

Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 16 No. 2

September 2000

Editor's Notes

Last week I returned from a pleasant BNAPS annual meeting in Schaumburg IL. Although there were no exclusive postal stationery exhibits, several frames showed some excellent items of postal stationery.

Our study group meeting was well attended. I had brought some of my pages to show how I am mounting my postal stationery in albums, particular the larger items.

Earle Covert and Bill Walton gave us information about the new Webb's Postal Stationery catalogue. I had hoped to get a finished copy of that new catalogue at the convention, but was told that we will have to wait at least another two months before we will be able to see it being sold, but I was able to browse through a working copy and I was quite impressed. The format is now in letter size (8½ x 11) with a lot of illustrations, giving us a look at some items most of us have never seen. With so many more illustrations, much more detailed information, better organized and a larger format the catalogue will have an impressive 300+ pages. The down side of all that will be a much higher price to pay for that 7th edition.

My only disappointment was that I came home without anyone giving me some articles for the newsletter.

Please get involved and send some material and particular illustrations. You all must have some nice item you could share with us in the newsletter.

I noticed the Hallmark stores now sell envelopes with six different patterns and many different cards to match called "Fresh Ink", but I have not seen any of them prestamped. Keep your eyes open, because I received information, that some of them are supposed to be issued prestamped.

In this issue we resume the listing by John Grace of the Canadian Express Company cards with a different front and back. Please let us all help him, by letting him know about any corrections, additions or new items.



DUES: If your label on the envelope reads V16#1, your study group fee is now due. Please make out the cheque (Can. \$8.00 or U.S. equivalent) to 'JOHN GRACE' not to BNAPS or the Postal Stationery Study Group. Anyone whose label LAST TIME read V15#1 has been dropped from the list.

Dues or any change of mailing address should be sent to John Grace, 734 Aspen Rd. Pickering, On. L1V 4H2
E-mail jandm@sympatico.ca

All information for the newsletter, and correspondence about the study group, should be addressed to Dick Staecker 384 Regal Drive, London, On. Canada N5Y 1J7, phone (519) 455-9715, E-mail may be sent to dstaecker@home.com



What's New

in Postal Stationery

PRIVATE ORDER ENVELOPES

The #10 double window envelope with the year of the

Dragon 46 cent stamp impression printed private order for "Asia International Services Corporation" was reprinted. No date was given, but it is very similar to the same envelope issued in January. The only distinguishing feature I can see is that all wording on

the stamp impression is somewhat darker and the gum on the flap is narrower and 3 mm longer.

CARDS

By now all black "Postcard Factory" prepaid postcards have been found with the white sticker over the old bar code except the four cards ATC201, ATC203, C08 and NF122. Of the cards with brown printing only six were found with sticker so far. As expected new cards are now appearing with the new bar code printed on the card. These cards are also different in some other ways, like the printers text has been changed. (See below) Also all cards now have a "57" after "POST" and many have a "0" added in front of the last number on the lower right.

© DESIGNED and PRINTED by / Conçu et imprimé par
 The Postcard Factory®
 2801 John Street, Markham, Ontario L3R 2Y8 (905) 477-9901

Printed in Canada/Imprimé au Canada

first printing

© PUBLISHED and DISTRIBUTED by / PUBLIÉ et DISTRIBUÉ par
 The Postcard Factory®
 2801 John Street, Markham, Ontario L3R 2Y8 (905) 477-9901
 Printed in Canada/Imprimé au Canada

second printing

On the next page is a listing with six possible types of cards, with each known card crossed off (No cards of the new printing in brown have been found so far).

To keep the list simple, added numbers on the lower right of the "second printing" cards have been ignored.

Tall ships

On July 19 a set of four prepaid postcards were issued to mark the arrival of approximately 150 tall ships in Halifax Harbour.

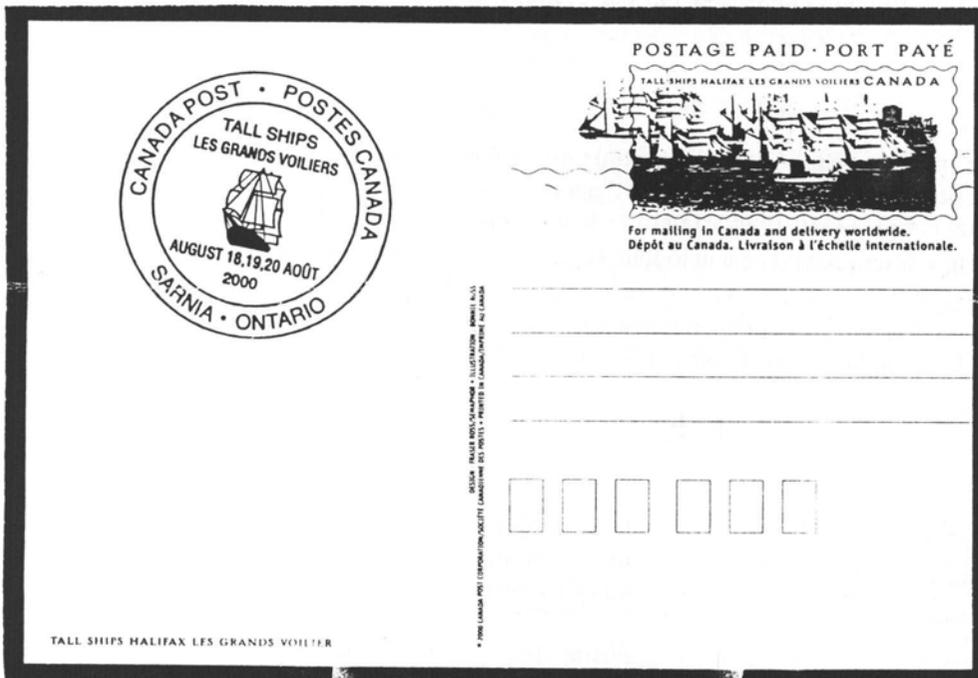
When laid side-by-side the four cards form a panoramic portrait of Halifax Harbour. On the address side each of two cards has a different "Postage Paid" stamp imprint, similar to the postage stamps issued at the same date. The same two stamp imprints are also on each of the other two cards in the set.

Sold for \$4.00 a set plus tax, these beautiful cards are a bargain, since they can be mailed worldwide postage paid.

XPRESSPOST

A prepaid XPRESSPOST private order envelope was found by Earle Covert. This unusual item is in gray plastic with a white back, has a window and a self-adherent flap at the top and has a prepaid logo (as on the regular XPRESSPOST items) between the red rectangles at the top right. "XPRESSPOST" at the bottom is in red and the size is 242 x 300 mm. See photo copy on page 20 (50%)

Used by the Hong Kong Bank of Canada it is similar to a plastic XPRESSPOST item "but NOT prepaid" used by the Bank of Nova Scotia. At least it has not been seen prepaid.



Some of the Tall Ships also sailed through the Great Lakes arriving August 18 in Sarnia Ontario for a 3 day stopover before sailing on to Chicago.

Canada Post had a tent at the pier in Sarnia for the 3 days, selling the Tall Ships cards and stamps. A very nice cancel was also available. (see photo copy at left, 73%)

It so happened that I was able to see the ships again in Chicago at the Navy Pier when I was at BNAPEX 2000.

I have an extra set of these canceled cards to trade for the same cards with a Halifax first day cancel.

PCF CARDS

Squares 1 are for the first printing in black and brown. Squares 2 for the first printing with sticker on black and brown printed cards. Squares 3 for second printing (new bar code). Added numbers on the lower right of the cards have been ignored to keep the list simple.

ATC200	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CR68	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	Q028	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐
ATC201	1☒☐ 2☐☐ 3☒☐	CR107	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	Q039	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC202	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	CR115	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	RP001	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC203	1☒☐ 2☐☐ 3☒☐	CR146	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T049	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC204	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CR149	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T141	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC205	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	CR151	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T146	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC206	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CR191	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T160	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐
ATC207V	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CR272	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T166V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐
ATC208	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CR4628	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T170	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC209	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CY35V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	T171	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
ATC210	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	CY46	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	VAN118	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
AL08	1☒☒ 2☒☒ 3☐☐	CY55	1☒☒ 2☒☒ 3☐☐	VAN504	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
C01V	1☒☒ 2☒☒ 3☐☐	ED032	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	VAN510	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
C02	1☒☒ 2☒☒ 3☐☐	G38V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	VCT073	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
C03	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	MTL66V	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	VCT074	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
C05V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	MTL98	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	VQ027	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐
C06	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	MTL107	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	VQ060	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐
C07	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	MTL127	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	VQ089	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☒☐
C08	1☒☒ 2☐☐ 3☒☐	MTL128V	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	VQ099V	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
C09V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	NF122	1☒☐ 2☐☐ 3☒☐	WEM007	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐
C10V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	NF130	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐		
C13V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	NF141V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐		
C14	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	NF143	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐		
C24	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	NFLD011	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐		
C42V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	O042	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐		
C47	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐	OT14	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐		
C60V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	OT22	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐		
C79	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	OT45V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐		
C85	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐	OT47	1☒☒ 2☒☒ 3☐☐		
C86	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐				
C92	1☒☐ 2☒☐ 3☐☐				
C95V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐				
C96V	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☒☐				
C97	1☒☒ 2☒☐ 3☐☐				
C327V	1☒☒ 2☒☒ 3☐☐				

Wiarthon Willie™ lives on

Gus Knierim

As most Ontario readers of this newsletter realize, *Wiarthon Willie* has long been an icon for the Bruce Peninsula town of Wiarthon. Each year *Wiarthon Willie*, the albino groundhog is closely watched around February 2, to predict that spring's weather. Each year the town celebrates the event with a winter carnival and festivities. So it should not come as a surprise that Canada Post was willing to join into the event with the release of a special postal stationery envelope, not unlike the many others that are printed for various stamp shows and some similar events.

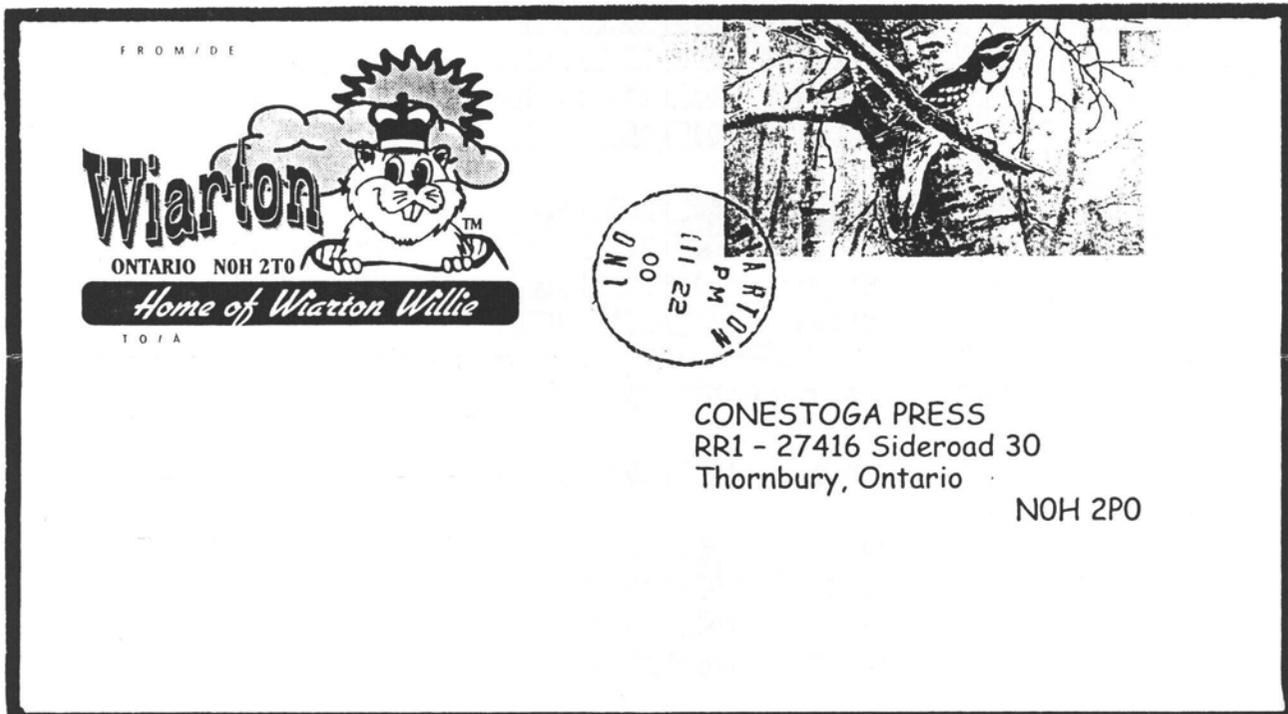
In the case of Wiarthon it was postal stationery and the event has been going on since December 24, 1996 when the first N° 8 (*Pileated Woodpecker*) and N° 10 (*American Kestrel*) envelopes were released with the image of *Wiarthon Willie*. To attract the public's attention the following piece of publicity was posted. That first issue called for a printing quantity of 1075 N° 8's and 1425 N° 10's.

Unfortunately just before Ground Hog day in 1999 *Wiarthon Willie* passed away and it was a sad day for the town. The event received attention in both the US and Canadian press. During that summer a search was made to find a successor and a new King Willie was crowned.

Postally speaking the Wiarthon Post Office, which supplied artwork with the blessing of the town's Chamber of Commerce (hence the trademarked image), has released 13 different envelopes all printed at Conestoga Press, Thornbury, Ontario.

The *Wiarthon Willie* envelopes are only a small part of the total picture. Conestoga Press in co-operation with local post offices has released a number of envelopes since Thornbury's Centennial in 1986. All envelopes are supplied by Canada Post and imprinted for various occasions by Conestoga Press. All envelopes are available to the public and sold at the local post offices primarily to promote their service and existence to the public.

(To get this and many other illustrated envelopes, get in touch with Gus Knierim Conestoga Press RR1, Thornbury, Ontario, N0H 2P0)



John Aitken and John Grace are working on a listing of rates that apply to Canadian postal stationery and following is their book review of the Smith and Wawrukiewicz Canadian Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1870-1999.

John and I have been using the US rate books by Wawrukiewicz and Beecher and have found them to be a delight. They are well laid out, easy to read and use, comprehensive and informative. Where a rate has been omitted W&B tell you why. Given the name of the authors and the price of the book we had high expectations for the Canadian rate book.

Unfortunately these expectations were not met. After reading the review in TOPICS I think the reviewer was being kind. This book is only half-baked and should not have been published yet. There are too many omission.

Looking at the book as a postal stationery collector trying to understand his collection here are some of the problems I noticed.

First of all, there is no mention or explanation of the different classes of mail that the Post Office used in its classifications. This is important, because if you don't know them, how can you recognize a mis-rate or misuse? For example there were special rules for post cards and postal cards with writing on them if they were used by certain government agencies. In some cases they could pass at the 3rd class printed matter rate, rather than the first class post card rate.

The envelope collector will be disappointed to find only a partial listing of rates for the Nesbitt period. In addition, although registration fees are listed, no mention is made of how they were to be paid i.e. cash or stamps or when the service was first introduced.

The additional 1 cent for letter carrier delivery is not explained, so you may wonder why there are 1c,2c,and 3c letter cards but only 1c postal cards for domestic use during the Victorian era.

In the post bands and wrappers section you will find no explanation for the 1c post band.

In the air letters, R&W claim that the 10c rate pre-1953 was only to the UK. This will be a problem if you have some sent to the Caribbean for example. Armed forces air letters are mentioned, but none of the other military rates, and the restrictions on the air letters are not given.

The S&W book claims that domestic special delivery was abolished in 1992. Of course the name was changed to Expresspost and continues to this day, but there is no mention of it, nor of certified mail, nor priority post, nor postage due.

The postal card collector will not find any mention of the ½ cent rates or business reply cards or even any reply cards, domestic or foreign. Nor is he told that third class cards could sometimes be registered or that first class cards sometimes could not be.

There are many other omissions some of them blatant. (Collect the X-MAS card stamps from the 1980s? They are not mentioned in S&W.)

Suffice it to say, this book is well laid out and organized and visually pleasing but is lacking in content. It is not ready to be used by either a rate collector or a postal stationery collector.

CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY IN ON-LINE AUCTIONS

Michael Sagar

Much has been talked about in a general sense about the emergence of on-line auctions, such as eBay and their impact on the hobby. Using eBay as the standard, I would like to attempt to give some specific advice or insight into how the process works from the buyer's perspective, the seller's perspective, and finally some overall comments as to how eBay might impact the collecting of Canadian postal stationery as a whole. This is the first of an ongoing series of columns.

Part I - A buyer's perspective

This seems like a natural place to start, as most collector's first connection with any method of exchange is usually as a buyer. I am presuming that the potential buyer has a computer with internet-access software and internet/email account, and knows their way around a browser. I am also presuming they are familiar with the basics of participating in an auction, of which the fundamentals are no different on-line. Once you make your way to www.ebay.com you will have to sort your way through the 4+ million listings of everything under the sun.

The first problem is how to find what you are looking for. Most Canadian postal stationery is found on the "Coins & Stamps: Worldwide: Canada: Covers" listing. There are usually only a few hundred covers listed at one time, so a manual search of that section is not all that difficult. Unfortunately, Canadian postal stationery is also found in categories covering "worldwide postal stationery", "postal history", "philatelic covers", "British Commonwealth", "Topicals", and unfortunately I have also found some material under "Europe" and "Great Britain". What this means is that before too long you will be forced to master the search engines, designed to help you pinpoint items that you have specific interest in.

Searches generally are done through two forms, one is through the lot title (narrow), or through the lot description (which can include lots of extraneous information - like shipping costs to Canada (meaning that any lot that uses Canada in the description will show up, clogging your search with unwanted items)). Many sellers put in "key words" into their descriptions so that you can find their lots easier.

But which words to search for? "Canada" is a good place to start, although "Canadian" is sometimes found (this is an easy one to get around, as they let you use an "*" to indicate a "wild-card" search i.e. Canad*), but most items in the Canada:Covers listing will not use the word Canada, as they are already in a section designated for selling Canadian material. Sellers only have 80 characters to title their lot, so they have to cut corners throughout. Newfoundland is often abbreviated or misspelled as two or three words.

Another good word to search on is "stationery". Unfortunately, the improper spelling of "stationary" is often used (when eBay itself was expanding its categories to include worldwide postal stationery, they had spelled stationery with a second "a", to which I gave a blunt response - it was subsequently corrected). Beyond this there are a wide range of terms that can be used to describe postal stationery which can confound your search. Some of the other terms are obvious: "aerogramme", "air letter", "wrapper", "letter card", "postal card", "postcard" (sometimes one or two words, often getting confused with a picture post card), and "envelope". There are also other abbreviations such as "PS", "P/S", "stry", "poststat" which are almost impossible to expect a buyer to predict. (I wouldn't recommend searching using the word "postal" alone, as many lots include some kind of description including the words "postal costs to be paid..."). If you only collect specialized issues like Admiral, Centennial, Arch, etc. good luck to you. Despite all of this don't expect to find many more than 20 Canadian stationery lots on eBay at any one time - there just isn't that many sellers of this material out there, yet.

Once you find an item that you might be interested in, hopefully it will have a scanned image. Take the image to be a suggestion, and not necessarily an accurate representation of the lot. Some sellers seem to disregard condition of covers as a factor, and just say "See scan for condition", which is only one step up from "hold it up to the phone so I can see it". A scanner can easily hide a lot of faults in an item, often a lot is only shown on one side. Pay close attention to the sellers overall description of the lot, particularly to the return policy of the seller. If catalogues are used, it is as often Unitrade as it is Webb - as most of the sellers are not Canadian stationery collectors themselves.

Once you have found something you like, the next decision is "what to bid". That will be left to your own conscience, but keep in mind that the catalogue material for this material is in Canadian dollars, while the selling price is usually

CEC15 --- 1906	1. <i>Front:</i> As CEC 14 but brown ink. <i>Back:</i> Canadian Express Company. (70 mm.). Form 131. Text: 29 lines. Dateline: <u> </u> 190 Note: NEW/REDUCED/RATES. at lower left
[Front # 5, Back # 15]	
CEC16 --- 1908	1. <i>Front:</i> As CEC 14 but black ink. <i>Back:</i> Canadian Express Company. (63 mm.). Form 131. Text: 29 lines. Dateline: St. Catharines, Ont., <u> </u> 190 Note: A. CHRISTIE. MONEY/ORDER/RATES. at lower left
[Front # 5, Back # 16]	

Form 131
Canadian Express Company.

01-26 1906

SIR: I have this day received per Express to your address Parce which remains ENTIRELY AT THE RISK OF THE OWNER and will be delivered on payment of the following charges: m Bond

Charges advanced	
Express Freight	1.05
Cash paid Customs Duty	
Warehouse	
Broker's Commission for Entry	
Collection	
TOTAL	1.05

A. Christie, Agent.

Agents will record date of giving the above opposite entry of shipment in their record of way-bills received.

MONEY ORDERS

NEW { \$5.00 and under 3 cents.
 Over 5.00 to \$10.00 6 cents.
 REDUCED " 10.00 to 20.00 10 cents.
 RATES " 20.00 to 50.00 15 cents.
Amounts over \$50 at same rates.

Payable at 45,000 places in Canada & United States.
 MONEY REFUNDED IF ORDERS ARE LOST.

Back # 15 [CEC15]

Form 131
Canadian Express Company.

St Catharines, Ont. 11/17 1908

SIR: I have this day received per Express to your address Rich J. Bond which remains ENTIRELY AT THE RISK OF THE OWNER and will be delivered on payment of the following charges:

Charges advanced	
Express Freight	
Cash paid Customs Duty	
Warehouse	
Broker's Commission for Entry	
Collection	
TOTAL	

A. CHRISTIE, Agent.

Agents will record date of giving the above opposite entry of shipment in their record of way-bills received.

MONEY ORDERS

NEW { \$5.00 and under 3 cents.
 Over 5.00 to \$10.00 6 cents.
 REDUCED " 10.00 to 20.00 10 cents.
 RATES " 20.00 to 50.00 15 cents.
Amounts over \$50 at same rates.

Payable at 45,000 places in Canada & United States.
 MONEY REFUNDED IF ORDERS ARE LOST.

Back # 16 [CEC16]

CENSUS MATERIAL ON CEC CARDS

CEC 1	5	CEC 2	1	CEC 3	1
CEC 4	3	CEC 5	3	CEC 6	5
CEC 7	13	CEC 8	1	CEC 9	4
CEC ?	1	CEC 10	3	CEC 11	1
CEC 12	1	CEC 13	1	CEC 14	4
CEC 15	2	CEC 16	2		

Note: The above census material is supplied courtesy of Chris Ellis

Note: This ongoing listing of Canadian Express Cards grew out of a conversation between Dick Staecker and John Grace. John Grace assembles the material. He has been helped by several PSSG members and thanks the following especially for their help and for supplying photocopies: Chris Ellis, Horace Harrison, Robert Lemire, Robert Lee, Dick Staecker and Steven Whitcombe. Apologies to anyone I have forgot to mention. JG

in US dollars. An important factor is expertise, which often the seller does not have (nor are catalogue values often quoted, if they are available). This isn't new to postal stationery collectors, but I have seen a single bid for a mint copy of EN116 (described as "rare") of \$10.US. Whereas most auction houses or dealers have a fairly set range of pricing and lotting criteria, this doesn't exist in cyber-space, and eBay is entirely "buyer beware". Another factor before bidding is checking how much the seller is going to charge you to mail the lot. Be very careful about this - some sellers are very specific, telling you to the penny how much shipping will cost (some sellers make more money on the packaging than on the lot itself - \$2.US shipping and handling is not uncommon for a single postal card (which raises the old question - how about if you didn't handle it so much?)). Others have more general details, such as "buyer to pay shipping", which can lead to unpleasant surprises, as I find that this total has little to do with the stamps on the package that arrives. (Some shippers allow you to send a SASE to cover packing and postage, which can reduce your cost, and increase the quality of packing for the lot). eBay doesn't have set bidding increments or starting prices, and so odd looking bids are often seen (i.e. \$7.43).

Other factors to consider include possible customs/tax charges if the items is being sold outside of your country and also the cost of you making the payment in US dollars (most transactions below \$10. are done in cash). Most Canadian sellers will also accept Canadian cheques for the equivalent amount. Bigger retailers will also accept credit cards.

Using eBay involves a level of trust above what you normally have to use with your favourite stamp dealer. eBay provides an opportunity for sellers to provide each other with positive, neutral or negative feedback based upon a transaction. While it seems like a good system to identify bad apples, in fact it is quite a flawed process for a few reasons.

1. My experience is that about 2/3 of participants give feedback.
2. Many participants will not say if there has been a negative experience, for fear of reprisal. (eBay now provides a lengthy warning on its feed back form, advising you to seek a legal opinion before filing negative comments - with that in mind the number of negative comments is likely to be grossly undervalued).
3. Even the worst offender is likely to be ahead of the game in terms of overall comments. (one positive comment is given the same weight as a negative comment). My rule of thumb is to avoid anyone who has negative comments greater than 1% of their overall positive comments. Another unfortunate possibility is users who acquire negative feedback, but sign up under a new alias (easy to do in cyber-space).

Presuming you have thrown caution to the wind, and have placed your bid - you now wait for the item to close. Most bids are placed in the first day or in the last 2 hours of a lot's listing (listings are usually for seven days, but can be as long as 10 days). There is "sniping" software available that can allow the seller to place last second bids. Wait until the lot has officially closed before opening the bubbly.

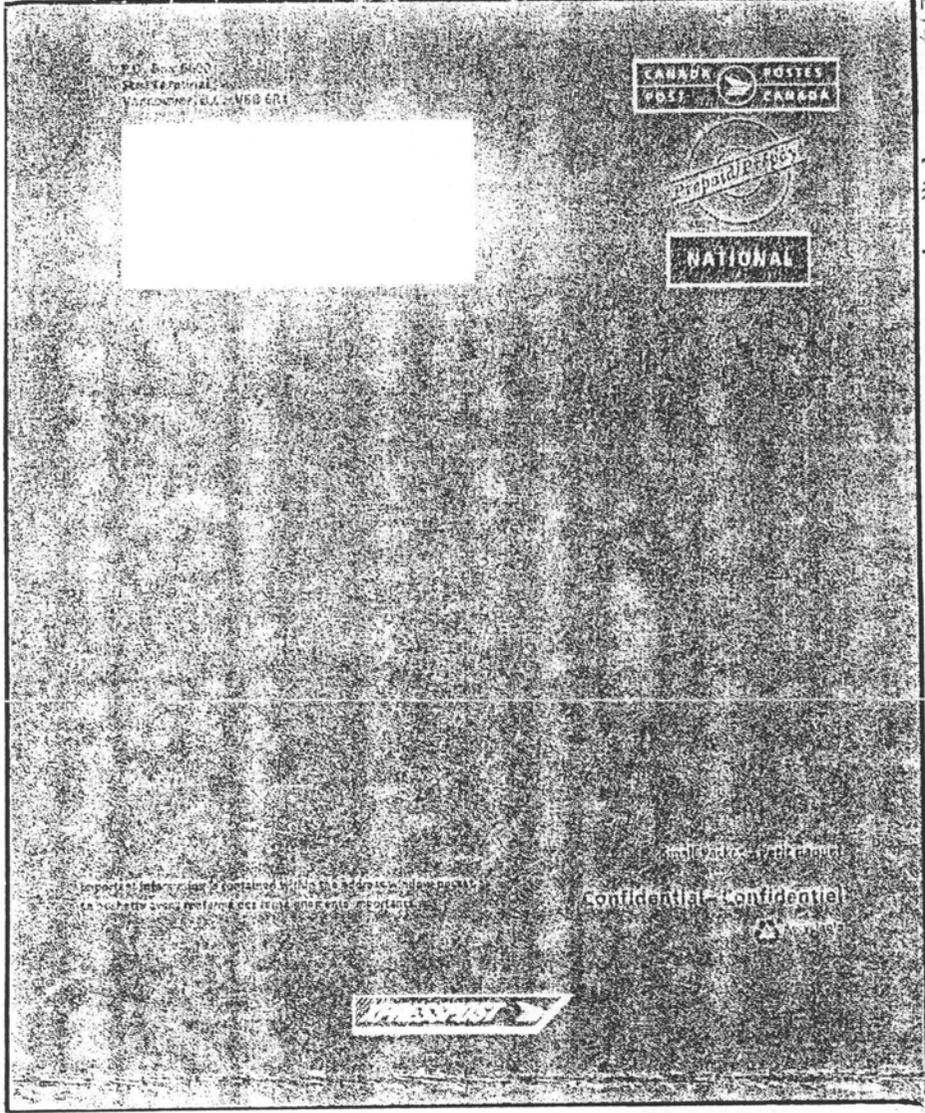
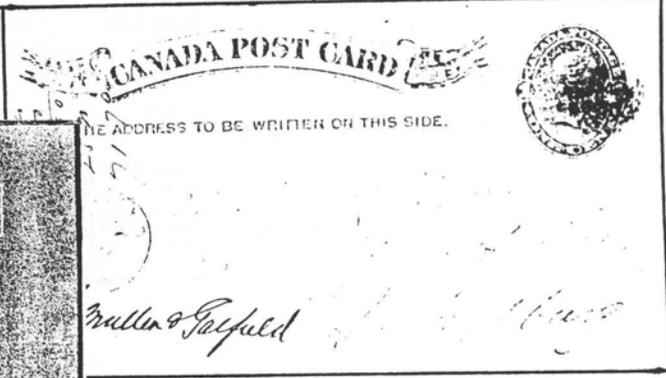
Now that you are the successful bidder you and the seller are to contact each other within three days (to exchange addresses and figure out the method of payment). If you are the bidder and have notified the seller - wait for the seller to reply - don't keep sending ever increasingly frantic emails every two hours wondering where to send payment to. The only problems that I have ever encountered is procrastination by the seller, a Canadian seller who cashed a CDN \$ cheque as if it were US \$, the inexplicable return of a postal money order in US \$, because the seller said it couldn't be cashed in the US, and the loss of a small amount of US cash. Remember the buyer takes all the responsibility - for ensuring that the payment arrives, and is usually on the hook if mailed materials go astray.

Overall my experience as a buyer with eBay has been lukewarm. I have found too many undescribed faults and poor packaging by sellers to provide a glowing endorsement. I once received a used copy of P2 with a printed back for the Grand Trunk Railway slipped into an envelope and mailed, with no sleeve or stiffener. I have had some very nice experiences as well, and added some nice items to my collection as well. The quality of seller and material on eBay is gradually getting better, with more realistic starting prices and better descriptions, but admittedly, unless I know the seller, I approach each potential purchase as an adventure.

Overall I would say that there is a limited range of material to be had on online auctions, and with some effort, persistence and caution a collector can make some nice additions to their collection. It would still be a very difficult way to build a decent collection solely using this method.

POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES
 c/o JOHN P. GRACE
 734 ASPEN ROAD
 PICKERING, ON L1V 4H2

R J LEMIRE H
 P O BOX 1870
 DEEP RIVER, ON K0J 1P0



FORM 414, 1m OPCo

MICHIGAN CENTRAL R.R.
 Amherst, STATION *pl 71* 1892

THE FOLLOWING GOODS HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS STATION, CONSIGNED TO YOU:

Fiber Glass

From *Amherst* Station.
 Way-Bill No. Car No.
 R. R. Charges, \$ *122*
 Adv. Charges, \$

Charges Payable on Delivery. This Company is not required by law to notify consignees. Bill of Lading and this notice must be presented when freight is called for.
 The liability of this Company as carrier ends upon the arrival of the property upon its platform at the end of the transit and if consignee is not there ready to pay charges and receive property, we place them in store as warehousemen, subject to a charge for storage after twenty-four hours.
 Whenever goods are permitted to remain on cars after arrival, for the convenience of consignee who is to unload the same the transit is ended, and the goods held under the liability of warehousement; and if car is not unloaded within forty-eight hours after it is placed for unloading, a car rental of one dollar per day is charged, and the freight held subject to a lien therefor.

Agent.

Above:
 P9 - 1¢ blue First Rosette Issue
 The MICHIGAN CENTRAL R.R.
 operated Canada Southern lines.
 Copies at 60% and 80%