

## Chairman's Message

Well, it has been an interesting, busy and challenging fall season! I know some of you were affected by the several tropical storms/hurricanes that hit North America. Your chairman and editor were both impacted by Hurricane Ian, and my wife and I travelled to Florida in early October to deal with the damage to our vacation home. The North Port area where we winter (midway between Sarasota and Fort Myers) was hit very hard and friends of ours who live there permanently and rode out the storm told us that 150+ mph winds were sustained for 4 hours over the area! I'm sure you have all seen pictures of the damage in the Fort Myers area - I can tell you that it is only worse experiencing it in person.

On top of everything else, it has also been a very tough cold/flu season so far. I can't help but hope that spending some time with your Map stamps, as I have done, takes your mind off of these very real issues for a short period of time.

Scott has once again put together a great Report issue for you to read, so please enjoy. Your feedback and contributions are always welcome!

**Rick Friesen, Chairman and Report Co-editor**  
Kirkland, Quebec  
rickfriesen5@gmail.com

## My Two Cents – From Your Editor

This issue includes two articles by your editors plus an interesting Map stamp and a variety of Map covers shared by group members.

First up is an extensive article from Rick that provides an overview, history and assessment of a legendary Map cover showing an ERD of December 2, 1898. Next is my third article on varieties of the Map stamp ocean plates. In this issue, I present four varieties that appear with black plate 2 Maps.

Finally, our Featured Maps section includes a subtle re-entry shared by Parker Moores and a selection of Map covers from Arnold Janson that feature a number of interesting characteristics including some very distinctive “muddy waters” ocean shades.

We will be back with a final issue before the end of the year with some fascinating eBay finds with strange Map perforations, an article from me about “cleaning the muddy waters”, plus the usual assortment of Map items as contributed by members.

**Scott Robinson, Report Editor**  
Pierrefonds, Quebec  
scott@flyspecker.com

## Contents

Chairman's Message .....	1
My Two Cents – From Your Editor .....	1
The Story of the December 2, 1898 Map Stamp Cover By Rick Friesen .....	2
Lavender/Blue Ocean Plate Varieties – Part 3: Examples from Black Plate 2 By Scott Robinson .....	9
Featured Maps .....	13

# The Story of the December 2, 1898 Map Stamp Cover

By Rick Friesen

## Introduction

The first printing of the Map stamp occurred on Thursday, December 1, 1898, as reported in *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News* as follows:<sup>1</sup> "Ottawa, Dec. 2, 1898. - The Governor-General and Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General, presided yesterday at the printing of the first copies of the new imperial penny postage stamp. The design is Mr. Mulock's own." According to the American Bank Note Co. (ABNC) records, the first 100 sheets of the Map stamp were delivered to the Post Office in Ottawa on Friday, December 2, but the time of delivery is not known.<sup>2</sup> On the same day, the Deputy Postmaster General issued a Departmental Circular from the Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada.<sup>3</sup> It stated that the new "2c. Imperial Stamp" would "be available, forthwith, to the extent of its value, for the prepayment of postage on all classes of mail matter to all destinations, whether Domestic, British or foreign. Postmasters are also informed that, in this case, the new stamp may be sold to the public as soon as supplies of it are received." Although dated December 2, 1898, it is not known when this circular was distributed to postmasters or when postmasters received it. Nevertheless, the Map stamp was authorized for use to legally pay postage on December 2, 1898, the day which should be considered the first day of issue.

For 100 years after its issue, the earliest known uses of the Map stamp on cover were December 6, 1898,<sup>4</sup> and December 7, 1898.<sup>5</sup> A Map stamp cover that appears to predate these early uses was listed in the R. Maresch & Son October 1997 sale #322-324, Lot #766. The auction listing read, in part "85: LAVENDER, with rich colour, fine, and tied by a TORONTO DEC 2 1898 'F' FLAG cancel to immaculate illustrated DROP LETTER, the **EARLIEST RECORDED DATE** on cover!" (Figure 1). However, the auction listing went on to state that "This cover has been submitted for an opinion to the Greene Foundation and the B.P.A., and both have refused to issue a certificate of opinion, one way or the other." Thus, even with the first appearance of this cover in the public domain, there was some question about its authenticity.



Figure 1: Maresch October 1997 sale, Lot #766.

## Getting to Toronto on December 2, 1898

One of the first conditions required to establish the authenticity of the cover is to determine whether it was possible that the Map stamp would have been available for postal use in Toronto on Friday, December 2, 1898, the same day that it was first delivered to the post office in Ottawa, and the same day that the circular was issued by the Deputy Postmaster approving the Map stamp for use. It seems unlikely to me that the Toronto postmaster would receive the circular regarding the availability of the Map stamp and a shipment of said stamps, both on the same day! However, let's assume for the sake of argument that the receipt of the Map stamps at the Ottawa post office, the announcement in Ottawa and the shipment to Toronto occurred on the same day, December 2, 1898. Since it is most likely that the stamps were transported from Ottawa to Toronto by train, the train schedule from Ottawa to Toronto would lend support, or not, to the likelihood that the stamps would have been received in time for use on December 2 in Toronto. The Canadian Pacific Railway ran trains from Ottawa to Toronto daily, except Sunday, and the schedule for this route in June 1898 is available (Figure 2).<sup>6</sup> Trains were scheduled to leave Ottawa at 8 am and 10:40 am and would arrive in Toronto at 3:30 pm or 6:35 pm, respectively (assuming that the trains ran on schedule and that the schedule did not change between June and December). Therefore, if the stamps were delivered to the Ottawa post office from the ABNC early enough in the day on Friday, December 2, 1898, to be put on the train, in theory it would have been possible for the stamps to (1) be transported by rail from Ottawa to Toronto, (2) be delivered to the Toronto post office, and (3) sold to a customer in time to be date stamped on DE 2/98 at 7 pm (i.e., the 19-0 time mark on the flag cancel).

<b>BROOKVILLE, OTTAWA AND TORONTO.</b>												
21	11	97	13	291	M	June 5, 1898.		28	100	12	14	192
P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	A. M.		LEAVE	[ARRIVE	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
*1035	+5 00	*6 30	+10 40	+8 00	0	....  Ottawa  ....	6 25	9 35	11 00	5 00	7 50	
1046	5 09	6 43	10 50	8 10	6	....  Britannia....	6 15	9 23	10 50	4 50	7 41	
1105	...	7 25	11 05	8 26	15	....  Stittville....	5 52	9 00	...	4 35	7 25	
...	...	7 50	11 22	8 40	24	....  Ashton....	...	8 40	...	4 20	7 10	
1136	5 45	8 15	11 35	9 00	29	Carleton Junc	5 20	8 15	+10 15	4 12	7 00	
...	P. M.	8 35	...	...	37	..  Franktown....	...	7 46	A. M.	3 54	...	
1210	...	9 05	12 10	9 35	46	Smith's Falls	*430	7 21	...	+3 40	6 25	
7 00	...	...	6 35	3 30	...	arr.   Toronto  ...	9 35	...	...	9 10	12 30	
A. M.	...	10 30	P. M.	10 40	73	...  Brookville....	P. M.	*5 45	...	A. M.	+5 05	
...	...	P. M.	A. M.	...	...	ARRIVE] [LEAVE	A. M.	...	...	P. M.	...	

Lve. Ottawa \*1 50 a.m., +6 00 p.m., arr. Carleton Junc. 2 40 a.m., 6 55 p.m. Lve. Carleton Junc. \*3 22, +9 00 a.m., arr. Ottawa 4 15, 9 50 a.m.

Figure 2: June 1898 CPR train schedule for the Ottawa to Toronto line.

## History of the Cover

Apparently, Fred Fawn purchased the cover offered in the 1997 Maresch sale and was sufficiently convinced of its authenticity that he made an announcement in the March/April 1998 *Canadian Philatelist* that he had uncovered the earliest known Map stamp cover, dated December 2, 1898.<sup>7</sup> The Fawn claim was questioned in a letter to the editor from Bill Pekonen in the July/August 1998 issue of the *Canadian Philatelist*.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, Fawn reiterated and defended his discovery to skeptics in several philatelic articles,<sup>8,9</sup> and included it in his award-winning Map stamp exhibit.<sup>10</sup> Fawn was the chair of the BNAPS Map stamp study group for many years and in 2007, while acting as chair, auctioned off his award-winning Map stamp collection in the Spink Shreves Galleries November 2007 Collector's Series Sale #96. Included in the auction was Lot #1449 which read in part: "1898 2c Black, lavender and carmine Imperial Penny Postage, earliest documented usage on immaculate engraved corner card envelope of the Confederation Life Association of Toronto, attractive single with fresh bright colors of the first printing tied by "Toronto/Dec 2 1898" flag machine pmk. with index letter F, this single franking pays the 2c local drop letter rate within Toronto, extremely fine...the marvellous cover offered

here is the only recorded cover posted on the very day the stamp was being announced..." No mention was made of a Greene Foundation authentication of the cover in the auction writeup. The cover sold for \$21,000 USD plus the 20% buyer's premium.

That is where the situation stood until 2012. For a few years, the listing for the Map stamp in the Unitrade Catalogue included a note that read in part: "One recorded cover is dated December 2, 1898, the day the stamp was being announced." In 2012, the catalogue changed this note to read: "One recorded cover dated December 2, 1898 has subsequently been proven to be a fake." In an email exchange, the Unitrade Catalogue editor, Robin Harris, let me know that the "fake" notation was added to the catalogue in 2012 at the behest of John Jamieson, the owner of the Saskatoon Stamp Centre. But where did Jamieson acquire this information? Other than the statement in the Unitrade Catalogue, I am unaware of any article or report that has refuted the Fawn claim since the aforementioned *Canadian Philatelist* debate back in 1998. Furthermore, the Unitrade Catalogue must be referring to the Fawn cover since, as far as I am aware, the Fawn cover is the only Map stamp cover claimed to be postmarked on December 2, 1898.

## The "Ghostly 1"

At the 2022 ORAPEX stamp exhibition, I was discussing this issue with Bill Longley and Bill Coates, both long time Canadian stamp dealers. Their response to me was the same - the proof that the cover was fake originated with Doug Lingard, an expert and collector of flag cancellations. I had an email exchange with Doug about this cover and was able to talk with Doug in person at CAPEX 2022 in Toronto. This is his recollection. "The issue with this cover is that the '2' is too far to the right of 'DEC' to be a December 2 date. After looking at pictures of the cover, us Flag Cancel guys always thought the real date was December 12 or December 22. When this cover was on exhibit at the BNAPS show in Victoria in 2010 (author's note: presumably this was Hugh Westgate's exhibit titled *The 1898 Imperial Penny Postage Issue* since this is the only Map stamp exhibit listed in the 2010 Victoria BNAPEX program), Bob Heasman, the most knowledgeable person regarding our early flag cancels, and I looked at the actual cover when it was in the frames. If you looked carefully at the dater hub in this cancel, you could see a faint '1' in front of the '2', confirming it was indeed a December 12 flag cancel. Bob and I brought the owner over to the cover to show him the bad news. He saw the faint '1' and was very upset as it had received a clean Greene Foundation certification and he had paid something like \$21K US + buyers fee for it." Since there was no mention of the Greene cert in the 2007 Spinks/Fawn auction, Doug expects "the owner probably bought it in NYC (at the Spinks auction) on the understanding he would be keeping it, if it received a clean Greene cert. However, I am sure it had its clean Greene cert at the 2010 show in Victoria. When Bob Heasman and myself showed the owner the '1' in front of the '2', he was very much taken back as I think he said he purchased it on the basis of the clean Greene cert." Apparently the cover was authenticated after the 2007 Spink Shreves auction since there is a record of a Greene Foundation certificate being issued for this cover on November 18, 2008 (certificate #15984).<sup>11</sup> The certification reads: "Canada Scott No. 86, used on cover, dated Dec. 2, 1898, genuine in all respects." This cover was not included in the 2011 Eastern Auctions auction of the Hugh Westgate Map stamp collection, possibly because Westgate conceded that it was not a December 2, 1898, cover.<sup>12</sup> Doug also believes that he and Heasman showed the cover to John Jamieson at the Victoria show and that this is where Jamieson obtained the information which he transmitted to Unitrade.

Unfortunately, the images of the cover that are available in the Maresch and Spinks auction catalogues and the superior image in the BNAPS Fawn exhibit book (Figure 3) are too poor to tell whether there is a ghostly "1" in front of the "2". Doug confirms this: "As for there being a '1' in front of the '2', you could not see it from the image shown in the auction catalogue. That is why Bob and I thought the cover was dated Dec 12, until seeing it under the plexiglass in Victoria, which confirmed our suspicions." Even though you cannot make out the "1" in the published images, if you compare this cancel with other Toronto 1898 Type 8 Flag cancels bearing single digit dates and similar time marks, you find that the digits in these authentic covers extend to the left of the "O" in the time mark, while the "2" in the Fawn cover cancel is more or less over top of the "O" in "19-O" (Figure 4). This observation suggests the presence of a "1" to the left of the "2" which would place the "2" further to the right over the top of the "O" in "19-O". Although not definitive, it does support the observations of Doug and Bob. It is unfortunate that the current owner or location of the cover is unknown since, with the technology available today, it would very likely be possible to determine unequivocally whether there is/was a "1" present.



Figure 3: Image of Fred Fawn's cover from his exhibit, Canada - Imperial Penny Postage 1898, as published in BNAPS Exhibit Series #32.

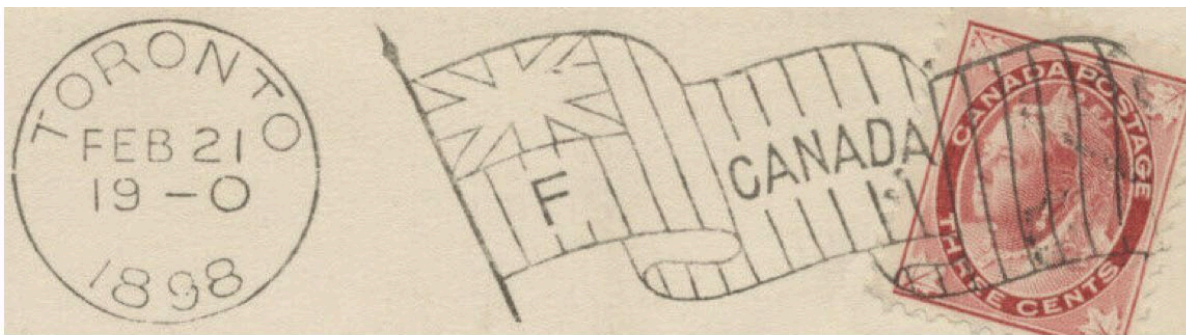


Fawn  
Cover

Figure 4: Comparison of Fred Fawn cover with authentic Toronto Type 8 Flag cancels with single digit days and similar time marks in the dater hub.

## Other Issues with the Flag Cancelation

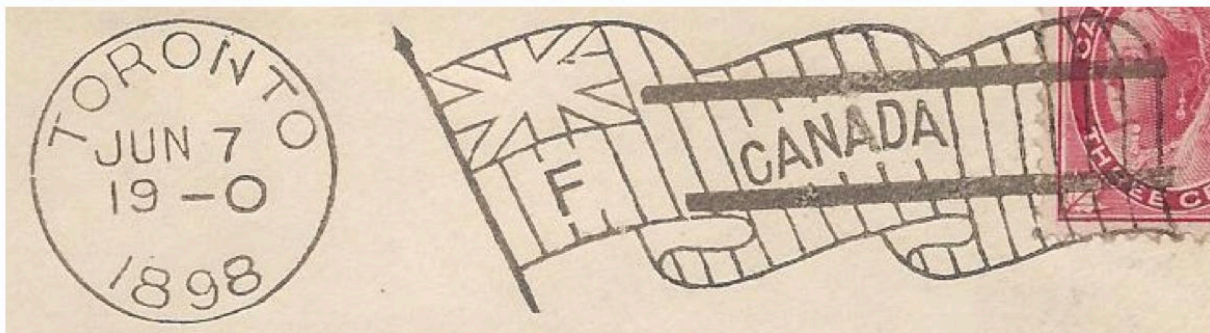
There are some other odd features of the “flag” portion of the cancel. Figure 5 compares a closeup view of the Fred Fawn cancel with images of authentic Toronto Type 7 and Type 8 “F” Flag cancels. The Type 7 Toronto “F” Flag cancel was used from AU/97 - FE/98.<sup>13</sup> The Type 7 die was irreversibly modified by the addition of two heavy horizontal bars above and below “CANADA” and the resulting Type 8 Toronto “F” Flag cancel was used from FE/98 - JA/02. As can be seen in Figure 5, the portion of the flag cancel that is on the Map stamp in the Fawn cover (despite being fairly incomplete) appears as a Type 8 Flag with the heavy horizontal bars, while the portion of the flag cancel that is on the envelope has no upper Type 8 horizontal bar and resembles a Type 7 postmark. There does appear to be a small portion of the lower horizontal bar on the envelope but the vertical flag lines just to the left of the Map stamp are continuous and do not look like a Type 8 postmark but rather like a Type 7. Again, according to Doug, “whoever enhanced the cancel or whatever, did not know what they were doing as they did not enhance the two horizontal bars that you see on a Type 8 Flag cancel. These are normally clear when other parts of the flag cancel impression are missing, and that is the reason they were added to the Type 7 cancelling die. My gut feeling is that since both the dater hub and flag cancel impression are in such poor condition, the flag cancel impression is possibly OK, but the part of it that is on the cover has been enhanced with the addition of 2 vertical lines.”



Type 7



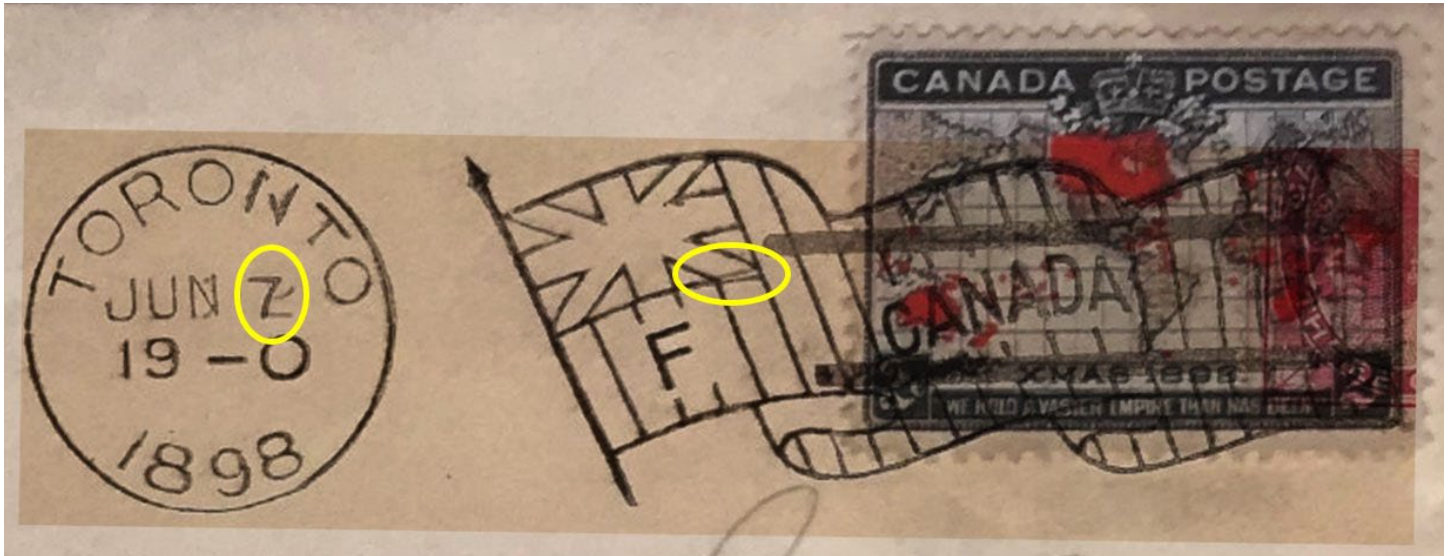
Fawn Cover



Type 8

Figure 5: Comparison of Fred Fawn cover with authentic Toronto Type 7 and Type 8 “F” Flag cancels.

In addition, Scott Robinson has pointed out that there are subtle differences to the bottom right corner of the Union Jack between the Fawn cover cancel and the authentic Type 8 cancel. According to Scott, “The dies of the Montreal Type 7 and Type 8 Flag cancels are known to have subtle differences that are unique to each of the indicia. Assuming this holds true for the Toronto Type 7 and Type 8 Flag cancels, there should also be subtle differences to the dies, but all cancels with ‘F’ indicia should be identical.” Figure 6 shows Scott’s overlay of the Fawn cover cancel over an authentic Toronto Type 8 “F” Flag cancel. The differences to the line at the bottom right corner of the Union Jack may be further evidence of tampering or “enhancement” of the Fawn cover cancel. The misalignment of the single digit date over the “0” of the time mark is also readily apparent.



*Figure 6: Overlay of the Fawn cover cancel and an authentic Toronto Type 8 “F” Flag cancel highlighting differences to the corner of the Union Jack and the alignment of the date.*

## Conclusion

The cover advertised in 1997 as the “earliest recorded date on cover” is in all probability not a Map stamp cover from the first day of issue of the stamp on December 2, 1898.<sup>14</sup> The hub appears to be dated December 12, 1898. Either the “1” in “DEC 12” printed very lightly or someone attempted to remove it. It also appears that someone has attempted to “fix” various lines in the flag cancel that were not present because of a lightly printed cancel, or were erased when they tried to doctor the cancel. In doing so, they created a Toronto Type 8 “F” Flag cancel that differs from the authentic postmark in many respects!

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following gentlemen for sharing their recollections about the cover in question: Robin Harris, Doug Lingard, Bill Coates, Bill Longley, Bill Pawluk and Gary Lyon. Thanks go to Brian Copeland, Doug Lingard and Scott Robinson who read early versions of this article and made very helpful suggestions.

## References and End Notes

1. *Meekel’s Weekly Stamp News*, Vol. 12, No. 24, Whole No. 415, pg 206 (1898)
2. B. Pekonen, *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 49, No. 4, Whole No. 287, pg 234 (1998). The images of the ABNC delivery sheets that are referred to in the Pekonen article were obtained by Bill Pawluk in the 1980’s with permission of the then National Postal Museum.
3. Library and Archives Canada website:  
<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=FonAndCol&IdNumber=2268458>

4. C.R. McGuire, "There are First-day Covers, and then There are First-day Covers!" in *PHSC Journal*, No. 88, pg 2 (1996)
5. (a) M.L. Baron and S. Lum, "First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada Part 3 - First Day Covers of the Imperial Penny Postage Issue of 1898" in *First Days*, Vol. 33, No. 6, Whole No. 209, pg 725 (1988), and (b) M.L. Baron and S. Lum, "First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada Part 3 - First Day Covers of the Imperial Penny Postage Issue of 1898" in *BNA Topics*, Vol. 49, No. 5, Whole No. 451, pg 28 (1992)
6. *Travelers' Official Guide of the Railway and Steam Navigation Lines in the United States, Canada and Mexico*. November 1898, National Railway Publication Company, New York, pg 515 (1898). The train schedule is dated June 1898.
7. F. Fawn, "Canada's Imperial Penny Post - The Map Stamp Turns 100", in *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 49, No. 2, Whole No. 285, pg 132 (1998)
8. F. Fawn, "Map: The Earliest Reported Postmark", in *The 1898 Christmas Map Stamp Newsletter*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Whole No. 5, pg 1 (2001)
9. F. Fawn, "The Map Stamp Earliest Reported Postmark", in *Maple Leaves*, Vol. 27, No. 4, Whole No. 282, pg 155 (2001)
10. F. Fawn, *Canada - Imperial Penny Postage 1898, BNAPS Exhibit Series #32*, BNAPS, pg 58 (2004)
11. Note that the certificate indicates that a #86 Map stamp (blue oceans) is on the cover rather than the #85 (lavender or grey oceans) which is on the cover. Thanks to the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation for providing me with the information about the certification of this cover.
12. This was confirmed by Gary Lyon of Eastern Auctions who replied to me in an email exchange that "We determined that it was (unfortunately!) a later date in December and not Dec. 2. As such it would likely have been sold in a large lot."
13. E. Richardson, *The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973*, BNAPS Handbook, pp 19-21 (1973)
14. It should be noted that an off-cover Map stamp with a DE 2/98 duplex cancellation has been documented. This stamp was also part of the Fawn/Westgate collections: (a) Spink Shreves Galleries November 2007 Collector's Series Sale #96 of the Fred Fawn collection, Lot #1448, and (b) Eastern Auctions October 2011 auction of the Hugh Westgate collection, Lot #247. The stamp is also shown in the BNAPS Fawn Exhibit book.<sup>10</sup> Although it has a clean 2001 Greene Foundation certification, several people have mentioned to me that the authenticity of this cancel has also been questioned. The current owner of the stamp is unknown.



## Lavender/Blue Ocean Plate Varieties – Part 3: Examples from Black Plate 2

By Scott Robinson

In this third article about Map stamp ocean plate varieties, I will present a few interesting examples from Maps printed from black plate 2. Each of the varieties reported here has been seen on multiple copies from the same plate position with blue oceans. So, the varieties are constant, although they may not appear on all copies from a specific position. Lavender ocean examples of these varieties are much harder to detect because the lavender shade is almost always much fainter than the blue oceans and often so faded that it is virtually impossible to detect subtle differences.

The first ocean plate variety I discovered is from plate/position 2A96. I call it the “Sinkhole” variety. It consists of a strong circular mark near the centre of western U.S.A. This variety is generally easy to spot and exists with both blue and lavender oceans. I have seen many copies with blue oceans but only a few I can confirm with lavender. I have seen examples of 2A96 that do not show the variety and I have not seen the variety with any black plates other than plate 2. I would be interested to hear from readers who may have examples from other black plates or who have a clean very deep blue copy from 2A96 with no trace of the variety.

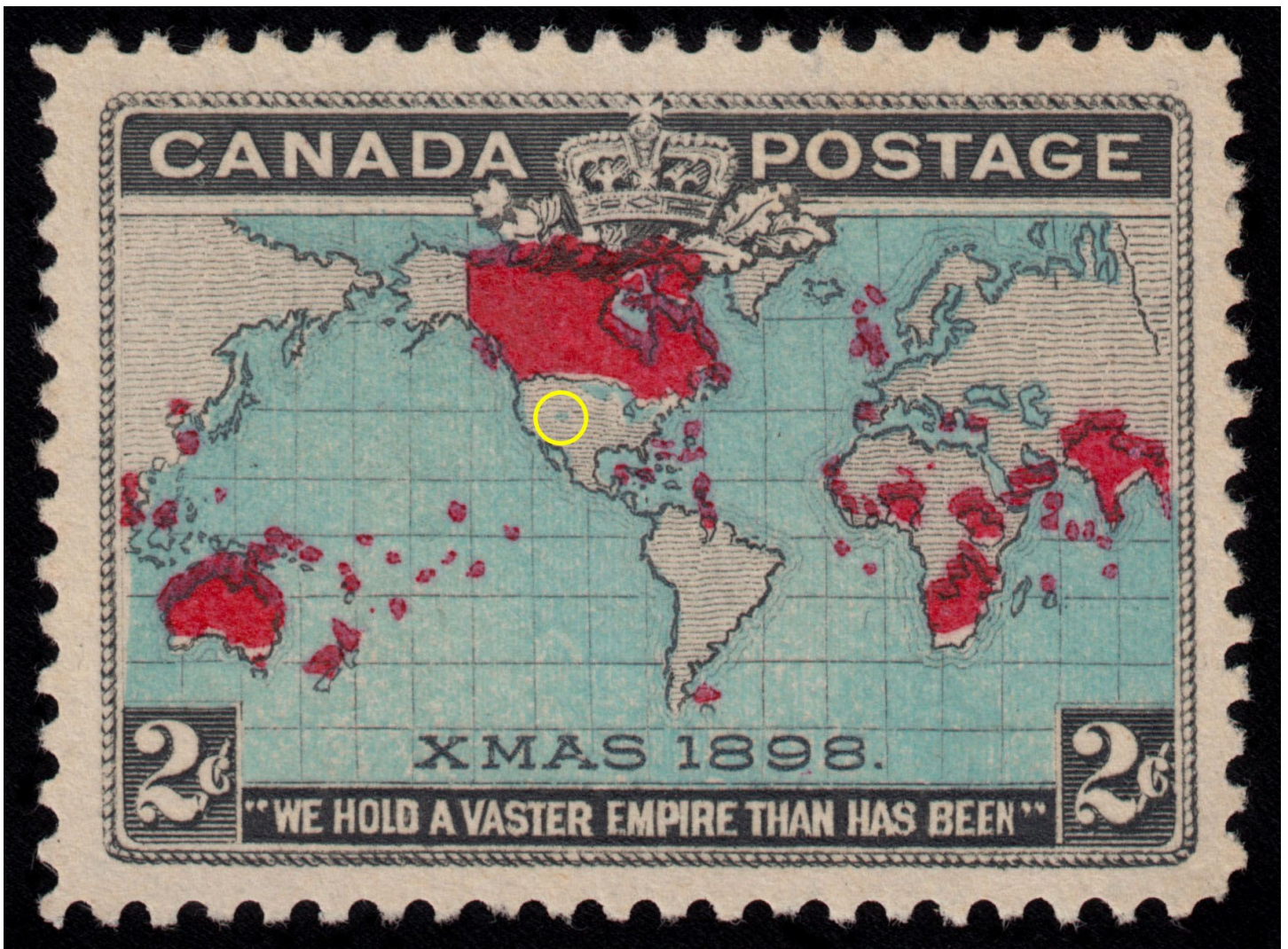


Figure 1: The Sinkhole variety from 2A96.

The second variety is from 2A35. I call this the "Tsunami" variety because it looks to me like a large tidal wave about to hit western Canada. It consists of a strong irregular line of missing ocean ink that descends from Alaska down the coast of Canada to Vancouver Island. This variety can be hard to identify if the alignment of the black, red, and ocean inks is not reasonably accurate. I have observed examples with both blue and lavender ink. In fact, I have not seen a clean example of 2A35 with blue ink that does not show the variety. I have not seen it with any black plates other than plate 2. I would be interested to hear from readers who may have a clean very deep blue copy with no trace of the variety, an example of the lavender ocean showing the variety clearly, or any examples from other black plates.



*Figure 2: The Tsunami variety from 2A35.*

The third variety is from 2A84. This plate/position is noteworthy since it also includes the only major misplaced entry on the Map stamps, which consists of doubling marks at the top of the stamp and in the top margin that originate from the centre of the stamp (see the Map Stamp Report from July 2021). The ocean plate variety consists of missing ocean ink or white areas in and around "XMAS 1898". This is a more subtle variety that I have only identified with blue oceans. Although random areas of blotchy, missing, or faint blue ocean ink are common for many Map stamps, there is a distinct pattern to the missing ink at this plate/position. I have only noted this variety on about a third of the blue ocean copies I have examined. It is unlikely to be visible on lavender copies. The degree of white space or missing ink can vary from copy to copy, but it can be quite striking on copies with very deep blue oceans. I call this the "White XMAS" variety.



*Figure 3: The White XMAS variety from 2A84.*

The last variety is another example of missing ocean ink from plate/position 2A75. It consists of an area of missing ocean ink above the left value tablet. I have only seen three copies of this variety: two with blue oceans and one with lavender. The variety is very subtle. However, the pattern of the missing ink is nearly identical for the copies I have seen.



*Figure 4: A missing ocean ink variety from 2A75.*

I hope my three articles about ocean plate varieties have been of interest to the study group and have encouraged other members to examine their Maps in a new light. I look forward to feedback concerning any of the varieties I have discussed or any others that members may have discovered. Although I have other examples of ocean plate varieties, many of these have only been observed on a single copy or have some variance between copies. I will follow-up with a new article on ocean plate varieties when I have received some feedback from members or have new discoveries to report.

## Featured Maps

This issue's first featured Map item comes from study group member, Parker Moores. He has begun a plating collection of Map stamps and has achieved quite a bit of success in less than a year working solely from W. L. Bradley's plating book. Says Parker, "My quest to plate all positions of the 1898 Map Stamp commenced in December 2021, spurred on by the serendipitous discovery that the singular Map Stamp in my collection at the time, happened to be the major re-entry at 1A94! I decided early on that my goal would be all 100 positions across each of the 4 Black Plates, but also, and rather ambitiously, in each major colour classification... I have to date plated 26% of all 800 positions! Much work is left."

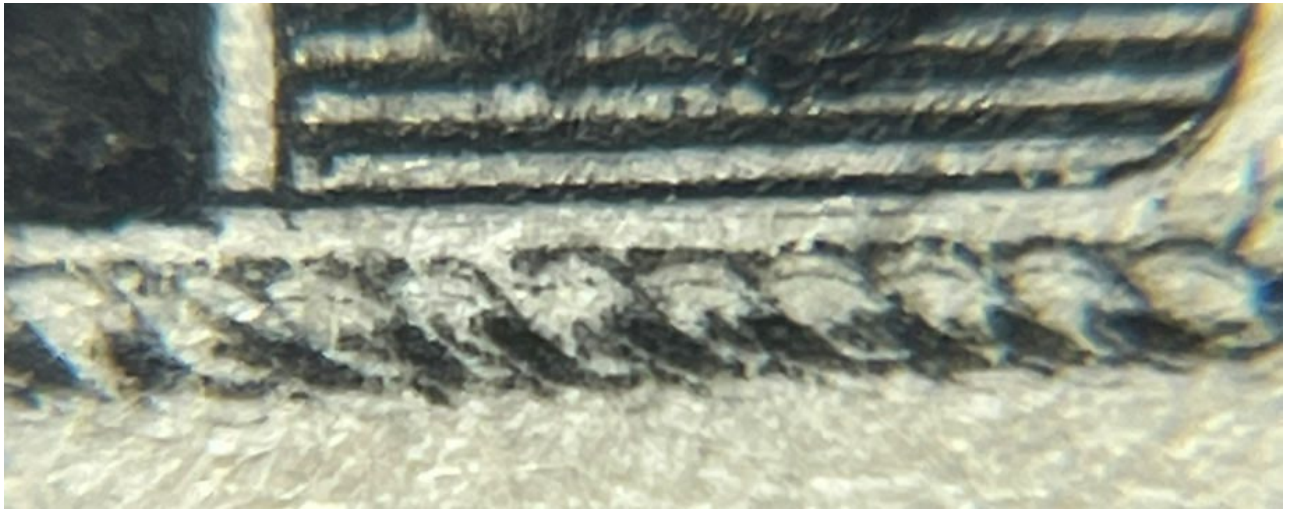
During the course of his plating, Parker has acquired and plated red plate A, position 94 from each of the black plates (1A94, 2A94, and 3A94). One of his copies of 1A94 is shown below. This stamp was identified from Bradley's description of the red plate characteristics and the strong vertical guide line running west of Australia (Figure 1).



*Figure 1: Parker's used copy of Map from 1A94 with closeup of vertical guide line west of Australia.*

After plating a second copy of this plate/position, Parker noticed several marks and hints of doubling with his 16x hand lens. He described these as "doubling of the right lower cable, as well doubling in the area just beneath the right value tablet and above the cable (Figure 2). There are also doubling throughout the letters of 'XMAS', most notable in the base of the 'A' and 'S' (Figure 3). Finally, there are tiny marks in the letters of 'BEEN' (Figure 4)."

In submitting this stamp, Parker wanted to know if this was a re-entry and if it had been reported before. Although unreported in Bradley's plating book, this nice re-entry from 1A94 is reported in Ken Kershaw's plating book. The re-entry is subtle and not known to many Map stamp enthusiasts who do not have the Kershaw book and a keen eye for details. My thanks go out to Parker for rediscovering it and sharing it with the group. Interestingly, the closeup images on the next page were taken by Parker using his iPhone while shooting through his hand lens!



*Figure 2: Faint doubling of the right lower cable and value tablet.*



*Figure 3: Clear doubling in the letters of "XMAS".*



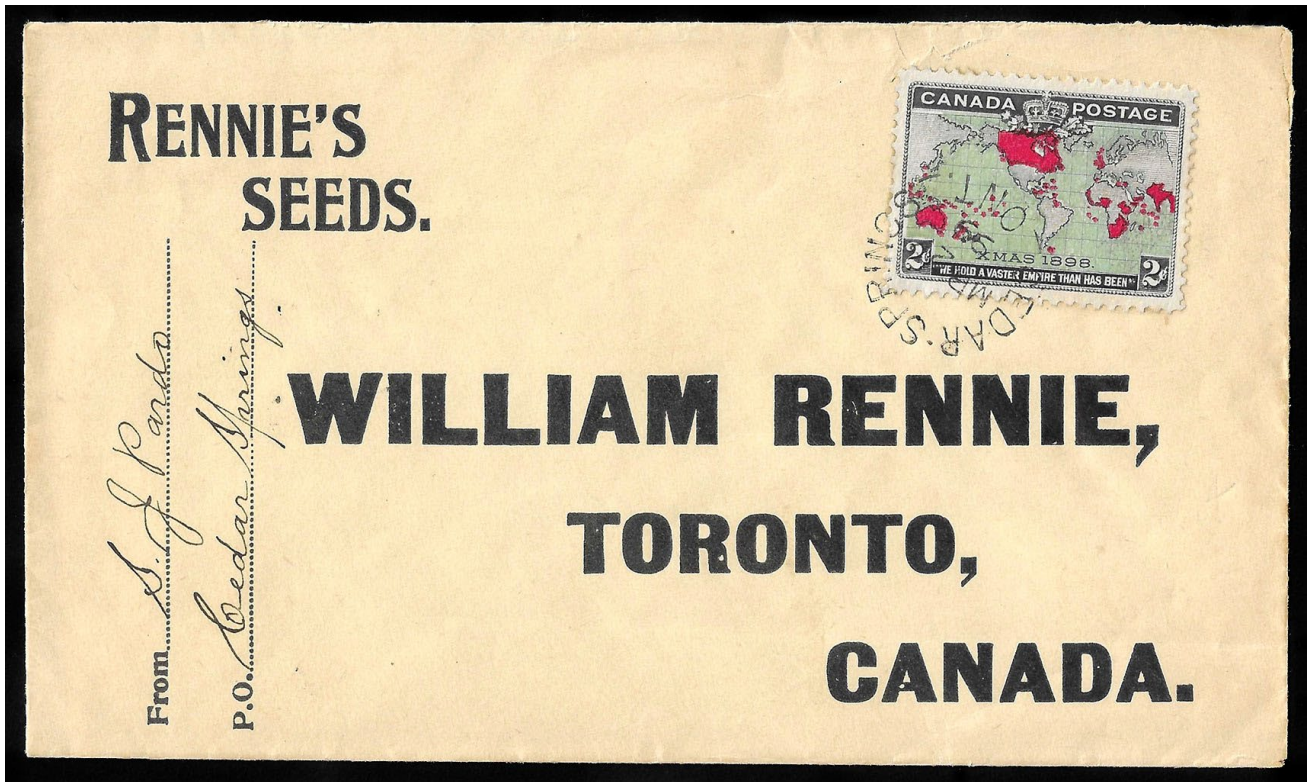
*Figure 4: Re-entry marks in the letters of "BEEN".*

Our next contribution is a series of covers shared by study group member Arnold Janson. Arnie shared a number of covers with different Map stamp varieties and some extreme "muddy waters" shades. Your editor is not normally a fan of muddy waters Maps since they are colour changelings and not true printing varieties. However, the various shades on these covers make an attractive addition to any Map collection.

The first cover features three Maps plus a Victoria 1¢ Numeral stamp paying the 7¢ registered letter rate from the rural post office in Kenlis, Assiniboia to Toronto. The stamps are all tied by faint cancels dated DE 27 99. The Maps on this commercial cover show a lovely golden muddy waters shade. Although the Map stamps are all singles, they come from consecutive positions on the sheet. The top left stamp is 2A30, the top right is 2A28, and the bottom right stamp is the major re-entry from 2A29.



The second commercial cover has a single Map stamp paying the letter rate from Cedar Springs, Ontario to Toronto. The stamp is tied by a MR 27 99 split-ring cancel and is a major re-entry from 2A9. The muddy waters effect adds a slight yellow brown cast to the normally blue oceans, giving the stamp an interesting greenish appearance.



The third commercial cover has a Map stamp paying the letter rate from Almonte, Ontario to Hamilton. The stamp is tied by a grid cancel with an accompanying CDS dated DE 28 99. The muddy waters effect gives a very distinctive brown orange appearance to the oceans.





The last cover has a Map tied by a grid cancel with CDS dated JA 10 99 going from the Notre Dame St. West post office in Montreal to the town of Rawdon, Quebec. The Map stamp appears to be from plate/position 2A74. It features an extreme muddy waters effect that gives the oceans a very dark brownish grey appearance.



### **BNAPS Xmas 1898 Map Stamp Study Group**

**Chairman & Report Co-editor: Rick Friesen**  
Kirkland, Quebec  
Email: rickfriesen5@gmail.com

**Report Editor: Scott Robinson**  
Pierrefonds, Quebec  
Email: scott@flyspecker.com

This newsletter and previous issues are available as PDF files from the BNAPS website.  
Submissions for and feedback about the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Scott Robinson.

All other correspondence should be addressed to the Chairman, Rick Friesen.

All articles and images are copyright ©2022 by the author and/or study group.