

# Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 26 No. 2

January 2014

## Catching Up With Santa Letters:

Earle Covert ([ecovert6@gmail.com](mailto:ecovert6@gmail.com))

It is not since Vol. 24, No 5 that we have addressed the Santa letters (those from 2011), an interesting sideline of postal stationery produced by Canada Post. Each year letters to Santa are answered by Canada Post volunteers, sent with the "created" North Pole postal code precancel of H0H 0H0. Postal stationery envelopes were created for this endeavor. These were in the standard # 10 size envelope with matching letter: - EB1 (English Before Christmas), EB2 (a second English letter), EE (English Empty – pictures but no text), FB1 (French Before Christmas) and FB2 (again a second French letter). No EF (French Empty) exists as there was no text on these letters. These Empty (no text) letters exist to reply to very special letters to Santa – such as "Please bring my mommy back who has just died."

Classroom letters were also created -- 305 x 230 mm size envelopes with a folded letter roughly four times that size. There were two: - EBC (English Before Classroom) and FBC (French Before Classroom.)

The 2012 #10 sized envelopes are shown below. In 2012 Letters arriving too late to answer by Christmas received an After Christmas reply, which were post cards (EA and FA) with serial numbers on the address side.



Fig. 1: The 2012 Santa envelopes, French over English, and an enlargement of the die with the French precancel.

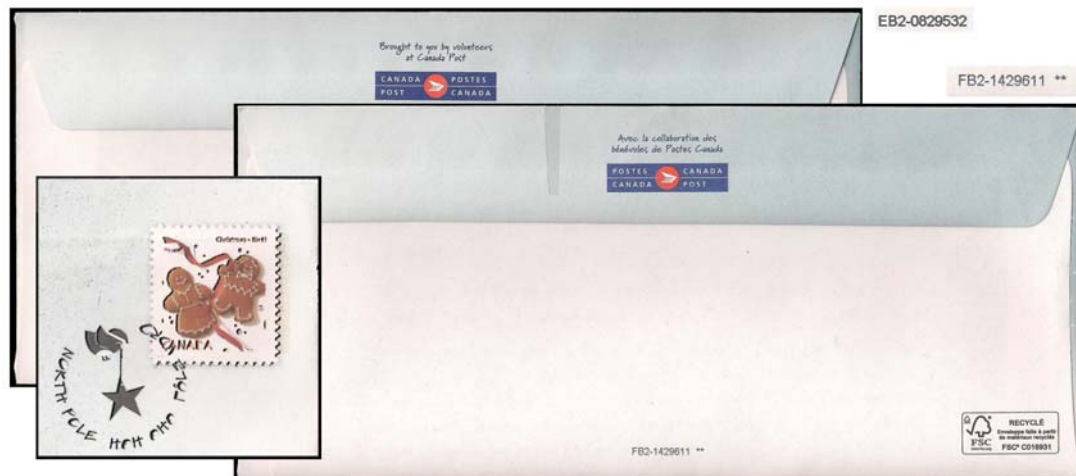


Fig. 2: The reverse of the 2012 Santa envelopes, with an enlargement of the die with English precancel. Also shown are the EB & FB numbers on these envelopes. The stamp die is the same as those used in 2012 for Christmas mailings.

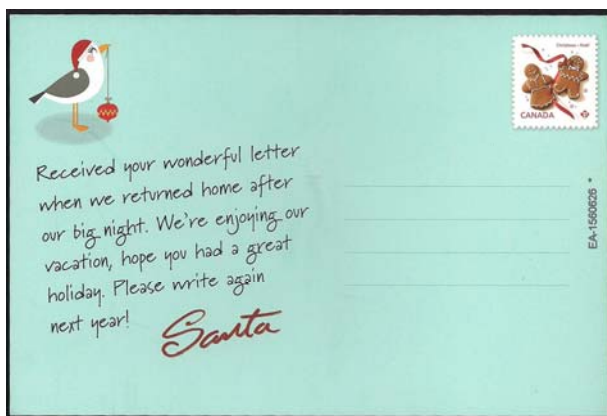


Fig. 3 & 4: The 2012 English version of the After Christmas post card. It uses the Gingerbread stamp as the envelopes, with no precancel.

2013 brought a few changes:

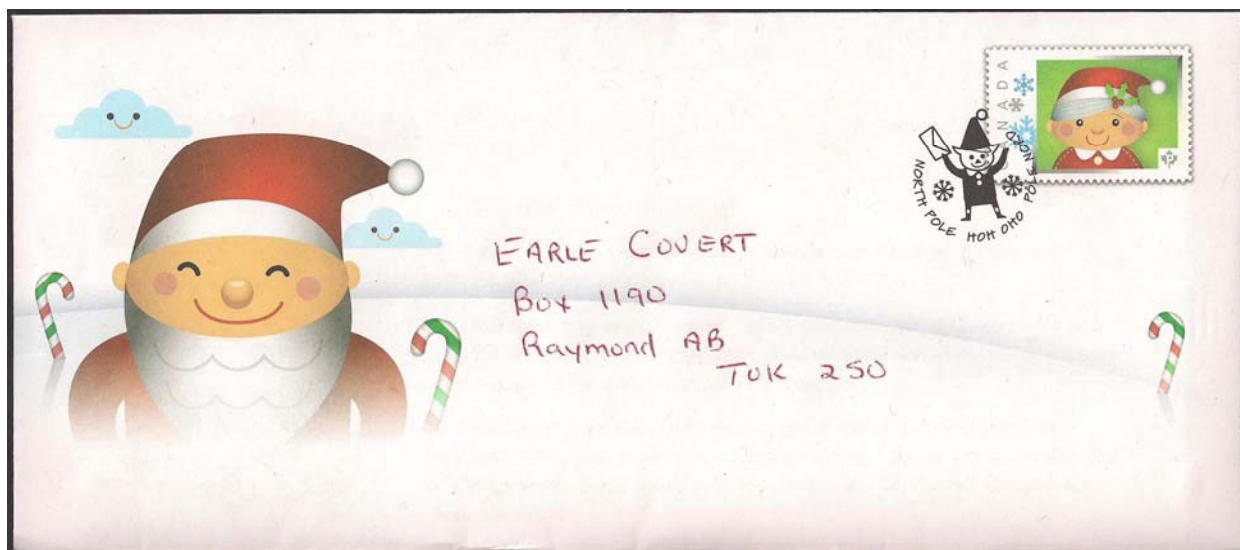


Fig. 5 & 6: Front and back of the 2013 Santa envelopes. The stamp die appears only on these envelopes, and the bar code no doubt allows for identification in case of misuse.

The differences from last year

- 1 No return address on the front.
- 2 The stamp is different from any regular issue.
- 3 There is a proprietary barcode on the back.

My local Postmaster is playing by the rule book this year -- she insisted that I write a letter to get a Santa Letter to get an answer. Here is the letter I wrote:

DEAR SANTA,

Thank you for coming at Christmas every year.

I have tried to be good.

Please make Audrey's ankle all better.

I am typing really big in case you mislaid your glasses.

Love, Earle Covert



Fig. 7: Stamp die on 2013 Santa envelopes, with English version of Elf precancel.

She sent back two letters back to me. I was trying to be cute and she responded with her own cuteness.

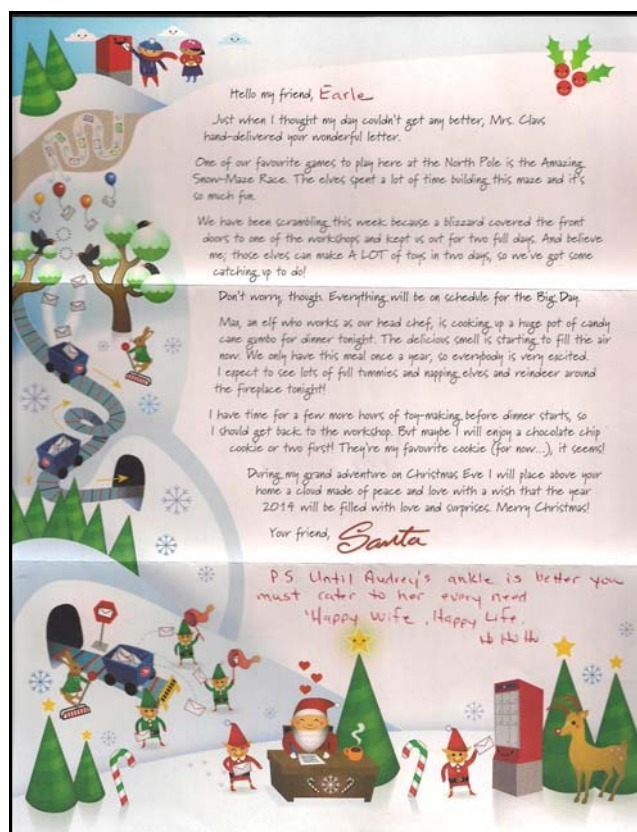
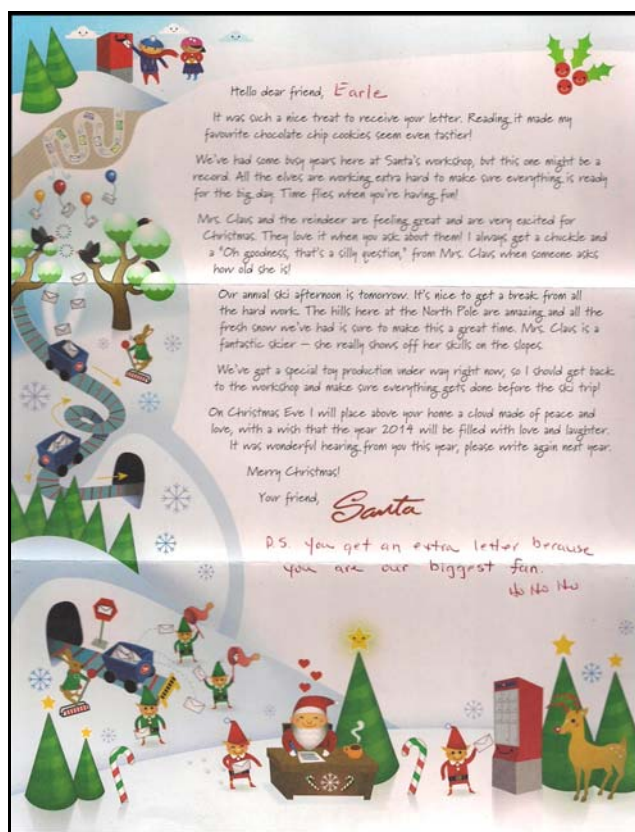


Fig. 8 & 9: Santa letters in English, which I received in return. These letters are different – no doubt to handle letters from more than one child in a household.

My postmistress had no blank letters (for custom responses) nor any French letters. She also insists there are no classroom letters as they have in the past but I have an English one from last year from Ontario.

Post-Christmas this year (for answers to those letters which were received too late for Christmas replies) were answered by post cards as they were last year. Pierre Gauthier sent along the images on the next page of both the English and French versions, with imprinted numbers EA-1375343 and FA-1393497. These cards use the same stamp die as the one used on the envelopes. The only difference between the precancels on the envelopes and the postcards is the cancel on the envelope covers more of the stamp.

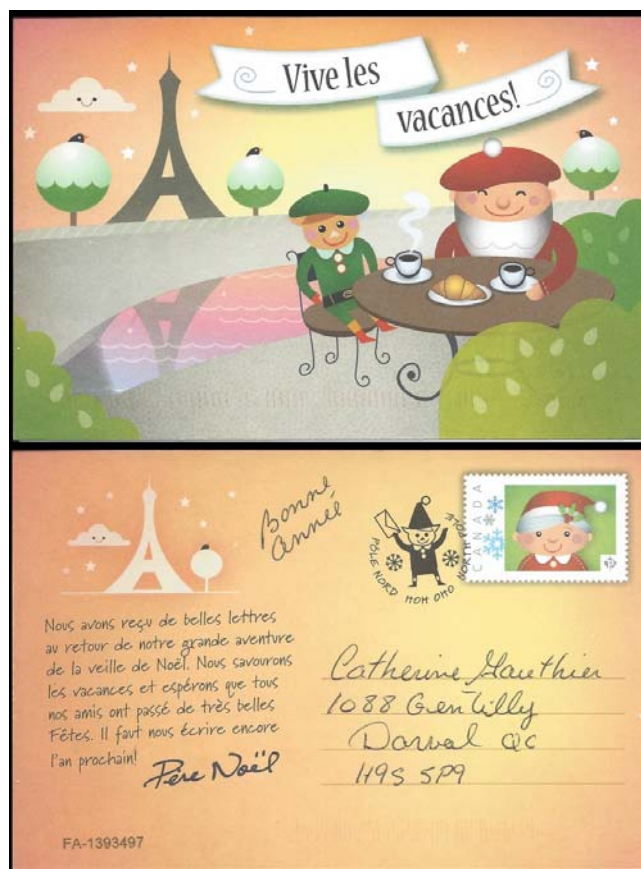
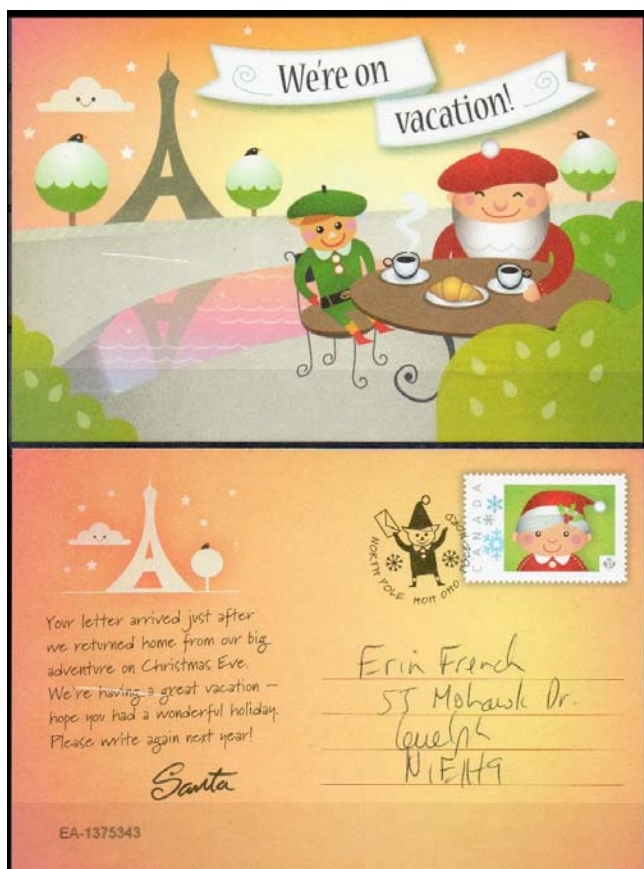


Fig. 10 & 11: Post-Christmas post cards, using the same stamp as the envelopes.



Fig. 12 & 13: The English and French precancels on the post-Christmas cards. Compare with Figure 7.

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## What's New in Postal Stationery:

The only new issues from Canada Post are the Year of the Horse cards (January 13, 2014), the dies of which are shown here. For a full view, visit the New Issues link below.



<http://home.comcast.net/~psnotes/pdf/NewissuesJan14.pdf>

## The Audit Association “COLLECTEM” Precancelled Cards

Bill Walton ([waltonwmc@aol.com](mailto:waltonwmc@aol.com))

One of the repeat users of the 1¢ green Arch standard precancelled cards (Webb P43a) was the Audit Association, a bill collecting agency located in Toronto. They also operated a similar service for physicians – the Medical Audit Association. Their use of the precancelled cards was to solicit businesses and medical practices to use their services.

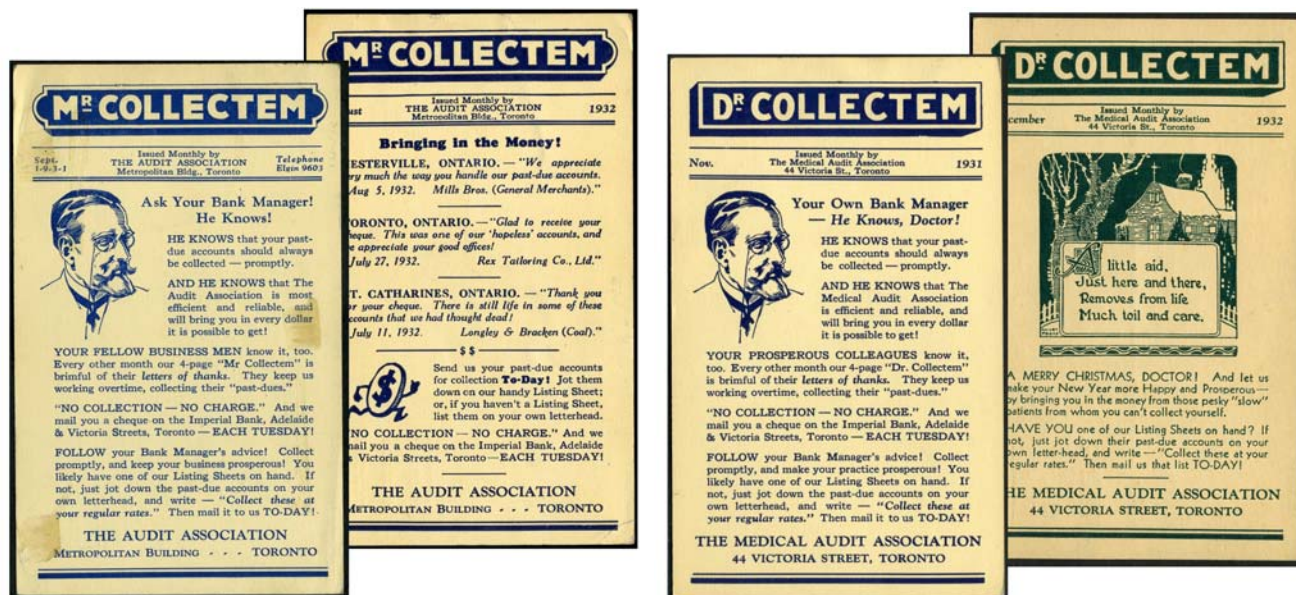


Fig. 1: Mr. Collectem cards, Sept 1931 & Aug 1932. Dr. Collectem cards, Nov. 1931 & Dec. 1932.

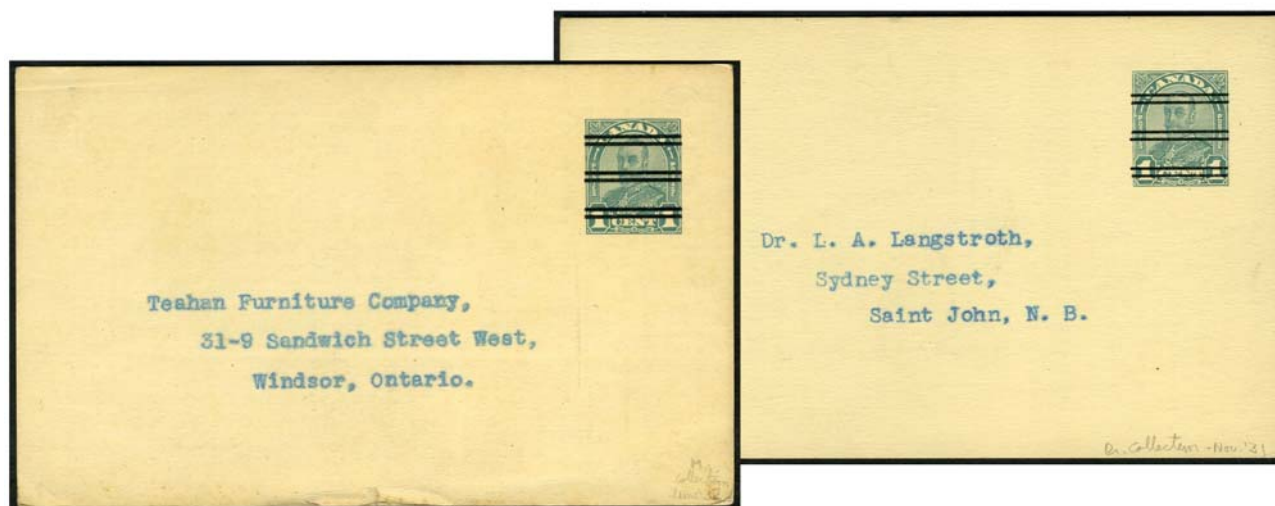


Fig. 3: Showing representative addresses on the precancelled card.

P43a

Cards sent to doctors (from Medical Audit Association) were headed Dr. Collectem, and those to non-medical businesses were headed Mr. Collectem. Each mailing carried a printed text date, immediately under the heading. The layout within each group (Dr. and Mr.) always changed, but similar layouts (with minor changes) occurred between groups in at least some instances – one example (the bearded bank manager) is illustrated. I have carried a list of what I have for many years, but it has been a long time since I unearthed a new one. On the following page is a table of those I have confirmed.

Dr. Collectem	Mr. Collectem
Nov. 1931	Sept. 1-9-3-1
January 1932	Nov. 1931
March 1932	Feb. 1932
December 1932	June 1932
	August 1932

This appears to have been a business launched in the depths of the Depression, and may not have survived much longer than these dates. Other members of the Study Group may be able to fill in the date gaps or extend the end points – any information would be welcome.

Send to Bill Walton ([waltonwmc@aol.com](mailto:waltonwmc@aol.com) )

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## Miscut EN126

*Mike Sagar*

This mint envelope was significantly miscut, and it shows the colour bars that would normally have been on the edge of the sheet and discarded after cutting. The shift has caused the postal code boxes to end up on the back of the envelope, and the bilingual description of the scale to be partly cut off by the flaps. The inside security printing is further offset. The gum is in the normal position for the envelope. The tagging is beside the scale, where it should be.



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## PCF Corner

(Robert Lemire: [rlemire000@sympatico.ca](mailto:rlemire000@sympatico.ca))

Not much new on the PCF front.

- a) Two cards (C014 and C124) have been found reprinted with the revised PCF logo (reported by Earle Covert and Raymond Gagné).
- b) Earle also found that LL 3860 has been reprinted with underlay U1 (originally it was found with underlay U3). Similarly, Raymond Gagné has found VQ 3865 has been reprinted with underlay U1 (it also was found originally with underlay U3)
- c) Earle has noted that there are two versions of the changed underlay U2 on RCMPC-104 (see illustrations below). The scarcer version is essentially the same as that shown on RCMPC 074 in PSN25 pg. 50; the commoner version suffered from a set-up error (as shown in the lower figure below). More recent printings of RCMPC 104 appear to have reverted to using the "old" underlay.

### PCF-T3G (white border, die IIIc)

C 014 (new PCF logo, previously known with the old PCF logo)

### PCF-T3H (borderless, die IIIc)

C 124 (new PCF logo, previously known with the old PCF logo)

LL 3860 \*now known with underlays U1 and U3)

VQ 3865 \*now known with underlays U1 and U3)

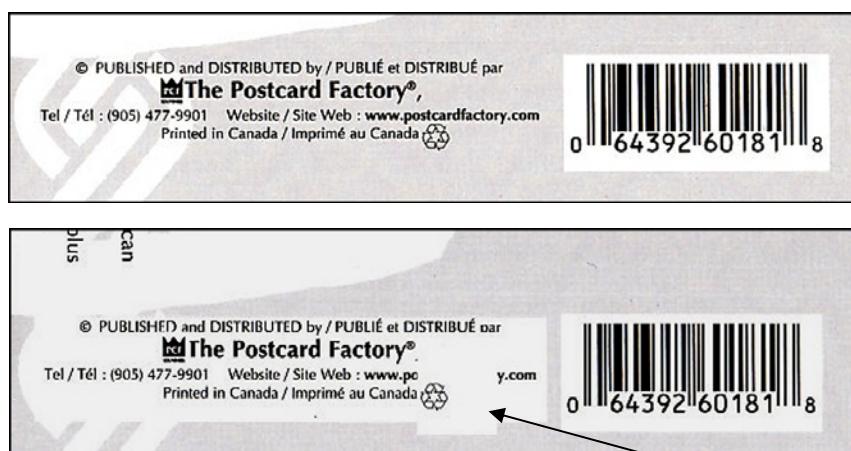


Fig. 1 & 2: RCMPC 104 with underlay U2  
Normal (and scarcer) above, and error (more common) below

## Envelopes

At least for the period until March 31, 2014, when there will be a major increase in first class postage rates, all postage-prepaid ("permanent" rate) envelopes have been withdrawn from most post offices.

### New dates found on "current" postage-prepaid envelopes

new animal-envelope date 03.22.13

new flower-envelope date 06.06.13

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## Additional Printed Corners on Post Bands & Wrappers

Earle L. Covert ([ecovert6@gmail.com](mailto:ecovert6@gmail.com))

A few more wrappers and postbands. The first two illustrate an interesting use by the Cranbrook Trading Company in 1927. Whatever advertising they included in the postband, the postband itself advertised their weekly specials. The ones below, on W13, are for April 14 and June 23, 1927.

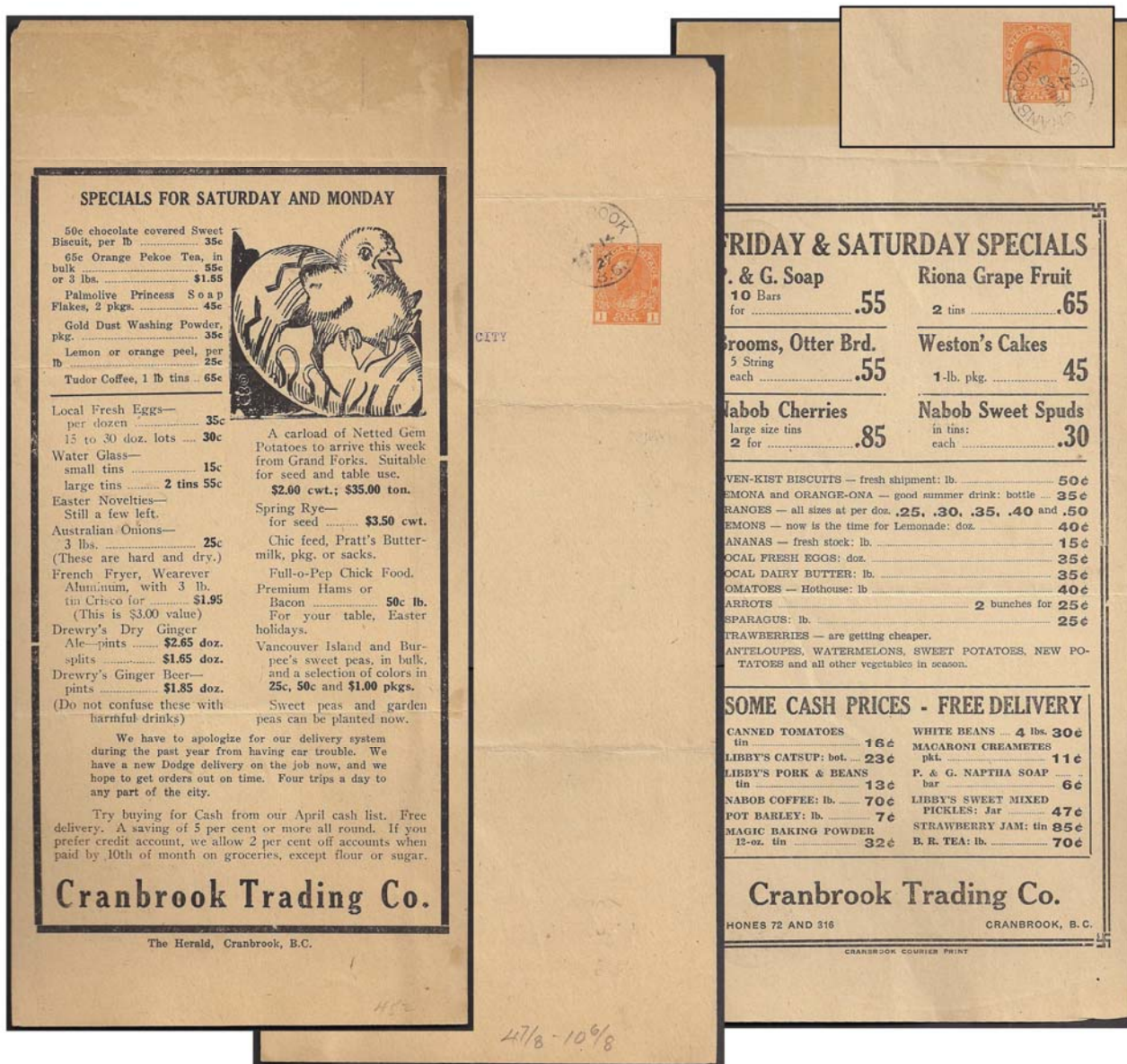


Fig. 21: A W13 postband with no actual corner, but with inside advertising for the Cranbrook Trading Company's weekly specials.

And I have another souvenir wrapper similar to the one shown in our last issue, as Fig. No. 20, but instead of being on W13f it is on W7a; it has the same inside text (see next page).

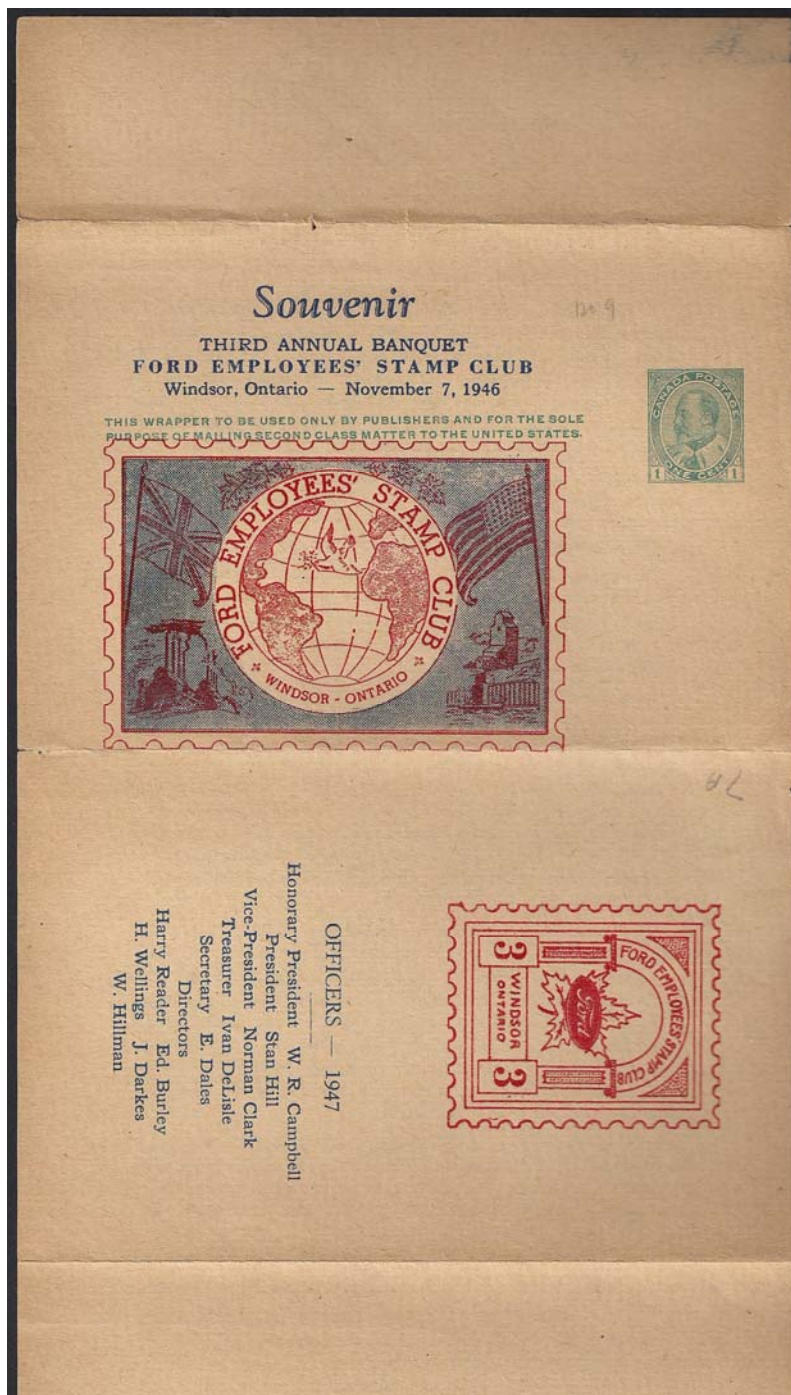


Fig. 22. As W13f (Fig. 20). A souvenir wrapper for the Ford Employees' Stamp club, prepared the same year (1946), but on KEVII wrapper W7.

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### **Our Sympathy & Condolences to the Family of John Grace:**

We were saddened to learn of the death of John Grace, who served so long as our Secretary-Treasurer and printer of Notes. He died in October. He is survived by his wife Margaret, and his seven children, and fourteen grandchildren. We will miss him deeply. Mike Sagar has agreed to fill the hole he left in PSSG.

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## Unusual and Exotic Postal Stationery Usages

The thirteenth in our continuing series. We welcome contributions to this series from other members.

### 13: Post card used as an envelope

Bill Walton



A P22 Edward VII post card used as an envelope. The sender cut off the front of an envelope (possibly because it was misaddressed, or unusable for some other reason), and pasted its edges on the front of the post card. This item passed through the mail from Montreal (April 12, 1905) to Kemptville, with a Kemptville receiver of the same date. Two ½ penny Small Queens have been added to meet the 2¢ first class letter rate.

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**PSNotes Contact information:** Chairman: Earle L. Covert, [ecovert6@gmail.com](mailto:ecovert6@gmail.com), Box 1190, Raymond, AB T0K 2S0, phone 403-752-4548. Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Sagar at [gailandmike@shaw.ca](mailto:gailandmike@shaw.ca), 3920 Royalmore Ave., Richmond, BC V7C 1P6. Articles for PSNotes should be sent to Earle Covert (see above) or Jean Walton ([jwalton971@aol.com](mailto:jwalton971@aol.com), or [PSSG@comcast.net](mailto:PSSG@comcast.net), 125 Turtleback Rd, Califon NJ 07830), layout/copy editor for Postal Stationery Notes. For mailing, changes of address, and printing issues, contact Mike at email above.

**Emailed copy of PSNotes:** To receive PSNotes in colour in pdf format, send your email to Mike Sagar at [gailandmike@shaw.ca](mailto:gailandmike@shaw.ca). It's free! If you prefer this version to the mailed version and ONLY want the online version, let Mike know and we will remove you from the list of mailed copies, which helps keep our costs low and our dues at \$8.00. But you do not need to choose – you can continue to receive both.

**DUES TIME!:** If you have not done so already, dues for PS Notes are now being accepted. The price is the same, \$8.00. Please send your payments to **Mike Sagar** (see below) 3920 Royalmore Avenue Richmond, BC V7C 1P6 Canada, or if you

have a Paypal account, you can send a dues payment to him at [gailandmike@shaw.ca](mailto:gailandmike@shaw.ca). Just go to Paypal and choose the "Send Money" option, using Mike's email address as the recipient, and note "PSSG dues" in the title line. Many thanks!

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