

MAP STAMP

STUDY GROUP

BNAPS



Editor
W.L. Bradley #3857
122 Sherwood Ave.
Kitchener, Ont.
N2B 1K1

Vol. 1. No. 2.

Feb. - Mar./83.

I just looked at the calendar and realized the winter is about over and thoughts of spring are prevalent. Where has the time gone! and in spite of my good intentions, the second issue of the Newsletter is about a month late. I've spent a lot of time on the MAPS these past few months, as well as tennis, beach-sitting, girl-watching, walks, baseball spring training (Montreal Expos) and just relaxing. It is remarkable now busy you can be doing nothing!

Pleasant Surprises During Feb. I was pleasantly surprised by a call from Gene Buckler. He was holidaying in the area and we had an afternoon and evening discussing MAPS. His wife Gladys and Marjorie found a lot in common. Gene is an avid Map collector with strength in Squared Circles and other exotic cancellations!

Literature A few years ago I was introduced to the publication "CANADIAN PHILATELY" Bibliography and Index 1864-1973, and in particular the section on the Map Stamp pages 64-65, where 24 articles are listed pertaining to our favourite stamp. I set out to get copies of all these writings, but I didn't realize what a chore it would be. The search led me to personal visits to the reference libraries in Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa as well as the National Postal Museum and to Mr. Cimon Morin, the editor himself. Now, after dozens of letters to such places as New Zealand, Great Britain and the Research Library of the American Philatelic Society in State College, Penna. USA (who were particularly helpful!), I finally have copies of all this literature. In future issues of our News Letter I will find space to reproduce on or more of these publications for the interest of MAP collectors.

If any of our members would like a copy of any particular item I would be glad to send it along (for postage in Canadian stamps!) There is a lot of interesting reading including some authored by our own members (Winmill & Hanes)

The Red Color Can it be removed? This has always been a speculation that generates discussion and writing whenever it is mentioned. Tomlinson (Pg. 45) suggests that much of it can be removed by soaking in hot water. Jim Kraemer

told the 1st. meeting of our group in Virginia Beach that boiling in alcohol would do it! So, in discussing this aspect of our interest with Professor Julian C. Smith, Director of the School of Chemical Engineering at Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y. and a Prof. Eng. in the State of N.Y., he volunteered to do some testing. He has an excellent collection of Canadian material and in particular many proofs of the Map. I sent him a dozen or so copies of the Map - both Red plates A & B - and he went to work on them in his lab. Portions of his letter and data are reproduced below:

"I found four solvents that took off some of the red color, but none that removed it completely -- even after boiling for a full minute. The four solvents are ethyl alcohol; acetone; DMF (dimethyl formamide) and THF (tetrahydrofuran). Even when cold, each of these turned pink when the stamp was immersed, but nothing further seemed to happen on prolonged immersion or boiling. Even scrubbing away at the red color with a small brush dipped in THF took off no more color. Using the THF I found no difference between Plate A and Plate B. The DMF was the most nearly successful in removing the red, but at 150°C damaged the rest of the stamp as well."

"It seems there is a readily soluble component of the red color and a component that is much harder to remove. One solvent that apparently does nothing at all is carbon tetrachloride, even at boiling temperatures. I also saw no effect with 30% hydrogen peroxide or with a saturated solution of sodium sulfite (Na_2SO_3):"

<u>Solvent</u>	<u>Immersion Temp</u> <u>C</u>	<u>Results after</u> <u>Imm. for 60 sec.</u>
Acetone	55	some color removed
Carbon Tetrachloride	76	no effect
DMF	150	considerable removal; stamp
Ethyl alcohol	78	some color removed (damaged
Hydrogen peroxide 30%	16	no effect after 5 min.
Sodium sulfite, sat'd solution	27	no effect after 5 min.
THF	64	some color removed

"I also carefully examined my imperforate pair with 'Red Color Omitted' under two different wavelengths of Ultra-violet light, and could see no indication that any red had ever been present. The stamps are very fresh looking, and if the color was removed chemically it as an extraordinarily skillful job!"

"Art Leggett recently sent me a block of the "muddy water" variety, in which the oceans are brown. I washed one stamp with hydrogen peroxide and was able to remove the brown color and essentially restore the original gray."

This information should generate some discussion, thank you Julian!

How many survived? How many map stamps are there today in used condition? How many in Mint? It was a popular stamp at that period in history - the advent of penny postage throughout the Empire - Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee the previous year. Patriotic fervour was rampant throughout Canada - We hold a Vaster Empire than has been!. Philately was in its infancy, relatively. It's a ready statistic that the total printing order was 20,000,000, with half having the Oceans in blue and half in lavender, and that 19,927,500 were delivered from the printer. Unfortunately no record exists of how many of each plate number and how many of each colour of Ocean were printed. The only record I know of is what appears in Tomlinson's handbook on Page 8 and this is a Summary only of Col. Adams examination of about 5,000 copies. He reports that the totals are approx:

		%	No's	Sheets
Plate #1	Lavender	10	1992750	19927
	Pale blue-green	8	1594200	15942
	Deep blue-green	8	1594200	15942
Plate #2	Very deep blue-green	21	4187775	41878
	Lavender	10	1992750	19927
Plate #3	Lavender	24	4782600	47826
Plate #5	Lavender	6	1195525	25906
	Bright blue green	13	2590575	25906

Now you have to use some imagination. How many did survive? Percentages vary, Kasimer Bileski is quoted in Canadian Stamp News Jan 4/83 to the effect that only one in 500 of Canadian Stamps is saved by collectors. I doubt if this figure, 0.2% is valid for the period 1898 and to the Map Stamp. Ron Winmill told me once he believes 3% were kept. Even if you used 5% and kept in mind that this is probably an upper limit, we get the following data:

For example lets use Plate 5 with the lavender ocean - 6% of the total issue-11976 sheets. Applying the percentage saved of 5% we get about 600 copies of any one plate position existing today. There are two major re-entries on this plate #29 and #91. This has got to be one of Canada's rarest stamps! Now think of the numbers of Maps that are in collections where it is just one stamp among thousands of other Canadian stamps and No's 29 and 91 are unrecognized. Most dealers cannot or do not bother to try to identify it. What a field day we Map collectors could have, and considering most good used copies sell for \$3 - \$4 and a VF Mint is about \$15, what a find this re-entry could be if recognized.

Apply this same thinking to the other re-entries, recut links and cable retouches and we have a hatful of rarities on our hands.

How many of the 12 pence black of 1851 exist? And what does it sell for in used condition - \$25,000 ? I think about 1500 were printed and about 100 exist today.

For the last 10 years I have kept a record of every Map that passed through my hands, as to Plate # and colour of ocean and some day soon I'm going to repeat Col. Adams exercise, only my sampling is probably over 10,000. If anyone has any thoughts on that percentage saved, please write.

Gifts (on loan) John Jamieson of Saskatoon Coin & Stamp Center sent me a set of 5 photos of Complete Map sheets, Plates 1, 2, 3 & 5 - mounted on heavy cardboard, size 10"x14" which represent about 3/4 life size. They are sure pretty to look at! Plate #1 is lavender or grey, Plate #2 is very deep blue, Plate #3 is lavender or grey and Plate #5 is also lavender (scarce). If anyone would like to borrow them send postage and I'll pass them along. I'll bring them to Winniped next Sept in any case.

Fancy Cork Cancellations (On the two cent Map stamp) During the latter half of the 1800s. there was a rapid expansion of postal services in Canada, with a corresponding increase in the number of post offices. This created a demand for post office equipment and cancelling instruments which the post office department was unable to meet. The local postmasters were authorized to make their own arrangements which resulted in what is known today as fancy cork cancels.

By December 1898, when the Map Stamp was issued, most of the fancy cancels has been wornout, mislaid or replaced by official cancelling devices supplied by the post office dept. However, there are dozens of designs, in various stages of wear and tear, known to exist on Map stamps. A few of these designs can be identified with the use of the Handbook by Day and Smythies, but most types are not popular or picturesque enough to be included in this Handbook.

The following photocopies will attempt to show some of the ~~fancy~~ cancels the writer has been able to locate in the last eight to ten years of specializing in the Map stamp. A few have been identified, but most appear to be either too worn or incomplete to allot to a known location.

(above: thanks to Dave Hanes)

Interesting letters from:

Geoffrey Newman - with an ~~in~~ illustration of the correct usage of the Map (flag cancell F-8 die D) for the 2¢ local delivery rate which was still in force until midnight on 31Dec98.

Ray Horning - with lots of suggestions for future news letters and Seminar programs (also enclosed a photo copy of a Map bisect on Cover - Cancell is Upper Stewiacke, N.S. FE 18 '99 and a mourning cover edged in black to Rev. G.G. Nicoles, Fitch Bay P.Q. from Quebec-killer CDS 4, DE 14 '99.

Don Fraser - Winnipeg, asking if the study group wanted a seminar slot on the 1983 BNAPS Convention program. (I said "Yes" but no ideas yet, HELP!)

Stu Clarke - sending an article by Stephen Rich on "1898 Map Stamp of Canada - it is now in my Literature Dept. mentioned earlier.

Dave Hanes - A nice letter with several pages of Photo copies of fancy cork cancellations on Maps. Unfortunately space does not permit their reproduction, but the comments are included elsewhere.

Cards or notes from Mike Street, Ralph Trimble.

Contributions of postage from John Jamieson (Sask. Stamp & Coin) and Ray Horning - Thanks

Two long letters from Sandy Mackie, both dealing with Maps and Photography.

A nice letter from Dr Hollingsworth enquiring about our study group.

New Members

Dr. C.W. Hollingsworth - 17 Mellish Rd. Wolsall W542DQ
West Midlands
England.

Paul Gurega - 1 Pleasant Bay,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Can.
R2K 0C9

Sandy Mackie- 17 Pitstruan Place
Alberdeen, Scotland
AB1 6PQ

I guess that is enough for Issue #2 as we near the bottom of page #5. With April in sight, Marjorie and I are thinking about the trip home soon, so the next issue will be in June-July from Georgian Bay, or Kitchener. I still would like some short items of interest on the Map from members of our group. How about it, you experts!

Program ideas for the seminar in Winnipeg in September would also be welcome!!

See you in Winnipeg!

W.L.B.