

Chairman's Message

Fellow Map stamp collectors, it has been over a year since our last newsletter. Personally, over the last year I have had to deal with health issues of my aging parents, my wife and I have sold our family home of 25 years and moved provinces and, on the collecting front, I have compiled several censuses on various aspects of Squared Circles as the chair of my other, very active, BNAPS study group. It is surprising that in this time I did not receive one email questioning why the Map Stamp Report was delayed for such an extended period. Does anybody care about the extensive delay or would anybody care if the study group was disbanded? Even with our considerable challenges, the contributions in this issue of the newsletter are primarily from Scott and me. This situation is not sustainable and unless articles and other contributions come from the study group membership, the next newsletter will likely be many months away, if at all.

This is your newsletter, so I challenge each and every member of the study group to please contribute something, anything. I am convinced that there are many of you out there who are actively collecting and studying the Map stamp - recent auction results confirm the fact that the Map stamp is still highly collectible. I dislike that my chairman messages are always pleas for contributions, so please help stop this broken record. Scott and I will happily edit any submission, no matter how short or long!

We wish you all a happy upcoming holiday season!

Rick Friesen, Chairman
Stittsville, Ontario
rickfriesen5@gmail.com

My Two Cents – From Your Editor

Once again, I am forced to apologise to members for taking so long to get this latest issue of the Map Stamp Report out to you. I had originally intended to include a substantial article about plate 5 Maps, but personal issues over the last few months prevented me from completing the article.

In this issue, we do have a great article from Rick that provides a detailed census of the 13 known Map stamp covers that are dated December 7, 1898, which is the earliest confirmed date of use. We also have an overview of a lovely old-time Map collection that Ronald E. Majors was kind enough to share with us.

In addition, I have a short article featuring some of the feedback I have received regarding my previous article about restoring the ocean colour of "muddy waters" Maps. Finally, we have my personal tribute to the late Ralph E. Trimble.

Scott Robinson, Report Editor
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Feedback: Cleaning the Muddy Waters

By Scott Robinson

Several friends and study group members have commented on last issue's *Cleaning the Muddy Waters* article. I received notice from several readers that they would give the cleaning process a try on some of their less attractive copies. However, I have not received any scans or feedback on their success.

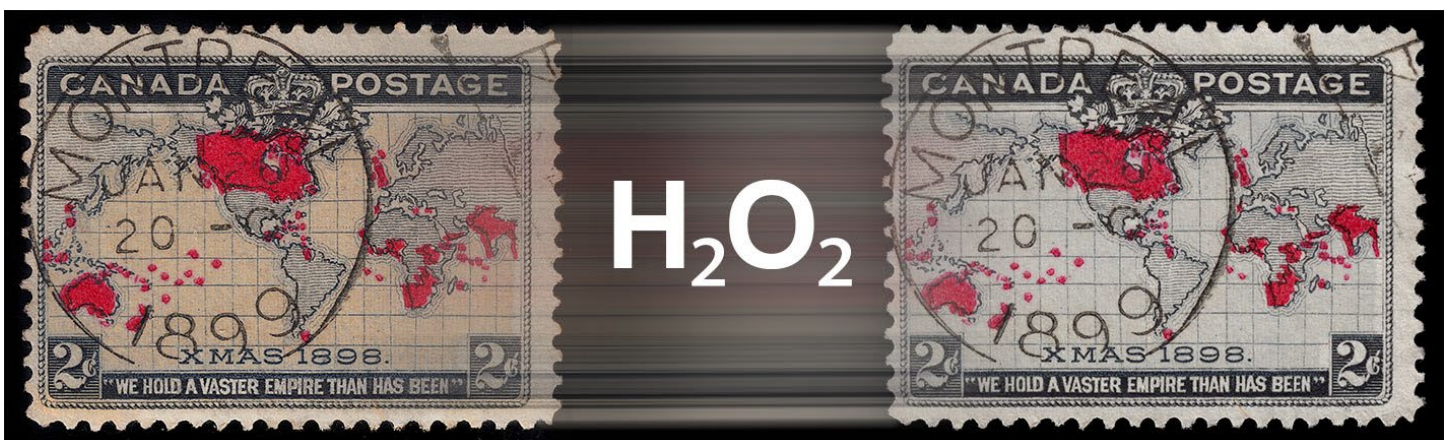
Arnie Janson was keen to try a more comprehensive treatment. He writes, "I was fascinated by your peroxide vapour treatment to restore the colour of the muddy water map stamps... What do you think of the idea of just resting the stamp on top of an open bottle of peroxide?" While this is certainly an option if the neck of your peroxide bottle is wide enough, it should be noted that the treatment described in the article is designed to give a very low dosage of diluted hydrogen peroxide solution. The mixture of fresh air with the fumes of the liquid allows for a very mild and even application. It is also worth noting Arnie's usage of the words "restore the colour". While the treated Map stamps do appear to revert to their original colour appearance, it is not certain that the ink characteristics have actually reverted to their previous chemical state. While the colour is restored, I cannot vouch for any restoration of the ink's original chemical composition.

Our study group Chairman, Rick Friesen, welcomed the article but also shared some concern about what is happening chemically with the ink and the paper of the stamp or cover. He writes, "I don't like using any chemical, even with the fumigation method, to modify my stamps and covers. My reasoning - we don't know exactly what chemical processes are taking place and the treatment with peroxide can potentially lead to an acidification of the stamp surface. I have no idea what that acid can or will do to the stamp upon long term storage, so I'd rather not play with fire." I fully appreciate Rick's concern with these types of chemical treatments, especially for expensive material. However, I must point out that hydrogen peroxide has for a long time been commonly used to treat stamps with so-called "oxidisation" problems (the 3c Small Queen and 2c Registration stamps come to mind). I believe we would have heard by now if there were any long-term ill effects. However, given that no studies have been published on the long-term effects of this process and that I am not a chemical scientist, I again encourage readers to exercise caution.

Finally, Ronald Majors wrote to say that he had come across another relevant article by one of the authors who was cited in the original references of my article. The short but technical Canadian Philatelist article by Dr. John E. Milks provides some additional information about the chemistry of the muddy waters discolouration and its treatment with hydrogen peroxide. The article is available from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada website.

Comments on the Muddy Water 1898 Map Stamp, John E. Milks, The Canadian Philatelist, March-April 2002, Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

In closing, I invite any members who have tried the hydrogen peroxide treatment of their Map stamps to provide some before-and-after scans showing their results.



Map Stamp Covers Postmarked December 7, 1898

By Rick Friesen

On December 2, 1898, the Deputy Postmaster General announced that the 2¢ Map stamp was available and authorized its use for the prepayment of postage.¹ However, no Map stamp covers are documented until several days after this announcement. The earliest date recorded on a Map stamp cover is claimed to be December 6, 1898. The stamp is found on a mixed franking 8¢ registered cover, possibly philatelic, with St. Hyacinthe squared circle canceling and dispatch (on the back) postmarks dated AM/DE 6/98, and a Montreal barred circle backstamp receiver dated DE 6 P11/98.² The images of this cover in the PHSC Journal (see Figure 1) are very poor and the cover has not otherwise been documented in the philatelic literature or at auction. Until a better image is available to verify the claim, the dates on the postmarks of this Map stamp cover remain questionable.



Figure 1: Map stamp cover (front and backstamps) with postmarks claimed to be dated DE 6/98

The earliest confirmed date of use of a Map stamp is December 7, 1898, and postmarks from 6 cities are claimed to have been identified on this date.³ I have compiled a census of December 7, 1898, Map stamp covers from the philatelic literature, auction catalogues and on-line auctions. The 13 covers that I have recorded are listed in the Census Table, and include covers from Hamilton (1), Montreal (3), Ottawa (4), and Toronto (5). I have not documented covers originating from either Bridgewater or Kingston, although off-cover Map stamps with cancellations on this date are claimed (in the case of Bridgewater)³ or documented (in the case of Kingston)⁴ to exist. There is also a cover bearing a faked RPO cancel on this date (see Census Table, last entry). The majority of the documented covers (7/13) are drop letters in cities that had letter carrier service in December 1898. Since the drop letter rate for this service was 2¢ per oz., the requisite postage could be paid with a single Map stamp. One of these drop letter covers was sent special delivery and bears an additional 10¢ Special Delivery stamp (E1). The remainder of the covers exhibit varied rates/destinations including a 2¢ UPU post card rate to England, a 5¢ UPU rate to England on uprated EN9 postal stationery, three covers to the USA (one of which is a 12¢ quadruple weight rate and bears 6 Map stamps), and a domestic 3¢ rate.

The most recent addition to this list is a previously unreported patriotic cover front that was offered for sale recently on eBay (Figure 2) and now resides in my collection. I don't believe that the seller realized what he had in his possession since it was offered for sale along with an Admiral cover and the lot listing was titled "1898-1926 CANADA AD COVERS! US/CANADA PATRIOTIC + ALLOVER OTTAWA ONTARIO L@@K!". No mention was made of the rare December 7, 1898, cancellation date on the Map stamp (from plate position 1A31) cover. Although it is only a cover front and is in somewhat ratty condition, the combination franking exists on a pretty J.C. Wilson patriotic envelope (Anglo-Saxon WLS-E06). The addressee is hilariously identified as a fellow "Stamp Crank" (stamp collector) and "Kamera Fiend" (photographer)!



Figure 2: Patriotic Map stamp cover with Toronto cancel dated DEC 7/13-O/1898

If any reader has an additional example of a December 7, 1898, cover or has an improved image of any of the covers in the census, please contact me at rickfriesen5@gmail.com.

Census Table: Map Stamp Covers Postmarked December 7, 1898

Cancel: HAMILTON Flag dated DEC 7/14--O/1898

Franking: 2¢ Map, 1¢ Leaf

Destination: Whitman, MA

References:

1. J.N. Sissons October 1974 auction #341 of the Moore Map collection, Lot #160: 1¢ Lavender + 1¢ Leaf tied to First Day Cover with Hamilton DE 7 1898 flag to Mass, fine
2. 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, #6, Whole #209, pg 725 (1988)
3. 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, #5, Whole #451, pg 28 (1992)
4. Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions September 2014 Sale #655, Lot #1167: 1898, Imperial Penny Postage 2¢ black, lavender & carmine First Day Cover (Scott 85), 1¢ (67) and 2¢ tied by "Hamilton/Dec 7/14--O/1898" involute flag cancel to corner ad cover for Canadian Pacific Railway Company, addressed to Whitman MA, rare and desirable, scarce item for the world's first Christmas stamp; reduced at right not affecting stamps or cancellation, some trivial perf toning, Fine to Very Fine, Unitrade notes there are perhaps ten covers recorded. (Image)



Cancel: MONTREAL Flag dated DEC 7/13-O/1898

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Montreal, QUE (drop letter)

References:

1. R.B. Winmill, The Evolution of Imperial Penny Postage and The Postal History of the Canadian 1898 Map Stamp, Toronto: J. Hennok, pg 6 (1982)
2. Spink Shreves Galleries November 2007 auction #96 of the Fred Fawn collection, Lot #1453: 1898 2c Black, lavender and carmine Imperial Penny Postage, first day cover, attractive single franking paying the local rate in the city of Montreal, rather well centered stamp showing the "muddy water" effect, tied by "Montreal/Dec 7/1898" flag machine cancel, small circular backstamp of the same date used by this city on local covers, very fine; an attractive and rare first day cover with less than twelve covers recorded; ex-R. B. Winmill and illustrated on page 6 of his book. (Image)



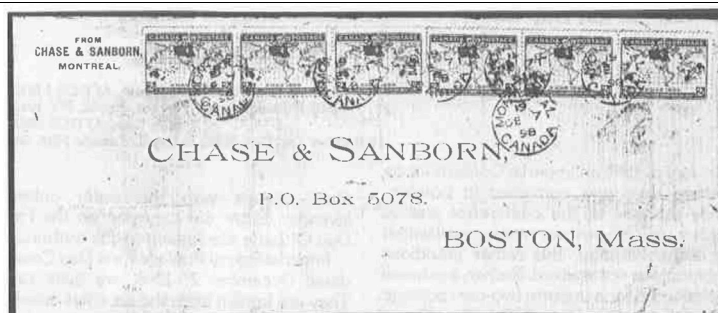
Cancel: MONTREAL CDS dated 19/DE 7/98

Franking: 6x2¢ Map

Destination: Boston, MA

References:

1. 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, #6, Whole #209, pg 725 (1988) (Image)
2. 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, #5, Whole #451, pg 28 (1992)



Cancel: MONTREAL Flag dated DEC 7/13-O/1898

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Montreal, QUE (drop letter)

References:

1. Sparks Auctions September 2018 auction #28 of the Rob Lunn collection, Lot #351: December 7, 1898 First Day Cover, mailed from Montreal (Bickerdike machine at 1pm) to Montreal, received there at 10pm (Bickerdike hub on back), attempted delivery (DEC.7 carrier marking), address changed to a local post office box in purple crayon and re-despatched (for free) Notre Dame St. West L.C.D next morning at 7am. Small corner fault bottom left, still a very fine example of this first day of use for the Map stamp in combination with a 2c drop letter rate, with very few known.
2. Eastern Auctions April 2021 auction, Lot #509: 1898 (December 7) Envelope mailed on the Official First Day of Issue of the 2c Map stamp, tied by very clear Montreal DEC 7 13 - O 1898 Flag cancellation, trivial perf stains and small flaw at left of envelope; pays the 2c local drop letter rate with free letter carrier delivery, Notre Dame St. W Montreal and carrier mark on reverse. A very scarce and desirable First Day Cover, F-VF (Image)



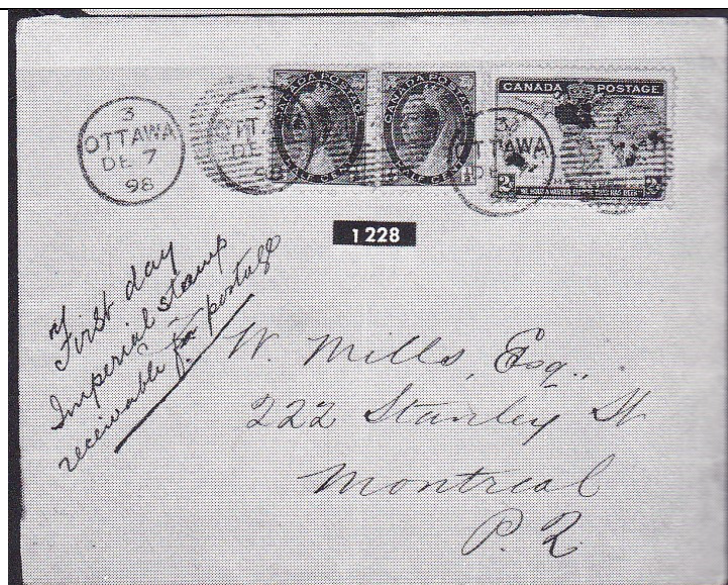
Cancel: OTTAWA duplex (DON-1208a) dated 3/DE 7/98

Franking: 2¢ Map, 2x1/2¢ Numeral

Destination: Montreal, QUE

References:

1. J.N. Sissons December 1982 auction #423, Lot #1228: 2¢+1/2¢ (2, #74) tied 'Ottawa, DE7,1898' to a cover to Montreal (BS DEC7,1898), M/S 'First day, Imperial stamp receivable for Postage', extremely rare, Fine (Image)
2. 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, #6, Whole #209, pg 725 (1988)
3. 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, #5, Whole #451, pg 28 (1992)



Cancel: TORONTO Flag 'D' dated DEC 7/13-O/1898

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Superior, Nebraska

Reference:

eBay October 2023 and now in author's collection



Cancel: TORONTO Flag 'D' dated DEC 7/?-O/1898

Franking: 2c Map, 10c SD (E1)

Destination: Toronto, ONT (special delivery drop letter)

References:

1. R. Maresch & Son February 1984 auction #164-167, Lot #694: 75, 76 [Sc E1, 85]: TEN CENT and TWO CENT MAP stamp, tied by Toronto 'D' flag to local drop letter, dated 7 Dec 1898, THE EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE OF THE MAP STAMP and probably the only Dec. 7th usage with a Special Delivery Stamp; trifle faults in cover, very rare. SHOWPIECE
2. R. Maresch & Son October 1998 auction #334 of the Beverlie Clark collection, Lot #737: 85,E1: GRAY, and 10c SPECIAL DELIVERY, tied by TORONTO D FLAG dated DECEMBER 7 1898 to local drop letter, THE EARLIEST KNOWN DATE OF USAG OF THE MAP STAMP, VERY RARE, perhaps 10 such dated covers are known. SHOWPIECE, minute opening tears, otherwise very fine
3. Spink Shreves Galleries November 2001 auction #96 of the Fred Fawn collection, Lot #1452: 1898 2c Black, lavender and carmine Imperial Penny Postage, first day cover, a corner card cover of John Taylor & Company of Toronto, posted for local special delivery with 10c Green First Special Delivery issue, both stamps tied by "Toronto/Dec 7, 1898" flag machine cancel with index letter "D", the 2c stamp pays the correct 2c domestic local rate within the city plus 10c for special delivery, both stamps are fresh and attractive, tiny facial scuff to the cover and small cosmetic edge repairs to the cover, mostly around the corners, otherwise very fine and handsome; the special delivery service had just been instigated on July 1,1898, at this early date the service was rather restricted to fourteen major cities and required that the service be within the city limits, thus covers with the first special delivery stamp are not common and particularly so with the 2c Map stamp for local use; however this usage on the December 7, 1898 first day is the only recorded example and a great First Day Cover rarity; clear 1998 Greene Foundation certificate prior to the corner repairs. (Image)



Cancel: TORONTO Flag 'D' dated DEC 7/13-O/1898

Franking: 2c Map

Destination: Toronto, ONT (drop letter)

Reference:

Charles G. Firby September 1999 auction, Lot #1095: #85. tied to large part of cover by Toronto, Dec 7, 1898 D flag. The earliest known date of usage of the Map stamp. Very rare. It is believed that approximately 10 covers exist



Cancel: OTTAWA duplex (DON-1208a)

dated 3/DE 7/98

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Ottawa, ONT (drop letter)

Reference:

Spink Shreves Galleries November 2007 auction #96 of the Fred Fawn collection, Lot #1454: 1898 2c Black, lavender and carmine Imperial Penny Postage, first day cover, fresh single franking paying the local rate in the city of Ottawa, tied by "Ottawa/DE 7 98" duplex with numeral "1", small edge tear at top of cover with horizontal fold just below where cover was folded over to hide the tear, neither affecting any integral feature of the cover, otherwise very fine; another rare first day cover and with less than twelve covers recorded it is quite amazing that five of them are found in Mr. Fawn's award winning collection; ex-Bain.



Cancel: OTTAWA duplex (DON-1208a) dated 7/DE 7/98

Franking: 2¢ Map, 2¢ postal stationery (EN9), 1¢ Numeral

Destination: Liverpool, England

Reference:

Spink Shreves Galleries November 2007 auction #96 of the Fred Fawn collection, Lot #1450: 1898 2c Black, lavender and carmine Imperial Penny Postage, first day cover posted on December 7, 1898, the date recognized as the first day of issuance, tied along with 1c Green to a 2c Green postal entire (Unitrade #75, U7) by "Ottawa/DE 7 98" duplex with numeral "1", posted to Liverpool, England paying the 5c U.P.U. rate, red "Paid/Liverpool/U S Packet/17 DE 98" receiving c.d.s. at bottom left indicating that it was carried by an American ship, few minor flecks of perf. toning and light horizontal fold at bottom, otherwise very fine; this fold may have had the purpose of displaying an inscription written by the sender at the bottom on the reverse which reads, "The new 2c stamp on this letter is just out today, in Ottawa, Dec. 7th." with "today" underlined establishing that the stamp did not go on sale in the capitol until this date, and this fact is quite likely the basis for recognizing this date as the date of issuance; of the less than a dozen FDC's known this is the only known first day cover posted to an overseas destination, and along with the card offered in the next lot these are the only two overseas sendings recorded on this date.



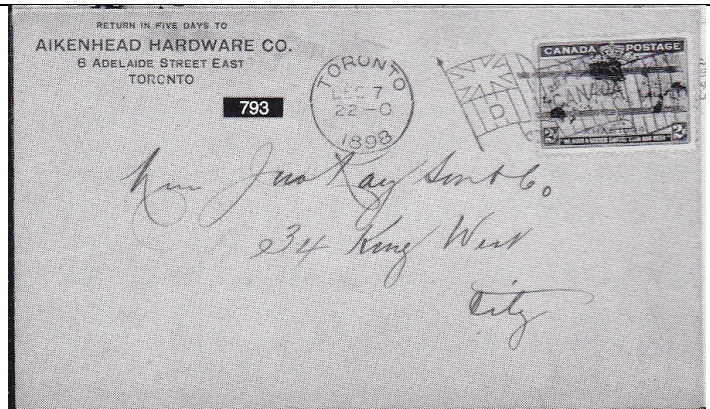
Cancel: TORONTO Flag 'D' dated DEC 7/22-O/1898

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Toronto, ONT (drop letter)

Reference:

J.A. Hennok March 1994 auction #91 of the Alan Selby collection, Lot #793: DEC 7 1898, First Day Cover of the 2¢ Map stamp, (#85) tied by very clear Toronto 'D' type 8 flag on local cover (b/s also Dec 7) with Aitkenhead Hardware Co cornercard, a tiny sealed cover tear at bottom. Very rare commercial FDC, one of the gems of the collection



Cancel: OTTAWA duplex (DON-1208a) dated 7/DE 7/98

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Liverpool, England

References:

1. R. Maresch & Son October 1998 auction #334 of the Beverlie Clark collection, Lot #738: 85:-some age staining at perfs, tied by OTTAWA 7 DE '98 duplex paying the U.P.U. POSTCARD RATE to LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, the EARLIEST KNOWN DATE ON A CARD with the following text "...ON THIS CARD I SEND YOU ONE OF THE NEW 2¢ STAMPS JUST OUT TODAY DEC 7th - IMPERIAL 2¢ POSTAGE HOWEVER WILL NOT COMMENCE UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY" choice SHOWPIECE.
2. Spink Shreves Galleries November 2007 auction #96 of the Fred Fawn collection, Lot #1451: 1898 2c Black, lavender and carmine Imperial Penny Postage, first day card posted on December 7, 1898 to Liverpool, England in single franking paying the proper 2c U.P.U. post card rate, but also a foreshadowing of the single franking for the Imperial Penny Postage that this stamp was issued for, tied by "Ottawa/DE 7 98" duplex with numeral "1", red "Paid/Liverpool/U S Packet/17 DE 98" receiving c.d.s. at bottom left indicating that it was carried by an American ship, stamp is well centered with gum staining around the perforations and rival corner bend to card, still very fine; this most interesting card, written by a Mr. George H. Grundy and from the handwriting also the sender of the previous cover to England, contains in the message a similar comment as was on the reverse of the cover with this additional note, "Imperial 2c postage however will not commence until Christmas Day" a lovely mate to the previous cover to England and the only known first day post card posted to an overseas destination, and along with the cover offered above one of only two overseas sendings recorded on this date. (Image)



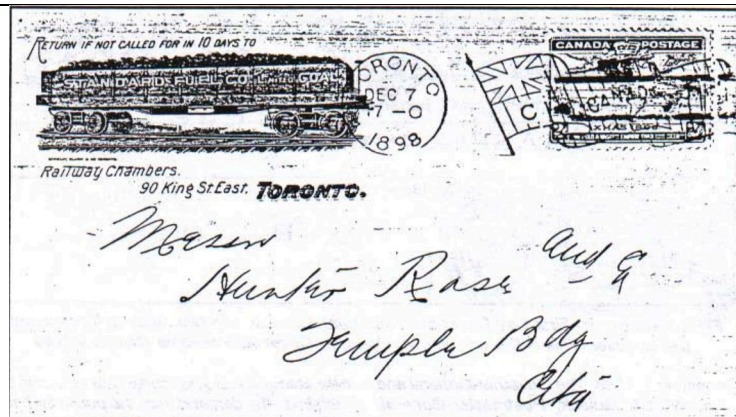
Cancel: TORONTO Flag 'D' dated DEC 7/17-O/1898

Franking: 2¢ Map

Destination: Toronto, ONT (drop letter)

References:

1. 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, #6, Whole #209, pg 725 (1988)
2. 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, #5, Whole #451, pg 28 (1992) (Image)



Cancel: MONTREAL & TORONTO•R.P.O. (Q-156)

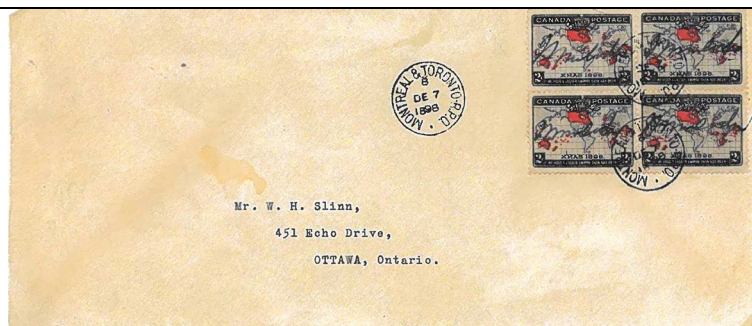
dated 8/DE 7/1898 (FAKE)

Franking: 4x2¢ Map

Destination: Ottawa, ONT

References:

1. R. Maresch & Son April 1978 sale #100-101, Lot #205: 85 Block of four, vf., tied to choice FIRST DAY cover with MONTREAL & TORONTO DEC 7 1898 R.P.O. to Ottawa with Dec 8th arrival, each stamp has been autographed by Sir William Mulock. The only known block on a first day cover. A gem
2. Sparks Auctions September 2018 auction #28 of the Rob Lunn collection, Lot #399: Fake First Day Cover, a large-sized cover franked with a block of four, each stamp with "Mulock" signature in blue, tied and cancelled by "Montreal & Toronto R.P.O. c.d.s. cancels dated "8 / DE 7 / 1898". This cancel was not in use until 1918, and so someone would have changed the "18" (year date) to "1898". The "8" time mark was also not used as this would have used directional time marks instead. Still an interesting item, accompanied by a (pink) 1990 Greene Certificate (#1169) boldly stating "... the entire cover including signatures is a fabrication". (Image)

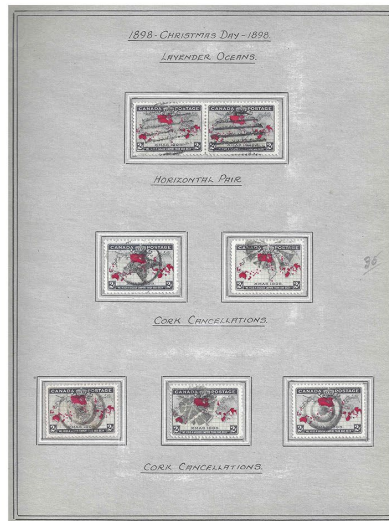
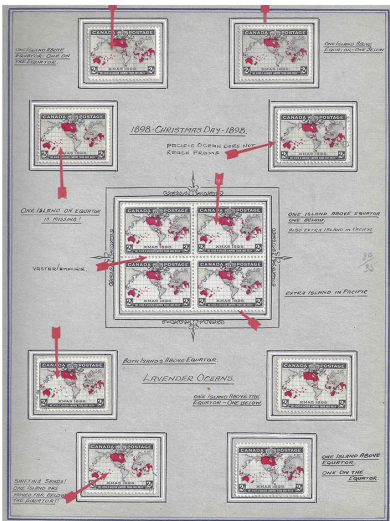
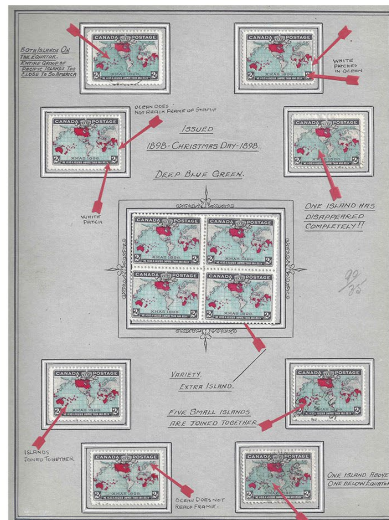
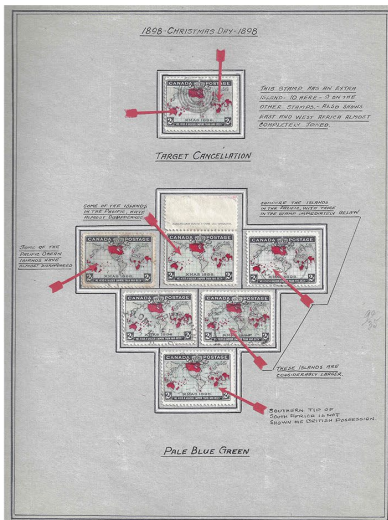
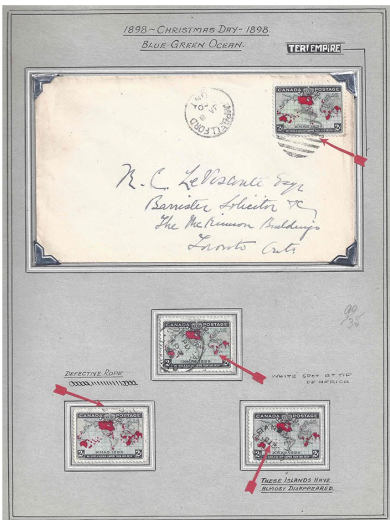
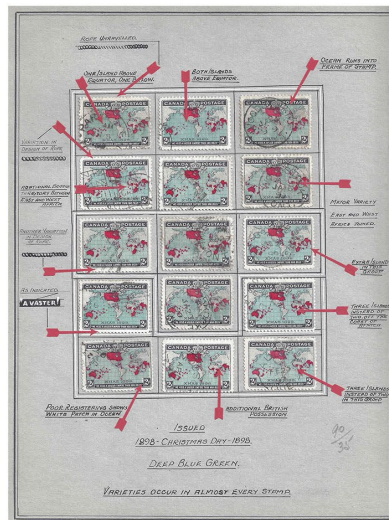
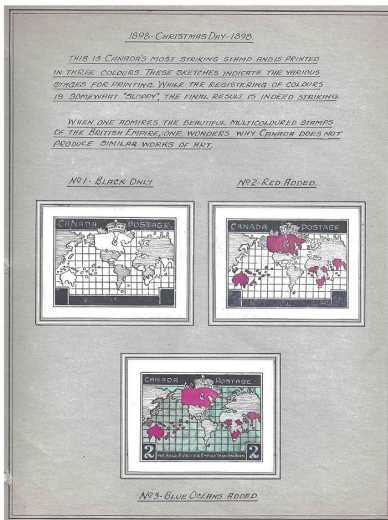
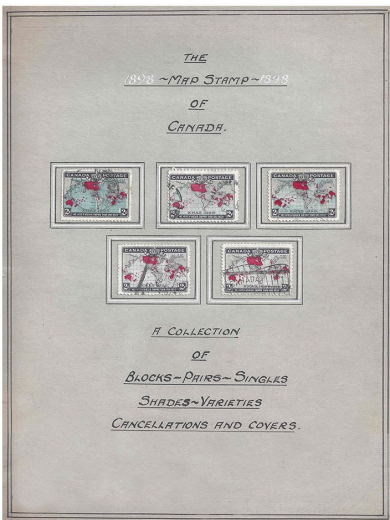


References

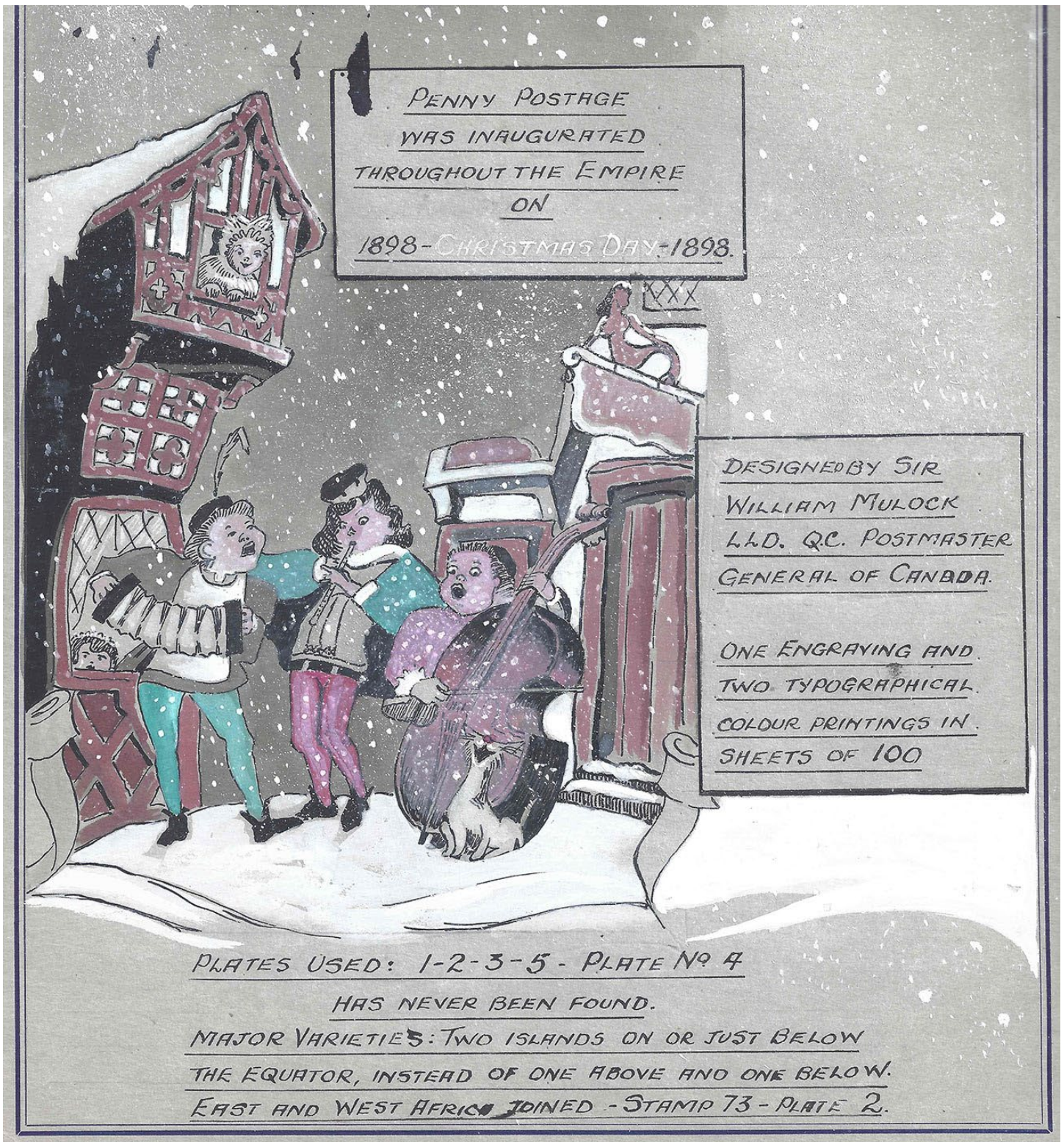
1. Library and Archives Canada website:
<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=FonAndCol&IdNumber=2268458>
2. C.R. McGuire, "There are First-day Covers, and then ... there are FIRST-DAY COVERS!", in PHSC Journal, No. 88, pg. 2 (1996)
3. (a) R.B. Winmill, 'Some Notes on Imperial Penny Postage and the 1898 Map Stamp, Part IV', in Maple Leaves, Vol 17, No. 4, Whole No. 172, pp 87-90 (1979).
(b) R.B. Winmill, The Evolution of Imperial Penny Postage and the Postal History of the Canadian 1898 Map Stamp, Jim A. Hennok Ltd (publisher), Toronto (1982).
(c) 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).
(d) 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)
4. Two Kingston squared circle canceled off-cover Map stamps dated 4/DE 7/98 have been documented. See R. Friesen, Census of Squared Circle Cancellations on Map Stamps Off-Cover, BNAPS website (2020).

A Look at an Old-Time Map Collection

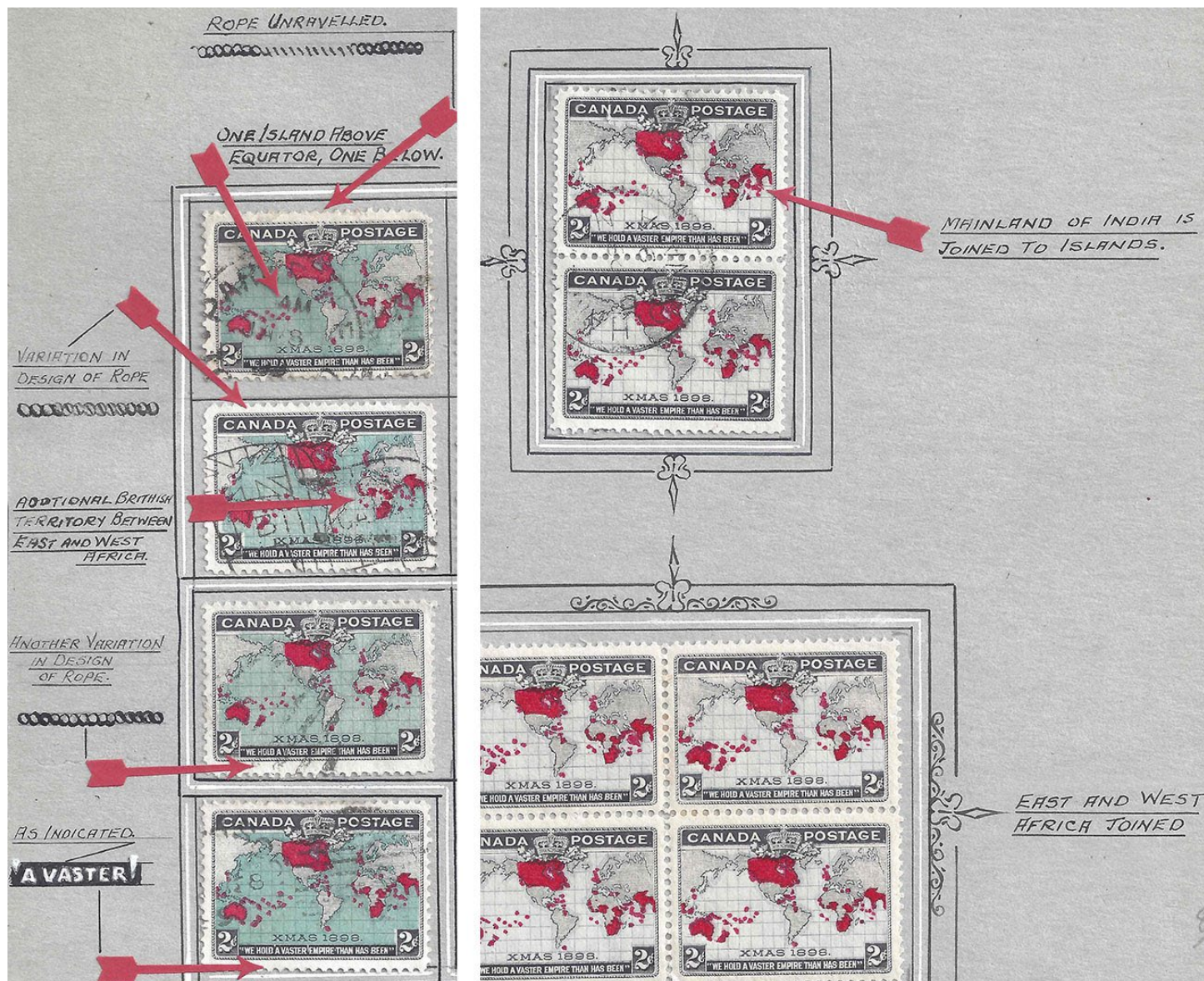
Earlier this year, BNAPS Past-President Ronald E. Majors was kind enough to share scans from a Map collection he purchased about a decade ago from stamp dealer Irwin Weinberg. In his price list description, Weinberg stated that the collection was created "more than 50 years ago". So, it is a nice example of an old-time collection that was probably assembled in the 1950's or even earlier before any of the significant Map Stamp literature was available. Below are some thumbnails showing typical pages from the collection followed by some close-ups that highlight interesting details.



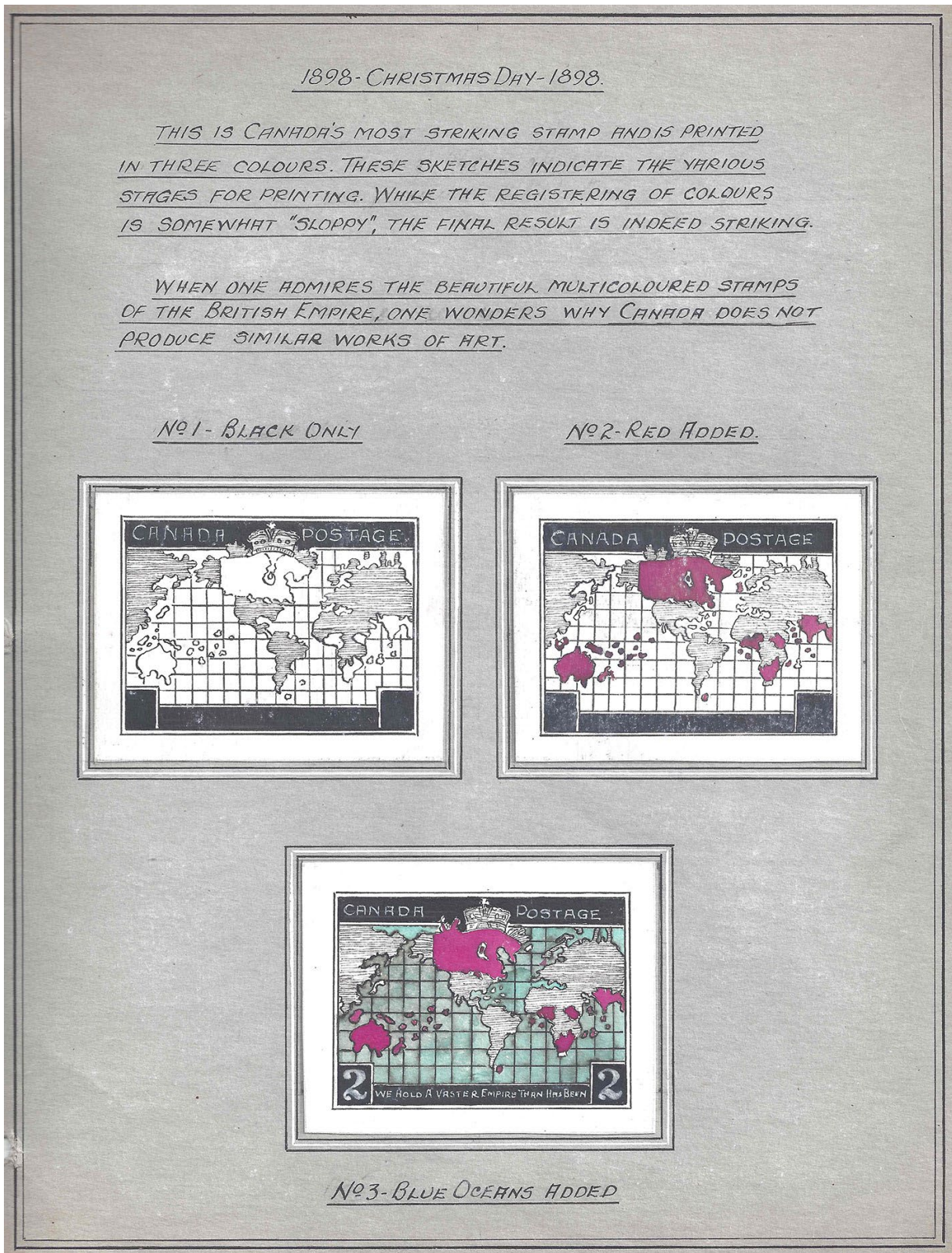
The collection highlights the theme of the Map Stamp as a Christmas stamp in several areas. Most of the pages have a heading at the top that reads "1898 – CHRISTMAS DAY – 1898". This section of one of the title pages shows an incredible pen and ink drawing of Christmas carolers accented with colour and painted white snow over the grey album page.



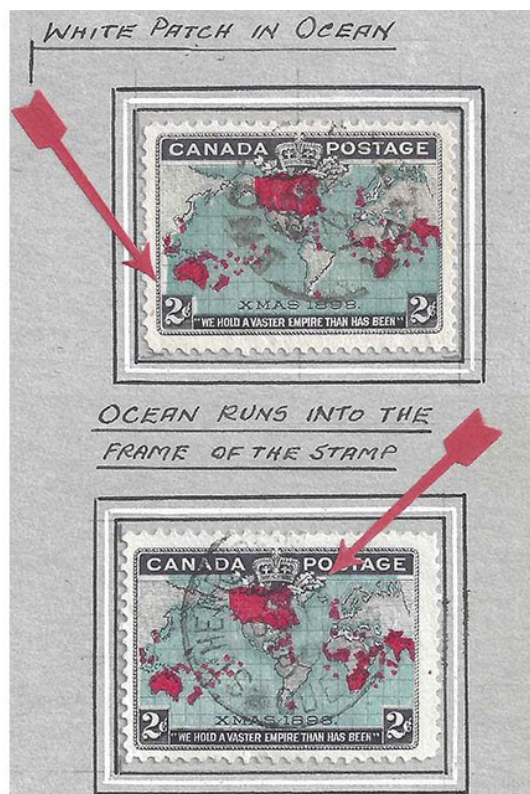
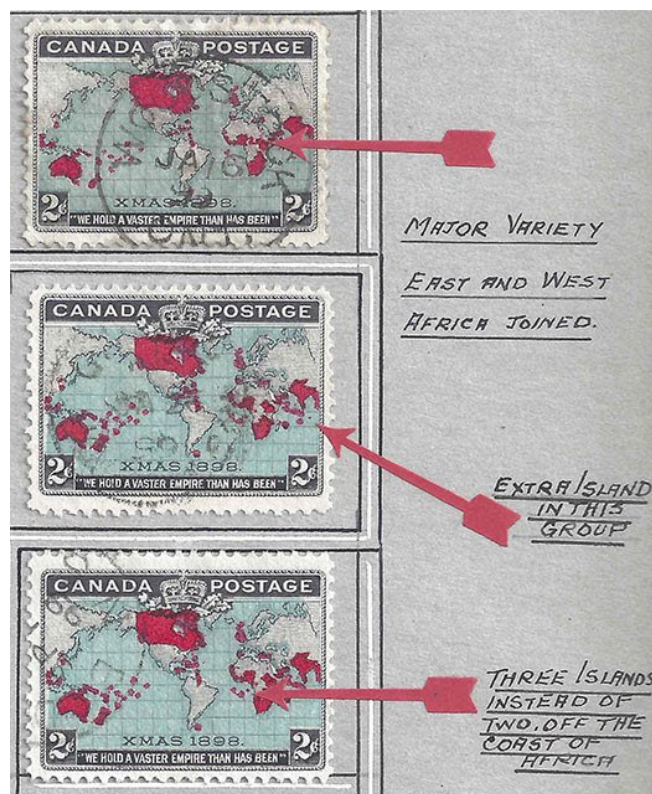
In addition to the hand lettering that appears throughout the collection, the various mounted stamps and covers are also adorned with attractive hand-drawn frames with occasional detailed ornamentation or an illustration of a plate variety.



The description of this collection from Weinberg also stated that it included "Progressive Proofs showing the stamp as it would have looked, as each of the colors had been added." The relevant page, shown below, describing the multi-colored printing process, clearly shows the collector's own "sketches" and not true progressive printing proofs. The order of printing for the various colours shown on the page agrees with current thinking on how the stamp was produced. On another page, the text of the collection also correctly states that the coloured parts of the stamp were printed using typography instead of lithography which many people mistakenly believed for almost half a century after the stamp was released. Note also how the registration of the colours is described as somewhat "SLOPPY".



Many red plate varieties including misplaced, missing, or extra islands are described in the text but are not plated. Interestingly, several white "patches" or "spots" caused by misregistration of the colored plates during printing are also included among the plate "varieties" even though elsewhere the text recognises that these are caused by the somewhat sloppy registration.



The collection also showcases a variety of cancellations plus a nice example of a non-postal stamp used to publicise the Pan-American Exposition of 1901 that is clearly based on the Canadian Map Stamp.



Most of these old-time collections have been broken up and sold as separate items many years ago. So, a big thank-you to Ron for keeping this one intact and sharing with us.

Remembering Ralph E. Trimble

By Scott Robinson

I was very saddened to learn of the passing of Ralph E. Trimble earlier this year. Ralph was a giant in the research aspects of Canadian philately. His skills in close-up photography and his many writings have contributed in an unmatched manner to the documentation, understanding, and popularization of re-entry collecting of Canadian stamps. Like his mentor, Hans Reiche, Ralph's published contributions have become a permanent thread in the fabric of our history and understanding of Canadian stamp production.

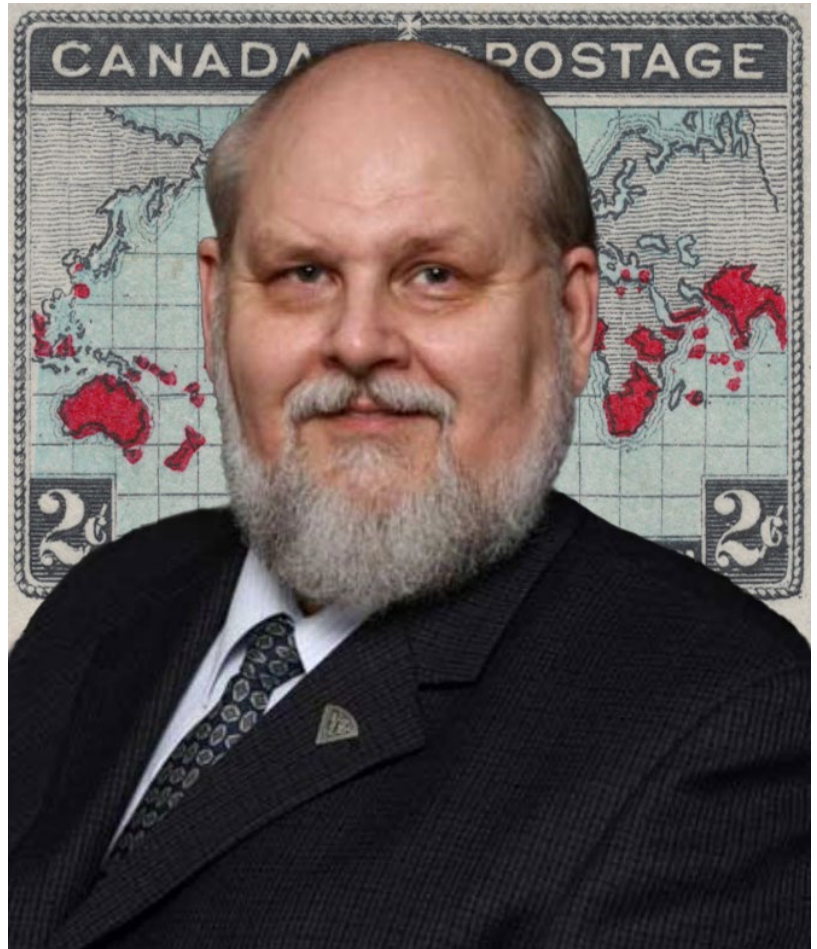
Ralph was initially interested in Canadian coins with irregularities and multiple strikes. This interest led him to collect and research stamp re-entries. His association with BNAPS runs very deep. He has had numerous articles published in BNA Topics but is best known as the founder of the BNAPS Re-entry Study Group where he served as chairman, editor, and principal writer of their newsletter for sixteen years.

Ralph was also a member and contributor to numerous other philatelic organizations and societies. He served as an editorial associate for the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps and as a director and member of the expertizing committee of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation.

For more than 20 years, his website, re-entries.com, has remained the go-to destination for information and visual references for Canadian and even international re-entries. His site was the inspiration for my own website of Canadian constant plate varieties, flyspecker.com. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Ralph in person, I have spoken to him by phone and shared many email conversations with him over the years. He was always generous in answering my questions or accepting information, stamp scans, or eBay auction tips that I shared with him.

What many people may not know about Ralph is that he was a very enthusiastic Map stamp collector. He was a member of our study group and shared with me that the Maps were one of his favourite issues, the largest part of his collection, and that he had studied them in detail for many years. On his website, he mentions that the well-known major Map re-entry from 5B91 is "probably my very favourite re-entry of all time". Following Whitney L. Bradley's initial documentation of the rare black plate 4 Map proof at the National Archives of Canada, Ralph was the first person to photograph and publish details of some of the major plate varieties from than unissued plate.

Before writing my article in the last Map Stamp Report about treating Map stamps with hydrogen peroxide to restore the colour of "muddy waters" discolouration, Ralph had shared with me his success in restoring some of his mint copies by applying the solution directly to the surface of the stamps with a Q-tip. He also shared my opinion that muddy waters Maps were colour changelings that should not be treated as premium-priced collectible varieties.



One of the funniest email conversations I had with Ralph was back in 2018 when I shared a scan of a very strange imperforate Map pair offered by a dealer. I felt that the plate positions did not make sense and that they could not exist adjacently in a pair block. I expressed my concerns to Ralph who shared my confusion. His email reply said, "You have just about blown my mind with this pair!!! I have examined them and examined them, but I still can't wrap my head around how they can be so far off from what they should be!" He ended the email saying, "Ouch!.. My brain hurts!" and asked me to let him know if I found anything more about the pair. Thanks to Ken Pugh's later examination of the pair, I eventually learned that the pair of stamps was actually two separate imperforate stamps that had been deceptively joined and regummed. I let Ralph know so that both of our brains could rest easy!

I will remember Ralph as a dedicated philatelic researcher who thrived on sharing his knowledge with the Canadian stamp community. I will miss our phone and email conversations. Rest in peace my friend.

BNAPS Xmas 1898 Map Stamp Study Group

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This newsletter and previous issues are available as PDF files from the BNAPS website.
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