PRIORITY POST POSTAL STATIONERY?

What is postal stationery? This question has been the subject of several debates into the small hours of the morning during the last few BNAPEX conventions. Over the last few years, as inflation outran the postal stationery printing presses of several countries, this question has become harder to answer. Great Britain, for example, has issued envelopes that are tagged, and marked "ROYAL MAIL/First Class/Post Paid". Brazil has also issued similar items that could be accurately described as "prepaid formulas". If these items are not postal stationery they are certainly closer than other items that have found their way into the standard stationery catalogues (e.g., prestamped labels or dead letter office wrappers).

Canada Post has now released two "POSTAGE PAID" envelopes for its Priority Post Courier (overnight delivery) service that are just as much postal stationery as the latest British "prestamped" envelopes. One, the "overnight envelope", is 307mm x 229mm, and costs \$8.25. There is no weight limit for the enclosure in this envelope. The second envelope, the "overnight pack", 398mm x 304mm, costs \$9.75 for contents weighing up to 1kg (there are extra charges if the contents are heavier). The rates apply to all Canadian destinations except "to Yukon, Northwest Territories, Labrador and points in Ontario and Quebec north of the 50th parallel".

These envelopes are sold over the counter in selected post offices, and may be dropped off at major post offices. Pick-up can also be arranged by telephone. Address labels (multiple carbon copies), available separately from the post office, apparently at no charge, must be attached to the envelopes prior to mailing.

WHY POST CARD P15 WAS ISSUED

When researching recently at the Public Archives in Ottawa I came across two letters from H. Buxton Forman, Assistant Secretary of the British Post Office in London, addressed to Col. White, Deputy Postmaster General in Ottawa, which explain the reason for the issuance of the 2 cent U.P.U. post card in 1896, Webb P15. In the first letter, dated 29 April, 1896, it was pointed out that the then current 2 cent UPU post card, Webb P4, contravened the UPU regulations in that the address side included a border design and the name of the printer.

(cont.)

Postal Stationery Notes is the newsletter of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group, and is co-edited by Earle Covert and Robert Lemire. All information for the newsletter, and correspondence about the study group, should be addressed to Robert Lemire, Box 549, Pinawa, Man., Canada ROE 1L0.

"Regd. No. 86817

Sir,

Cards of private manufacture intended for international circulation as post-cards, whether originating in the United Kingdom or received in this Country from places abroad, are not recognized as post-cards by this Department unless they comply strictly with the requirements of Article XVI of the Detailed Regulations of the Postal Union. This Article, as you are aware, stipulates that nothing must appear on the front of a post-card except the stamps for postage, certain postal directions, the name and address of the recipient, and the name and address of the sender.

Private cards received here from places abroad are frequently found to infringe the regulations inasmuch as they bear on the address side engravings, designs, advertizements, or particulars concerning the business of the sender in addition to the sender's name and address. When observed such cards are treated in this Office as insufficiently prepaid letters, even although they do not bear the T stamp of the despatching office.

In connexion with a recent application on this subject, it has been pointed out to this Department that, to be consistent, it should treat in a similar manner the Canadian official post-cards bearing an impressed stamp of the value 2 cents and intended for circulation throughout the Postal Union, because they have a design or border and the words "British American Bank Note Co. Montreal" on the address side, in contravention of the Union regulations.

Official post-cards should of course be strictly in accordance with the regulations; and you will no doubt be good enough to give the matter your attention."

While Col. White's reply was not located it can be seen from the second letter, dated 29 May, 1896, that he readily agreed to replace the non-conforming post card which had been in use for over 16 years.

"Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th of this month, and to thank you for your acquiescence in the suggestion made in my letter of the 29th of April last, No. 86817, that it would be well to arrange for the Official International post-card to accord strictly with the Postal Union regulations.

In the circumstances you mention, this Department does not see any objection to the continued sale to the public of the stock of the cards in question which may be, at the present time in the hands of Canadian Postmasters."

I do not know if this information has previously been brought to light but, at any rate, it illustrates how closely the influential British Post Office interpreted the regulations, eventually.

The citation for this material is PAC - RG 3, Vol. 827.

Ray McLean

It is with regret that we note the death of study group member (and first BNAPS president) Walter Hoffmann. Walter participated in the organizational meeting of the study group at the Ottawa BNAPEX meeting. He displayed a portion of his fine collection of Canadian aerogrammes at the Virginia Beach meeting.

"CANADIAN PRECANCELLED POSTAL STATIONERY HANDBOOK" - A REVIEW

Specialized books on adhesive issues have become commonplace. Specialized books on postal stationery (aside from catalogues) are quite scarce. Specialized books on any aspect of Canadian Postal Stationery have been essentially non-existent. However, late last year George Manley broke new ground when his book "Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery Handbook" was published by Jim Webb.

The "Handbook" runs 52 pages in length, and is a detailed (unpriced) listing of precancelled envelopes, post bands, and post cards issued in Canada. It includes information both on precancels applied by the security printers and precancels applied privately. An appendix lists many of the users of the precancelled envelopes, and includes illustrations of more than 120 different corner cards that were printed on the envelopes. A second appendix provides a chart for converting lengths in inches to lengths in millimetres.

There have been earlier attempts to list Canadian precancelled stationery, perhaps the most notable by F.D. Rogers in "Popular Stamps" (June, July and August, 1942). However, none are as comprehensive as the "Handbook", and even a quick perusal of Webb's Catalogue indicates that the time had come for a careful systematic study of these issues.

One of the problems in compiling a list of Canadian precancelled envelopes, is that such envelopes were usually prepared "to private order". Thus a large number of different envelope sizes and paper colours were used. To further complicate matters, many of the envelopes had a pennysaver flap, "a printed tuck-in flap at the stamp end, that could be pulled out so that the contents could be subject to postal inspection". The section in the "Handbook" on envelopes begins with a discussion of the envelope manufacturers, the envelope types, and paper types followed by an extensive section illustrating the pennysaver types. A thorough discussion of the envelope precancel types is then followed by a listing of the precancelled envelopes by Webb number. The different precancel types (and pennysaver flap types, where applicable) are recorded for each Webb listing. Despite the obvious care that has gone into the organization of the precancelled envelopes, I suspect the newcomer to the area would find the complexities rather daunting. The listing of precancel types is especially difficult, but judging from other books on precancelled items, there are no simple solutions to this problem.

The section on post cards is better organized and gives more detail than the envelope section. There is an introductory set of notes (by Bill

Walton) giving a general survey of the history of Canadian precancelled cards. This is followed by a description of the numbering system used, and some comments on the users of the cards. A detailed listing of the cards (by Webb number) is accompanied by illustrations of every type of precancel known at the time the book went to press. I suspect almost every reader will be astounded by the large number of items that are shown to exist.

The section on precancelled post bands is short and to the point. It might have been useful to specifically note that the standard precancel types (and one of the private precancel types) are the same as post card precancel types, and that the same numbers have been used.

**The "Handbook" is extensively illustrated.** It is unfortunate logistics dictated that many of the pictures had to be based on photocopies (ed. note: I know the feeling!). This left the publisher with the choice of printing the illustrations to highlight the precancels or to highlight the stamp impressions. The former course was chosen, and although this resulted in many illustrations looking washed out it was the correct decision. After all, the point of the book was to show the precancels. As with most first editions, there are a few minor typographical errors, but I have one other minor quibble. In the post card section card P29b is listed with dies II, III and IV. Die IV does not appear in Webb's Catalogue and no description of the dies appears in the "Handbook" (a description of die IV appeared in the Arnold Catalogue and in "Postal Stationery", Vol. 20, pg.125).

Overall the "Handbook" should make a useful addition to the library of postal stationery collectors and dealers. The catalogue numbering system alone would justify the publication of this book. Even more important, the "Handbook" represents an effort to put research on Canadian precancelled stationery on a firm footing, and serves as a starting point for other studies.

PRECANCELLED POSTAL STATIONERY HANDBOOK by George E.L. Manley, published by and available from Jim Webb, Hornby, ON, Canada LOP 1E0. Soft cover, 52 pages, price \$12.00.

Editor's Note: George Manley forwarded some minor corrections for the "Handbook" that were published in the last issue of PSN. He has also agreed to prepare a list of users of the precancelled envelopes. This will appear in several installments in the newsletter.

#### CARDS WITH THE ARCH ISSUE DIE I

Webb's Catalogue lists six Arch Issue cards prepared using die I: the bilingual 1/2¢ card, the blank, English and bilingual 1¢ cards, the 2¢ card with the English language heading and the 1¢ + 1/2¢ reply card with headings in English. Occasionally a card is found that appears to be a 1/2¢ card, die I with an English heading. However, it is known that no English 1/2¢ die I cards exist except those that come from the severed reply cards. In a letter to a collector, recorded in Jarrett's BNA Record of March 1931 (page 4), the Post Office wrote that the die was used only for the six cards listed above.

Bill Walton

THE ADMIRAL ISSUE 1c DIE I - THREE TYPES

At various times over the last couple of years mention has been made of the existence of more than one type of the 1c die I of the Admiral issue. Finally, thanks to Don Fraser, we finally have photographs to show the three types.

As noted in various catalogues, the 1c die I is easily distinguished from dies II and III by the five braids in the epaulet on the King's left shoulder. As will be shown, other distinguishing features noted, for example in Webb's catalogue, may be misleading. In the first type, die IA, the maple leaf at the lower left cuts into the edge of the white oval of the frame. However, there is no line of colour completely cutting the frame. The King's collar is distinct.



die type IA

In type IB the leaf at the lower left does completely cut the frame line. Again the line of the collar is distinct.



die type IB

Type IC is very similar to type IB. The leaf at the lower left cuts all the way through the frame line. This is not clear in the figure below because of the location of the postmark. However, the long diagonal line of the collar, a broad white line for types IA and IB, is almost completely shaded for type IC.



die type IC

Of the three types, type IA is by far the commonest. Indeed with few exceptions all the 1¢ Admiral items noted as being "die I" in Webb's Catalogue are found only with this type. The exceptions are P27e (found only with die type IB), P28a (found with die types IA and IC), the 1¢ green newspaper wrappers (found with die types IA and IB as well as die II), and the 1¢ orange wrapper W13d (die type IB, not die II as shown in Webb's).

Robert Lemire

ERPs

#### UPDATES

A sparse collection of updates this month. Remember to check your material.

P50c April 11, 1932      EN34g April 16, 1931 (1)      L6 Sept. 3, 1898

- (1) Used copies of the "1926 Surcharge Issue" with the 25mm surcharge are scarce. Robert Lemire has noted that of the four known envelope types with this 25mm surcharge we have ERPs for only two. Both dates are in 1931. He has advanced the hypothesis that the 25mm surcharge may have been used at a different (later) time than the more usual 23mm surcharge. Can anyone find an envelope to disprove this hypothesis?

#### UPDATES ON PRIVATELY ROULETTED CARDS

P86a Nov. 22, 1954

CPR CARD ERPS

a)the multicoloured issues

on P27a

CPR-C35 Jan. 4, 1917 (1)  
CPR-C36 May 26, 1917 (2)  
CPR-C38 Dec. 28, 1916 (2)  
CPR-C42 Feb. 2, 1917  
CPR-C44 Oct. 2, 1917  
CPR-C46 June ? , 1917  
CPR-C47 Aug. ? , 1917

on P33a

CPR-H35 June 26, 1917  
CPR-H36 Apr. 18, 1917 (3)  
CPR-H38 Mar. 20, 1918  
CPR-H42 ?  
CPR-H44 ?  
CPR-H46 May 29, 1917  
CPR-H47 May 29, 1917

b)third issue, sepia views

on p27a

CPR-A65 June 3, 1918  
CPR-A66 Dec. 2, 1918  
CPR-A67 Aug. 5, 1922  
CPR-A68 Nov. 28, 1922 (2)  
CPR-A69 Dec. 10, 1919  
CPR-A70 July ? , 1919  
CPR-A71 Nov. 3, 1917 (3)  
CPR-A72 Mar. 4, 1918  
CPR-A73 Apr. 8, 1918  
CPR-A75 Mar. 5, 1918  
CPR-A77 July 5, 1918  
CPR-A78 Sept. 3, 1919  
CPR-A79 Feb. 1, 1918  
CPR-A80 Jan. ? , 1919  
CPR-A81 May 14, 1920  
CPR-A82 Nov. 4, 1921

on P33a

CPR-C65 Nov. 28, 1919  
CPR-C66 Apr. 23, 1918  
CPR-C67 Jan. 25, 1918  
CPR-C68 (4)  
CPR-C69 Mar. 9, 1918  
CPR-C70 May 8, 1918  
CPR-C71 Nov. 24, 1918  
CPR-C72 Apr. 21, 1919  
CPR-C73 Nov. 27, 1918  
CPR-C75 June 13, 1919  
CPR-C77 Dec. 13, 1918  
CPR-C78 Aug. 14, 1918  
CPR-C79 Sept. 29, 1919  
CPR-C80 Dec. 5, 1917 (3)  
CPR-C81 Dec. 2, 1918  
CPR-C82 Aug. 9, 1918

- (1) Earliest date in this set and also an ERP for P27a.
- (2) Text date.
- (3) Earliest date in this set.
- (4) This card has not yet been reported. Does it exist?

Bill Walton

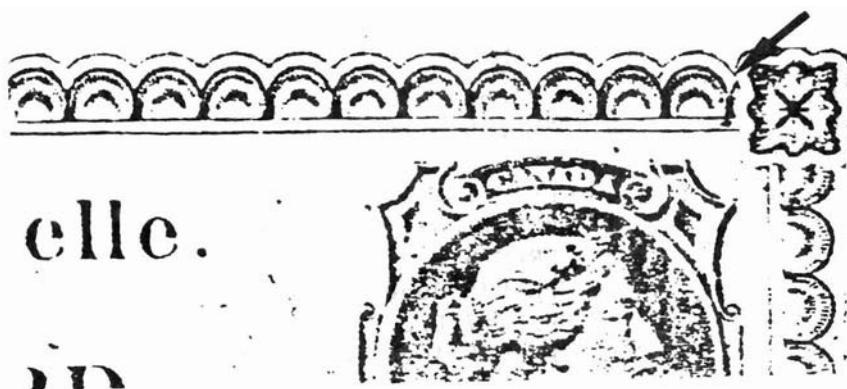
FLAWS

The quality control on much of the postal stationery issued by Canada has been so poor that minor flaws abound, and usually generate little interest. However, recently two different flaws have been reported that seem worthy of mention.

The first, reported by Mark Arons (and shown at the top of the next page), is on the 1¢ impression on EN40a, the #10 envelope of the 1931 compound dies (2¢ +1¢) issue. Note the large streak of colour to the left of the King's nose, just outside the inner frame. This variety has been found on a number of copies of this envelope.



The second flaw is on the engraved U.P.U. card, P4, in the upper left corner. Colin Campbell sent along the photocopy. It would be interesting to know if this flaw is constant, and, if so, in which position of which plate it is found.



#### A CORRECTION AND SOME UNLISTED STATIONERY

John Aitken has pointed out an error in the last issue of Postal Stationery Notes. An ERP was given on page 7 for postal card P99c. Webb P99c is the privately rouletted version of P99 (white card stock). The ERP was actually for P99, privately perforated. The perforated card is unlisted in the Webb Catalogue, but will probably become P99d.

Earle Covert has also reported a couple of interesting items. The first is a new major find, the Gasparo 6¢ surcharge on the #8 5¢ envelope from the second Karsh Issue (EN76). Of course the corresponding surcharged #10 envelope (EN95a) has been known for some time.

The second item is a companion piece for one of the stranger private order envelopes. EN542-50 is not a precancelled envelope, but instead an envelope, on gray paper, with a 4¢ stamp impression (apparently applied in error) that has been obliterated with two black bars. A (correct) 2¢ impression was then added to the left of the 4¢ impression. The user of these strange envelopes was the Grey County Federation of Agriculture (Elmwood, Ont.). Now Earle has reported a similarly prepared envelope on white paper with a Bruce County corner card!