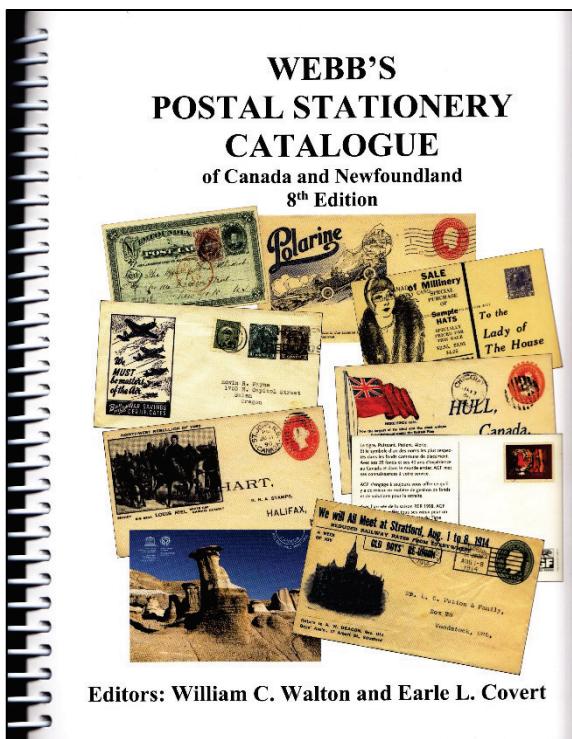


Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 30 No. 1

February 2020

The new edition of Webb's (a review by Ed Heir)



Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland, 8th edition, William C. Walton and Earle L. Covert, editors

Spiral Bound 8.5 × 11 inches, 486 pages, colored illustrations, priced in Canadian dollars. Available from the publisher: Unitrade Associates, Canada Post, and other dealers in philatelic literature. \$84.95 Cdn.

At long last, after a wait of over 18 years, the new 8th edition of Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue has arrived. The first thing that you will notice is the large size of this catalogue, about 50% bigger than the previous edition. In my opinion, the most outstanding improvement is the expanded number of illustrations throughout the catalogue, now all in color, replacing the black and white of previous editions. Almost every face-different item of postal stationery has an illustration, making this catalogue useful to collectors of all levels in identifying items in their collection or on their wish list. The catalogue remains a spiral bound volume, which may keep cost down but likely will have its cover worn off in coming years, as with my 2001 edition.

The expansion of this catalogue is from several components, from the inclusion of large numbers of new issues over the

past eighteen years, the expanded number of illustrations, and the addition of twenty new sections. The new sections include Santa Claus envelopes and cards, Vancouver view cards, Lowe-Martin Create A Postcard, Canada Post promotional cards, and the returned dead letter envelopes. The sections on Canada premium products, including priority post/courier envelopes, special letter envelopes, and Xpresspost have been deleted, but remain available at the BNAPS web site.

The section on PostCard Factory postal cards has been completely rewritten with the help of Robert Lemire, and expanded from 12 to 50 pages with the detailed descriptions previously only shared amongst the members of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group. To avoid scaring away beginning PCF card collectors, the editors suggest more simplified ways to collect these cards, such as trying to acquire just one with each picture, made easier with all of the face different cards now illustrated. For the advanced specialized collector, the tables provided give all of the card types, dies, pictures, underlays, box types, and more. The tables list all of the varieties reported at the time of publication.

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However, the biggest and likely most controversial change in this edition is the renumbering of most of the listings from previous editions, which the editors declare “unavoidable”. The editors ran out of letters to put under major numbers, and have now assigned major numbers to each separate Post Office inventory listing. Therefore, an envelope that comes in size 8 and size 10, tagged and untagged, would have 4 separate major number listings. Subscripts are still used for varieties such as color-omitted errors or post card paper stock variations but they are using sparingly throughout the catalogue. Thankfully, the editors have included a concordance table at the back of the catalogue with each item in the last edition listed with the previous and newly assigned numbers. Private order envelope listings now begin with “ENX1-1” instead of the arbitrary EN500 in the previous edition (with new issues, the regular envelope listings are now already up to EN476 in this edition, and a collision of the two number sets was fast approaching). However, election envelope listings still begin with EN800, and will likely have to be renumbered in the future.

Of course, one of the most sensitive areas in the production of any catalogue is that of pricing. All prices in this catalogue are in Canadian dollars. Besides raising the minimum price from \$1 to \$2.50 for the most common items, the editors used input from many postal stationery dealers, e-bay auction sales, auction results, and a rarity check involving six major collections, to arrive at updated pricing. Most of the prices have increased from the last edition, not surprising considering that almost two decades have passed since the last pricing.

A previously unreported Certified Xpresspost envelope

Michel Ledoux reports a CERTIFIED XPRESSPOST cover, not from the Passport Office, and not listed in Webb's 8th edition (see Addenda to the Catalogue - Canada Premium Products on the BNAPS website, p. 135; <http://www.bnaps.org/ore/WaltonCovert-PSC/WaltonCovert-PSC_Index.htm>. It was sent from Montreal (St-Laurent) to Ste-Therese QC on January 18 2007. A significant difference between the two covers (aside from the date) is the position of the Canada Post logo over the box for the address.

Earle Covert writes that this is an earlier version of what is listed as DXPC1.

This one is 101780 in blue 06/dot over 10 (06-02) in red,

whereas,

DXPC1 is 101780 in blue 09/dot over 3 (06-06) in red.

On DXPC1, the K1A 0G3—the Passport Office postal code—is only a handstamp, not printed on the envelope. I wonder if I didn't make a mistake. Probably both of them should be listed as Xpresspost Certified not Official Xpresspost Certified.



A registered post band to Chili by George Dresser:

Post bands registered to foreign destinations are unusual and the one shown below paid the rate for commercial papers, an uncommon rate. Based on the Postal Guide, the rate corresponds to: Commercial Papers, $5\text{¢} \leq 10$ ounces + 5¢ registration fee, 10¢ . (Note: Packages of commercial papers must be posted in open covers to admit easy examination.); the Postal Guide uses Chili rather than Chile. The markings are as follows:

Posted: Montreal, Canada, 9 23 04

Transit: New York, NY, REC'D REG., 9-24-1904

Transit: New York, U.S.A. Foreign, 9-24-1904, New York, N.Y., registration label in red

Transit: B.C., cancellation obscured by registration label

Received: Valparaiso Ciudad, Chili, no receiver, Valparaiso registration label in light blue.



Editor's note

In this and subsequent issues of *Postal Stationery Notes*, I will attempt to use catalogue numbers corresponding to those in the 8th (2019) edition of Webb's. Where it seems useful or necessary, specific reference also may be made to numbers used in the previous 7th (2001) edition of Webb's.

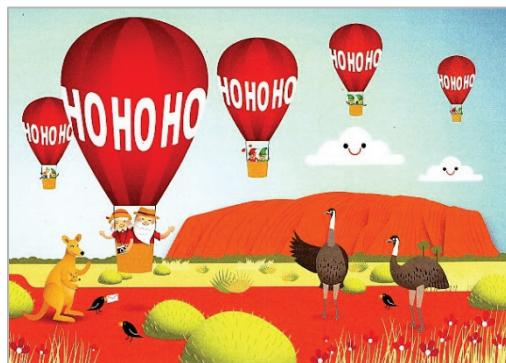
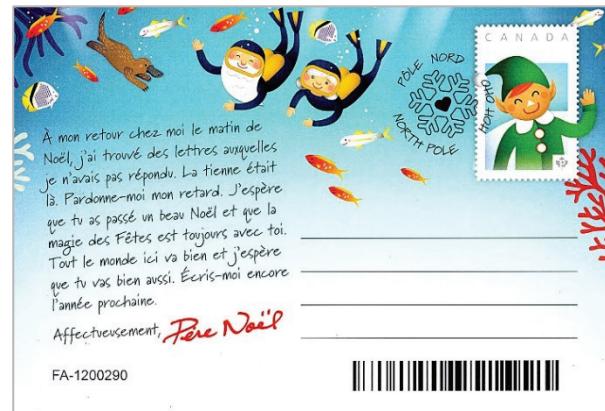
2019 Santa Letters and cards

We now have further multiple reports of the 2019 Santa Letter envelopes coded EF1, EF2 and EF3. Erhard Nachtigall also has reported envelopes with codes IE and IF, presumably for international use with letters in English and French, respectively.

IE-1299756

IF-1312418

The “After Christmas” post cards, in English and French, also have been reported.



PCF Corner by Robert Lemire: rlemire000@sympatico.ca – February 8, 2020

New PCF Varieties

Recent reports (from Pierre Gauthier, Robert Lemire) all die IIId

C095V underlay U1, box style sIII, no PCF in logo, “Wapiti” at the start of the French description

CNT 002 underlay U5, box style sIII, PCF in logo (no TM), no SKU number, **bottom bar code is 64392 00409**

MTL 547V underlay U1, box style sIII, no PCF in logo

TOR 2924 underlay U1, box style sIII, PCF in logo (no TM), no SKU number, bottom bar code still is 64392 00409

T198 (not T 198) underlay U1, box style sV, PCF in logo (no TM), **SKU#260129 (# sign, not a space or a colon)**

TOR 2925 underlay U1, box style sIII, PCF in logo (**no TM**), SKU: 260380, bottom bar code still is 64392 00409, **“4”s closed in both bar codes**

Several more cards have been found such that they are known both with and without TM in PCF logo. Erhard Nachtigall has found a previously unreported divider address setting (on a copy of BNF 371). As shown at the right, there are several small spacing differences and ®" after FACTORY.

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Pierre Gauthier has noted the following errors in the PCF listings in the new Webb's (compiled early October 2017—it is expected that updates with more recent PCF information soon will be available):

- p. 215 Style IX: The 'W' of 'WORLD' (not the 'D').
- p. 236 VAN118 brown with sticker exists: see Newsletter Vol. 24, no. 5, p. 46.
- p. 247 HFX 020 exists with sku and Maple Leaf design.

The large number of variations in the printed text and bar codes on recent PCF cards seems to reflect relaxed quality control at the Postcard Factory.

Capital 'C' Variety, a New Project by Pierre Gauthier

Unless otherwise stated, all Webb's Catalogue numbers mentioned are from the 8th edition)



Figure 1

I recently contacted Bill Walton about a possible new Capital 'C' envelope, given the faint black lines on the first white circle (illustrated in Figure 1), on EN4, 18mm batonne lines (new Webb's number). Bill replied "I see why the serif is possible, but I don't see this as a definitely established capital C—certainly not enough basis on which to list it. (...) It's fairly clear that multiple handstamps were created—but how many? Were these done on stock on hand in Ottawa and then distributed to various post offices, or were hammers sent out to specific offices to do their own handstamping? (...) We need a project with examples that will begin to pin down individual hammer characteristics (insofar as possible with what were likely rubber stamps, applied by both righties and probably some lefties, with varying degrees of force. Then we also need enough used examples to determine whether any specific hammers can be allocated to one or more offices. This would be particularly helpful with used capital C examples." I then decided to take up the challenge.

First, a bit of background information on the surcharge itself. The variety is mentioned in several catalogues, Howes [1] being the most informative. As a result of a reduction in rates on January 1st, 1899, the then current 3¢ envelopes (EN10-11) issued in April 1898 were rendered useless as stationery. Postal authorities decided to surcharge them down to 2¢ using rubber stamps. This would have been done in Ottawa during the week of February 6-11, 1899. Some old British American Banknote 3¢ envelopes on hand were also surcharged (less than a thousand according to a correspondent of the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, vol. 13, p. 304 in an article dated February 17th, 1899).

However, opportunity was given to the public to have 3¢ envelopes in their possession surcharged, as well as the stock held by postmasters. Such returned items were accounted for at the time: 15,848 of the 1898 envelopes (EN10-11), 6,788 of the 3¢ no. 1 envelopes issued in 1877 (referring most probably to the size of the envelopes, thus EN4 and EN7 and their sub-numbers) and 3,081 of the 3¢ no. 2 issued in 1877 (referring probably to EN5 and EN8 and their sub-numbers). The same treatment was also applied to letter cards on hand and those returned afterwards by customers and post offices. To quote the *Weekly Philatelic Era* correspondent:

"The C is a capital letter $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ mm ($4 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ mm for the regular C sign). There was only one stamp of this type, and when it had been in use for two or three days the difference in type was noticed and the stamp destroyed".

Over time, the variety has been reported on various items. Currently, it is catalogued for three envelopes and three letter cards. According to the fourth edition of Webb's (1983), letter cards showing a double surcharge would also exist (to be confirmed). Ink shades also exist but are not part of this project, which is to list all varieties, cities and dates of usage (ERPs) in order to assess rarity and distribution of Capital 'C' items.

If the Capital 'C' rubber stamp was only used for a few days before being discarded, it was likely applied only to the stock on hand. My copy of L15 (see PSN vol. 27, no. 2, p. 15) would have had to come from this leftover stock before it was sold to the bank for form printing at a later date. The earliest ERP for a Capital 'C' variety is dated February 14, 1899 with an Ottawa cancellation (see the illustration on page 6).

The earliest reported postmark (ERP) on any of the surcharged items is February 9, 1899 [2] on EN23 (EN15b in Webb's 7th ed.).

All Capital 'C' envelopes and letter cards are listed as existing in both used and mint condition in the latest Webb's. My ERP information is as follows for these six items:

Known Capital 'C' Items and Earliest Reported Postmarks (ERPs) [2]

EN20a (EN14h in Webb's 7th ed.) on EN7
EN22a (EN15a in Webb's 7th ed.) on EN10
EN23a (EN15c in Webb's 7th ed.) on EN11
L14 (L9f in Webb's 7th ed.) on L12 (setting 1)
L15 (unlisted in Webb's 7th ed.) on L12a (setting 2)
L17 (L10b in Webb's 7th ed.) on L16

My ERP information is as follows for these six items:

EN20a No ERP given
EN22a February 14, 1899 (Figure 2), used from Ottawa
EN23a December 13th, 1900, used from Ottawa
L14 March 14th, 1899
L15 Printed form date Form 7, 1900, 14-6-98, used by a bank in Winnipeg
L17 July 27, 1899



Figure 2: EN22a showing the Capital 'C' surcharge

After careful measurements of the height on my surcharged envelopes and letter cards under a small hand-held magnifier showing 0.2 mm differences, I came to the conclusion that regular 'cent' signs vary from 4 to 4.2 mm in height whereas Capital 'C' varieties vary from 4.4 to 4.8 mm, slightly higher as per the information provided by the *Weekly Philatelic Era* correspondent on February 17th, 1899.

Upon reviewing the height of the surcharged item at the origin of this article (Figure 1), it is 4 mm, thus not a Capital 'C' envelope, which would be inconsistent with the fact that only less than a thousand of the old envelopes on hand at the time in Ottawa were so surcharged and that, most probably, all were from the later Second Dominion issue (i.e. EN7 and EN8, although the Capital 'C' variety has yet to be reported on EN8).

To complete this project, please forward a scan (300 dpi) of your used Capital 'C' copies to my email philatec@sympatico.ca along with any relevant information on this variety. Also required for reference purposes would be scans at 600 dpi of your copies of this surcharge (mint and used), just the surcharges, not the whole envelopes or letter cards.

p.s.: I'm also looking for an application that could read a scan and/or a paper copy and compare the results to a known Capital 'C' variety in order to ascertain its genuineness.

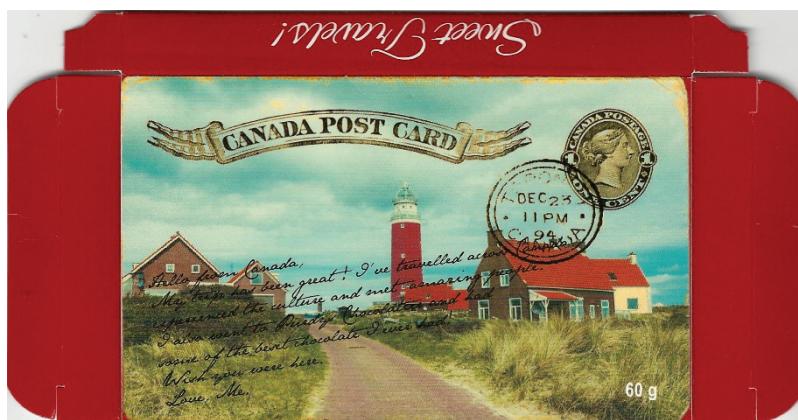
References

- [1] Howes, C. A., *Canadian Postage Stamps and Stationery*, Quarterman Publications reprint, Lawrence, MA, 1974, pp. 239-241 (also, with information reproduced from the *Weekly Philatelic Era*, XIII: 204 (February 17, 1899)).
- [2] Walton, W.C., *Postal Stationery Notes*, Special Issue No. 4 (June 1994).

Fantasy Post Cards—Purdys Chocolates by Earle Covert

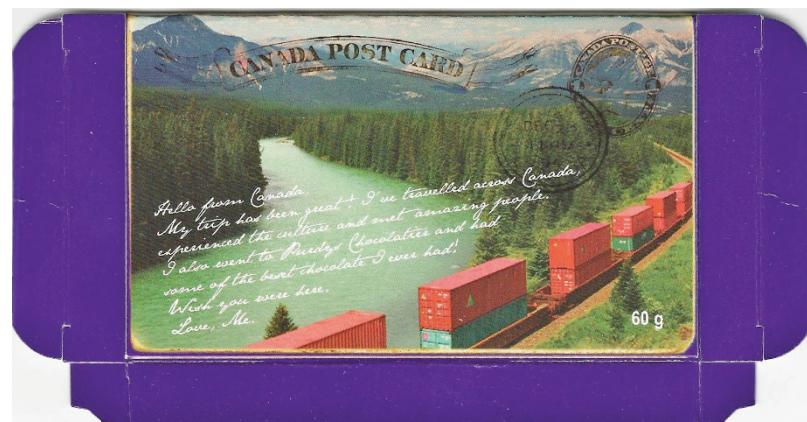
While looking through the Calgary Philatelist, Issue 125, February 2104, when I was at 2019 CALTAPEX, I noticed an article by Elizabeth Saunranta about pseudo-postcards on a Purdys chocolate box. Dale Speirs (the Editor of the Calgary Philatelist) was at the show, so I asked him if he knew where I could get any of the boxes. The next day he brought me in the boxes, said to keep them and I could use them for an article for PSN.

Box labelled 1 has an unknown view in the Maritimes with a lighthouse. Box 2 has a scene from Banff National Park, at the famous Morant's Curve viewpoint on the Bow Valley Parkway (the old Trans-Canada Highway.) The superimposed post mark is Dec 24 94 but the container train shown on the box 2 didn't come into common use until the 1960s. Morant's Curve is named after the photographer who took many pictures of trains round the curve. When the flap under the picture is lifted it shows the back of a divided postcard.



Box 1

Box 2

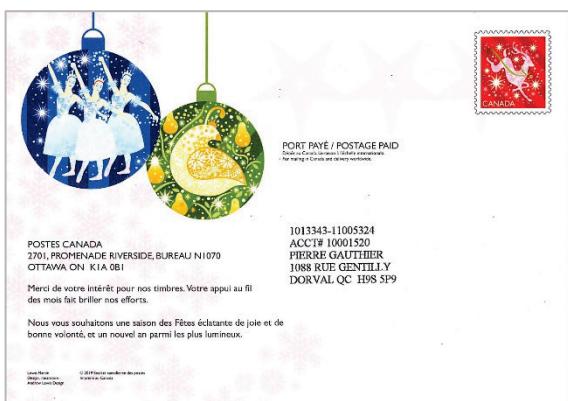


Christmas cards from Canada Post

Again in 2019, Christmas cards (one in English, one in French) were mailed by Canada Post to subscribers to Canada Post's *Details* magazine. The new Webb's shows only the 2018 English-language card (as DP706), but neither of the cards from 2017, illustrated in PSN Vol. 28, No. 5, pg. 45, nor the 2018 French-language card were listed. Below, the 2018 French-language card is shown, as are both versions of the 2019 cards. Thanks to Michel Gingras and Pierre Gauthier for the illustrations of the cards in French. Although the cards were sent to collectors, copies are moderately difficult to find.



The 2018 French language Canada Post Christmas card and the different pseudo cancels on the English and French language cards.



The 2019 Canada Post Christmas cards (left) and the front of a copy of the French language card. (The pseudo cancels on the English and French language cards differ in the same way as on the 2018 cards.)

Election Envelopes Used in Newfoundland's First Federal Election by Pierre Gauthier

The first federal election in Newfoundland was held on June 27, 1949. The new province only had seven federal ridings. William Joseph Browne won the election in the electoral district of St. John's West for the Progressive Conservative Party. I recently acquired different election Form 95 envelopes used in this election. I was surprised by the variety of envelopes used. Among them were copies of EN806, 807a, 808, 808h and 809 (Webb's 8th edition numbers). Of particular interest is the use of 808h (unlisted as used), a French form used in Petty Harbour, far from a French riding. I believe that since this was the first federal election in this province, election officials didn't have any stock at hand. So Ottawa shipped remainders of various 4¢ and 3¢ envelopes to cover local needs, thus the various types were used.



Election envelopes used in Newfoundland in the 1949 Federal election.

More postage-prepaid cards from Canada Post

On January 13, 2020 Canada Post issued nine postage prepaid cards (Canada Post order numbers 262500 through 262508) in the “From Far and Wide” series, and on January 17, 2020 two cards for the Lunar New Year (Year of the Rat) (Canada Post order numbers 262510 and 262511).

From Far and Wide cards

