

MAP STAMP
STUDY GROUP
BNAPS



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Whole #15

This newsletter is about a month late, but activities in June got in the way - two fishing trips and a week at CAPEX in Toronto - plus difficulties in finding a source of reproduction for a reasonable cost. However, we arrived at Honey Harbour, Ont and our summer retreat, on May 4. Marjorie & I decided the first thing we'd do is change our mailing address to P.O. Box #6, Honey Harbour, Ont. POE 1E0. Problems of mail mixup with my son's and the fact that he has now purchased the house, all dictated the change. So any one interested, please change your records. The winter, and high water in Nov., all contributed to the usual damage to docks and other facilities, but soon we had all these fixed and three boats in the water. Then came spring trout fishing and CAPEX. We're now up to date!

CAPEX '87 This was a magnificent show in a magnificent setting - the Metro Toronto Convention Center. It will be well written up in other publications, so I'll skip the superlatives. There were two Map exhibits, both of which won silver medals (Fred Fawn & Beverlie Clark). I spent 4 days there and didn't get to see all the exhibits or visit every dealer in Maps. Exhaustion took over by Friday!

There were lots of familiar faces and I spent time with many of the Map Stamp Study Group - Mark Larkin, Jim Lehr, Mike Street, Lew Ludlow, Jim Kraemer, Jack Wallace to name a few, and dealers - Dick Lamb, John Jamieson, Jim Hennock & Allan Steinhart, etc. all in all, well worthwhile!

BNAPS Convention, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Sept 17-19/87

Marjorie & I will be attending this meeting, as usual, at the conclusion of a motor trip through the Maritimes and Newfoundland. We've never been to P.E.I. and are looking forward to the visit. The timing for the Study Group meeting has been set for 10:30 am to 12:00 noon on Thursday Sept 17. There are no special agenda items set just now, but the subject of RPO's on Map will be included (see Lew Ludlow item further) This is a first attempt at R.F. for these cancels. If time permits I'll have some slides available, illustrating the Red Plate varieties on Plates A & B, which are interesting.

Also I note in the Reentry Study Group Newsletter, that Ralph Trimble cannot be present and has asked me to look after a program for his group (time: Sat. Sept 19, 10:45 am to 12:15 pm) I don't know how this will be arranged, so any help from fans of re-entries will be appreciated.

Wells ED:

Good to see
you at
CAPEX

WL

The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898 - A Plating Study : The publication of this handbook by UNITRADE is on hold for the time being. I visited Unitrade in May to pick up the draft of the contents for a few revisions and additions, and was told that preparation for CAPEX '87 and other publications took priority at the time. We'll just have to wait our turn in line, but I don't see much happening till this winter, if then. I feel they are experiencing a real problem in reproducing the hundreds of hand drawn sketches (including some in two colours) and committing each to print in the Appendices.

Rarity Factors for RPO Strikes on Map This project is continuing and has received a great boost from Lew Ludlow. During CAPEX, I was privileged to spend an hour with Lew on the subject. He showed me, and subsequently sent a copy, of a computer printout of a complete roster of all RPO's known or predicted, on 3¢ Jubilees. He offered to produce a similar document for RPO cancels on Map in time for our Study Group meeting in Charlottetown. He would like several of our members to join with him, Bill Robinson and myself to combine efforts on this project. Our members would be ones who have an extensive collection of identifiable RPO's on Map. Can anybody help? As an alternative perhaps individuals could send me their lists (one one copy to hundreds of cancels) with the appropriate Ludlow number as a start. If the Ludlow numbering system is unfamiliar to anyone or his handbook not available, just send me as much of the wording of the cancel as is recognizable and I'll try to assign the correct number. The more the merrier!

Incidentally the use period for the 3¢ Jubilee was set at June 19, 1897 to April 30, 1898; a period of about 10½ mos. Lew asked me about the use period for the Map stamp. I looked through about 1,250 Map Stamps with RPO and Squared Circle cancels and determined the following percentages.

7 Dec. 1898 tp 31 Dec. 1899	-	94%
1 Jan. 1900 to 31 Jan. 1900	-	4%
1 Feb. 1900 & later	-	2%

I therefore informed Lew that the use period for this study should be 7 Dec. 1898 to 31 Jan 1900, which represents 98% of those in my possession, for the two types.

Map Varieties

What is a Re-Entry ???

What is a Retouch ???

What is a Die Proof??? An Essay ???

What is a Plate Proof ???

The Map stamp is a real mecca for those philatelists who study Re-entries, Retouches etc. and these occur in a multitude of positions on Black Plates 1,2,3 & 5 of the Map Issue. In fact, I sometimes think it is harder to find a perfect copy of the stamp if you also take into consideration variances in the two Red Plates A & B. It wasn't many years ago that I wrestled

with these terms in an attempt to understand the process of production of this issue and to find a system that would accurately plate individual copies.

The following definitions and explanations should help students in their understanding of the technique of the printing process. These are taken from a recent price list of John Jamieson's Saskatoon Stamp center (text by H. Reiche, from his handbook on Constant Plate Varieties).

Re-Entries Once you have seen a re-entry you will not misjudge it. Re-entries can range from minor to major depending on their extent. All of them have one thing in common: they show clear, sharp, duplicated parts of the design of the stamp. In almost all cases these extra lines are slightly shifted up, down, left or right from the original lines and are parallel to them. For example a stamp may have a frame around its design. If the bottom part of the frame appears again just below as a fine line, most likely you have a re-entry. Similarly if any other part of the design appears to be doubled this suggests a re-entry. Sometimes, in major re-entries almost the entire design is doubled. These stamps are seldom found but are so outstanding that even without a magnifying glass you can see the doubling. Because of the doubling these stamps usually look darker in shade than the original stamp. There are extremely few modern stamps which have re-entries and if they do they are often minor. Modern printing techniques and much better quality control reduce the occurrence of such varieties. Many years ago techniques were not so sophisticated and the materials used for stamp production were not as good, thus these varieties are usually found on the older issues. Once you have seen a major re-entry you may wonder why the inspector did not see such an extensive fault in the plate. Here one must not forget that the inspection of a sheet of 100 or 400 stamps from one plate is tedious and in almost all cases the printing press produces not only one but two or even three plates at one time. This would mean that up to 1200 stamps have to be examined for a fault. The reason for not finding many such major re-entries amongst your stamps is simply, that you are looking for a needle in a haystack. For example out of 170 plates used for the King George V, 1911, 1 Cent green, only one single stamp in about 65,000 stamps from one sheet amongst the 170 plates will show this re-entry. And therefore what appears to be a rather inflated price for such a stamp compared to its catalogue value of the normal stamp, is really not so at all.

Retouches: This type of variety is not as easily identifiable as is a re-entry. Philatelic dictionaries refer to a re-entry as a form of doubling transfer and depending on how well the second transfer was carried out, a doubling of the design may or may not occur. A retouch is described as a deliberate repair to correct a deficiency. in the re-entry we may find

this to be an accidental fault, but retouches are always caused by a deliberate action by the manufacturer of the plate or die. Many retouches are very crude and these can be noted without a magnification. Retouches were carried out on the early classic stamps as well as a few very modern. The so called Die 2 of the 6 Cents Centennial, black is a retouched Die not a new Die.

There may be a number of reasons why a certain stamp on a plate requires a retouch, normally it is some correction which the engraver has made. If, for instance, a frame line breaks or wears out on one stamp on the plate, then the engraver may want to re-engrave this frame line. With a special tool he will try to reconstruct this line. It is not always possible to do this without some deviation from the original line and thus the line may appear heavier, not as regular and straight as, or slightly shifted from the original line. It is interesting that some stamps may exist with and without a retouch, indicating that at a later stage in the life of the plate a correction was made. Many retouches are made even before the plate is run on the printing press. Retouches ~~can be found not only~~ on older issues but also on recent stamps. The cost of making any correction to a plate is high but the cost of laying down a new plate is much higher. (eg. Bottom cable on bottom row on Plates 2,3, & 5. Also Right side cable of the right hand column of Plate 3.

Essay

Any proposed stamp design, or portion thereof, considered but rejected by an established government or private post.

Proof

Any impression, the design of which was approved for use on an issued stamp of an established government or private post, from any die, plate, stone, or type, printed for the purpose of (1) examination or reference, or (2) for determination of satisfactory quality of design, color, ink or imprinted surface, or (3) for determination of effect of cancellation or method of separation. *

An impression from a completed die is known as a Die Proof. After the die has been completed and approved, various proofs in a number of colours may be taken for selection by the authorities. These are known as colour trials ** (or colour trial die proofs). When a proof is printed in the colour used for the issued stamp, it is called a colour proof. Impressions taken from the die by the engraver at various times during the engraving of the die, in order to check the progress and results of the work are called Progressive Die Proofs. Die Proofs are usually of a single stamp design.

When the die is completed, approved, and hardened, it is then used to lay down the complete plate from which the stamps will be printed. Proofs which are pulled (printed) from a plate

before printing are called Plate Proofs. Proofs may be pulled during or after the printing is completed to check the wear on the plate or for record purposes. Thus Progressive Plate Proofs are Produced.

* The Essays and Proofs of British North America, K. Munuse & R. Pratt for the Catalog Committee, copywrite 1970 by the Essay Proof Society. Pages 3-4.

**The Foundations of Philately (2nd Edition) by Winthrop S. Boggs. Published by the Philatelic Foundations. Copywrite 1955. Pages 110-112.

I hope the above has been or will be, helpfull to all those of our group who are bewildered by the many varieties of the Map and what these terms mean.

Disappearing Red - Canadian Map Stamp & "Muddy Waters"

Over all my years of examining Map Stamps I have come across many copies of the stamp with light red land masses & Islands, as well as several where the red is no longer visible. In a similar way, I have found many copies with the ocean colours changed from various shades of blue and lavender to shades of brown, to a dark brown which many philatelists and dealers refer to as "Muddy Waters".

In an earlier News letter (#2, Feb./83) I reported on tests carried out by Prof. Julian C. Smith, director of the Chemical Engineering Dept. at Cornell University at Ithaca, N.Y. Julian retired from Cornell in July of 1986 and sold his stamp holdings in a recent Maresch auction and is not now an active collector. Briefly these tests showed that, of the seven chemicals used, none removed the red color completely, altho one did considerable lightening, and two removed some. Julian also reported that he washed a "muddy water" copy in Hydrogen Peroxide and was able to remove the brown colour and to essentially restore the original gray.

My wife pondered all these tests, months after she had typed the results in the Newsletter and asked me for a couple of damaged stamps last winter. The following table shows her results using ordinary Kitchen cleaning agents at her sink.

Results of Tests on Map Stamp - Feb. 1987

1/2 hr. in boiling water	- no difference in red - light blue ocean - lighter - lavender ocean - gray
50% Chlorine Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite) 3 minutes immersion	- very deep blue ocean turns light blue - red almost disappears
100% Chlorine Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite) 60 minute immersion)	- red disappears - blue ocean colours turn to green & to "muddy waters"
100% ammonia 60 minute immersion)	- red turns to pale pink - blue ocean cl

100% Ammonia
 60 minute immersion - red turns to pale pink
 - blue ocean colour almost disappears

So be careful paying a premium for any stamp with the red missing or for a muddy water copy. I should point out that the brown colour could be the result of oxidation over 90 years!

Pleasant Visits

We were delighted to host Bev. & Jack Wallace at our cottage in the Georgian Bay area for a few days right after the conclusion of CAPEX. The weather was delightful and we spent one day cruising the coast to the north for thirty miles in our boat. I used part of the time examining Jack's medal winning exhibit at Capex /87 of the early issues of British Columbia and Jack reciprocated by spending time paging through most of my Map Albums. The swimming was also great!

Early in July, after CAPEX, I went to Toronto and spent part of a day with Marjorie and Sandy Mackie of Aberdeen, Scotland at Cliff Gyles' residence. Sandy was kind enough to examine, in close detail, several of my albums of Plate 5 material. Marjorie served a most delicious lunch and even took our picture! A pleasant day, after which they returned to Scotland later in the week.

We were shopping at the supermarket in Barrie, Ont. early in July when I ~~was~~^{saw} a familiar figure in line at a cash register. It turned out to be Dave Hanes whom I hadn't seen in five years. This chance meeting gave us a few minutes to catch up on each others philatelic efforts.

Interesting Letters

1. Paul Burega, Ottawa, Ont. A letter loaded with tips on colour macro photography, which is my next project - photographing all the plate varieties and rare cancels on colour prints.

2. Dave Hanes - Barrie, Ont. With an enclosure of all his records of S.C. cancels on Maps and his checklist. I'll go through it later for dates and report to Gary Arnold.

3. Lewis Ludlow, Kirkland, Wa. Two letters, always interesting, on RPO's.

4. Don Blair, Longmeadow, Ma. Two letters with clipping showing Fred Fawns win in Plymouth Mich. Stamp exhibition & a list of ORB's on Maps for Jim Felton.

5. Sandy Mackie, Aberdeen, Scotland Newsy and telling me about his plans for CAPEX.

6. Ron Winmill London Ont. Disappointing news. He says he has not one stamp left and never will collect again.

7. Allan Steinhart, Toronto - reporting on his arrangements with Unitrade re: the Handbook.

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8. Jim Millar, Box 3005, M.P.P. Kamloops B.C. (New address)
 9. John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Center, Sask. Asking me to send him some ideas for possible inclusion in future Scotts Specialized Catalogues on additional Map listings! - A project for next winter!!
 10. Ralph Trimble, Scarborough, Ont. With the re-entry Newsletter and a note on Photoing stamps.
 11. Mike Street, Ancaster. Bringing me up to date with Unitrade.
 12. Mark Larkin, N.Y. A card from Nepal on his return from Everest Base camp.
 13. Jim Felton, Little Rock Ar. More on ORBs.

See you in P.E.I.

MB/

W.

W.L. Bradley