

Chairman's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the great weather we've been having this summer, even if the temperatures have been a bit off the chart! The ORAPEX and CAPEX shows are behind us, and they were both a great success. It was nice to be able to finally meet in person with fellow collectors. The exhibits at both shows were excellent and I hope you were able to attend. If not, the yearly ORAPEX show is definitely worth a visit to Ottawa next spring.

Once again, I am asking for your contributions to the newsletter. This issue is late getting to you since we did not have enough material to make a decent issue. Although I don't mind writing articles, I feel as if the newsletter is simply becoming the Scott and Rick show. So please consider sending in an article, no matter how short. Thanks to those who have contributed. Have a wonderful remainder of the summer!

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Contents

Chairman's Message	1
My Two Cents – From Your Editor	1
Rare Toronto Exhibition Cancellations on Map Stamp Covers By Rick Friesen	2
Lavender/Blue Ocean Plate Varieties – Part 2: More Flooded South America By Scott Robinson	4
Imperial Penny Postage on eBay.....	9
Featured Maps	12

My Two Cents – From Your Editor

This issue includes two articles by your editors plus a variety of interesting Map stamps and covers. We begin with a short article from Rick Friesen highlighting two rare Map covers that feature advertising cancels for *Canada's Exposition* that took place in Toronto during 1901. Next up is my second article on varieties of the Map stamp lavender/blue ocean plates. In this issue I describe a series of "Flooded South America" varieties that appear at several positions for stamps printed from black plate 5.

Up next is a new, but hopefully recurring, column highlighting Map stamp discoveries on eBay. I show some of my recent finds and encourage members to submit your own discoveries and/or links to current auctions that you think would interest other members. We are hoping this feature will make it easier for more members to share with the group.

Finally, our featured Maps section includes a very crowded cover from Aaron Gulliver showing no less than twelve Map stamps paying special delivery postage to Switzerland, plus a Map stamp from Robert Lighthouse with a cancel from Lintrathen, Manitoba, a town that disappeared after 1920.

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Rare Toronto Exhibition Cancellations on Map Stamp Covers

By Rick Friesen

The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973 (Ed Richardson, BNAPS Handbook, 1973, page 29) lists three different types of postmarks (Toronto Types 10, 11 and 12, shown in Figure 1) that were used to advertise *Canada's Exposition* which is what the *Canadian National Exhibition* (C.N.E.) was known as at the time.



*Figure 1: Advertising flag cancels for Canada's Exposition.
From left to right are Type 10 (die letter A), Type 11 (die letters B & C),
and Type 12 (die letters D to F)*

These postmarks were used in Toronto for a very short period in 1901, from early May to early September, which is outside the typical Map stamp period of use (December 1898 to January 1900). As such, these postmarks are extremely rare on Map stamps or Map stamp covers. I am aware of only two examples on cover, one of which appeared in the Sparks Auctions September 2018 auction #28 of the Rob Lunn collection as lot #347. The cancellation on this cover, shown in Figure 2, is a Type 10-1 flag postmark dated May 24, 1901, with a "shield" advertisement and an "A" die.



Figure 2: Cover with Type 10-1 flag cancellation from Sparks Auctions September 2018 auction #28 of the Rob Lunn collection.

The second cover, shown in Figure 3, is in my collection and on this example, a Type 12-2 flag postmark dated July 9, 1901, with an "oval" advertisement and an "E" die cancels the Map stamp (from plate position 2A63). The envelope is addressed to Jackson's Point, ONT, which is a summer resort harbour town located on the southern shore of Lake Simcoe. What makes this cover even more interesting is that the receiving postmark in Sutton West (the closest post office, approximately 3 km from Jackson's Point) is a Squared Circle dated -/JY 9/01, one of only three documented Map stamp covers with a Sutton West Squared Circle postmark (all three of them backstamps). A nice combination of two rare Map stamp cover postmarks on a single cover!



Figure 3: Top image shows cover with type 12-2 flag cancellation and bottom image shows back of cover with Sutton West squared circle receiver postmark.

Lavender/Blue Ocean Plate Varieties – Part 2: More Flooded South America

By Scott Robinson

In our previous newsletter, I described the interesting semi-constant “Flooded South America” ocean plate variety from plate/position 2A50 that was first brought to my attention by Vince Chermishnok. In addition to extra ocean ink covering much of South America, these stamps also feature a distinct fuzzy area of missing ocean ink about the “AS” of “XMAS 1898”. These varieties appear together on stamps in both the lavender and blue shades. The strength and appearance of the varieties can vary considerably with most copies not showing them at all. We have also not found any examples from position 50 of black plates 1 and 3. While these varieties provide strong evidence that multiple plates were used to print the oceans on the Map stamps, their existence could also be attributed to plate wear and a later repair for black plate 3 printings.

Of interest to me was that neither Whitney L. Bradley nor Kenneth A. Kershaw make any mention of this or any other varieties (other than shades) associated with the ocean plates in their Map plating books. There is interestingly only one exception to this: on page 122 of his plating book, Bradley remarks for plate position 5A20 that, “Ocean covers South America on some copies with blue-green ocean.” It is tempting to think that Bradley was mixing up 2A50 and 5B20 in his notes, however deeper examination of thousands of copies and scans of Map stamps has led me to a startling conclusion. The flooded South America variety (but not the missing ink about “AS”) from plate/position 2A50 is not only shared with some copies of plate/position 5B20 but also with many positions from black plate 5!

After searching through hundreds of my own Maps and more than a thousand scans from collector friends and eBay auctions, it has become clear that Map stamps printed from black plates 1, 2 and 3 only appear to show the flooded South America variety for 2A50, but stamps printed from black plate 5 show the variety frequently from a bunch of different plate positions. So far, I have observed an almost completely flooded South America at 8 separate positions, a partially flooded or large ink mark in South America at 9 positions, and 4 other positions with flooded South America have been reported to me that I have not yet seen. This data is summarised in Figure 1 below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Strongly flooded South America

Partially flooded or large ink mark in South America

Positions reported to me that I have not seen

Figure 1: Colour-coded diagram of black plate 5 showing positions where I have observed flooding in South America, or it has been reported to me.

It is important to consider, when looking at the positions of the variety indicated in Figure 1, that I have only been researching this variety for about a year and that I have been steadily discovering new positions each month. The comparative scarcity of black plate 5 Map stamps and my success in finding the variety so frequently suggests it is safe to assume that other positions will show up. In fact, I suspect that all plate 5 positions may occasionally show the variety to a certain degree. I believe that an ocean plate used with black plate 5 was faulty and did not properly allow for South America as a non-printing area. Whether this was an error with an initial plate that was eventually swapped out for a better one, or simply a regular plate that suffered extensive wear over time to a weak area around South America is unclear.

To date, only blue-green ocean copies of plate 5 stamps have been reported with the variety. Whether the lavender shades do not have the variety or it is just much harder to detect is uncertain. Typical examples from my collection of various positions observed with different strengths of the variety are shown in the figures below.



Figure 2: A typical example of a strongly flooded South America from plate/position 5B20. Note this is the only position mentioned by Whitney L. Bradley as having an ocean plate variety.



Figure 3: Example of a partially flooded South America from plate/position 5B14.



Figure 4: Example of partially flooded South America and USA from plate/position 5B8.



Figure 5: Example of a large ink mark in South America from plate/position 5B4.

Note that some of the examples shown in this article are the only copies I have seen with the variety for specific plate positions. I welcome feedback from readers who have corroborating copies for the positions discussed here and examples of other positions from plate 5 with “flooding” in South America.

In the next issue, I will present a number of different ocean plate varieties (mostly from black plate 2) including some that have been proven as constant and others that are still looking for a second confirming copy.

References and End Notes

- *The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898 - A Plating Study*, Whitney L. Bradley, British North America Philatelic Society, 1989

Many thanks to Simon Taylor-Young for sharing scans and stamps from his collection with me for my plating research.

Imperial Penny Postage on eBay

eBay consistently has an ever-changing wide variety of Map stamps for all budgets. Whether you are looking for a nice copy of a particular plate variety, a special cancelation or cover, or even a glorious mint block, eBay has got you covered. The problem is that most of the interesting material is not specifically recognised by the seller or identified in the listing, and the auction images are not always very clear. Buyers need to search carefully for hidden gems. It is hoped that this ongoing column will provide a forum for readers to share their interesting eBay purchases or to recommend a live auction to other readers. This month, your editor shares a few recent eBay finds.

First up is an interesting Map stamp that I won in an auction as part of a larger inexpensive mixed lot that a friend pointed out to me. The stamp appeared to have no red ink. The image below reveals that there are traces of red ink in the expected places. There are faded, speckled remains for most of the red land areas and islands. So this does not appear to be a printing flaw, but rather an example of red ink that has faded through excessive soaking or exposure to chemicals. What makes the stamp interesting is that the oceans have kept their rich blue colour with no signs of fading. Since it is impossible to detect any red plate varieties and there are no Tonkin gulf details, I have no idea what the plate/position would be for this stamp. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.



My second eBay find is an attractive advertising cover that I missed out on when another eBayer nabbed it while I was making an offer to the seller. The cover is rather ordinary, but it has an attractive Map stamp with a clean dated Toronto flag cancelation. In place of a return address, there is a simple company emblem for the Conger Coal Co. of Toronto. What made the cover interesting to me was the reverse side with an illustration of a young child hauling a heavy bucket of coal.

Apparently, the Conger Coal Company was a very successful business in Toronto at a time when coal powered the city. The illustration showing the child was used in several of the company's promotional and marketing materials. I am not sure if the illustration is meant to convey that coal is actually mined or delivered by smiling children, but the image is certainly representative of a different time when child labour laws were not what they are today!

Thanks to Bob Starchuk (eBay seller 043nkn) for providing permission to use the cover images from his auction.



My latest eBay find is a slightly creased and badly centred Map stamp. The stamp is also quite obscured by its Victoria BC squared circle cancelation. The stamp appears to be from plate/position 3A56, which means that it includes quite a few extra red marks and islands. My interest in the stamp is due to the nicely preserved centre cross in the top left corner margin. The lines of the centre cross are shortest on black plates 3 and 5, so it is difficult to get a good example of it on a single stamp unless that stamp is perforated high and to the left as this copy is. The seller had identified the variety correctly but was willing to work out a fair price for the item with me. The image below is from the actual eBay auction since I have not yet received the stamp.



Readers are invited to share their own eBay finds or even some links to current eBay Map stamp auctions that they think might be of interest to the group. This is an easy way for all study group members to contribute, so please share your experience with the group.

Featured Maps

Our first featured Map item comes from BNAPS Squared Circle Cancels study group member and new Map Stamp study group member, Aaron Gulliver. His very crowded Map stamp cover to Switzerland is pictured below. In addition to the standard Montreal roller cancel and the oval "R" registration postmark, the Montreal barred circle dated DE 13 98 and the orange Registered London split oval dated 24 DE 98 attest to the early usage of the Map stamp. The back of the cover includes a Zurich receiving postmark that appears to be dated to December 26, 1898.

The rate used for this cover is a bit of a mystery since the standard UPU rate to Switzerland was 5¢ and the additional registration rate should also be 5¢. At a triple letter rate, this cover would be 4¢ overpaid, while a quadruple weight letter would be 1¢ underpaid.



The Map stamps on the cover all show some red under-inking but it is still possible to plate them. They all come from consecutive positions in a sheet from black plate 1 even though they are slightly mixed up on the cover. The plate positions are indicated in the diagram below.

	1A87	1A88	1A89
1A90	1A97	1A98	1A99
1A67	1A68		1A79
1A77	1A78		

Our second featured Map is a stamp from Robert Lighthouse with what appears to be a split ring cancel from Lintrathen, Manitoba showing 00 (1900) for the year date. According to Robert, Lintrathen is a now defunct small town that was named after a village in Scotland. It existed from 1884-1920 and used a split ring cancelling device from 1884-1908. All that is left of the town is a historic marker. Says Robert, "I have examined thousands of maps since 1972 and don't recall ever seeing this strike. Kudos to David Hobden, President of the Postal History Society of Canada, and fellow Mapper, Lawrence Pinkney, for help with the research."



Although the resolution of Robert's stamp scan is very low, it can still be plated to 5B93. The retouch to the bottom cable and the spurs below can still be discerned.