

Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 28 No. 6

May 2018

A previously unreported set of George V envelope press proofs.

a contribution from Jean Levesque and Richard Logan

Jean Levesque, working with researcher Richard Logan, has reported a rather spectacular set of George V press proofs. These are in a rolled booklet with a Kraft paper cover. The booklet contains twelve 17" × 22" buff-coloured Manila pages and four 8½" × 10" pages. Handwritten on the booklet cover (in four lines) is: "Press Proofs B. B. Note Co. Die Embossed Plates 1/9/1923." (Figure 1).

Each of the larger sheets has twenty embossed postal impressions featuring George V, spaced approximately 3⅜" apart with appropriate coloured numbers immediately under each inked impression—1 to 20. The impressions are of the heavily embossed dies used in preparation of the Webb's [1] 1¢ orange, 2¢ green and 3¢ brown envelopes EN26, EN28 and EN31 (Unitrade Specialized [2] U25, U27 and U30). Part of one of the pages is shown in Figure 2.

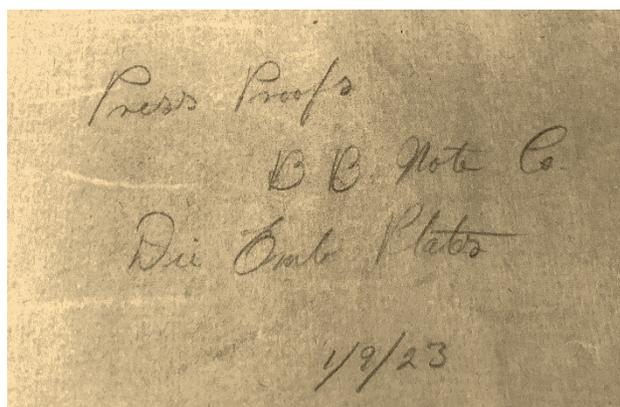


Figure 1: Handwritten note on the booklet of press proofs.

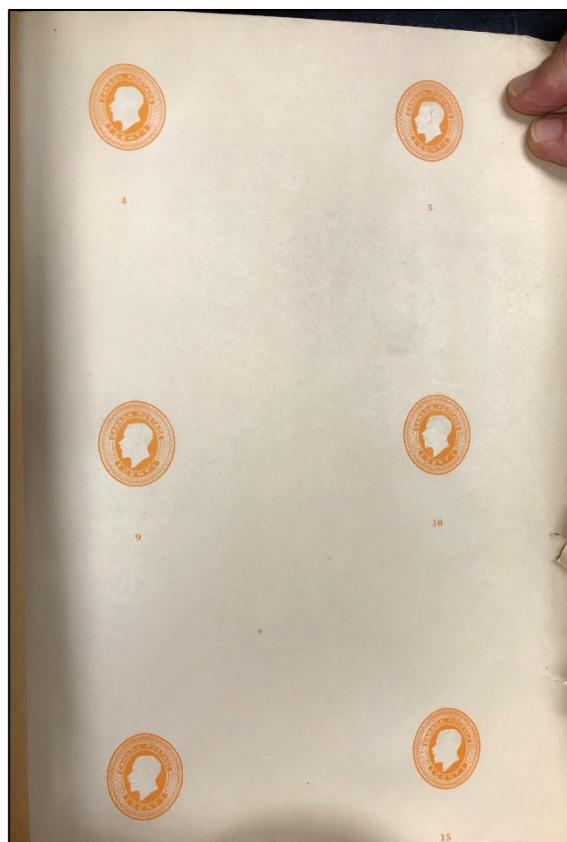


Figure 2: Part of one of the pages from the booklet of press proofs.

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The contents of the booklet are as follows:

Page 1	1¢ orange fully embossed.	Four pages 8½" × 10" inserted before Page 9
Page 2	same	(i) 3¢ brown fully embossed
Page 3	1¢ complete impression; albino with no numbers under the impression.	(ii) same
Page 4	same	(iii) albino
Page 5	2¢ green fully embossed	(iv) albino
Page 6	same	Page 9 3¢ brown fully embossed
Page 7	albino	Page 10 same
Page 8	same	Page 11 albino
		Page 12 same

The press proofs may prove helpful in identifying some of the working dies that the late Horace Harrison was trying to classify. What is difficult to fathom is the identity of the bank note company involved, "B.B. Note Co." According to both Boggs [3] and Bond [4], the original dies were a De La Rue product, and were supplied to Public Printing and Stationery for printing.

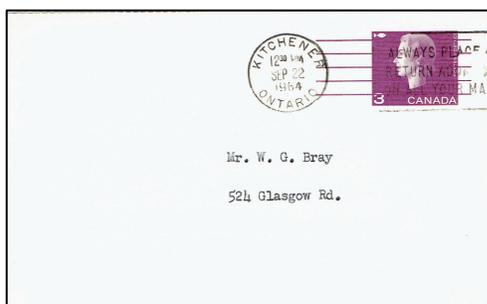
The editor wishes to thank Stéphane Cloutier of Sparks Auctions for first bringing the proofs to his attention.

References

- [1] Covert E. L., Walton, W. C., *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland 2001*, 7th Edition, Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Saskatoon, SK, 2000.
- [2] Harris, D. R., editor, *2008 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, The Unitrade Press, Toronto, ON, 2008.
- [3] Boggs, W. S., *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada*, Chambers Publishing Company, Kalamazoo, MI, 1942.
- [4] Bond, N., *The Postal Stationery of Canada*, Somerset Press, Somerville, NJ, 1953.

More about the ERP project.

Bill Walton maintains the master file of photocopies for the study group ERP project, but has put checking of newly reported ERPs on the "back-burner" while he and Earle Covert attempt to get a draft completed of the 8th edition of Webb's. The ERP project will continue but, in the interim, we will illustrate in PSN only some of the more interesting new dates (if a photocopy is definitive and the change in an ERP is large). Two are shown below. In some cases the photocopy submitted is definitive, but is inadequate for illustration in the newsletter. These will be listed. Dates related to items involving (most) die varieties and papers (especially for some Admiral Issue cards) will be held in reserve for Bill's assessment after his catalogue work has been completed.



P94d 1964-09-22 (Michel Ledoux).



EN28c 1926-12-02 (Rick Parama)

Also:

RKP79b 1953-01-19 (Earle Covert)

W13 1922-09-29 (Robert Lemire)

W15a 1931-01-05 (Robert Lemire)

An ERP question

The proofs described above are dated "1/9/1923", so the first question is whether this is US or UK dating (January or September)? The ERP for the series as reported in PSN, Vol. 12, pg. 36 (1994) is Jan. 13, 1923 for EN28 (replacing the previous Jan. 24, 1924).

- If the proof date is January this is an almost unbelievably good early postmark date.
- If the proof date is September, then the ERP seems to be incorrect (either the wrong date, the wrong envelope, or a postmark from a post office that hadn't switched the year in its dater to 1924).

The next earliest ERP for the series EN26/EN28/EN31 is Nov. 3, 1923 on EN31. The ERP for EN26 is Dec. 24, 1923.

Electronic searching back issues of PSN

Although there were index sheets printed for many of the earlier issues of PSN, there is no comprehensive index available. Back issues of PSN are searchable using Adobe Acrobat. Because of the limitations of some of the original typescript and scans, a search may not be complete (for example text on landscape-format pages is not searchable). Nevertheless, it is possible to search for Webb's catalogue numbers and specific topics with surprisingly good results.

Initial preparation:

- Create a directory on your computer "PSN Archives";
- copy the files from the postal stationery study group area of the BNAPS website <http://www.bnaps.org/hhl/n-ps.htm> into your "PSN Archives" directory;
 - sorry, but that step probably will take a fair bit of time; however, it needs to be done only once for the back issues (through Volume 25, No. 4);
- later issues can be added to your "PSN Archives" directory as they are received;
- newer PSSG members, or members who have mislaid their electronic copies from Volume 25, No. 5 through Volume 28, No. 6, and who wish to obtain the pdfs of those issues to add to their "PSN Archives" directory, should contact Robert Lemire <rlemire000@sympatico.ca>.

Then, to carry out a search:

Within Adobe Acrobat or Acrobat Reader

- under the "edit" tab;
- open "advanced search" or "search";
- enter the location on your computer of the directory "PSN Archives" and the term for which you wish to search.

The files in which the search term (word or word string) occurs will be displayed, and can be opened directly.

P51c—A new precancel user: Montreal West Municipal Association by Pierre Gauthier

In earlier issues of PSN (Vol. 14, pg. 28, Vol. 13 pg. 28 and Vol. 14, pg. 2) Pierre reported two new precancel types on Webb's P51c. Now he has found another, and by a previously unknown user. The precancel is Manley Type 16 (two pairs of fine lines) [1], measures 22 mm × 8 mm, and was used by the Montreal West Municipal Association.

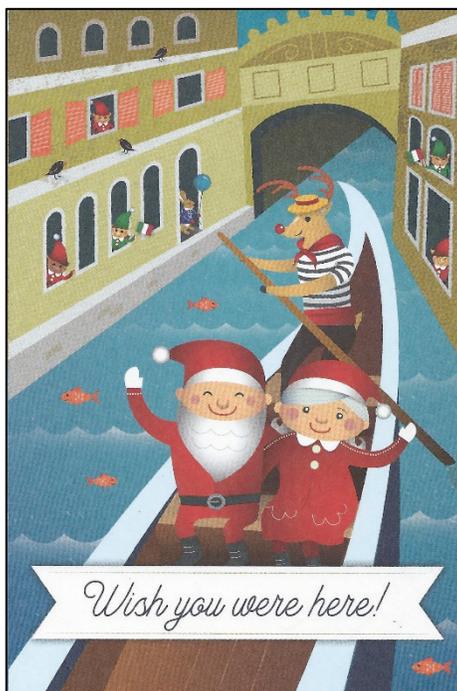


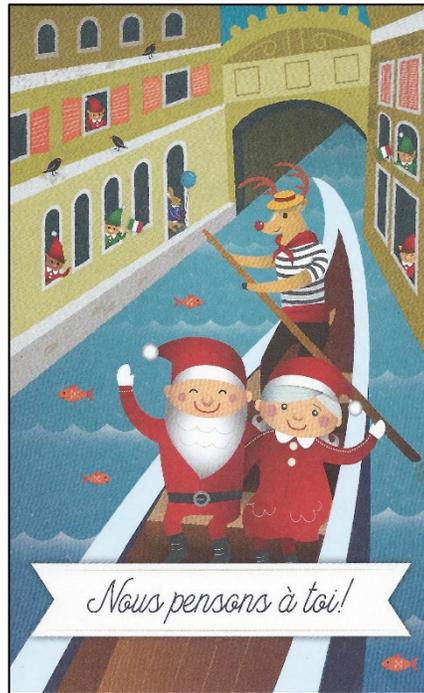
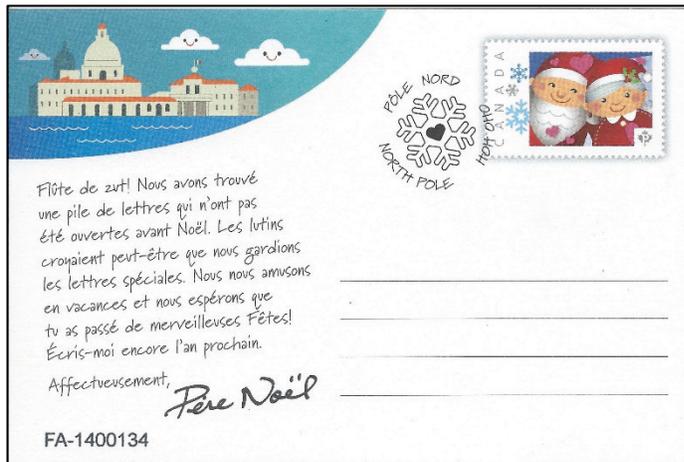
Reference

- [1] Manley, G. E. L., Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery Handbook, J. F. Webb, publisher, Hornby, ON 1984.

The 2017 Santa Letter stationery

Thanks to Pierre Gauthier and Earle Covert we can illustrate the Canada Post Santa-Letter stationery for 2017. As usual, the #10 envelopes exist in several formats, but this year the fronts are bilingual. The only differences are in the markings on the backs. (EB1, EB2, EB3, ES, FB1, FB2, FB3, or FS number on the back), and there are the larger size (305 × 228 mm) “classroom” envelopes each with an EBC, EEC, or FBC number. Copies of the after-Christmas cards also are shown.





PCF Corner by Robert Lemire: rlemire000@sympatico.ca – May 2, 2018

New PCF Varieties

Erhard Nachtigal reports that three new cards are shown on the Postcard Factory website, TOR 4956, TOR 5961, and TOR 5963, but no copies have yet been found in stores. Die III d LL 2684 has been found with style III, NF 1813, Q 2249 and VQ 099 with style V, ATC218V style I with underlay U1, not underlay U4, RCMPC074 with underlay UR3 and CR 284V without the letters “SKU”. Thanks to Richard Gratton, Michel Gagné and Erhard Nachtigal for those reports. T 1098 with box style V listed in the last issue of PSN was a typing error (on my part) for T 109. Erhard Nachtigal also has reported a Die III c copy of VQ 2427 with 17 mm spacing of the text.

Canada Post Xpresspost envelopes—a new design

In a move consistent with what was reported in the last issue of PSN for postage-paid registered envelopes, new Xpresspost envelopes have begun to appear. The destination address (orange box) now is at the top of the new label instead of the bottom. The sender’s address (blue box) now is at the bottom. Earle Covert has sent a scan of the new envelope marked (on the dial) as January 2018. The change has caused confusion for some users.



Printings of the railway express company advice flimsy forms *by Robert Lemire*

Part 3: The 2¢ printings for CP ¹

I have been working through the Archive files that deal with production of the Canadian Pacific Express (CP) and Canadian National Express (CN) flimsy forms [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]. For both CP and CN, private firms (Moore Business Forms, Drummond Business Forms, Autographic Business, Savoy, Doucet) carried out the printing of the carbon-set multiple forms. These firms were supplied with film negatives for (usually) dry offset printing.

The express companies used these forms for two basic purposes: (a) to notify a consignee that a shipment to his address had been received at the express company office, and provided pick-up instructions (consignee forms); (b) to notify a shipper that a shipment had not been picked up or had been refused by a consignee, and requested instructions for disposition (shipper forms). In some cases differently printed consignee forms were used to provide notification that a shipment was being held “in bond”.

Printing on the forms was in English or was bilingual (English and French). Most forms had a space in which the town of the express company office could be written, but there also were forms on which the location of a particular large-volume express company office (Toronto for CP, Toronto or Montreal for CN) was printed (and in some cases an item or “on hand” number in red). As it was of no interest to the Post Office Department which forms were printed on the cards, many printings included two or more different forms to meet the requirements of the particular express company.

Many unused forms bear a date. In general, this is *not* a printing date, but rather is the date the form itself was revised. That said, minor revisions to the forms were sometimes done without a change in the form date.

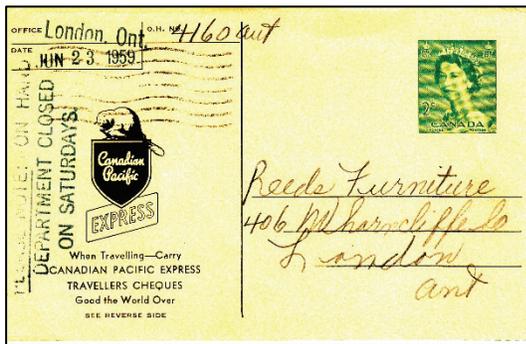
For CP, the initial 1st Karsh printings of 2¢ and 4¢ cards were done by Moore Business Forms (Toronto) in March 1959 (Table 1), and all other printings of the 4¢ 1st Karsh issue cards for CP were done by Moore. In the present article the focus is on the 2¢ 1st Karsh issue printings done for CP. A single contract for 2¢ cards was awarded to Autographic Business Forms (Montreal), and those cards (the third printing) were delivered in the summer of 1960.

Table 1: First Karsh printings of Railway Advice Filmsies for CP Express. Printings by Moore Business Forms are designated as CP-M-x, those by Autographic Business Forms as CP-A-x.

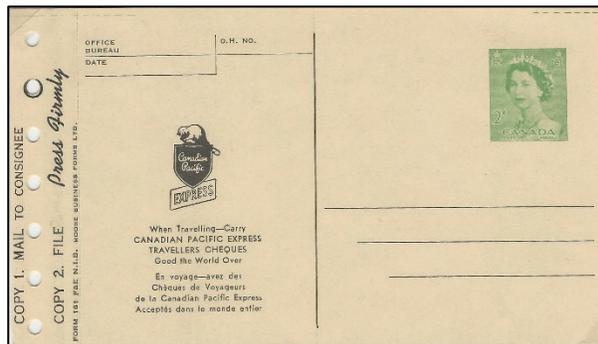
printing (code)	approximate printing date (printing or payment)	stamp	revision date on form	quantity
CP-M-1	1959-03-10	2¢	none	612,906
		4¢		149,877
CP-M-2	1959-10-16	2¢	9-59	482,300
		4¢	9-59	86,350
CP-A-1	1960-06-20 to 1960-08-08	2¢	9-59	465,955
CP-M-3	1960-11-15	2¢	9-59	275,000
		4¢	9-59	85,000
CP-M-4	1961-01-09	2¢	9-59	280,000
		4¢	9-59	87,700
CP-M-5	1961-08-23	2¢	9-59	622,275
		4¢	9-59	78,100
CP-M-6	1962-08-14	2¢	9-59	410,000
		4¢	9-59	125,000
CP-M-7	1963-10-01	2¢	9-59 ?	424,300
		4¢	10-63	129,800
CP-M-8	1964-01-17	4¢	10-63	890,072

In the 1980s [6, 7] Dick Staecker published a summary of the known types of CP cards; the late Art Klass did considerable unpublished research on these forms, and other details appeared in the Webb's 7th edition [8]. All 2¢ CP forms are “FORM 161” to the consignee. Using form dates and postmarked copies, it seems possible to establish the sequence of the various 2¢ CP flimsy forms.

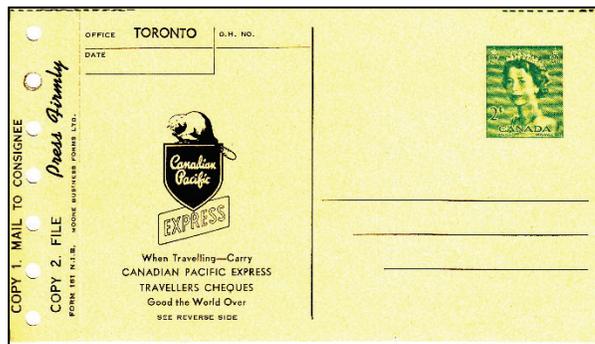
¹ Part 2 is, Lemire, R., The 4¢ QEII First Karsh Canadian National Express (C.N.E.) mystery cards, PSN, Volume 28, No. 5 pp. 53-54 (2018).



not in bond (N.I.B.), printing in black (English)



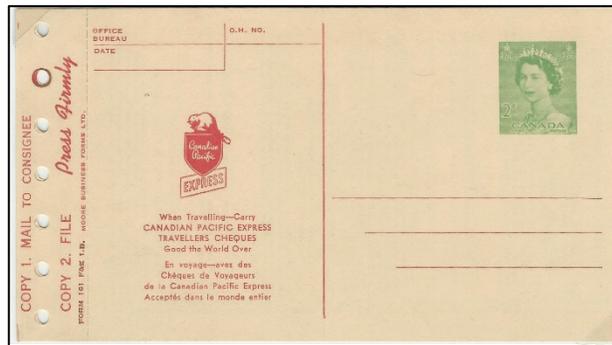
not in bond (N.I.B.), printing in black (bilingual)



not in bond (N.I.B.), printing in black (English) for use in Toronto



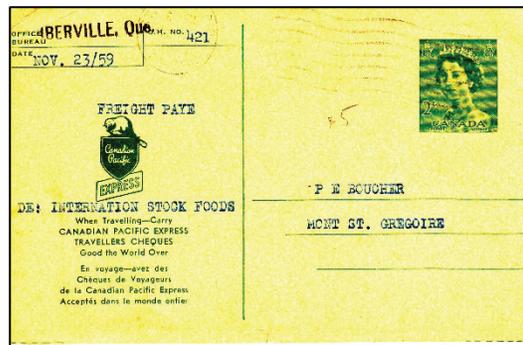
in bond (I.B.), printing in red (English)



in bond (I.B.), printing in red (bilingual)



printing in green (English) (purpose unknown)



printing in green (bilingual) (purpose unknown)

Figure 1: Two-cent CP cards (FORM 161 to the consignee) probably from the first printing of the CP filmy forms (CP-M-1).

Assumptions made here are that:

- A CP form with a form date would, at the earliest, have been printed in the month of the form date;
- copies of used CP cards postmarked (or handstamped by an express office) prior to 1959-10-16 *must* be from the CP-M-1 printing;
- used CP copies can only be from the Autographic printings if postmarked (or handstamped by an express office) after mid-June of 1960;
- it is likely that all 2¢ CP forms from printings between CP-M-2 through CP-M-6 (and probably CP-M-7) and the Autographic printings CP-A-1 had the printed form date REV 9-59 on the tab at the left of the form;
- CP forms with similar box formats on the front, whether in English, bilingual, in bond (“I.B.”) or not in bond (“N.I.B.”) probably came from the same printing(s).

The First Printing of the CP 2¢ Forms

There were a number of varieties of cards that appear to have been prepared in the first printing. Examples are shown in Figure 1

As can be seen, two of the used copies of these cards have postmarks that firmly establish that (at least some) cards of this format were from the first printing. Also there are no printed form dates on the unused cards. Then there are two features that all the cards in Figure 1 have in common:

- the shield in each has a white border;
- the information boxes at the upper left are rectangles with right-angle corners (Figure 2).

The cards printed in red were for shipments being held “in bond”. The intended purpose for use of the cards printed in green is unknown. They are scarce, and were not reported in previous lists [6, 7, 9]. No unused copies (copies with information on the tab at the left) exist in several large collections. No cards printed in red or green have been reported for later printings.

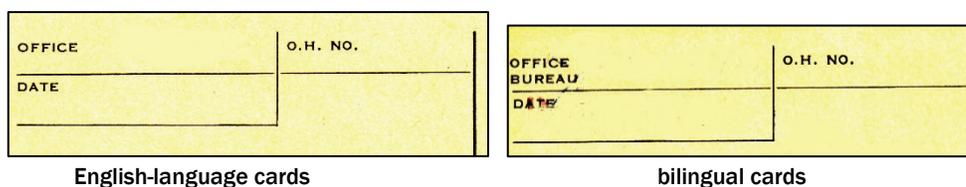


Figure 2: Detail of the information boxes at the upper left of the two-cent CP cards in Figure 1.

The second printing of the CP 2¢ Forms

Forms dated “REV. 9-59” first seem to have been products of the CP-M-2 printing. Again, the shield in each has a white border; but the boxes at the upper left now are rounded, and the advertisement at the bottom left now is in a green box (Figure 3)

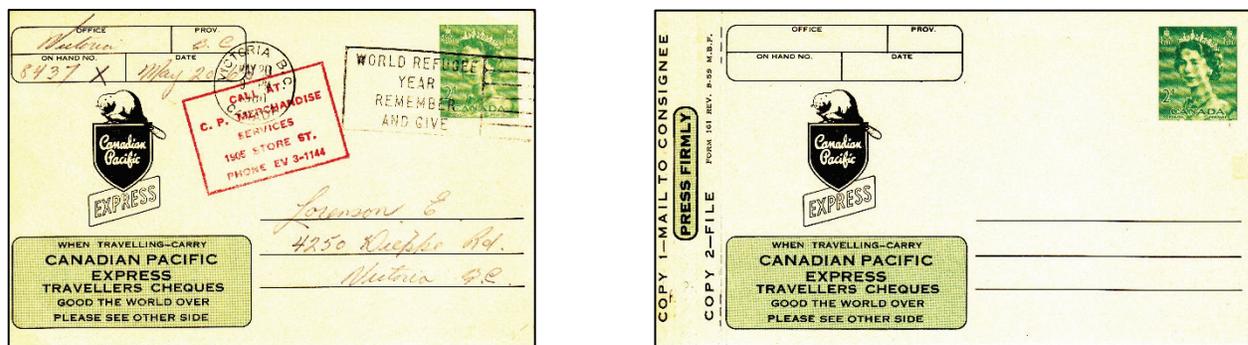


Figure 3: A used 2¢ card (shield with a border) postmarked “May 20 1960” (and therefore from printing CP-M-2) and a similar unused FORM 161.

A bilingual card from a form corresponding to the English language form shown in Figure 3 was reported several years ago [9], but no postmark or express office date was given, and the whereabouts of that item is unknown at

present. A card printed “TORONTO ONT.” postmarked “OCT 31 1961” also is known. For reasons discussed below, those forms likely were printed as part of printings CP-M-2 or CP-M-3.

The Autographic Business Forms Printings

The stamp impression used on printings CP-M-1 and CP-M-2 by Moore Business Forms is similar to that used on the regular-issue 1st Karsh post cards (Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNC)) and envelopes (Public Printing and Stationery (PPS))—the so-called “regular die” in Webb’s 7th edition [8]. The Moore printings were done from plates prepared from a negative held in Toronto. However, on some CP Express cards a different 2¢ stamp impression was used (Figure 4), described as the “coarse die” in Webb’s. The coarse-die impressions are found on cards that superficially resemble cards from the CP-M-2 printing in that the tab on an unused form is marked “FORM 161 REV. 9-59”, the shield has a white border; the boxes at the upper left are rounded, and the advertisement at the bottom left is in a green box. Yet the height of the green box at the bottom left is approximately 3 mm less than cards from CP-M-2. There are other minor printing differences. Cards from this printing (Figure 5) are known postmarked in October 1960. This strongly suggests that these “different” cards are from the Autographic printings, as the third Moore printing was not done until November 1960. No similar bilingual version of this form has been reported.

The Archives record [2] indicates that a negative was supplied from Ottawa to the Postmaster in Montreal in May 1960 to enable the Autographic Business Forms printing. A new negative and positive(s) were prepared by the printer and a 10-impresion plate prepared for printing by “off-set”. Proofs were approved on June 1, and although I only have photocopies of the images submitted for approval, at least one photocopy is clear enough to confirm that the 2¢ “coarse die” was being used. The autographic printing was done mainly in June 1960 and the forms were delivered by early August. As noted in Webb’s [8], the die on these “different” forms corresponds (approximately) with the impression (presumably done by PPS) on the private order wrapper, KW23k and on some of the 1st Karsh envelope proofs.



Figure 4: Two-cent impressions printed by Moore Business Forms (left) and Autographic Business Forms (right) with enlargements of the “D” in “CANADA”

There is one further strange and confounding aspect to this printing. The tab on the card contains the initials “M.B.F.”, which on the second and subsequent Moore printings seems to me to be an abbreviation for “Moore Business Forms”. It is unclear why these same initials would appear on a form printed by Autographic Business Forms unless, perhaps, the latter firm was given an earlier (Moore) CP form to use as a template, and the initials were reproduced without any cognisance of their origin.

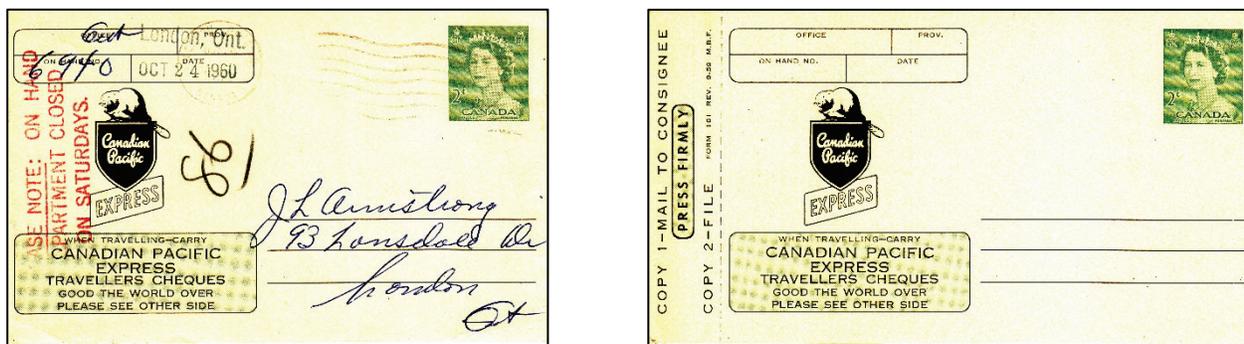


Figure 5: A used 2¢ card (shield with a border, shorter advertising box at the bottom left) postmarked “OCT. 24 1960” (and therefore probably from printing CP-A-1) and a similar unused FORM 161.

Later printings of the 2¢ CP Forms

The printing length on the tabs is slightly different on some forms with a border around the shield, but I could find no other distinguishing features. Cards from some later printings do *not* have a border around the shield (Figure 6). As this change has been found on a card postmarked “20 VII 1961”, it must have first taken place in either printing CP-M-3 or CP-M-4. The cards shown in the figure are bilingual cards. Similar Form 161 2¢ 1st Karsh cards also are known printed only in English.

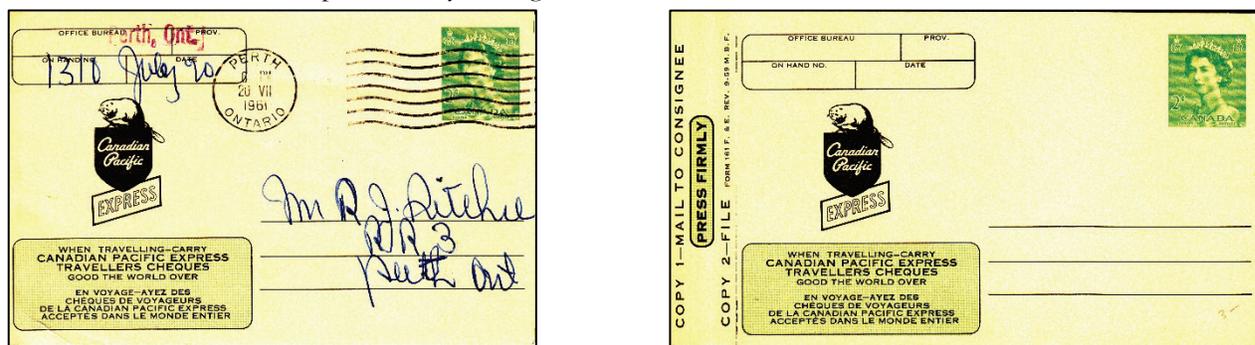


Figure 6: A used 2¢ card (no border around the shield) postmarked “20 VII 1961” (therefore from either printing CP-M-3 or CP-M-4) and a similar unused “FORM 161. F. & E. REV. 9-59”

I never have seen a 2¢ CP card with a form date of 10-63, but it is not clear what form date was printed on 2¢ forms from the October 1963 printing CP-M-7. When the postal rates were changed in April 1964, CP began to use only 4¢ Form 161 cards for mailing to the consignee, and no 2¢ forms were part of the CP-M-8 printing.

2¢ CP advice flimsy forms—Questions

Does anyone have:

- A full unused copy (with a tab at the left) of either 2¢ CP flimsy card printed in **green** as shown in Figure 1?
- A 2¢ CP flimsy card printed in red or green (see Figure 1) from any of the later printings?
- A **used** copy of the 2¢ CP flimsy, Moore 9-59 form with rounded boxes but, shield without border (Figure 6 or the similar card printed only in English), and dated in late 1960 or early 1961 (preferably earlier than 1961-01-09)?
- The bilingual card or form corresponding to the English language forms shown in Figure 3 (I would appreciate a scan)?
- A bilingual card or form corresponding to the Autographic form shown in Figure 5?

Acknowledgements

The author is grateful for extensive help from Earle Covert in assembling the information reported in this article, and for supplying scans of several of the items shown.

References

- [1] Canadian Archives file RG3, Accession 86-87/396, Vol. 3849, file 13-19-17
- [2] Canadian Archives file RG3, Accession 86-87/396, Vol. 3850, file 13-19-22.
- [3] Canadian Archives file RG3, Accession 86-87/396, file 13-4-C1.
- [4] Lemire, R., Abstracts of Archives Files Potentially Related To Postal Stationery, PSN Volume 10, No. 4, pg. 34 (1991).
- [5] Lemire, R., Abstracts of Archives Files Potentially Related To Postal Stationery, PSN Volume 11, No. 1 pp. 5-6 (1992).
- [6] Staecker, D., Canadian Pacific – A Revised List of Advice Cards, Part 2, PSN Volume 4, No. 6, pp. 44-48 (1985).
- [7] Staecker, D., Canadian Pacific – A Revised List of Advice Cards, PSN Volume 5, No. 1, pp. 3-7, (1986).
- [8] Covert E. L., Walton, W. C., *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland 2001*, 7th Edition, Saskatoon Stamp Centre, Saskatoon, SK, 2000.
- [9] Staecker, D., Canadian Pacific – A Revised List of Advice Cards, PSN Volume 5, No. 6, pg. 42, (1986).