



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

January - December 2008

Issue 13

Inside this Issue

A Cover Story -	1
Chairman's Notes	1
EFO's & Varieties	2
Editor's Desk	2
KGVI Era FDCs Part V 1947 Bell Issue	3
Precancelled Stamps	11
EAMS Era - "Please Advise" Message	12
1, 2 & 3¢ 1937 Mufti's - Plates, Papers & Gums	18
Rates to GB & Ireland - Letter to the Editor	25
TOPICS Revisited - Part IX	26
Members' Corner	28
Members' Wants	28

A Well Travelled War Issue Cover to Mexico - by Eldon Godfrey

Despite a very hectic summer, highlighted by a trip to the Beijing Olympic Games, I managed to find time to acquire a few items of interest. Recalling John Burnett's article in Post & Mail Issue 5 about mail to Mexico, I wrote to John thinking that he might be interested in looking at the cover Toronto to Durango, Mexico mailed August 31, 1942 even though it is a "War Issue" cover sent exactly two months following the close of the Mufti period.



The cover is franked with the 1942 20¢ Corvette paying the Air Mail Rate of 10¢ per ¼ ounce plus the 10¢ Registration Fee. It commenced its journey in Toronto Postal Station H August 31st where it received two CDS and a "Boxed R" Registration Marking No. 731. The face of the cover also bears a straight line "PASSED FOR EXPORT" hand-stamp and 406 in script.

At this point, the Censor enters the handling and appears to simply affix the "EXAMINED BY CENSOR" label and strikes the label MONTREAL CANADA 9 SP 2 42 D.&F. DIV (black) on the back (shown on p.2). I have never seen the "D.&F. DIV" strike before. I approached John for his views on the matter and his reply was that on taking a hard look at the "D.&F. DIV" cancel, he believes it is a "B.&F. DIV" cancel which signified the British and Foreign office of the Post Office.

Continued on Page 2

► Chairman's Notes - by Gary Steele

I would like most to look back at their collections of the past year or two and ask yourself how much better your collection is than it was in the past. A lot feel that they may have gone to the max on their collection or their exhibit. However, if you really added more material that may have been better then you can improve your collection or exhibit.

I have been in contact with the Archives via Pascal LeBlond, Project Officer, Philatelic Collections. He has taken over from Simon Morin as I believe Simon has retired. Pascal sent me some photocopies of the posters of the Mufti and 1938 High Value definitives. I recently acquired one of the thirteen cent stamp that he sent upon seeing these photocopies.

Many more items have recently been listed on the Archives with scans at about 300dpi. I urge you all to take a look and see what may be of interest to you. At a later date I will do a few articles on material they have listed that will probably never be in private hands of the 1937 - 1938 issue.

Best wishes for 2009 and hope you are able to find that special item for your collection as the new year progresses.

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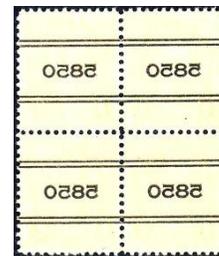
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► EFO's & Varieties

This issue's EFO's & Variety is contributed by **Gary Steele** who sent along a nice example of an 1¢ 1937 Mufti block of four with the Winnipeg (5850) precancel stamps having the overprint ink offset on the reverse side.

**War Issue Cover to Mexico ... (cont'd from pg 1)**

Moving right along, the back stamps then show; 1 strike of SAN ANTONIO TEX REGISTERED SEP 4 1942 (purple), 2 strikes of NOGALES ARIZONA REGISTERED SEP 7 1942 (purple), 2 strikes CORRESP. REGISTRADAS SERVICIO INTERNACIONAL CD JUAREZ CHA SET 10 1942 (blue) and, finally, 1 strike of CORRESPONDENCIAS REGISTRADAS DURANGO DGO SET 1942 (purple).



A total of twelve transit handling markings appear on this delightful cover during its thirteen days of journey August 31 - September 12, 1942. A bit of "silver" sealing wax on the back adds to the questions one might ask about the journey!

► Editor's Desk

This Issue 13 of the Post & Mail features the fifth article in **Gary Dickinson's** series summarizing his research into First Day Covers of the George VI era, this current one dealing with FDC's issued in conjunction with the 1947 Alexander Graham Bell issue. This issue also features Gary's next instalment of the TOPICS Revisited series.

In the second feature article entitled "Provenance of the EAMS Era "Please Advise ..." Message", **Gary Steele** and **Stephen Prest** tackle some of the questions raised in **Doug Lingard's** Cover Story that appeared in Issue 12. The other feature article in this Issue is Stephen's third article summarizing his research into the plates, papers and gums of the 1937 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Stamps.

This issue also features a cover story by **Eldon Godfrey** about the well marked trail of a War issue period cover from Toronto to Mexico. **Mike Street** wrote to the Editor to explain a number of changes that will be made to **John Burnett's** article on Mufti era mail to Great Britain and Ireland which first appeared in Post & Mail Issue 12 and is scheduled to appear in a forthcoming issue of BNA TOPICS.

This will be my last Post & Mail as Editor and I would like to thank all who have contributed articles and comments during my five year tenure. Gary Steele will be taking up the Editorship duties going forward and of course he would welcome the continued support of members in the form of articles and items of interest for future P&M issues.

KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

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Studying King George VI First Day Covers

V. The 1947 Alexander Graham Bell Commemorative Issue

By Gary Dickinson

Introduction

March 3, 1947 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of inventor Alexander Graham Bell, and Canada issued its first single commemorative stamp since prior to World War II to mark the event. This issue was especially significant for Brantford, Ontario where Bell worked on the theories that led him to invent the telephone and where he made the first practical demonstration of his invention. The stamp (Scott No. 274) was 28 x 33 mm., larger than most previous Canadian stamps. It was accompanied by an outpouring of more than 170 different First Day Cover cachets, more than any other issue since the three Royal Visit stamps of 1939 and more than any of the five other commemoratives issued during the late 1940's. This article presents a method for organizing the Bell cachets and highlights a number of them that are of particular interest.

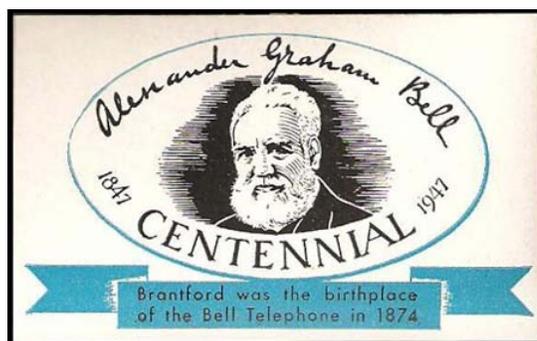


Figure 1. The Official Bell Centennial Logo

Previous Studies

As well as generating a great number of different cachets, the Bell issue has also been studied more extensively than other FDC's of the period. The first to do so was Melvin L. Baron ⁽¹⁾ who in 1980 published an article about the Bell FDC's as one in a series of articles in *First Days* covering all of the Canadian stamp issues of the 1940's. Baron identified 22 different cachets and illustrated five of them. He noted that Brantford was the only official day-of-issue city, and also indicated that FDC's cancelled at other cities were rare and that he had only seen one cover cancelled in another city, Toronto.

Bruce Perkins ⁽²⁾ published a series of four articles on the Bell FDC's in *First Days* in 1992-93. The 60 cachets listed were all illustrated and 24 different day-of-issue cancellations were reported. In an unpublished update of that series of articles, Perkins ⁽³⁾ listed fourteen new cachets and five new first day locations. Bruce Perkins, along with Bob Vogel ⁽⁴⁾ and others, have continued to extend the range of known FDC cachets through their collections. With the assistance of some of those collectors, Gary Dickinson has recently documented the extensive variety of known cachets in a two-part monograph ⁽⁵⁾ accessible on the KG VI Study Group website. (<http://www.kgvi.ca/research.html>)

Organizing the Cachets

The sheer number and variety of cachets produced for the Bell commemorative stamp warranted the development of a system for organizing and classifying them. Baron merely numbered the cachets from 1 to 22, while Perkins started afresh with a new sequence of numbers with occasional alphabetical sub-types (e.g. 13a). Vogel added to the sub-types and sequence started by Perkins, although this numbering scheme became rather difficult to manage as new cachets continued to be discovered. With no numbers in the sequence being reserved for new discoveries and only minimal categorization of the cachets, it became increasingly difficult for a collector to identify the number assigned to a particular cachet from an ever-increasing number of catalogued cachets.

The numbering system used for purposes of this review has been developed for and applied in a series of monographs dealing with the FDC's for the six commemorative stamps issued by Canada between 1947 and 1949. The Bell commemorative was the first of these stamps and the Halifax Bicentennial (Scott No. 283) was the last. In each case, the first three digits of the unique number assigned to each cachet is the Scott catalogue number for the issue (e.g. 274) while the second three digits indicate the major types of cachets (e.g. 301) and the final two digits (e.g. 02) are reserved for minor variations of colour, text, or design. Thus a typical cachet might be identified uniquely as 274.301.02.

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Organizing the Cachets (cont'd)

As the monograph series unfolded, three general categories of major types of FDC's were developed. The first consists of *thematic categories* of cachets. These categories vary from stamp issue to stamp issue and reflect the themes commonly portrayed on the cachet designs. The second general group has been called *standard categories* because these types of cachets appear frequently in a wide variety of different stamp issues. The six standard categories include 1) postcards, 2) hand-drawn or hand-painted cachets, 3) labels or stickers, 4) cachets comprised predominantly of text, 5) rubber stamps, and 6) general purpose cachets. Finally, provision has been made to accommodate the great variety of *uncacheted* FDC's and this group will be described later in this article.

Bell Cachet Categories

A total of 172 distinct cachets have been recorded to date for the Bell Centennial issue, and as Table I shows, 63% of them are in thematic categories and 37% are in standard categories. The thematic category includes 34 cachets featuring portraits of Bell, with eleven of them using the official Centennial logo (shown in Figure 1), two showing portraits of Bell in his young adult years, and the majority (28 cachets) showing an older, bearded portrait. The Bell homestead near Brantford was shown on eighteen cachets while telephone technology was the focus of twelve. An extensive series of cachets produced in cooperation with the City of Brantford comprised 23 of the known cachets while twelve featured miscellaneous themes. The standard group of cachets included 37 general purpose cachets that were used for several stamp issues in addition to the Bell commemorative, fourteen hand-drawn or hand-painted cachets, seven postcards, and seven cachets comprised solely or mainly of text.

The large number of cachets produced for this issue may be attributable at least in part to the widespread interest in and popularity of the stamp's subject, Alexander Graham Bell, in both the United States and Canada. Some cachets that had been produced in 1940 for a United States stamp (Scott No. 893) honouring Bell were also used as FDC's for the Canadian Bell Centennial commemorative in 1947, while a large number of cachets were clearly American either in origin or content, including several from the "Famous Americans" series and a number of patriotic covers used originally in WW II. The effort organized in the City of Brantford to engage community businesses and organizations in using envelopes to celebrate the anniversary also generated a large number of cachets.

TABLE I

CATEGORIES OF CACHETS FOR CANADA'S BELL CENTENNIAL ISSUE

<u>Category</u>	<u>Category No.</u>	<u>No. of Cachets</u>
Thematic Categories:		
Bell Portraits		
Centennial Logo	274.100	11
Younger Bell	.130	2
Older Bell	.150	28
Bell Homestead	.200	18
Telephone Technology	.300	13
City of Brantford	.400	23
Miscellaneous themes	500	12
Standard Categories:		
Postcards	274.600	7
Hand-Drawn or Painted	.650	14
Predominantly Text	.800	7
General Purpose	.900	37
Total		<u>172</u>

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Bell Portraits

As would be expected, portraits of Bell appeared prominently on many cachets and were present on many others in a subsidiary way. The official Centennial logo included a portrait of Bell within an oval and is shown in Figure 1. The logo was used alone on a number of cachets and with additional design elements on others. A variation of the logo included a 5 mm. square portraying the original telephone to the left of Bell's head and a similarly-sized 1947 model telephone to the right.

Only two cachets are known with portraits of Bell as a young man, and those were published by Art Craft and Henry Ioor. More commonly observed are portraits of the older Bell such as that shown in Figure 2, which has the distinction of being the only bilingual (French-English) cachet printed exclusively for the Bell commemorative. The same, or a very similar, portrait appears on the majority of cachets featuring the older Bell.

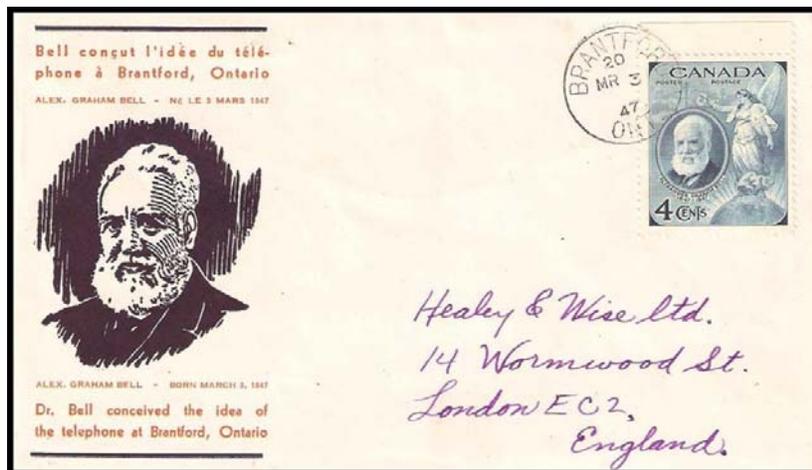


Figure 2. Bilingual cachet featuring a portrait of the older Bell and addressed to London, England with a Brantford first-day CDS cancellation.

Bell Homestead

The Bell homestead at Brantford was depicted on eighteen cachets which showed photographic renderings or drawings of the front and sides of the house from various angles. The cachet shown as Figure 3 features a frontal, photographic version. Similar cachets were produced by the Canadian Philatelic Society and the Brantford Stamp Club.

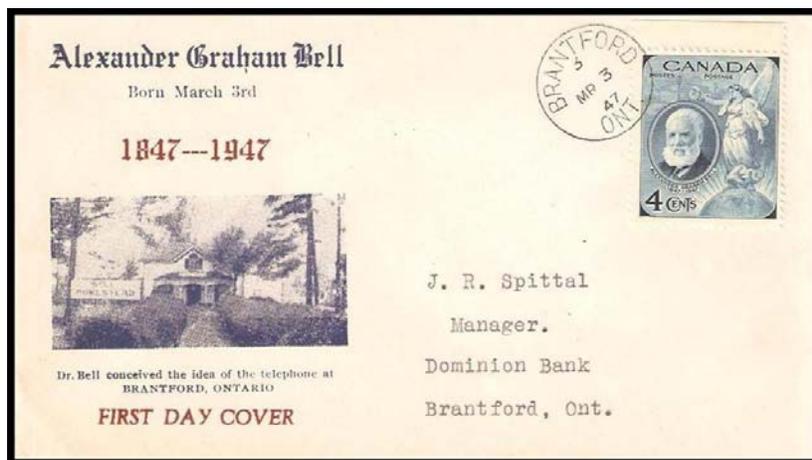


Figure 3. Cachet showing the Bell homestead at Brantford, ON on a drop letter with Brantford first-day CDS cancellation.

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Telephone Technology

Figure 3 shows but one example from thirteen cachets featuring telephone technology in various ways. This Stephen Anderson cachet was produced originally for the U.S. stamp honouring Bell but was drawn into service for the Canadian stamp seven years later. It shows the first telephone placed on a pedestal with the base containing biographical notes about Bell. Other cachets showed various iterations of the telephone over the years from the time of its invention to 1947.



Figure 4. The first telephone is featured on this unaddressed FDC by Stephen Anderson with a Brantford first day CDS cancellation.

City of Brantford

One of the more interesting sets of cachets produced for the Bell commemorative originated in the City of Brantford, likely as part of an official City initiative to publicize the Centennial. Bob Vogel has identified 57 different versions of the Brantford cachet to this point, and fresh ones continue to emerge periodically. The versions all share a common basic design featuring an all-over blue cachet describing the Centennial and containing a number of graphic elements such as telephone poles and lines, a telephone, and the City of Brantford Coat of Arms. A wide range of community businesses and departments of the municipal government served as cachet sponsors, and the example shown as Figure 5 was sponsored by the Ruddy Freeborn Company. The Hamilton Philatelic Society was the only known sponsor outside of Brantford. Usage of the cachets started on March 3, 1947 and continued into the summer of that year.



Figure 5. Standard City of Brantford all-over cachet sponsored by Ruddy Freeborn Co. Limited, with Brantford day-of-issue CDS cancellation, addressed to Petrolia, ON.

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Postcards

Postcards and maxi-cards were the basis for at least seven different FDC's accompanying the Bell commemorative stamp. Figure 6 shows a Folkard postcard of the Bell homestead and museum with substantial text, while other Folkard cards showed the Bell Memorial and a portrait of Bell himself. A set of four PECO (Photogelatine Engraving Company Limited) cards showed Brantford scenes on the obverse and information about a banquet honouring Bell on the reverse.

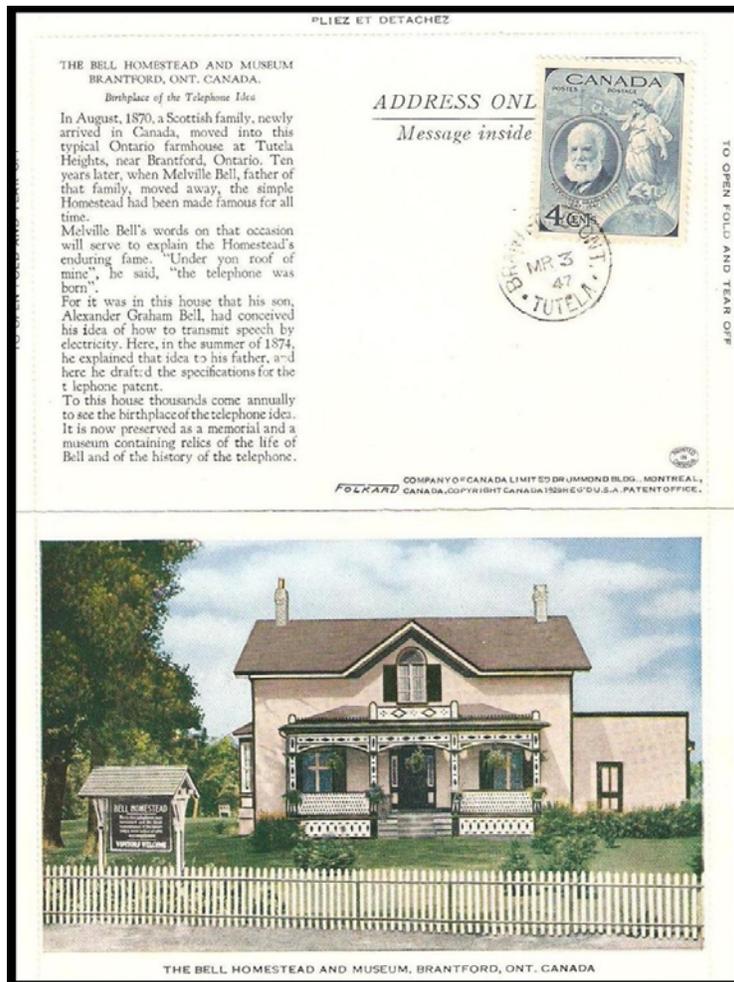


Figure 6. Unfolded and unaddressed Folkard postcard showing the Bell homestead with related text with day-of-issue cancellation at Brantford Tutela sub post-office.

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Miscellaneous Themes

A dozen cachets with a variety of themes not fitting into any of the above categories were produced specifically for the Bell commemorative. The one illustrated as Figure 6 is a modified version of a William H. Talbot general purpose cachet. The basic design elements common to many Talbot cachets included the Canadian Coat of Arms and the legend "First Day Cover." Added for the Bell stamp was a two-line statement about the purpose of the issue. Other cachet designs in this miscellaneous category included depictions of the Bell stamp, the Statue of Liberty, a bell, a maple leaf, and a business corner card with additional Bell-related text and graphics.



Figure 7. William H. Talbot general purpose cachet modified with the addition of Bell-specific text at bottom right, addressed to Winnipeg with Brantford CDS first-day cancellations.

Hand-Drawn or Painted

Some fourteen cachets consisted of hand-made designs of various types ranging from relatively crude drawings of a telephone to fairly elaborate compositions in water-colours, pen and ink drawings, or typescript. The example shown in Figure 8 is a neatly drawn and lettered pen and ink creation in blue and black. The most elegant cachet is a signed, multi-coloured, water-colour painting by Dorothy Knapp featuring such diverse elements as a cloud bank, lightning bolt, angel, globe, telephone lines and poles, a telephone, and a banner with Bell's name.

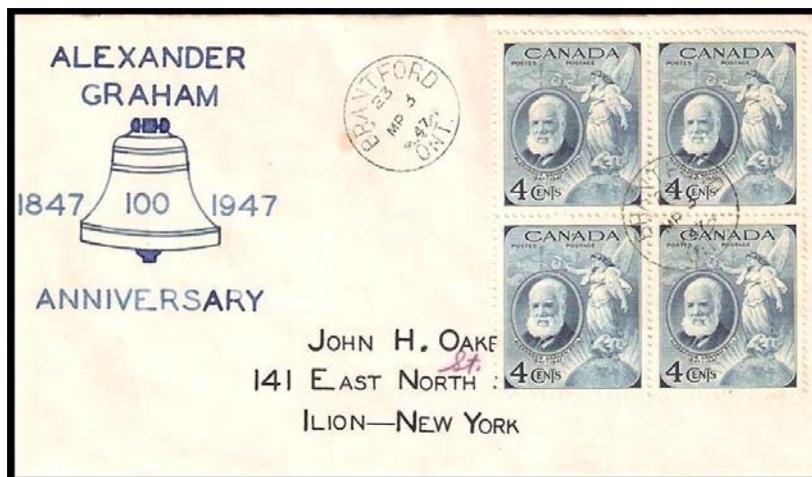


Figure 8. Hand-drawn, inked cachet addressed to Ilion, New York with a Brantford first-day CDS cancellation.

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Predominantly Text

A few cachets consisted entirely of text, with no graphic elements to their design. The example shown in Figure 9 is a Vallotton cachet with a simple legend. Others included text ranging from two to thirteen lines.

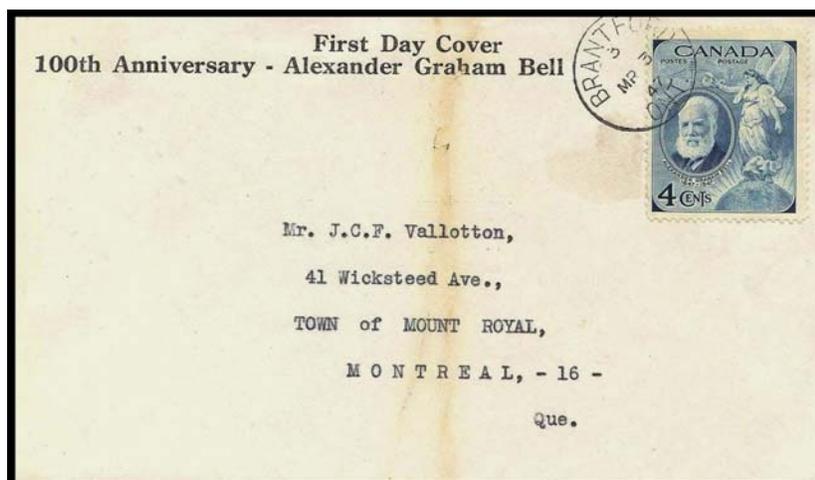


Figure 9. A Vallotton cachet comprised of text only, addressed to Montreal and with a Brantford first-day CDS cancellation.

General Purpose

The largest single category of cachets was the general purpose group. There were 37 such cachets identified for the Bell issue, substantially more than was normally the case for other stamp issues in the same era. The illustration in Figure 10 is a red version of Canada's Coat of Arms with "First Day Cover" printed below it. Included in this group were several cachets produced by stamp clubs, seven patriotic cachets held over from WW II, several with a plain, printed "First Day Cover", a few generic designs from the U.S., and a host of other designs that could have been used for any stamp issue.

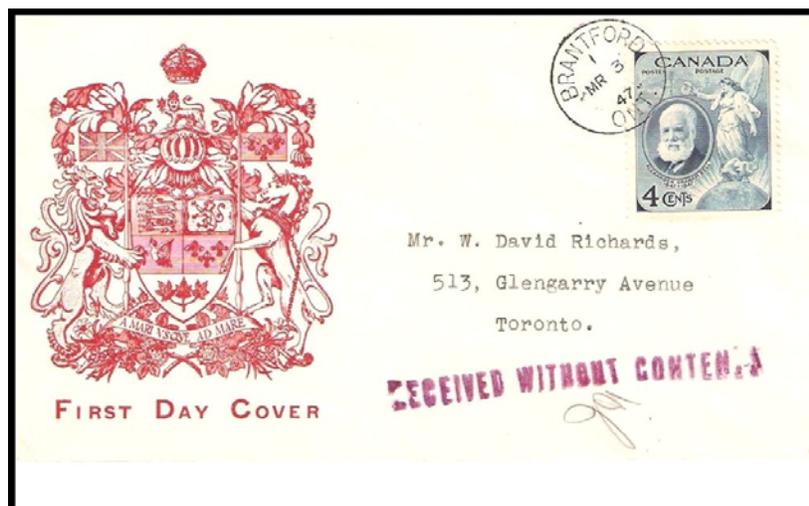


Figure 10. A red general purpose cachet featuring Canada's Coat of Arms, addressed to Toronto and postmarked with a Brantford March 3, 1947 CDS and a rubber-stamped "Received Without Contents."

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Uncacheted FDC's

Uncacheted FDC's were not normally produced in quantity and many of them may be unique. Consequently, an attempt to classify and describe them in detail would likely prove to be unrewarding. The approach that was adopted was a two-step process that first sorts the uncacheted but postmarked FDC's into business covers and personal-use covers, then further subdivides each of those two groups according to the nature of the first day message each contains: typed, written or printed, and no message. Uncacheted FDC's may be collectable for a number of reasons related to such factors as the cover itself, the franking, or the town where it was postmarked. The example shown as Figure 11 is a typed, personal-use cover that was signed by the Brantford Postmaster of the day.



Figure 11. Uncacheted FDC with a Brantford day-of-issue CDS and signed by H. J. Hartley who was Postmaster from 1933 to 1949.

Day-of-Issue Locations

Brantford, Ontario was a natural choice for the official release of Canada's Bell commemorative stamp, and the vast majority of first day cancellations are from that city. At the time, the demand for these FDC's was high, to the extent that a note in the *C.P.S. Bulletin* in March, 1947 indicated that "...the Brantford Post Office was snowed under for days before all the requests received could be complied with." (6) The local newspaper, the Brantford Expositor, reported that more than 147,000 first day cancellations were made at the Post Office.

Although first day cancellations from other cities and towns appear infrequently, a total of 46 different unofficial first day cancellations currently are known for locations ranging alphabetically from Batawa to Winnipeg and geographically from British Columbia to Quebec, although no strikes from the Atlantic Provinces have been observed.

... George VI FDC's - V The 1947 Bell Commemorative

by Gary Dickinson

Conclusion

New cachets for the Bell Centennial commemorative are continuing to emerge more than 60 years after the stamp was issued, and several philatelists have contributed to ensuring that as many as possible are documented and classified. The most complete listing prepared to date is obtainable at the King George VI Study Group website. The current article has barely scratched the surface of the diverse range of cachets that were published in 1947, and the passing of time will undoubtedly continue to yield new discoveries to add to those currently known.

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 - Part II: *Cachet Catalogue*. Vol. 37, No. 6 (September, 1992), pp. 471-473.
 - Part III: *Cachet Catalogue, Types 13-30*. Vol. 37, No. 8 (December, 1992), pp. 639-641.
 - Part IV: *Cachet Catalogue, Types 31-60*. Vol. 38, No. 2 (March, 1993), pp. 132-136.
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- (4) Vogel, Robert D. *Personal Communications*, various dates.
- (5) Dickinson, Gary. *First Day Covers of the 1947 Canada Bell Commemorative Issue*. FDC Monograph No. 6, Parts I and II, Edition 2, January, 2008.
- (6) Anonymous. "New Bell Issue Well Received." *The C.P.S. Bulletin*, March, 1947, p. 2.

Precancelled Stamps - One Cent War Issue Cracked Plate & Warning Strip

The last time a precancelled Warning Strip was featured in a Post & Mail it was a lower left block of 20 1¢ Mufti with the Yorkton, Saskatchewan MOON (7977) overprint in Issue 6, January-June 2005. It seems that there was an avid collector of precancelled stamps in Yorkton during the 1940's as the example below of also comes from that same post office, albeit in this case the Warning Strip is on a lower left pane of the 1942 1¢ War Issue.

A nice feature of this particular block is that it is also a cracked plate, Plate No. 20 LL. Cracked Plate No. 20 LL has catalogue status but one wonders how many may have survived in the precancelled form.



Plate 6 Lower Left Pane of the 1942 1¢ War Issue overprinted for issue as precancelled stamps with the Yorkton, Saskatchewan Money Order Office Number (7977) - (Courtesy of Stephen Prest)

Provenance of the EAMS Era “PLEASE ADVISE...” Message

by *Stephen F Prest & Gary Steele*

Introduction

The Issue 12 Post & Mail Cover Story by **Doug Lingard** ⁽¹⁾ dealing with a letter sent to Australia during the brief period in 1939 that Empire Air Mail Scheme rates were in effect to that country was the subject of comments on the part of Study Group members **Mike Street** and **Gary Steele**, particularly the provenance of the hand-stamped message “PLEASE ADVISE YOUR CORRESPONDENTS THAT THE LETTER RATE FROM CANADA IS SIX CENTS PER HALF OUNCE” which appears on many covers sent to EAMS destinations in the 1938-39 period.

To briefly recap Doug’s article, the “PLEASE ADVISE...” message on the cover he reviewed appeared to overlay cancellations applied in Montreal and Sydney, Australia but also appeared to be partially covered by an “UNCLAIMED AT WILLIAMS ST.” (also in Sydney) handstamp. From this, Doug concluded that the “PLEASE ADVISE...” message hand-stamp was applied by Australian Postal Authorities.

Shortly after receiving Issue 12, Mike wrote to offer the following comment: “... the same cachet appears in Issue 12 on the cover on page 12 bottom and page 14 bottom, and another cover with the same cachet to another country turned up on eBay last week. I think that Doug has misinterpreted the placing of the ink. I'm quite sure that these cachets were all applied in Canada.”. Similarly, Gary wrote to say “There are several similar “PLEASE ADVISE...” handstamps used to many countries and I believe most were applied prior to being sent to England or in England once the mail was determined to go via the EAMS. The reason for this statement is that I have many covers to other countries with the same handstamp which implies a similar destination (location) where (it was) applied.”

Doug posed a number of questions in his article which he suggested might form the basis of further study by Study Group members. This present article reviews some additional background surrounding the EAMS, provides some insight into the use of the “PLEASE ADVISE...” message and serves as a basis for expansion of research into the use of this handstamp.

Canada’s Participation in the Empire Air Mail Scheme

BNAPSer **Walter Plomish** wrote an article on the EAMS in BNA TOPICS ⁽²⁾ in which he cites information drawn from the January 29, 1938 Canadian Post Office Weekly Bulletin and March 11, 1939 Weekly Supplement. Walter’s article describes two stages of Canada’s entry into the EAMS. The first EAMS stage started February 23, 1938 for service beyond England for letter mail to certain Empire countries and destinations in Africa, the Middle East, India, Malaya, Straits Settlements, North Borneo and Sarawak. The second stage commenced April 1, 1939 for EAMS service extended to Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands and Territories. Gary’s research reveals Canada announced that “Iraq and Kuwait are now included in the Empire “ALL-UP” air mail scheme ...” ⁽³⁾ effective June 3, 1939, in essence, adding these two destinations as a third stage for EAMS service from Canada.

One important note in the March 11, 1939 Weekly Supplement indicates that “The Department reserves the option of sending letter mails (to Australia, New Zealand etc.) by surface means whenever delivery can be accelerated.” It should be noted that the Post Office would still require the 6¢ per half ounce rate be paid in these cases, i.e. the former 3¢ per ounce surface rate was not an option available to Canadians sending mail to EAMS destinations. Rather, sending mail franked at the 6¢ per half ounce rate by surface means was simply an option reserved by the Post Office.

Walter’s article contains two examples of the “PLEASE ADVISE...” message on cover. Little background about this handstamp is given in Walter’s article other than to note that “A hand stamp was also issued to postmasters with instructions that it be used in lieu of short-paid charges till May 1, 1940”. Walter does not provide any reference to the date these handstamps were first used but it is clear from his article, the handstamp was applied by Canadian postal authorities. Assuming the date May 1, 1940 is correctly quoted, it would appear that in February 1938, the Post Office expected the EAMS service would remain in effect for a period of at least two+ years.

There were some 8000 post offices operating in Canada at the time but it is unlikely and impractical to think that these “PLEASE ADVISE...” hand-stamps were issued to every one. The question remains then, is it possible to compile a list of Canadian post offices that used the handstamp and what was the first known use of the handstamp from each location? Finally, given that there may be more than one of these handstamps used during the 1938-39 EAMS period, are there any differences that might be identified between individual handstamps?

These questions were put to BNAPSers **Brian Plain** and **Gray Scimgeour** who kindly responded “Gray and I have taken a look at your notes and scans and it is our perception that the “PLEASE ADVISE...” handstamp was applied in Montreal. Montreal (British and Foreign Division) was the gateway through which Canadian mail entered the EAMS. In essence, the first leg of any trip was Montreal-London (surface) and from there “all up” to Empire destinations.”

... “PLEASE ADVISE...” Message

by Stephen Prest & Gary Steele

Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp

With the preceding background in mind, we turned to the question - Could more than one “Please Advise...” handstamp be identified? Figure 1 shows an example of the “Please Advise” message handstamp which has been designated as Type I. This example (courtesy of John Burnett) appears at first glance to show a portion of the Vancouver dater overlaying the hand-stamp message itself, indicating this particular handstamp might have been applied in Vancouver. On closer examination the colouration of the letters ANA in CANADA all appear to overlay the ring as shown in the enlarged portion of Figure 1. In Gary’s experience, it is very difficult to distinguish the order in which a series of cancellations or markings have been applied to a cover. This is particularly so if one is dealing with those applied with black ink as this colour dominates regardless of the order of application. Returning to our example below, on balance, it cannot be concluded that the “Please Advise...” message was applied in Vancouver.

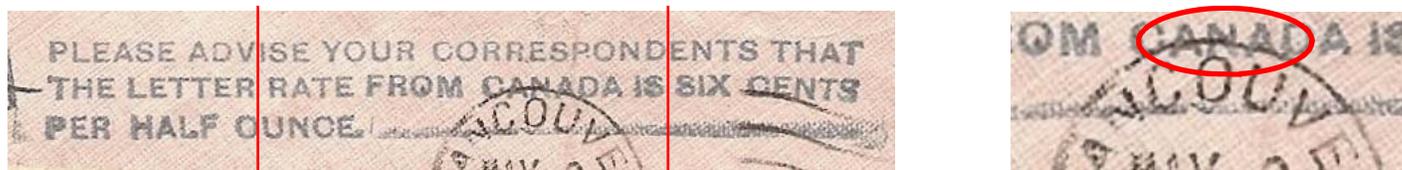


Figure 1 Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp (76 x 9 mm) ...(Courtesy of John Burnett)

The printing of the Type I “PLEASE ADVISE...” handstamp measures 76mm across by 9 mm deep in black ink. Two (red) vertical lines have been overlaid onto Figure 1 to assist in illustrating the vertical alignment of the text for this (Type I) handstamp. As of this writing, the Type I handstamp is the only one identified even though it appears the message has appeared on mail emanating from various post offices across Canada. Perhaps other Study Group members may have examples of this handstamp with identifiable differences.

Letters sent to Initial EAMS Destinations (as of February 23, 1938)

Table 1 below describes five letters sent to various initial EAMS destinations between late February 1938 and mid July 1939. All four seem to have the same (Type I) “Please Advise...” handstamp. A very early letter and usage of the “Please Advise” handstamp, mailed from Orillia to India on February 26, 1938, is described by Plomish⁽²⁾. This letter is a bit odd in that 6¢ in postage was affixed so this may indicate the letter might have weighed more than ½ ounce.

A second example of early use is found on a letter postmarked March 1, 1938 mailed from Ottawa to Southern Rhodesia (Figure 2). This particular cover contained the letter addressed to a Mr. Hickman the contents of which are of interest to students of King George VI Postal History. The letter was originally dated 27th February 1938 and the sender, Mr. G. Douglas Currie had intended to enclose some view cards and send the letter by registered mail. He subsequently added a postscript to his letter as follows:

“Post Script. 1st March 1938. I took this letter to the G.P.O. intending to register same, but was advised that a new Air Mail Rate is charged to S.A. and letters weighing ½ ounce are chargeable @ 6¢ per ½oz. and having enclosed a series of View Cards of The Dominion the weight of my letter was 2ozs. Registration would amount to 24¢, so I am sure you will understand why I am not enclosing said cards.

This new rate means that if I sent you the picture plaques I had intended doing that their weight and postage charges would be far greater than the cost of the plaques. So I do hope you will not think me a stingy person, but it does seem absurd to have perforce to send per AIR MAIL RATES. GDC.

Mr. Currie’s postscript gives us an interesting insight into the early days of the Post Office’s new EAMS service. At some point between writing the letter February 27th and then adding his postscript on March 1st, he must have affixed 15¢ in postage to cover the former rate for a registered letter mailed to a British Empire destination and weighing up to 2 ounces. Once he learned that the rate would be 24¢, he elected to write his postscript, remove some of the letter contents and send it off as a letter weighing up to one ounce with the 15¢ in postage already affixed paying the 12¢ EAMS rate.

Somewhere along its path, the ‘Please Advise’ handstamp was applied (with purple ink) even though there was sufficient postage affixed. As the handstamp is not tied in an identifiable way, it is not possible to determine where it may have been applied.

... “PLEASE ADVISE...” Message

by Stephen Prest & Gary Steele

Table 1: Canadian Letters to Initial EAMS Destinations as of February 23, 1938			
Origin & Destination	Type & (Ink)	Observations	Comments
Orillia, Ontario (February 26, 1938) India	Type I (n/a) (black & white image prevents confirmation of colour)	“PLEASE ADVISE...” message untied by postal markings but covered by hand written redirection message applied in India; Letter bears 6¢ in Canadian postage but no indication of postage due.	It appears the “PLEASE ADVISE...” message was applied prior to arrival in India; not clear why the message was needed unless the letter weighed more than one half ounce in which case postage due of 60 centimes should have been indicated. (Ref: Plomish) ⁽²⁾
Ottawa, Ontario (March 1, 1938) Southern Rhodesia	Type I (Violet)	“PLEASE ADVISE...” message is untied on cover. Postage Due of 30 centimes indicated.	In contents letter, Sender indicates he requested surface mail but was advised by the Post Office that EAMS rates would apply; Not possible to determine where the “PLEASE ADVISE...” was applied. (Courtesy: S. F. Prest).
Niagara Falls, Ontario (September 4, 1938) Kenya	Type I (Violet)	“PLEASE ADVISE...” message is untied on cover. Postage Due of 4 cents (Canadian) indicated.	Not possible to determine where the “PLEASE ADVISE...” was applied (Courtesy: Gary Steele)
Centralia, Ontario (December 7, 1938) South Africa	Type I (Violet)	“PLEASE ADVISE...” message is untied on cover by Canadian postal markings but is tied by numerous markings applied in South Africa. Postage Due of 30 centimes indicated.	Not possible to determine where the “PLEASE ADVISE...” was applied in Canada but it would appear it was applied before arrival in South Africa (Courtesy: Gary Steele)
Toronto, Ontario (July 21, 1939) Egypt	Type I (Black)	“PLEASE ADVISE...” message is untied on cover. Postage Due of 70 centimes indicated.	Not possible to determine where the “PLEASE ADVISE...” was applied (Ref: Gary Steele) ⁽³⁾

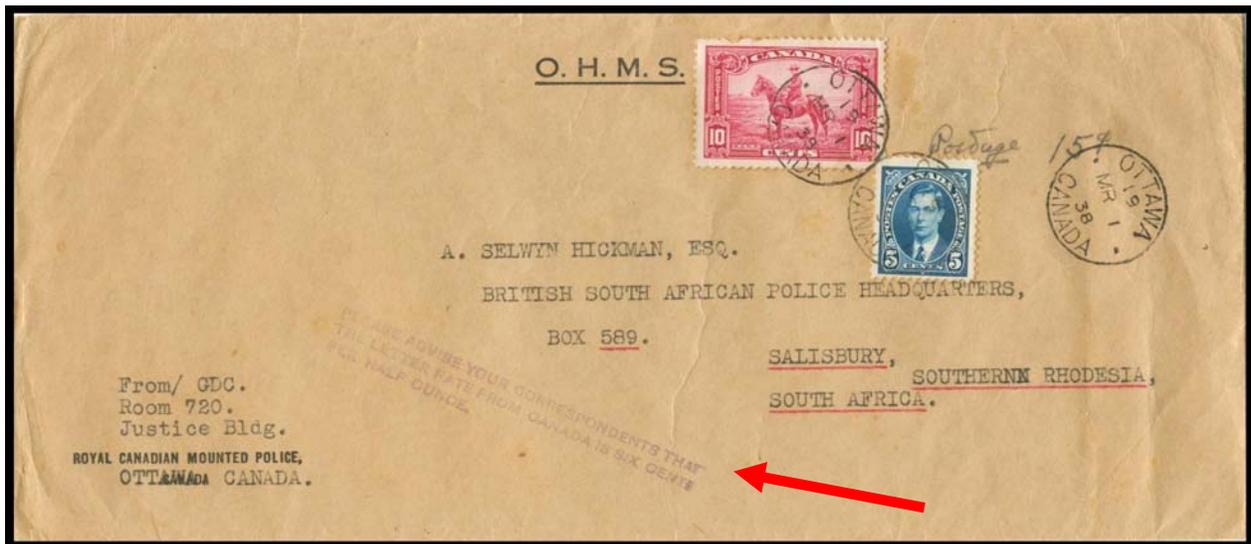


Figure 2: Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp applied to a letter mailed March 1, 1938 to Southern Rhodesia franked with a 1935 10¢ “Mountie” Pictorial and a 1937 5¢ “Mufti” which overpaid the 12¢ rate for a letter weighing up to one ounce sent to an EAMS destination

... “PLEASE ADVISE...” Message

by Stephen Prest & Gary Steele

Letters sent to Initial EAMS Destinations (as of February 23, 1938) cont'd

The third example listed on Table 1 was mailed from Niagara Falls, Ontario September 4, 1938 to Kenya. The violet “Please Advise...” handstamp is untied on cover and so no hint there as to where it was applied (see Figure 3). The fourth example was posted in Centralia, Ontario December 7, 1938 addressed to Cape Town, South Africa. In this case the violet handstamp is clearly tied with numerous markings applied in South Africa (see Figure 4). The fifth example meanwhile was mailed from Toronto to a destination in Egypt on July 21, 1939 which was near the end of the EAMS period. The handstamp was applied with black ink in this case but was not tied to any Canadian or Egyptian postal markings.

To summarize the five letters listed on Table 1 all show examples of Type I “Please Advise...” handstamps on mail sent to a variety of initial EAMS destinations. These letters were hand-stamped from the first days of the EAMS service period from Canada (Orillia - February 26, 1938) to late in the service period (Toronto July 21, 1939).

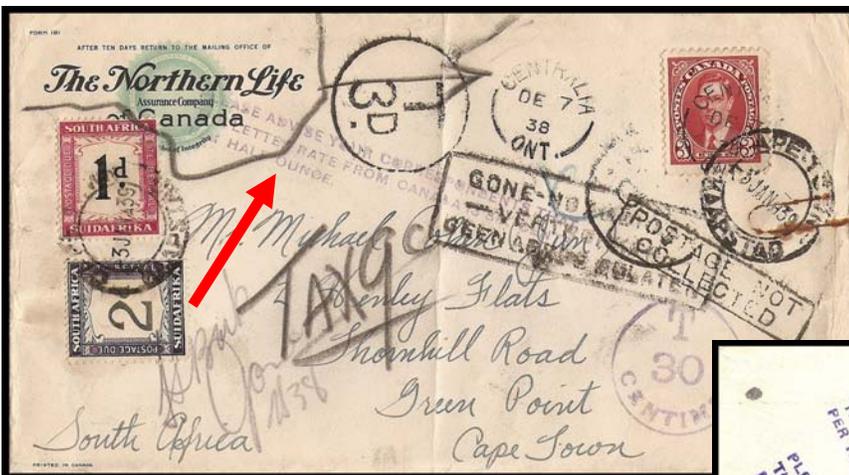


Figure 4 Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp applied to a letter mailed December 7, 1938 to South Africa franked with a 1937 3¢ “Mufti” which underpaid the 6¢ rate for a letter weighing up to one-half ounce sent to an EAMS destination



Figure 3 Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp applied to a letter mailed September 4, 1938 to Kenya franked with 1937 1¢ & 3¢ Mufti’s which underpaid the 6¢ rate for a letter weighing up to one-half ounce sent to an EAMS destination



Figure 5 Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp applied to a letter mailed July 21, 1939 to Egypt franked with a 1937 4 & 5¢ “Mufti” and two 1939 1¢ “Royal Visit” which underpaid the 18¢ rate for a letter weighing up to one & one-half ounce sent to an EAMS destination

... “PLEASE ADVISE...” Message

by Stephen Prest & Gary Steele

Letters sent to Hong Kong & Australasian EAMS Destinations (as of April 1, 1939)

Table 2 below describes three letters sent to Australian and New Zealand destinations in May 1939. All three appear to have the same (Type I) “Please Advise...” handstamp applied, the two from Vancouver being in violet (purple) while the one from Montreal is in black.

The first was mailed from Vancouver May 9, 1939 to a small town in New South Wales, Australia. This letter is the clearest example identified in this study that shows the “Please Advise...” Type I hand-stamp. (Figures 1 & 6). The second example is the one reviewed by Doug Lingard’s Cover Story article in Issue 12. In both cases, evidence as to where exactly the “Please Advise...” message was applied remains inconclusive.

The third example provides some clues to the question posed in Doug’s article which was whether someone could request that a letter be sent by surface means to an EAMS destination at the former rates for first class letters of 3¢ for the first ounce, 2¢ for each additional ounce. This letter was mailed from Vancouver to New Zealand May 20th 1939 with the sender clearly indicating that the preferred transmission routing was to be via surface mail the S/S. Monowai (see Figure 7). As reviewed earlier in this article, the Post Office reserved the right to transmit letters to New Zealand and Australia via surface means but still required the EAMS rate of 6¢ per ½ oz. to be paid on such letter. The example of the letter mailed to New Zealand shown in Figure 7 provides a nice confirmation that this policy was followed.

Table 2: Canadian Letters to Hong Kong & Australasian EAMS Destinations as of April 1, 1939

Origin & Destination	Type & (Ink)	Observations	Comments
Vancouver, (May 9, 1939) Australia	Type I (Black)	“Please Advise...” message appears it might have been applied before cancellation in Vancouver (Wavy Line) machine cancel. Postage Due of 90 centimes indicates letter weighed between ½ and 1 ounce.	Evidence not conclusive that the “Please Advise...” handstamp was applied in Vancouver before being processed through a wavy line cancellation machine. (Courtesy: John Burnett)
Montreal, Quebec (May 12, 1939) Australia	Type I (Black)	“Please Advise...” message appears to tie Montreal & Sydney cancellations but appears to underlay an “Unclaimed at Williams St.” (Sydney) hand-stamp.	This example appears to indicate the “Please Advise...” hand-stamp Might have been applied after arrival in Sydney, Australia. (Ref: Doug Lingard ⁽¹⁾)
Vancouver, (May 20, 1939) New Zealand	Type I (Violet)	“PLEASE ADVISE...” message is untied on cover. Postage Due of 30 centimes indicated. This letter has surface routing via the S/S. Monowai requested by the sender.	Not possible to determine where the “PLEASE ADVISE...” was applied. The fact the letter was subject to the higher EAMS rates despite the request for surface transmission confirms Post Office policy in this regard. (Courtesy: S. F. Prest)

Letters sent to Iraq & Kuwait EAMS Destinations (as of June 3, 1939)

No covers to Iraq & Kuwait bearing the “Please Advise...” message have been identified as of this writing.

Discussion & Conclusions

A review of eight covers bearing the “Please Advise...” handstamp impressions reveal no noticeable differences in typesetting or size despite the use of this handstamp over a seventeen month period between late February 1938 to July 1939. Further, the eight examples illustrated in the study were found on covers originating from a variety of major and minor post offices across Canada and were sent to a variety of EAMS destination countries ranging from those located in Eastern and Southern Africa, India, New Zealand and Australia. The first confirmed use of the Please Advise hand-stamp is on a cover mailed February 26, 1938, just three days after the commencement of the EAMS service by the Canadian Post Office.

The ink colour of most of the “Please Advise...” hand-stamps impressions are found to be in a variety of violet (or light purple) shades. Three covers, bearing a Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver post mark respectively feature the impression in black.

... “PLEASE ADVISE...” Message

by Stephen Prest & Gary Steele

Discussion & Conclusions (cont'd)

Subject to further information that may come to light, preliminary conclusions that can be drawn at this stage from the information presented herein include:

- Given that only a single (Type I) handstamp has been identified to date despite having been sent to a variety of EAMS destination countries, one can conclude these markings are Canadian in origin. This conclusion is supported by the early appearance of this handstamp which indicates the handstamp was produced by the Post Office well in advance of the start of Canada's participation in the EAMS service.
- Also, given the consistency of the handstamp characteristics, it would seem likely that only a limited number of these “Please Advise...” handstamps were produced for use prior to dispatch by surface mail to England. From the examples examined so far, only Vancouver has been identified as one possible post office to have used the “Please Advise...” handstamp but while the evidence is inconclusive, this would be consistent with its role as a dispatch port for mail destined to Australia and New Zealand. Anecdotal evidence indicates that Montreal (British & Foreign Office) used the handstamp but examples are still to be positively identified.
- By extension, one would think it unlikely that the smaller post offices such as Orillia, Niagara Falls and Centralia would have had these hand-stamps in service. Rather mail from these post offices would have been directed to the major centres such as Montreal where mail for EAMS destinations would be collected for dispatch.
- Finally, as for the unusual example described by Doug Lingard in Issue 12, one possible explanation may be that the “Please Advise...” message might have been added to the cover upon its return to Canada. This might explain why the marking overlays both the Sydney and Montreal cancellation. It is noted that both the Williams St. and the “Please Advise...” message are in black on this cover which makes it quite difficult to differentiate which of the two overlays the other.

Much remains to be discovered regarding the provenance and use of the Please Advise...” handstamp during the EAMS period. Hopefully Study Group members will be able to add to the information presented here, particularly whether other handstamp designs can be identified and use at Canadian post offices can be positively identified. Study Group members are encouraged to send their findings to Gary or Stephen for compilation and publication in future issues of the Post & Mail.



Figure 6 Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp applied to a letter mailed May 9, 1939 to Australia franked with a 1937 3¢ “Mufti” which underpaid the 12¢ rate for a letter weighing up to one ounce sent to an EAMS destination

Figure 7 Type I “Please Advise...” Handstamp applied to a letter mailed May 20, 1939 to New Zealand franked with a 1939 3¢ “Royal Visit” which underpaid the 6¢ rate for a letter weighing up to one-half ounce sent to an EAMS destination



- References: (1) “An Interesting 3¢ Mufti Era Cover to Australia”, D. Lingard, *Post & Mail Issue 12, July-December 2007, p 1*
 (2) “Canada Joins the Empire Air Mail Scheme”, W. R. Plomish, *BNA TOPICS, Vol 49, Whole No. 461, Sept-Oct 1992, pp 22-26*
 (3) “_EMPIRE ‘ALL-UP’ AIR MAIL SCHEME_” *Canada Post Office Weekly Bulletin, June 3, 1939*

The Plates, Papers & Gums of the 1937 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Issues

by Stephen Prest

Summary

This paper reviews a series of studies of the 1937 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ “Mufti” stamps of Canada which dealt with visually observable differences of the plates, papers and gums of these three issues. Some 900 plate blocks spanning forty-eight printing plates of the three issues combined form the basis of this study. An approximate time line for the production of each of the 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti printing plates between 1937 and 1942 is put forward based on analysis of Post Office Control Number information.

Two Selvedge types, Narrow and Normal were identified. The results of this study suggest that the Narrow Selvedge variety sheets of these Mufti stamps were predominantly produced in the 1937-38 period. The Narrow Selvedge variety occurs more frequently in the case of the 1¢ Mufti stamp where 25% of the plate blocks examined were found with Narrow Selvedge. About 9% of the 2¢ Mufti plate blocks fell into the Narrow Selvedge category while less than 1% of the 3¢ Mufti plate blocks were classified as a Narrow Selvedge type. Two Very Narrow Selvedge examples have been identified in this study, both being from Plate No. 2 of the 1¢ Mufti.

The two experimental plates featuring six panes of 100 stamps for each of the 2¢ (Pl. Nos. 9 & 10) and the 3¢ (Pl. Nos. 12 & 13) values respectively appear to have been produced in late 1939.

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 (Clear).

Ribbed, Hatched and Regular Papers appear to have been used in the initial production of these stamps but their general use appears to have fallen away by 1941. Wove Paper appears to have been introduced in 1938-39 and its relative use in production grew in importance from 1940 onwards.

Mottled and Streaky Gums tend to be associated with Ribbed, Hatched and Regular Paper examples of plate blocks produced in the 1937-39 period. Smooth (Clear) Gum tends to be associated with Wove Paper examples.

Certain limitations and areas where further research may be warranted were identified in the study of the 1¢ Mufti plate blocks and these apply equally to the 2¢ and 3¢ Mufti stamps included in this current study. Readers are encouraged to consult the Introduction section of the earlier study which appeared in Issue 7 of the Post & Mail ⁽¹⁾ for relevant details of these limitations. This article that appeared in Issue 7 also covers in more detail than is treated here, descriptions and distinguishing characteristics of the papers and gums types referred to in this current paper.

Lastly, further detailed information relating to the Mufti stamps issued between 1937 and 1942 can be found by following the links on the Research page of the KGVI Study Group Website.

Plate Numbers

Forty-eight different plates in total were used for the production of the 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti stamps over the 1937 - 42 period.

The author is not aware of records indicating the periods of use or the number of sheets produced from each of the plates used to produce these Mufti stamps. 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 but known records related to plate block Control Numbers provide some guidance as is shown below.

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 lower left selvedge of Mufti and other sheet stamps, while others were assigned to other aspects 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¢, 2¢ & 3¢ plates were produced as follows.

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>1¢ Mufti Plate Nos.</u>	<u>2¢ Mufti Plate Nos.</u>	<u>3¢ Mufti Plate Nos.</u>
1937	1, 2, 3, & 4	1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	1, 2, 3 & 4
1938	5	-	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11
1939	6, 7 & 8	6, 7, 8, 9 & 10	12, 13, 14 & 15
1940	9	11, 12 & 13	16 & 17
1941	10 & 11	14	18 & 19
1942	-	-	20, 21, 22 & 23

While printings from these plates could take place 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¢ to 3¢ Mufti stamps can be considered.

Production Methodology – Normal and Narrow Selvedges

The production method for the 1937 low value Mufti stamps generally 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.

Panes were then subject to a perforation process. All Mufti stamps were line perforated 12 gauge with the perforations extending through the sheet selvedge. No perforation varieties having been reported or identified during the course of this study.

Two noticeable variations of width exist for the marginal selvedge of the sheets of these stamps defined for the purposes of this study as: Normal and Narrow. Typically the Top, Bottom and Side selvedge margins are 5 mm wider for the Normal versus the Narrow plate blocks. The range of selvedge margin widths in mm is shown below.

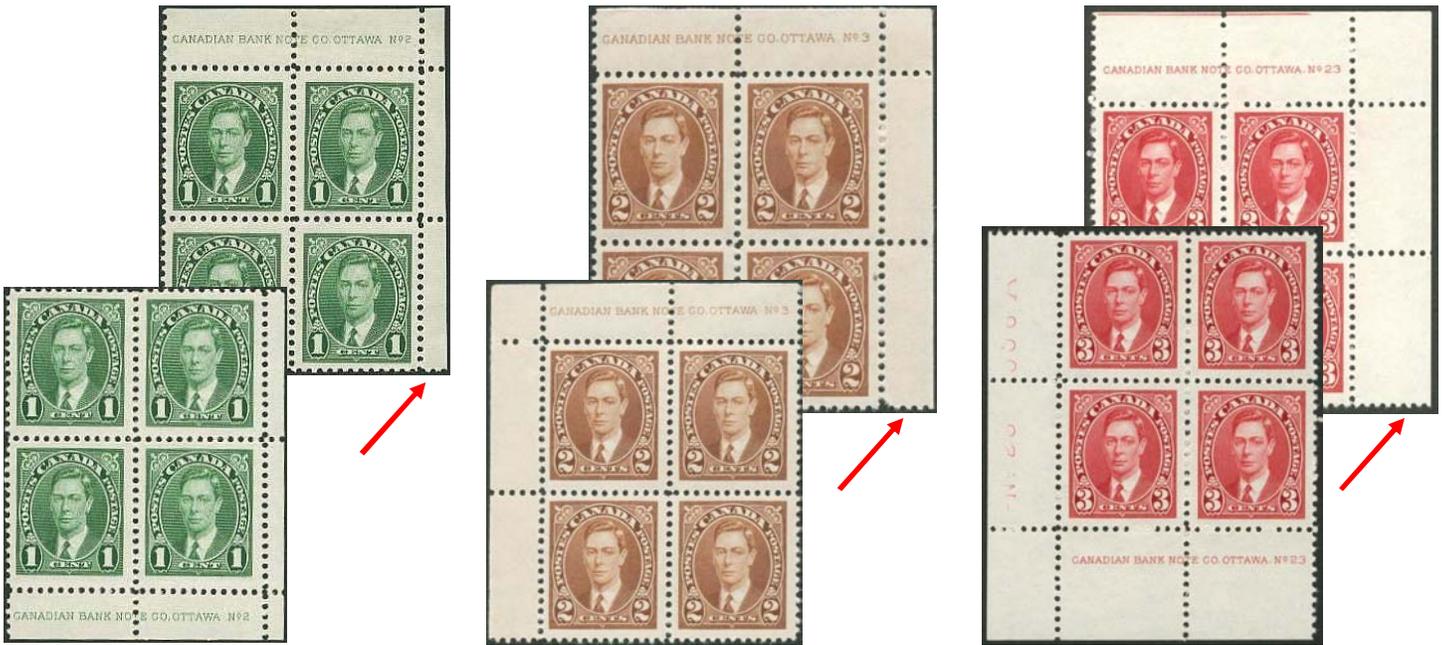
	<u>Selvedge Width in mm</u>	
	<u>Top/Bottom</u>	<u>Sides</u>
Normal Selvedge	14 to 18	12 to 13
Narrow Selvedge	9 to 10	7 to 8

Two examples of a Very Narrow Selvedge type, measuring only 3.5 mm in width have been identified among the 1¢ Mufti plate blocks examined in this study. No Very Narrow examples have been observed among the 2¢ and 3¢ Mufti plate blocks examined in this study.

Very Narrow Selvedge

Narrow Selvedge

Normal Selvedge



About 9% of plate blocks surveyed can be classified as the Narrow Selvedge type. This variety occurs more frequently in the case of the 1¢ Mufti stamp where 25% of the plate blocks examined were found to be of the Narrow Selvedge type. About 9% of the 2¢ Mufti plate blocks fell into the Narrow Selvedge category while less than 1% of the 3¢ Mufti plate blocks can be classified as a Narrow Selvedge type.

All most all the Narrow Selvedge plate blocks were produced in 1937 as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

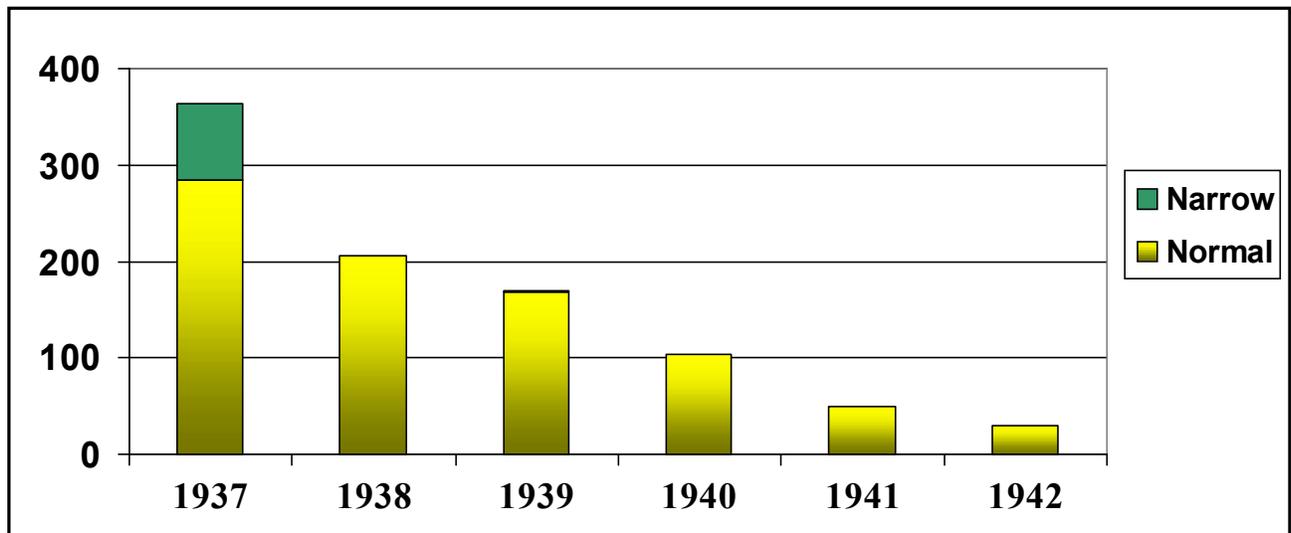


Figure 1 - 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Plate Block Selvedge Distribution

Production Methodology - The Experimental Plates

In the case of the 2¢ & 3¢ stamps, two experimental plates (Plates 9 & 10) and (Plates 12 & 13) respectively were prepared comprising 600 images assembled in six panes of 100 stamps laid out in a configuration of two rows by three columns. The inscription block of the two centre panes are placed above and below stamp columns 4 through 7 of the top and bottom of the centre panes as illustrated below.



2¢ Top Centre Plate 9 & Bottom Centre Plate 10 Blocks



3¢ Top Centre Plate 12 & Bottom Centre Plate 13 Blocks

Paper Types

It has long been recognized that the Mufti stamps were apparently printed on a number of different papers ⁽³⁾. Four main paper types, Wove, Ribbed, Hatched and Regular were identified and described in the earlier 1¢ Mufti study ⁽¹⁾. Study of the 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti plate blocks revealed that their papers could be classified into these previously defined categories as illustrated below.

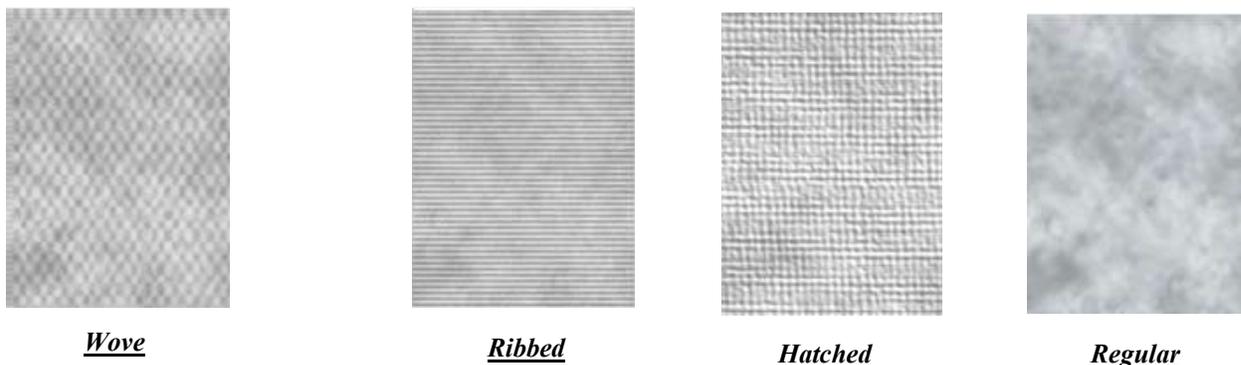


Figure 2 depicts the percentage distribution in each of the years 1937 to 1942 for each of the four defined paper types identified among the Mufti plate blocks examined in this study.

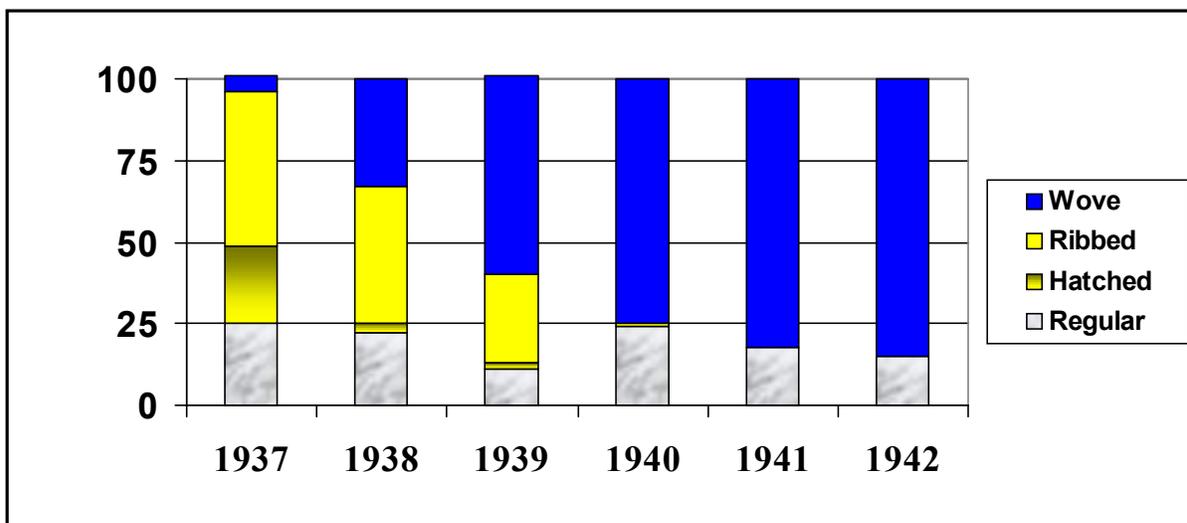


Figure 2 - 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Plate Block Paper Types

A number of trends are evident. First, Ribbed and Hatched Paper examples predominate among plate blocks produced in 1937, the first part of the Mufti era. Ribbed Paper examples continue to represent an important proportion among plate blocks produced in 1938-39 while Hatched Paper examples are reduced to about 3% in those years. Essentially no examples of Ribbed or Hatched Papers were identified among the plate blocks produced in the 1940-42 period.

By comparison, limited quantities of Wove Paper would seem to have been introduced sometime in 1937 given its general absence from the Plate Nos. 1 & 2 examples examined in this survey. By 1939, Wove Paper became the predominate paper in use for all three Mufti low value stamps by 1939 and this trend continued through to the end of the Mufti period.

Regular Paper examples are observed throughout the Mufti period. In the article appearing in Issue 7 on the 1¢ Mufti ⁽¹⁾, it was suggested that Hatched Paper (and possibly also Regular Paper) might be a thicker variety of Ribbed Paper where the extra thickness of the paper diminishes the horizontal ribbing effect one sees in Ribbed Paper. As these studies have progressed to include the 2¢ and 3¢ issues, and it would appear that this observation could be extended to include the case of Wove Paper as well, where thicker examples of this paper type are classified as Regular Paper.

Gum Types

Three main gum types were identified as appearing on the back of 1¢ Mufti stamps ⁽¹⁾ and plate block examples evaluated in the further study of 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti plate blocks can be classified in the same way; namely Streaky, Mottled and Smooth (*clear*) Gum. The colouration of the gummed surface of these three gum types can range from dark amber-brown to light honey for the Streaky and Mottled Gum types while the Smooth Gum variety ranges from creamy off-white to light honey. Images of selected examples of these gums are illustrated below.

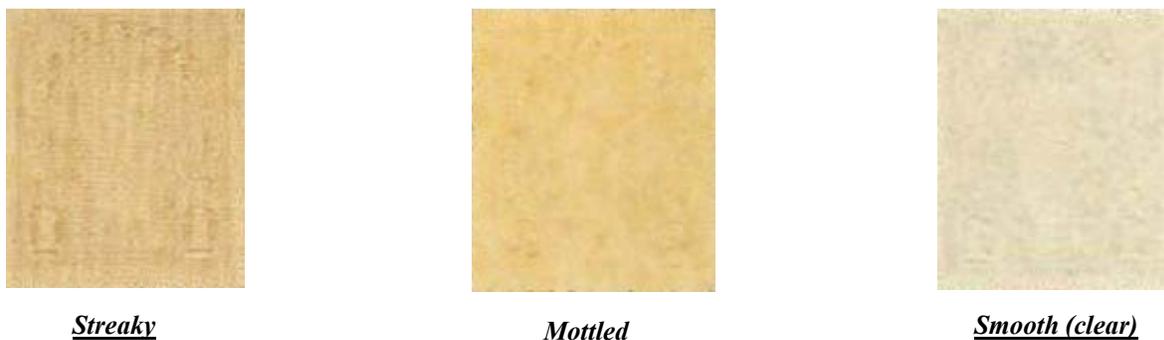


Figure 3 depicts the percentage distribution in each of the years 1937 to 1942 for each of the three gum types identified among the Mufti plate blocks examined in this study.

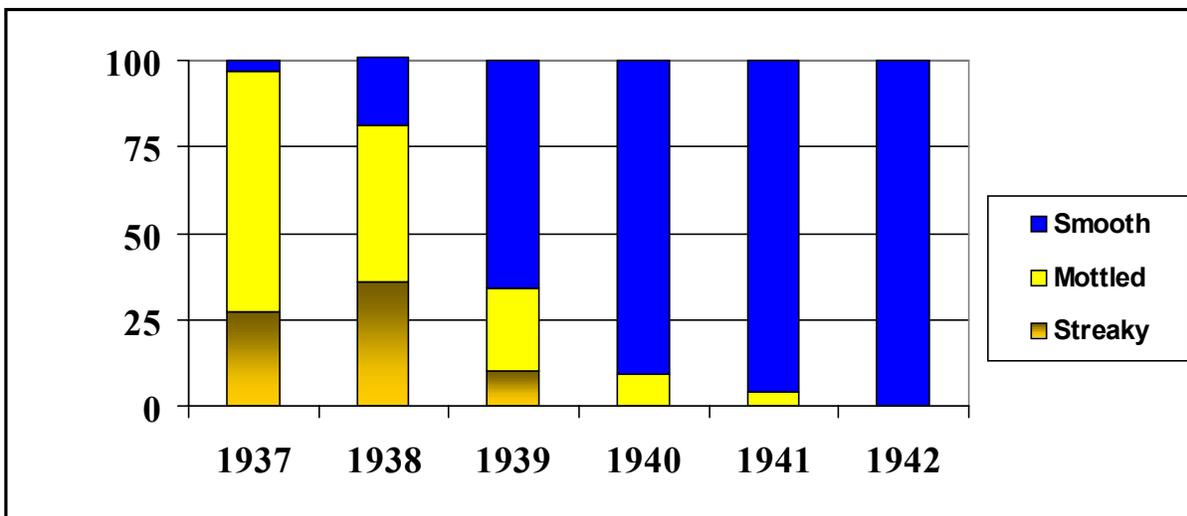


Figure 3 - 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Plate Block Gum Types

As with papers, a number of trends are evident. First, Streaky and Mottled gums predominate among examples produced in 1937 but become relatively less important from 1940 onwards. No examples of Streaky Gum were identified from plates produced in the period 1940-42 while Smooth (*clear*) Gum predominates from 1939 onwards.

The data depicted on Figures 4 through 6 indicate the relationships between Gum and Paper types. This analysis indicates that the Wove Paper variety is largely associated with the Smooth (*clear*) type. Similar trends are less pronounced for the other three paper types. Regular, Hatched and Ribbed Papers are generally found with Mottled and Streaky Gum. The relative proportions of these three papers appearing with either Mottled or Streaky Gum are roughly the same for stamps from the plate produced in 1937. However, only Ribbed and to a lesser extent, Wove Paper types appear with Streaky Gum in 1938.

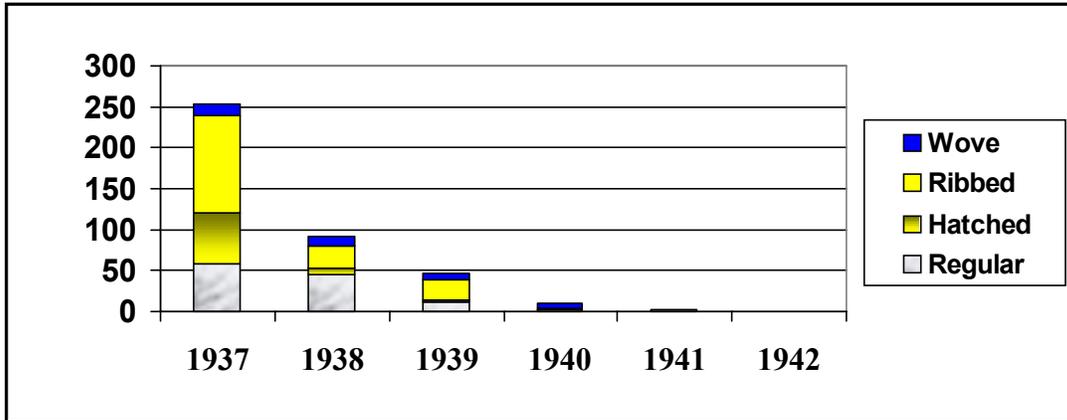


Figure 4 - 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Plate Block - Mottled Gum

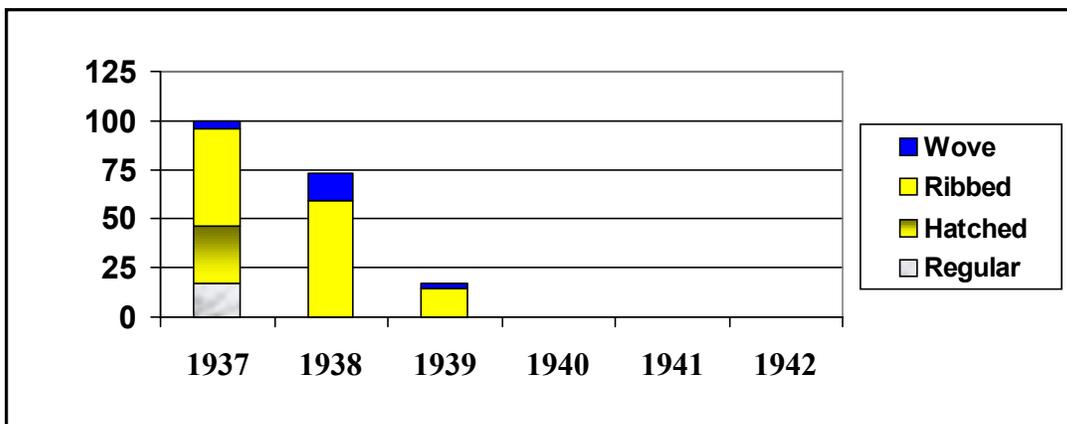


Figure 5 - 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Plate Block - Streaky Gum

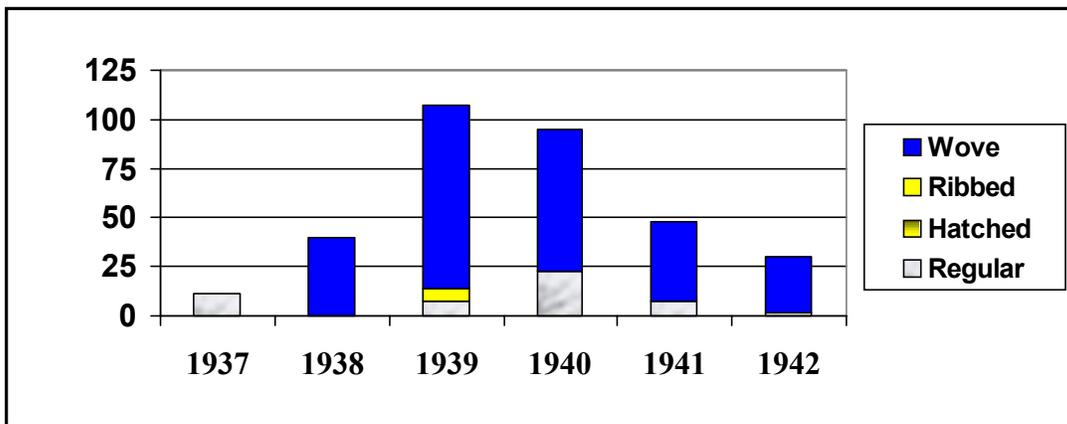


Figure 6 - 1¢, 2¢ & 3¢ Mufti Plate Block - Smooth (Clear) Gum

Bibliography

- (1) "The Plates Papers & Gums of the 1937-38 Stamps of Canada; Part I - The 1¢ Mufti Issue - An Interim Study" by Stephen Prest, **King George VI Post & Mail**, Issue 7, July-Dec 2005, pp 7-13.
- (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
- (3) "Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America" (1954) page 90, Editor L. Seale Holmes.

► Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The following are clarifications of some points in John Burnett's article, 'Mufti Era Postage Rates to the United Kingdom and Ireland' in Post and Mail Issue 12, July-Dec 2007 which John and I have discussed at some length. Since the article is to be reprinted shortly in BNA Topics with the revisions included, I thought it best to give Post and Mail readers a detailed explanation of the changes.

a) P. 3 last line - "Registration 10¢ for \$25 indemnity (only) - Effective July 15, 1920 through the entire Mufti period". The word 'only' needs clarification. I think what is meant here is that this is the only, thus the maximum, level of registration indemnity for mail going available outside of Canada. Within Canada the maximum indemnity was \$100, available at four levels for extra postage.

b) P. 5, top cover – the text reads: "...some first class mail was air lifted across the Atlantic particularly if it was addressed to service personnel. This letter appears to be addressed to a civilian and so it is likely the letter did in fact cross the Atlantic by ocean going transport. Transmission via the Trans Atlantic Airmail service was available but at a higher cost which the sender no doubt felt it was unnecessary in the case of this piece of correspondence."; and in the caption, "...franked with a 1938 6¢ Airmail stamp to pay the 6¢ per oz. Empire rate for first class letters conveyed by air to Canadian coastal ports and then by sea to destinations in the British Isles".

The two quotes are contradictory. The caption is closest to being correct, but it is not the 'Empire rate'. When the 'Empire rate' died in 1939 it was replaced by the 'Airmail to the (east) coast of Canada' rate, which was 6¢ (then 7¢) for GB and Ireland but 10¢ for Europe. The part about 'likely' going by sea because it was addressed to a civilian is not valid – mail transmission was determined by the postage paid, not by the identity of the sender or addressee. Also contradicting the 'likely' crossing by sea is the Irish postmark; applied seven weeks after mailing, it confirms sea passage without any doubt. The most important aspect of this cover is the 'Airmail to the (east) coast of Canada' rate, which is REALLY scarce.

c) P. 5, bottom cover - the text reads: "...The letter is addressed to a General Bennett, and I'm sure this name and title helped expedite the letter...". In WWI and WWII Canadian officers did not have serial numbers, they just used their rank and initials. This letter was addressed to Gunner (Gnr.) Bennett, H. B.

d) P. 6 cover - the text reads: "A personal note from the sender, Mrs. A. M. McMillan, written on the rear flap advises the recipient (her spouse?), Captain A. M. McMillan, that 'Coral couldn't get air mail stamps - so had to put on 10, 3 centers!' A nice personal touch from a loved one so far away." Unfortunately, the handwriting on the front of the cover is quite different from that on the reverse (note especially the 'C's'). All the handwriting on the back of the cover, top and bottom, is uniform and since the bottom part could only have been written after the letter arrived in Tunisia it all must have been written by the addressee, not the sender.

e) P. 7 cover - the text reads: "The envelope is clearly marked 'Trans Atlantic Air Mail' in the upper left corner. This letter would have flown to New York then onto Lisbon Portugal where it would connect with the Imperial Airways flight for England and then onto Scotland. Unlike our previous example this letter would have flown right across France for Great Britain as there were no fighter aircraft waiting to intercept the Imperial Airways flight." It appears that the date has been misinterpreted. The letter was actually mailed three weeks before World War II started, so there were no fighters flying anywhere waiting to intercept the flight; since it was paid for full transAtlantic air service, it would have gone directly to Britain.

f) P. 9, bottom cover – for this SPECTACULAR piece the caption reads: "...for a letter weighing up to two oz.", while the main text reads: "I can only make an educated guess at the rate..... This would make it a four ounce letter." The 'LETTER INSIDE' printed on the bottom of the letter removes all doubt about the rate. In 1939, and even today, if a letter is enclosed inside a parcel the first class rate applies. At 30¢ per quarter ounce the \$2.40 in postage definitely paid for a packet that must have weighed between 3.5 and 4 oz, which matches the text, not the 2 oz. in the caption.

Mike Street

Ancaster, ON

TOPICS Revisited - Part IX (BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 23 - 30)by *Gary Dickinson***Introduction**

This edition of TOPICS Revisited covers the KG VI related items appearing in **BNA Topics** volumes 23 to 30 (1966 to 1973) which included Whole Numbers 240 to 329.

1942-43 War Issue

F. W. L. Keane reviewed the various alternative dates of issue that had been suggested for four new War Issue stamps accompanying increased postal rates on April 1, 1943 in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 282** (Sept. 1969) p. 210. Some additional possibilities were raised by Marc Eisenberg in his letter to the editor in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 285** (Dec. 1969) p. 287.

George Wegg told of the disposition of gutter blocks of Scott No. 252 in the letters to the editor column of **BNA Topics Vol. 28, Whole No. 307** (Dec. 1971) p. 328.

"Blackout" Cancellations

In an article titled "Canadian 'Blackout' Postmarks of West Coast Ports", **Harold M. Dilworth** described and illustrated a considerable variety of postmarks used during the World War II period at Vancouver, Victoria, and Prince Rupert in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 278** (May 1969) pp. 127-133.

Coil Stamps

A reprinted series from 1953 by **Edward J. Whiting** reviewed the coil stamps issued by Canada. The article in **BNA Topics Vol. 28, Whole No. 301** (May 1971) pp. 150-152 included a short review of the Mufti issue coils. The article in **BNA Topics Vol. 28, Whole No. 302** (June-July 1971) p. 174 concluded the series with the War Issue and Unrevised Issue coils.

A table prepared by **Ed Burley** showed the quantities printed of the various coil issues from 1928 to 1950 in **BNA Topics Vol. 19, Whole No. 313** (June-July 1972) p. 143.

Flag Cancellations

In a letter to the editor, **E. A. Harris** listed a number of new dates for flag cancellations, including four late uses of Types 47 and 50, in **BNA Topics Vol. 23, Whole No. 241** (Feb. 1966) p. 31.

First Day Covers

Wayne R. Curtis listed quantities of FDC's serviced by the Postmaster for the 1949-1966 period in **BNA Topics Vol. 24, Whole No. 254** (April, 1967) pp. 104-105.

"Imperforates"

In a reprinted article titled "Imperforates and Part Perforates of Canada, 1859 to 1942", **C. M. Jephcott** and **Henry Gates** listed the numbers of the various imperforates and part perforates issued, concluding with the period 1930 to 1942. **BNA Topics Vol. 28, Whole No. 307** (Dec. 1971) pp. 314-319

Military Mail & Postmarks

A brief article titled "Canadian Forces in the Far East" by **R. J. Woolley** in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 281** (Aug. 1969) p. 176 described the arrangements for military mail service around the time of the fall of Hong Kong in 1941. In a subsequent issue of **BNA Topics Vol. 16, Whole No. 283** (Oct. 1969) pp. 229-230, **R. H. Webb** pointed out several errors in the earlier item.

Newfoundland

Glenn F. Hansen described the stamp issues of Newfoundland from 1937 to 1943 in "The Canadian Stamp Collector" appearing in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 284** (Nov. 1969) p. 273.

Official Stamps - Overprinted

C. Russell McNeil commented on the "narrow spacing on the number O15A" in a letter to the editor in **BNA Topics Vol. 23, Whole No. 246** (Aug. 1966) p. 164.

In a letter to the editor in **BNA Topics Vol. 29, Whole No. 309** (Feb. 1972) p. 49, **Maurice Quittenton** noted that he had acquired a variety of CO1 with an "open O".

► TOPICS Revisited (Part IX - BNAPS TOPICS Vol. 23 - 30) ... continued**Official Stamps - Perforated**

In his "Perfin Study Group" column, **R. J. Woolley** discussed perforated initials on the booklet C9a in **BNA Topics Vol. 24, Whole No. 252** (Feb. 1967) p. 46.

An article by **Roy Wrigley** titled "Canada OHMS Officials 'On Cover'" reviewed the origins of the use of perforated initials on stamps used by government departments in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 282** (Sept. 1969) pp. 213-214. Several months later, **F. Walter Pollock**, in a letter to the editor, criticized both the editor and Roy Wrigley for incorrectly stating the year of origin for perforated initials on Canadian stamps in **BNA Topics Vol. 27, Whole No. 287** (Feb. 1970), p. 78.

Roy Wrigley's article "Some Facts on the Perfed OHMS Issues of Canada" in **BNA Topics Vol. 29, Whole No. 308** (Jan. 1972) pp. 4-5, 23 reviewed the use of those stamps by government departments with an emphasis on the WW II period.

Philatelic Literature

In his "Perfin Study Group" column, **R. J. Woolley** described changes in the third edition of the handbook on Canadian stamps with perforated initials, in **BNA Topics Vol. 24, Whole No. 253** (March, 1967) pp. 74, 83.

H. E. Guertin's study "The Wartime Mails and Stamps—Canada 1939-1946" was reviewed briefly (and anonymously) in **BNA Topics Vol. 28, Whole No. 304** (Sept. 1971), pp. 239-240.

Plate Varieties

Hans Reiche listed "Constant Plate Varieties" together with retail prices, including O.H.M.S. overprints in the KG VI era, in **BNA Topics Vol. 28, Whole No. 300** (April 1971) pp. 127-128.

Postage Dues

"A Few Notes on the Postage Due Stamps" by **Hans Reiche** appeared in **BNA Topics Vol. 27, Whole No. 288** (March 1970) p. 288. Coverage included the KG VI era.

Postage Rates

Horace W. Harrison provided a brief review of "20th Century Postage and Registry Fees for Single Weight Letters" in **BNA Topics Vol. 24, Whole No. 257** (Aug. 1967) p. 192.

F. W. L. Keane discussed "Canada Notes on Postage Rates 1897 to 1951—A Revision" in **BNA Topics Vol. 24, Whole No. 257** (Nov. 1967) pp. 292-300. This article corrected and extended an earlier review he had published in **BNA Topics** in April, 1954.

Postal History

A reprinted article from the Hudson's Bay Company magazine **The Beaver** described the "First Northwest Passage Letter" mailed in 1938 in **BNA Topics Vol. 25, Whole No. 262** (Jan. 1968) pp. 17-18.

Postal Markings

T. P. G. Shaw and **R. P. O. Allan** provided an "Addendum to 'The Handbook and Catalogue of Canadian Transportation Postmarks'" which included a number of KG VI era markings, in **BNA Topics Vol. 24, Whole No. 257** (Aug. 1967) p. 198.

Precancels

R. J. Woolley's column "Perfin Study Group" presented a list of perforated precancels including KG VI items in **BNA Topics Vol. 23, Whole No. 246** (Aug. 1966) pp. 175-176.

T. W. Turner's column "Precancel Notes" commented on marginal imprints on three KG VI era precancels in **BNA Topics Vol. 26, Whole No. 279-280** (June-July 1969) p. 156.

Secret (or Hidden) Dates

R. H. Larkin's "Secret Date" series continued with a note and diagram of the 8 cent "Farm Scene" issue of 1942 in **BNA Topics Vol. 23, Whole No. 240** (Jan. 1966) p. 17 and the 1 cent War Issue of 1942 on p. 19 of the same edition.

The final KG VI stamp featured in **R. H. Larkin's** "Secret Date" series was the 8 cent Peace issue of 1946 in **BNA Topics Vol. 23, Whole No. 243** (April 1966) p. 98.

► Members' Corner

Four BNAPSers joined the Study Group during 2008, **James Love, Jeff Parks, Ken Lemke** and **Garry Calvert**. James writes that he is a member of a number of philately organizations including the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada. Jeff wrote to say his KGVI interests lie in the post war issues and that he has been working of late on the Halifax Bicentenary and the Posts/Postage definitives.

Ken wrote to say he has returned to collecting after a 25 year absence and really enjoyed the aspects of the hobby to which membership in BNAPS affords members. Garry wrote to say he collected King George VI worldwide, but being Canadian, has a special interest in Canadian KGVI. Garry is also interested in MOON precancels and lower left plate number and imprint blocks.

A number of Study Group members have exhibited aspects of their collections during the past six months, including **Gary Steele** whose "Dead Letter Office Handstamps 1874-1954" received the Grand Award at BNAPEX 2008. **Jeff Parks** exhibited his single frame "Finding Halifax: The Halifax Bicentenary Issue June 21, 1949" at BNAPEX 2008. Study Group members **Earl Covert** and **John Wynns** also exhibited non George VI period material at BNAPEX 2008.

Earlier in the year **John Munro-Cape** exhibited "The One Cent of the Canadian War Issue" at Orapex 2008. **David Whitely** had two exhibits featuring KGVI material at the 2008 Edmonton Spring National; "Canadian Airmail to Overseas Destinations 1925-1946" and "The Canadian Post Office as an Agent of the Foreign Exchange Control Board".

Gary Dickinson advises that there has been an excellent response to his research papers on the First Day Covers of the commemorative stamps issued during the King George VI period. He is now working on the third edition of these papers. He also mentions that, with the interest now being shown among fellow BNAPSers, it is likely the BNAPS FDC Study Group may be reactivated in the near future.

► BNAPS Education Website

Study Group members will be interested to learn that **John Burnett**, among other duties and interests, has taken the lead in establishing the BNAPS Education website. In this, John has been ably assisted by another Study Group member, **Greg Spring** as site webmaster.

The BNAPS Education website can be accessed by following the "Education Sites" link in the "About BNAPS" section on the BNAPS website Main page. The Education website contains a wealth of information about collecting Canadian stamps and postal history. A number of entries deal specifically with KGVI period collecting areas of interest.

The Education website is definitely worth a browse when you have a moment. John and Greg are to be commended on the work they have put into this ambitious project.

► 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

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

1949 - 51 Poste Postage Greg Spring is looking for in period postal history items featuring the last Canada KGVI issues incl. overprints postally used to destinations outside of Canada and the US particularly, dated 1949 but no later than Feb 6, 1952 (the King's death). Greg can be contacted by email at g.m.spring@asch.co.uk.

KGVI Period Articles or Want Lists Your Editor is always looking for articles or images of special items from Members for future Post & Mail Issues. Also this space is available for any member who wishes to place a Want List ad. Detailed want lists can be published on the Study Group website. Contact Stephen for further info at snail mail or email addresses given on page 2 of the Post & Mail.