



CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN REVENUE GROUP OF BNAPS

EDITOR - W. Rockett

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Coming Events

Nov. 21/23, 1986 - BNAPS Mid-Atlantic Group - at Virginia Beach, Va.

Sept. 17/19, 1987 - BNAPS Convention and Exhibition, Prince Edward Island

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Virginia Beach at the VAPEX Exhibition, the Mid-Atlantic Group of BNAPS will have a meeting on Saturday November 22, place to be announced. Anyone in the Mid-Atlantic area, we will have a great time at this get together November 21 to 23. Be sure to come. I am sure at least 12 Revenuers will be there.

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Included in this month's Newsletter an article by our member Russell White IV, 189 High Range Road, Londonberry, N. H. 03053

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Received in the Mail -

van DAM Mail Auction # 34, October 31. This auction has 546 items. All material is conveniently broken down into individual lots, sets, singles, collections, accumulations etc. with something for every collector and budget. Again, many rare items for the Canadian Revenue collector. However, anyone specializing in a particular item or issue. There are many lots available in the lower price range.

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Resignation - no longer collecting Revenues - We will miss you.

334 - Kimber A. Wald

Change of address

98 - Wallace B. Mitchell, 682 Belmont St., Watertown, Ma. 02172

ADLETS - ADLETS - ADLETS - ADLETS

Send in your ADLETS. There is no charge. Here is a good place to add to your collection or dispose of duplicates.

Here is a good place for your ADLET.

Make me an offer on any of the following publications

- (1) Cat. of Tobacco etc. by Lee Brandon
- (2) First supplement Tob. Tax and Liquor Seals
by Lee Brandon and E. F. Vilter
- (3) Cat. of the Tax Paid Stamps of Canada
by R. DeL French, (1954)
- (4) Cat. of Newf'd Tobacco Tax by Lee Brandon

Jim Lehr, 2918 Cheshire Rd., Devon, Wilmington, Del. 19810

The dealers listed below support the Revenue Group and Newsletter

Why not contact them for your Philatelic needs

K. Bileski Ltd., Station B., Winnipeg, Man., Canada R2W 3R4

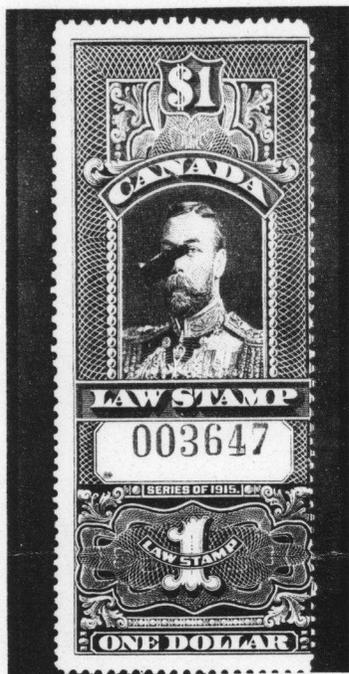
or Box 500, Pembina, North Dakota 58271

Jim A. Hennok Auctions, 185 Queen St., E., Toronto, Can. M5A 1S2

Robert Lee, Box 937, Vernon, B. C., Canada V1T 6M8

E. S. J. van DAM Ltd., Box 300, Bridgenorth, Ont., Can KOL 1H0

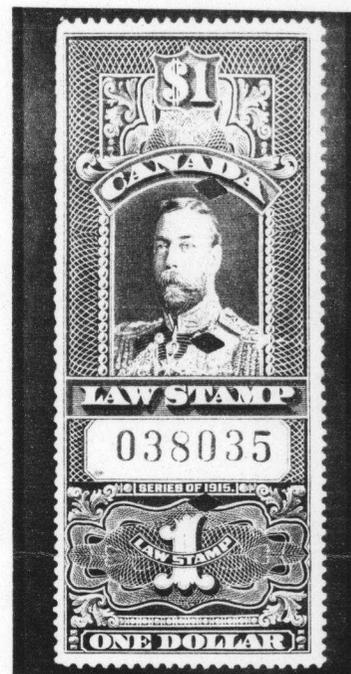
Item submitted by one of our members. "A quote from K. Bileski"
Saskatchewan SL 44 - The original supply of 500, \$20.00 red brown
evidently sufficed well into the 1930's. Then an additional order
was placed and the new \$20.00 stamps that arrived were quite
different in color to the old red brown, being a deep ORANGE brown,
certainly comprising an entirely new variety. I have seen or had
very few of these.



WET - H.Mesh

Wet and Dry Printings:
Perhaps we've mislabeled them?

Russell White, IV



DRY - V.Mesh

I've collected Canadian revenues as well as stamps and revenues of the ANZAC area for a few years. Among these are the Canada (Supreme Court) Law Stamps issued from 1876 to 1951. For a quite a while there has been listed in various sales, auctions and articles both "wet" "dry" printings of (Van Dam) FSC17. Recently, several of the earlier issues, including (Van Dam) FSC6 and 7, showed up attributed as "dry" printings. Given the time of printing switchover for postage stamps, this early usage seemed somewhat odd, and gave me cause to think.

Canadian definitive postage stamps were generally printed by the so-called wet printing method until about 1923. There are a few dry printings in the immediate preceding years, and wet printings continued, for some issues, after that date. The cost in time, labour, and material process, were reasons why this process was adopted. It seems likely that if the "dry" process had been successfully used for stamps in the 1876 to 1898 era, that stamps of a higher volume (ie: postage stamps) would have been printed by the "dry" technique by 1903, or certainly by 1911. And yet, these issues, in some cases by the same printer, were done by the "wet" process. I note here that dry and wet are relative terms denoting relative moisture content of the paper while printing. Some variation occurs due to differences in humidity while drying etc., but this produces consistent RELATIVE dimensions

Well, I previously mentioned that I collect stamps of New Zealand. There, revenues of a particular design were printed many times with differing papers, perforations, watermarks and orientation of paper mesh etc. I surmise that multiple printings are also true of the Supreme Court stamps, largely due to the numerous varying shades for multiple denominations (especially with the later issues), but all in roughly the same time period.

Now back to the sizes; Well, I note that if one flips the stamps over (yes, where the gum is/was etc.) that something interesting appears. All of those that are usually identified as being of the "wet" print are not only narrower (31.5 mm), but also are slightly taller. Those identified as being of the "dry" printing are shorter and wider (32.5 mm). This is nothing new, and is the easiest means to distinguish the two "printings". This perhaps could be accounted for by the difference in plates or different printing techniques but a little further scrutiny suggests a simpler and (given the lengthy time period) more likely answer. All of the "dry" printing stamps that I have seen have the paper mesh running in one direction. All of the "wet" printing stamps have the paper mesh running the other. While wet vs. dry is one possibility, it seems unlikely, particularly for the early Victorian Stamps. It has been shown that paper does tend to shrink in one direction over another based upon the lay of the paper. This I believe is the reason for the differing sizes rather than differences in printing techniques.

Shrinkage is fairly consistent for papers with the mesh of the paper oriented one way or the other. Thus, all of one orientation will have similar dimensions, all in relative proportion. All stamps with the other mesh orientation share a similar size. This, I believe, gives a much more likely reason, for the two sizes. Most seem to be fairly close to one pair of dimensions or the other. I have not seen any stamps that would appear to be intermediate in size, something likely if varying moisture contents were the sole reason for the size difference.

While my sample for some issues has been small, so far this alignment of mesh has always remained. Using this criteria on FSC17 for 17 "dry" printing stamps and 4 "wet" printing stamps yielded the same results. I was fortunate in being able to compare both my stamps, and those of another collector, but others should be able to perform the same comparisons and presumably would get the same results. I leave the labelling of these types to others, but suggest that vertical mesh and horizontal mesh are consistent, self-explanatory and are used in a number of philatelic references. Those with a width of 31.5 mm are always (4) Horizontally meshed while those 32.5 mm wide are Vertically Meshed (all 17 in sample).

Those stamps labelled as wet printing are usually found with numbers under 14000, although a single stamp in the 23000's was seen that met this same measurement. All of the other stamps that were greater than 17000 were clearly of the wider size. The paper used for the first printings (numbers less than 8000 anyway) was yellowish, possibly due to war conditions. I believe that these were likely printed in late 1915 or 1916, but this is merely a surmise. The later printings (particularly after 20000) used a whiter, and slightly thinner, paper. While I could believe that wet printings were done for those stamps of 1915-6 and a dry printing for 1923-6, I feel it unlikely that the Victorian issues used the dry printing method. If someone has a large supply of these, perhaps a check is in order. I suspect that the paper mesh orientation will play a large role here also. Also, if possible, the type of paper itself should probably be noted, as various papers dry quite differently.