

MAP STAMP  
STUDY GROUP  
BNAPS



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Vol. 1, No. 3 July, 1983  
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Number three newsletter is being written early in June on our island in Georgian Bay, where Marjorie and I are comfortably settled in for the summer. Every two weeks we'll drive the 140 miles to Kitchener to pick up mail, groceries, supplies ...and some money. So don't worry if your mail goes unanswered for up to 4 weeks - it just hasn't been picked up! (or the answer mailed). This will be the last issue before BNAPS in Winnipeg in Sept. 83. I see by the preliminary program we have been allotted a 1½ hour time slot at 1pm on Friday Sept 2/83 for our meeting. Now we have to get serious about a program! Who is going to Winnipeg and will help?

#### "VASTER THAN HAS BEEN"

At Stampex on Saturday (June 4) I was jokingly called a "FLY SPECK COLLECTOR" and I replied "Nonsense! those fly specks are constant plate varieties!" which brings up the question of the fly specks. What Map and records did the designer and artist use in laying out the British Empire in 1898? Many earlier writers have poked fun at the design and the apparent inaccuracies of the Red Colonies. The latest occurs in the recent issue of "Canadian Philatelist", the journal of the RPS of C. for May-Jun. 1983. On page 153 an article entitled "A Quizzical look at Candada by C.F. Black. He points out "The map showed in red some territories that were not British at that time (such as South West Africa, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal) and some that had never been British (such as part of Mozambique and the Dutch two-thirds of the island of Borneo). This led to the wry comment that the map showed an empire even vaster than Sir Lewis's (poet) quotation boasted"- touché.

Stephen G. Rich PhD wrote two articles some years ago that point out the sloppy geography that occurred. The first was in Nov. 1943 and appeared in "Chambers Stamp Journal" and I reproduce portions that apply. "The Canada Map Stamp includes at least one "error of fact". At the time it was issued, British lands in Southern Africa did not comprise a solid area covering the whole sub-continent, but only the tip and a central northward prolongation. Annexations in 1900 & 1919

extended this area, but part of that shown in red on the stamp is still Portuguese. Besides the listed color varieties, the Canada Map Stamp comes with the variants, showing Samoa as a British island and not including it. (missing island!) The detailed students of Canadian stamps may perhaps be able to discover which subjects on the sheet show these two varieties."

The second appeared in "The Essay Proof Journal No. 34" in 1952 entitled "Curious Fumbles". The article includes the following: "The essays for the Canada Map Stamp of 1898 and the stamp itself show some very curious fumbles in deciding which parts of the world were then British and hence to be shown in color on that stamp. It has long been a matter of record, in a fair number of articles in various papers, that the stamp itself somewhat overstated, by red color, the territory that was then British. In Africa, the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, South West Africa and half of Mozambique were shown as British, though none then were, and the last named still is not. Nigeria and the Gold Coast are shown as coterminous too, without regard for the existence of Togoland. Over in the far east, the whole of Borneo is shown as British.....The Canada-US. border is drawn so as to give an erroneous impression, as if it went down diagonally across Montana, Idaho and Washington. In Africa, British possession of Somaliland Protectorate was omitted and Zululand appears to be joined to Rhodesia across Mozambique. Madagascar is made British " ... "In another essay "with the globes, the Canada-US boundary runs straight from ocean to ocean and down as far as the northern edge of California as it reaches the Pacific. Egypt is shown as British, but strangely enough, only a part of the Sudan. In southern Africa, not only are shown all the areas misshown as British on the issued Stamp, they appear, plus, apparently, extensions along the eastern and western coast of Africa up to the equator....."

Another essay "by Warren L Green. from which the design of the issued stamp was evidently developed, has some of the most curious of all the errors. In this, not only is the Canada-US boundary again brought down to the northern edge of California but the boundary with Alaska is extended far into that territory. In this case Cyrenaica, Libya and Egypt are all shown as British, as is most of the Sudan. Half of Rhodesia and most of Bechuanaland are omitted from the British lands, while Orange Free State, Transvaal and a good part of Mozambique are included. Not only is Togoland ignored by uniting Nigeria to Gold Coast, but Nigeria itself is extended far beyond its area at that time."

I've included the above comments, admittedly from articles on Essays, to show the apparent lack of knowledge of the geography of the British Empire of 1898 by the designers of the period. To my knowledge no one has ever tackled the islands of the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean or, what I call, the China Sea Group.

I spent some time last winter on the identification of these "fly specks" but I didn't bother to even look at the islands of the Caribbean! To start this study I turned to the Atlas of the National Geographic Society, 1981 Edition, particularly to the maps on page 230-231. The stamps are printed using Mercators projection with the Latitude and Longitude lines drawn at  $20^{\circ}$  intervals. The Equator and the  $0^{\circ}$  Longitude (Greenwich) are shown as well as the Tropic of Cancer  $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N Lat. and the Tropic of Capricorn  $22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  S Lat. The scale of the Nat. Geo. Soc. map is 1" = 598 Miles at the equator, or using rough calculations,

1° of Longitude equals 69 miles. similarly

1° of Latitude is:  $0^{\circ} - 10^{\circ}$  equals 69 miles

$10^{\circ} - 20^{\circ}$  equals 71 miles

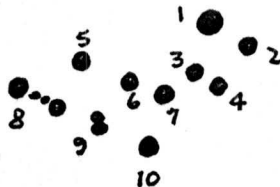
$20^{\circ} - 30^{\circ}$  equals 76 miles therefore

it appears, that for our purposes 1° of Lat. & Longitude equates to 70 miles. When the Lat. & Long. of one of the islands is measured from the stamp itself, it can readily be accepted that the accuracy of this calculation is more than is required.

I next turned to a copy of the stamp showing Red Plate A with no color shifts. I decided to use Red A because of all the Islands, only #8 & 9 in the Pacific are shown on the Black engraving. Red Plate B shows the Red areas in a sloppy manner and thus was not helpful. Even the Red Plate design used was largely hypothetical as it is difficult to find a plate position that doesn't have a variety!

#### PACIFIC ISLAND GROUP (P.I.G.)

Tomlinson in his book numbers the islands from 1 to 10 thus:



Isld #1       $5^{\circ}$  North Latitude  
                  145° West Longitude  
                  The Atlas shows nothing there!  
                  The Christmas Islands (British) are  $2^{\circ}$  N.,  $157^{\circ}$  W.

Isld #2       $5^{\circ}$  South Latitude  
                  125° South Longitude  
                  The Atlas shows nothing there!

Isld #3      12° South Latitude  
                  148° West Longitude  
                  The Atlas shows nothing there!  
                  The Island is just north of French Polynesia!

Isld #4                      18° South Latitude  
                                  141° West Longitude

The Atlas does not indicate anything British at this location, in fact it is in the middle of French Polynesia (Tahiti is 18°, 149° W.)

Isld #5                      5° South Latitude  
                                  175° West Longitude

The Atlas again indicates nothing British in the vicinity although the Gilbert & Ellice Islds. are approx. 700 miles to the west (175° East Longitude)

Isld #6                      15° South Latitude  
                                  167° West Longitude

The Atlas again indicates nothing British in the vicinity although the Samoa group is immediately to the West.

Isld #7                      18° South Latitude  
                                  152° West Longitude

The Atlas indicates nothing British in the vicinity as this location is right on the Society Islds.

Isld #8                      9° South Latitude  
                                  160° East Longitude

This location is quite evidently the Solomon Islds, as Guadalcanal is approx. 10° S, 160° E and the chain of Islands to the NW indicates the Solomon group up to Bougainville.

Isld #9                      19° South Latitude  
                                  178° East Longitude

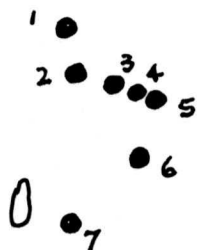
This location is bang on with Fiji.

Isld #10                      26° South Latitude  
                                  166° West Longitude

This island is quite evidently meant to be the Tonga or Friendly Islds. at 21°S, 175°W (approx 700 miles to NW)!

#### INDIAN OCEAN GROUP

To my knowledge there hasn't been a numbering system assigned to this group, so I did so as follows:



Isld #1                      10° North Latitude  
                                  55° East Longitude

The Atlas indicates nothing major at this location but there is a small island nearby - Kuria Muria (?) which was under British Administration in 1900 - also Socotra (12°N 54° E) Fed. Republic of Yemen, (Aden?).

Isld #2                      3° North Latitude  
                                  55° East Longitude

The Atlas indicates nothing major at this location but the Seychelles Islds. are approx. 560 Miles to the South (5°S, 54°E)

Isld #3                      2° South Latitude  
                                  68° East Longitude

Nothing there in the Atlas!

Isld #4                      2° South Latitude  
                                  65° East Longitude

Nothing there in the Atlas!

Isld #5                      5° South Latitude  
                                  72° East Longitude

The Atlas indicates nothing there but the Maldive Islands are approx. 650 miles to the North East.

Isld #6                      15° South Latitude  
                                  70° East Longitude

This island could represent the Chagos Archipelago (Diego Garcia) which is about 650 miles to the North.

Isld #7                      20° South Latitude  
                                  57° East Longitude

This island represents Mauritius exactly.

#### CHINA SEA GROUP

This group has also not been numbered, so we'll allot them as follows:



Dot #1                      35° North Latitude  
                                  120° East Longitude

The atlas shows nothing British at this location but Shanghai (British Post Offices in China?) lies 300 miles to the South.

Dot #2                      26° North Latitude  
                               125° East Longitude

Again the Atlas shows nothing at this location, although Hong Kong lies approx. 700 miles to the South West.

Dot #3                      10° North Latitude  
                               102° East Longitude

This location probably denotes the Malay Peninsula (Malay States) which is long North to South - Burma is too far to the North West (600 miles)

Dot #4                      0° Equator  
                               100° East Longitude

This location is in Sumatra - it could be Singapore which is about 400 miles to the North-East.

Dot #5                      0° Equator  
                               112° East Longitude

This location is the island of Borneo with Sarawak & North Borneo to the North.

Dot #6                      6° South Latitude  
                               145° East Longitude

This dot represents the British possession of Papua-New Guinea exactly.

#### REMAINING DOTS!

AFRICA      The large red areas in the center of Africa is evidently Kenya, Uganda etc., while the dots on the west coast represent Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and Gambia (but there is one too many dots!). The two red areas at the South end of the Red Sea must be Aden and Somaliland Protectorate.

MEDITERANEAN      The two red islands to the east must be Cyprus and Malta, although the second island appears to be bang on Crete. Gibraltar is accurately located.

ASCENSION & ST HELENA      Appear accurately located, as does GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND and BRITISH GUYANA & FALKLAND ISLANDS. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA, INDIA are well placed.

After examining the above detail, it seems fair to draw the conclusion that the designers of the Empire on the stamp in 1898 used a wide brush! During research for this article I often referred to "Historic Maps" page 107, Rand-McNally & Co., entitled "The World About 1900" (showing the Colonial Empires)



If there are corrections or additions to this study I would appreciate hearing from interested students! It is indeed "FASTER THAN EVER WILL BE".

Interesting Letters from:

Mark D. Larkin - Editor - "Carto-Philatelist" - Quarterly Publication of International Society of Map Stamp Collectors, sent along a copy of his Assoc.'s. Newsletter as well as a photo copy of an Imperf Centre line Block - Plate #1 - (lines 9mm long) but he didn't mention the color of the ocean. From the photo I'd guess it was gray or lavender.

E. "Gene" Buckler - with Map news as follows: R. Winmill selling his maps through Jim Hennock. Dave Hanes sold his Maps to Gene. Gene and Gladys are off to Europe for June.

Dr. Charles Hollingsworth: with an interesting biographical sketch of Fred Tomlinson, for a later newsletter.

Cathleen A. Jones - two letters with postage contribution and request for information on Plating for Plate 5.

Ed Harris - along with a Zerox copy of a used Block of 20 - roller cancelled at Montreal Que. (I tried to Plate it but the details were too indistinct).

John Jamieson - Sask. Coin & Stamp Co. - with a copy of "Pan-American Exposition Seal" 1901 - which is remarkably like the MAP Stamp but is Dark Blue & Red (North & South America) More later as information becomes available! - HELP!

Bev. Clarke - Pres. RPS of C - with a donation of \$10.00.

Bev points out an error in the membership list of Newsletter #2 Gurega should be Burega, Sorry!

Ralph Trimble - Editor of the Re-Entry Study Group

Andy Palochik - Sect. of the Postal History Society of Canada.

Jan Winmill - (with postage contribution) with a correction on #2 Newsletter - 1500 12 p Black were "issued" to Postmasters, many more were printed and destroyed! About 100 exist now! Also pointing out she has evidence that the pale blue ocean variety of Plate 1 was issued as early as Dec 14/98 instead of Dec. 16/98 as noted in Tomlinson (send me any early dates you have and we'll use them in the next Newsletter!)

Jim Lehr - Past Pres. of BNAPS with several suggestions for Study Group programs.

Mike Dicketts - Current Pres. of BNAPS with several suggestions for future Newsletters.

Ray Horning - More about "Red Color"! - for future Newsletters.

Ed. Stanway - Will rejoin BNAPS & become a member of our Study Group.

Paul Burega - Asking for copies of three articles on Map Stamp - with postage donation. (SENT)

John Burnett - Study Group Co-ordinator - re Publicity for our Study Group.

Norman L. Nicholson - Associate Editor of Carto-Philatelist - enquiring about identification of the "Red Colonies & Islands"

Leo Scarlet - 2 letters - requesting information about our group and then an answer including the following "The five full sheets, Plates 1-5 originally came from me. It intrigued me that you mention that somebody had a 'Muddy water variety'. I just sold seven(7) full mint sheets of the 'Muddy Variety' ".

NEW MEMBERS

- #22 Miss Cathleen A. Jones  
15 Briarwood Cresc.  
Halifax, N.S. B3M 1P2
- #23 Mark D. Larkin  
929 Park Ave., Apt. 12C  
New York, N.Y. 10028
- #24 Leo Scarlet~~x~~  
107 Northern Blvd.  
Great Neck, New York 11021
- #25 Norman L. Nicholson  
66 Wychwood Park  
London, Ont. N6G 1R6

Well, that's Newslett er #3, such as it is! I've always wanted to look further into the production of the MAP used on the stamp back in 1898. Perhaps there are some Geographers out there who will read this and offer corrections where needed.

See you in Winnipeg!

WLB/mb

W.L.B.