

THE 1898 CHRISTMAS MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

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Whole #12

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

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EDITORIAL

Eleven years ago Charles Verge, then chairman of the Judging Programme R.P.S.C., noted in the Canadian Philatelist, that change is at times necessary to help an area of philately to survive. He used as an example the One Stamp Exhibit and stated that, "as with any change exhibitors and judges must be willing to accept the change and be flexible how, when and why our hobby adapts."

The Map stamp, being a single stamp issue, is an outstanding candidate for a one stamp exhibit.

For many years single stamp exhibits were not kindly received or treated by philatelic judges. This attitude, thank heavens, has changed in recent times and many single stamp exhibits, including those of the Map stamp, have been well received and judged at National and International shows.

Recently I was privileged to present a showing of the Map stamp to the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada. The presentation dealt with the development, printing, colors, rates and usage and items of interest - which included forgeries, precancels, fancy cancels, perfins, errors and collateral material - associated with the Map stamp. The presentation was helped along by the use of slides making the text material immediately recognisable to the audience. A mounted display was also presented for perusal after the presentation.

The showing was well received and the most interesting comment made by several members of the audience was that they were unaware and amazed at the wealth of material that can be shown involving a single stamp.

Which brings us to the point of this editorial - don't hold back from showing your collection because it is only a single stamp. The Map stamp was issued at a very interesting and important period of Canadian postal history. This fact alone adds many possibilities to effectively expanding and displaying your collection.

It would be exciting to have more of our members participating in shows and exhibitions at every level and expose the philatelic world to the reasons why we are so enamoured of the Map stamp.

As editor of this newsletter, I have found that a large part of the satisfaction of editing comes from the knowledge that our readers comprehension and enjoyment is enhanced by reading the publication.

The selection of articles for each issue is done carefully and deliberately, being mindful of the fact that the interests of our members is broad. I welcome comments and suggestions (as well as articles of course!!) from our readers.

In conclusion, this observation:

An expert is someone who knows more and more about less and less until finally he knows everything about nothing. (Source unknown.)

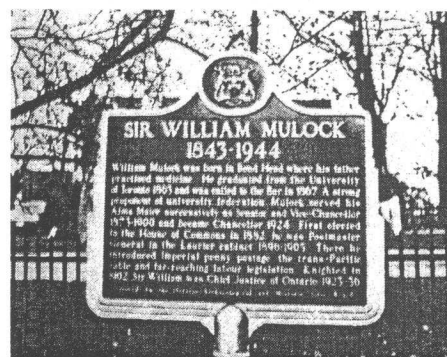
Looking Back

Did you know that there is a memorial plaque to Sir William Mulock in the public park next to the community centre in the little town of Bond Head just north of Toronto on #27 highway? It was erected by the Ontario Archeological and Historic Sites Board. The wording reads:

"William Mulock was born in Bond Head where his father practised medicine. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1863 and was called to the Bar in 1867. A strong proponent of

University Federation, Mulock served his Alma Mater successively as Senator and Vice Chancellor, 1873 - 1900 and became Chancellor in 1924. First elected to the House of Commons in 1882, he was Postmaster-General in the Laurier Cabinet 1896-1905. There he introduced Imperial Penny Postage, a trans Pacific cable and far-reaching labour legislation. Knighted in 1902, Sir William was Chief Justice of Ontario 1923-1936."

It is interesting that there is another plaque adjacent, to Sir William Osler, also born in Bond Head, who is commemorated on another Canadian stamp - Scott #495.



Taken from Map Stamp Study Group
Newsletter # 1, 1982

Letters to the Editor

1. The Pekonen Letter

When one says the Canada "Map" stamp - it can lead to confusion. To date, Canada has issued 11 different "Map" stamps. Here is a photocopy from the 1910 book stating how the Imperial Penny Post stamp was commonly known as the Christmas stamp almost 100 years ago. If anything is a mistake, it is a mistake to call it the map stamp. The Christmas comes from a 1848 poem.

The "Christmas" Stamp of 1898

"Ocean Penny Postage, which became the dream of Postal Reformers almost from the date of the adoption of the plan of Rowland Hill, is at length within measurable distance of becoming an accomplished fact. It is true that it is not yet to be the Universal Penny Postage, or even the Imperial Penny Postage so perseveringly advocated by Mr. Henniker-Heaton; but these will come in time, and an immense step in the desired direction has been taken by the adoption of the partial scheme, which is to come into force within a few months." So wrote Major Evans in July, 1898, upon the conclusion of the Imperial Conference on Postal Rates which took place in London during that month.

Many of our readers may have seen the illustrated envelopes, in various designs, which were issued some fifty or sixty years ago in advocacy of an "Ocean Penny Postage." Great Britain, having committed herself to domestic penny postage in 1840, after the herculean labors of Sir Rowland Hill in that behalf, seems to have been looked to by succeeding postal reformers to furnish over-sea transportation along the same lines. Chief among these advocates was Elihu Burritt, the "learned blacksmith" of New Britain, Conn., who not only published documents on the subject but went to England and delivered addresses in support of the idea. Major Evans says: "What appears to have been the first pamphlet on 'Ocean Penny Postage', issued by Elihu Burritt, was probably published quite at the end of 1848, or early in 1849. It contains a poem dated *Christmas, 1848*, which may give us approximately the date of publication." This proves extremely interesting, inasmuch as Imperial Penny Postage was put into effect on Christmas, 1898, just a half century later to a day.

Ref: Clifton Howes, 1910

2. The Fred Fawn Letter

Fred Fawn sent me an excerpt from a recent letter by John Milks which should create a lot of interest:

"...I can not find any evidence that stamps other than lavender and blue were ever printed and the expected colors were not produced but were changed during the manufacturing conditions.

This took place when the water-wet printed sheets, a condition resulting from the need to wet the sheets for recess or intaglio printing with the red ink, were heated in ovens to dry the paper prior to applying the gum and perforating the sheets.

The change in color resulted from the presence of hydrogen sulfide in the air as a result of emissions from the E. B. Eddy paper mill on the other side of the Ottawa River during the production of Kraft or brown paper. The presence of hydrogen sulfide in the air from the Kraft process can be detected for miles around a paper mill.

I had thought that the Members of Parliament would have objected to the odor but Parliament was prorogued in 1898 from June 13, 1898 to March 1899 at the time of the Map stamp printing...."

Ed. Note: *Although this is an interesting concept, two conflicting thoughts come to mind: i.) Why were only a relatively small number of the Map stamps affected? And ii.) there are reports of recent color changes viz. Map Stamp Newsletter vol. 3, P.65, March 2002.*

3. The Joseph Smith Email

Subject: Wolfville NS Squared Circle

John: This cover and its mates (6 or more) are all contrived and probably never went through the mails. Have seen a couple offered on Ebay by Colin Harding. They were all found a number of years ago in a London dealer's shop during a CPS of GB convention. Notice no others exist on cover. Never have any receivers so are just souvenirs.

Cheers, John Smith

Ed. Note: *It would be interesting to hear from Dave Hanes regarding these comments!*

3. The Victor Willson Email

Hi, Dr. Anders, having received your newsletter, I was spurred to write an item for your next issue. The article is attached:

Some Comments on Rates and the Map Stamp Vic Willson

While I do not collect the Map Stamp (MS) per se, I am always on the lookout for MS items in my current interests, 19th century nonletter mail and

post card destinations. In that regard the MS has been the most difficult to collect. In the Jan. - March issue of the newsletter, J.T. Anders reviewed rates that might be paid or partly paid with the MS based on Bill Pawluck's listing. There are some interesting variants on that listing that are worth talking about.

First, the 1898 usages have a special significance for some rates. For example, delivered drop letters pre-1899 are uniformly rare. I looked for one for years when focusing on domestic rates, but never was successful in getting one. I can recall having seen only two or three at auction. Thus, it makes a huge difference if the MS is used locally in 1898 or 1899, since in 1899 there was no difference between forward letters and delivered drop letters. Obviously, Dec. 25, 1898 usages to British Commonwealth countries have a special value as the first day of the rate. Beyond that, there is no particular meaning to a Commonwealth destination first class cover, except that they are uncommon to rare during the entire MS period. Pre-Dec. 25, it is possible to find newspaper wrappers and printed matter to the Commonwealth paid with one or more MSs since they would be distinguishable, but since such items are rarely dated they will be unlikely to be detected. Newspaper wrappers, however, will almost certainly pay printed matter rates and are highly collectible regardless of the possibility that they could have paid the first class rate post Dec. 25.

A third rate of interest is parcel post, which was folded into 1st class rates on Apr. 1, 1899, while 5th class open for inspection parcels became 4th class. So far as I know there is only one PP cover paid with 3 MS which I listed in the *Canadian Posted Letter Guide*, (Firby and Willson, 1996). Of course I would love to add it to my PP section of non-letter mail. By the way, parcel post was not re-established until 1913.

Among domestic rates that are not specifically defined by the 1898-99 distinction, one of great interest to me that appears rare is the bulk newspaper receipt paid for 2 pounds with a single MS. I have searched for one for many years to add to my single rate usages of the Small Queens, Leafs, and Numerals. The usage of stamps on the receipts ended June 30, 1901, so MS could be used, but given that

Ontario. For collectors who may only have dreamed of having an authentic penny stamp in their private collections, this new issue may be an affordable consolation.

Denomination:

1 x 45c

Layout:

Pane of 14 stamps

(\$6.30)

Product:

No. 403365107

Date of Issue:

29 May 18

Last Day of Sale:

28 May 1999

Design:

Francois Dallaire

Printer:

Canadian Bank Note

Quantity:

7,000,000

Dimensions:

40 mm x 27.5 mm (horizontal)

Perforation:

13+

Gum Type:

P.V.A.

Paper Manufacturer:

Tullis Russell Coatings

Printing Process:

Lithography (six colours)

Tagging:

General tagged, four sides

Limited souvenir created from Canada Post data utilizing Power Macintosh/AdobePhotoshop/Clariscworks to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first appearance of the map stamp on cover.

Seasons Greetings

This cover and enclosure (although highly philatelic in nature) was produced to have a little fun with our hobby and mark an important anniversary for the Map Stamp. I hope this letter finds you and yours in good health and wish you all the best for 1999.

Yours Truly, Brian Draves
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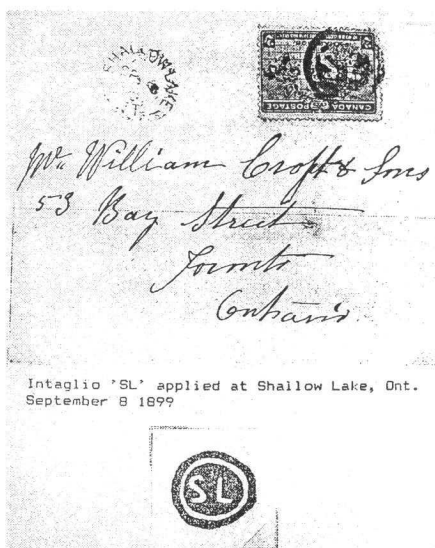
Ed. Note: A fitting tribute to the history of the Map Stamp.

Shallow Lake - 1899

J. T. Anders

The cover shown in the article "Map stamp 100th. Anniversary" by F. Fawn (published in this issue) brought to memory a cover in my collection with the same postal origin.

The cover, dated September 8, 1899, has the split circle cancel of Shallow Lake as well as the fancy cancel showing an intaglio S L with a thick outer circle. It is interesting to note that Day and Smythies records this as "#700 - possibly Sharbot lake," and Lacelle records it as "#790 - Shallow Lake - ON. Town initial type. A late use fancy initial cancel. Fe99 - Se99."



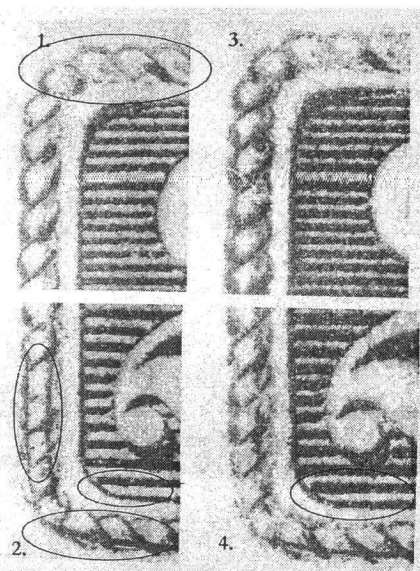
Ken Kershaw Reports

Fred Fawn asked me to put pen to paper on any new stuff, so here are three short articles which, hopefully, will be of interest:

Position 95. Second and Third States

We now are certain that immediately after the B&W proofs were examined for Plate 5, the weaknesses were corrected (Kershaw & Boisclair in press). The whole of the lower cable was re-touched to strengthen it and Position 91 was re-entered immediately. It is evident that Position 95 was also re-entered top left (1) (see photo below), and the bottom cable lower left corner was re-touched (2). This presumably was contemporary with the re-entry in Position 91. Later, when the plate had rapidly deteriorated and the major re-entry sequence occurred, this position was again re-entered, producing this

third state, which is evidenced by the thick left hand cable and adjacent hatch lines (3&4). It is probable that other third states in Plate 5 will be identified as we progress.



Three Other Overlooked Re-Entries 3A83

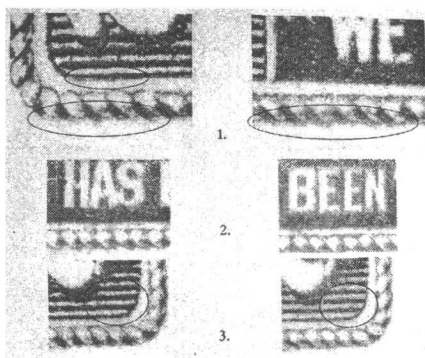
There is clear but moderate doubling of the cable lower right (1) (see photo below) with the old image visible below the re-entered cable. Similarly, the whole of "XMAS 1898" is doubled, with the old image visible below and slightly left of the re-entry (2&3). Finally, there is considerable irregularity in "HAS BEEN" in the lower running title (4).



3A85

The re-entry is to the lower cable with readily visible doubling lower left and below "WE" (1) (see photo on next page), very irregular letters in "HAS" and "BEEN" (2), and faint doubling lower right, with the hatch lines in the right hand value tablet seen to be thick-

ened by the re-entry when contrasted with the lower right in 2A85 (3).



1A71

The entire lower cable has been re-entered with doubling of the links along almost its entire length, just visible under a x15 hand lens.

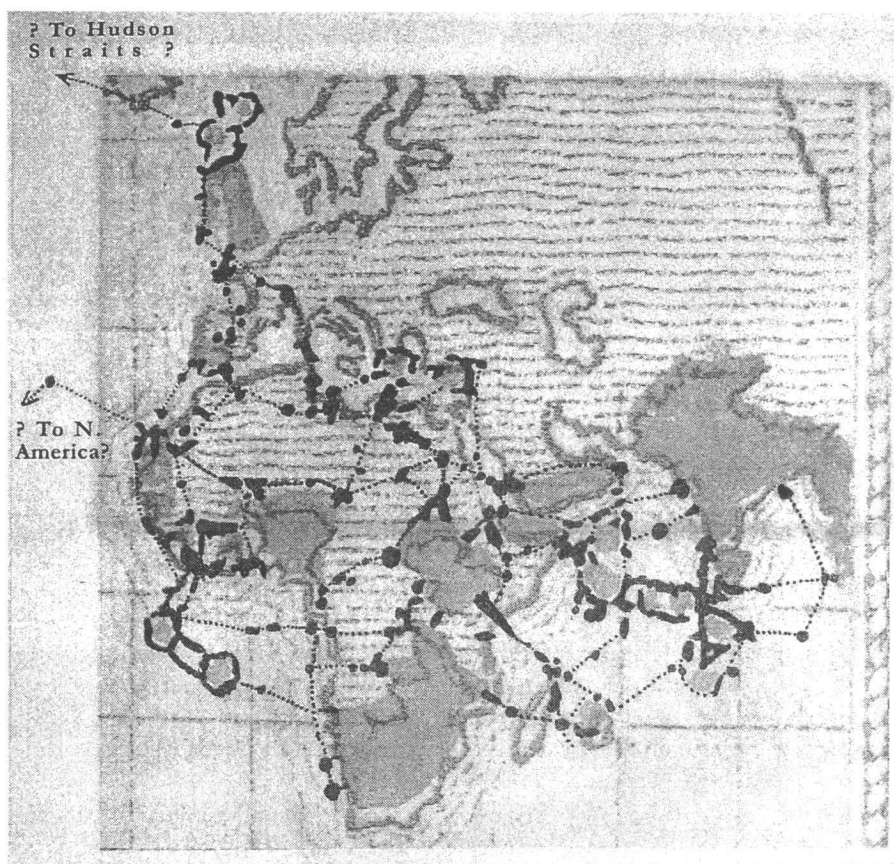


Indian, African, and European Proposed Template Structure

The exact distribution of all dots, arcs and slashes has been overlayed as heavy dots on a computer scan of the European, African and Asian segment of a Map Stamp. Many of the numerous overlaps form almost complete boxes around most of the islands, particularly around Ascension, St. Helena, Cyprus, Malta and the Shetlands. The linkage of these islands to the mainland colonies is also often very evident.

The dotted connections show the potential template pattern of linkages. In the first study of such linkages surrounding New Zealand, (Kershaw BNPS 2003) the scattered dots in N. Africa and Europe were puzzling. They now are seen clearly as the fundamental links holding the template for the British Isles, Gibraltar, Malta and

Cyprus in position. It seems probable that additional links would also occur across to N. America and the central Atlantic dot in Position 68 adds support for this.



Ed. Note: Magnification is a marvelous tool, but we must beware that it does not lead us into "smudge" or "fly speck" philately

Map Catalogue Listings and the Imperforates.

Ralph Trimble raises important and timely questions

A most interesting email exchange took place recently between Ralph Trimble and Fred Fawn.

Excerpts of this correspondence are shown below. Ralph touched on subjects which have been raised before but have not been concluded. Our members' input will be greatly appreciated. Collectors, dealers, auctioneers please respond to the Editor.

Ralph's first question relates to an imperforate pair of Maps "black only", i.e. the engraved part of the stamp, with neither red nor blue colours.

Ralph:

UNITRADE lists it only under #86 and not #85. Since the only distinction between #85 and #86 has to do with the ocean colours, we feel it should be listed under the first Map listing, which is #85, OR under both. Your opinion?

Fred:

From the way you have described this item, I would guess that it is either an 85PXF die proof or a progressive plate proof. (My article; *The Canadian Philatelist* Nov/Dec 2000, p.250/251, clearly spells out the distinguishing features of the engraved die proof.)

Ralph:

Would an Imperf Map with black only not HAVE to be a proof??? UNITRADE's listing implies that it is an Imperf copy of the issued stamp! Can this be? Were there indeed black only Imperf copies of the stamp issued, and if so, how do you distinguish them from the PROOFS??? Were they on different paper than the proofs? Your opinion?

We maintain that UNITRADE's listing is WRONG and that ALL Imperf, black only Maps, either in singles, pairs or otherwise HAVE to be proofs. I would say that even the black and blue only, or black and red only, must also be proofs. Your opinion?

Were there really Imperf copies of the full colour Maps, or are these also proofs?

Fred:

Yes, there are full colour Imperf Maps, printed on stamp paper. Some were mounted on 3/16" cardboard (there are different ocean colours). Full sheets of these ostensibly decorated Mulock's office and apparently were merchandised later by Ritter.

Ralph:

Or, would we call the full colour Maps without perfs, IMPERF STAMPS, and anything else Imperf but without all three colours (black only, black and blue only, black and red only) Proofs?

Fred:

Regarding Progressive Plate Proofs, please refer to my article in *Maple Leaves*, Whole 241 Jan. 1993, p. 9-11

See following:

The traditional theory, presented by Boggs, Vol. 1, p 341, (1) contends: 'Apparently the black portion was first printed and then the 'ocean' portion of the map was added, and finally the red was printed'.

In recent years a number of progressive plate proofs, in sets of three, have been offered by auction houses and by private treaty. These invariably contain:

1. Black engraved
2. Black and carmine
3. Full colour plate proof

However, no 'black and blue' proofs were seen in these sets, which indicates that the carmine colour was printed first.

Tom LaMarre writes in *Insight* 1989, page 44:

'First came the black frame, then the red British possessions and finally the lavender or blue oceans'.

And on page 46:

'By the 1920's, two sets of rare die proofs had come to light. One was in the possession of Fred Jarrett of Toronto, author of the *Standard B.N.A. Catalogue*. The other was owned by Allan Whalen. Whalen was in his teens and had just started collecting stamps when his mother gave him the die proofs. They were on a single sheet of postal stationery, embossed with the Postmaster General's crest in the top left corner. Across the top, in Old English letters, was the inscription 'Private Secretary's Office'. A handwritten note provided the following explanation:

'In 1952 an Ottawa collector offered to trade a \$10,000 house for the sheet, but Whalen refused.'

For a number of years, I have exhibited Map stamps across Canada, U.S.A., Europe and Australia. Although I usually included the above sheet in the exhibits, I have yet to be offered a house for it! Nevertheless this document could well disprove the traditional theory of the order of printing and in fact demonstrate that the order of printing is indeed the reverse.

Fellow members are kindly invited to report on the existence of the 'second sheet'.

References:

1. *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada* Winthrop S. Boggs.

The printing sequence, according to the PMG's office is shown on pages 10 & 11.

Ralph:

What other papers were these issued on besides wove? Were the proofs on something else (india?)?

Fred:

My Map collection contains a number of different papers, such as: thin bond paper (the final Die Essay), India paper (die proof), sunk on card, light wove (progressive plate proofs).

Map stamps (perforated) can be found on an amazing variety of paper thicknesses. My collection shows samples of:

- .0032 inch
- .0035 inch
- .0041 inch
- .0042 inch
- .0043 inch
- .0046 inch
- .0048 inch = almost cardboard

The following note pertains to the above page:

The difference between the thick paper found on the Map stamp as compared with other 19th Century thick paper stamps such as the 3cent Small and 15cent Large Queens is, that the paper on the Queen stamps is thicker, whiter and softer which thins easily (especially on the 15cent stamp). Map stamps on thick paper are scarcer than the Queen stamps. The apparent reasons are: not everyone is familiar with its existence; hence not the demand. Catalogue valuations do not reflect their scarcity, at least not to the degree where

everyone will be motivated to check their stocks. Furthermore, it is a more difficult paper to spot as collectors often confuse "hard" paper with thick paper.

Interesting to note that the last issue of *CANADA SPECIALIZED Catalogue* 1987/1988 make a very powerful distinction between regular and thick papers:

USED #85 \$ 4.00

USED #85d Thick paper,
any shade, \$50.00

That is 12.5 times the price of normal paper.

Dr. Jim Watt raised the question of Thick Papers in Newsletter #7, December 2001. We look forward to replies and comments from our membership.

Contest

For a 1-Year Free Subscription

The story of the Map stamp and anecdotes about Postmaster General William Mulock are frequently intertwined. Some have been reported in previous Newsletters, however this one has a bonus attached.

Write to the Editor, giving your assessment as to where this picture of Mulock appeared, date and page, please. The first correct answer received entitles the winner to free membership for 2004.. (The spelling is a clue.)



Ed. Note: Go for it!

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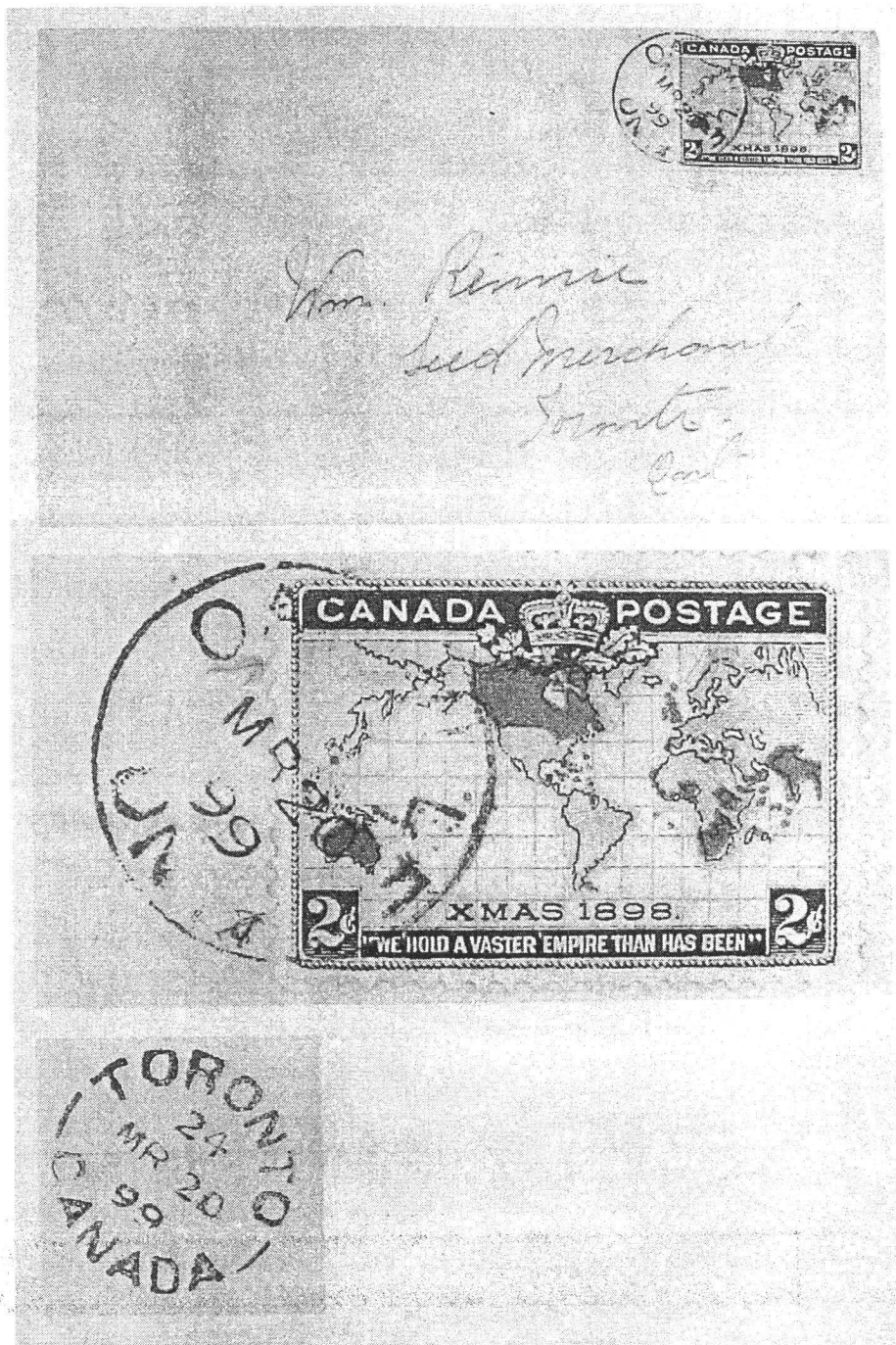
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Position 91, Plate 5. Posted March 20, 1899

Ken Kershaw

John: This item just turned up and I thought it might titillate Fred's appetite for early usage of Map Stamps! If I may, I would like add it to the other items I sent earlier.



Tomlinson gives 27th of March as the earliest date found for a Plate 5 stamp, while Bradley gives 23rd of March 1899. Any advance on March 20th?

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@csolve.net 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.