

Postal Stationery Notes

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Additional Info and a Question about the 1¢ Green Victoria Post Card by Chris Ellis

In 2018 in PSN 28(5), pages 46-47, Vic Willson posted important information about the uses of the 1¢ green Victoria Post Card (Webb P17). I have some new information in terms of dates of use for this card, including an ERP, as well as its use for front advertising. However, the front advertising also raises a question to which I have seen contradictory information or at least, can read it that way.

In terms of dates of use, I recently purchased at auction a copy of a card (Figures 1 and 2) mailed on January 15, 1898 and Bill Walton confirms this is a new ERP for this card. The card was used at London, Ontario by a philatelist, has a London barrel cancel of January 15, 1898 (corresponds to the manuscript date on the back) and was sent to a dealer or philatelist in Saint Louis, Missouri (cancel on front dated January 17, 1898—better mail service than we are getting these days to the USA!). The message states that the card is an example of the just released green Leaf issue card (and mentions the two cent green letter card is also just out).

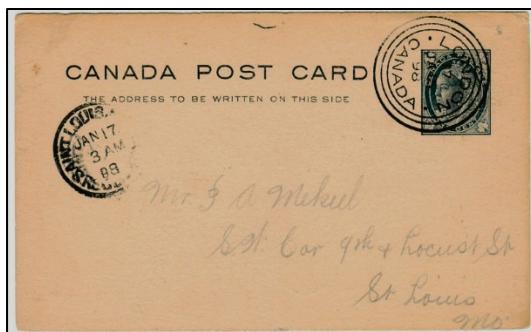


Figure 1

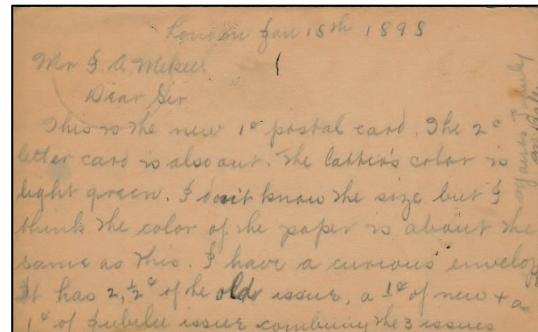


Figure 2

Also, in terms of dates of use of the card to “foreign” destinations, I have two examples (Figures 3 and 4), used very early for this card and before the earliest dates Victor listed. One was sent on January 26, 1898 to St. John’s Newfoundland, with an added Small Queen one cent yellow stamp and is cancelled with a Yorkville Toronto #4 duplex. The other was sent on February 10, 1898 to Saxony, Germany from Berlin, Ontario, (receiver on front dated February 21) and has two added ½¢ Leaf Issue stamps.

In terms of advertisements added to the front of cards, Vic Willson notes: “*The green card, while potentially available for advertising on the front, seems not to have been so used except for preprinted return addresses to companies. If readers have examples of advertising on the front examples would be of interest to me and possibly others.*” He also notes that the card: “*was not easily usable for advertising on the front, which had become available per P.O. notice Dec. 9, 1897.*” As Horace Harrison (2000) noted in his Canada’s Business Postal Cards BNAPS-published exhibit, front ads on that card are scarce, but I actually have several examples of advertising on the front of the green card (largely illustrated) that are not pre-printed return addresses with illustrations like logos and some were also shown by Horace (page 15). Indeed, in my collection those actually outnumber pre-printed illustrated cards with a printed return address by a ratio of

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about 5 to 1. I attach a couple of images of examples of ads on these cards by a Kingston Broom Manufacturer and Montreal Photographers (Figures 5 and 6).

Nonetheless, this raises a question. The notice of December 9, 1897 referred to by Vic Willson that allowed front ads seems designed to me to indicate they were only allowed on the new one cent red Victoria card (P18) but not the green card. If so, the rules may mean it was illegal to have anything printed on the green card other than the address. Quoting from Alan Steinhart's (1979) book on *The Postal History of the Post Card...* (page 37), the postal guide for 1898 stated that "*the front or the engraved side of a Post Card of the ordinary official pattern is intended for the address, and cannot be used for any other purpose*". The guide then goes on to state a special card for "*advertisements, illustrations, etc.*" (e.g., the red card) has been issued that is an exception. This wording implies to me that it was illegal to put an ad on the green card or, at the very least, introduced confusion as to what was allowed. This may account for the green card's rarity with an added advert. In any case does anyone know what the regulation actually was, or is it as ambiguous as it seems to be to me?

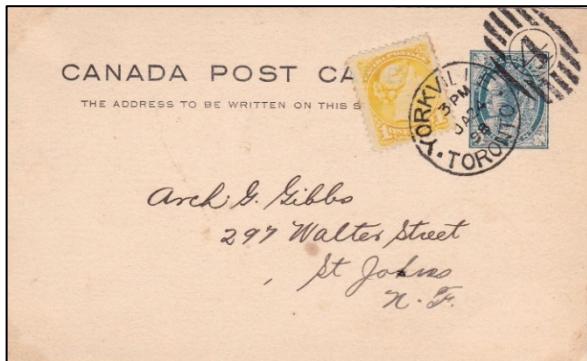


Figure 3

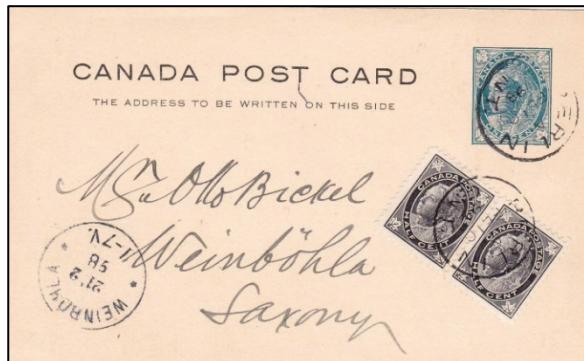


Figure 4



Figure 5

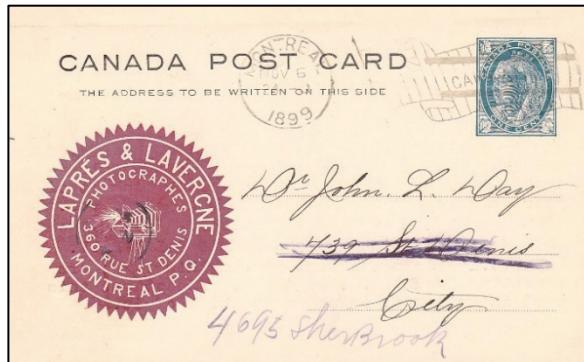
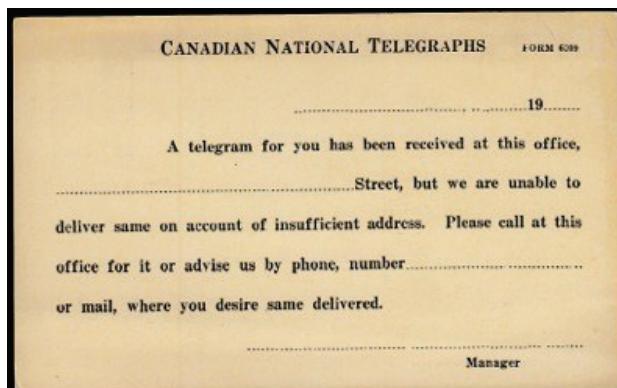


Figure 6

A New Black-View CNR card by Mike Sagar

This was purchased on eBay. The die II card was correctly identified, but attributed to a different (already listed number). It actually is CNR A42. I like the telegraph form on the back—especially since it says that delivery is impossible due to an insufficient address—yet it is on a post card.



Wilding Form 95 Constant Variety by Jeffrey Arndt

The Canadian election Form 95 envelopes (Figure 1) were used to notify the candidates of the results of the ballots from a particular poll. The envelope contents are not ballots per se, but instead the notification of results. During my time at home during this epidemic I was able to examine over 450 of these envelopes (all from the Wilding era); out of the total I discovered 67 “interesting” ones. From this examination I believe that I have discovered at least one constant variety and a couple of at least semi-constant ones.

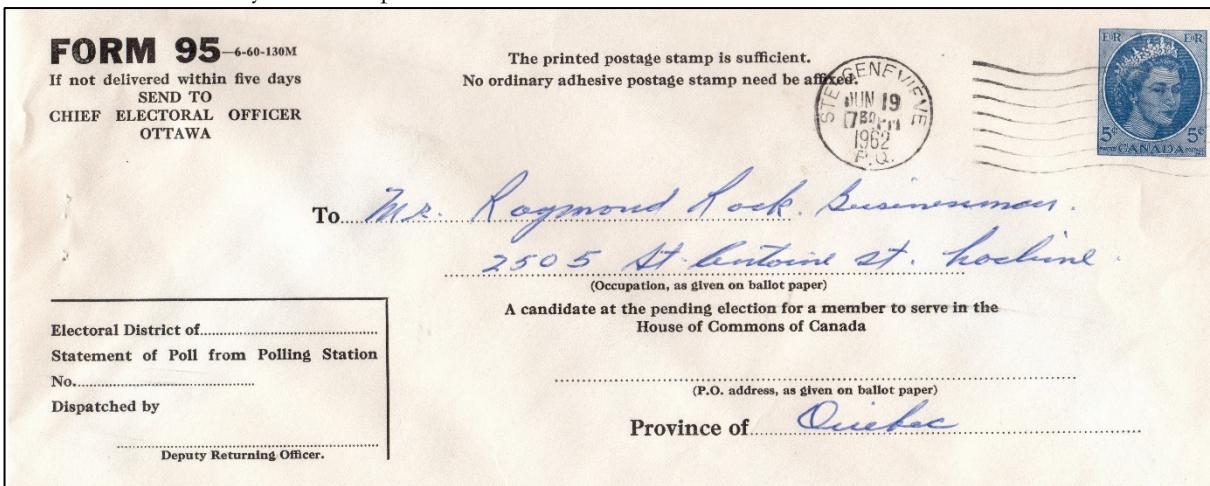


Figure 1.. FORM 95 – 6-60-130M with 5 cent Wilding.



Figure 2a. Image showing location of "Dot".



Figure 2b. Blow up of image at right to show "Dot" and the "fingerprint".



Figure 3a. Image showing location of "Dot".

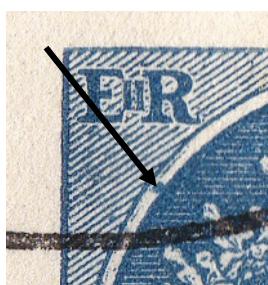


Figure 3b. Blow up of image at right to show "Dot" and the "fingerprint".

The final example of the “Dot” constant variety (Figure 4a and Figure 4b) shows the same characteristics as the first two. All 16 examples of this “Dot” variety look the same. In some the fingerprint is easier to see. In some the re-touch on the oval frame is easier to see.

There are three examples to show. The first is a “DOT” at the upper left on inside the oval. I found 16 examples, three of which I have illustrated below. These appear to me to be constant. The first example (Figure 2a and Figure 2b) clearly shows the dot in the oval at the upper left. It also appears that the frame line has been re-touched. There is a faint impression of a smear or fingerprint along the outside of the oval towards the EIR in the upper left.

The second example (Figure 3a and Figure 3b) shows the dot is in the same position and the “fingerprint” is also there. This example also shows the appearance of re-touching at the frame line of the oval.



Figure 4a. Image showing location of "Dot".



Figure 4b. Blow up of image at right to show "Dot" and the "fingerprint".

In the next examples it is hard to determine what is going on. One set looks like it could be constant, the others look like the plate was not cleaned, or that there was something on the plate, or there was something different about the ink. They all appear to be “Blotches” in various positions, and some are more dramatic than others.



Figure 5. Ink blotch either side of the oval frame at the left.



Figure 6. Lots of ink blotches at top. Also, what appears to be re-touching along the outer frame line.



Figure 7. Ink blotch above oval frame at the left.

Figure 7 shows a “Blotch” above the oval around the Queen. This “Blotch” appears to be constant or semi-constant in the covers that show this variety. Other examples of Blotches and Dots are shown on the next page.



Figure 8. Ink "Blotch" below oval frame.



Figure 9. Ink "Blotch" above and below oval frame.



Figure 10. Ink "Blotch" above and below oval frame, with re-touching at the outer frame line at left.



Figure 11. Dot on either side oval frame between right two peaks on crown.

The first set of images above look like the blotch" could be constant. I have 44 of these with various stages of blotchiness. The last images are what look like the result of bad printing practices either over inking the plate or not wiping it correctly. As the printing for most of the Wilding impressions on stationery envelopes was poorly done (Public Printing and Stationery). Only the 2¢ impression was used for regularly issued envelopes (on an emergency printing), and then only for the #8 envelopes used for printed matter.



Figure 12. Heavy inking above the centre of the oval frame.



Figure 13. Dot in oval frame between right two peaks on right part of the crown.



Figure 14. Ink in oval frame and heavy ink "Blotch" above oval frame.

I would like information on other examples that may be out there. Please contact me at arndt123@aol.com or through the editor.

The 2¢ Cameo Issue wrappers—Additional information about the period of use by Robert Lemire

In PSN Vol. 29, No. 6, pg. 52, I included some comments about the use of wrappers for printed matter and for transient newspapers. What I omitted was that the 2¢ wrappers could continue to be used until October 1, 1967 to meet the cost of sending second class mail (weights between 2 ounces and 4 ounces) from publishers and newsdealers. [1]

Reference

- [1] Chung, A., Machum, H. W. E., Narbonne, R. F., *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era in Canada 1952-2002, Volume one, Part one*, Adminware Corp., Winnipeg, (2004).

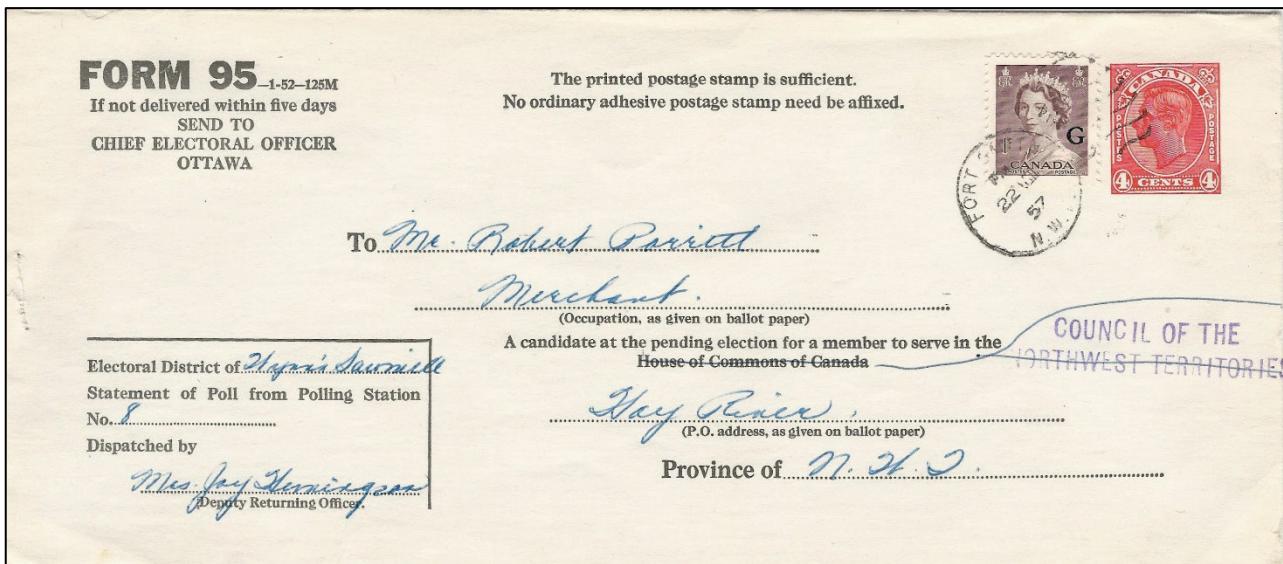
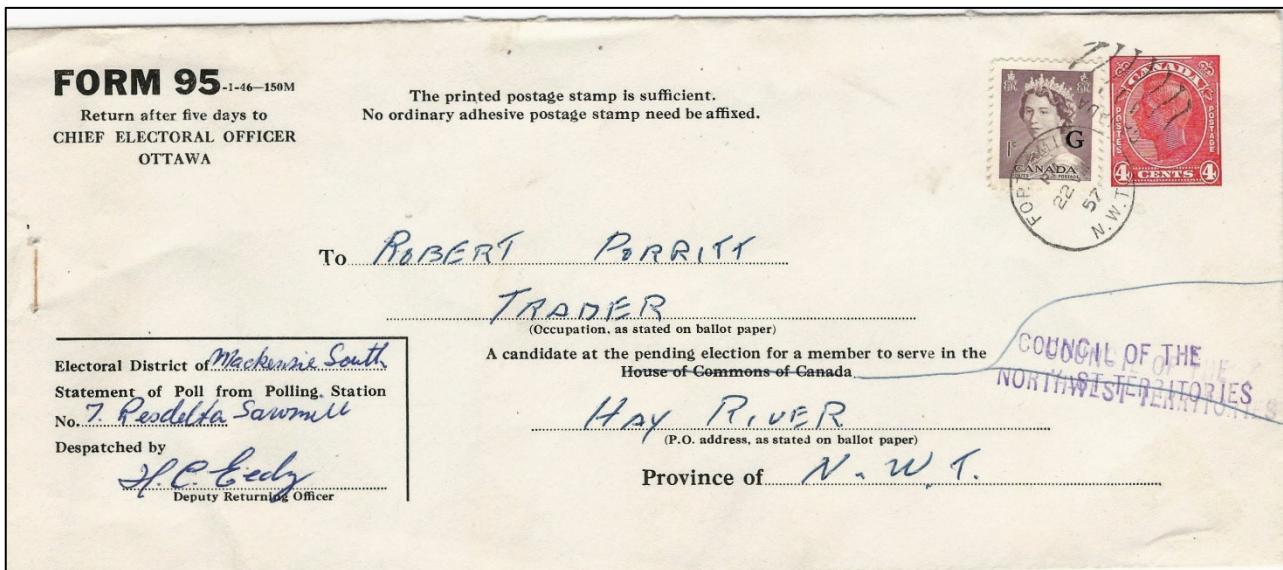
Other NWT Territorial Election Envelopes from Earle Covert

From the early 1920s through the mid-late 1970s, special postal stationery envelopes were prepared for use by the Canadian Chief Electoral Officer for transmission of results in federal elections, including general elections, by-elections (to fill a vacancy between general elections), and a referendum. The envelopes also were used for reporting results of elections for the territorial council in the Northwest Territories. The following is a list of known NWT Territorial Elections.

NWT Territorial Elections

1st council (and 6th NWT general election)	Sept. 17, 1951
2nd council (and 7th NWT general election)	Sept. 7, 1954
3rd council (and 8th NWT general election)	Aug. 19, 1957 (Webb's EN809, EN812, EN810)
4th council (and 9th NWT general election)	Sept. 19, 1960
5th council (and 10th NWT general election)	Mar. 31, 1964
6th council (and 11th NWT general election)	July 4, 1967 (Webb's EN813h)
7th council (and 12th NWT general election)	Dec., 21 1970 (Webb's EN818)

Election Envelopes used in the elections for the 3rd, 6th and 7th NWT Territorial Councils are known and are shown below. Do others still exist in collectors' hands?



FORM 95—1-52-125M

If not delivered within five days
SEND TO
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
OTTAWA

The printed postage stamp is sufficient.
No ordinary adhesive postage stamp need be affixed.



To Robert Parritt, Esq.
Trader

(Occupation, as given on ballot paper)

Electoral District of Mackenzie South
Statement of Poll from Polling Station
No. 2
Dispatched by
Jas. E. McPherson
(Deputy Returning Officer.)

A candidate at the pending election for a member to serve in the
House of Commons of Canada

Hay River, N.W.T.
(P.O. address, as given on ballot paper)

COUNCIL OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Province of

FORM 95—6-60-130M

If not delivered within five days
SEND TO
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
OTTAWA

The printed postage stamp is sufficient.
No ordinary adhesive postage stamp need be affixed.



To Mr. R. Parritt

General Merchant
(Occupation, as given on ballot paper)

Electoral District of Mackenzie South
Statement of Poll from Polling Station
No. 9
Dispatched by
Marie Rutherford
(Deputy Returning Officer.)

A candidate at the pending election for a member to serve in the
House of Commons of Canada COUNCIL OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Hay River
(P.O. address, as given on ballot paper)

Province of N.W.T.

FORM 95—12-65-190M

If not delivered within five days
SEND TO
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER
OTTAWA

The printed postage stamp is sufficient.

No ordinary adhesive postage stamp need be affixed.



To Bobby Parritt

Trader
(Occupation, as given on ballot paper)

Electoral District of Mackenzie South
Statement of Poll from Polling Station
No. 5
Dispatched by
Malvina Parritt
(Deputy Returning Officer.)

A candidate at the pending election for a member to serve in the
House of Commons of Canada
COUNCIL OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Box 100, Hay River
(P.O. address, as given on ballot paper)

Province of N.W.T.

Changes in the Printing of Special Order Envelopes 1952-1954 by Robert Lemire

Information from the Archives [1] concerning Dominion Envelope printings

By 1952, the Post Office Department had begun to question the wisdom of having stamp impressions added by Dominion Envelopes. Excerpts from a March 1952 memorandum prepared by L. J. Mills (Director of Financial Services), addressed to J. R. Carpenter (Superintendent of the Postage Stamp Division), and with reference to and an earlier discussion with the Deputy Postmaster General, read:

“...we were getting very poor service from the Dominion Envelope Company on special stamped envelopes. ... the volume of business was extremely small, amounting to only about \$5,000 per year.

“As a result of our discussion, it was decided we should do everything possible to discourage this business”

In a letter dated May 5, 1953, Mills wrote to F. S. Newell, President and General Manager, Dominion Envelope Company, Limited:

Over the past several months you have no doubt observed that the volume of orders for special envelopes printed with a postage stamp impression has fallen off materially. This is as a result of a change of policy on the part of the Post Office Department towards the supplying of these items.

“... It has been decided new design dies will not be supplied to the Postmaster, Toronto. No further orders for special stamped envelopes will be accepted. Where envelopes different from the size and style of those normally supplied by the Department are required, the special envelopes must be forwarded to Ottawa for the printing of the postage stamp, and corner address if desired.

“I should be obliged if you would consider the order No. P29866... the final order that is to be accepted for printing. On completion of this order the Postmaster, Toronto, is to return the printing dies to this Branch for destruction.”

These indicate that:

- The last Dominion Envelope printings were done in early 1953.
- No Elizabethan printings were done by Dominion Envelope.

Information from the Archives [2] concerning early Elizabethan special order envelope printings

A letter dated August 19, 1954 from L. J. Mills (Director of Financial Services) and addressed to Edmond Cloutier (at the Queen's Printer) sheds light on the printing of early Elizabethan special order envelopes. It indicates return to the printer of “Steel Letterpress Dies for Special Order Stamped Envelopes” to replace “steel dies of the H. M. King George VI design mounted on steel bases” (supplied to the Department on May 31st). The replacements included “2 × 2¢ dies, 2 × 4¢ and 2 × 5¢ H. M. Queen Elizabeth, 1954 design steel dies. The letter continues:

“It is desired that these steel dies be used for the letterpress printing of special order envelopes at the earliest possible date, in place of the 1953 H. M. Queen Elizabeth design stamp that is now being printed from electros.”

From this we can conclude that

- Probably no King George VI design special order items were printed from steel dies by letterpress after May 31, 1954.
- The 1st Karsh special order items were printed by the Queen's Printer from electros.
- The Wilding dies were used by the Queen's Printer for preparing special order envelopes by letterpress, but not until late August 1954.

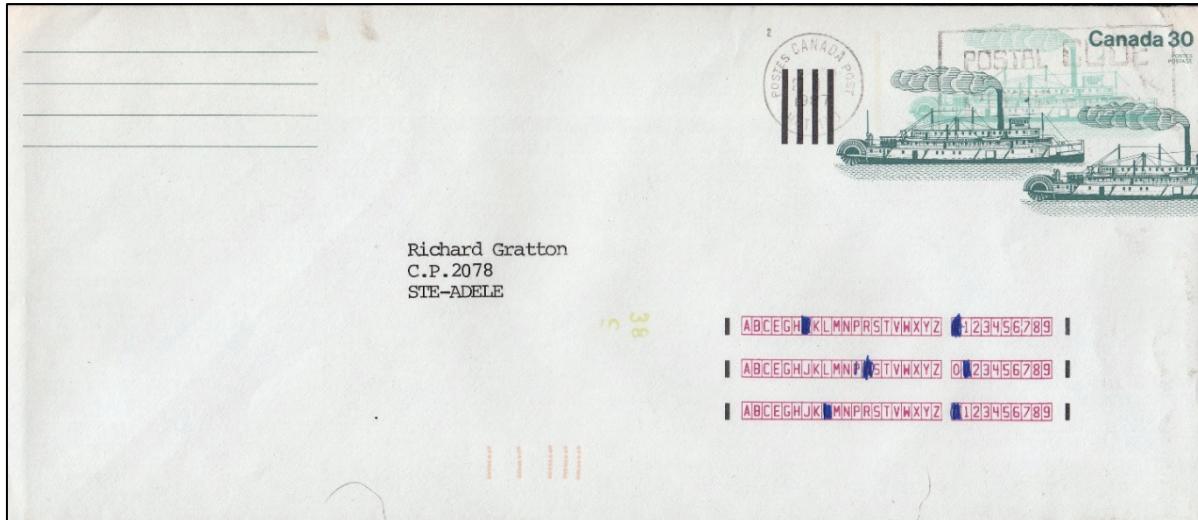
At present the earliest reported postmarks for 1st Karsh 4¢ and 5¢ special order envelopes (early June 1954), and for the Wilding special order envelopes (late November 1954) are consistent with the information in this letter.

References

- [1] Canadian Archives file RG3, Accession 86-87/396, Vol. 42, file 13-4-2
[2] Canadian Archives file RG3, Accession 86-87/396, Vol. 42, file 13-4-4

A Strange Beast

Richard Gratton sent in a scan of an envelope which appears to be a copy of Webb's EN257, but with four vertical black bars to the left of the indicium, and a matrix of postal code boxes (in red) such as were used for stamps and Christmas-card envelopes to qualify for a discounted Christmas-card rate [1, 2] (it would properly have been 29¢ in late 1986 and early 1987—the normal 1st class rate then was 34¢).



The Chairperson of the BNAPS Christmas Study Group, Peter MacDonald, provided the following comment:

It's the first such thing I've seen. I have no examples of the postal code blocks on stationery.

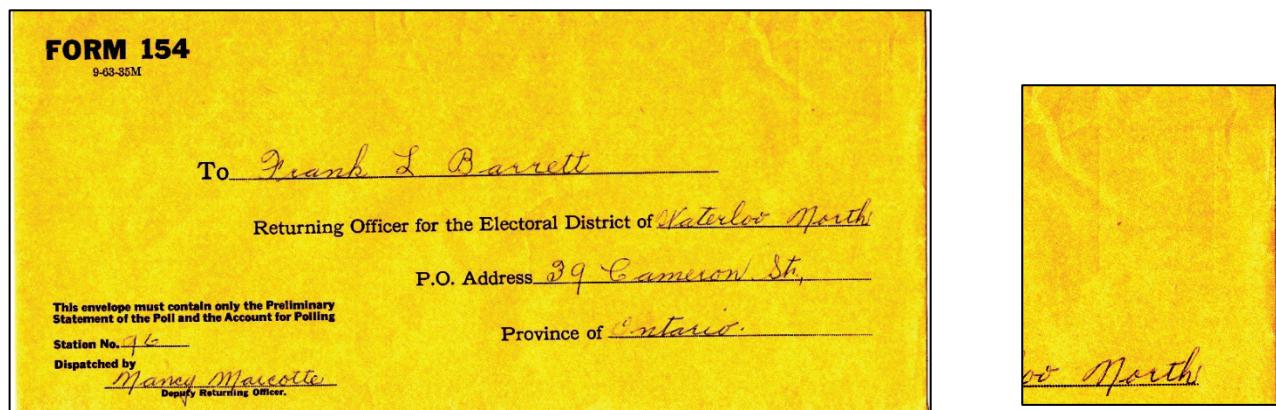
The use of this 30-cent paddleboats is contemporary with the cancel, as we know. I recall reading the regulations, and I feel certain that the code blocks were limited to greeting card manufacturers by license on blank envelopes only, though the sheer quantity of manufacturers using it was astounding!

It could be a contrivance... By 1987 office copiers were quite good for making things like this work. If I were forced to guess, that would be mine.

[References]

- [1] Ward, K., 'GREET MORE' A Report on Canada Post Corporation's 'Greet More' Program in 1986 and 1987, *BNA Topics*, 45, No. 6, 12-17 (1988).
- [2] <http://postalhistorycorner.blogspot.com/2011/04/reduced-domestic-christmas-letter-rates_05.html> accessed 2020-10-04

An Albino copy of the 2nd Karsh Election Envelope Webb's EN814g



A used but uncancelled copy. As may or may not be evident from the close-up at the right, the albino stamp impression is strongly visible on the front (and also is evident on the back).