the first stamp produced by Ashton Potter. Would it be fair to say that it also has place in the list of Canada Post official cachets? (I wrote to Marcel Cool about this, but my letter was returned unclaimed.)

Does anyone know of any similar circumstances involving other cachets of the period?



HELP WANTED

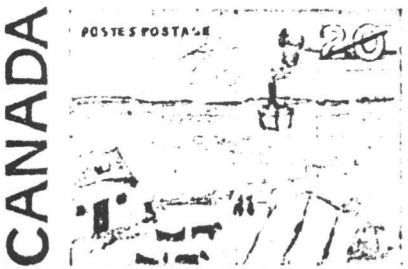
In the next issue of the newsletter I will be covering the FDC's produced by the Canadian Banknote Company, and possibly those of the British American Banknote Company, as well. I have illustrations and background information for both.

I also have illustrations of the cachets produced by Cole, Capital, Rosecraft, and some examples of H & E, Jackson, Jackson Chickering, Schering, Elliott Marion, and Artopages. For these I have no background information.

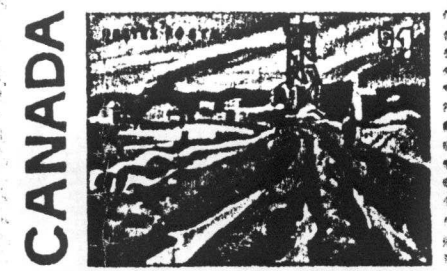
I am also seeking examples of the cachets produced by Artcraft, Saunders, Bileski, Darnell, and any private (i.e., unnamed) cachets you may know of, as well as any background information available. Reports of other producers not listed above are also eagerly sought.

8¢ - $1.00 DENOMINATIONS/VALEURS DE 8¢ À $1

Date of issue: 8th February 1967
Date d'émission: le 8 février 1967



Large Size, Horizontal Format Grand format, horizontal		Plates 1 and 2 (50¢-$1.00 Plate 1 only) Planches 1 et 2 (50¢-$1. Planche 1 seulement)	Panes of 50 Stamps Feuilles de 50 timbres
Denomination Valeur	Colour Couleur		Quantity Ordered Tirage
8¢	Brown - Brun	Designed by Réalisation Canadian Bank Note Company Limited	Continuous Printing Continu
10¢	Olive - Vert		
15¢	Purple - Mauve		
20¢	Blue - Bleu		
25¢	Green - Vert		
50¢	Orange - Orange		
$1.00	Red - Rouge		



ESSAYS OF THE 8c to $1 VALUES

Back in issues 37 and 38 of the newsletter, Doug Irwin illustrated some of the unaccepted designs for the Centennial issue that were displayed at CAPEX in 1987.

Andrew Chung has pointed out that the order forms for the February 8, 1967 new issue and the pre-release publicity illustrations also show essays, rather than the actual stamps.

On the facing page is a photo-copy of the order form. There are several immediately noticeable differences. The lettering of Canada is rounded, not square like on the stamps. Also, the values on the essays are white, not coloured like the stamps.

There are also differences in the individual designs. E.G.:

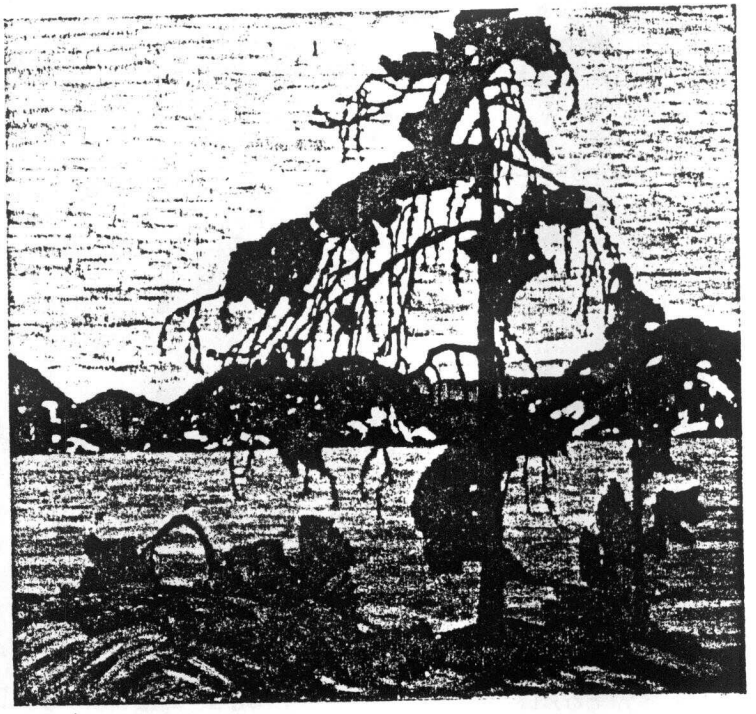
8c - The bare tree on the left is much taller on the stamp
- There is a vehicle coming from the other direction on the stamp, but not on the essay.

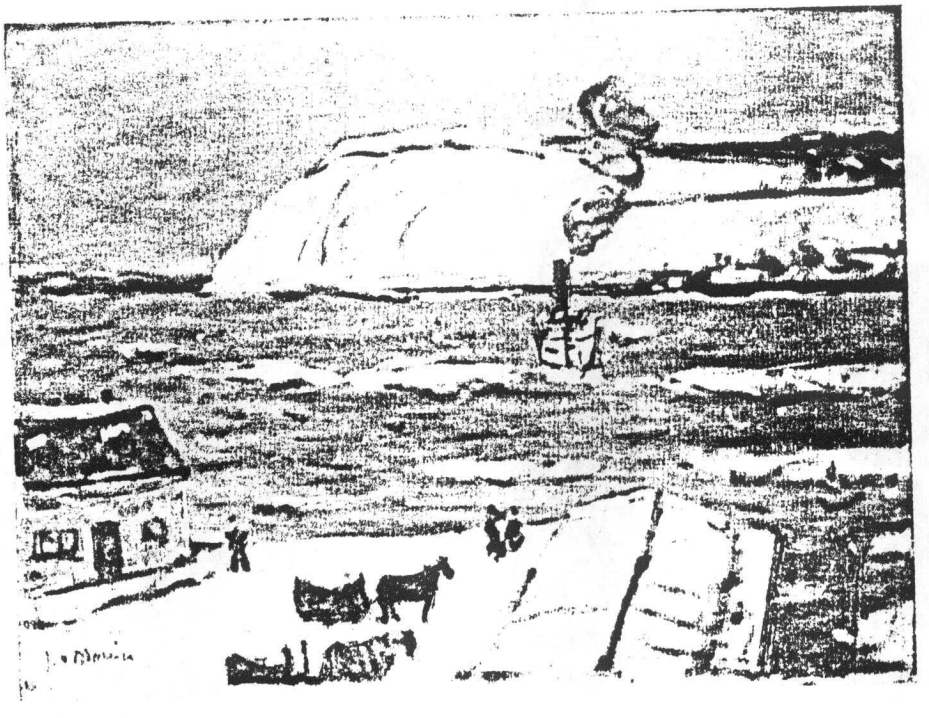
10c - In the foreground, the shape of the bent-over tree differs between stamp and essay.
- In the background, the islands are very distinct on the essay, while on the stamp they blend into the shoreline.

20c - The picture on the stamp is reduced at the left and bottom, compared to the essay.

The Queen's Printer produced a series of postcards showing the designs on stamps. Included in this group were some (all?) of the Centennial high values. In my collection I have the three cards shown here. Do others exist? Photo-copies for the newsletter would be welcome. (So would a set for my collection!)

The pictures on the post card appear to be quite faithful to the stamp designs. Does anyone know if they are accurate renditions of the original paintings as well, or are the promotional essays perhaps closer to the originals?





BOOK REVIEW

POST MORTEM - WHY CANADA'S MAIL WON'T MOVE
by David Stewart-Patterson copyright 1987
published by MacMillan of Canada 307 pages

This book traces the move of the Post Office from being a government department to becoming a Crown Corporation. It reports the move from the perspective of the participants--the managers, labour leaders and politicians, and identifies and discusses the problems prevalent before the change, and those occurring after.

The book appears to be well-researched. In addition to the personal interviews, a select bibliography is included. The style is very readable.

I found the book fascinating. It provides an historical background for the 1968-1985 period that I haven't found elsewhere. Things such as changing postal rates, postal mechanization, new marketing efforts, and postal strikes are covered, sometimes in surprising detail.

I won't say more, other than that I highly recommend this book. It's good background, and a good read for the summer.

SERENDIPITY

I had intended to include this review in the previous issue of the newsletter until I noticed some copies for sale in Robert Lee's March auction. The good news is that I have 10 copies available. The bad news is that though it cost less than $5 to mail the books to me, postage for a single copy, sent at the "printed paper" rate (surface) is $2.70 - $3.75 in Canada, $5.30 to the U.S.A., and $6.15 to all other destinations.

To give all our members an equal chance of reading the book, one copy is being donated to the BNAPS library. For those wishing to own a copy, I will reserve a portion of the books for members outside Canada until one month after the newsletter mailing. After that it's first come - first served.

The price will be $9 for Canadian members and $9 for U.S. members until August 1 (to be mailed from the U.S. on a special trip). After then $12. Overseas $12. Any surplus will go to benefit the Study Group.

My thanks to Richard Beecher for obtaining the information about the 4th class rate within the U.S.A..

IMPERF COILS

Member John Jamieson has sent along copies of his latest catalogues, containing a very informative pair of articles about the Elizabethan imperf coils. I have taken the liberty of reproducing them here for the benefit of the Study Group.

CANADIAN IMPERFS - PART IV - The Imperf Coils

With this article we come to the first of the Imperforate coil errors. We will treat these together as they are a group of particular interest to many collectors who do not collect other Imperforate errors, or the early Favour imperfs.

Beginning with the 6c Orange Centennial Coils in 1969, all the coils issued to date have been found imperforate. They are almost always found in strips of 13 with perfs at both ends and missing 12 rows of perfs. The coils are printed on a continuous web of paper and perforated with a cam-driven "bed" of pins -- 12 rows of pins, each 10 stamps wide -- the wide of the coil TUBE that is distributed to post offices. Estimates given are the total number of pairs that I feel have reached the philatelic market for each. They are only my opinion -- an educated guestimation! We have, over the years, purchased quite a few used imperf pairs and singles -- evidence that many of these error strips are cut up by members of the public, unaware that they are of value.

- FAKES -

The TWO Fake pairs. I "soaked" the bottom half of the right pair and, as expected, the colour started to float away as can be seen at the Lower Left. The paper on these is too thick (.0052" -- normal is .0038") and the gum is too white and even, when compared to the real thing, where the gum is quite yellowish.

- GENUINE -

The Sisson's Strip
Sold in April 1968

Joe's Strip

#408a - 4c Cameo Pair, Imperf Between 2 Known SCS VF NH $3,000

The Imperf Coils start out with one of Canada's major modern "problems". A coil strip of 4 was offered in a Sissons auction in April of 1968 - The centre pair was totally imperforate between, and the description was "NH, Very Fine and probably unique". In January of 1986, some dangerous fakes of this item were offered at a Toronto stamp show. I had long wanted to see this item, and, when I was shown the pair, I could hardly believe my eyes. With a quick examination at the show (with the usual lack of proper facilities for a thorough examination) it looked great -- so I bit. The seller told me he had another pair (which I also bought), and that his "source" had a few more. I was excited. I had always assumed that at least 10 strips like the Sissons lot could exist "This must be the hoard!" To make a long story short, the fellow also had a couple of other items and they, combined with a bit of the "story" that did not quite fit, brought me to examine the two pairs far more carefully than I would have otherwise. After all, who fakes imperfs? Well someone had! They were pretty good fakes! The two pairs now reside in my reference collection as a solid reminder to check everything carefully.

NOTE: If any of you purchased a pair of these in 1986-8 please have it certified. I will check it out for you if you wish.

We would love to see the Sissons piece -- who has it? I want to be convinced it is real and sound as I expect it is. This is important -- as the listing in Scott Catalogue may be removed if the REAL variety is not found and properly documented. If you have it, or know who does, please contact me, or have the owner get in touch! 1-800-667-6900.

I had written the above paragraph on March 25, just before leaving for Toronto for the CSDA Stamp Show held March 30 to April 1. If you don't (or do) believe in cosmic thought forces and/or telephathy -- here's one for you! At the show a gentleman approached me with a query on the Regiment stamps. We spoke, and it turned out that Joe was an avid coil collector and HE had originally discovered the 4c Cameo Imperf Between coil error in 1965 (which was reported in the May-June 1965 Canadian Philatelist -- the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada). What a wonderful surprise! I told him of the article, and he promised to send his strip out for my examination. As I write this, the strip is sitting in front of me on my desk and I am pleased to report that it is, without question, the "Real Thing"! I would still love to see the Sisson's piece, or hear from the current owner. Strict confidentiality is assured. Thanks, Joe!

When the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNC) changed from 500 stamp coil rolls) in 1969 to the smaller 100 stamp rolls used on the 6c, 7c, and 8c Centennial and all subsequent coil issues they changed the perforating system, and the series of Imperforate coils began. Every coil issue since has been found imperforate, usually in strips of 13 stamps with perforations at both ends, missing the 12 rows of perforations between. This error, when it occurs, affects all 10 rolls in the 1000 stamp coil tube. The stamps are printed on a continuous web of paper. The printing plate prints 10 x 25 (ie. 10 columns wide by 25 stamps long) with each impression of the plate. The perforator contains 12 rows of pins, each 10 stamps wide -- designed to perforate 12 gutters (between 13 stamps) with each strike. The perforator then lifts, and the web of paper advances after each strike of the perforator. Occasionally the perforator does not drop onto the advanced web, the result in "no holes" -- an imperf section 10 rows by 13 stamps, or 10 imperforate strips of 13 coils in the final "finished" rolls. If the pressman does not notice this, the finished coils containing the error, will be rolled, sealed, and ready to ship to the post offices in a split second. Unlike sheet stamps which are visually checked after printing, once the coil tube is sealed, there is no way of checking it.

**DOUBLE perf coils also exist and are cuased in a similar way, except here the web of paper does not advance properly between strikes of the perforator. Although collectors do not value double perfs as greatly as Imperfs, they are actually RARER on many coils

than the Imperfs. Coil users can easily tear these up and use them while the Imperfs attract extra attention, and are more likely to be pointed out to a collector.

These coil tubes (10 rolls of 100 stamps) are sent to Post Offices for sale to the public. Each tube is scored between the rolls - almost cut through - so that the postal clerk can simply "break off" one or more rolls of 100 as the customer desires. If there is one imperf strip of 13 in a tube, there will be 10, as each adjacent roll will have the same error. Seldom does the Post Office sell a whole tube to a single client - most large mailers use meters now. So it is rare that, when Imperf coil error strips are found the lucky discoverer has more than a couple of strips.

On rare occasions, imperfs occur where the web of paper had not fully advanced after the perforator failed to strike. The result is a strip of LESS than 13. There was a single PAIR of the 14c Parliament found with perfs at both ends but none between. Several imperf strips of 5 were found on the 36c Red Imperf, and we have seen one such strip on the 6c Orange Centennial. But these are the exceptions -- strips of 13 are the rule. There has NEVER, to my knowledge, been an Imperf strip of more than 13 found on a Canadian coil. One of the most interesting strips we have seen was a long strip of the 36c Red. A few normal stamps, then a strip of 5 with the 4 gutters between each stamp double perfed, then 8 normals, followed by a strip of 5 with imperf gutters between each stamp.

NOTE: Dates given in parenthesis are the issue date for the normal coils.

#468Ac 6c Orange (Jan, 1969) **250 pairs** **SCS $350**

#468Aii 6c Orange on HIBRITE PAPER **6 sound pairs** **SCS $2,000+**
Plus 26 Damaged Pairs, Retail $750 - 2,000 depending on the fault.

Excerpt from an article in Canada Stamp News, Nov. 29, 1976

"Early in the spring of 1975, I was working in the store when a gentleman, who stated that he had been a postmaster of a small Saskatchewan town, walked in. He immediately noticed a pair of the 8 cent coil imperf that I had in my display case and commented that he had a strip of imperfs that he would like to sell. He then pulled out a rather tattered envelope from which he produced a strip of the 6 Cent Orange Coils, 11 stamps in length, which were completely imperf -- my eyes must have bugged out at least a little as I first saw it from a distance, however, upon closer examination, my excitement quickly disappeared. The strip had been folded -- reportedly when the gentleman's wife had inadvertantly thrown the envelope containing the stamps into the waste basket. The result was there was only one, undamaged, VF mint pair in the strip. The rest were a most disappointing sight -- all creased and some ink-stained. Never the less, we reached a mutually agreeable price on the strip and I was then asked if I would be interested in some more. I indicated that I would, and would certainly pay considerably more for undamaged copies. A few days later the gentleman again returned with 4 more strips. They were in the same dismal shape as had been the first strip. I purchased these as well, and the gentleman left -- apparently quite happy with the price that I paid him for the stamps in spite of the fact I told him that he would have received 4 or 5 times the price had they been properly cared for. Out of the entire 5 strips, I managed to salvage only 4 perfect pairs.

Now comes the winner. I went about selling the strips , I had broken into various multiples in order to salvage the sound pairs, and had sold 3 of the good pairs and several of the damaged pairs at various prices ($30 - $60 per pair), when a customer asked me, in idle conversation, whether or not I had bothered to check them for Hibrite paper. I said no, and then proceeded to put the UV light on them. Imagine my surprise, when they all glowed back bright white -- Hibrite! In the 15 years since this discovery, we have seen only two additional pairs that cannot be traced back to this find!

#468Bd 6c Black (August, 1970) **40 pairs** **SCS $1,000**
plus 5 pairs with Red Rejection marks

I feel the rarest of the Imperf Coils, next to the 6c Orange HiBrite. Probably no more than 40 pairs exist. We bought a strip of 13 ages ago which had red felt pen crisscrossing it (printer's rejection markings) - affecting 5 of the 6 pairs in the strip.

#549a - 7c Green (June 30, 1971) **Approx. 60 pairs** **SCS $1,000**

Bill Maresch has long stated that he feels the 7c Green is rarer than the 6c Black Imperforate. While I disagree the point is truly academic for both are major rarities. I have had about the same number of each and that is precious few. I know of strips of 13 being found in Regina. We purchased one such strip in 1989 - it had been discovered in 1971 and held for 18 years! There was also an interesting "find" in the Okanagan of short strips of 3 at the very ends of the coil rolls.

Reportedly 8 or 9 such strips did once exist. We purchased one through a dealer in the area but could never get him to produce the rest. Several years later we were contacted by a gentleman who stated he was the owner. We had arranged to buy them when the gentleman, having returned from a holiday, called to say that on his return home he had found his basement flooded and all the stamps he had there were totally ruined -- including the 7c imperfs. Not even a damaged, water-stained strip was salvaged.

We know many of the Imperforate coils that are found are simply cut up and used on mail. We have had numerous used pairs & singles (that were once Imperfs as the margins are just too big to be otherwise). The one that was a real shocker was an imperf pair and strip of 3 of the 32c we purchased from a Winnipeg collector who had found them on mail he collected from an office source in Winnipeg. The "interesting" part was that the piece was cancelled with a "Saskatoon" parcel cancel? They had been found in our own back yard -- and USED!

Another example is the 6c Black strip of 6 plus a huge margin single that we bought in 1986. The fellow had luckily caught his secretary half way through the process of cutting up the strip to use on mail. Six of the Imperfs had already gone out on letters.

There is an interesting 7c Imperf, strip of 4, with perfs each end, blind perfs between top 2 and bottom 2, with the space between the centre stamps being totally Imperf! There is only one as far as we know.

#550a - 8c Slate, Untagged (Dec 30, 1971) **SCS $ 600**
i - General Tagged **SCS $ 400**
iii - High Fluorescent Paper, Untagged **SCS $ 500**

-- Less than 100 pairs of any of the three types.

Actual rarity of each of the paper types on the 8c Slate Imperf remains a question. Although we have had quite a few of these -- even bought a strip of 13 found in Saskatoon -- we have not kept records of the "papers" on these until recently. After all -- it was an Imperf! -- so the paper it was on was of little significance (not so now when serious specialists eagerly hunt for all three varieties). There are three types as listed, and I feel that the relative scarcity is properly reflected in the prices. All are quite rare.

...To Be Continued in Cat #129

#604 - 8c Queen (April 10, 1974)
ii - 8c Caricature Queen - Plain Paper **SCS$ 200**
iii - Ditto - on Hibrite Paper** **SCS $ 250**
var. - Also exists on Low Flrsc Paper **Retail Value (200)**

Probably 500-600 pairs in total exist, on all three papers, the plain paper may actually be the scarcest!

Another of the so-called Common Imperfs - we can recall one show in Toronto (years ago, now) where these were selling "retail" by one dealer at $35 per pair. (we bought all we could). Now we have to work to find them, and seldom ever have examples on all three papers at once (Dull, Flrsc, and true Hibrite exist). Prices are now firm in the $150 to $200 per pair range. The HIBRITES were initially thought to be very rare -- few were found until the very end of the issue when several strips came on the market.

This is the first coil to be found totally missing the knife impression between the rolls -- the "scoreline". The result is that vertical pairs and blocks exist that show vertical perforations, but are totally imperf between (horizontally). These are relatively common (retail value around $75 for a Block of 4), but it is critical not to confuse these with UNSEVERED coils which show the knife impression (scoreline). These are worth only a couple of dollars for a block. Unlike the true Imperforates, missing perforations, which only come in strips of 13, the MISSING scoreline Imperf Between (or should we call them "im-scored"?) occurs when the scoring blade is not properly applied, and affects a major portion of the 1000 stamp tube, resulting in several 100 pairs or blocks in a single discovery. Probably 200 plus Blocks of 4 Imperf (unscored) between exist on this stamp.

No TRACE of the SCORELINE! →

Scoreline is visible Between the Rows! →

Imperf Horizontally
RARE!

Unsevered (scored) Block
COMMON!

604 - Vertical Pair - TOTALLY Imperf Horizontally **Retail $ 37.50**
OR Block of 4 - TOTALLY Imperf Horizontally **$ 75.00**
Approx. 200 Blocks (400 pairs) exist of this variety.

- Unsevered Pairs
Vertical Pair - still joined but showing the scoreline between $2.00

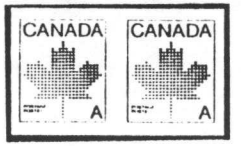
#605i - 10c Queen (Dec, 1976) 200-250 pairs **SCS $200**
- Was another short-lived issue -- Only 5 months, total.

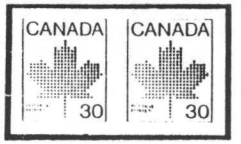
#729a - 12c Blue Parliament (May 3, 1977) 250 pairs **SCS $200**

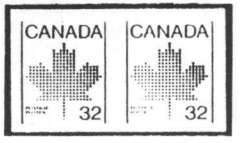
#730a - 14c Red Parliament (Mar 7, 1978) 250 pairs **SCS $200**
var - Pair - Imperf between with perfs at both ends UNIQUE **??**

#807a - 17c Green Parliament (Mar 8, 1979) **SCS $200**

One of the most common -- the stamp was current for almost two years. At one time, I owned over 100 pairs at one time (thought we'd never sell them all!) -- NOW I'm often out of stock and have to fight to buy stocks. Probably 600-700 pairs. Now a solid value at $150-$175 per pair.







#908i - "A" (30c) Red Maple Leaf (Doc 9, 1981) **SCS $450**

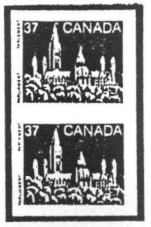
RARE - only current for four months. Probably 100-150 pairs.

#950i - 30c Red Maple Leaf (May 11, 1982) **SCS $300**

WATCH THIS ONE! The sleeper -- all the excitement was over the "A" which were only out for four months. By the time people noticed, the 30c had come and gone, and this coil was only current for 9 months. Probably only 100-150 pairs found. I have more trouble finding these than the "A" (although the price may account for the "A"'s being on the market).

#951i - 32c Red Brown Maple Leaf (Feb 10, 1983) **SCS $200**

This stamp was current for almost two years, and there were virtually NO Imperfs until the end of the issue. Then quite a few strips turned up. Still I feel there are only about 150 pairs in total.



#952i - 34c Dark Red Brown (Aug 1, 1985) **SCS $150**

These were plentiful throughout the issue, although now, almost five years later, there are few that have not found homes in collections. The new design, with the inscription OUTSIDE the square Parliament design results in problems with centring -- it is almost an optical illusion -- which do you prefer? A. Centred on actual printed area including the inscription, like the 36c pair above, or B. Centred on the main rectangular portion of the design, it LOOKS balanced - but is off centre towards the inscription at left, like the 37c pair above.

As more postal users both large and small, switch to postal meters, there are fewer coils being produced, and thus fewer Imperf Errors can be expected to be found on each subsequent issue. This seems to be what is happening. Also, with postal rates changing more frequently, the life of each coil issue becomes quite short.

#9531 - 36c Red (May 19, 1987) **Retail $300**
- Strips of 5 exist - perfs at both ends **$750**

This looks like another good one -- few strips of 13 were found. Several strips of 5 were found on the west coast including the interesting strips mentioned earlier - 5 Imperfs "attached" to the 5 double perfs with 8 normals between - a bit hard to mount in most albums, but certainly an interesting and philatelically significant error strip.

SCS $200

#11911 - 37c Blue (Feb 22, 1988)

These were quite plentiful, but, as with all the Imperf coils, they are quickly snapped up by the growing number of collector who are interested in these errors. Probably 200-300 Imperf pairs on the 37c Blue.

#1192(1)? - 38c Dark Green (Feb 1, 1989) **Retail $300**

The rate has just changed as of January, 1990, and at this writing, these have proven to be quite rare. We are still looking for quantities of these to fill the needs of our clients. I can always use 150 pairs of any new Imperforate error for our clients! -- I'd love to buy a bunch of this one, ANYONE HAVE ANY FOR SALE??

_____ - 39c _____ - yet to be discovered, but unless the printers have changed there method - they will appear.

Just released on this one ... how long will it be until Imperfs surface? We have our cheque book ready! (Again -- this was written March 25 -- we bought the first strip at the Toronto show March 30 -- didn't take long!)

TEST COIL -- Imperforate Canadian Coil Error

Oh Yes! One more before we close. The Canadian Bank Note Company produced a "Test Coil" design as above to use in various portions of the production of the new coil format in 1968-9. These are often included as Centennials by specialists as they were produced in conjunction with the 6c Orange Centennial coil. We know of post office displays designed to show the new plastic coil dispenser produced to hold a single roll of 100 of the coils that contained a strip of 6 of the 6c orange (468A) pasted up to a roll of 100 of the "Test Coils" to give the appearance of a full roll of 100 coils. The assumed objective, was to prevent someone from pilfering a valuable roll of 100 x 6c stamps -- $6 in postage. The roll of 100 imperforate test coils was ultimately a much greater philatelic treasure. These exist properly perforated, imperforate, and with a major perforation shift. Interesting collateral to your Imperf Coil Collection. Imperf Test Coil Pairs are usually available at around $35.

Imperf Coils are a relatively small group where completion is an obtainable goal for almost any collector -- No 12 Penny Blacks in this group! We have seen an increasing number of collectos working to complete these errors for this reason. Although I hesitate to speculate on the investment side of any stamps, I certainly feel that this is an area that unquestionably has a solid future -- limited quantities, a true error, and growing demand!

....Next Month -- More Modern Imperfs

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Experience is yesterday's answer to today's problem.

AUCTION ACTION

There were a number of interesting Centennial items sold in the March 3, 1990 Robert A. Lee auction.

Lot 2514 #468B 6c black coil, used strip of 3 with double perfs fetched $22.50 (+10%)

Lot 2624 BK59c complete with fluorescent ink $35+

Lot 2625 BK61b complete with 25 6c black perf 10 on hibrite paper $1300 (+10%)

Lot 2626 BK63b complete Opal with perf gutter $120+

Lot 2627 BK71d complete with vertical perfs misplaced 3mm $17.50+

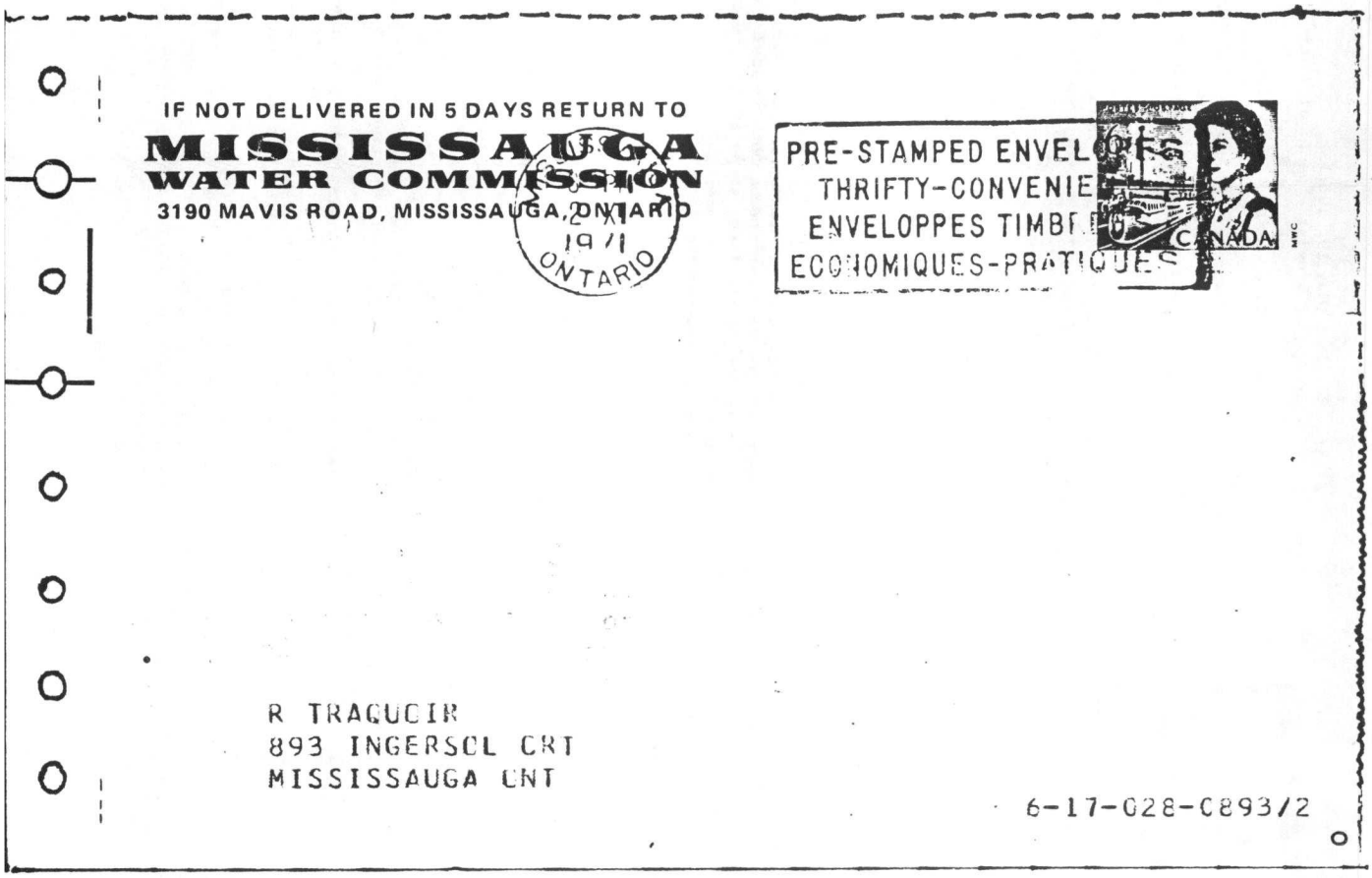
TOYKO CANCEL ON 50c CENTENNIAL

Ray Metcalf sent in this copy of a foreign cancel on the 50c. Sent from Maple Ridge B.C. 14 April 1970 and received 22 April 1970.

A nice addition to the Dave Lacelle articles currently in TOPICS.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Here is a very pretty piece from Scott Traquair. Note the useage after the rate change. Additional postage would have been paid by the utility at time of mailing, similar to the 6c Election envelopes and the 6c and 7c Ontario Hydro cards.



"Illustrated above is an example of Webb KP104E, a private order form described as a 6c black flimsy & 6c black card, types 1 & 1, multiple form.

"This particular example has survived:

- my attempt, at 11 years of age, to fill in the meter reading on the back and return it to the Mississauga Water Commission.

-my father's attempt, in his effort to break up his postal stationery collection, to dispose of the item at a recent North Toronto Stamp Club show.

"I am very pleased to have this item in my Centennial collection; it didn't cost me anything, and no, it's not for sale!"