

POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES

PSS



Volume 8, No. 4

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PUZZLE #6 - The 2¢ on 1¢ surcharges on the George VI post cards

The 1951 2¢ on 1¢ post card revalues (Webb P72, P72c) are found used from 1951 routinely on into at least 1956. I assumed for many years that bulk quantities simply remained in inventory and were gradually exhausted. Seven years ago I began to question this, when I noticed apparent surcharge differences from card-to-card, which led me to start a more careful examination.

Without too much detail, here is an idea of the sort of thing I observed.

- (1) P72c (the mimeo roulette) was almost always used in 1951, and had a 20mm lower bar (5 or 6 dated examples).
- (2) P72, when used in 1951, had a 21mm lower bar. When used in 1953, it had a 20mm lower bar (one example). When used in 1955 or 1956, it still had a 20mm lower bar, but showed a slightly different type face on the characters of "2 CENTS" (four examples).
- (3) My single copies of P73b (one detached message half and one reply half) both show 19mm lower bars; if true on all known copies of this very scarce card, probably revalued in one printing only, this would be significant.
- (4) P73 and P73a seem to show a variety of measurements and slightly varying typefaces.

Here is the puzzle.

Were there several different printings of some of these revalued cards at distinctly different points of time? If so, can the printings be told apart by examination, or are the differences I have noted merely positional differences, with coincidentally clustered usage dates as an artifact of the small sample? Other members may have already been working on this puzzle, or may have copies that would help with it.

Bill Walton

^{*} Postal Stationery Notes is the newsletter of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group,

fand is edited by Robert Lemire. All information for the newsletter, and

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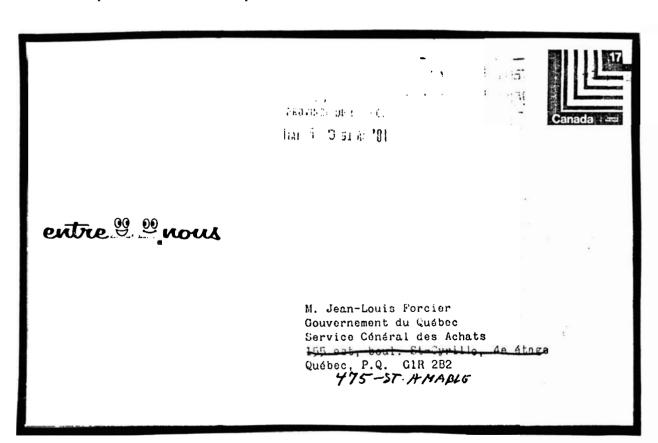
THEFT ALERT THEFT

One of our members (who wishes to remain anonymous) reports the theft of philatelic material including a considerable quantity of postal stationery. All collectors and dealers are asked to watch for this material.

MATERIAL TAKEN INCLUDES:

- an album of Canadian Victorian era stationery post cards (in a 3-ring binder white with blue printing)
- some sheets of 3-on and 10-on post cards of the centennial period
- an extensive collection of the Fisher design envelopes

This includes a copy of the extremely scarce (but not unique) EN573-70. A photocopy of the stolen copy of this envelope (reduced to 70%) is shown below. The address on this item should prove an absolute point of identification.



Any information concerning the whereabouts of this material should be reported to the editor of Postal Stationery Notes (Robert Lemire, 204-753-2905, evenings, weekends; 204-753-2311, daytime during the week).

STUDY GROUP MEETING AT BNAPEX'89 IN HAMILTON

The annual meeting of The Postal Stationery Study Group is scheduled for Saturday September 23rd, 1989 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, Hamilton, Ontario, in conjunction with BNAPEX'89. We are planning a round-table discussion on Postal Stationery and Postal Rates - the Usual and the Unusual. BNAPEX always presents a wonderful opportunity to meet others with similar philatelic interests, to see spectacular exhibits and to have a good time. Mike Street has set up an excellent programme, and I look forward to seeing a large number of Study Group members at the convention.

PUZZLE #7 - Late Printings of the Medallion Issue Envelopes

After British American Bank Note Company (BABNC) assumed the adhesive and stationery contracts for the Arch and Medallion Issues, Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNC) reacquired it, and the CBNC Front Face issue post cards and corresponding adhesives began to appear in 1935.

Here is the puzzle.

What happened with the envelopes?

Regular issue, official, and private order envelopes continued to be printed with the Medallion design until the George VI Issue appeared in 1938. No effort was ever made to shift to the envelope die of the CBNC Front Face type; the old BABNC design simply remained in use.

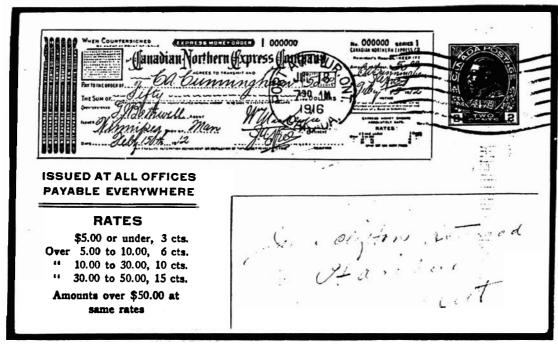
Of course, CBNC would not have printed the envelopes in any case - that was the province of PPS (and Dominion Envelopes for many of the private order envelopes). Nevertheless, when BABNC had assumed the contract and began the Arch Issue, a deliberate effort seems to have been made to produce envelopes with a stamp like that on the cards and adhesives, and PPS and Dominion were supplied plates with modified versions of the Arch design. The shift to the Medallion design saw a corresponding shift for envelope production. Why wasn't this continued with the CBNC Front Face?

The answer to this must be in the Archives somewhere. Perhaps a parsimoneous Post Office Department would not accept some bid from CBNC for the manufacture of new dies and plates for envelope production; since CBNC couldn't make a regular profit on the printing of the envelopes, they may have submitted a high bid for die and plate manufacture. But this raises a related question: who produced new Medallion envelope printing plates as they were needed? Did BABNC continue to supply them, or was CBNC called upon? Is it possible that PPS and/or Dominion Envelope (who printed from flat plates and rotary plates, respectively) had developed the capability by this time to make their own security printing plates? If CBNC produced any Medallion envelope plates, can the stamp impressions be identified? Surely they would have made at least minor alterations, and copies used in 1936 or 1937 should begin to show them if they exist.

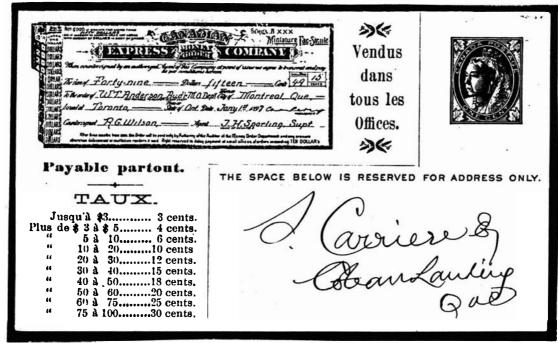
Bill Walton

THREE NEW MONEY ORDER PICTORIAL CARDS

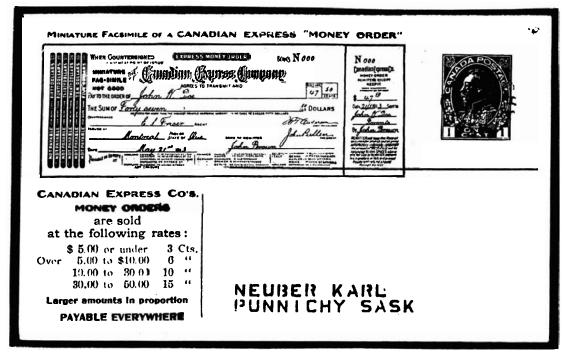
Mark Arons has forwarded photocopies (shown below) of three unlisted money order pictorial cards, one from Canadian Northern Express Company and two from Canadian Express Company. The French language Canadian Express card has an ornament type different from the three types shown in Webb's. Strangely enough, the facsimile money order form on this card is in English.



on P33d (die II) - facsimile and printing in black



on P18 - text in French, facsimile and printing in brown



on P27a - facsimile and printing in red and green

SPECIAL ORDER ENVELOPE ERPs - CORRECTIONS ANS A CLARIFICATION

In PSN Vol. 7 (pg. 45) a preliminary list of ERPs was presented for the basic die types of special order (private order and official) envelopes. Since then, John Aitken, Mike Sagar and Dick Staecker have reported new ERPs. However, because Earle Covert has promised photocopies from his very extensive collection in the near future, a full list of revised ERPs will not be reported until the next issue of PSN. On reviewing the list, Bill Walton and I have noted several errors that need to be corrected, and these are reported below.

(1) EN511 -----

No date has been reported. The date reported in PSN Vol. 7, pg. 46, was a transcription error of a date on another envelope.

(2) EN582 Mar. 3, 1982

DEN583 Nov. 23, 1982

The dates for EN582 and DEN583 should have been separated as the stamp impression designs are different.

(3) EN571 Apr. 19, 1977

The date given previously was clearly impossible (the 12¢ rate was not introduced until 1977), and resulted from a straight-forward blunder on my part. My question is why no one other than Bill Walton saw fit to question this date?

Clarification

John Aitken has reported an ERP of May 30, 1973 for the Dow Chemical Company (DCC) 8¢ centennial private order multiple form, EN563-60. He correctly notes that this bears a stamp impression of a size corresponding

to envelope type EN564 rather than EN563. At this time we will attempt to keep separate ERPs for the multiple forms (these may be renumbered in a future edition of Webb's). Thus, ERPs are required for true envelopes of types EN563 and EN564, as well as for the letter sheets and the multiple forms that will be listed separately at a later date.

Robert Lemire

MAINSTREAM BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

4. "Postage Stamps of Canada by Fred Jarrett, 1923;

B.N.A. Book "Stamps of British North America" by Fred Jarrett, 1926;

B.N.A. Book "Stamps of British North America" (title page)

"Standard British North America Catalogue" (cover)

by Fred Jarrett, 1929.

Jarrett's initial edition in 1923 was the first major effort at a comprehensive book on B.N.A. since Howes' in 1911. Jarrett, however, included a considerable pioneer section on postal markings, as well as other types of information. Of most interest to the postal stationery enthusiast, he enlisted T.L. Derwent Kinton - a stationery collector of the day - to prepare text and listings of Canadian postal stationery. He went so far, in fact, as to flag the section out on the cover and the title page.

The 1926 book - which now included revenues and much more information in most sections - attempted to update the stationery text with supplementary information, and update the stationery catalogue listings. In this edition, stationery items were now assigned catalogue numbers.

Jarrett's major work - the 1929 book, usually referred to as "Jarrett" and reprinted in 1975 by Quarterman Publications as "Stamps of British North America" - was unquestionably his B.N.A. masterpiece. Unfortunately, the stationery section was not substantially improved. The listings were again updated, but almost no text notations were changed or added. In fact, one or two minor text changes actually eliminated or confused information from the previous edition. Nevertheless, it is this book which is the standard "Jarrett", and copies of the earlier two editions are actually much more difficult to locate.

(A self-styled 1934 "Fourth Edition" is merely a slim pocket-size booklet picturing, listing and pricing adhesive postal issues only.)

The value of Jarrett as a stationery reference for today's collectors is very limited. Some of the information (including items found with proofs and essays) is interesting, but much of it - especially issue dates - is wrong, and often wrong to a serious extent. And, while each edition of Jarrett was overall a major step forward, the stationery sections did not improve at the same pace. In its day, however, it had a considerable impact in the field in two senses.

In the simplest sense it had an impact because it was there, and was unquestionably the best up-to-date stationery reference of the time for B.N.A. Its inclusion in an overall B.N.A. book in a day when there were few B.N.A. collectors of stationery alone, helped enormously to keep the

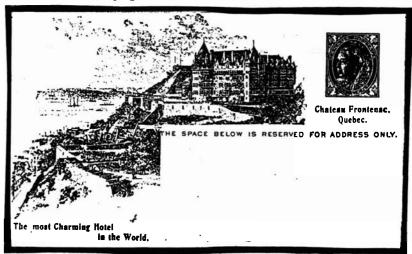
legitimacy of the field, and no doubt drew more B.N.A. collectors to this "sideline".

In a subtler sense, it had a critical effect because it was only as good as it was. It was a good enough listing to be useful - but not good enough to be very satisfactory as a collector expanded his holdings and his studies. Perhaps Jarrett's great contribution to stationery collecting was his sparking of the single-minded stationery studies of the thirties and forties, which became the real mainstream of movement in the field.

Bill Walton

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PICTORIAL POST CARDS - MORE VARIETIES OF CPR3a

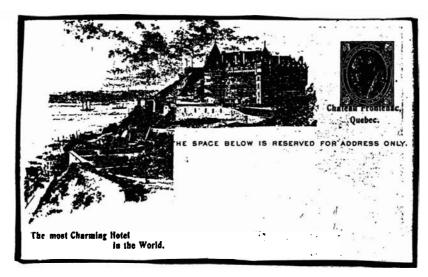
John Aitken reports that the card designated "CPR3a - 4th state" (PSN Vol. 8, pg. 4) can be further divided into three sub-types, as shown on below and on the next page.



Type 1. "1" of "Hotel" over vertical stroke of "h" of "the", "The" and "most" separated by 2mm.



Type 2. "1" of "Hotel" over vertical stroke of "h" of "the", "The" and "most" separated by lmm.



Type 3. "1" of "Hotel" to the right of the vertical stroke of "h" of "the".

PRECANCELLED POST CARDS - THE EARLY ORDERS

In the <u>Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery Handbook</u> by George Manley, Bill Walton gives some background on the printing of the "Standard Precancels". Recently, on persusing records at the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa, I had occasion to make a brief examination of file 13-19-12 of Volume 62. This file is devoted to precancelled post cards, and in it I found some useful data related to the early issues.

The initial suggestion that precancelled cards should be made available in stock seems to have been made by the postmaster of Vancouver. Correspondence between the Post Office Department Financial Supervisor and the postmaster led to an initial order in November 1926 of 100,000 lc "ordinary" cards and 100,000 lc advertising cards 8-on. The printing of these cards cost 35c per thousand in addition to the regular printing echarge, and this cost was supposed to be passed on to the customer (although it appears some were sold at the normal price in mid-1927, when the Vancouver postmaster ran short of 8-on lc cards that were not precancelled).

The experiment was obviously a success. In a letter of Aug. 31, 1927 to H.E. Atwater, acting Financial Superintendent, E.L. Taylor of the Postage Stamp Division wrote that he thought it would be good business to have 1¢ cards precancelled (at a cost of 20¢ per thousand, less 5% discount on an order of not less than one million), stating: "Vancouver has already had a supply of these cards, as well as Toronto, and I think Winnipeg has requested them.". This was followed by a quotation of a letter from the Toronto postmaster outlining the potential use of these cards for notices of municipal elections.

The approval for the first regular order of the standard precancel cards appears to have been made by H.E. Atwater on October 20, 1927, when an order for one million cards was placed.

Robert Lemire