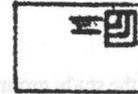




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POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES

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Volume 13 Number 3

October 1995

Index for Volume XII

Finally, the Volume XII index is finished . . . it is included with this issue. Later this year, I will prepare a comprehensive index of volumes I through XII. When it is ready, I will distribute it at no cost to study group members, but *you must request a copy*. I expect it will be somewhat bulky.

BNAPEX '95 Report

Robert Lemire reports on BNAPEX'95: BNAPEX went well. Although the postal stationery exhibit did not arrive from Chicago, the frame was filled thanks to the efforts of Dick Staecker, Don Fraser, (Study Group non-member) Dave Whitely and myself. Material was lent for the exhibit by Hank Narbonne, Dick Staecker and Earle Covert.

There were also three postal stationery exhibits in the show. Horace Harrison's Newfoundland took gold, and Joe Smith's exhibit of the Jubilee card and my exhibit of the Admiral Issue stationery both took silver.

. . . congratulations, Horace, Joe and Robert . . . thanks also to Robert for filling in for me at the meeting . . . and thanks to the above-listed for coming to the rescue on the exhibit!

I'm NOT the Only One Who Reads the Topics Columns Dept.

I received (and forwarded) a couple of photocopies of Bulova cards from study-group non-member Dean Mario . . . he had read about the project in Study Group Centerline and was moved to contribute. Personally, I very much enjoy reading about all the other study groups.

Automotive Opinion Forum

In PSN Vol XII, page 17, Robert Lemire mentions that yet another set of Automotive Opinion Forum cards and envelopes was to be produced, and used in the second half of 1994. Well, they've turned up; see inside for more details.

You Were Warned!

. . . you've all had plenty of time to abandon your homes and families, change your names and appearances, and go into hiding. Way back in the first issue of Volume XIII, I warned you about the post card plating stuff. Well, it's started. You're out of time and you're out of options. Heck! You might as well just stick around and try to enjoy it.

announcements

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Jim Webb on October 6. Any person involved in Canadian Postal Stationery knows how important this man has been to the field, and that he will live on for many years to come. Please see page 18 for some additional words from Bill Walton.

Because of the above, I feel that every member of the study group, whether paid-up or not, should receive this issue. I have therefore suspended any suspensions for the moment. However I request . . . if you are reading this, take just a moment to look at your address label. Paid up? Cool! Thanks. Not? Hey, it's up to you . . . but we are in the "business" of sharing research and discoveries . . . by nature, we wish to share it with as large an audience as possible. We don't want to lose you!

Sorry about the long delay with the last issue of PSN. The crowning touch came when, as I was ready to have the issue printed, I discovered that the printer I had used (at a *very* reasonable rate) was no longer available! Oh, yes, and I am still in Pennsylvania, so I can assure you there has been plenty of (mostly) unproductive packing and unpacking. The really encouraging bit of news is that the immediate future remains as much in a fog as ever!

In this Issue:

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Coming Next Issue:

More on the Plates of P1 and P2 . . .
PSN Marketplace
Hey! It's not panic time or anything, but *I could use some more material* . . . everyone has a story to tell; everyone has a favourite (*there*, for you Canadians) piece / type of stationery (otherwise we wouldn't be collecting it). Let's hear about it.

A Personal Tribute

As many of the study group members already know, Jim Webb died on October 6. Although Jim suffered from emphysema, which was no doubt a contributing factor, the immediate cause of death was heart failure. He was 74, and is survived by his wife Val.

Without Jim's efforts in BNA postal stationery, it is questionable whether there would be so large and active a Study Group for so many years. His catalogue - as catalogues will - not only encouraged existing collectors while creating new serious ones, but also provided a rallying point that brought us together in the exchange of information.

Jim encouraged collector contact himself. It was Jim, in 1971, who gave me the name and address of a doctor in the Territories who'd written to him - and Jean and I cannot imagine the last quarter century without the Coverts. It is one of the many ways in which I am indebted to him.

When Jim Sissons published his revenue catalogue in 1964, backed by an extensive stock he had amassed, Jim Webb saw the opportunities in such an approach and decided to follow it with postal stationery. He was already established as a BNA and British stamp dealer, with regular floor auctions and mail sales at his home on Mackay Drive in Thornhill, Ontario. For the rest of the '60s, he built the most comprehensive stock of BNA postal stationery ever assembled, by purchasing every dealer accumulation and every collection he could find. Legendary collections of the day were integrated into his inventory.

Jim knew that a better catalogue (and one with a current price structure) was a necessity, and set about creating one. His care and attention were evident with the 1971 release of the First Edition. (He also knew a bit about photography and printing. From the beginning, every bit of the catalogue production was done by Jim in his own home.)

Within a few years, Jim went exclusively to a mail order business, relocating to a rural area near Hornsby. As a result, many collectors never met him. By the mid-1980s, Jim was edging towards retirement and selling off the remainders of his stock - which, incidentally, still included substantial holdings of Canadian postage and revenue stamps, along with British

JIM F. WEBB



1921 - 1995

Empire. For some time now, his philatelic contacts were limited to a few old friends, and so a brief portrait of the man may be in order.

Jim was self-educated, and a plain-speaking earthy man who liked beer and cards and conversation at the kitchen table into the wee hours. He made a strong impression for better or worse on those who met him, and no one who did, came away with a neutral opinion. He was intelligent, with a shrewd business sense. He always met his commitments and had little patience for those who did not. He despised anything that struck him as pompous or pretentious - and quite a bit did.

Jim's wife Val is a lovely and gracious woman, full of humor. Always a match for him, she never made it seem so. We had great fun at home and at Muskoka, along with Bob Wooley of perfin fame, who was for many years Jim's closest philatelic friend.

Always a merchant, Jim nevertheless had a genuine affection for the material he sold, especially the postal stationery. He had some sense of what he had accomplished with BNA stationery and was immensely proud of the catalogue - a fact he was at great pains to conceal. I believe he saw in it some measure of immortality, and I believe he was right.

Bill Walton

Postal Stationery Notes is the newsletter of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group and is published 6 times per year. All information for future newsletters, and correspondence about the group, should be addressed to the editor: Steven Whitcombe, 334 Old York Rd., New Cumberland, PA 17070-3135, USA (e-mail to spw@epix.net)



Readers Digest Envelopes - UPDATE

Reports on additional Readers Digest envelopes have been pouring in; the following compilation is based on new reports by Pierre Gauthier, Chris Ryan, Earle Covert, Bill Walton and John Grace, and includes items previously reported by Robert Lemire, John Aitken, John Grace, Allan Steinhart and Pierre Gauthier. The listing includes all the reports I have received to-date . . . some listings are incomplete (in some cases based on cut-squares). Any readers that can add to the following information are invited to do so and I shall run an updated list later.

SIZE	STAMP	WINDOW	DESCRIPTION	F/E	FORM	NOTES
?	UR, front	rectangular, size unknown	no return address (logo UL) DEPARTMENT OF/SWEEPSTAKES/ ADMINISTRATION (front)	-x	?	(1)
249x117	UR, front	rectangular, 108x41	3-line return addr (no logo) SCALE & "It could be you ..." left of window; FINAL STAGE/ENTRY (lilac) on back; yellow outside/white, side-seam	x/x	FCB-BBOB (French) CB-BB017 (English)	
194x102	UR, front	rectangular, 108x35	Pegasus/S. HURTUBISE + 3 lines return address white, side-seam	x/-	S95-BGPS	
263x140	UR, front	rectangular, 113x55	5-line boxed return; fake rubber-stamps, etc.; multi-line repeating text wraps around	x/x	NALB-TYIOE (English) PQ-TYIOE (French)	
227x162	on flap, front	irregular, large	4-line return; FREE/Color TV, etc. white inside; beige outside side-seam	x/x	M95-W60 (English)	(2)
231x102	UR, front	rectangular, 111x35	Citizens State Bank logo (magenta) + 2-line Readers Digest return; white side-seam	-x	M95-BCP	
190x108	UR, front	rectangular, 108x37	no printing on front; 1-line return on back flap; white inside, yellow outside side-seams	x/x	FCB-CAAO (French) CB-CAAO (english)	(3)
?	UR, front	yes size unknown	white inside; gold flecks on white outside	?	?	(4)
215x119	UR, front	rectangular, 183x39	Brown manila, Large red "F" 215 Redfern Ave, Westmount H3Z 2V9 Flap upside-down	x/x	M95-WST (English) S95-WFP (French)	
196x102	UR, front	rectangular 108x35	5-line return; GOLD SEAL left of window color unknown	x/-	S95-BDIPS	

NOTES:

- (1) Sample from CMS Bulletin; it is quite possible that no envelopes were ever used with this design/format . . . but, who knows?
- (2) The report of the French version of this item is from a cut-square; the form number is unknown.
- (3) Paper color is pale yellow on English version; bright on French
- (4) From a cut-square.

Pierre also mentions that he wrote to Canada Post at Antigonish asking why these items were not being sold like the Automotive Opinion Forum items. In a letter dated July 20, 1995, Lynda Jackson, Customer Service Agent replied (translated by Pierre):

"When we placed the Automotive Opinion Forum cards and envelopes on sale, it was the first time we were offering such products. These cards and envelopes had a certain importance as they were new products being tested. The Readers Digest envelopes are another version of the same product, personalized Admail, for which large mail users have rapidly shown an interest. As very few collectors showed their interest in the Automotive Opinion Forum cards and envelopes, we decided not to offer such products for sale anymore."

In the same letter, Mrs Jackson refers to Pierre's idea of placing the prepaid Red Cross cards on sale at Antigonish:

"Please note that such products are offered in limited quantities and sold locally. When a quantity of such special products remains, we offer them to our customers via our catalogue of products for sale. For example, we would have liked to offer the souvenir card issued for the G-7 Summit to collectors but all stocks sold out during the event."

Plate Numbers on Post Cards

It is generally known that copies of Webb P1 and P2 (also P3, but this will not be covered in this article) can be found with partial -- and, rarely -- complete plate numbers. Few collectors have been able to see all of the possible numbers, however. In fact, none have, and the reason is that some of the P1 plates, while they almost certainly had plate numbers, had them far enough from the cards that they were probably always trimmed off. Nevertheless, we can see what numbers are known to exist.

First, a little background is necessary to explain my conventions and nomenclature . . . There were 23 plates used in all - plates 1-8 for P1 and plates 9-23 for P2 (one P1 plate, probably plate 6, was re-entered as P2 in 1878 and used for several more years). Plate numbers have been positively identified for all of the P2 plates (except the re-used P1 plate), but only for two of the P1 plates (plates 3 and 8). Because of this, I have always referred to the P1 plates as "Plate A" through "Plate H" (more on that below) . . . I refer to the P2 plates by their natural numbers (again, except for the re-used P1 plate).

There were at least three styles of plate numbers used . . . the first two were punched into the plates from single digits (and some incorrectly). These two number styles were right-reading *for the printer* (meaning that they were backwards on the printed sheet); the last-used style appeared correctly on the printed sheet, and seem to have been individually engraved (see illustrations). Several plates, over their lifespans (as long as six years) had their plate numbers burnished off and re-punched/engraved with the then-current style . . . some more than once. The trend, between 1871 and 1882, was toward smaller plate numbers placed closer to the cards on the sheet (which is one of the reasons that all of the P2 plate numbers have been identified). What has always seemed somewhat strange to me is that, while all of this was going on, the plate number on one of the plates that was initially mis-punched (plate 10, which read "01" for the printer) was never replaced. Every other P2 plate (except plate 20 and the very late plate 23) is known with at least two different number styles.

With most plates, the plate number is found (on the printed sheet) near the upper-right corner of the upper-right subject (subject 2 on the 2x5 plate of 10). Toward the end of the period of use of these cards more variation is seen.

Back to the P1 plate numbering I use . . . with reasonable accuracy, the actual plate numbers for most of the P1 plates *can* be determined, even though most have not been seen. One helpful factor in this determination is, of course, that they came into service at different times. The first four plates (A, B, C and D) were all in production by the fall of 1871, and they were all made with the same transfer, but there are some clues available to number some of them. There are physical differences in the plate markings between all four of these plates, but plates A and B share some general features, and plates C and D share some different general features (which more or less continue into the later plate E). Add to this the fact that the very earliest P1 cards (May and June, 1871) are always from plates A or B, and it becomes reasonable that these are plates 1 and 2 (in either order . . . the two earliest known copies of P1 are both from plate B). Plate C happens to be, conveniently, the plate which has been positively identified as plate 3 (earliest: mid-July, 1871) . . . it now becomes reasonable that plate D (October, 1871) is plate 4. Plate E, which came into service in May, 1872 (made with the same transfer as plates A-D), is a pretty safe bet to be plate 5. Plates F and G have always been the difficult ones . . . they both appear in April, 1873; were made with a new transfer, and share, in their initial states, plate characteristics which differ substantially from earlier plates. Plate F is the one which, in early 1878, was re-entered with a P2 transfer (and used into 1881), but this is a plate which apparently never had a new number punched, so there is little help there. I have examined two cards from this plate (both P1) with unusual offsets which very closely resemble a plate number, in both cases I have been strongly tempted to say "6" (see illustrations), but it's not what I'd call a positive identification. Still, it can then be assumed that plate G would be plate 7. Plate H (May, 1874) is the plate positively identified as plate 8; it was made with another new transfer, but re-entered several times with the second transfer!

It would be prudent at this time to also describe the card numbering scheme used to identify the following illustration. Twenty-three plates of ten subjects each gives us 230 total subjects and these are numbered consecutively from 1 to 230; subjects 1 through 10 are, therefore, from the first plate (A); 11 through 20 from plates B; 111 through 120 from plate 12 and so forth. Within a plate, subjects are numbered from upper-left to lower-right (#1 being at the upper-left; #2 at upper-right; #3 below #1; #4 below #2, and so on) as the cards would have appeared on a printed sheet. Cards are further identified as to state by another number, separated by a decimal point from the main subject number (thus, card 003.4 identifies subject #3 of plate A, fourth state; 124.5 identifies subject #4 of plate 13, fifth state).

The illustrations that follow are generally 225% or so; some have been retouched for the purpose of this article to remove cancels, etc., or because some numbers were quite faintly punched. Included are some photos of offsets (which can sometimes be found on the backs, and even on the fronts, of cards); these are so identified. Front-offsets can occur when freshly printed sheets are mistakenly stacked face-to-face. Both types of offset often show large portions of a plate number and, because of the way they are created, are "right-reading", but often blurred.

The cards shown are the property of several collectors and represent more than 20 years of searching in some cases. Obviously, however,

(continued on page 21)

Plate Numbers on Post Cards, continued

there are certain to be copies out there showing more of some numbers; possibly even copies of P1 showing one or more of the unknown numbers (possibly as an offset). If any collector can improve on the completeness of the following, the author would be most pleased to see a photocopy, or the actual article.

In future issues of PSN, I shall provide illustrations of each of the 23 plates as they would have appeared (well, a bit smaller). I plan to do two or three plates per issue, so it's going to take a while. If there is any interest at all (you'll have to let me know, readers), I will also show some of the *incredible* re-entries that can be found on these cards. Most of the plates were re-entered and/or retouched many times (plate F exists in 11 distinct states; several plates in 10), so this is an incredibly rich field for plate varieties.

Steven Whitcombe

Plate number types:

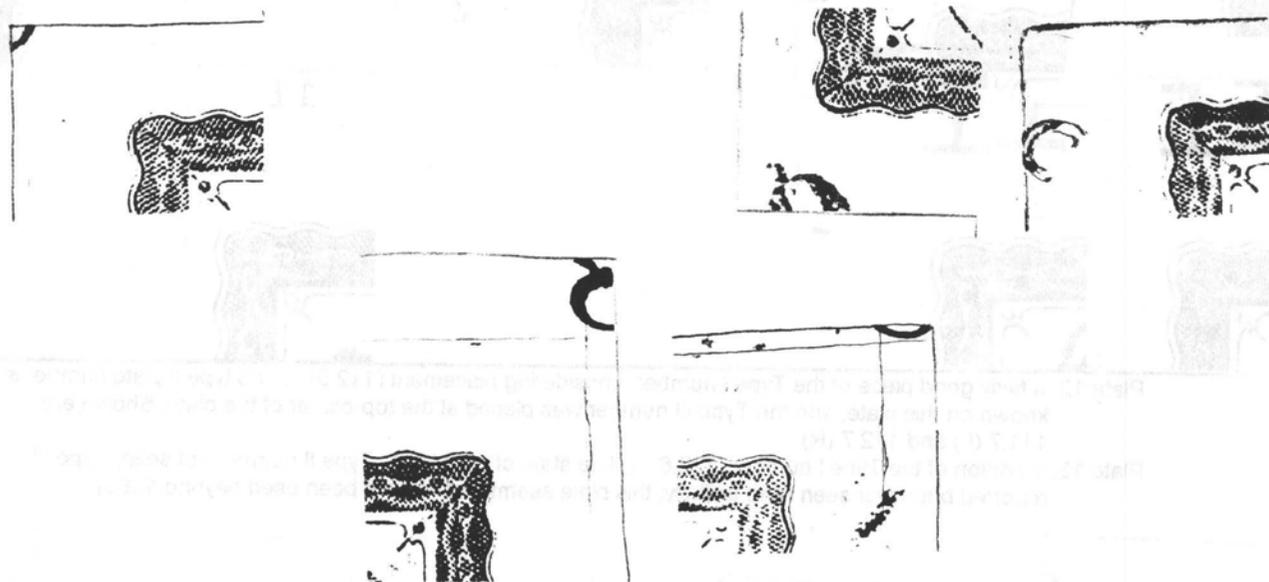
- I punched; reversed; 6 mm; small serifs
- II punched; reversed; 4.2 mm; large serifs
- III engraved; right-reading; 1.6mm; serifs and shape vary

The P1 Plates:

Shown: The small piece known from plate 3 ("C"). Plate number at upper-left of sheet; area is upper-left of 021.6.

Plate "F", two offsets (both on front of cards), left is 059.4 (as P1); right is 051.9 (as P2) . . . compare to examples of plate 16, below.

Plate "H" (8), two slightly different cuts showing the number and nearby cutting guides. Left: 072.5; right: 072.7.

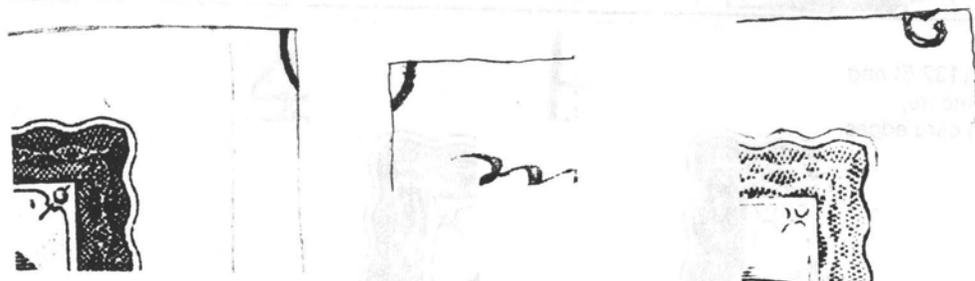


The P2 Plates:

Below: Plate 9, small piece of Type I number, note distance from card! Also, offset from back of same card. (082.5)

Plate 9, fairly large portion of Type II number (082.7)

Note: I am reasonably certain that two very late-use copies of this card, which I have seen, have a Type III number. It is very faintly printed (on my copy) and impossible to reproduce . . . it is, in fact, too faint to positively identify.



(continued on Page 22)

Plate Numbers on Post Cards, continued

Below: Plate 10, two different cuts (left: 092.3; right: 092.4) showing Type I number, note digits are transposed. Also, two offsets (left: back of same 092.4; right: front, upper-left, 091.4)

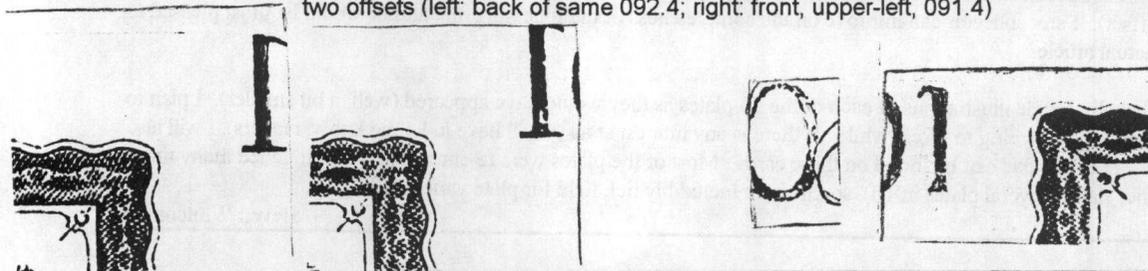


Plate 11, two different cuts (left: 102.3; right 102.4) showing the Type I number, note location of guidelines, relative to plate 10. Also, some interesting (!) offsets (102.4; back of 102.3; front, upper-left, of 101.5) Two different cuts of the Type II number (both 102.6), note remnant of Type I number on right copy. Type III number (102.7).

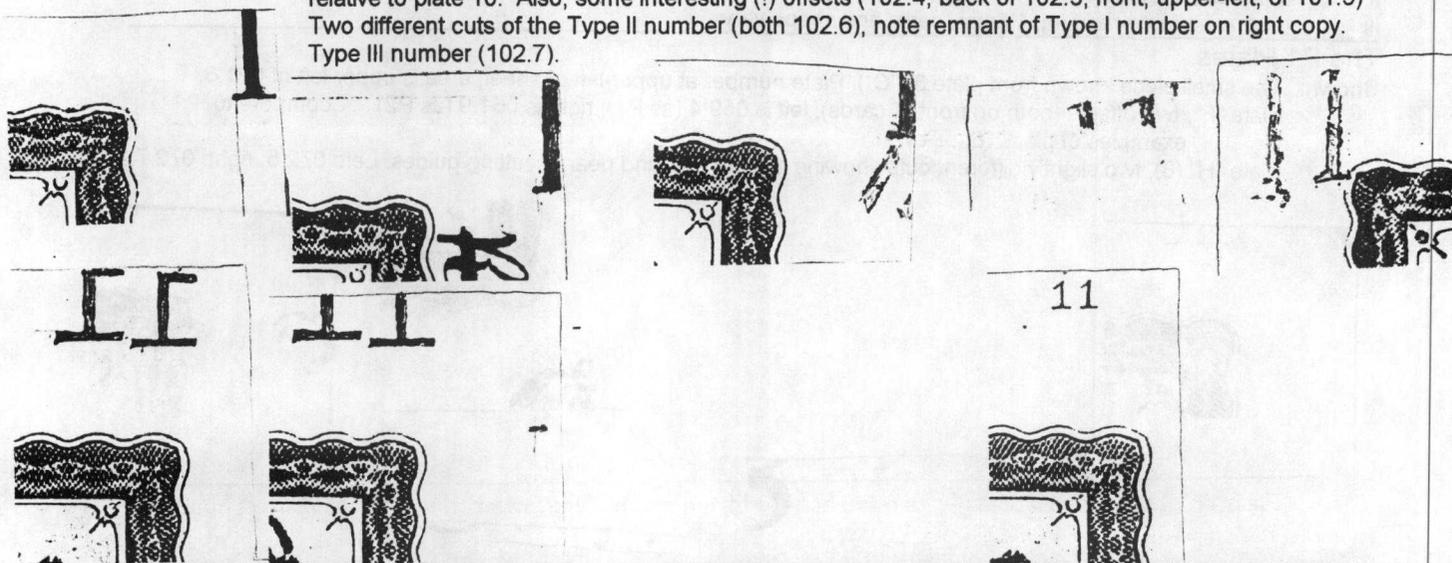


Plate 12, a fairly good piece of the Type I number, considering placement (112.5) . . . no type II plate number is known on this plate, and the Type III number was placed at the top-center of the plate. Shown are 111.7 (L) and 112.7 (R).

Plate 13, a portion of the Type I number (122.6 . . . late state of the plate). Type II number not seen; Type III reported but never seen (and unlikely; this plate seems not to have been used beyond 1880).

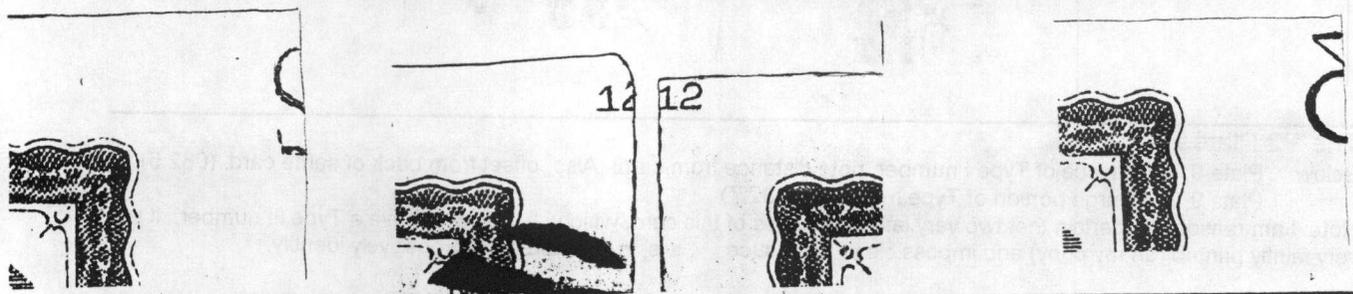


Plate 14, portions of Type I (132.5) and Type II (132.7) numbers; both quite far from card edges.



(continued on page 23)

Plate Numbers on Post Cards, continued

Below: Plate 15, two different cuts (left: 142.1; right: 142.2) showing Type I number. After 1878, the number is gone, but no Type II or III number is known in this general location. Also, offset (at 400%) from the back of another copy of 142.2.

The Type III number, known as early as 1880, was placed at the upper-left of the sheet. 141.4.

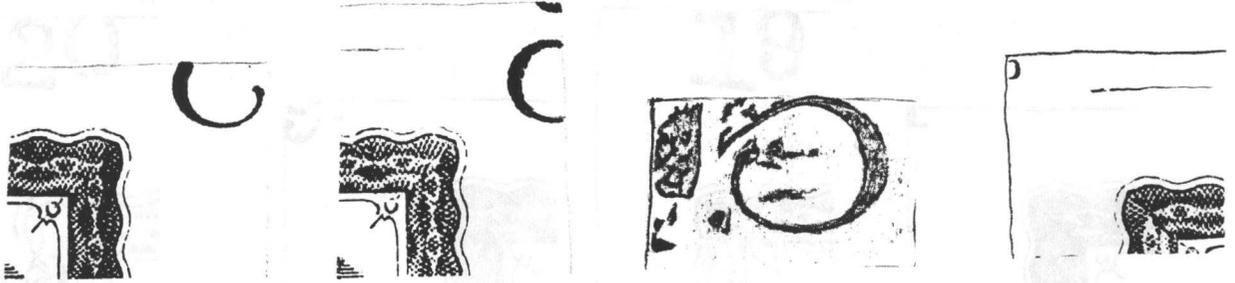


Plate 16, portion of the (distant) Type I number (152.4) ... also offsets from the backs of three copies of this position (152.2, 152.2, 154.4).

The Type II number (152.5).

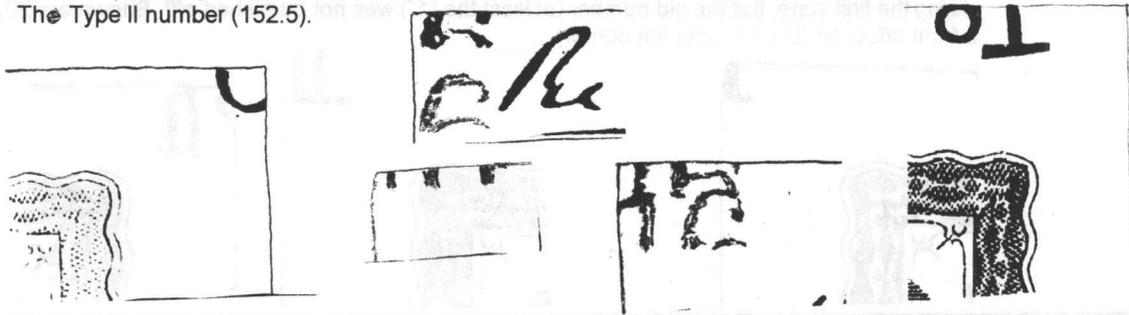


Plate 17, about the best portion one could hope for of the distant Type I number (162.6), also offsets from the backs of two copies (162.4; 162.6).

The Type II number, nearly complete (162.7).

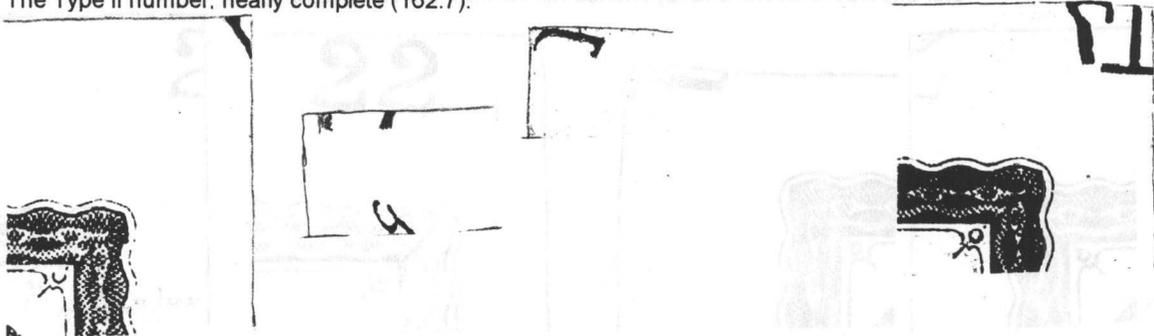
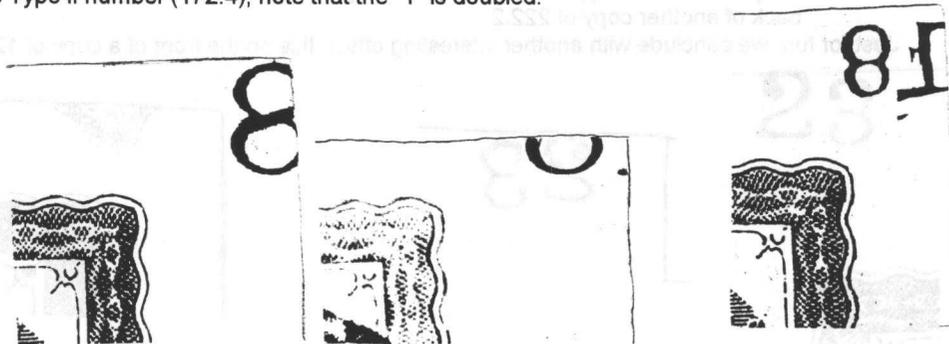


Plate 18, two cuts of the Type I number, one showing just a bit of the "1" (both 172.2).

Nearly complete Type II number (172.4), note that the "1" is doubled.



(continued on page 24)

Plate Numbers on Post Cards, continued

Below: Plate 19, a very small portion of the elusive Type I number (182.1), which was replaced during the first state of the plate. Note that the digits were transposed (or the "9" was punched very high).
 The first Type II number (182.2), complete! This was removed in 1882 and a new Type II number punched far to the right (182.5) – the small "dash" is the still-visible serif of the old Type I number.
 Plate 20, complete Type II number (192.1). No other plate number type is known (but Type I should exist).

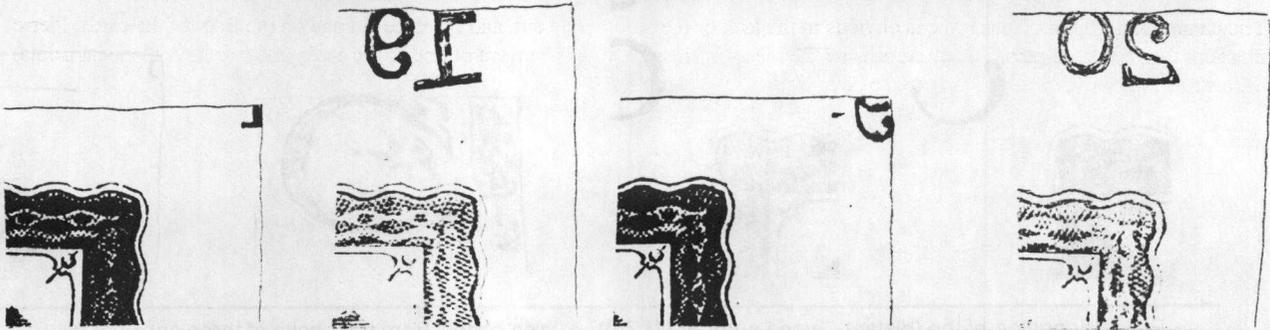


Plate 21, a very small piece of the elusive Type I number (very similar to plate 19) (202.1). This was repunched during the first state, but the old number (at least the "1") was not burnished off! Shown are 202.1 and a front offset on 201.1 (upper-left corner)

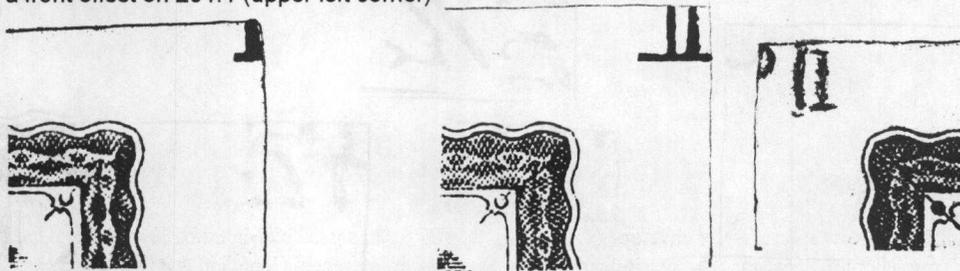


Plate 22, like plate 21, never had the Type I numbers completely burnished off (shown are 2 cuts of 212.1) . . . the original Type II number was added, during the first state, at the upper-left of the sheet (211.2); later this was removed and repunched further from the cards (211.3)

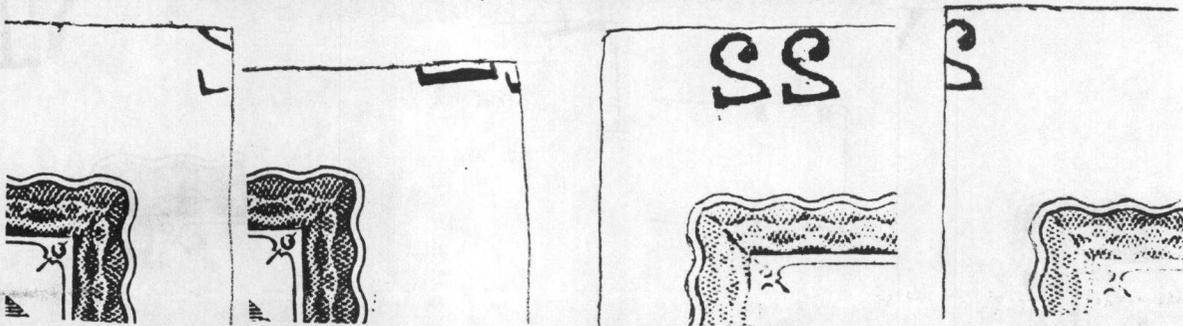
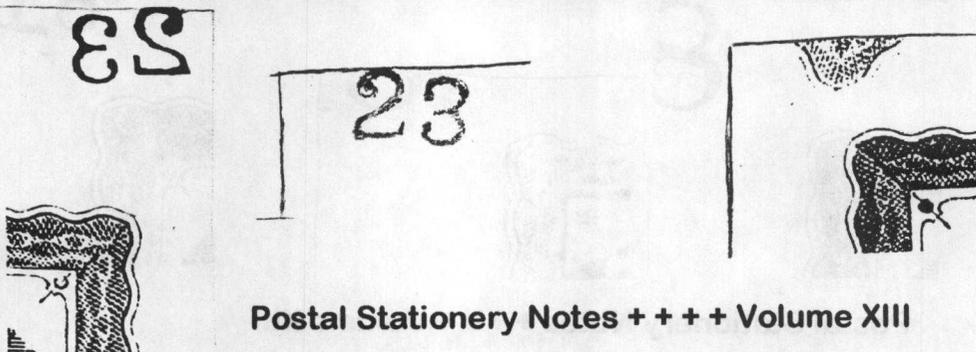


Plate 23 is only known with a Type II number. The complete example is a copy of 222.2; the nice offset is from the back of another copy of 222.2.

Just for fun, we conclude with another interesting offset. this on the front of a copy of 121.3.



New Automotive Opinion Forum Cards and Envelope

Pierre Gauthier reports the appearance of a new type of Automotive Opinion Forum cards (see PSN Vol X.36,43; Vol XI.20,52; Vol XII.2,17,39). The cards are 141 x 90 mm; as before there are two types of cards (one informing the recipient that a survey was on its way and a followup "reminder" card) . . . and Earle Covert has reported the companion envelope (this, you will recall, was used to send the actual survey).

The change from the previous issue is obvious in the lack of the automobile cut, and typeface change on the front of the cards; Pierre mentions that there are typesetting differences on the message sides as well. The front of one of the cards (the two have identical fronts) is illustrated below. Printing is reported to be in blue.

The envelope has the same printing on the front as the cards, in blue; no other printing on either side (except, of course, for the stamp).



Manitoba Hydro

Earle Covert reports a new special-order envelope (Admail?) prepared for and used by Manitoba Hydro. Like the Readers Digest (and Automotive Opinion Forum) items, the envelope indicia is based on a current or recent Canadian stamp (in this case the recent Manitoba commemorative), but inscribed "Postage Paid/Port Payé". The 201 x 99 mm side-seam envelope is on brown manila paper, and has a window 105x29mm. The stamp is printed in blue.

The envelope bears a printed precancel of WINNIPEG MANITOBA / LTR R3C 0K1 LTRE; the slogan in the precancel box (52x30mm) includes a jumping Buffalo and "1995", and "Celebrate Manitoba's 125th!" in English and French in a wavy line across the bottom.

The form number (at the bottom-left on both front and back) is 0-113/f Rev 95 05.

On the back (along with the form #) are several logos: "Call before you dig", Manitoba Hydro, Recycled, Environmental Choice.

Earle reports that 600,000 were produced and that they will be used until the supply is exhausted but probably not be reprinted.

IF NOT CALLED FOR IN TEN DAYS RETURN TO.
À RENVoyer APRÈS DIX JOURS À
MANITOBA HYDRO
PO BOX 815
WINNIPEG MB R3C 2P4



Briefs . . .

Duff Malkin writes to say that the Carleton Place Hotel advertising card shown in the last issue of PSN, and credited to him, is not his. My apologies to the real owner . . . who are you?

Following up on the article concerning the Eaton's revalued P72 card (Vol. XIII # 1), **John Grace** has sent a list of other copies of P72, noting the lengths of the surcharge bars. John's list includes additional Eaton cards and, like on Colin's copy, the bars are somewhat longer than those on other copies of P72 (or its cousins, P72c, P73c, P73). John's list also shows that there are yet other settings of this surcharge (the bars range in length from 19mm, for some of the reply cards, to the 21+mm of the Eaton cards). Clearly this is an area that could be investigated further.

I get a lot of mail from **Pierre Gauthier** (*not* a complaint . . . I love it!). He recently informed us that the Red Cross post cards, sold last year, are being sold again, but this time prepaid to addresses worldwide. I gather that these are leftovers from last year (only 3000 of the available 7000 sets were sold). This year, the cards cost (with all taxes) \$8.75 per set, with Canada Post keeping only .45 per card and absorbing losses from non-domestic mailings. According to Pierre's contact, Mrs. Allard, the Canadian Red Cross centennial celebration (starting in 1996) could lead to the issue of other special post cards . . . he will keep us informed.

In response to the GO Letter article in the last issue, **John Grace** has sent along a comprehensive listing of the RED (only) GO Letters . . . **Pierre Gauthier** has also recently reported new GO Letter material. Within the next few months, I'd like to organize these (and earlier reports) into a new up-to-date list. So, get those reports in!

Dr. Felix Martinez Dacosta has asked me to explain "the reason that was taken in consideration to delete in Webb's catalogue the unwatermarked items in many of the airletters, and retain some others (as A23a)." I have decided to answer in the newsletter in case others have the same question . . . actually, the information is in the catalogue, but not given specifically as the listing factor: The first airletter issues (up to about 1957) were printed on paper with a watermark that was positioned such that not all subjects, when fully printed and die cut, would show any portion of it (yet were all printed on the *same paper stock*) . . . beginning with the A23-A24 issue, a new, unwatermarked paper was used, and some items had printings on both stocks.

New Stamped Envelopes Coming in 1996

Canada Post has announced that, in conjunction with its issue of bird stamps on January 9, 1996, new #8 and #10 envelopes will be produced. There will be four stamps; I have no indication of how this will relate to the stationery . . . perhaps two birds per envelope; perhaps more than one stationery release. I guess we'll see. Promotional information may well be available by the time you read this (especially if you're reading it in Canada).

Membership List

We have several new members, I'm happy to say. A study group membership list has not appeared in *Notes* for some time and I believe it should soon. Please inform me (soon) if you do **not** want your address included. (Remember, though, that the complete list is mailed ONLY to fellow study group members.)

An Unusual Private Order Envelope Prepared by Dominion Envelope

The item I am trying to describe here is not particularly important, but it is unusual. However, as I sat down to write this piece, it became clear to me that the reason the item of stationery is different from many others will be difficult to explain to readers who are not familiar with the minutia associated with private order envelopes prepared by the Dominion Envelope Co., Limited.

For those who specialize, I will simply describe the item as a 1c George VI #8 pennysaver envelope (flap type 5a as described in Manley's "Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery Handbook") - Webb's EN525-10c. The envelope does not bear a printed return address, but rather a purple handstamp for 524 HURON STREET / Niagara Falls, ONTARIO / CANADA - an address that appears on other private order envelopes. The envelope is postmarked April 18, 1942. The unusual aspect is that the printing on the pennysaver flap and the "OPEN FOR POSTAL INSPECTION" notice is in RED.

In this period, the pennysaver flaps were generally printed in black (although on many of the early pennysaver issues, the printing on the flap was in the same colour as the stamp impression). In the case of precancelled envelopes, the printing on the flaps was apparently in the colour of the precancel (even if this was not black). I would not be particularly surprised if the colour of the printing on a flap matched the colour of other printing added to the envelope. Indeed, on the only other envelope with a red pennysaver flap in my Canadian special order collection (EN525-10d, flap type 5, for the Catholic Church Extension Society) both the return address and the precancel are also printed in red. The question is why the deviation from the usual black notice in the single case of this otherwise undistinguished envelope. Does anyone else have another example of this envelope or of an envelope with a different corner but with a red pennysaver notice?

Robert Lemire