THE 1898 CHRISTMAS STAMP NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the 1999 Map Stamp Study Group - British North America Philatelic Society Chairman: Fred Fawn - 20 Palomino Crescent, Toronto, On, M2K 1W1 Secretary Treasurer - Roger Boisclair, 17 Rue de l'Orbite, Hull, Que., J9A 3C7 Editor: Bill Pekonen - 201 - 7300 Moffatt Road, Richmond, B. C. V6Y 1X8

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Whole # 2

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Members of the Study Group have been asking "when is the next newsletter coming?" During this first year, and until we get some additional funding from BNAPS, we can only afford to send three issues. Only three issues are possible because we elected to use colour to illustrate some important information instead of simply using black and white reproduction. The intention was to mail this newsletter early in May, but my work has interfered with the hobby, and the issue is about one month later than expected. The next issue should be out in September. There is enough new material on hand to prepare the newsletter, but we do want to get some articles for future issues. It would be desirable to have enough material on hand for at least two newsletters. That procedure was not planned for this issue, but that is how things have worked out. Most of the information now on hand will be printed in the September issue. Most of this issue is taken up with Roger Boisclair's article about Plate 4 colour proof information. The first thought was to split it up over two articles, but Roger thought it would be best to print it out all at once so that the complete story could be told. Many of the pages in this issue have been produced by Roger on his colour printer to achieve the clarity as well as is possible. These first two pages includes a few different items of interest. New Member information will be added in the next issue. For those of you who have not yet paid your dues, please send your \$10 cheque to Roger at the address shown above. Please make a note of a change in address:

WATT, Dr. Jim c/o 700 Main X-ray & Ultra Sound

700 Main Street East, Hamilton, ON. L8M 1K7

WHAT'S IN A NAME By Fred Fawn

"Map Stamp" "World's First Christmas Stamp"....."Canada's Imperial Penny Postage".... they all sound fine and convey the same image.

Cudo's to our Editor! Bill presented a scholarly introduction in Newsletter #1, also pointing out the question and importance of a name. The stamp was issued in the 19th century: the name "MAP" belongs to the 20th. Speed in communication has accelerated. Abbreviations and short captions are now the order of the day. Do we ever hear of "William" Clifton or "Joseph" Clark? I have no doubt that younger members will be still calling this stamp "MAP" at its bicentenary.

The naming "The 1898 Christmas Stamp Newsletter" was a good choice. It endorses the special status of the stamp. Many countries have imitated the message by their issuance of hundreds of Christmas stamp designs.

"Imperial Penny Postage" is the overall catalogue description, like it or not. Indeed, in a historical and economic context, "Penny Postage" is most appropriate, since it referenced the

world's strongest currency at that time. And 2 cents Canadian remained 1d for a long time. It was "Imperial" since Great Britain and all the Colonies within the Empire had the option to adopt it.

"Ocean Penny Postage" between various countries was unsuccessfully advocated by many: Burritt, Bates, Sumner, Hastings, Brittain. *(Editor's note: don't forget the 1838 Post Office Committee)* We must distinguish advocates of Imperial Penny Postage: Arnold-Foster, Henniker Heaton, Beadon, Chamberlain, Norfolk and Mulock. Henniker Heaton was the most vocal fighter for IPP, who, incidentally, established "Penny Postage" between the UK and USA in 1908 (See MAPLE LEAVES, Whole 250, Oct. 1994, pp 327-8). I would like to second the feelings of the Canadian soldier from Regina, who happily overpaid a Post Card he sent to a missionary in Canton, China on December 14, 1898 (reproduced below). Also reproduced below is John Ross Robertson's promotion of the Imperial Penny Postage stamp (see *The Canadian Philatelist* Vol 47, No. 2 pp121-123.

Imperial Penny Postage

Service Inaugurated Christmas Day, 1898



The central subject is a Map of the World in black w British possessions blocked out in red. The Grown tri phant is the top piece of the design resting on a suppor oak and maple leaves, thus symbolizing the unity of United Kingdom and Canada. The words "Canada P age" are clearly lettered, and underneach the map "Km 1868" is recorded so that the date of inaugurating Imperial Penny Postage schemes may be a matter of rea-

Staddare with the meaning of the working and the baddare with the meaning of the working the baddare with the meaning of the working the baddare with the fraternal regards of M.W. Bro. J. ROSS ROBERTSON, P.G.M., of the Grand Lodge of Canada, Representative of the United Grand Lodge of England, near the

Grand Lodge of Canada. Ebristmas Day, 291 Sberbourne St., Toronto, Canada.



MORE ABOUT PLATE 4: The hunt is open for new finds on the philatelic market By: Bill Pekonen, editor

Roger Boisclair reports his find on the existence of some plate 4 color proofs on the philatelic market and he recalls a warning on how to quickly spot this material. Several photographs of the black and white plate proofs located at the Canadian Postal Archives have been carefully examined. The existence of a Plate 4 full color proof sheet at the Postal Archives is confirmed but a second color proof sheet was also apparently held in the archives of the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo.). The sheet has been cut up into four quarters but only three of them were offered and purchased by philatelists during their archives auction in New-York in 1990. As far as he knows, this is from where originate the only Plate 4 color proofs reported in private hands. The quarters can be matched with the other by comparing the scissors marks that exist after the full sheet was cut up. 67 of the 100 stamp positions have been accounted for until now and 33 positions are still to be reported. The missing ones were either destroyed or must be sitting in someone's collection. He recalls that the quickest way to identify Plate 4 color proof sheet and white proof sheet and the full color proof sheet of the Canadian Postal Archives. The stamp as the same markings appear on both the black and white proof sheet and the full color proof sheet of the Canadian Postal Archives. The stamp borders were not properly cleaned and numerous different arcs, dots and guidelines can be seen. His find was triggered by a striking tool mark that occurs on stamp position 100 in the bottom margin below the right quotation mark after the word 'BEEN'. This mark does not appear in that same position on any of the other stamp position 100 so far observed from plates 1, 2, 3 and 4. Several examples demonstrate this conclusion and a number of his reference material is presented to illustrate his find about the ABNCo. sale.



TWO INTRIGUING MAJOR ISSUES ABOUT THE 1898 CHRISTMAS STAMP PLATE 4 COLOR PROOFS An Attempt to Set the Record on the Quantity Reported at the ABNCo. Auction Sale and a Definitive Identification of the Red Plate Used By: Roger Boisclair, BNA # 5248

As many of us, a tornado of questions occurred for years in my mind concerning Plate 4. Given the lack of reference in the philatelic literature, the steps I have gone through allowed me to develop some additional knowledge with the study of these missing aspects of the 1898 Christmas stamp and this is why I think it offers some interest to readers. For record purposes, I will therefore do my best to indicate my rationale as well as provide details of my sources.

MY STORY

All started at a Jim Hennok Ltd. auction # 103-104 held September 30, 1995 where I have been privileged to purchase lot 300 that contained some Plate 4 research. This lot used to belong to Whitney L. Bradley. For years, I have been attracted by Plate 4 and this lot would finally allow me to take his relief and to step forward without being forced to start from zero. Many black and white photographs had been obtained from the Canadian Postal Archives, namely an 8-1/2 x 11" large photograph of the Plate 4 black proof sheet, the one shown on page 39 of Bradley's book on plating¹, and a series of enlargements from the same material for all pair of positions from the left of the sheet as well as the complete two lower rows. Given that information about Plate 4 was scarce, this reference eventually revealed to be key items in my study. In fact, when examining these photographs, I had noticed the numerous layout marks, guidelines and arcs left around the margins of the majority of the subjects. More precisely, I was attracted from the beginning by a striking tool mark left in under the right numeral box of position 100 (see figure 1). This mark will stick in my mind forever.

Then came the great Capex Exhibition in Toronto in 1996 to which I have attended. During the event, I was delighted to spend several hours examining the greatest 'map' stamp collection belonging to Mr. Fred Fawn. In fact, it is in his collection where I have seen for the first time some Plate 4 material and where I had the privilege to examine two quarter sheets full-color proofs of Plate 4. While dreaming of owning such material, I said to myself: « What a lucky collector! ... »

A few years later while looking at Sissons' auction catalogue # 587 held January 13, 1998, I have naturally thrown an eye to the photographed section to see if some of my favorite stamp was shown. I was shocked by lot 381 when I saw the tool mark on the magnificent block for positions 89-90-99-100. Would it be possible that some Plate 4 material surface on the market? I couldn't believe it! While rushing in my binder containing the Plate 4 research, I quickly compared with the corresponding photograph and my observation was conclusive: it was showing the same characteristics in all margins. I was absolutely excited about the discovery of Plate 4 color proof on the market! Moreover, the same catalogue offered two extra similar lots (lots 380 and 382) where margins shown scissors snips that made all three perfectly matching altogether. Incredible! Map lovers can easily imagine that my sleep was agitated that night. Indeed, it was a nightmare: I was fighting to succeed at



Figure 1

Reduced photograph image of Plate 4 black proof for positions 89-90-99-100. Source: Canadian Postal Archives, inventory number 85/86-4, pos. 84. Page number 10

¹Whitney L. Bradley, <u>The Canadian Map Stamp of 1898 - A Plating Study</u>, a handbook of BNAPS, 1989, 188 pages.

auction ... ! (see enlarged scanned copy attached). Eventually, I compared all marginal markings with the large photograph of the whole Plate 4 black proof sheet from the Canadian Postal Archives and I confirmed the plate positions for all my lots.

THE QUANTITY INVESTIGATION

After receiving the lots, I was still wondering how this material could have ended on the market. Instinctively, I was pretty sure that it originated from a larger piece and I immediately suspected that it may come from the American Bank Note Co. (ABNCo) archives material sold at auction by Christie's Robson Lowe on September 13, 1990 (figure 2). Seven lots offering some large Christmas stamp proof material were sold in this auction. Copy of a reconstitution of these lots is attached. The result of my investigation is provided herein and based on my observations, I am now taking the risk to share my conclusions:

· Plate 5 proof black only

<u>My statement</u>: « Lots 1829, 1830, 1832 and 1833 would all originate from the same sheet. Therefore, only one sheet existed originally in the ABNCo. Archive sale. »

<u>Rationale</u>: 1.- The description provided by Christie's auction catalogue stated that each lot had creases. My theory is the following: as evidenced by examination, the sheet was roughly folded in four and further severance scissors snips allow a perfect match between all of them.

2.- My photograph of lot 1833 is 'fuzzy' but I can see that it matches scissors snips shown on lots 1829 and 1832. It is also a logic conclusion as the printer always printed full sheets during the printing process. The marginal markings of this lot compares with those that are shown on lot 1829 and I find that it conforms to the Plate 5 layout material known. Therefore, lots 1829, 1830, 1832 and 1833 would all apparently originate from the same sheet. (Remark: surprisingly, no Plate 5 marking remnants appears at the top of lots 1830 and 1829.)

• Plate 4 color proofs

My statement:

« Lots 1831, 1834 and 1835 all originate from the same sheet of Plate 4 color proof. Therefore, only one sheet existed originally in the ABNCo. Archive sale. »

Rationale:

- 1. With the disclosure of the 4 lots already identified as Plate 5, we can now concentrate on the 3 remaining lots.
- 2. Lots 1831 and 1835 are officially recognised as being genuine Plate 4 color proofs². They can also be matched easily because the scissors snips are very clearly visible, especially the UL corner of position 53 (lot 1831) that perfectly matches the same mark in the LL corner of position 43 (lot 1835). Therefore, it is confirmed that they both originate from the same sheet.
- 3. Lot 1834. The four colored Plate 4 color proofs pieces belonging to the undersigned came from it. See a reconstitution of the ABNCo. Archives sold lots attached. In fact, the upper left side of position 66 presents an irregularity in the scissors snips that fits its counterpart along the upper right side of position 65 of lot 1831. The right side of position 67 has a perfect fit with the left side of position 68. Due to a lack of absolute clarity of my photograph for lot 1831, my 'visual' reference for position 65 is not 100% conclusive. The best way would be to compare both lots side by side. But I would say easy that there is 95% certainty because both scissors snips have a perfect fit. This is the reason why I can conclude that my material would originate from lot 1834. Clockwise, this is why I also conclude that lots 1831, 1834 and 1835 would all originate from the same sheet. A photocopy or photograph of lot 1831 or 1834 would allow an alternative to demonstrate my statement with complete certainty. Any information would be welcome.

Quantity of Plate 4 color proof reported. The ABNCo. Archives' sale for lots 1831, 1834 and 1835 would all originate from the same single full color sheet as evidenced with the 50 subjects exhibited by Mr. Fawn and by the 17 subjects herein reported by the author. The existence of a full color proof sheet of Plate 4 on the Canadian Postal Archives is confirmed³ but given that the herein reported material is the only Plate 4 color proof in private hands on the market, therefore, *33* subjects may still remain to be discovered! See attachement for missing position identification.

Lot	Reference to ABNCo. Archives Sale Lots and Personal Comments
1829	An up-right block of 25 originally purchased by Saskatoon Stamps and sold to a client who kept it intact*. I have a photograph of the original lot. It is
	Plate 5 proof black only.
1830	An upper left block of 25 originally purchased by Saskatoon Stamps. Severed in several pieces and sold to different clients*. I have a photograph of
	the original lot as well as a black and white photocopy. I have block pos. 24-25-34-35 and pair pos. 41-42. It is Plate 5 proof black only.
1831	A lower left block of 25 from the sheet. It is Plate 4 full color-proof exhibited in Fawn's collection. I have a photograph of the exhibited page.
1832	An irregular lower left block of 23 with pos. 81 & 91 missing. Originally purchased by Saskatoon Stamps. Finally severed in several pieces and sold to
	different clients (cat 145 etc.) *. It is Plate 5 proof black only and I have a photograph of the original lot.
1833	Black only proof block of 25. Fawn collection. I have a photograph of the exhibited page. It is Plate 5 proof black only .
1834	An irregular block of 21 purchased at auction by a dealer from England.** It is from Plate 4 color proof.
1835	An upper left block of 25 from the sheet. It is Plate 4 full color proof of Fawn's collection. I have a photograph of the exhibited page.
*	Information kindly provided by telephone by John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamps. Thamks also to John for the provision of photographs of lots 1829,
	1830 and 1832 to Whitney L. Bradley. These photographs have been invaluable in my research.
**	Information obtained in writing from Mr. William P. Maresh, Maresh Auctions.
NOTES:	The author's Plate 4 color proof material has not been submitted for certification yet. Plate 5 material identified as such is the result of my
	investigation and represents my own judgement call.

² Fawn, Fred. Map Stamp - Plate 4, Maple Leaves, April 1992, Vol. 22, No. 9, Whole No. 237, pp 303-305..

³ Fawn, Fred. Map Stamp - Plate 4, BNA-Topics, April-May-June Second quarter 1996, Vol. 52, No. 2, Whole No 467, pp. 57-58.

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THE RED PLATE USED

As evidenced by observation and comparison with other known Red Plates, I have prepared the spreadsheet herein that compares same positions from Plates 1, 2, 3 and 4 for different groups of islands of subjects of the lower right block under study. Remark: please note that when comparing similar islands, the usual rule applies in the sense that some variation may appear depending on the amount of ink. As can be seen, <u>the Red Plate used for Plate 4 was Red Plate A</u>, the same as the one used for Plates 1-2-3. I can also confirm that the same conclusion applies for all the other Plate 4 reported color proof positions of my collection. Given the lack of clarity of my photographs, I can also confirm some positions in lots 1831 and 1835 to be matching fairly well, the most striking ones being positions 12, 14, 42, 65, 71, 72, 73 and 82.

FINAL WORD

For record purposes, it would be nice if other collectors would report and share their discoveries if they succeed in identifying some of the missing positions for color Plate 4 proof material. To me, all existing imperforates

How to spot plate 4 quickly with the Red plate

As originally recorded by Mr. Ralph E. Trimble (4) ... «(coloured plates, my emphasize) shows an entry misplaced a full 3.0 mm below the proper position », which I find very easy to be visually noticed.

The hunt is open ... ! This feature allow collectors to quickly spot some more plate 4 color proof material as I did myself. All 'Map Stampers' should then keep on searching with a sharp eye as there is still probably a beautiful treasure to be discovered out there!

are 'suspect' and I would encourage all of you to persistently track and conduct a close examination may any of them come to your eye, even if they are shown in catalogues or offered by other means on the market. In fact, given the lack of attention to Plate 4 material up to now by the pfilatelic community, a keen eye could easily make some new discoveries! Truly, it is still possible for any of us whatever the level of our 1898 Christmas stamp collection: my purchase of a pair positions 66-67 at Maresh, auction # 332, lot 1689 on June 24, 1998 is a striking example! For the newcomers, I would certainly urge you to purchase the 'bible' on plating of this stamp as Mr. Bradley's book has been recently reprinted in order to make it affordable to all. This is a masterpiece and a lifetime achievement as a result of about 35 years of persistent and dedicated efforts in observation and research on this stamp. *Indeed, it is very useful* to plate our famous Plate 4 new finds...!



Figure 2

Extract of the ABNCo. Auction catalogue front page with the official description of the 7 quarter sheets proof material of the Map stamp.

Page Number 12

4 Trimble R. A Major Misplaced Entry on the Map Stamp but One You'll Never find!, BNAPS Re-Entry Study Group Newsletter, Jan/Feb, 1991, page 1.

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American Bank Note Co. Achives Auction Sale, New-York, September 13, 1990 * Surprisingly, there is no remnant of the plate number indication in the middle top of the sheet! Reconstitution of a Black only Plate 5 Proof Sheet*



2000, 04, 28. Roger Boisclair on E:Wordv6/Map⁴⁺⁻¹:e/P5Proof/BNAStudy-Group/MountingP5-Proof

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Reduced Scanned Photograph of Plate 4 Black only Proof Sheet

Source: Canadian Postal Archives of Canada, Plate 4 proof black only, collection Canada Post Corporation, National Archives - inventory number 85/86-4, Pos 06



THE 1898 CHRUSTMAS STAMP NEWSLETTER, VOL. 1, NO. 2, WHOLE NO. 2, MAY-2000 2000, 04, 12, Roger Boisclair on E:Wordv6Map-Étude/P4proof//BNASTGR/images/B&WP4SHEET.doc (scanned B&W-Photo-100 dpi)

Reduced scanned photograph of Plate 4, positions 89-90-99-100

Source: Canadian Postal Archives of Canada, black plate 4 proof block of four, collection Canada Post Corporation, National Archives - inventory number 85/86-4, Pos 84



PAGE NUMBER 15 NOTE: The vertical line in the LR corner is a 'human hair' that appears accidentally only on the Archives enlarged photograph and which is not part of the engraving of Plate 4 Proof sheet THE 1898 CHRISTMAS STAMP NEWSLETTER, VOL. 1, NO. 2, WHOLE NO. 2, MAY-2000 2000, 04, 12, Roger Boisclair on E:Wordv6/Map-feuderP4proof/BNASTGR/images/B&W/BK4/BK4/BK4/B&W.doc (scanned B&W-Photo-100 dpi)



PAGE NUMBER 16 2000, 04, 28. Roger Boisclair on E: Wordv6/Mapétude/P4Proof/BNAStudy-Group/Images/Couleur/Reconstitution/Montp4co.doc (images scanned 200 dpi) THE 1898 CHRISTMAS STAMP NEWSLETTER, VOL. 1, NO. 2, WHOLE NO. 2, MAY-2000

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	Plate # 2	CANADA CAPOSTAGE	20/			TGD = nil	(
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2000, 04, 07, Roger Boisclair on E	Area of study	REFERENCED STAMP scanned 100 dpi	POF Island 3 - P.I.G. missing + debris throughout scanned 400 dpi	CF I.O.G a big smear + extra island and dot scanned 800 dpi	CF Dot between Ascension and St. Helena normal design scanned 800 dpi	Tonkin Gulf Dot (TGD) scanned 2400 dpi	

1898 Map Stamp - Position 89. Yes, Red Plate A is common to Black Plates 1 to 4

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PAGE ABER 17

PLATE 4 COLOR PROOF

Partial reconstitution of lot 1834 of THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY Archive Sale Christie's Robson Lowe, Auctioneer, New-York, September 13, 1990



THE 1898 CHRISTMAS STAMP NEWSLETTER, VOL. 1, NO. 2, WHOLE NO. 2, MAY-2000 2000, 04, 16. Source: Personal collection. Roger Boisclair on E:Wordv6/Map-étude/P4-proof/images/couleurs/reconstitution/Rec-100-fonds-noir.doc (images canned in true color - 100-dpi)

CF = Confirming Feature : Ì 1898 Map Stamp - Position 90. Yes, Red Plate A is Common to Black Plates 1 to 4 2000, 03, 28, Roger Boisclair on E:Philatélie/Wordv6/Mapétude/Red Plate A/Étude90/Couleur/90-coul.doc C TT Ē

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Red Plate A is common to Black Plates 1 to 4 1 ... F



THE 1898 CHRISTMAS STAMP NEWSLETTER 2000, 04, 27, Roger BOISCLAIR ON E:WORDV6/Mapétude/P4Proof/BNAstudygroup/images/couleur/BK4/BK4TP242.doc

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tion 100. Yes, Red Plate	Plate # 2	VDB					TGD = 5	THE 1898 CHRISTMTAMP NEWSLETTER
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