



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

July - December 2005

Issue 7

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Newfoundland Compulsory Registered Letter - by Bill Longley

The cover shown below is franked with a USA 1939 3c World's Fair stamp tied by a Grand Central station New York duplex (Jan 4 1943) on a hotel cover to St. John's Newfoundland. The cover must have contained a coin (or coins) because the cover has a registration label attached and a blue manuscript "T 5c". The 5c postage due is clearly tied by St. John's General Delivery boxed handstamp.

Compulsory registration is when the post office detects (in this case likely can feel) coin in the envelope and the cover is registered to protect its value (and to protect the post office in a sense). This is the only "Compulsory Registered" Newfoundland cover I have ever handled.



► Chairman's Notes - by Gary Steele

Here we are, the last newsletter for 2005, Issue 7, all in just a little over two years since we formed the George VI Study Group at BNAPEX 2003 in London. I look back over two years and conclude – I just can't keep up! Do any of you feel the same way? You try to enjoy your hobby, get involved, collect, study, buy, sell, research, exhibit, e-mail, write, think, dig for more info that is impossible to get and then you actually see something come together. The more I do the better I feel, but just wish I had the fortitude to write that year long set of articles for BNAPS I have been thinking about for such a long time.

Then you see guys like Stephen Prest putting together the Post & Mail, developing the KGVI Bibliography, conducting research into KGVI stamps, compiling and forwarding our Post & Mail articles to TOPICS, and more recently starting up our George VI Website. I really enjoy helping him get the newsletter together and, together with other Study Group Members, start up the website. Don't be reluctant to put your two cents worth in, it all adds up.

Our Study Group is being increasingly recognized for its contribution to BNAPS and the wider philatelic community at large. At BNAPEX 2005, we were recipients of the BNAPS "Study Group on the Web" 2005 Award while the 2004 Post & Mail (Issues 2 to 5) received a Silver at the Canadian Seventh National Philatelic Literature Exhibition held in Toronto in October. I look forward to more great things happening in the year ahead. My very best wishes to you, your family and for success with your collecting interests in 2006.

King George VI Study Group

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► EFO's & Varieties

John Jameison recently joined our Study Group and after reading about the 10¢ Parliament Cracked UL Plate No. 3 in Issue 6 of the Post & Mail, he was kind enough to send along some images of some items he has handled in the past. Featured in this issue's EFO's & Varieties column is the imperforate at right margin LR Plate No. 3 block of 4 variety that has catalogue status as Scott 257i. John mentions in his notes that this block is probably a unique error although an UR block may exist. At most only 10 imperforated margin singles can exist.

Your Editor would be pleased to learn of other examples of mis-perforated stamps Members might have in their collections.

□ Editor's Desk

This current Issue No. 7 of the Post & Mail features Part I of what Gary Dickonson plans will be a series of articles on collecting First Day Covers of the King George VI period. Gary claims to be new to writing about philatelic subjects but I think Members will have a hard time detecting any novice tendencies as Gary steps us through a very fascinating introduction to this subject. Member's attention is drawn to the last item in Gary's article, a late dated first day cover of the January 1950 Unrevised Issue. Gary suggests this is an area worthy of further study by the Study Group and hopes other Members will be able to assist him in this.

This issue also features an article by your Editor on the Plates, Papers and Gums of the 1937 1¢ Mufti Issue. This article is the first of what I hope will be a series that explore production aspects of the 1937 Mufti and 1938 Pictorial issues. First time contributors to the Post & Mail include Bill Longley, John Jameison and Larry Goldberg who respectively provided the Cover Story, this issue's EFO's and Varieties item and remarkable images of a series of progressive cracked plate blocks of the 4¢ carmine War Issue (LL No. 31).

A number of Members have previously forwarded individual items of postal history and interesting covers which to date have not always fitted in with the themes of the main articles in the Post & Mail. Starting with Issue 7, we will have instituted a new feature column, "Eclectic Covers", as the place where we can feature these items. Contributors to this issue's "Eclectic Covers" column include John Burnett, Ed Harris, Doug Lingard, Hugh Delaney and Gary Steele. Your Editor encourages all Members to send in material for future Eclectic Covers columns.

Two final notes. Don't forget to renew your Membership for 2006/07 (see separate note from Gary) and very best wishes to Members and their families for the festive season and a prosperous and healthy 2006.

KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

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Studying King George VI First Day Covers

I. Introduction and Basic Terms

By Gary Dickinson

As a relative newcomer to collecting stamps and covers of the King George VI era, I looked for some time for a challenging sub-area in which to specialize. One that's proven to be especially attractive to me is the first day covers of the period. There is a seemingly endless variety of material, the sub-area is relatively unstudied and unstructured, and most FDC's apart from the higher value issues are reasonably priced and readily available. Like Rodney Dangerfield, however, the collection and study of FDC's doesn't seem to get much respect: Ed Richardson's 1981 publication, *Canada--B.N.A. Philately (An Outline)* lists First Day Covers as the fourth sub-topic in a chapter outlining twelve miscellaneous areas of collecting whereas such topics as postal stationery, soldiers' mail, and perfins each rate their own separate chapters.

The collection and study of FDC's is not without its challenges. The purposes of this series of articles are to identify a number of problems and issues in developing a collection, to set out a framework for further study, to illustrate the wide variety of cachets of the period, and to invite participation by others in furthering the study of the FDC's of the King George VI era. This first article identifies several challenges, defines some key concepts and terms, and illustrates some types of FDC's. Subsequent articles will examine the FDC's of some specific stamp issues during the period such as the Coronation stamp of 1937, the Royal Visit denominations of 1939, and the commemorative issues of 1947-49 as well as several themes and topics that span the whole era including uses of FDC's by philatelic groups, design and colour variations, and applications of the Canadian Coat of Arms.

The Challenge of Information Sources

I have sought information about King George VI FDC's in a variety of places without remarkable success. On the Internet, Glen Estus's website (<http://users.westelcom.com/gestus/FDC.html>) contains information about the Coronation (Scott #237) and Royal Visit (#246-248) issues, while the Mr. FDC website (http://members.tripod.com/~mr_fdc/index.htm) illustrates some examples for some issues but is by no means a complete representation. A search of philatelic periodical indexes and of Cimon Morin's bibliographies does not reveal much useful material. Will Gandley's *Canada Cover Catalogue* spans the King George VI period but has only one line of information per stamp, while Marcel Cool's *The Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Office Official First Day Covers* begins with the 1971 issues. The journal of the American First Day Cover Society (AFDC), *First Days*, has an occasional article pertaining to Canada, but this country is by no means a major focus of that publication. Given this dearth of information, the novice FDC collector and student is left to venture into the field without a map or compass.

The Challenge of Attribution

The cachet makers of the period appear to be fairly modest people as the majority of cacheted FDC's have no identification of the designer or sponsor. In an unscientific sampling of 100 cachets from 1937 to 1951 in my own collection, only 24 gave an indication of who designed, published, or sponsored them, although such attribution tended to increase as the period went on. The absence of identification on the cachets themselves, coupled with a lack of catalogues, means either that many years of experience is required to attribute the cachets of the era to a particular source or else that similarities in the designs of different cachets produced by the same maker must be relied on in making an attribution.

The Challenge of Terminology

Studying any field in a systematic way requires a consistently-applied set of terms so that everyone involved in the activity can understand and communicate with each other. The definitions of the terms used in this series of articles are adapted from the AFDCS list of *FDC Terms*. Thus, a **First Day Cover** is any cover with a new stamp or stamps, cancelled on the first day of issue. A **cachet** is any textual or graphic design that has been applied to a cover by any means. FDC's may also be **uncacheted**, or lacking an applied design. They may be **addressed**, **unaddressed**, or have had the **address removed**.

A **Combination Cover** (Figure 1) is a FDC with two or more thematically related stamps, while a **Commercial Cover** (Figure 2) is a FDC sponsored by an individual, company, or organization to promote a service or product, or as a gesture of good will. A **General Purpose Cachet** (Figure 3) has a generic design that can be used for any stamp issue as it has no specific theme. An **Official Cachet** (Figure 4) is one that is produced and applied by or for a postal administration, and an **All-over Cachet** (Figure 5) has a design that covers most or all of the envelope front. Examples of these five types of First Day Covers are shown in the pages that follow.

The second article in this series will describe a way of classifying the production methods of First Day Covers.

... George VI First Day Covers - Introduction & Basic Terms

by Gary Dickinson

Combination Cover

Illustrated below is an example of a Combination First Day Cover featuring the five 1949 Revised (with Poste-Postage) King George VI definitive stamps issued November 15, 1949. The cachet on this cover is attributed to Garthe. Examples of this cachet can also be found with the 1950 Unrevised (w/o Poste-Postage) definitives issued on January 19, 1950.

One feature of Combination Covers is that the stamps affixed often overpay the required rate for the letter's service and delivery destination. One would need to find something like a registered surface letter mailed to a non-British Empire UPU country to have a Combination Cover paying the exact 15¢ rate for service as represented by the five 1949 Revised Issue stamps affixed to the cover below.



Figure 1. A Combination First Day Cover of the 1949 Revised (with Poste-Postage) Issues mailed November 15, 1949 from Ottawa, Ontario to Malden, Massachusetts, USA.

Commercial Cover

Below is an example of a Commercial First Day Cover produced by Henry Morgan & Co. Ltd to promote its Morgan Furs department. The cover features the 10¢ Fur Resources stamp issued October 2, 1950 honouring Canada's Fur Industry.



Figure 2. A Commercial First Day Cover of the 1950 10¢ Fur Resources Issue mailed October 2, 1950 from Ottawa, Ontario to Mackayville, Quebec.

... George VI First Day Covers - Introduction & Basic Terms

by Gary Dickinson

General Purpose Cachet

Illustrated below is an example of a General Purpose Cachet First Day Cover used in this case to mark the first day of issue of the 50¢ Oil Wells stamp issued March 1, 1950. The Oil Wells stamp was the first of the series of high value "Resources" definitives issued over the 1950 - 52 period to replace the corresponding Peace Issues of 1946. The FDC is marked for registered, air mail special delivery from Ottawa to North Tonawanda, New York; a service requiring franking of 27¢ which is more than adequately covered by the 50¢ Oil Wells stamp.

The general purpose cachet is a blue (!) maple leaf with the words "Canadian New Issue". The Canadian Coat of Arms was also used on several different FDC designs during the period.



Figure 3. A General Purpose Cachet First Day Cover of the 1950 Oil Wells Issue forwarded Registered Airmail Special Delivery on March 1, 1950 from Ottawa, Ontario to North Tonawanda, New York, USA.

Official Cachet

By the early 1940's, philatelists interested in obtaining first day covers of Canadian stamp issues would forward self-addressed covers to the Post Office in Ottawa in advance of the first day of issue. The Post Office would affix the required stamps and cancel the cover on the day of issue. The Official Cachet illustrated below was used by Canada Post from 1949 to 1965 to replace covers which were received in damaged condition. This example is a "triple threat" in that it is also both a Combination FDC with the five 1949 Revised Issue stamps and a General Purpose Cachet FDC used for numerous stamp issues.

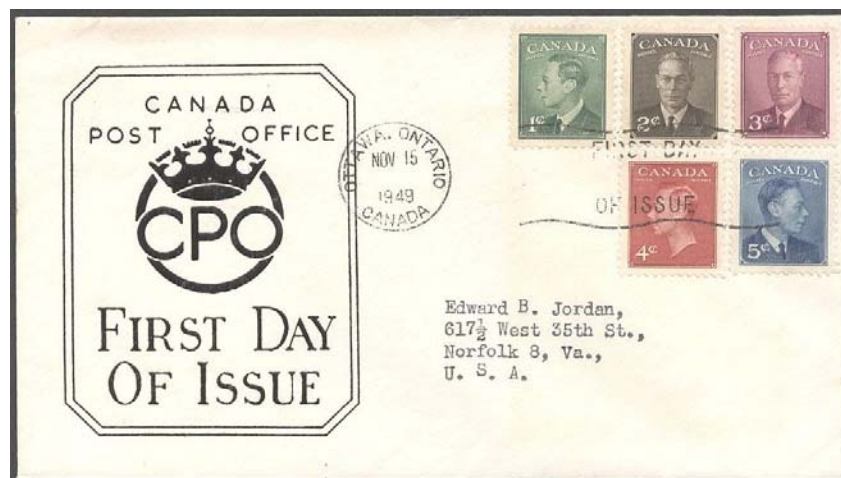


Figure 4. An Official Cachet First Day Cover of the 1949 Revised (with Poste-Postage) Issues mailed November 15, 1949 from Ottawa, Ontario to Norfolk, Virginia, USA.

... George VI First Day Covers - Introduction & Basic Terms

by Gary Dickinson

All-over Cachet

This All-over Cachet First Day Cover for the July 1, 1947 "Citizenship" issue is an excellent example of how the cachet design covers the majority of the cover face in this category. The cachet includes the notation, "Specially Designed for and Distributed by the Canadian Philatelic Society" which would also place the cover in the Commercial FDC category in addition to being an All-over Cachet FDC.

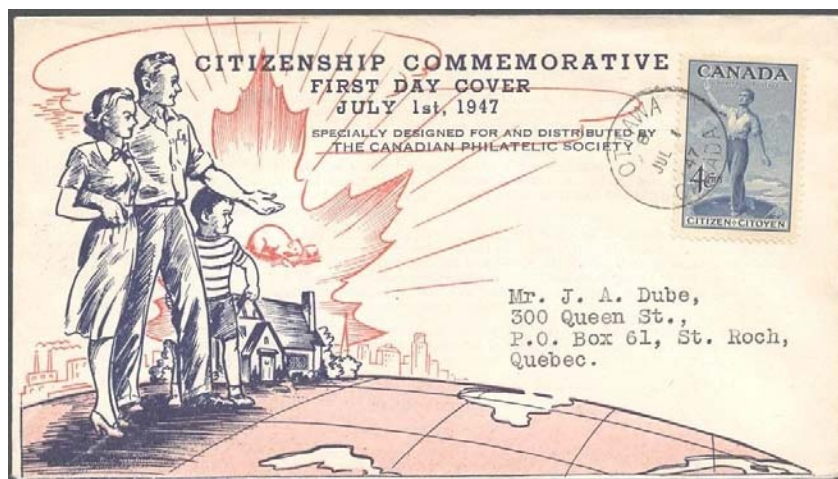


Figure 5. An All-over Cachet First Day Cover of the 1947 Citizenship Issue mailed July 1, 1947 from Ottawa, Ontario to St. Roch, Quebec

Unofficial First Date Varieties

The Combination First Day Cover below of the Original Printing (1950 Unrevised Issue definitives) shows a Port Arthur postmark date of January 23, 1950, some four days later than the first reported day of issue for these stamps at London, Ontario. Unlike the other stamps of the King George VI period, there was no official first day of issue for the 1950 Unrevised Issues. Instead, the Post Office Department placed them on sale in Post Offices "throughout Canada sometime in January, 1950." Thus, a challenge to the collector is to identify the earliest use of these stamps in the various cities in which they were sold. I would be interested in hearing the thoughts of fellow Study Group members on the validity of these unofficial first days of issue for this Original Printing, and I would also offer to undertake the compilation of the earliest known uses for the various cities in which they were sold.



Figure 6. A Combination Cover of the 1950 Unrevised (w/o Poste - Postage) Issue forwarded by Registered Mail January 23, 1950 from Port Arthur, Ontario to North Norwood, South Australia

The Plates, Papers & Gums of the 1937-38 Stamps of Canada

Part I - The 1¢ Mufti Issue - An Interim Study

By Stephen Prest

Summary

A study of visually observable differences of the plates, papers and gums of some 215 plate blocks of the 1937 1¢ Mufti stamp has been undertaken. An approximate time line for the production of the eleven 1¢ Mufti printing plates between 1937 and 1941 is put forward based on analysis of Post Office Control Number information. The results of this study suggest that the Narrow Selvedge variety plate blocks were predominantly produced in the 1937-38 period. Four types of paper; Ribbed, Wove (diagonally), Hatched and Regular; have been identified by visual observation of differences in physical characteristics of paper texture. Similarly, three types of gum have been visually identified, namely Streaky, Mottled and Smooth.

Ribbed, Hatched and Regular Papers appear to have been used in the initial production of the 1¢ Mufti stamps but their use appears to have fallen away by 1941. Diagonally wove paper appears to have been introduced in 1938-39 and its relative use in production grew in importance from 1940 onwards. All Ribbed Paper examples examined in the survey had Streaky Gum in colour ranging from light honey to amber. Wove Paper examples predominantly exhibit Smooth Gum with a slight yellowish colouration.

Further study is required to confirm that the observed differences between Hatched (and possibly Regular) versus Ribbed Papers are significant or, alternatively, are caused by differences in paper thicknesses. Similarly, further study is also indicated to confirm whether the observed differences between Streaky and Mottled Gum is significant and to confirm time based and other production parameters cited in this study.

Introduction

Some years ago, I purchased my first “matched sets” of low value Mufti plate blocks from a well regarded dealer in Canadian stamps. Upon receiving the lot, I was somewhat surprised to find these sets seemed to be anything but “matched”. While each set comprised the expected four corner blocks, the blocks themselves exhibited selvedge of varying widths and a variety of different paper and gum types. A review of a number of reference sources by D. H. Whiteley⁽¹⁾ reveals I have not been the first to observe these differences (brown gum, ribbed, laid paper etc).

With interest piqued, I set about acquiring plate blocks of the 1937 Mufti’s and their companion 1938 Pictorials with a view to accumulate sufficient quantities to analyze observable variations in the papers, gums and other aspects of these stamps.

Given the exigencies of war time, it is understandable that the printer of these stamps, the Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd (CBNC), would likely need to rely upon a number of sources for its printing papers. However, limited research seems to have been conducted into this aspect of the production of Canadian stamps during the Mufti period. This current study paper serves to initiate a basis upon which such research might start. This paper should not be viewed as definitive as much remains to be done for reasons outlined below:

- The data and preliminary conclusions presented below are based on an analysis of a limited sample of some 215 1¢ Mufti Plate Blocks corners held in my collection. While these examples have been accumulated in a random fashion over a twenty year period, they may or may not be representative of the whole of the production of these stamps.
- To date only a limited literature review has been conducted on this subject and there may well exist published information of which I am currently unaware that will shed further light on the matters raised in this paper.
- I have limited knowledge of the actual manufacturing methods employed by CBNC to produce these stamps. Certain observations developed in the body of this paper may well need to be amended as further information about printing methods is obtained.
- To date, Post Office Archives, which may shed additional light on the subjects discussed in this paper, have not been researched.

Notwithstanding these limitations, I am hopeful that the information and preliminary conclusions presented herein will stimulate further discussion and discovery on the part of other Study Group Members. This paper, with its focus on the 1¢ Mufti, is the first of I hope will be a series that will cover other Mufti denominations and the 1938 Pictorials. The detailed data upon which the results and conclusions outlined in the paper are based, can be made available to Study Group Members interested in pursuing this subject in more detail by contacting the Editor.

... Plates, Papers & Gums - The 1¢ Mufti

by Stephen Prest

Plate Numbers

Eleven different plates were used for the production of the 1¢ Mufti over the 1937 - 42 period. Post Office records indicate some 1.44 billion stamps were printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd. The first day of issue was April 1, 1937.

I am not aware of records indicating the periods of use or the number of sheets produced from each of the eleven 1¢ Mufti plates. It would seem from first order analysis of the data described in this paper, the plates came into use sequentially over time in ascending plate number order. This aspect needs further study as time and access to Post Office Archives permit. However known records related to plate block Control Numbers do provide some guidance.

Control Numbers

Each lower left plate block printed by CBNC during the Mufti period contains a “Control Number” printed in the left hand margin. T.B Higginson’s⁽²⁾ article on this subject provides a detailed listing of Control Numbers found on George VI Stamps of Canada. An important observation in his article concerns the Post Office’s confirmation that control numbers between 500 and 1400 were used for postage work. Some of the numbers in this range were used for printing plates and appear on the left hand selvedge of the lower left plate blocks of Mufti and other sheet stamps, while others were assigned to other phases of postage work.

Tabulating Higginson’s data to take into account the Control Numbers found on the 1937 Coronation, the 1938 Pictorials, the 1939 Royal Visit and the first War Issue stamps, and, assuming that the Post Office Control Numbers were used sequentially over time, one can estimate the likely time period each of the Mufti 1¢ plates were produced to be as follows.

<u>Mufti 1¢ Plate Nos.</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
1, 2, 3 & 4	Winter 1937
5	Summer – Fall 1938
6	Fall 1938 – Winter 1939
7 & 8	Winter 1939
9	Fall 1939
10 & 11	1941

While printings from these plates could occur at any interval following the time periods noted above, this pattern of dates provides a useful framework against which other observed changes in the papers and gums of the 1¢ Mufti can be considered.

Production Methodology – Normal and Narrow Selvedges

The production method for the 1937 low value Mufti stamps involved the printing of a sheet comprising 400 images assembled in four panes of 100 stamps of 10 rows and columns each separated by unprinted gutters. The sheets of 400 were slit through the gutters to create the individual panes of 100 stamps. The printer’s inscription and Plate Number were printed along the top and bottom selvedge generally above (or below) the first two columns of stamps at the four furthest corners of the sheet. This resulted in each pane having an inscription in the selvedge which identifies the pane position within the sheet as illustrated below.

Normal Selvedge

**Lower Left
Plate No. 10
with
Post Office
Control No.
968A**



**Lower Right
Plate No. 11**



... Plates, Papers & Gums - The 1937 1¢ Mufti

by Stephen Prest

Panes were then subject to a perforation process. All Mufti stamps were line perforated 12 gauge with the perforations extending through the sheet selvage. I am not aware of any perforation varieties having been reported on the 1¢ Mufti.

One very noticeable variation however are the so-called Narrow and Very Narrow Selvage plate block varieties of Mufti stamps. For the purposes of this study, selvage width is measured from the centre line of the marginal perforations to the outside edge of the selvage. Typically the Top, Bottom and Side selvage are 5 mm wider for the Normal versus the Narrow Selvage plate blocks as illustrated below. Two Plate No. 2 plate blocks among those under study, one Upper Right and the other Lower Right, exhibit side selvage of the Very Narrow type, measuring only 3.5 mm in width.

	<u>Selvage Width in mm</u>	
	<u>Top/Bottom</u>	<u>Sides</u>
Normal Selvage	14 to 18	12 to 13
Narrow Selvage	9 to 10	7 to 8
Very Narrow Selvage	9 to 10	3.5

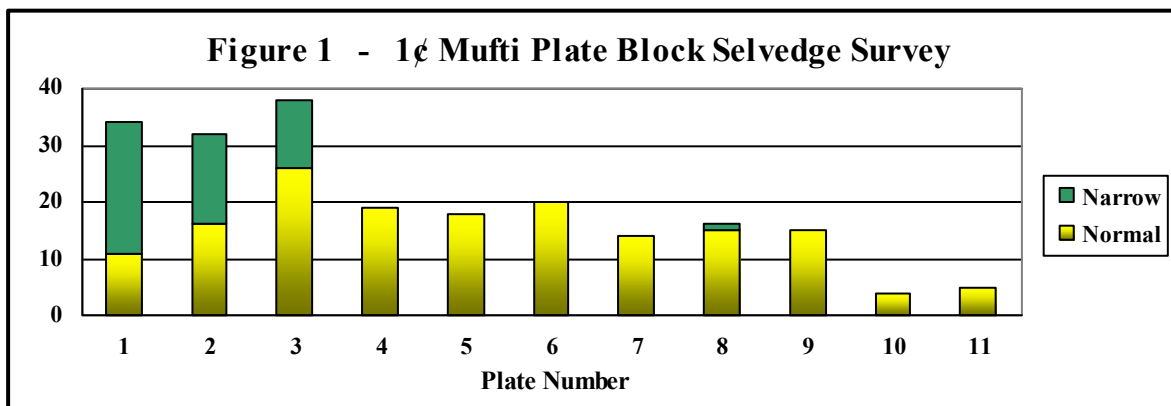
Narrow Selvage



Very Narrow Selvage



About 25% of the of 1¢ Mufti plate block examples under study exhibit Narrow selvage. However as can be seen from the data presented in Figure 1, all but one of the 52 Narrow Selvage plate blocks studied are found on Plates 1, 2 & 3.



... Plates, Papers & Gums - The 1937 1¢ Mufti

by Stephen Prest

To date I have not identified reference sources that would explain how the Narrow selvedge variety arose. The possibility exists that some of paper stock available to the printer in the early part of the Mufti period measured some 10 mm less in width and height, thus creating a situation where these sheets, when centred on the printing machine, would yield panes with the observed selvedge of some 5 mm less in width and height. The 5 mm reduction in width generally resulted in the partial cut-off of the Control Number inscription in the left hand selvedge. The Very Narrow variety could have been the caused by placing the narrow sheet to the left of centre on the printing machine thus resulting in the very narrow selvedge on the right hand side and normal width margins on the left hand side.

While further research is indicated before final conclusions can be drawn on the matter of Normal vs. Narrow margins, it would appear from the time line analysis on plate production presented earlier, the CBNC production of 1¢ Mufti stamps was predominantly based on wider paper from the second half of 1938 as Plate Nos. 5 & 6 were being introduced into service.

Narrow Selvedge



**Narrow Selvedge Lower Left Plate No. 3
with Post Office Control No. 906
inscription in left hand selvedge
partially cut-off.**

Papers

It has long been recognized that the Mufti stamps were apparently printed on a number of different papers. On examining the examples in my 1¢ Mufti collection, I have been able to categorize the collection into four main paper types as defined by visual characteristics of the paper “weave” as illustrated below.



Wove



Ribbed



Hatched



Regular

Wove Paper

Wove Paper can be identified by holding the plate block directly to the light such that light passes through the selvedge. Wove paper will show itself as a diagonal weave pattern like that illustrated above. The wove pattern can generally be determined by observing the stamp from either side but usually the pattern is been most clearly seen from the gummed side.

... Plates, Papers & Gums - The 1937 1¢ Mufti

by Stephen Prest

Ribbed Paper

When held at an angle to the light, Ribbed Paper can readily be identified by the horizontal striations or lines of thicker paper which are clearly visible on the printed (non-gummed) surface of the stamp. The horizontal lines usually are visible across the full length of the selvedge being observed. Often these horizontal lines are so pronounced that they are immediately visible as a "lined" surface on the selvedge of the non-gummed side of the plate block.

Hatched Paper

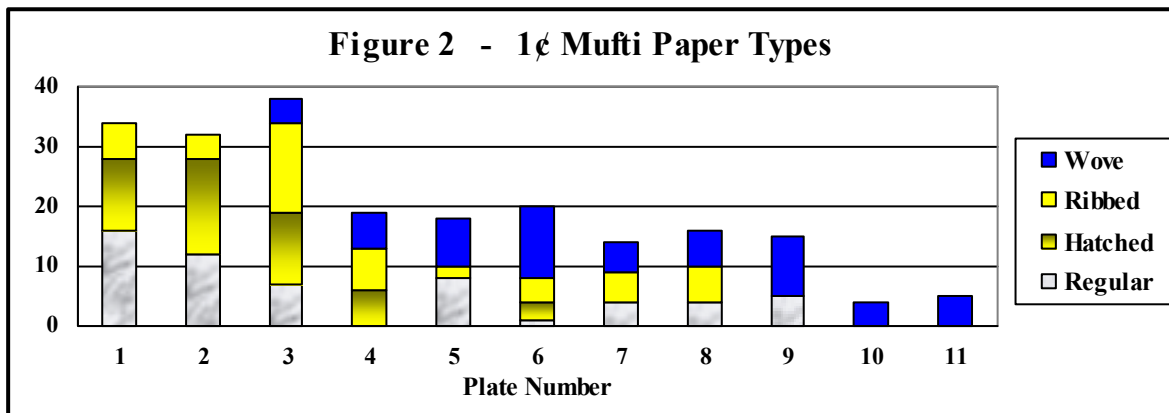
Hatched Paper exhibits a very light (and usually partial) horizontal ribbed effect when observed from the gummed side held directly to the light. This paper type is distinguished from Ribbed Paper by the presence of faint vertical lines creating a slight hatched effect, the weave of the paper in this case comprising vertical and horizontal lines.

Regular Paper

Regular Paper as illustrated above can best be described as having no discernable pattern when held directly to the light. Rather Regular Paper has randomly spaced lighter or darker areas much like one would see when observing a mixed grey cloudy sky.

As a general comment, it is entirely possible that Hatched Paper (and possibly also Regular Paper) is a thicker variety of Ribbed Paper where the extra thickness of the paper diminishes the horizontal ribbing effect one sees in Ribbed Paper. Further study, possibly in the way of surface spectral analysis to determine the composition of papermaking ingredients and whether these can be related to other observable differences in paper types, is indicated on this aspect before final conclusions can be drawn.

Figure 2 depicts the number of each of the four defined paper type identified in the eleven 1¢ Mufti plate numbers examined in this current study.



A number of trends are evident. The Ribbed and Hatched Paper examples represent some 45 % of the total plate blocks under study. It would appear that stocks of these papers were exhausted by 1941 as there are no examples of this type of paper appearing among the Plate Nos. 9, 10 & 11 blocks examined in this study. A similar pattern is observed with the Regular Paper type.

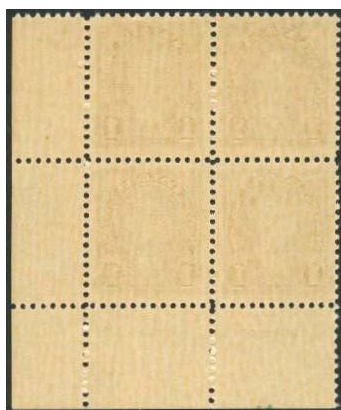
The Wove Paper would seem to have been first introduced sometime in 1938 given its general absence from the Plate Nos. 1, 2, & 3 examples in this survey. It would also seem that by 1941, only Wove Paper was being used in the production of the 1¢ Mufti stamps although this conclusion must be considered as preliminary given the relatively small number of Plate Nos. 10 & 11 blocks available for this study.

... Plates, Papers & Gums - The 1¢ Mufti

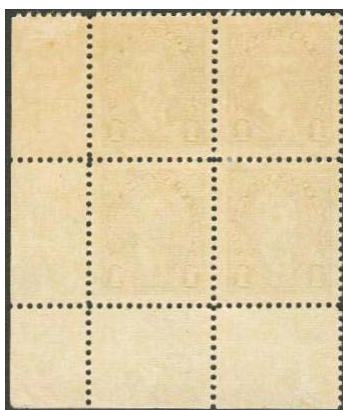
by *Stephen Prest*

Gum Types

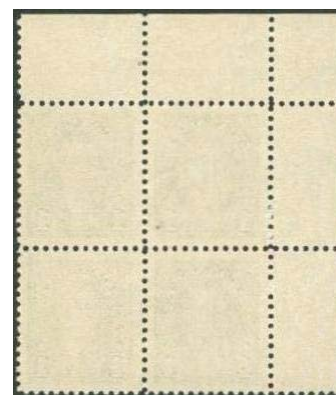
There appears to be three main gum types appearing on the back of the 1¢ Mufti plate block examples evaluated in this study; Streaky, Mottled and Smooth gum. There is great variation in the appearance of the gummed surface of the 1¢ Mufti stamps studied in this survey. Gum colour can range from dark amber-brown to light honey for the Streaky and Mottled Gum types. The Smooth Gum type ranges from creamy off-white to light honey. The examples of these gums illustrated below have been selected to emphasize the textures of the three gum types.



Streaky Gum



Mottled Gum



Smooth Gum

Streaky Gum

Streaky Gum can be readily identified as vertical striations of gum texture and thickness running from top to bottom of the stamp. In the case of the 1¢ Mufti plate blocks with Streaky Gum, all examples reveal a shiny surface when held at an angle to the light and the colour ranged from light honey to amber (brownish).

Mottled Gum

Mottled Gum appears to be a variation of Streaky Gum but instead of regular vertical striations, Mottled Gum examples present a mosaic of areas of more or less gum. As with Streaky Gum, all Mottled Gum examples studied for this survey revealed a shiny surface when held at an angle to the light and the colour ranged from light honey to amber.

Smooth Gum

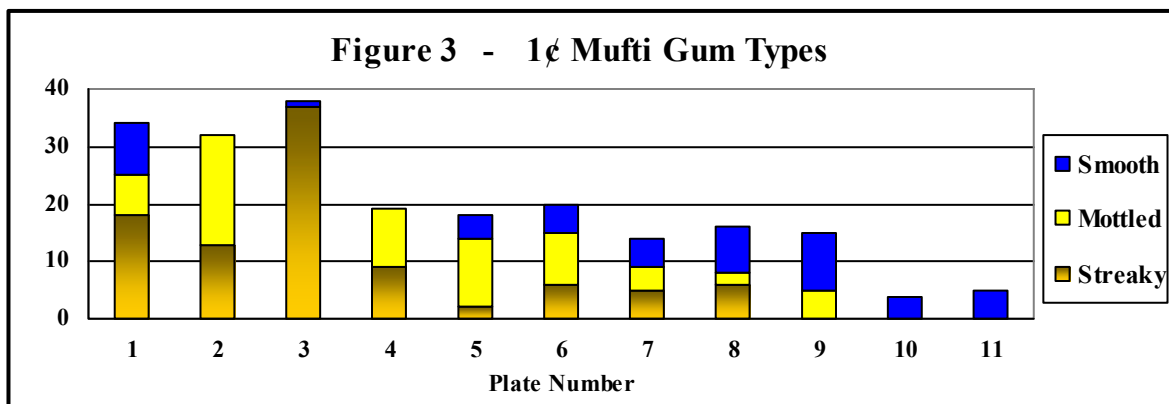
Smooth Gum shows no discernible pattern of gum thickness or intensity. While the surface appears shiny when held at an angle to the light, the colour is very light yellow presenting a slightly “off-white” darker shade as compared to the non-gummed (printed) surface of the plate block. As such, this “off-white” appearance suggests a somewhat different gum type than the “clear” shiny gums one finds on stamps issued later in the KGVI period. There were no examples of Smooth amber or “brownish” gum identified in the survey.

Figure 3 overleaf depicts the number of each of the three gum types identified among the eleven 1¢ Mufti plate numbers examined in this study.

As with papers, a number of trends are evident. First Streaky and Mottled Gums predominate among examples of the early plates 1 through 6 but become relatively less important with the later plates. It is notable that all 49 examples of Ribbed Paper surveyed in this study had Streaky Gum. Similarly, about half of the 47 Hatched Paper examples had Streaky Gum. Only 6 of the of the 60 Wove Paper examples had Streaky Gum, four Plate 3 and two Plate 6 examples. It would appear that stocks of papers with Streaky Gum were exhausted by 1941 as there are no examples of this type of gum appearing among the Plate Nos. 9, 10 & 11 blocks examined for this study.

... Plates, Papers & Gums - The 1937 1¢ Mufti

by Stephen Prest



Smooth Gum examples generally begin to appear with production associated with the later plates. About 70% of the 51 Smooth Gum examples are associated with Wove Paper with the balance, Regular Paper. There are no examples identified to date of Ribbed or Hatched Paper having Smooth Gum. The nine Plate No. 1 Smooth Gum examples are all associated with Regular Paper with Narrow Selvedge.

Of the 68 examples of Mottled Gum identified in this survey, these are about one third each associated with Regular, Hatched and Wove Papers respectively. Again as with Streaky Gum, use of paper stock with Mottled gum appears to have been in the early part of the period.

Paper Colouration & Varieties

Paper colouration noted in the 1¢ Mufti plate block examples in the author's collection are various shades of "off-white". There are no examples similar to the "whitish" papers one finds in later issues of the King George VI reign. Further, no examples were identified in this survey of fugitive ink colourations of the paper such as the aniline ink variety of the 1938 \$1 Chateau de Ramezey Pictorial or the "rose" paper variety of the 3¢ Mufti.

Thin Paper

There was one readily distinguishable Thin Paper example, Upper Right Pl. No. 8, identified in the study. This example is distinguished by the sharp definition of the printing plate impression reverse image and the noticeable green shading of the stamps when viewed from the back.

Sheets Precancelled After October 1941

As of October 1941, Post Office policy required that panes of precancelled 1¢ Mufti stamps bear a Warning Label in the top or bottom selvedge. One example of a LL Pl. 6 pane with Warning Label is among the plate blocks examined for this study while separately Leo Beudet reported an example of a UR Pl. 5 pane with Warning Label of the 1¢ in Issue 5 of the Post & Mail. Earlier in this paper it was noted that Plates 5 & 6 were likely produced in period between late 1938 and early 1939. From the appearance of stamps from these plates being used in the production process for precancelled stamps from late 1941 to early 1942, it would seem that Plates 5 and 6 may well have been in use for a period of some three years.

Bibliography

- (1) "Collecting the Canada King George VI 'Mufti' Issue", by D.H. Whiteley, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, November 1998, Pages 69 to 71
- (2) "Control Numbers on George VI Stamps of Canada" by T.B. Higginson, BNA TOPICS Vol. 9 (Whole No. 89, March 1952), Pages 66 to 71

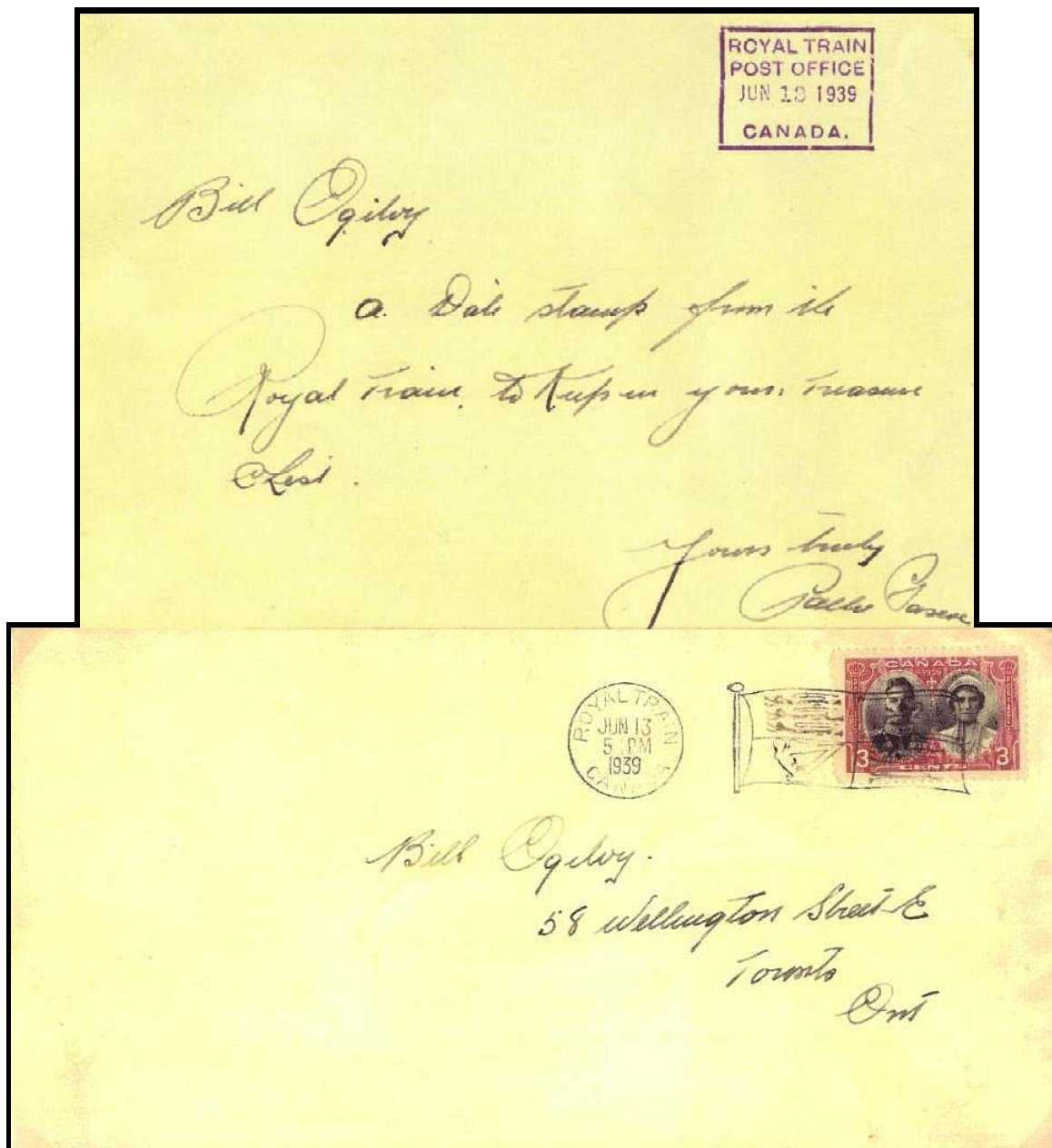
► Eclectic Covers - Part I

A column featuring an eclectic mix of Canadian postal history items from the King George VI period.

Royal Train Money Order Date Stamp Cancels ... by Doug Lingard

The short note about Money Order Date Stamp Cancels that appeared in TOPICS Revisited in Issue 5 reminded me of a similar item I have in my Royal Visit collection. These are the most elusive of all Royal Train cancels. No French examples are known, other than the Post Office Proof Book example. Only two English cancels are known plus a few 'favour' ones on testing cards from Edmonton.

Pallie Pascoe, a Royal Train postal clerk, created the example below for a friend in Toronto. It was mailed at St. John, New Brunswick in an envelope which has "The Royal Train/Canada" embossed on the flap. This is one of only two reported Money Order cancels not on post office testing cards and the only one to have gone through the mails.



A First Class letter posted June 13, 1939 from the Royal Train to Toronto, Ontario franked with the 1939 3¢ Royal Visit stamp to pay the rate for a first class letter weighing up to 1 oz.

Mufti Era Clipper Service to Hong Kong ... by Gary Steele

The Pan-Am Clipper air service from San Francisco to Manila via Honolulu and Guam was extended to Hong Kong in April 1937. Prior to that mail sent via the Clipper service was forwarded by steamship to Hong Kong. The envelope below was franked with three 1938 20¢ Fort Garry pictorial stamps. These short-paid by 30¢ the 90¢ per ½ oz. rate for Clipper service to Hong Kong. The short-paid amount of 30¢ times double deficiency equals 60¢ x 5 centimes per cent to give 300 centimes due in total. This was paid by the letter's recipient with a \$1.00 and a \$2.00 Hong Kong 1938 definitives.

It is not clear why the letter might have been posted with only 60¢ in postage. The rate to Manila, which would have applied during the prior periods when mail was forwarded by steamship from Manila to Hong Kong, was 75¢. One can only speculate about these things but maybe the sender mistakenly used a third 20¢ stamp instead of a 50¢ which if affixed, would have made up the required rate.



Air Mail letter posted October 30, 1939 from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Hong Kong franked with three 20¢ 1938 Fort Garry Pictorial stamps which short paid the required 90¢ per ½ oz. fee for an air mail letter forwarded via the Clipper Service to Hong Kong

Mufti Era Clipper Service to Great Britain ... by Ed Harris

World War II hostilities resulted in numerous changes in air mail service routes across the Atlantic. The December Supplement to the Canada Official Postal Guide contained the latest trans-Atlantic schedule from the United States Post Office Department indicating as of May 1st, 1941, air mail flights from New York to Lisbon were routed through Bermuda and the Azores. On receipt in Lisbon, air mail letters were forwarded to various points in Europe. This was one of a number of routings used for air mail letters to Europe during the Mufti period.

Ed. Note: It is suggested that Study Group members interested in this area of postal history refer to David H. Whiteley's monograph entitled "Official Air Mail Rates to Foreign and Overseas Destinations as Established by the Canadian Post Office: 1926-December 1942."



Air Mail letter posted December 6, 1941 from Niagara Falls, Ontario to London, England franked with one 10¢ Memorial Chambers and 20¢ Fort Garry 1938 Pictorial stamps which paid the required 30¢ per ½ oz. fee for an air mail letter forwarded via the Clipper Service to Great Britain

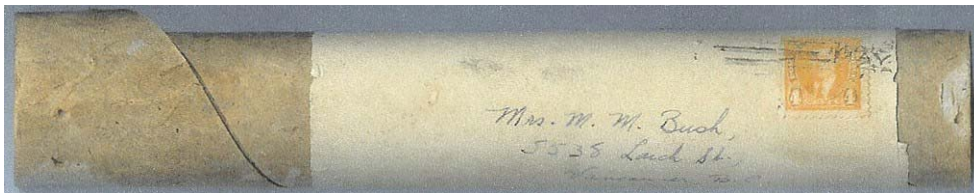
Single 4¢ Mufti Stamp Usage ... *by John Burnett*

When collecting the postal history of the stamps of the Mufti Era (1937 – 1942) one of the most difficult items to find is the single 4¢ stamp usage, paying the correct rate. Historically people have thought that the only really good item would be to show a “triple” drop letter rate (2¢ + 1¢ + 1¢) making the 4¢ rate.

Think about it, what usually happened was the person would come to the post office with the letter addressed for local delivery already franked with 2¢ postage thinking they had a simple drop letter. The postal clerk sensing the letter was heavier than one ounce, would weigh it only to discover it weighed more than 2 ounces and would require an additional 2¢ postage. That’s why it’s not too hard to find an envelope with a pair of 2¢ stamps making up the 4¢ rate for an overweight drop letter.

Pictured below is an example of a single 4¢ stamp usage that in this case pays the third class postage rate of 1¢ per 2 ounces. The stamp is applied to a wrapper that was around a photographic tube which is made of heavy cardboard. The tube measures 9” long by 1½” in diameter. It holds a photograph that is 8½” x 24”; the tube had heavy cardboard end caps and the whole thing weighs 8 ounces thus requiring 4¢ postage.

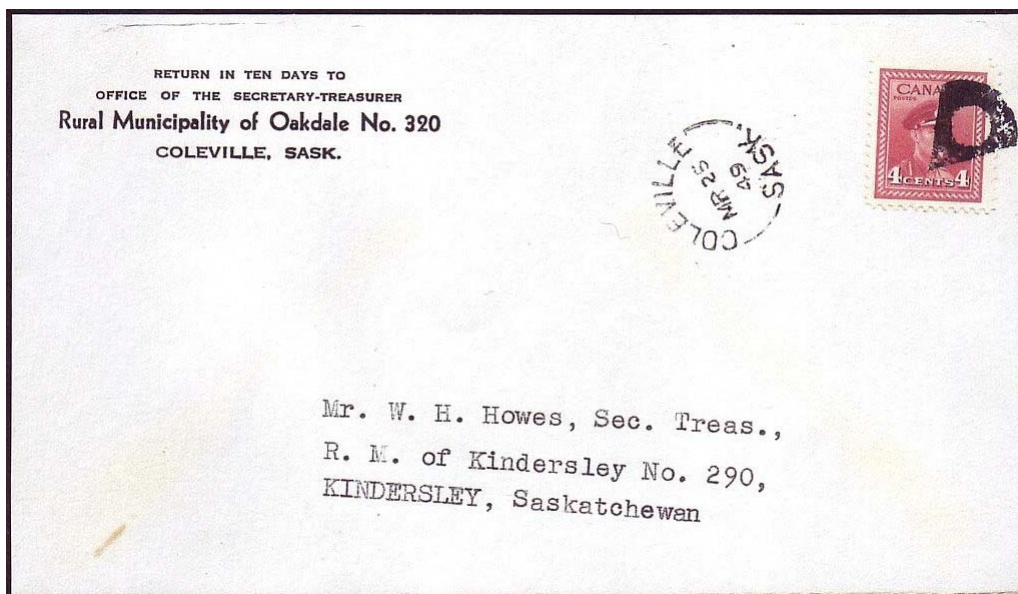
Keep your eyes open for that elusive 4¢ application, they are tough to find. I would be interested to learn if other Study Group members have any examples of single usage of a 4¢ Mufti in their collection.



*Photographic Tube posted October 30, 1939 to Vancouver
franked with a single 4¢ 1937 Mufti stamp to pay the rate for a third class matter item weighing up to 8 ounces.*

Cheese Wedge Cancellation ... *by Hugh Delaney*

An uncommon cancellation in the King George VI period is the cork (cheese wedge) cancel shown below as used in Coleville, Saskatchewan in March 1949. A second obliterator was quite often used in smaller post offices in conjunction with a so-called split ring (or broken circle) date canceller. The cover illustrated below shows Coleville’s split ring cancel clearly legible on the envelope with the second “cheese wedge” obliterator canceling the affixed postage stamp. There were a number of types of these obliterator but those featuring the cheese wedge shape are not that common. I wonder if other Study Group members have other examples of cheese wedge or other types of obliterator used late into the King George VI period.



*Letter posted March 25, 1949 from Coleville to Kindersley, Saskatchewan
franked with a 4¢ 1943 War Issue stamp to pay the first class letter rate to a Canadian destination.*

► TOPICS Revisited (Part IV - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 9 & 10)*by Stephen F. Prest***Introduction**

This is the fourth TOPICS Revisited column to appear in the Post & Mail and covers references to KGVI related items that appeared in BNA TOPICS Volumes 9 and 10 (Whole Nos. 87 to 108) issued in 1952 and 1953.

Study Group members are advised that the King George VI Bibliography of Canada and Newfoundland Philatelic References has been developed and is accessible through the Members area of the George VI Study Group Website. The current (November 2005) version of the KGVI Bibliography incorporates the items covered in Parts I to IV of Topics Revisited plus other referenced publications.

1935 Pictorials & Special Delivery Issues

Notes on varieties occurring on the 20¢ Niagara Falls and the 6¢ Airmail stamps appear in **P.D. Van Oudenal's** article "*Varieties on the 20 Cent Niagara Falls*" in **Whole No. 87** (Jan 1952).

1938 Pictorials & 1939 Special Delivery Issues

A re-entry on the 1938 13¢ Halifax Harbour is described in Item 13 of **R.J. Duncan & G.P. Lewis's** column "Pages from a B.N.A. Scrapbook" in **Whole No. 96** (Nov 1952). Reference to this re-entry first appeared in the November 1940 issue of *Stamps*.

1942 War Issue

In **Whole No. 106** (Nov 1953) **J. Millar Allen** writes in a letter to the Editor about pre-cancelled 1¢ War Issue stamp having the letters "Y AS SP" printed in the attached selvage.

1948 Responsible Government Issue

E.L. Piggott notes a shade variation of the 1948 4¢ Responsible Government issue in his letter to the **Editor** in **Whole No. 89** (Mar 1952).

1949/50 Revised/Unrevised KGVI Definitive Issues

In the "The Month's News" column in **Whole No. 100** (Mar 1953), **James Stokes** wrote about variations in paper thickness of the current 3¢ Revised Issue.

1951 Stamp Centenary Issues

In **Whole No. 87** (Jan 1952), **Rev John F. Bain's** column contained a note about a first day cancellation of specially prepared album sheets of the 1951 Stamp Centenary Issues.

Booklets

Reference is made to the issuance of experimental Canadian postage booklets showing stitching instead of regular staples occurring in the 4¢ red and current 4¢ orange panes in **Rev John F. Bain's** columns in **Whole No. 100 & 101** (Mar & Apr 1953). Further information is provided by **R. C. Hunter** in **Rev John F. Bain's** column in **Whole No. 104** (July 1953).

Coil Stamps

A review of articles first appearing in the May 1952 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and November 1952 issue of *Maple Leaves* on the method of production of the 1950 2¢ Revised Issue coil stamps appears as Item 16 of **R.J. Duncan & G.P. Lewis's** column "Pages from a B.N.A. Scrapbook" in **Whole No. 98** (Jan 1952).

Further observations on the misalignment that appears after every 25th stamp in KGVI period coil stamps appears in **E.P. Warren's** letter to the Editor in **Whole No. 103** (June 1953).

Parts 1 & 2 of Edward J Whiting's series of articles entitled "*The Coil Postage Stamps of Canada*" appeared in **Whole Nos. 108 & 109** (Nov & Dec 1953).

► TOPICS Revisited (Part IV - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 9 & 10) ... *continued*

“Coronation”

Ed Goodale writes in **Rev John F. Bain’s** column in **Whole No. 106** (Oct 1953) about a Coronation meter slogan in purple on complimentary Postage Meter Company envelopes sent to their customers in June 1937.

“Errors, Flaws & Oddities”

A rather spectacular printing flaw on the 1949 1¢ green Revised Issue is shown on page 160 of **Whole No. 103** (June 1953).

“Little Norway” Stamp

Further notes on the Little Norway stamp, also known as the “Wings for Norway” (Norway Scott No. 247), appear in **W.T. White’s** article entitled “*Canadiana*” in **Whole No. 91** (May 1952).

Newfoundland

In **Whole No. 87** (Jan 1952), the **Meyerson’s** “Trail of the Caribou” column notes a re-entry on the Newfoundland 3¢ Queen Elizabeth of the 1938 Royal Family Issue. In **Whole No. 102** (May 1953), **E.H. Hiscock** provides in the **Myerson’s** “Trail of the Caribou” column further information which fixes the position of this flaw as Stamp #21. Another flaw is identified by E.H. Hiscock in the same “Trail of the Caribou” column, this time on Stamp #31 of the 48¢ Fishing Fleet of the 1941-44 Reissued Definitives.

Notes on the comb perf. 13.3 variety of the 7¢ Long Coronation set appear in the **Meyerson’s** “Trail of the Caribou” column in **Whole No. 88** (Feb 1952). An extensive review of the perforation varieties of the Long Coronation Issue appears in **Marshall Kay’s** article entitled “*Perforation Varieties in some Later Newfoundland Issues*” in **Whole No. 98** (Jan 1953). A correction to this article appears in The **Meyersons’** “Trail of the Caribou” column in **Whole No. 101** (Apr 1953).

Notes on U.S. Forces Bases in Newfoundland appear in the **Meyerson’s** “Trail of the Caribou” columns in **Whole Nos. 88 & 91** (Feb & May 1952).

The **Meyersons’** “Trail of the Caribou” column in **Whole No. 91** (May 1952) provided information on plate blocks of the 1931-37 and 1938 issues.

The **Meyersons’** “Trail of the Caribou” columns in **Whole Nos. 95 & 96** (Oct & Nov 1952) provided information on partial imperf examples of the 1931-37 and 1938 issues.

The **Editor’s** “Views and Reviews” column in **Whole No. 99** (Feb 1953) reviews the article entitled “*Antlers and Eyes of the Caribou Dies*” by R.J. Sutton which first appeared in the December 19, 1952 issue of “*The Philatelic Magazine*”.

Dan Meyerson’s article entitled “*Newfoundland Plate Blocks*” in **Whole No. 105** (Sept 1953) provides information on Plate Numbers of Newfoundland stamps issued during the KGVI period.

Alex MacMaster reported in the **Meyersons’** “Trail of the Caribou” column in **Whole No. 106** (Oct 1953) that the 7¢ Long Coronation in the scarce comb perf had been found on a first day cover (then corrected to June 25th (1937) in the “Trail of the Caribou” column in **Whole No. 108** (Dec 1953)).

Official Stamps - Overprinted

In **Whole No. 95** (Oct 1952), **Rev John S. Bain’s** column contained a reference to an overprint variety of the current (Revised Issue) 4¢ where the overprinted “G” looks like a “C”.

Philatelic Literature

Updated listings of publications and other philatelic material held at the time in the BNAPS Library can be found in **Whole Nos. 90, 94 & 99** (April & Sept 1952 & Feb 1953) in **Robert J. Duncan’s** articles entitled “Report of the Librarian”, “*The Library*” and “*From the Librarian (Official Section)*” respectively. **E.A. Richardson’s** two part article entitled “*Canadian Philatelic Literature . . . a Working Library*” can be found in **Whole Nos. 102 & 103** (May & June 1953)

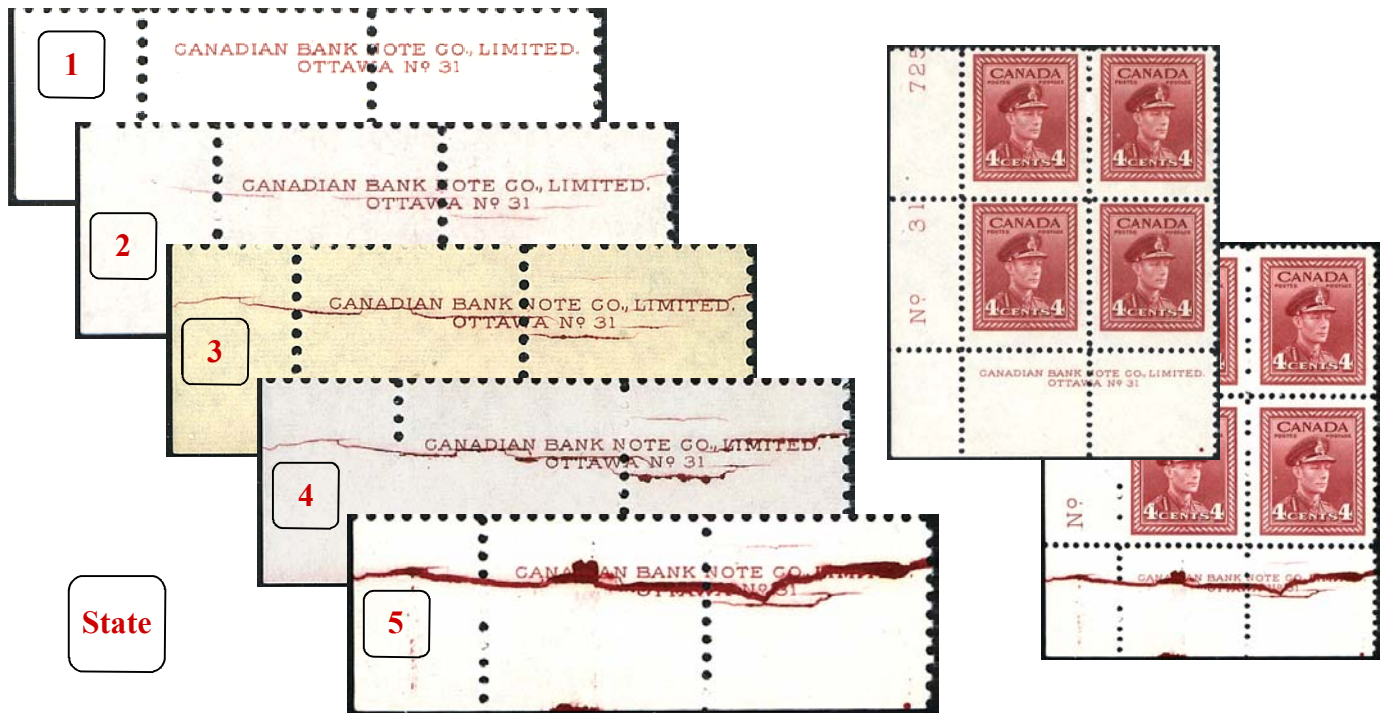
Plate Blocks

In **Whole No. 89** (Mar 1952), **T. B. Higginson** wrote an article entitled “*Control Numbers on George VI Stamps of Canada*” which on the control numbers appearing in side selvages of George VI era plate blocks.

► Cracked Plate - The 1943 4¢ War Issue

by Larry Goldberg

Following my joining the George VI this fall, Stephen sent me Issues 1 to 6 of the Post & Mail. I was interested to see Doug Lingard's Cracked LL Plate No 31 of the 1943 4¢ War Issue stamp. Some years ago I was fortunate enough to have obtained a number of examples of these cracked plates that show the progressive deterioration of Plate 31. Five states are illustrated below. In viewing Doug's plate block in Issue 5, I would estimate it to be somewhere between States 4 and 5 placing it towards the end of the use of Plate 31 in production of this stamp.



► TOPICS Revisited (Part IV - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 9 & 10) ... continued

Postal History

The Editor's "Views and Reviews" column in **Whole No. 99** (Feb 1953) reviews the article entitled "Arctic Postal History" by **John Goldup** which first appeared in the December 1952 issue of "*The Philatelist*".

Post Office History, Correspondence & Regulations

C. Garrett wrote in **Rev. John F. Bain's** column in **Whole No. 96** (Nov 1952), that stamps cancelled by money order or registration marks are not really allowed in Canada but examples of such cancellations can be found from smaller post offices.

Royal Visits

James E. Kraemer's letter to the Editor in **Whole No. 91** (May 1952) illustrates a cover bearing a US postage stamp with a French Type (1951) Royal Train cancel.

J. A. Moore's letter to the Editor in **Whole No. 104** (July 1953) illustrates a cover bearing Canada's 1951 Royal Visit stamp posted on board the S. S. Empress of Scotland and cancelled in Liverpool, England.

Secret (or Hidden) Dates

Item 14 in **R.J. Duncan & G.P. Lewis's** column "Pages from a B.N.A. Scrapbook" in **Whole No. 96** (Nov 1952) describes the discovery of a 1¢ War Issue stamp with a secret date of 1842 (instead of 1942). Reference to this error first appeared in the February 1946 issue of *Mekeel's Weekly*.

► Member's Corner

Study Group members who attended **BNAPEX 2005** in Edmonton included **Mike Street, Mark Issacs, Judith Edwards, John Burnett, Doug Lingard, Hugh Delaney, Robert Hasslewood, Simon Claughton, Gary Steele, Ed Harris, Bill Longley** and **Bill Pawluk** among others. John and Gary were both exhibitors at the Convention while Doug was one of the Exhibit Judges. Gary chaired the Study Group meeting and a number of Members spoke to postal history items they had brought to the meeting.

Doug Lingard, John Munro-Cape, Gene Yount and **Steve Prest** attended the fall meeting of the BNAPS St. Lawrence Seaway Regional Group in Perth, Ontario. Doug gave a short presentation on some fascinating aspects of the 1939 Royal Visit. Steve presented a few items showing the current use of the 1935 pictorials during the King George VI reign.

Larry Goldberg joined the Study Group this fall. Larry published the quarterly periodical "George VI" for a number of years. He has kindly offered to allow articles related to Canadian stamps to be reprinted in future editions of the Post & Mail. **Bruce Field** recently joined our Study Group. Bruce is well known within BNAPS circles for his work on Canadian Precancels and is a co-editor of The Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue 5th Edition. **John Jameison** of Saskatoon Stamp Centre has also recently joined our Study Group. John has already sent some interesting material to be included in future issues of the Post & Mail.

Cecil Stoner also joined our Study Group this past summer but unfortunately, Cecil passed away in October.

John Burnett wrote to say his King George VI Mufti Issue Postal History exhibit was awarded a Vermeil and was judged the best BNA Postal History exhibit at VANPEX 2005.

► Members' Wants

1942 War Issue 1¢ Green John Munro-Cape specializes in the 1¢ War Issue (in all its forms) and is looking to buy/sell/exchange items related to these issues. John can be contacted by mail at RR #3 Picton, Ontario, Canada K0K 2T0 or by telephone at 1-613-476-5133

KGVI Booklets - All Issues Eirwyn Jones is looking to buy/sell/exchange KGVI booklets and has duplicates to offer. Eirwyn can be contacted by mail at 10 Low Green, ATHERTON, Manchester, United Kingdom M46 9HS or by email at jennifer.jones45@btinternet.com

KGVI Used Plate Blocks Ed Harris is interested in used plate blocks for his KGVI collection and has a few duplicates for trade or purchase. Ed can be contacted by mail at 620 75th Ave. NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2K 0P9 or by email at harrise@shaw.ca

► George VI Web Site

Our Study Group's Website was brought on line in November and can be accessed at www.kgvi.ca. Members are encouraged to tell their philatelic contacts and stamp society/club associates about the site and the George VI Study Group.

The Website has a Members-only area in addition to publicly accessible web pages. Features of the Members-only area include a Bulletin Board, a Bibliography of KGVI Canada and Newfoundland philatelic references, a Wants List facility and access to Study Group archive information.

About two thirds of our Study Group Membership have provided your Editor and Webmaster with an email address. These members have been contacted by email and in most cases have obtained their password access to the Members-only area of the website.

If you have an email address but were not contacted about the new website in November, please forward your email address to your Editor who will place you on the Study Group emailing list. Similarly, please let your editor know if you change your email address or if you have recently acquired a new address.

The following information is currently available to Members only off the Website; past issues of the Post & Mail, the KGVI Bibliography - Version 1, Nov. 2005 and selected detailed Want Lists from Members. It is suggested that Members who do not have personal access to the internet can possibly use internet facilities available at their local libraries to access the Study Group's website at www.kgvi.ca.

Finally members are encouraged to follow the contact links to Longley Auctions and Saskatoon Stamp Centre who are supporting members of our Study Group.

1937 - 42 Mufti, Pictorial Issue etc. Gary Steele is looking for covers, proofs, plate blocks, misperfs etc. of all issues in the Mufti period.

Dead Letter Office Covers - All Issues Gary is also looking for DLO covers for the 1937 - 52 period.

KGVI Covers with Foreign Postage Dues Gary is also interested in underpaid Canadian covers to foreign destinations charged/marked Postage Due and paid with foreign dues or regular stamps. Gary can be contacted by mail at 6 Braemont Court, Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada B4E 3A1 or by email at gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca

1949 Postes - Postage OHMS Peter Kritz is looking for O285 & O286 (2 & 3¢ KGVI Poste - Postage issue) on cover. Peter can be contacted by regular mail at RR #3, Hanover, Ontario, Canada, N4N 3B9 or by email at pkritz@coldwellbankerpr.com