

# THE 1898 CHRISTMAS MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the 1999 Map Stamp Study Group - British North America Philatelic Society

President: Fred Fawn - 20 Palomino Crescent, Toronto, ON, M2K 1W1

Sec-Tres. & Asst. Editor - Roger Boisclair, 17 Rue de l'Orbite, Hull, Que., J9A 3C7

Editor: Dr. John T. Anders, P.O. Box 122, Stn. Main, Barrie, ON. L4M 4S9

Vol. 2 No. 3

September, 2001

Whole # 6

## Editorial *by Dr. John T. Anders*

It is the aim of every Group of specialist to "push the frontier of knowledge". Our group of map stamp collectors affirms this idea whole heartedly. One of the ways of accomplishing this objective is by reverting to the project we were all exposed to while in school. It is called "show and tell".

Showing is almost always better than telling. Most individuals will prefer fast, visual information over weighty instruction manuals.

I encourage all the members to attend local and national shows. If possible, enter map stamp exhibit and extend the frontiers of knowledge and attract new members to share our interests.

## The Map stamp at F.I.P. World & International Exhibitions

by Fred Fawn. Email: [Thefawnfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:Thefawnfamily@yahoo.com)

Congratulations to John Anders on his outstanding success at Belgica '2001, world Exhibition under the Federation Internationale de Philatélie (F.I.P.) patronage (the highest of the 3 FIP classes). This was the first appearance on the international scene of John's Map exhibit. The result, I believe, is unprecedented, a Vermeil award. No doubt, the large jury of judges appreciated the research part of the collection as well as the many rarities shown. It is a great reward for many years of work and collecting but also a success story of the Map stamp.

While we are hopeful that CAPEX has a future, let us examine how the Map stamp fared at FIP international shows.

CAPEX '51. Was Canada's first International Stamp Exhibition, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Government issued stamps in Canada. It was the first international stamp exhibition ever held in the British Commonwealth outside Great Britain. There were no specialized Map exhibits; however Maps were shown in the "General Collection Canada" category.

CAPEX '78. Three very specialized and different Map exhibits were shown:

- 6 frames: The Reverend John S. Bain (U.S.A.). A magnificent collection, contained many rarities and unique items. Description: "Historical material, essay, proofs, First Day covers, rates, varieties, cancellations, etc." Editor's note: Silver.
- 3 frames: Ray Horning (Canada): A detailed study of its design, printing and postal usage". Editor's note: Bronze.
- 4 frames. N. Pelletier (Canada): "Nos. 85 & 86 showing the special Squared Circles: Editor's note: Bronze. NOTE: yours truly showed also Squared Circles on stamps and covers at Toronto Stampex, 10 frames, 160 pages. Editor's note: bronze

CAPEX '87:

- 5 frames: Beverlie Clark (Canada): "Selected proofs, varieties, rates, many unique items". Silver-Bronze.
- 6 frames: Fred Fawn (Canada): "Historical documents, proofs, varieties, rates, cancels". Silver.

CAPEX '96:

- 5 frames: Fred Fawn (Canada): "Historical documents, essays, proofs, varieties, rates and Postal History". Vermeil.

As a single issue stamp the Map has not always been fully appreciated at some stamp shows. But as President of the RPSC\* wrote recently: "The F.I.P. is shedding its staid image". Even single stamps taken from large sets are now frequently exhibited, such as the 3¢ Small Queen at LONDON 2000 by Mr. Ribler.

For quite some time I had a lot of fun collecting and showing the 15¢ Large Queen. It should be said that collecting and exhibiting a single-issue stamp is much more difficult than a full set of 8 or 14 stamps.



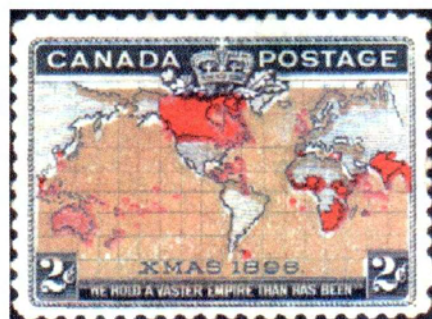
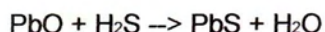
# Comments on the 'Muddy Water' 1898 Map Stamp

By: DR. JOHN E. MILKS, PH.D. ( # 28 ) \*

*This article was presented by John E. Milks at the 1898 Christmas Map Stamp Study Group annual meeting held at BNAPEX-2001 on September 1st. in Ottawa.*

X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy is a non-destructive method for identifying the atoms present in inorganic pigments used for printing postage stamps. Tracing for lead atoms predominate the spectra of Map stamp, irrespective of colors, and correspond to the use of white lead in the oceans area. There is good assurance that lead oleate, also known as 'Patent Dryer', is also present in the printing inks.

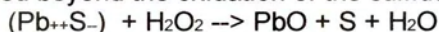
Articles in Topics by Bill Pekonen<sup>1</sup> and by L. Kruczynski have placed the blame for the discoloration of the oceans areas on a reaction of white lead with hydrogen sulfide in the atmosphere to give lead sulfide (galena). Although their basic lead carbonate ( $2\text{PbCO}_3$ ),  $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$  is the major constituent in white lead and is more than likely that lead monoxide, an impurity in white lead, is the actual reactant with hydrogen sulfide. Lead monoxide was found to develop an olive-brown coating within a matter of days when exposed to indoor air. In contrast, no discoloration of white lead which was essentially free from lead monoxide could be detected after a number of months either in inside or outside atmospheres.



THE 'GOLDEN SEA' VARIETY

White lead is produced from elemental lead or from lead monoxide and is one of the oldest manufactured pigments dating back to the earliest recorded civilizations in Europe and China. One of its defects as an artist's color is the fact that it will yellow or turn brownish. In actuality, lead sulfide is a black and not a brown pigment. Some stamps are gold, light bronze, **deep bronze**, greenish-brown and brown-black. As with other pigments, the differences in colors are due in part to particle size. The extent and rapidity of the reaction of hydrogen sulfide with the surface of lead monoxide did not initially result in the gold and bronze coloration.

With regard to the restoration reaction, the fact that elemental sulfur is unchanged when suspended in a hydrogen peroxide solution or in Clorox, a strong chlorine containing oxidant suggests that the restoration of the Map stamps does not proceed beyond the oxidation of the sulfide ion to elemental sulfur.



This observation is contrary to the belief of others that the oxidation of lead sulfite with hydrogen peroxide produces lead sulfite ( $\text{PbSO}_3$ ) or lead sulfate ( $\text{PbSO}_4$ ).

It has long been stated that hydrogen peroxide is a panacea for restoring the color of sulfuretted stamps. This, however, is not the case. Lead sulfide in the black form does not react with hydrogen peroxide. Nor was there a reaction with either the olive-brown covering or lead monoxide, or the greenish-brown and black-brown 'muddy-waters'. A 100% restoration did take place at the bronze stage.



THE TRUE 'MUDDY WATERS' VARIETY



To be assured that the restoration reaction was only due to lead sulfide and not to the presence of lead dioxide, a brown colored pigment, Clorox, was applied to the surface of the stamp. An immediate discoloration took place. This would not have occurred if the color had come from lead dioxide, the latter being completely stable to oxidative change by Clorox.

Finally, a physical rather than a chemical means a detection of a sulfide pigment in the 'muddy waters' could be obtained with a brown-black ocean. In this case, the sulfur content was above the detection limit using X-ray fluorescence analysis.



\* The author Dr. John E. Milks was born and raised in Ottawa in the Glebe district. In the winter, «we skated on the canal and skied in the Gatineau at Camp Fortune ». After receiving a BA and MA at Queen's University, he subsequently went to McGill for a Ph.D. All degrees were in Chemistry. Because of his interest in research, he went to the States after his marriage and have been there ever since. His move to Ohio (1999) from Connecticut was prompted by the fact that one of his daughter and her three daughters (2, 4 and 6) lived in Canton, Ohio. « I am very happy here since the country side and people remind me of southern Ontario ».

**NOTE:** Figures have been provided by Roger Boisclair, Assistant-Editor.

- 1 PEKONEN, Bill, « The 'Muddy Water' 1898 Xmas Stamp », BNA TOPICS, JAN-FEB-MAR 1995, Vol. 52, No. 1, Whole No. 462, pp. 32-35.

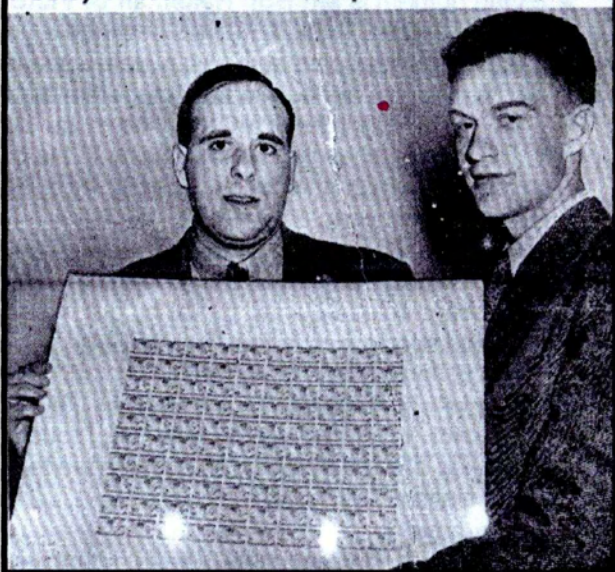
## MAP STAMP : STORY OF A FIND

Our colleague **Vance W. Carmichael (# 6)** dropped the following note: « I have enclosed a photocopy of a 1947 Toronto newspaper article showing my father holding an entire imperforate sheet of the 2c Maps. You may wish to use this in the next newsletter as it has an interesting story. » In fact, it is a reproduction of 'The Evening Telegram, Toronto, Thursday Mayk, 29, 1947. What a nice surprise! I've read the story and, believe me, it is one that is to be remembered. Thanks to Vance for his idea to share this fantastic maplover story! Hopefully our members will appreciate!

Grandma's old warning « never throw anything away, it might come in handy » has been proved again to the tune of \$2,500 by Jack Wright, Jack Carmichael and a sheet of 100 imperforate Canadian stamps.

At the death in Toronto of a well known Canadian citizen, some unwanted effects were discarded, among them a picture backed with a bristol board. A janitor saw the picture, liked it, and rescued it, discovering the bristol board backing was covered with strange looking stamps. He showed it to a plumber, who asked if he could have them for his stamp-collector nephew. So the nephew, Jack Wright, got the sheet of stamps, complete with bristol board backing.

### Pesky Picture Hid Stamps Worth \$2,500



‘THE EVENING TELEGRAM’, TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1947.



They kicked around the house for a time "and every time I fell over them I threatened to throw them out," laughs Mrs. Wright. "I nearly get heart failure now when I think how close I came to really doing it too".

#### HAD AN EXCITING TIME

Then a friend of Jack's had a stamp man friend, Neil Carmichael, of 198 Bay street. Neil came round to look at the sheet, looked them up in his catalogues and from therein everybody had an exciting time.

The stamps, not at all unusual to see in the perforated and cancelled form, were issued in Canada in 1898 to commemorate Imperial penny postage, the year postage became the same all over the British Empire.

They are oblong bits of paper showing the map of world, with British possessions in red. They are inscribed, « We Hold a Vaster Empire Than Has Been » and were printed by the American Bank Note Company, Ottawa. Those on the market now, the majority of them cancelled, are perforated and worth about ten cents.

#### VALUE ENHANCED

Jack's sheet of 100 stamps has not been perforated and one could not be separated from the other without cutting them apart, therefore enhancing their value about 250 times. When he and Neil looked up the sheet's value in official stamp catalogues, they found the one issued in London by Gibbons listed a pair of unperforated ones at 20 pounds, while Scotts catalogue of New-York listed them at \$50.00 a pair.

Jack who spent a year and a half with the RCAF is 22 years old and a second year student in civil engineering, Ajax Division, University of Toronto. He has been collecting Canadian stamps since he was ten years old and has about 1,500 now, but says his collection is neither unusual nor valuable.

He hopes from the sale of the stamps to help pay for his education and expects bids from all over Canada and the United States. He believes the stamps will probably be sold in pairs but is not sure. « Neil says it will probably take about a year to sell them all, but I can wait » says Jack.

---

## News Items

By Assistant-Editor Roger.Boisclair@sympatico.ca

### 1. STUDY GROUP MEETING AT BNAPEX-2001 CONVENTION HELD IN OTTAWA

#### a) Participation

- The following 3 members attended: John P. Wynns, John G. Milks and myself.

- We have also been graced with 3 visitors:

- One of them is **Mr. Bob Heasman of Victoria**. Bob exhibited a magnificent specialised collection on Flag cancels. Indeed, he was awarded a gold medal during the exhibition. Unfortunately, he is not especially attracted in the Map stamp and is not willing to join our Study Group for the moment. However, we are now in touch together and him and I have agreed that we will co-sign an article that will focus on the flag cancels used in the Map stamp period of usage in the near future. Bob agree to use the sketches that he is showing in his collection: they are absolutely GREAT, believe me! I will start working on this article sometimes in November in order to include it in our last newsletter number this year.
- I am very happy also to report that the following other two visitors have been recruited:
  - 1) **Harold (Hal) F. KELLETT**, (# 29), 231 Briarvale Bay, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7V 1B8. Harold has been told of our existence by our member Harry Voss to whom I wish to pass our warm tanking. Harold specialises in the Toronto Streets cancellations. It is hoped that Hal will present us with an article soon with his speciality.
  - 2) **Russell A. BELL** (# 30), 84 Hopkins Court, Dundas, ON. L9M 5M8. Russell is a professional chemist. While discussing with him, I found that he is also the one who was responsible for the printing of Bradley Book! We also hope that Russell will help us someday with a contribution to this newsletter.

#### b) Presentation

**b.1 Flag Cancels.** Unfortunately, I have not presented anything about the flag cancels on Maps. At the last minute, the hard disk of the brand new laptop recently provided to me at work only a couple of days before the convention had a total disk failure. Further investigation by our PWGSC Informatics Group revealed that it needed to be replaced with another brand new one, a very surprising but nevertheless reality these days! As a result, it was not possible for me to offer my presentation on the flags. Even if it was really minimal, I have been disappointed. But it is OK.



**b.2 Ad-hoc presentation.** The good new is that John G. Milks had brought an article that he wanted to submit on the sulfuretted phenomenon on the Map stamp. He provided me with his article for publication in this Newsletter. Given the circumstances, he quickly agreed to take-over the presentation. His talk has been greatly interesting to all of us, especially to Russell who also has expertise in chemistry.

**b.3 Presentation by John P. Wynns.** As President of the Quebec Tercentenary Study Group, John presented a very interesting slide show with some of the material that is contained in his collection. I have learned a lot from his presentation.

**c) Exhibition.** There was astounding collections exhibits. Admirals and Flag Cancels were my preferred ones. Concerning my own exhibit, I have been awarded a Silver medal. The President of the jury Mr. Firby mentioned the fact I was exhibiting in French did not help, even if I had previously been assured on the contrary by the President of the Convention Mr. Doug Lingard who insisted me to enrol. I have been graced with a personalised critic of my collection in front of my exhibit with the judge who was particularly in charge to comment my collection, Mr. Mike Street. After answering a number of his questions, he declared: "I truly apologise – and I felt he was sincere because of his body language – our judgement missed the great value of your collection." On the other hand, the judges' critique exercise was a positive one and provided me with some tips on how I can improve the presentation.

**d) Auction.** Out of the 50 lots offered, less than 5 have been sold. I guess it was very deceptive to the organisers who deserve congratulations for their professionalism. My Admiral collection (mint part only) was on the block and initially offered in 5 lots. The unsold ones had to be re-offered as a single lot. Eventually, I have succeeded to sell it intact to a dealer who was bidding on it during the auction. Even if he came close to the reserve I had put on it, he did not succeed but I then met with him and we quickly came to an agreement to complete the transaction.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

Two following members have been dropped:

Neil Campbell (# 5). He said: " my collection and I are just not at a point where I can make good use of the information in the newsletter. I was very disappointed but I guess it is part of life...

John H. Talman (# 20) has unfortunately been dropped for non payment of dues after too many recalls.

We haven't heard of Francis Au (# 2) since his last contribution in Whole No. 4 of this newsletter. I will send him another recall with this sending. Anybody who can contact him, please do so and let me know.

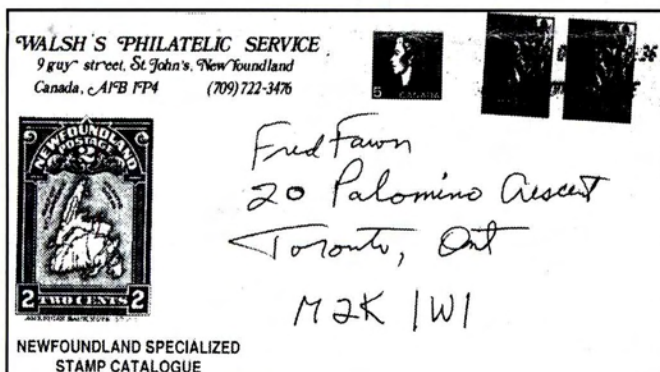
## *What members have to say?*

### N O T H I N G

We encourage members to provide feedback as much as possible. It is YOUR newsletter!

## Maps are Popular from Newfoundland to London

By Fred Fawn. Email: Thefawnfamily@yahoo.com



We all know, Scott Newfoundland # 86 is the 1908 MAP of NEWFOUNDLAND stamp. Mr. John Walsh is the Editor of the "Newfoundland Specialised Stamp Catalogue" and he is also a well known collector and exhibitor at the international scene. John displayed two exhibits at the London Stampshow 2000: in the Literature Class his Catalogue and in the Traditional Class-Commonwealth a magnificent exhibit of the Royal Family (#78-85) plus the MAP of NEWFOUNDLAND (186). Besides John's world-class honours, it is revealing to observe his business envelope attached.



## ***Orb Cancels on the Christmas Map Stamp: an open challenge!***

### **Report on Progress # 1 as at June 28, 2001**

*By: Bill Pekonen*

Several members have reported new dates on the Map Stamp Orb cancels. The number within square brackets [19] show the time mark when known. Please mark these on the charts supplied with the earlier newsletter to complete your own records.

For simplicity sake, a reporter number has been assigned as noted below. You can show this code number in the appropriate date square instead of an (\*). Multiple reported dates are not noted at this stage. If you wish these to be reported, let me know.

As you will note, there are still many blank spaces on the chart and surely some others exist somewhere yet to be found. **Please report any new dates and indicia to Bill Pekonen**, 201 - 7300 Moffatt Road, Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1X8.

#### **REPORTER # 2 - HARRY VOSS**

##### London 3 ring

1899: JA14; JA19 [19]; FE8 [14]; JY26 [14]; NO16 [12]; DE28 [17].

1900: JA9 [1]

##### Hamilton 3 ring

1899: JA16 [17]; JA26 [26]; MR8 [17].

##### Toronto 3 ring

1899: JUN2 [7-P.M.]; JUL13 [11P.M.];

##### Toronto 2 ring (with dots)

1898: DEC 23

1899: JA 19 [7-P.M.]; JA 30; MAR 29; JUN 22.

#### **REPORTER # 3 - JOE SMITH**

##### London 3 ring

1898: DEC 23; DEC 26.

1899: JAN 16; Jan 18; JUN 22; AUG 18; OCT 2; NOV 2; NOV 27; DEC 8; DEC 9; DEC 20.

1900: JA 20.

#### **REPORTER # 4 - ROGER BOISCLAIR**

##### London 3 ring

1898: DE 31 [22];

1899: JA 2 [14] & [19] & [21]; JA 4 [12]; JA 5 [9]; JA 8 [13]; JA 9 [1] & [21]; JA 10 [14]; JA 11 [15]; JA 12 [12] & [17]; JA 17 [20]; JA 20 [12] & [17]; JA 21 [18]; JA 23 [12]; JA 24 [15]; JA 25 [15] & [17]; JA 26 [18]; JA 27 [13]; JA 28 [16]; JA 30 [15] & [17] & [22]; FE 2 [14]; FE 8 [2]; FE 9 [1] & [11]; FE 13 [17]; FE 19 [12]; MR 17 [10]; MY 10 [19]; JY 4 [19]; JY 11 [15]; SP 10 [15]; NO 16 [22]; NO 17 [18]; NO 28 [18]; DE 15 [24]; DE 29 [24].

##### Hamilton 3 ring

1898: DE 7 [16];

1899: FE 8 [16]; FE 11 [16].

##### Toronto 2 ring (no dots)

1899: FE 6 [7-P.M.]; AP 11 [7-P.M.]; MY 9 [7-P.M.].

##### Toronto 2 ring (with dots)

1899: JA 3 [2-P.M.]; FE 22 [7-P.M.]; FE 24 [4-P.M.]; MR 17 [2X7-P.M.]; AP 13 [7-P.M.]; NO 18 [1-P.M.(? indicia not 100 % sure!)]

##### Toronto 3 ring (no dot)

1899: DE 23 [10-P.M.]; DE 28 [7-P.M.].

1900: JA 4 [7-P.M.].

Toronto Canada, Station 'B': 1901: MR 18 [18]. Indeed, a **very scarce one!**



# First Day Imperial Penny Postage

## & The rare Latchford Correspondence

By Fred Fawn. Email: [Thefawnfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:Thefawnfamily@yahoo.com)

Figures courtesy of Ron Brigham

Here is one of the two letters from the LATCHFORD correspondence, where the addressee, here the Postmaster of Dunnet, Scotland, sent a reply-letter back to F.R. Latchford in Ottawa. The last paragraph of Postmaster Wm. Taylor's message is very positive AND PROPHETIC...

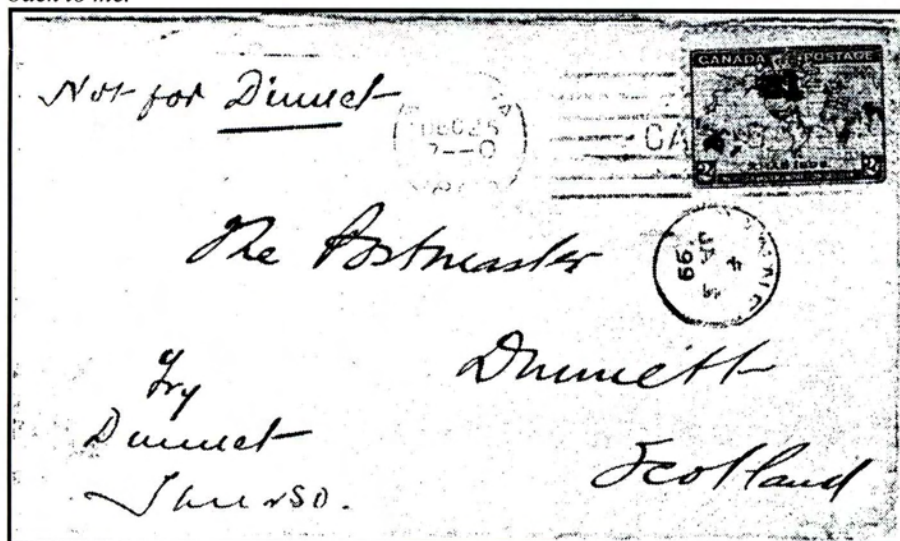
"I trust the Penny Post arrangement will prove a success and be still further extended".

Here is the original text\* of the Mr. Latchford's letter: \* Asst-Ed Note: the text is copied 'as is'.

"Ottawa, Canada, December 25<sup>th</sup>. 1898.

Dear Sir,

The inauguration of Penny Postage throughout the greater part of the British Empire takes place this Christmas Day. As a memorial of the event, I desire to have an envelope addressed to your distant city carried thither\* by a penny stamp, and sent back to me.



I should accordingly take it as a very great favour if you would kindly return to me the envelope containing this letter with the stamp attached which has carried the letter to you.

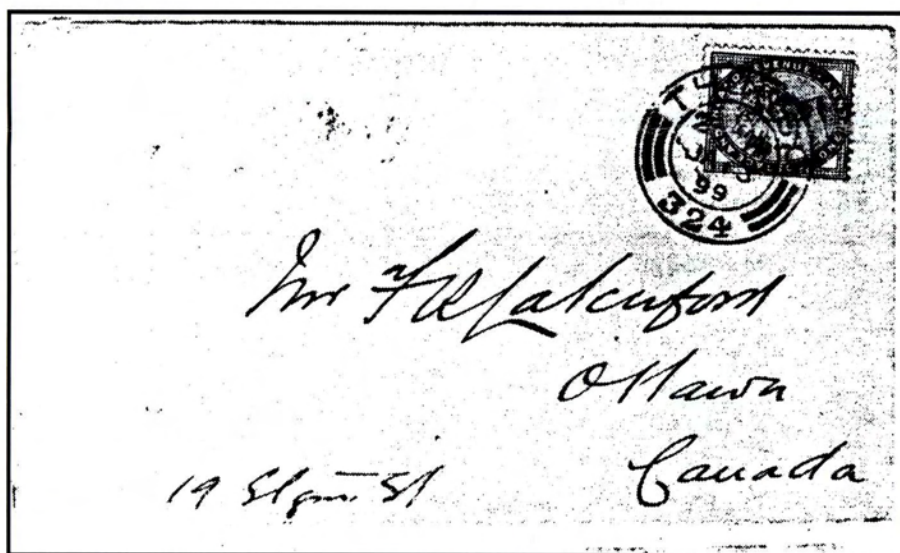
I send you one of the unused Canadian stamps, and a view of a scene in this city.

I shall tale it is as an additional favour if the envelope enclosed in this letter is returned bearing only a penny stamp.

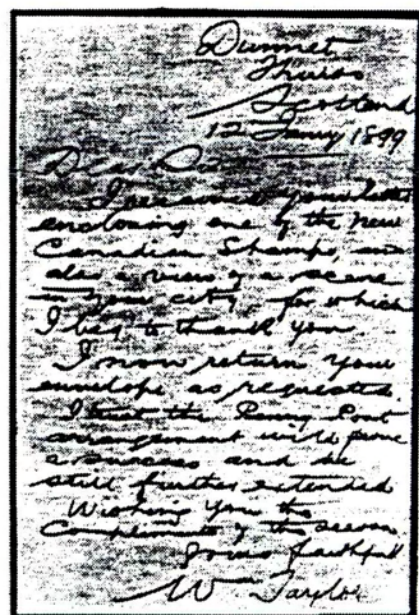
Wishing you the compliments of the season, I am, Yours very truly."

(Signed) "F.R.Latchford."

Initial cover sent by F.R. Latchford to Dunnet's Scotland Postmaster on December 25th 1898.



Reply cover to Ottawa from the Postmaster of Dunnet, Scotland.



Copy of Wm. Taylor's reply.



## 2¢ VERSUS 3¢

By Fred Faw. Email: Erreur! Signet non défini.

Prior to 1899 the largest requisition by the post offices were for 3¢ stamps in order to supply postage for domestic and U.S. destinations (per ounce). By January 1, 1899, three substantial rate reductions had taken place in Canada.

Due to the reduced demand for 3¢ stamps, the Post Office Department posted the following notice, dated Ottawa, 10th. January 1899 - see figure 1.

On the same date, 10th. January, 1899, the Post Office Department issued a DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR entitled: EXCHANGE OF THREE CENTS STAMPS - see figure 2.

This circular authorized and instructed postmasters to accept and exchange at face value the 3¢ stamps. Hence, sales of the 2¢ Imperial Stamp had been greatly increased. The public's acceptance and preference of the new 2¢ stamp is well documented. It was a sign of its outstanding popularity, not only because so many Canadians used it as a single adhesive but also remarkably, in multiples, when several other issues of higher values and smaller size were available.

# NOTICE

## EXCHANGE OF THREE CENT STAMPS

NOTICE is hereby given that persons having in their possession Three Cent Postage Stamps which they cannot conveniently use may exchange them at the Post Office at which they ordinarily transact their postal business for Stamps of any other denominations they may require, such exchange to be made at the FULL FACE VALUE of the Stamps handed in.

**R. M. COULTER,**

*Deputy Postmaster General*

Post Office Department,  
Ottawa, 10th January, 1899.

FIGURE 1

### DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA,

OTTAWA, 10th January, 1899.

#### EXCHANGE OF THREE CENT STAMPS.

Postmasters are hereby informed that, in connection with the reduction of the domestic postage rate (which is also the rate to the United States) from Three Cents per ounce to Two Cents per ounce, and the reduction also from Five Cents per half ounce to Two Cents per half ounce of the rate to Great Britain and certain British Possessions, it has been decided to withdraw from use the Three Cent Postage stamps heretofore issued by this Department, and to relieve the public of any stamps of that denomination which they cannot conveniently use by exchanging them for stamps equal in value of any other denominations that may be preferred.

Postmasters generally are therefore authorized and instructed to receive from the public and exchange at face value such Three Cent Stamps as may be presented for exchange, and to give in their place their value in such other stamps as may be applied for.

Postmasters of *non-accounting* offices may in like manner send to the City Offices from which they respectively receive their supplies any Three Cent Stamps which they may wish to exchange for an equal value of other stamps. Stamps so sent in for exchange should be arranged in a manner to facilitate counting and checking, and should be accompanied by a statement indicating the amount claimed to be sent.

Postmasters of *accounting* offices may send their surplus stock of Three Cent Stamps to the Department, making requisition at the same time for such other denominations as they may require in their place; and they will receive credit in the books of the Department for the amounts so returned.

It is specially requested that in sending stamps direct to the Department, under this authority, Postmasters will be so good as to observe the following points:—

(1.) An advice should accompany each transmission, plainly stamped with the Date Stamp of the Post Office, and indicating the number of stamps claimed to be enclosed.

(2.) Stamps that are not in complete sheets should be arranged in rows of ten upon sheets of paper, with not more than 10 rows to the sheet.

It must be distinctly understood that in dealing with the public, it is simply an exchange of Three Cent Stamps for other denominations that is authorized, and not the redemption of any stamps in money; also that such exchange is only authorized in the case of Threes and not of any other denomination.



*Deputy Postmaster General.*

NOTE.—A notice for the information of the public accompanies this Circular, and is to be put up in a prominent position in the Post Office.

Figure 2