

Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 25 No. 6

Aug 2013

BNAPEX 2013!

It's not too late to plan a visit to PEI! We would love to see you there. Visit the BNAPS.org web site and follow the link to BNAPEX 2013 for more information.

QUEEN VICTORIA PRIVATE ORDER ENVELOPES *Bill Walton (WaltonWmC@aol.com)*

Collectors have been well aware of the two Dominion Issue private order envelopes (1¢ & 3¢) for over 90 years. Listed in Webb as EN500 and EN501, these are also known as the Burnett envelopes – unusually large envelopes for the period (267x111mm), on manila paper. Webb dates these as 1894. The stamp dies, of course, are those used for the First and Second Dominion issue envelopes. Full sized used examples in period are scarce, but unused can still be found with a little searching.

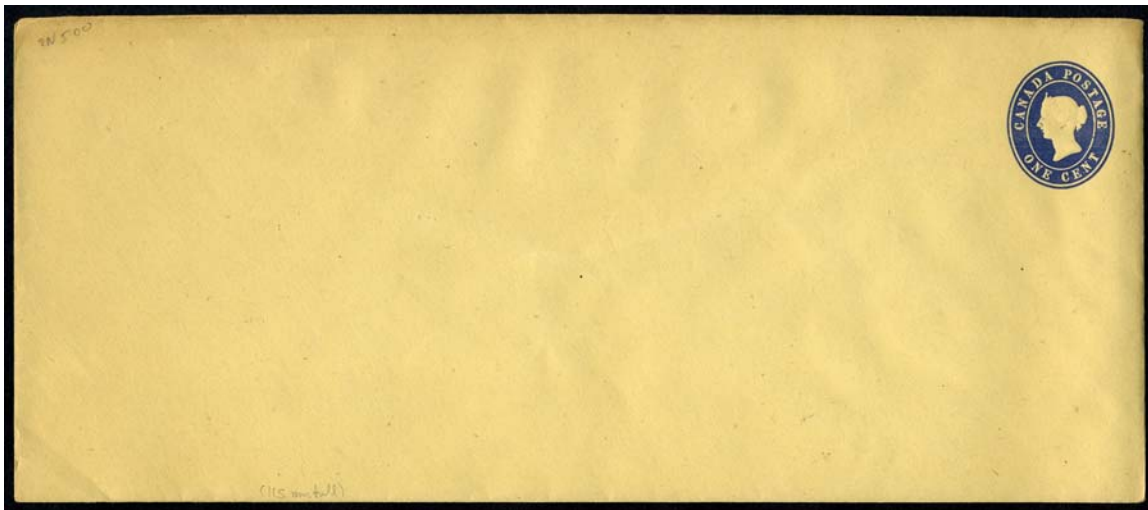


Fig 1: 1¢ Burnett private order envelope, 267x111mm, manila paper, EN500.

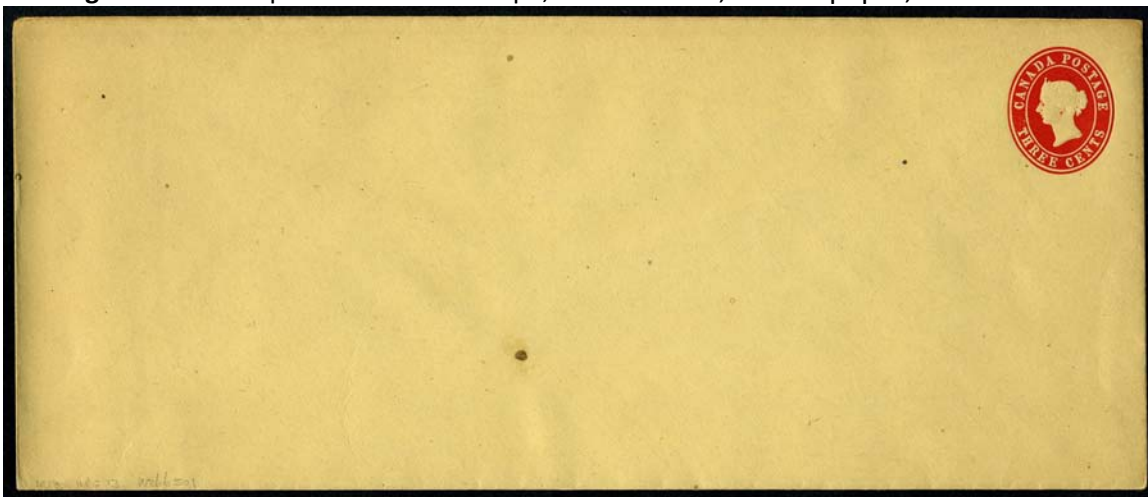


Fig. 2: 3¢ Burnett private order envelope, 267x111mm, manila paper, EN501

Only one other Dominion Issue private order envelope is known, listed as Webb EN500a. It is the same size as the Burnett envelopes, but on white laid paper with 24-25mm batonne lines, and has an I.O.F. (Independent Order of Foresters) red emblem and corner card, with a PRINTED FORM legend showing its use at the 1¢ printed matter rate. The only recorded example, unused, was found in the mid 1970s, and was first listed by Jim Webb in the 3rd (1978) Edition of his catalogue.

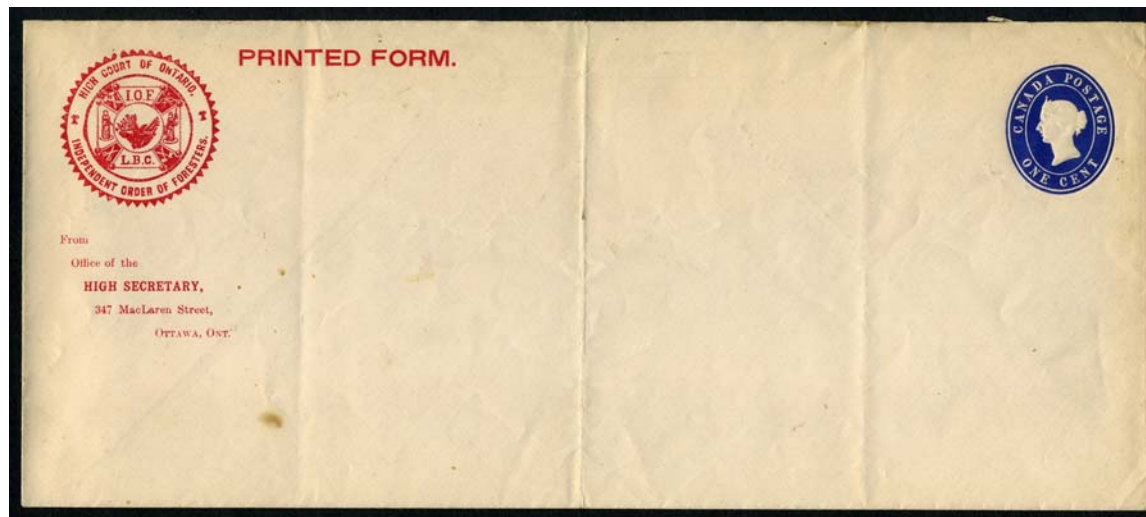


Fig. 3: EN500a, also 267x111mm, on white laid paper with I.O.F. corner & PRINTED FORM.

I recently had occasion to reexamine these envelopes, and realized that information about these issues, as well as some questions about them, may be worth sharing.

Frederick Burnett sent a typewritten letter in 1923 to George Lowe, a prominent Toronto stamp dealer, with information on his acquisition of the manila envelopes. At this time, Burnett lived in Toronto. Fred Jarrett acquired a photostat of the letter, which I now own, reproduced below. The letter was written 25-30 years after Burnett secured the envelopes, and his recall of the facts must be viewed in this context. The transcription follows:

February 22, 1923

Geo. A. Lowe, Esq.
10 Adelaide St., East
Toronto

Dear Mr. Lowe: -

Answering your enquiry would say that 5000 1 cent and 3000 3 cent Stamped Envelopes, official size, on buff paper, were issued by the Post Office Department.

They were made by the American Bank Note Company for the Government to comply with a request I made of the P.O. Department. I had to pay extra for the large envelopes but, as I received the whole issue, considered I had good value.

The date of issue as near as I can recollect was 1895, and I simply laid them by until long after the death of Queen Victoria, and the destruction or withdrawal of the plates from which the stamp impressions were made. Just about the time I thought of marketing them, Envelopes were withdrawn from the catalogues, and my visions of wealth from the sale of the envelopes vanished into thin air.

Evidently the P.O. Department kept no record of the transaction, as I called upon E. J. Lemaire, Supt. Postage Stamp branch of the Department in 1913, and asked him about the issue.

(continued below...)

FREDERICK BURNETT

CONSULTING GAS ENGINEER

CABLE ADDRESS
"CARBURETED, TORONTO"

PHOENIX BUILDING, 43 VICTORIA STREET

OFFICE PHONE MAIN 4819
RESIDENCE PHONE PARKDALE 4786

TORONTO

CANADA February 22nd, 1923

Geo. A. Lowe, Esq.,
19 Adelaide St. East,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Lowe:-

Answering
and 3000 3 cent Stamped
were issued by the Post

They were
for the Government to the
Department. I had to pay
as I received the whole

The date
1895, and I simply laid
Queen Victoria, and the
from which the stamp im
I thought of marketing
catalogues, and my visit
envelopes vanished into

Evidently
the transaction, as I c
Stamp branch of the Dep
issue.

He took
of every variety of pos
issued in Canada and th
there, so he said he di

To convi
the correspondence when
the issue was a genuine
thing got past Dr. Coul
at that time. Dr. Coul
held up the sale of the
we all itched to get ou
to help any of us get "
in those days. Mr. Lem
get by with anything ou
office, but I did not b
If they had only been p
might have been rolling

Jeffrey H. Bu
Bank Note Company at th
not get copies from the
favor, to let him have
the close tab which was

Trusting that
your friend, I remain

(continued from previous page) ... He (Lemaire) took out their book, supposed to contain copies of every variety of postage stamp, card, wrapper, and envelope issued in Canada and the 1 and 3 cent on buff paper were not there, so he said he did not believe there was such an issue.

To convince him I had to send samples and copies of the correspondence when I ordered them, which convinced him that the issue was a genuine one, but he could not figure how such a thing got by Dr. Coulter, who was in charge of the Department at the time. Dr. Coulter, as you may remember, was the man who held up the sale of the accumulated 8 cent register stamps which we all itched to get our hands on, and he would not do anything to help any of us get "varieties" although we tried it often enough in those days. Mr. Lemaire said he thought I was the only one to get by with anything out of the ordinary while Dr. Coulter was in office, but I did not benefit from the exceptional circumstances. If they had only been postage stamps in place of envelopes, I might have been rolling in wealth to-day.

Jeffrey H. Burland, who was manager of the American Bank Note Company at the time I purchased the envelopes, could not get copies from the Department, and asked me, as a personal favor, to let him have one of each for his collection, indicating the close tab which was kept on issues at that time.

Trusting that this information will be of interest to your friend, I remain

Yours sincerely,
Frederick Burnett

LL corner:
Compliments F. Jarrett Nov. 1955

Yours sincerely,

Frederick Burnett

*Compliments
F. Jarrett
Nov 1955
FB/ML.*

Fig 4: Burnett's letter to George Lowe in 1923 regarding this issue.

Several points are worth noting.

- The quantities of 5000 1¢ and 3000 3¢ are likely correct. This represents a face value of \$140 – a considerable sum at the time, plus an unknown envelope cost (and Burnett notes he “had to pay extra for the large envelopes.”).
- The entire quantities of both envelopes were for Burnett - - “I received the whole issue.”
- Burnett incorrectly states these were made by the American Bank Note Company, the firm producing stamps, postal stationery cards, post bands, and wrappers for Canada since 1898. The Dominion Issue envelopes, however, were always supplied, from their first issue in 1877, by the British American Bank Note Company, using an unknown sub-contractor for the stamping.
- He states the issue “as near as I can recollect was 1895,” but Figure 5 and Fig. 6 show that it was 1894.
- Burnett reports in 1913 asking Lemaire in the Post Office Department about the issues, with Lemaire finding no record of the buff paper envelopes. We do NOT know, however, whether there was a record of a 1¢ large envelope on white laid paper (EN500a).
- These envelopes were apparently supplied by British American directly to the Post Office Department, from whom Burnett purchased them. Jeffrey Burland, “Bull” Burland’s nephew, is mentioned by Burnett as manager of the Bank Note Company (though he again names the company incorrectly), and wanted examples after they were printed – but could not get them from the P.O. Dept., presumably because the entire quantity was printed for (and paid for by) Burnett.

We do not know how Burnett was able to place this order, and no doubt never will. His letter is completely silent on this question, very possibly for good reason.

Although Burnett said he put the envelopes away until “long after the death of Queen Victoria,” some examples were mailed from Brantford, his residence at the time, where he apparently was manager of the Royal Loan & Savings Co. Figure 6 shows such a usage with the 1¢ envelope.

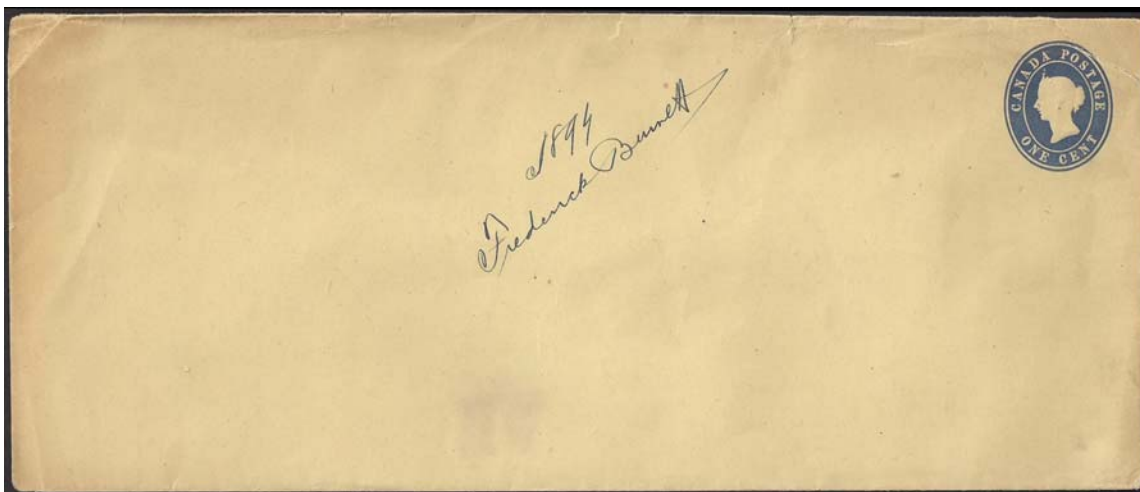


Fig. 5: The 1¢ envelope with handwritten 1894 above Burnett’s signature (courtesy of Earle Covert).



Fig. 6: A cut-down 1c envelope addressed in someone else's hand to Burnett, with a Dec. 15, 1894 Brantford squared circle (courtesy of Earle Covert).

Burnett also used the 3c envelope well before the Queen's death.

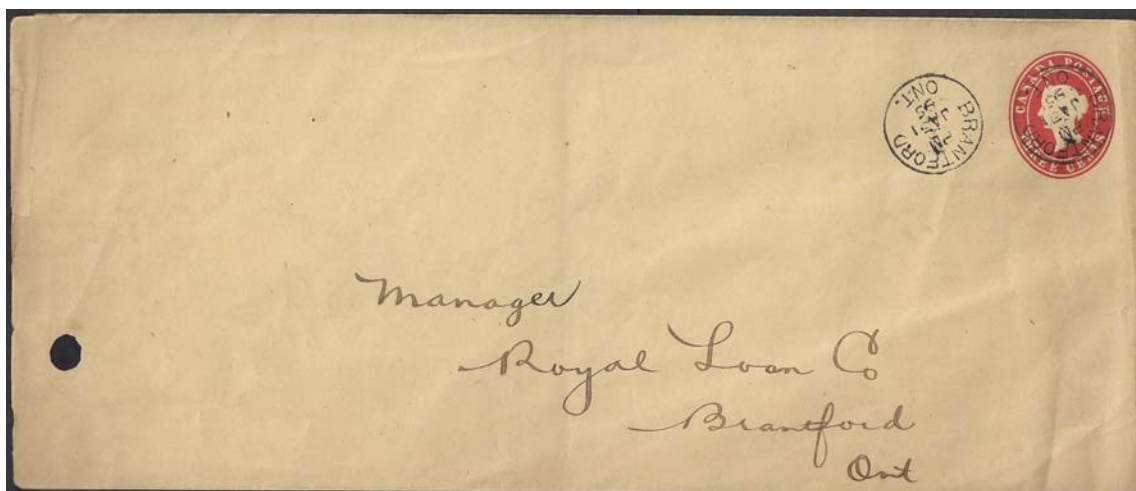


Fig. 7: The 3c Burnett envelope used in Brantford Jan. 31, 1895, a 2c overpayment. (Courtesy Earle Covert).



Fig. 8: Registered 3c Burnett envelope from Brantford (Oct. 5, 1898 cancel) to Toronto, with Royal Loan & Savings Co. (Brantford) corner card.

Relatively few of these early usages are known. I would be interested to hear of usages from locations other than Brantford during these early years.

At some later point, no doubt prior to the 1923 letter, Burnett apparently sold most or all of his remaining envelopes to George Lowe, and the letter was probably written to answer a query from one of Lowe's customers (see the last paragraph). By the 1920s, used examples – probably from Lowe's place of business, and certainly in a different hand than the 1898 usages – begin to appear.

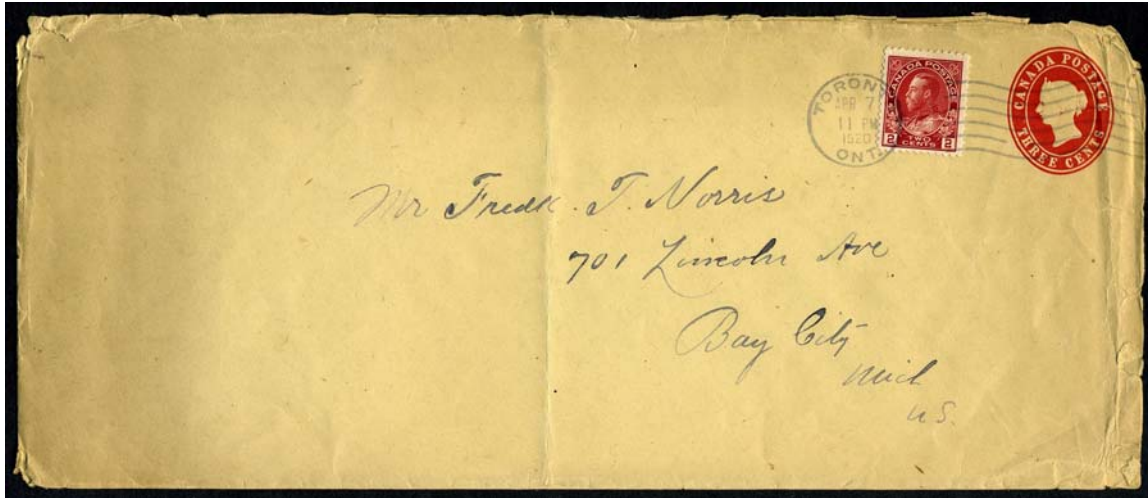


Fig. 9: The 3¢ Burnett envelope, used with an added 2¢ Admiral from Toronto (April 7, 1920 cancel) to Michigan. The envelope rate at the time was 2¢, and the 3¢ QV stamp was already an overpayment, but there may have been (an incorrect) concern that the 3¢ stamp would not be recognized.

Lowe most often cut these envelopes down to a smaller size, then folding the left end over and gluing it, as back scans in Figures 10 & 11 show.

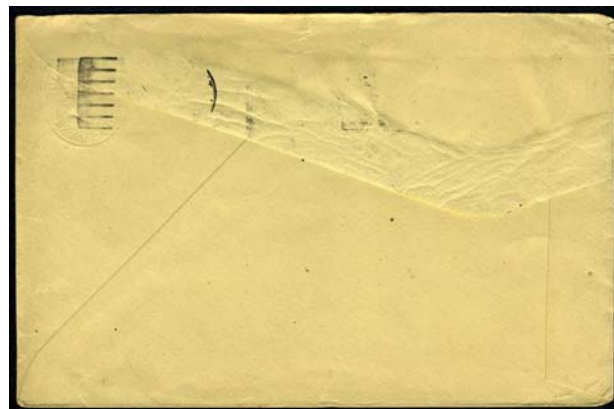
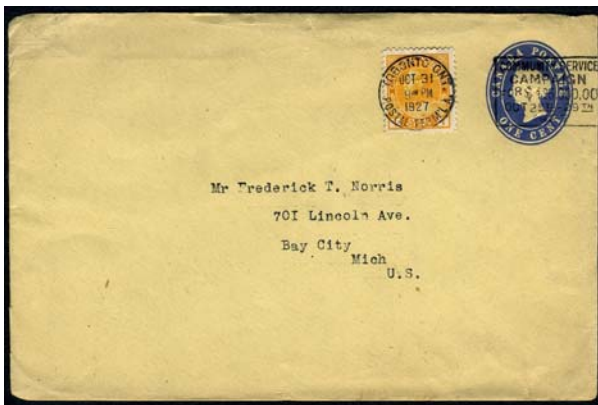


Fig. 10: A cut-down 1¢ EN500, uprated to the again-reduced 2¢ rate, and sent from Toronto (Oct. 21, 1927) to Michigan.



Fig. 11: A cut-down 3¢ EN501, sent at the increased 3¢ rate from Toronto (Nov. 13, 1922) to Michigan.

The cut-down envelopes from this period can also be found with Lowe's corner card.

In examining these envelopes, I finally made a closer comparison of the Burnett envelopes with the I.O.F. envelopes. The first thing I noticed was the knives, which are essentially identical – not just the overall folded sizes.

This led me to examine the laid paper of EN500a more closely, and I found the batonne line spacing to be 24-25mm. This is the spacing that defines the Second Dominion Issue (EN5 and EN6), beginning to appear by late 1887, replacing the previous First Dominion Issue 18mm spacing.

Our only example of EN500a is unused and without form date. Based on the laid paper, it could have been produced at any time from 1887 or 1888 until 1897 or 1898. The similarity of this envelope to the Burnetts, however – only the gum shape shows some difference – is thought-provoking. It suggests the I.O.F. and Burnett orders may have been produced around the same time.



Fig. 12: The buff Burnett envelope appears to have the same knife as the white laid paper envelope (500a) below. Although the gum is applied differently, the gumming on the Burnett envelopes themselves shows noticeable variation.



Fig. 13: The reverse of the I.O.F envelope (500a) shown in figure 3, knife as EN500 above.

How did Burnett accomplish the unachievable, while the I.O.F. – a prominent and influential fraternal benefit society – was securing their private order envelope? We may never know. One interesting coincidence also connecting the issues can be noted, though – the Oxford-educated Mohawk doctor Oronhyatekha (Dr. Peter Martin) headed the I.O.F. from 1879 to 1906, and was born near Brantford, where the Burnett envelopes were used in 1898.

A POSTSCRIPT on the Burnett envelopes: Earle Covert has shown me the scissored bottom portion of a letter to a customer over the typed name of Fred Jarrett, with a penciled “1927” in the corner. The text recounts some of the information in Burnett’s letter, and notes that Burnett sold them at face value to Lowe, who priced them at \$2.50 and “finally to get his money back used them himself at face. I paid him a price for the last two dozen - - -.” Lowe must have sold and/or used most of them.

~*****~ ☒☒☒ ~*****~

Picture Postage

A new die is now in use on self-generated post cards produced in Canada Post’s app for computer, Ipad and phone (see <http://www.picturepostage.ca/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/en/cpc-cpc/postcards>). It shows maple leaves in fall colors, with maple leaf circles behind the stamp. This change appears to have taken place by November 2012 (cards ordered in September still bore the Flag stamp). Note that there is now no difference between the stamp used from your computer, and those cards produced by mobile app – previously the earlier flag die had indicated “from Canada Post Mobile App” for cards sent from mobile devices. The numbering sequence however varies for mobile app and computer-generated cards.



Die currently in use on self-generated post cards, which includes a 2012 date.

~*****~ ☒☒☒ ~*****~

PCF Corner

(Robert Lemire: rlemire000@sympatico.ca)

Two more PCF cards have been reprinted (reports from Raymond Gagné and Robert Lemire). Furthermore, four new views have been found (Duff Malkin, Raymond Gagné and Robert Lemire). Cards with these new views are not available through Canada Post outlets, but only through stands in stores or hotels that sell souvenir items.

PCF-T2H (white border)

ATC 200V

PCF-T3H (borderless)

Q 502, (new PCF logo, previously known with the old PCF logo)

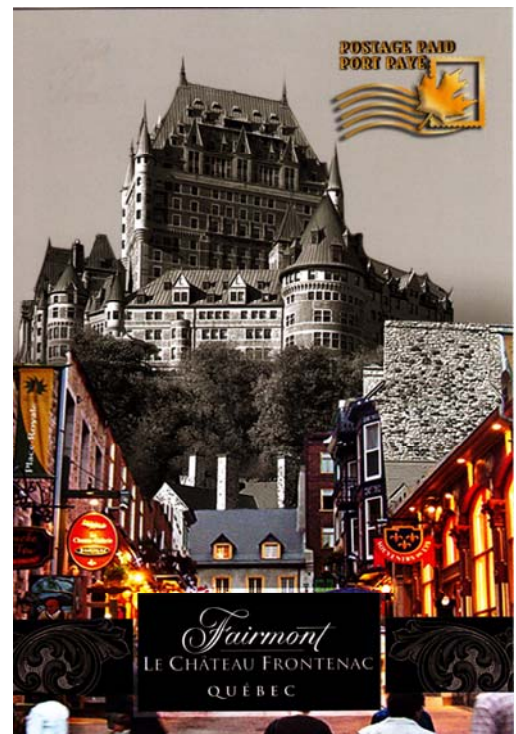
Details of the New Views

The new view cards have 2-bar codes, with the stamp impression at the bottom, underlay type U1, and have no printed SKU number.

<u>card #</u>	<u>view</u>	<u>bottom-left bar code</u>	<u>top-middle bar code</u>	<u>SKU#</u>
CST9050	Chateau Frontenac/Exclusive Postcard	64392 00409	73418 32686	none
TOR 3708	Toronto - Twinkling Lights	64392 00409	73418 32138	none
VAN 3932	Port of Vancouver's Canada Place	64392 00409	73418 31304	none
VQ 3815	Chateau Frontenac Landmark	64392 00409	73418 32996	none



**Chateau Frontenac/Exclusive Postcard
VQ 3815**



**Chateau Frontenac Landmark
CST9050**



Port of Vancouver's
Canada Place
VAN 3932

Toronto - Twinkling Lights
TOR 3708



~*****~ ☒☒☒ ~*****~

PSNotes Contact information: Chairman: Earle L. Covert, ecovert6@gmail.com, Box 1190, Raymond, AB T0K 2S0, phone 403-752-4548. For articles, news or reports: John Grace, our Secretary-Treasurer, and contact person for the study group (jpg1353@yahoo.com, 734 Aspen Rd Pickering ON, L1V 4H2), and Jean Walton (jwalton971@aol.com, or PSSG@comcast.net, 125 Turtleback Rd, Califon NJ 07830), layout/copy editor for Postal Stationery Notes. For mailing and printing issues, contact Mike Sagar at gailandmike@shaw.ca, 3920 Royalmore Ave., Richmond, BC V7C 1P6.

Emailed copy of PSNotes: To receive PSNotes in colour in pdf format, send your email to John Grace at jpg1353@yahoo.com. It's free! If you prefer this version to the mailed version and ONLY want the online version, let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list for Canada Post copies. But you do not need to choose – you can continue to receive both.

~*****~ ☒☒☒ ~*****~

An index for Vol. 25 of PS Notes is available on request from PSNotes@comcast.net, or by mail from Jean Walton, 125 Turtleback Road, Califon, NJ 07830