

MAP STAMP

STUDY GROUP

BNAPS



Editor
W.L. Bradley #3857
Box #6
Honey Harbour, Ont.
POE 1EO

Whole #18 NEWSLETTER OCT - NOV 1988

Where have we been! Did you miss us?

Well the summer passed quickly and there was very little time for "Maps" (sadly). In late April, Marjorie & I drove to Ontario and up to Georgian Bay for an inspection of our summer cottage. The retreating winter ice had wrought havoc with our dock and other shore installations, as well as leaving the water level 5' (yes, 5 feet) lower than just a year earlier. It meant a whole new series of rocks and shoals to learn, but it did give us a nice new frontage of beach. There was carpentry, crib and dock reconstruction, plumbing repairs, painting - you name it. It was well into August before we could sit down and survey the scene with satisfaction. All this meant that the July newsletter bit the dust and even Bass fishing was neglected.

Pleasant Visits Even though the summer was uneventful from a philatelic viewpoint, we had several pleasant visits from Map Stampers.

In June, after Stampex in Toronto, Jim and Marion Brown of Calgary spent three days with us. Jim even helped me unload a bargefull of lumber and we had a great time examining each others' collections. Jim is a true advocate of the Map and has a wonderful collection.

Then in late August, Mark and Linda Larkin, Editor of Carto-Philatelist of NYC visited for three days. After stamps, we swam and boated and had bonfires in the evening in absolutely beautiful weather.

In Sept. Jim and Fern Kraemer of Ottawa spent a few days with us. Jim is the current president of RPSC and is interested in anything that has perforations, especially St. Helena, but that doesn't stop him from discussing Maps. We made a date for late Oct. to try again to complete our study of Plate IV at the Postal Archives (new name). I will write the new chief Cimon Morin for help in arranging an appointment - stay tuned! So you can see the summer was not uneventful.

THE CANADIAN MAP STAMP OF 1898 - A PLATING STUDY

This handbook study has been dragging on for five years

now and little progress can be reported in this newsletter.

In late May I visited Mike Street in Ancaster for a meeting with the printer to finalize format and costs. These were presented to Unitrade Associates on June 8/88 with a request for a decision by July 4/88 due to an impending paper cost increase. On Aug. 2/88 Unitrade informed Allan Steinhart, Publication Chairman of BNAPS that, in their opinion, the publication was not a viable project. This decision came about because of the costs necessary to reproduce the illustrations in all their detail, some in two colors, print the text and arrange distribution etc, coupled with the probability that sales would not reach the level necessary to cover them. The project now sits on the shelf, although Lew Ludlow, the incoming President of BNAPS has taken an interest and intends to pursue other methods of getting it published. Late in October, Mike and I sat down with his computer and brought the text up to date with all final changes.

THE MAP STAMP PLATE IV I wrote Cimon Morin the new chief of the Postal Archives in Ottawa asking for another inspection of the **proof** sheet of this plate, and permission to take detailed photos. On Oct 18 we travelled to Ottawa to spend three delightful days with Fern and Jim Kraemer. Cimon had arranged for my requested inspection with Ken Johnson, whose new title is "Archivist-Philately" at the Canadian Postal Archives. On the 20th we spent another two hours looking over this sheet and I set up the camera equipment. It was soon obvious that my equipment and the available light in the room along with the time allotted, was not going to produce results. Ken graciously suggested that he arrange the photography through the Conservator-Picture Division of Archives Canada with a target date of early in the new year. So there we are - you couldn't ask for better co-operation.

BLOWING YOUR OWN HORN DEPARTMENT Mark Larkin, the Editor of Carto Philatelist of NYC wrote the following comments in his publication of Sept /88 after his visit to Ontario last August (I use it because of the necessity to fill out the necessary pages for this issue!)

"Earlier my wife and I traveled to Canada and had a very nice visit with member Whit Bradley and his wife at their summer place on Georgian Bay. You can have some great map stamp discussions with Whit, but only if you talk about Canada 85 & 86 - the 1898 Christmas map stamp - which is the only map Whit collects. This beautiful stamp showing the world on a Mercator projection with the British Empire in red, the oceans in blue or gray and the other features in black, has many varieties mainly due to misregistration of the colors.

Whit Bradley heads up a study group and edits a newsletter on this one stamp. There were four 100-subject plates used and the study group has plated all 400 positions. With a magnifying glass Whit can quickly tell you to which of the 400 plate positions any stamp belongs. Whit's gang is now heavy into the various types of cancellations used on this stamp - circular, squared circle, flags, split ring, sunburst, roller, railway postoffice, etc. You name it- there are even thumbprint cancellations. After examining literally thousands and thousands of used copies of this 1898 Christmas map stamp, the study group estimates that 98% of the stamps used by mail were cancelled between December 7, 1898 and January 31, 1900, a brief fourteen month period. I'll get Whit to write up some interesting notes for us on this most interesting stamp."

BNAPS 1988 Annual Meeting - Virginai Beach, Sept 7-10/88

Unfortunately I couldn't attend this meeting as it was too close to the Labour Day weekend, which is a traditional family get together for the Bradleys at our summer cottage. I haven't heard much about the meeting or if the Map Stampers got together. Any news?

DEATH I read a report of the death of Alex Csucs of R.R.#1 Brights Grove, Ontario. Alex was one of the original persons to form the study group, being #9. His Map material was featured in SISSONS Auction of Oct. 18/88.

STUDY GROUP STIPEND 1987 I received \$1950 from BNAPS to cover postage etc. for Newsletter sent to BNAPS officers.

APPOINTMENT It has been announced that Mr. Cimon Morin has been appointed Chief-Postal Archives, National Archives of Canada, 365 Laurier Ave. W. Ottawa K1A 0B1 Mr. Morin has always been helpful in our quest for information on Plate IV of the map stamp, and we welcome this appointment.

RPO's ON MAP - RARITY FACTORS This project has bogged down of late - just doesn't seem to be time for everything, but I have 12 to 15 reports from various collectors with a total of hundreds of cancels. Keep tuned.

FIRST DAYS During Sept. I had several exchanges of correspondence with Stan Lum, a Toronto dealer, who sent me the following article that appeared in the Sept /88 issue of "First Days". It is an excellent article and because, probably, our readers would not likely see it, I reproduce it here with permission of the authors.

First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada
Part 3 — First Day Covers of the
IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE ISSUE OF 1898

... Melvin L. Baron, AFDCS LM122
 3801 Hudson Manor Terrace, Bronx, NY 10463
 ... Stan Lum, AFDCS 20380
 19 Bamber Ct., Don Mills, Ontario, Canada M3A 2N5

In July of 1898 an Imperial Conference on postage rates was convened in London. While the goal of the conference was to adapt a uniform postage rate for mail within the British Empire, this rather grandiose ambition was not realized. Rather, a scheme was adopted for a uniform two-cent postage rate for mail between Canada, Great Britain, and her colonies. The foremost Canadian proponent of Imperial Penny Postage (two cents) was the Honorable William Mulock, the Postmaster General of Canada.

As a prime mover in the active adoption of Imperial Penny Postage, Mulock was instrumental in issuing a special postage stamp with the new two-cent rate, and at the same time, to emphasize the vast size of the British Empire. The decision was made to utilize a map as the stamp design.

It is interesting to note that while the Imperial Penny Postage rate of two cents for each one-half ounce of first class mail between Canada, Great Britain and the participating colonies was to go into effect on December 25, 1898, the cost of sending such a letter to the United States, or for that matter to other cities interior to Canada, remained at three cents. A further decision to reduce the rate on such postage to the same two cents was made, this rate change taking effect on January 1, 1899.

The Imperial Penny Postage stamp design shows a map of the world (Mercator's Projection) with the parts of the British Empire in red. The basic outlines are in black and the oceans are either lavender (Scott 85) or blue (Scott 86). The words, "Xmas 1898," appear below the map and across the bottom of the stamp is the text, "We Hold a Vaster Empire Than Has Been," a line from the poem "A Song of Empire." This poem was published in June 1897 as the Jubilee Ode by Sir Lewis Morris.

On December 5, the Postmaster General stated that "this stamp could be put in use as soon as supplies are received at each post office." The earliest date for stamps on cover, i.e., "First Day Covers," is December 7, 1898, the date which is considered to be the First Day Of Issue for the map stamp.

Only stamps with the water colored lavender (Scott 85) canceled on the First Day Of Issue are known to the authors.

Imperial Penny Postage First Day Covers dated December 7, 1898, are quite rare. They are known from the six cities listed in Table I.

Table I - First Day Cities
First Day — December 7, 1898
(Lavender Water — Sc. 85)

Bridgewater, Ont.	Montreal, Can.
Hamilton, Ont.	Ottawa, Ont.
Kingston, Ont.	Toronto, Ont.

First Day Covers for this issue generally have a single Imperial Penny Postage stamp attached, plus extra postage when required. Only one First Day Cover is known with multiple copies of the stamp affixed — this is shown in Figure 2 of this section. Blocks of four or plate blocks on First Day Cover are unknown.

The authors are familiar with the First Day Covers from Hamilton, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, all of which are illustrated and discussed later in this article. The covers from Bridgewater and Kingston are reported by R.B. Winmill (1982) in his excellent study of this stamp issue.

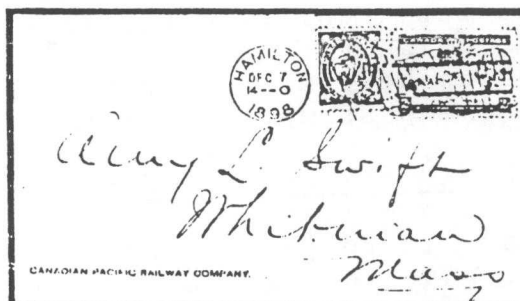


Figure 1. First Day Cover from Hamilton, Canada. The one-cent Queen Victoria stamp was affixed to produce the required three-cent rate to the United States.

Figure 1 shows a First Day Cover canceled on December 7, 1898, at Hamilton, Canada, with a flag type machine postmark.

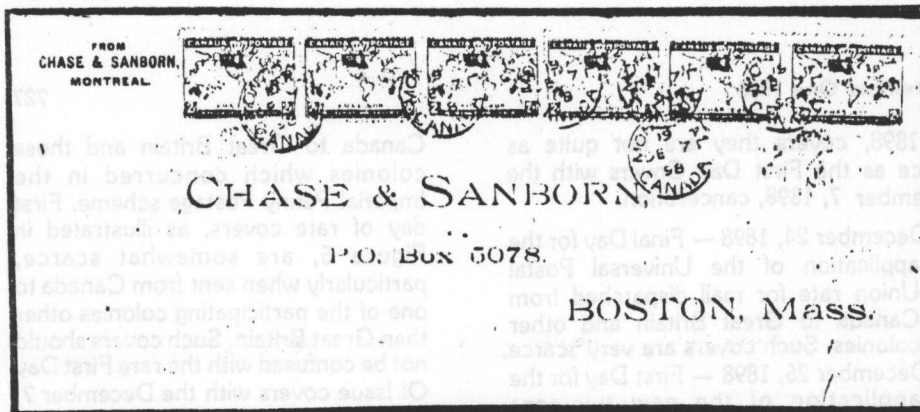


Figure 2. Commercial First Day Cover from Montreal, Canada, with two strips of three stamps tied to the cover. This is the only known First Day Cover with multiple stamps affixed.

It has the two-cent Imperial Penny Postage stamp and a one-cent Queen Victoria Maple Leaf issue stamp on a Canadian Pacific Railway Company envelope. The three cents postage is the correct amount for first class mail from Canada to the United States, in this case Massachusetts.

Figure 2 shows a First Day Cover canceled on December 7, 1898, at Montreal Canada. It bears two strips of three of the Imperial Penny Postage stamps, tied to the cover by six hand cancellations. This is a commercial cover from Chase and Sanborn, Montreal, to Chase and Sanborn, Boston. It is the only known First Day Cover for this issue with multiple stamps affixed.

one-half-cent stamps of the Queen Victoria Numeral Issue. The total of three cents postage is correct for first class mail between Canadian cities.

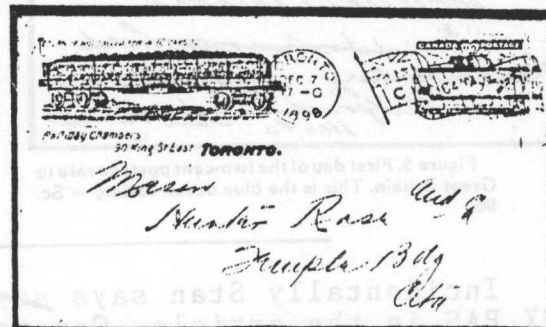


Figure 4. First Day Cover from Toronto, Ontario, on a Standard Fuel Company, Ltd., corner envelope. Note the two-cent local postage rate.

Figure 4 shows a First Day Cover canceled on December 7, 1898, at Toronto, Canada, with a flag type machine postmark. The stamp is affixed to a Standard Fuel Co., Limited, corner envelope showing a picture of a railroad car filled with coal. The single Imperial Penny Postage stamp pays the local rate for first class mail to points in the same city, in this case Toronto.

First Day of Rate Covers

In addition to First Day Covers, collectors of the postal history associated with the Imperial Penny Postage issue are often also interested in First and Last Day of Rate covers associated with this stamp. The following four dates are significant in this respect. Covers canceled on these dates are often collected. Other than the December

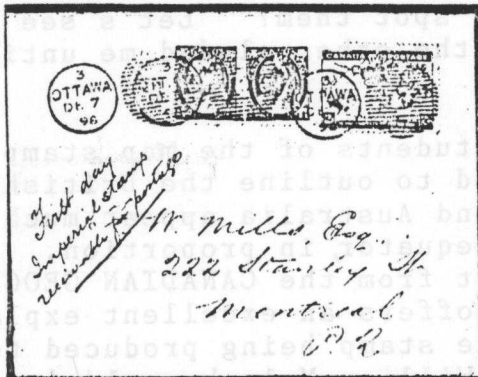


Figure 3. First Day Cover from Ottawa, Ontario. The two half-cent Queen Victoria stamps are affixed to produce the required three-cent rate to other Canadian cities.

Figure 3 shows a First Day Cover canceled on December 7, 1898, at Ottawa, Ontario, with hand cancellations. It bears the Imperial Penny Postage stamp and two

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24, 1898, covers they are not quite as scarce as the First Day Covers with the December 7, 1898, cancellation.

- (1) December 24, 1898 — Final Day for the application of the Universal Postal Union rate for mail dispatched from Canada to Great Britain and other colonies. Such covers are very scarce.
- (2) December 25, 1898 — First Day for the application of the new two-cent Imperial Penny Postage rate from

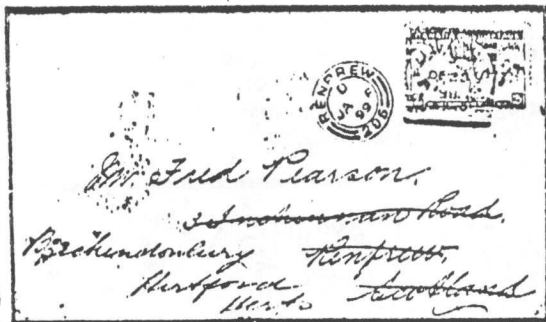


Figure 5. First day of the two-cent postage rate to Great Britain. This is the blue ocean variety — Sc. 86.

Canada to Great Britain and those colonies which concurred in the Imperial Penny Postage scheme. First day of rate covers, as illustrated in Figure 5, are somewhat scarce, particularly when sent from Canada to one of the participating colonies other than Great Britain. Such covers should not be confused with the rare First Day Of Issue covers with the December 7, 1898, cancellation.

- (3) December 31, 1898 — Final day for the three-cent rate for single weight first class letters from Canada to the United States, and internally between Canadian cities.
- (4) January 1, 1899 — First Day for the new two-cent rate for single weight first class letters from Canada to the United States, and internally between Canadian cities.

References:

Winmill, R.B., "The Evolution of Imperial Penny Postage and the Postal History of the Canadian 1898 Map Stamp", 1982, published and distributed by Jim A. Hennok Ltd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada. □

Incidentally Stan says ~~says~~ "there are two rather serious FAUX PAS in the article, Can you spot them?" Let's see who recognizes them! I got one but the other eluded me until Stan pointed it out to me later.

THE MERCATOR PROJECTION All students of the map stamp know that Mercator's projection was used to outline the British Empire. That explains why Canada and Australia appear much larger than countries along the equator, in proportion. I happened to come across an excerpt from the CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC magazine for June/July 88 which offers an excellent explanation and an alternative, were the stamp being produced today. I'll bet Queen Victoria and Sir William Mulock wouldn't agree to Canada being shown smaller than the United States! It is reproduced on the next page.



Exorcise Mercator!

I enjoyed Lewis Robinson's account of Shelley Bruce's nationwide mental map project (*CG* Feb/Mar '88). Shelley and the Society are to be congratulated for such an enlightening undertaking.

However, in his remarks on the project, Professor Robinson did not mention that all the students' maps except one showed Canada having a "flat top". This impression of the shape of the northern reaches of our country appears to indicate widespread use in schools of maps based on the Mercator projection.

The Mercator projection is most unsuitable for showing the shape and size of Canada because of extreme distortion in high latitudes. Unfortunately, the Mercator perspective permeates much of Canadian geopolitics today.

Perhaps the Society should undertake another project asking students to select projections that best depict the shape and size of Canada and also its geographical relationship to its neighbours as a step to exorcise the Canadian mind of the Mercator perspective.

Keith R. Greenaway
Ottawa

Projections and perceptions

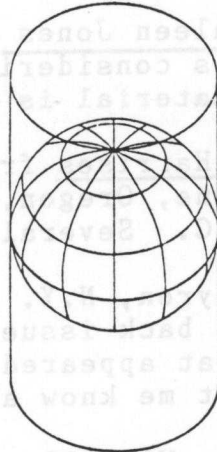


Fig. 1: Cylindrical

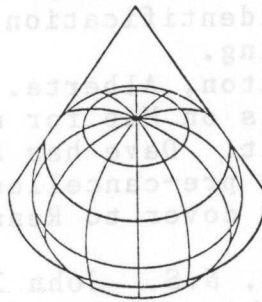


Fig. 2: Conic

We invited Col. Sebort -- formerly with the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Energy Mines and Resources -- to respond. His letter is at right.



Lambert Conic better

The Mercator projection is rarely used for a map showing Canada alone because of the distortion and enlargement of areas in high latitudes. Canada, along with other northern lands, appears much larger than it really is. For this reason the Mercator map of the world has largely been abandoned for school geographies and home atlases.

On the Mercator projection, meridians are perpendicular to the parallels of latitude, and both are straight lines. This gives some peculiar false impressions of Canada. For example, the side boundaries of Saskatchewan appear parallel, and Banks Island in the Arctic looks many times larger than New Brunswick, when actually it is slightly smaller.

One of the best projections to show Canada in its correct shape is the Lambert Conformal Conic projection.

In the Mercator projection, the geographical features of the sphere are projected outward onto the flat paper wrapped around the globe like a cylinder as shown in Figure 1. With a conic projection, the paper is formed into a cone and fitted over the sphere as shown in Figure 2.

Louis M. Sebort
Ottawa

INTERESTING LETTERS

1. Robert Lunn Toronto, Ont. Mr. Lumm is a new member and has been assigned #61.
2. Sandy Mackie Aberdeen, Scotland Sandy reports that he won a Bronze at the Scottish National Exhibition with a Map exhibit of the re-touches and re-entries from Plates 1-2-3-5.
3. J.C. Michaud for Cathleen Jones of Halifax, reporting that she is very ill and is considering disposing of her map collection. (Note: her material is listed in Bob Lee's auction of 2 Dec 88)
4. The Wallaces and the Harrises from the Calgary Winter Olympics and PIREX in Eugene, Oregon, May 28-30/88.
5. Bob Lee, Kelowna, B.C. Several letters re Duplex cancellations on Map.
6. Ralph Belgard, Port Byron, N.Y. Ralph is a new member #58 and I sent him all the back issues of the newsletters as well as articles 1-5 that appeared in Topics. Ralph also phoned early in July to let me know about an article in Maple Leaves by Fred Fawn.
7. A long letter from Ron Winmill - our correspondance goes back 8 years now and his letters are always full of Philatelic lore.
8. John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre. John and I have been discussing plate # identification and he periodically sends material for checking.
9. Harry Acheson, Edmonton, Alberta. A nice letter in June with a list of RPO cancels on Map for my R.F. project.
10. Dave Hanes Barrie Ont. Dave has a cover for sale, looks interesting. The Map was pre-cancelled with a Windsor, Ont roller and then tied to a cover to Rennie with a Windsor Duplex. Anybody interested?
11. John Hall Dartmouth, N.S. John looks like he might be a new member. I sent him newsletter #17 and assigned him #62.
12. Kay & Ed. Harris, Calgary, AB. a note telling me about their plans for Virginia Beach.
13. Mark Larkin, NYC 4 notes (one from Peru) keeping me up to date on Carto. He always sends me several clippings he gleans from his philatelic mail on the Map.
14. Jon Johnson Calgary, Alberta. A note and report about all the BNAPS Study Groups and the addresses of all the officers.
15. Ray Horning, Ottawa, Ont. Ray is very active in the Parkinson Foundation and reports on progress being made at the Ottawa Civic Hospital by their medical staff! Also data and his first attempt at a R.F. system by a factoring method

using points assigned by various cancellations - eg: dated cancellations, Plate no.- re-entries, etc. - so many for each, then add them up and multiply by the value of a good used copy (say 5.00) - that's your total! Thus a good used stamp from Plate V with lavender ocean, a squared circle cancel and a major re-entry might have a number of 150. The system needs more work and thought, though.

16 Manfred Eichele, Allschwil, Switzerland. Manfred is an enthusiastic Map collector but complains that he doesn't see many in Switzerland (Dealers please note). I've always had a desire to do something with my father's old Swiss collection someday, and Manfred is keeping me supplied with the new issues.

17. Tony Shaman, Kitchener, Ont, Tony is an excellent author on Canadian Philatelic subjects and sends me an article from "Stamps" June 4/88 on "The Schooner Bluenose" Scott 158!

18. Miklos Pinther NYC Miklos is president of Carto and is Chief Cartographer for the United Nations. Through Carto I have an updated map of the Gulf of Tonkin and the Island of Hainan off the coast of Vietnam. This of course is the location of the 'Dot & Arc' technique for establishing the plate number and plate position no. of individual map stamps. It is such a good map - I'm going to use it in the next issue and superimpose the limits of the DOT & ARC for information.

19. John McCrea, Monroeville, Pa. USA. John tells me about a

method he used to improve a cover he bought recently with a "muddy water" map. He lifted the stamp off using a wet Kleenex compress. He then treated the stamp for three minutes in a 3% Hydrogen peroxide. The oceans went from muddy water to lavender gray. He rinsed the stamp, dried it and replaced it on the cover with mucilage in the original spot by lining up the CDS cancel (Grimsby, Ont) with the marks on the envelope (tied). He says it looks great but there was minor bleeding of the red from Canada and Australia onto the tissue paper. Incidentally the address on the envelope is "Ingersoll Onto" as an abbreviation for Ontario (July 13 1899). More stories like this are what we need for the newsletter! Thanks John.

20. Newsletters from:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 3. RPS STUDY GROUP | Bill Robinson |
| 2. SQUARED CIRCLE GROUP | Gary Arnold |
| 2. RE-ENTRY GROUP | Ralph Trimble |
| 2. DUPLEX CANCEL GROUP | Bob Lee |

ABOUT THE FUTURE This newsletter #18 marks the end of 6 years as your editor. Each issue seems harder to put together although I've had lots of contributions from interested philatelists. Those of you who have done something like this will recognize the symptoms, you can't go on forever.

The next issue, March, will list our members with their addresses to enable intercommunication with each other. If you don't want your address used, please let me know.

Now something new: Marjorie has consigned her old typewriter to a garage sale and is now equipped with the newest electronic one with a 60,000 word memory. It beeps when a spelling error is made! I wonder if it has the word "filatelist" (beep - yep). (typist note - I still make mistakes).

Whit. Bradley