

THE 1898 CHRISTMAS MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

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Whole #10

The Journal of the Map Stamp Study Group of the British North American Philatelic Society (1999)

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President's Message

Roger Boisclair was Secretary Treasurer for 2½ years and has been Assistant Editor for 1½ years. Our thanks to Roger for his conscientious contribution and for his efforts to make the Newsletter a success. Our Editor for the last 2½ years, John Anders, kindly volunteered to take on the additional position of Secretary/Treasurer. Thanks, John, for all your previous efforts and for the articles you have submitted. Best wishes for your combined endeavours.

Cudo to Our Editor, John Anders

The Canadian Philatelist, Sept/Oct 2002, on Page 261, reported that the Volume 2, 2001 issue of our Newsletter was awarded a Silver-Bronze at ORAPEX 2002. There were some 120 literature entries at this most important Ottawa Stamp Show. It was noted that three other BNAPS Study Groups participated, all having received Silver-Bronze as well. Our newsletter also was one of the winners of this year's John S. Siverts award. Great news!

Editorial

In this issue we will miss the guiding hand and comments of our Sec./Treas./Associate Editor. Roger Boisclair has resigned from all official positions in the study group. We owe him a vote of thanks for his efforts on our behalf. J.T.A. will carry on as Sec./Treas. and Editor. With the help of all members, the newsletter will continue to appear four times annually. However, there will be only three issues in 2002 since Whole #9 (an issue of 18 pages) will be considered a double issue.

Plating has been the foremost topic in our recent issues. To sustain the interest of all members, it will be my policy to present a wide diversity of themes in each issue.

Although longer articles are the pride and joy of all editors, I welcome the shorter works which are the "bread and butter" of each issue. I implore you to keep those articles coming. Get that good feeling of putting your thoughts, ideas and research into print - share your knowledge. Try it - you will like it!

Always welcome on the editor's desk is correspondence of any sort - comments on articles, suggestions on improvements to the newsletter or whatever else may be on your mind relative to the Map stamp.

As a courtesy to members of the Study Group, all correspondence relating to articles published in the newsletter should be addressed to the Editor for publication and sharing by the membership.

In Memoriam: R.B. Winmill

By Fred Fawn

Upon The Canadian Philatelist's request for an obituary, I have sent the following to its Editor:

The philatelic community was saddened to learn of the death of Ron E. Winmill at age 53. Ron was born in Lachute, Que. and moved with his family at age 1 to Ottawa. He was raised in a military family, his father being Assistant Judge Advocate General for the RCAF. He studied at Carleton University in Ottawa, Public Administration and Canadian Government.

Moved to London, Ont., where he was on staff at the University of Western Ontario. Ron wrote numerous articles in

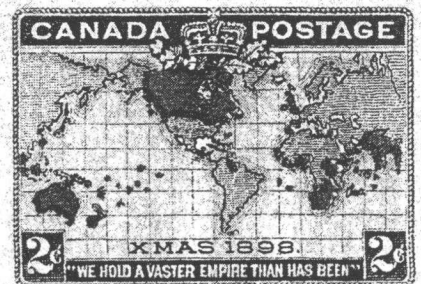
many philatelic publications, as well as having written one of the most comprehensive books on a single-issue stamp:

"The Evolution of Imperial Penny Postage and The Postal History of the 1898 Map Stamp". Published by: Jim A. Hennok Ltd. Toronto, Canada, copyright 1982. His collecting interests beside the Map Stamp included worldwide history of the Salvation Army, Postal History of Ontario Towns and his extensive philatelic library.

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his family.

My thanks to Dave Hanes for having provided details of Ron Winmill's family and professional data. Ron's contributions are well known to all of us. On the personal side, I would like to mention the several pleasant visits I paid to Ron in London, Ont. The discussions were of course non-stop on Map topics, with short interruptions when Ron consulted his sizeable philatelic library in his house. My correspondence with him brings back nice memories. Ron signed my copy of his book: "BEST WISHES AND EVERY SUCCESS". 'I contribute the success of the Map Stamp to Ron's initiative.

The memory of Ron Winmill will always be with us.



Canada: Disinfection of Mail, 1885 - 1903

By A.M. (Sandy) Clark

Ships and passengers arriving in Canada were often put into quarantine at Grosse Isle in the St. Lawrence River and at McNab's Island in Halifax harbour in the 1830s : see *Pratique* Vol. XVIII, (1993). But there is no proof of the treatment of mail from these stations, nor any regulations for the disinfection there of outgoing letters in the cholera period.

In 1885, there was an outbreak of smallpox in Montreal. A letter dated 6th. November 1885 from the Post Office Department Ottawa' to the Dept. of Agriculture notes that "the Chairman of the Provincial Board of Health has reported that the fumigation of letters from the Montreal post office to Ontario is insufficiently performed".

The reply from the Secretary to the Post Office Department " notes that no mail has been fumigated, and that the Postmaster General has under consideration the advisability of having all mail matter from Montreal fumigated before dispatch". He adds that vaccination had been required of all clerks employed in the Montreal post office, and that up to the date of the letter, no cases of smallpox had occurred amongst the employees. There is no record of any fumigation being done at Montreal. (1)

In 1892, a letter dated 6 July from the Medical Superintendent of Grosse Isle to the Minister of Agriculture noted that:

"Asiatic cholera is extending to Russia, France and Italy and that such mail may be considered as liable to infection in two ways. Firstly, the exterior mail bag may be exposed to infection; but as on the Atlantic mail steamer the mails are kept in an isolated part of the vessel and are not touched during the voyage, the risk of carrying infection is very slight. Should cholera occur on an incoming vessel, then the large outer bags should be exposed to proper fumigation before being allowed to proceed. Secondly, letters or papers may be written or addressed by persons ill with or convalescent from cholera, or in infected houses, constitute a greater risk than the first. The fumigation of the bags may not reach the mail within. The surest way to disinfect would be to fumigate the con-

tents of the opened bags. Preferably this would be done at Rimouski. Under the existing conditions, this would cause much confusion and delay."

"The next best alternative would be that mail from the infected areas, (London and Liverpool), not be handled at all on the trains, but should be sent to the post offices in Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. The postmasters of these towns (would) be instructed to prepare suitable rooms and carry out efficient fumigation of the contents of the mailbags from London and Liverpool, before distribution".

There is no record of any reply from the Minister of Agriculture until 19th. August 1892, when a letter was sent to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa from the Post Office Dept., Canada. It stated that a communication had been addressed to the General Post Office in London on the subject, to ensure that every precaution had been, or would be taken, which the experience of that office might show to be necessary as regards the fumigation of mails for this country. (i.e. Canada).(2) No mail was fumigated.* (see Footnote)

In July 1892, there was an outbreak of smallpox in Victoria B.C. A letter dated July 18th. was sent from the Post Inspection office in Victoria to the P.M.G. in Ottawa. He reported 56 cases of smallpox in the city, which had been quarantined. As for the transit of mails, he went on to say that no obstacle had so far been placed on their dispatch or receipt by the Nanaimo, New Westminster or Vancouver, the chief places in the Province in direct communication with Victoria by steam and rail.

A letter dated July 12, 1892 was received from the (American) Puget Sound Board of Health, with headquarters at Port Townsend, Washington State. It required that "all mail matter leaving Victoria for Seattle and Port Townsend should be fumigated before dispatch: a Certificate saying this had been done (was) to be sent with the mail"

The Puget Sound Board suggested fumigation with burning sulphur in an airtight room for 24 hours, and that all

sealed letters and packages be perforated. Contemporary notes make it clear that the infection was smallpox. Dr. Jones, the Dominion Quarantine Officer, thought this was not necessary, but that as the request had been made, it would be better to proceed with fumigation to avoid delay and trouble. A shed or room was erected by the Public Works dept. at the rear of the post office.

Fumigation commenced on 14th. July 1892 and continued for up to two weeks. Supplies of sulphur, alcohol and carbolic acid were procured by the postmaster, and outgoing mail was "disinfected as thoroughly as possible." (3) No Canadian certificate of treatment has been seen.

In November 1900, a correspondence took place between the Post Office Department in Ottawa, the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Minister of Agriculture and the Director

General of Public Health. The subject matter was which dept. would cover the cost of purchasing two formaldehyde lamps, (\$36.80 apiece), for fumigating mail coming in from the Pacific Coast States. The postmaster of Victoria had been loaned two such lamps by a Dr. Fagan who had now requested their return. After much correspondence, it was decided that the cost should be borne by the Dept. of Public Health. The Minister of Public Health felt that there was no real necessity to fumigate mail from B.C. or elsewhere. However, a short while earlier, after agitation by the local Health Board authority, the Department had yielded to their request for the fumigation of mails.(4)

On 19th. March, 1901 a telegram was sent from Vancouver to the Postmaster at Phoenix B.C.: "FUMIGATE ALL MAILS DISPATCHED. HAND CERTIFICATION OF FUMIGATION TO COURIER FOR EACH MAIL. DISPATCHED"

There had been an outbreak of smallpox in Phoenix.

On 12th. July 1902, the Deputy P.M.G. in Ottawa wrote to the U.S. Postmaster General in Washington D.C., drawing attention to the fact that for nearly two years, all mail into the U.S.

Western States and British Columbia via Sumas Washington and Huntingdon B.C. had been fumigated : was this really necessary? The U.S. Superimendant of Foreign Mails agreed that mail need no longer be fumigated at Huntingdon.

A letter of 8th. October 1902 noted that mails from Seattle to Victoria and Vancouver sent by steamer had been had been fumigated by the postmaster at Seattle.

On 19th. November 1902, the post office at Sherbrook, Saskatchewan was quarantined because of diptheria affecting children living in the post office house. On the same day, a letter from St. Peters, Cape Breton to the Deputy Postmaster stated that smallpox was prevalent there. The replies stated that fumigating or disinfecting mail was a matter for the Provincial Health Authority, at their cost. There is no record of any fumigating being done. In late December 1902, a local M.P. requested fumigation of mail to contain "a fearful epidemic of smallpox in the County of Kent, N.B., particularly in the neighbourhood of Buctouche." He was assured in the usual manner that the Post Office would help, but the decision and cost would fall on the Provincial health authority. The chief medical officer at Ottawa felt that fumigation was probably useless. However, it is likely that mail from Buctouche was disinfected for several weeks, as the Post Office Dept. agreed a bill of \$1.50 (sic) from Geo. G. Spencer, Dispensing Chemist, dated 17th. December, for an atomiser bulb and disinfectant. It was passed by them to the Board of Health for payment.

In February 1903, there was an outbreak of smallpox in Quebec. The Post Office Department suggested that postmasters and their families be vaccinated. The Quebec Board of Health objected, but the Director of Public Health overruled them, and strongly recommended vaccination or revaccination of ALL postmasters and their families, except those vaccinated in the previous six years, or who had had an attack of smallpox.

In March 1903, there was an outbreak of smallpox in Lindsay, Ontario. A registered letter had been posted by someone

who developed smallpox the next day. The postmaster was ordered to disinfect this letter, either by cutting two of the comers or by stabbing it four or five times before subjecting it to dry heat in an oven for half an hour. Alternatively, it could be exposed to fumes of sulphur or formaldehyde gas in a closed box for six hours.

In July 1903, the mail service to the Newfoundland communities of Bradove & Blanc Sublan was totally suspended : apparently because of smallpox. The suspension was lifted on August 1st., but no mail moved before 13th. September.(5)

Summary:

In the absence of special cachets or postal endorsements, indisputable proof of the treatment of any item of mail on the instructions of the Canadian Post Office is lacking. But there is prima facie evidence that the following mails were disinfected in their entirety:

1. July 14th. 1892, for up to two weeks. Mail to Seattle or Pt. Townsend via Victoria B.C. 2. November, 1900. (Exact dates unknown) All mail from Victoria, B.C. 3. March 20th. to April 20th. 1901. Mail out of Phoenix B.C. 4. Autumn 1900 until July 1902, (exact dates not known). All mail to the U.S.A. and British Columbia through Huntingdon B.C. was fumigated there. (5. Prior to October 8th., 1902, Seattle had fumigated mails from Victoria and Vancouver). 6. December 17th. to 31st, 1902, and possibly into early 1903. Mail out of Buctouche, N.B.

A Footnote, by V. Denis Vandervelde.

* By 1892, the disinfection of mail against cholera was inconceivable for most of the world's postal administrations. The Eighth International Sanitary Conference, held in Dresden in 1893, would deal specifically with this point. As the delegate of Austria Hungary declared, although the conference had been a purely European one, its decisions were of importance beyond the Atlantic. It was agreed unanimously that the proceedings be communicated to the U.S.A. and Canada. It had been agreed that

"the. only goods to be subject to (cholera) import restrictions were used clothes, bedding and rags, which were to be either prohibited or disinfected, but not retained in quarantine. It was specified that letters, newspapers and books should be free from all restrictions."

References

(National Archives of Canada).

(1) Records of the Agricultural Dept., 1852-1920. Gp. 17A, Vol. 459, File # 50161.

(2) Records of the Post Office, do., Vol 732, File # 84329: Vol. 728, File # 83897F.

(3) Records of the Post Office, series D3, Vol. 11, File # 1892-219, ref. C 7229.

(4) Records of the Post Office, Gp.3, Series 1, Vol. 617, File # 1101, 1900-1916.

(5) Records of the Post Office, Series CI Registry, Vol. 617, File # 6208, year 1903.

Editor's Note

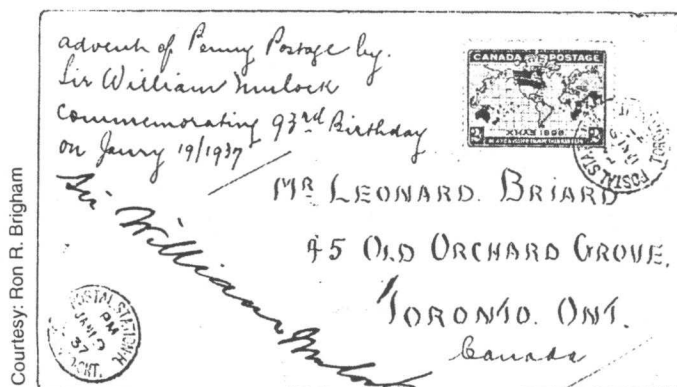
This is a brand new area for Map Stamp collectors. The dates noted in the Summary- except 1892 - fall into the time frame of usage for the Map Stamp. Check your covers for dates and origin/destination to see if any coincide with the mailings mentioned in the article. Report your findings to the Newsletter.

It is interesting to note how history repeats itself. No doubt there will be future articles on disinfection of mail in 2001 resulting from the anthrax bacillus scare!

Unusual Map Covers

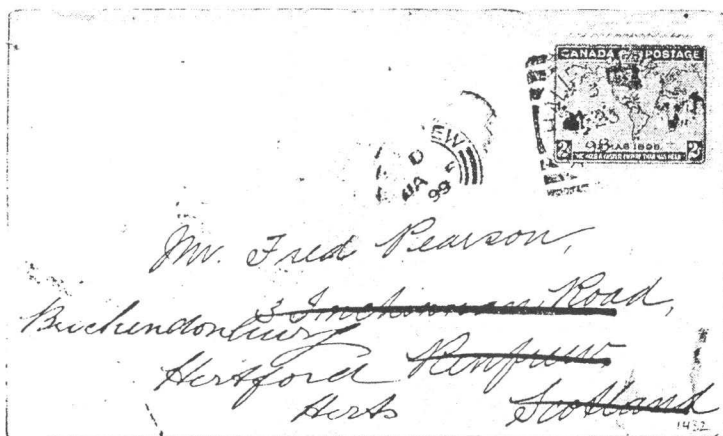
By Ron Brigham

Late usage: January 19/1937, the occasion had been Sir William Mulock's 93rd birthday. (See below) The Postmaster General's signature appears diagonally on the lower left corner. The stamp is tied by a "Postal Station H Toronto" cds.



Editor's Note

It is very unusual to see Mulock sign as "Sir William Mulock". Many copies of his signature exist, and they vary a great deal. It would be an interesting study to see if forgeries exist.



First Day Imperial Penny Postage, stamp (above) tied by a Halifax Squared Circle postmark, addressed to Renfrew, Scotland and redirected to Hertford, England. Renfrew receiver JA 6 99 on the front. Interesting to note that several identical covers have been reported, The exact number is not certain, estimates range from 5 to 8.

Editor's Note

I personally have a similar cover and knowledge of two others.

Caveat Emptor

By Fred Fawn

Dozens of philatelic articles have had the above title. Here is one more. I would like to refer to Roger Boisclair's "About Plate 4. The Joy and Pleasure of Hunting" article (Newsletter Vol 3, No 1, Whole 8, p.69). The auction mentioned by Roger contained 2 items, each described as "Die Proof". One was black engraved, the other in full colour.

Because I had the opportunity to view both items, I have concluded that neither of them is a die proof. They were sold "as is", i.e. the buyer's responsibility. The several points made in my articles on Die Proofs would reinforce my conclusions (Newsletter Vol 2, No 2, Whole 5, p.47 as well as The Canadian Philatelist Nov 2000, p.251).

Another case of 'mistaken identity' occurred not long ago at a Toronto stamp auction. A Map "Die Proof" was offered, estimate \$400 to be sold 'as

is'. Two red flags: why 'as is' and why \$400 and not 4,000? Apparently this item sold for \$80; not a bad price realized for an unused Map stamp without any margins.

The third warning to watch for is provenance. The small number of recorded, genuine die proofs do have acknowledged provenance.

Courtesy:
Ron R. Brigham

Letters to the Editor

Dear John;

I have enclosed a copy of a letter to the Editor of the *Canadian Philatelist*. My comments on muddy waters were published in the March/April 2002 issue on page 62. Since I presume that not all of the members in our study group are members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, myself included, I would like to make certain that all information is available to our members in order to assess the experimental data leading to the source of the so-called muddy waters. Unfortunately, many incorrect concepts exist in the philatelic literature either because the basis of the comments was not correct at the time or was never given.

I was pleased to read the text of Bill Pekonen's critique in the *Canadian Philatelist* since it helped me to recognize where others may not have understood the significance of the experimental data. Fortunately, Fred Fawn brought the comments to my attention.

Sincerely,
John E. Milks

Dear Editor; (Addressed to CP)

I would like to comment on some of the statements made by Bill Pekonen in the July-August 2002 Letters to the Editor regarding the origin of the muddy waters in the 1898 "Map" stamps. If Bill is confused by the substance of my article many others may also have not understood the experimental findings.

First, as to the statement that "there is no doubt that the "Muddy Water" variety is an oxidized stamp", I thought my article pointed out very clearly that it is not an oxidized stamp. The colour change comes from the reaction of atmospheric hydrogen sulphide with lead monoxide impurities in the white lead present in the inked areas of the oceans to form lead sulphide, PbS.

The same reaction occurs with lead monoxide impurities in red lead, Pb₃O₄, a frequently used colourant in the 3 cent Small Queens.

As might be expected, instances are found in both issues where hydrogen peroxide treatment of a discoloured stamp will not completely restore the stamp to its original colour because of the degree of crystallinity of the lead sulphide. Lead dioxide, which is brown, is the only other conceivable lead pigment which might have been the source of the muddy waters. However, tests reported in my article showed that lead dioxide is not a contributing factor.

The second comment has to do with the theory that the change in stamp colours resulted from disinfection methods used to halt the spread of small pox. Approximately 100 years ago, mail was disinfected by burning sulphur in closed containers and sealed mail cars within North America.

Hydrogen sulphide, however, is not produced on burning sulphur. It is sulphur dioxide and hence a reaction with white lead would not produce a brown colour since the reaction product is lead sulphite PbSO₃, which is white.

I hope these comments will help to remove the misconception that oxidation is connected to sulphuretting and also to remove my name from a list of proponents who believe that muddy waters come from an oxidation reaction.

From Ken Rowe: Dear Fred

At the inception of the Study Group, you invited me to be an honorary member. Since then, both the group and the newsletter have become well established. In fact, the Newsletter is a model for what a specialized journal should be. Only the fact that it is restricted to one stamp prevents it from receiving higher awards in the Literature Class.

We sincerely appreciate the kind comments of our Honorary Member Ken Rowe. J.T.A., Editor

NEWS FLASH:

Dive to the wreck of the S.S. LABRADOR

Fred Fawn received the following email from Ken Lewis during the Jubilee celebrations in London:

"Since my article in TCP about the fate of the SS Labrador, I have just been informed that there are teams of divers going to dive on the wreck in June this year. Whether they will find anything of interest to philatelists is unknown, but it may be of interest to Fred Fawn and others who have copies of the covers from this last voyage.

I have just gleaned this piece of information regarding the dive on SS Labrador.

Date of dives: 27/29 June 2002

Place: West coast of Scotland

Boats to be used: Xrai and Sea Wasp

to report back to me as soon as possible after the dive with their findings, this will be sent to you as it arrives. Because of my interest of why the ship became wrecked, any information will be welcomed from this dive."

References:

1. Ken Lewis' article in *The Canadian Philatelist*: July/August 2001, Vol 52, No 4, pp 150-153.

2. Fred Fawn's article in the MSSG Newsletter, December 2001, Vol 2, No 4, Whole #7, pp 60-61

Mystery Essay - No Longer a Mystery

By Fred Fawn

Since 1948 the existence of the Mystery Essay has been well documented, but its whereabouts was not known. It is the second Map essay with the **Three Cents** value; the other was designed by Sanford Fleming (see below) and was rejected by Wm. Mulock (see right).

Neither submission nor rejection was

attempt at a three cent commemorative. But why the three cent denomination? The essay almost certainly relates to the unilateral Canadian attempt in late 1897,

cent (1 1/2d) rate, produced. Given the facts presented, it would appear reasonable to conclude that the 'mystery' essay represents a proposed idea for a three

cent commemorative designed to commemorate the aborted three cent (1 1/2d) rate. It is quite obvious why this stamp was never printed and released!"

Mulock's November 23, 1897, Notice appeared in the *Canada Gazette*:

"Whereas the Post Office Act provides that the Postmaster General may, subject to the provisions of the Act, establish the rates of postage on all mailable matter not being letters, newspapers or other things therein specially provided for: And

whereas, the rates of postage upon letters from Canada to the United Kingdom or to any British possession is not specially provided for by the Post Office Act or any amendments thereof, now therefore I, William Mulock, Postmaster General of Canada, under and by virtue of authority vested in me, do hereby establish the rate



recorded concerning the Mystery Essay. The image of the essay became well known from two sources:

a) the T.H.B Dinner card

b) the 1970 publication of "The Essays and Proofs of British North America" by Minuse & Pratt: item ##85E-A. (see top of Page 6.)

Winmill attempted to clarify the origin of the Mystery Essay and its possible function in his lengthy article: "The Three Cent 'Mystery' Essay: 1.

"The essay probably is an early

to adopt Imperial Penny Postage." and he concluded:

"Thus we can speculate that Mulock borrowed the idea for a commemorative postage stamp from the ramblings of the British agitators during the preceding fifteen years. As a consequence, he probably had an essay for the proposed three

Wm. Mulock
17, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

August 8th, 1898.

My dear Sir Sandford,

Very many thanks for your letter of the 23rd ultimo. in reference to the penny postage scheme. I have been giving some attention to the Pacific Cable matter.

I have to thank you also for a sketch for a postage stamp. I have suggested to the London Post-Office Authorities the adoption of a central design for the penny stamp that could be utilized throughout the Empire. The suggestion does not seem to meet with a favourable reception. However I have not finished with it yet.

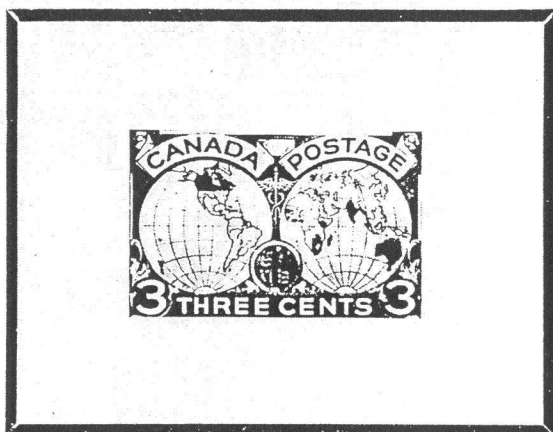
I expect to be in Ottawa about the first week in September.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Sandford Fleming, K.C.M.G.,

Ottawa,

Canada.



**Mystery Essay
THREE CENT ESSAY
of the
1898 2c MAP STAMP**

This essay came to light in June, 1948. Heretofore the only essays of this stamp were all a 2c denomination.

As the Post Office Department has no record of this and it is a 3c value, presumably for the map stamp, it is truly a "mystery essay".

Why is the value 3c? Why was it not recorded? Information wanted! This essay is written up in *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*, Oct. 2nd, 1948, and the *Essay Proof Journal*, October, 1948.

Four previously known proofs, all 2c value, are illustrated and written up in *Essay Proof Journal*, April, 1948.

But why the 3c proof — who knows?

(Photograph of above kindly loaned to us by Judge William R. Horney, Centreville, Maryland.)

**SOUVENIR
"T. H. & B."
(Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Clubs)
DINNER**

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee
of the 1898 2c Map Stamp
October 23rd, 1948
Royal York Hotel Toronto, Canada



of postage upon all letters aforesaid transmitted or post from any point in Canada to the United Kingdom or to any of the British possessions as follows :

There shall be charged and paid one uniform rate of three cents per ounce weight, a fraction of an ounce being chargeable as an ounce, upon all letters as

telic club in North America, being senior to the New York Collectors Club by a couple of years. In the 1920's it was affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. Several members were American citizens; Henry Gates of Detroit displayed his albums of Canada Essays & Proofs at the Club in October 1948.

aforesaid transmitted from any point in Canada to any point in the United Kingdom or British possessions. That this regulation shall come into force and take effect on, from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight. Dated at Ottawa this twenty third day of November 1897.

"W. Mulock, "Postmaster General"

Of course, the 3c rate had to be rescinded since Mulock did not obtain the concurrence of other U.P.U. countries.

Great interest in the Mystery Essay was shown in the philatelic press, requesting answers in 1948, 1949 and 1956; however, no

explanations or revelation was presented. It seems obvious that the essay may have resided in the U.S. suggesting where the photos were taken for the 1948 Dinner of the Toronto-Hamilton-Buffalo Clubs and loaned by Judge William R. Horney of Maryland. History of the Toronto Stamp Collectors Club has also shown great interest in the Map stamp.

The Club is the oldest philatelic club in North America, being senior to the New York Collectors Club by a couple of years. In the 1920's it was affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. Several members were American citizens; Henry Gates of Detroit displayed his albums of Canada Essays & Proofs at the Club in October 1948.

A quotation from Professor Gray Scrimgeour's book: "The History of the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club 1892-1992" to which this writer supplied a number of Map illustrations on Pages 70-71, deal with the Mystery Essay:

"In 1948, the issue of the 1898 2c map stamp was commemorated. Mint blocks of four map stamps overprinted:

SOUVENIR

"T. H. & B."

(Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Clubs)

DINNER

*Celebrating the Golden Jubilee
of the 1898 2c Map Stamp
October 23rd, 1948*

Royal York Hotel Toronto, Canada

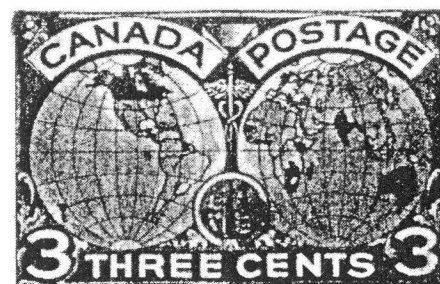
A card with a photograph of a Mystery Three Cent Essay of the 1898 map stamp was also given to attendees at the dinner. The master photograph was obtained from Judge William R. Horney, Centreville, Maryland. This essay was first reported in June 1948. Fred Fawn has pointed out that the origin of this essay is still a mystery. The speaker at the dinner was Dr. Clarence W. Herman of Chicago, president of the *Essay Proof Society*."

However, to avoid misunderstanding, please note that I was not present at the 1948 Royal York Hotel dinner celebrating the Map stamp's Golden Jubilee.

The challenge of tracing the journey of the Mystery Essay remains. However, I can report with pleasure that this line engraved es-say was repatriated to Canada in 2001.



Actual size



1. *Maple Leaves* Vol 16, No 11, Whole 167, pp.288 April 1978.

The Monaco Challenge

In Volume 2 Number 4 (Whole #7) of the Newsletter our President presented the rules of a unique stamp exhibition held in Monaco by Prince Rainier III permitting the showing of only one exceptional item - either stamp or cover. The President then went on to challenge our membership and asked us - "What Map stamp or cover would you exhibit under the same rule?"

The replies received are as follows:

F. Fawn: My choice is a letter by William Mulock to the Duke of Norfolk,

Postmaster General of Great Britain, with the original map stamp attached to the letter.

Rationale is: This document is historically of great importance.

The sender was the creator, the recipient was the supporter of the Map stamp.

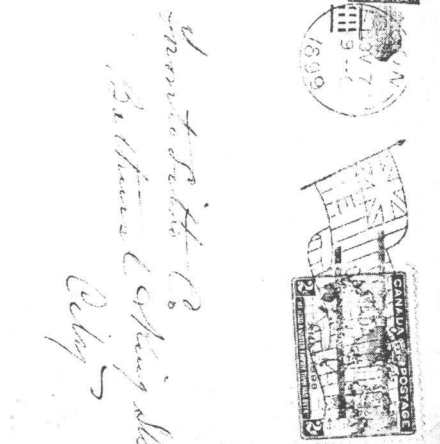
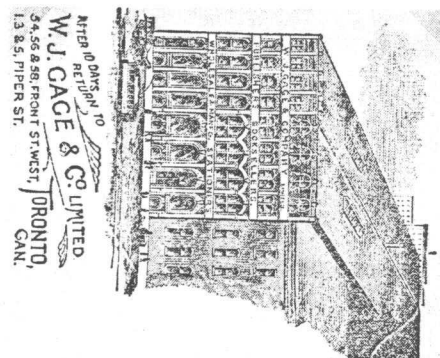
As per Mulock, this is the first letter mailed at the 2-cent Imperial Penny rate from the Ottawa Post Office.

The 2-page letter on embossed Postmaster-General-of-Canada stationery is in Wm. Mulock's handwriting.

Jim Watt: A new discovery of an unusual major re-entry.

"Anonymous:" A full sheet of Map stamps to see all re-entries and retouches.

John Anders: A W.J.Gage advertising cover (front) with a Map stamp showing the "W.J.G." perfin. The only one reported.



My dear Duke,

At last Christmas Day has arrived and with it the inauguration of the "Inter Imperial Penny Post" Scheme, and this letter to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General will be the first communication at the new rate to be stamped by the Post Office of Ottawa, the Dominion Capital.

You will I am sure be gratified that the action of the London Postal Conference has given unbounded satisfaction throughout this Country, and occasioned most grateful feelings towards your Government and particularly those members of it to whom we are indebted for the measure, namely Mr. Chamberlain and yourself.

Whilst its commercial importance is not underestimated, still it is as a new and powerful link of Empire that it has touched the hearts of the Canadian people and evoked their most enthusiastic approval. It may be somewhat difficult for those in staid old England to enter into our feelings, and perhaps they may at times be inclined to consider our appreciation of the Imperial connection as almost quixotic in its intensity, but it is founded on good and sufficient reasons.

In conversation with you I ventured to express the belief that the measure would prove popular in England and hope I was not mistaken. I never sympathised with the "Little Englanders" who imagined that Imperial greatness would be promoted by cutting the Colonies adrift, and it is encouraging to us of an outlying part of the Empire to find the people of the Mother Country approving of measures calculated to promote Imperial Unity. Already I have read several English newspaper utterances all favourable to the Penny Post Scheme, and their good effect on public opinion here is not likely to disappear.

Wishing you the compliments of the Season,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

W. MULOCK.

Ottawa.
Christmas 1898.
P.S.

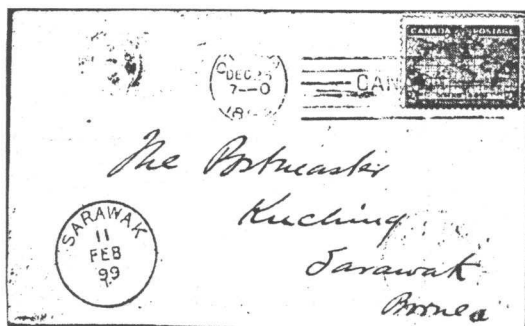
The quotation on the postage stamp is from Sir Lewis Morris's Jubilee Ode of 1887 entitled "A Song of Empire," a production of much literary merit with a manly patriotic strain running through it and is well worth reading. W.M.

Attached to the letter is the actual stamp on piece of original and at the beginning of the letter has been added in manuscript, probably by the Duke of Norfolk, "Mulock re Penny Postage Jan. 16/99."

Charles Firby:

The Dec.25/1889 cover to Sarawak, Borneo, because of its unique and exotic destination

(To the right)



The 1896 Postal Guide states: "Perforated Stamps: No objection is made by the Department to the perforating of postage stamps with initials of the individual or firm using them." This is a change from the 1895 Guide which stated that users of very large quantities may arrange with the Department to have them perforated

Map to Gibraltar

By Fred Fawn

Map covers to many foreign destinations are well known and documented. The most sought after and rarest mailings originated from an Ottawa lawyer, Francis Robert Latchford, who sent letters franked with a Map stamp on

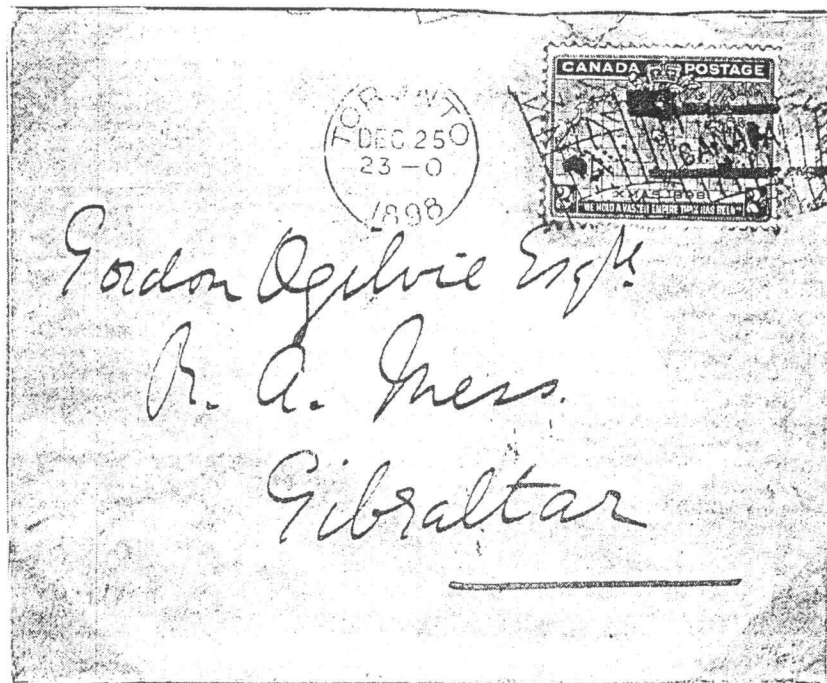
December 25 1898 to the postmasters of British Colonies. Thirteen have been recorded; only two reply letters from postmasters have been found.

When some of these 'exotic' destination covers, such as Ascension, Natal or Sarawak are on exhibit, I am asked: how about Gibraltar? Stamp dealers, when asked whether a Map cover to Gibraltar is available, reply something like this: "Never heard of one, but can get you a cover carried to the moon on APOLLO 13".

After having given up the hunt for many years, lately I was fortunate to acquire this Empire rate cover to Gibraltar:

Although this is not a Latchford cover, it is dated DEC 25 1898, FDIPP, with a Toronto A Flag, Type 8. Backstamped: GIBRALTAR JA 9 99. (All Latchford covers bear the Ottawa machine cancel Type M4.)

Members are asked to kindly report any Latchford Gibraltar find.



Map Thematic/Topical Usage

By Fred Fawn

THEMATIC/TOPICAL USAGE

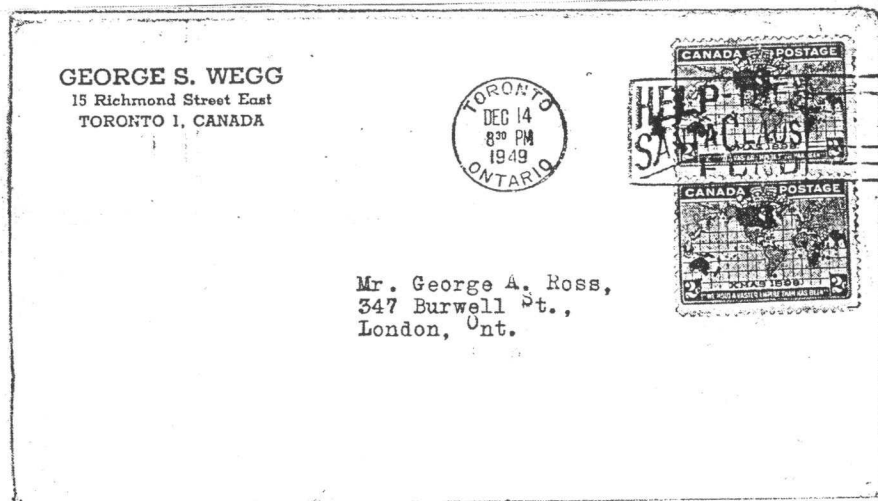
Come and join the Map Stamp Study Group! There is hardly a local, national and especially International & World Exhibition without a Christmas theme being shown. Some exhibits contain a

single Map stamp, others covers and fancy cancels as well. But there is always room for improvement in order to attain a higher award. The Map stamp is not only the first Christmas stamp, but one offering the widest range of usage to satisfy

the criteria of showing philatelic elements.

QUERY: Would greatly appreciate to have information whether the Map variety of "WHITE XMAS" is known and exhibited? Please send reply to the Editor.

The cover on the left demonstrates both sides of the 'coin':



Thematic:

Pair of Xmas stamps on cover.
"HELP THE SANTA CLAUS FUND"
slogan cancel.

Traditional:

Center-cross LR of bottom stamp.
Red ink overrun on perforations.
Late usage 1949. 50th
Anniversary of 1948 usages are available; later ones are scarce.

Your Contributions to this Newsletter are Eagerly Awaited!

Please send your typewritten contribution, including photos, to the editor. (See masthead for address.) You can also email your material to khs@barint.on.ca Documents can be in

any word-processing format; photos should be scanned in high-quality jpeg format (level 10-12) at 300dpi. Thank you in advance for your interesting and timely contributions. J.T.A.