

# THE 1898 CHRISTMAS MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 No. 2

April - May - June 2004

Whole #16

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

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## EDITORIAL

### We Should All Do Our Share

Ours is a Study Group with a widely scattered membership. We rarely have the opportunity to meet with our fellow Map stamp aficionados as a group. Most of our contact and exchange of ideas is by way of the Newsletter, and I extend my sincerest thanks to those members who have so freely and generously participated and contributed. The response to these contributions, using the "letters to the editor" format, have been gratifying and has added colour and diversity of opinion to the items under discussion. However, it appears that the role of contributors has fallen to two or three members who regularly contribute and submit items to ensure that the Newsletter has sufficient material for publication.

### We Should All Do Our Share

For our next issue (Publication #17) – which is due at the end of September 2004 – I propose that the whole Newsletter be devoted solely to members' material. We all have items relating to the Map stamp of which we are proud and we should share these with our fellow members. Single out this material, write a few explanatory lines, and send them in for the enjoyment and enlightenment of the rest of us. In addition, we also all have material (usually related to postal history) that seems to defy interpretation. Exposing these items to the active and fertile minds of our study group members may bring an answer to the conundrum.

This Newsletter will be our "Show Tell and Ask" issue

Original material received will be scanned and promptly returned to the contributor. If photocopies are sent,

please make sure that they are of good quality, as each further reproduction will reduce the definition, clarity and contrast. I encourage and anticipate full participation from our entire membership with the added hope that we may discover some new material that will lead to further studies and investigation.



I urge all of you to be a part of this project. *We Should All Do Our Share...*

## KUDOS

**Report on ROYAL 2004 ROYALE**  
Congratulations to our Study Group members for their achievements:

### Sandy Clark:

"Early Nova Scotia Postmarks"  
Grand Award.

Dr. Clark was also awarded Best BNA, PHSC Ron C. Macdonald Award.

### Ron Brigham:

"The Maple Leaves and Numerals"  
Gold Medal.

### Charles J. G. Verge:

"Roots, Necks and Crowns"  
"A Look at Teeth and Dentistry"  
Gold and ATA Award.

**Report on ROPEX 2004 Rochester New York**

US National, WSP Show.

### Fred Fawn:

"Canada's Large Queens"  
Reserve Grand Award. Best BNA

## Letters To The Editor

I received the following note from one of our members and as it may equally apply to other members, I will publish it in a generic form without identification:

John,

I received an email from Fred Fawn stating that the 2004 dues have not been paid. We have not received any request for 2004 dues until the email from Fred. (This also happened last year.) I would appreciate a note or invoice when next years dues should be paid. Thank You. (Cheque was enclosed)

*Editor's Comment: Issue # 14 (Oct-Dec 2003) carried a paragraph under bold heading that annual memberships were due. In addition, I attached a memo to each member's copy asking for payment of dues. Issue #15 also carried a warning in bold lettering on page 8, stating that "for members not renewing their subscriptions for 2004, this would be the last issue sent to them."*

*If this procedure is not acceptable to the membership, please let me know.*

### From Joe Smith:

Received a note from member Joe Smith submitting the following list of various Orb cancellations on the Map stamp:

**Hamilton** 3 ring Orb  
9 - MR 14 - 99

**Toronto** 2 ring Orb  
NOV 14 - 1 pm - 99

**London** 3 ring Orb  
22 (inverted) - No 17 - 98  
18 - NO 11 - 99  
11 - NO 30 - 99

16 – NO 14 – 99

9 – SP 21 – 99

15 – JA 25 – 99

23 – JA 10 – 99

14 – JA 19 – 99.

*Editor's Comments: We thank member Joe for his contribution and ask all members to update their files on the Orb cancels of Toronto, Hamilton and London.*

## Welcome New Members

This month we welcome R. Scott Harnsberger of Huntsville, Texas, to our membership. We all hope and anticipate that Scott will enjoy his membership in our study group, and become an active participant and contributor.

## Flashback

J. T. Anders

The name of Fred Tomlinson is a household word for every Map stamp collector. I recently came across the following article in *Maple Leaves* Vol. 6, #7, December 1956, and thought it would be interesting reading for our members.

## Our New Fellow

"A very happy choice was sponsored by the Aberdeen Group, and the Fellowship Committee was delighted to recommend Fred, who as Number 74 has been one of our earliest members and has put much into the society. As one of the stalwarts in the Kent and Sussex Group, he pioneered the Group newsletter "Canadian Comments", and contributed much to many of their delightful meetings. An afternoon with him and Jack Cartwright is an education and a thoroughly entertaining time. If you have never had this experience, you should avail yourself at the first opportunity.

Coming to the editorship after the excellent start made by Bruce Auckland, he has carried *Maple Leaves* forward until it occupies a universally recognised position as the leading example of a specialist society journal, and is regularly quoted by leading personages in the philatelic world as a classic example of what can be done in this connection.

A busy Town Clerk, it is a marvel to those who know him well that he finds the time, with innumerable committees, council meetings and social occasions, to



Fred Tomlinson

get through the work in connection with the magazine. He does this, however, in addition to many family interests – he is very much a family man – and gardens, golfs, and caravans! He still finds time after all this to collect stamps and to look at them with an enquiring mind.

He has a remarkable general knowledge, partly through his editorship, of all the topics of BNA, and has done a lot of original work culminating in his very complete study of the Map stamp of 1898. It is in this field of research that his work is recognised by the award of Fellowship, an honour most worthily earned."

## Hear Yea - Hear Yea Map Stamps at Auction

The following Map stamp items were offered for sale at **Hennok's May 15, 2004 Auction**, and the prices realised are noted:

Lots # 311 - #320 were all 2c Map stamps with style T-85 precancels. Conditions varied from fine to with tear and/or small thin. Hammer price ranged from \$35 to \$220, and lot #316, a pair, went for \$300.

Lot #597: 2c Map Mint Hoard incl. 17 blocks (one top imprint) wide range of shades incl. one "muddy", varied condition including some NH, VG-VF. Est. \$2,400 +

Hammer Price : \$280

Lot #598: 2c Map; five copies

including pale lavender, grey (2), blue and deep blue, all fresh NH&VF+ Est. \$250

Hammer Price : \$190

Lot #599: 2c Lavender Map imperforate pair, ungummed, as issued, large margins, VF SS \$600

Hammer Price: \$290

Lot #600: 2c Map UL Plate 5 block of 25 with dull grey oceans, full "American Banknote Co. Ottawa" and part "5" inprint, centered left, some support (but about 10 are NH) and minor separation an attractive multiple. Est. \$750

Hammer Price: \$120

Lot #601: 2c Map bottom block of 4 with "American Banknote Co. Ottawa" imprint, full fresh OG, some gum crackling, NH, VF SS \$500

Hammer Price : \$150

## MAP One-Frame Exhibit at ORAPEX 2004.

Fred Fawn

I GOOFED!

Postal history has been among my long-time interests, and more recently One-Frame exhibits as well. In order to enjoy both, I applied for two One-Frame exhibits for ORAPEX 2004.

My intention here is to point out to members who may be considering the One-Frame venue, the possible pitfalls.

These are some quotations from *The Competitive One Frame Class*:

*A One Frame Exhibit will develop and present a narrow subject and should be complete in itself.*

*One Frame Exhibits and their elements may come from any of the other FIP classes including the Open Class.*

## The concept and purpose of One Frame Exhibits:

□ The concepts for One Frame Exhibits are:

- 1.) To encourage collectors to exhibit
- 2.) To give new exhibitors the opportunity to start exhibiting on an international level on a small scale (one frame)
- 3.) To encourage new exhibits
- 4.) To provide an opportunity for established exhibitors to prepare exhibits on narrow subjects that cannot be treated well in more than one frame.

❑ One Frame Exhibits may come from any of the FIP classes including the Open / Social Philately Class.

Traditional collecting including classes like Postal History, Postal Stationery etc.

❑ One Frame Exhibits are a chance for beginners as well as advanced exhibitors. In this way they promote Philately.

Following these rules, which designate Postal History as a Class, I showed Maps, and Large Queens as One-Frame exhibits, presenting a "Narrow subject, completeness of material and 'difficult to duplicate.'"

At the critique each was considered "Unsuitable for One-Frame" and the score sheet was marked: "Not Really a One-Frame Subject." Each received Silver.

If Postal History is "Unsuitable", one questions why these exhibit applications were accepted in the first place; and if they did not comply with the rules, disqualification ought to have been the order of the day.

My observation at ORAPEX 2004 include:

Gold and Vermeil awards were given to single stamp exhibits, Scott 19 and 34. These exhibits were shown in the Traditional manner, i.e. proofs, stamps, varieties, postal history. At Bangkok 2003, several 19 and 20th century Canadian single stamps were awarded International Gold. Some of these were part of a larger collection.

Based on the above observations, I believe that a One-Frame Map collection in the TRADITIONAL manner ought to achieve great success at National and even possibly at International levels.

**Editor's Comments:** For the benefit of our members who did not attend ORAPEX 2004, the following are the One-Frame competition Awards:

Gold: John McEntyre - 1859 Canada First Cents : 17cent High Value

Vermeil: Doug Lingard - Canadian Philatelic Disaster Covers

Vermeil: Herb McNaught - Canada: Half-cent Small Queen Issues of 1882 - 1891

Silver: Fred Fawn - To the Corners of the World

Silver: Fred Fawn - Large Queen Postal History

## The Winmill Treasure Trove

Fred Fawn

A letter dated January 31, 1934. Sender, a Toronto Piano dealer. He is thrilled with the new stamp and mentions meeting Sir William Mulock on his 90th birthday.

The double rated envelope below is addressed to Mrs. C. Clarke, Elora, Ont.



PAUL HAHN & Co.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL DISTRIBUTORS OF  
STEINWAY & SONS PIANOS

88 BLOOR STREET EAST  
TORONTO, CANADA

Dear Mr Theodore -

January 31/34

Roman is in my office and  
I have a block of Canadian 1898 p 7a.

This stamp was brought out under the  
personal supervision of the Postmaster General  
of Canada namely Sir William Mulock.

Penny postage to England at the time -

Last week <sup>I saw</sup> Sir William Mulock and  
(being an old friend of mine) I asked him  
on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday <sup>Jan 24</sup> for an autograph.

3 blocks of his stamps - the other two  
being for the Royal Ontario Museum

and my own Collection - so I hope  
you will find this interesting for your Collection.

Please accept with my Compliments

Yours as ever



Mrs C Clarke

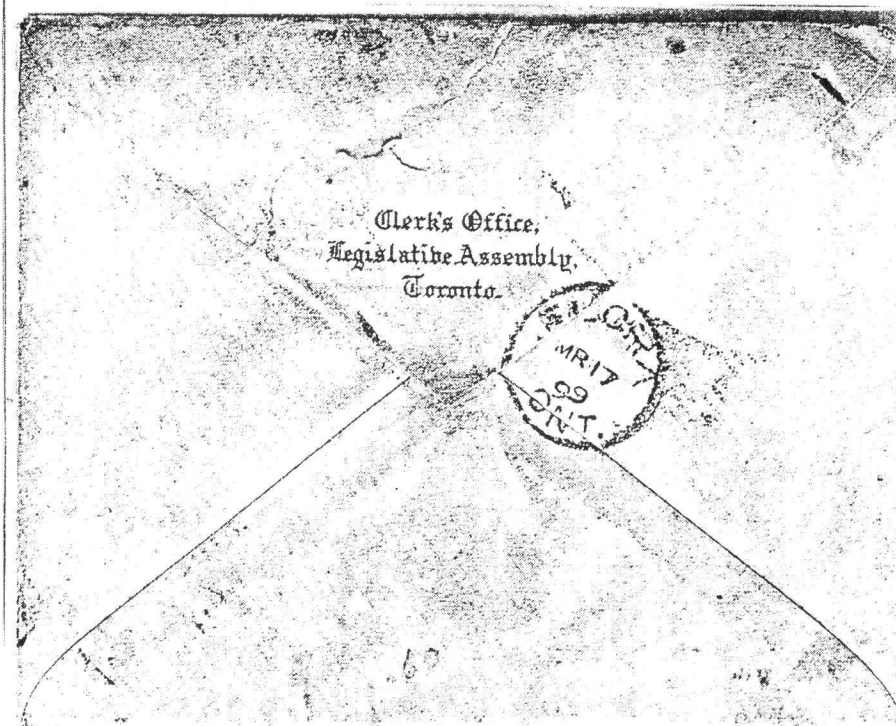
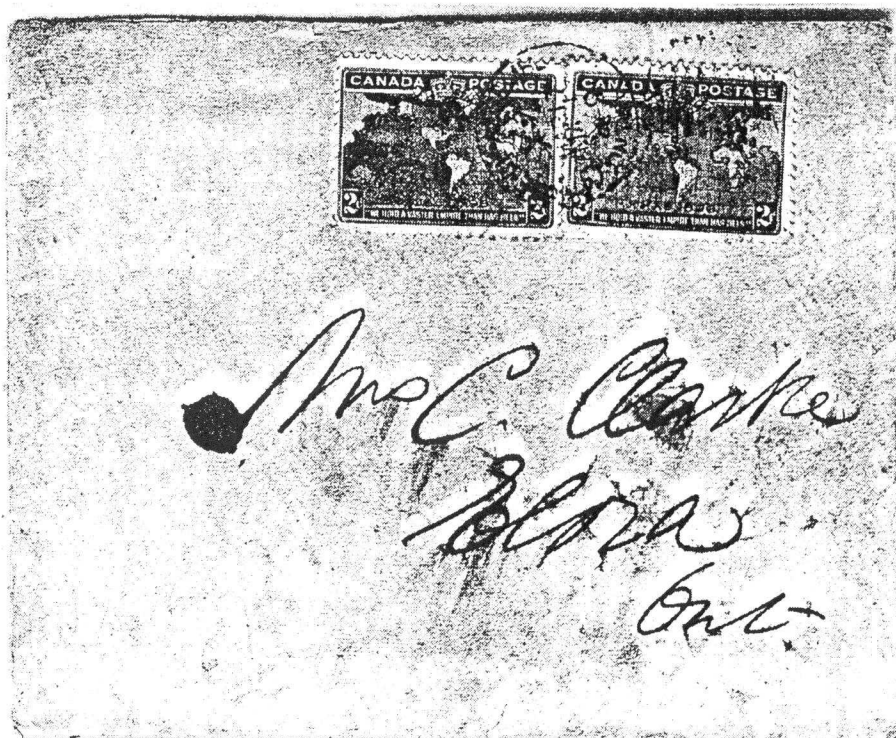
Elora  
Ont

I have a letter from the same addressee, but sent from the Clerk's Office, Legislative Assembly, Toronto. My interest in this cover are the very green Map stamps. For quite some time, this cover has been in a Map side-collection of colours



and shades, in the company gold to almost black "muddy waters," "red-omitted," and other unusual colours and shades.

Colour-coding some of these stamps is quite entertaining.



Two letters by C. F. Gillam, President of the Canadian Philatelic Society of G.B. in 1977. Mr. Gillam became *Maple Leaves'* editor at a later date. The letter below refers to Winmill's research on the 3 cent Mystery Essay.

Dear Mr. Winmill,

Many thanks for your letter forwarded to me by Mr. Hanes.

I shall be quite happy to publish your article on the 3 cent Mystery essay. The reference in *Maple Leaves* of February 1956 is Volume 6 No.2 Page 49 where an article

by Tomlinson refers to this.

I am unable to help with the essay proof journal reference where I assume you only lack details of the Volume number. The 194 I assume refers to the Whole Number which of course would be sufficient for reference purposes.

I am quite happy to give you and your co-authors unqualified permission to reproduce the article in revised or unrevised form at any later date.

I do not understand what you mean by a reference to the editor in your second note, presumably you mean the editor of the Essay Proof Journal, in which case the information you have provided if "NUMBER, 194, P.44" means whole number 194 page 44 is sufficient.

Your notes will have to be in numerical sequence. It is not possible or would be confusing to have different footnotes identically numbered; your typescript will not correspond with the pagination when it is set by the printer. Hence footnote 1 of your page 2 will have to be footnote 3 etc.

Many thanks for your help and interest.

Yours sincerely

L.F. Gillam

The second letter to a Mr. Hanes of 66 East Bawtry Rd., Rotherham, S. Yorks., and dated 6th. Feb., 1977, contains the following text:

Dear Mr. Hanes,

Thank you for your recent letter and article.

This is most interesting and I shall be only too pleased to publish without restriction on its further reproduction in any way that you and your co-authors may wish.

Please accept this letter therefore as a written authorization that the copyrights are in your hands.

Incidentally, I note with interest your proposal to publish a book on the 1898 Map stamps. You will know, of course, that Tomlinson published a handbook on these some years ago. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this I should write to Stanley Cohen, our Handbooks Manager at 51, Westfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3QE. I believe that he still has a few in stock, but would not be certain.

The article will be published with the names of your good self and the other two co-authors as you request.

Yours sincerely

L.F. Gillam  
Editor, *Maple Leaves*

**Note:** Fred Fawn comments that it is interesting to note the reference to the possibility of another Map stamp book being published. Do any of our members have any further information on Mr. Hanes and his interest in the Map stamp?

## **The Intriguing History of the "Christmas Stamp"**

Tom LaMarre

This article appeared in *Insight* '89:

Some collectors call it the Christmas stamp. Others know it as the Map stamp. But the 2-cent issue actually marked the adoption of Imperial Penny Postage, a uniform rate among members of the British Empire.

At an Imperial Convention on postal rates held in London in 1898, the rate on half-ounce letters was fixed at one penny. That was roughly the equivalent of two cents Canadian. The new rate went into effect in Canada on Christmas Day 1898, and Postmaster General William Mulock, its chief proponent, designed a stamp to commemorate the occasion.

The Map stamp that resulted from his efforts was based on the Mercator projection, named for Flemish cartographer Gerhardus Mercator.

"This design greatly exaggerates the regions in high latitudes," Guy-Harold Smith wrote in the November 1933 issue of *Scott's Monthly Journal*, "an area 60 degrees north or south latitude being four times its true size. On such a projection Canada appears much larger than the United States though the difference in area is slight".

Mulock used carmine ink to designate the British Empire, but the map was not entirely accurate. "Have you noticed... that the famous 'British Empire' Map stamp of Canada shows as British territory what were at the time the two independent South African republics?" A. O. Crane wrote in the Jan. 1, 1934 issue of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. The stamp in question was issued in December, 1898. The Second Boer War did not break out until

October, 1899, and the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were not formally annexed until June, 1900.

Multiple colour printing was in its infancy, and perfect register was not possible. As a result, red ink sometimes enlarged the extent of the British possessions. Some stamps pictured an island between New Zealand and Australia where, in fact, there is only open sea. Others took enough land from Portuguese Africa to make British territory in East Africa almost join West Africa.

Because of the inscription XMAS 1898, positioned below the map, the issue has been called the first Christmas stamp. But in the 1960's, L. V. McGurran, director of accounting for the Post Office Department's Stamp Division, wrote, "I have searched our files regarding the...Xmas 1898 {issue} and conclude that the use of this title on the stamp has no relation with special significance we normally attach to Christmas."

The inscription *We hold a vaster empire than has been* is a quotation from a poem written in 1897 by Sir Lewis Morris for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co., which charged the government 45 cents per 1,000 copies. At that time the Map stamp was the most expensive issue ever printed for Canada. The difficulty of the printing process justified the cost. First came the black frame, then the red British possessions and finally the lavender or blue oceans. The frame was line engraved and the two colour printings typographed.

It is believed that five plates were made, but No. 4 was apparently defective and never used. Plate numbers were positioned above the space between the fifth and sixth stamps of the upper row. Most stamps from the right-hand vertical row of plate No. 3 had the outer borders retouched. Printed in sheets of 100, the stamps were released Dec. 7, 1898. Lavender was originally used for the oceans, but after millions of stamps were printed, the colour was changed to blue. The so-called "Muddy Water" variety has dark brown oceans, probably the result of a chemical reaction with perfumes, paint odours or saline solutions.

Because of aging and variations in ink formulas, Map stamps exist in many

shades, ranging from grey, purple and brick red to an intense black, ultramarine and pink.

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 December 1898 the Dominion Postmaster General issued a 2-cent postage stamp to commemorate the reduction in Imperial Postal Rate from five cents to two cents per half ounce. This stamp is called the Imperial Penny Postage stamp or sometimes the Map stamp. It is printed in two distinct shades of blue, light and dark. It is the only stamp of its kind in the world today, requiring three separate and distinct impressions or printings. The three stages may be seen below. These are not stamps, only proofs, to show the process of manufacture."

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

Unlike the rare die proofs, the Imperial Penny Postage stamp itself is readily available to collectors. More than 16 million examples were issued.

## **Pages from the Past** *BNA Topics*, September 1952 **A Bisected "Map"**

Dear Mr. Editor: About a month ago I had the pleasure of a visit from Frederick Langford of Pasadena, California. Mr. Langford is well known as a collector of US Flag cancels, and he is also interested in our Canadian counterparts.

He showed me an item recently acquired in the US and kindly gave me a photo of same (see illustration). It is the first of its kind, as far as I am aware, and it would appear to be another instance of a "complaisant" post office official. The actual cover apparently passed through the mails as a 1-cent rate item, the flap having been folded in.

I wonder if some of our Montreal friends have come across any similar "made-to-order" pieces. Is it possible that Mr. Brosseau was a collector with a flair for the unusual? This item also calls to mind other Montreal philatelic pieces credited to a Mr. Baker. I refer to those superb flag cancels on the Jubilee issue.

... the letter than rambles on about matters not concerning bisects or Map stamps.  
(Signed) Bury C. Binks (#74)



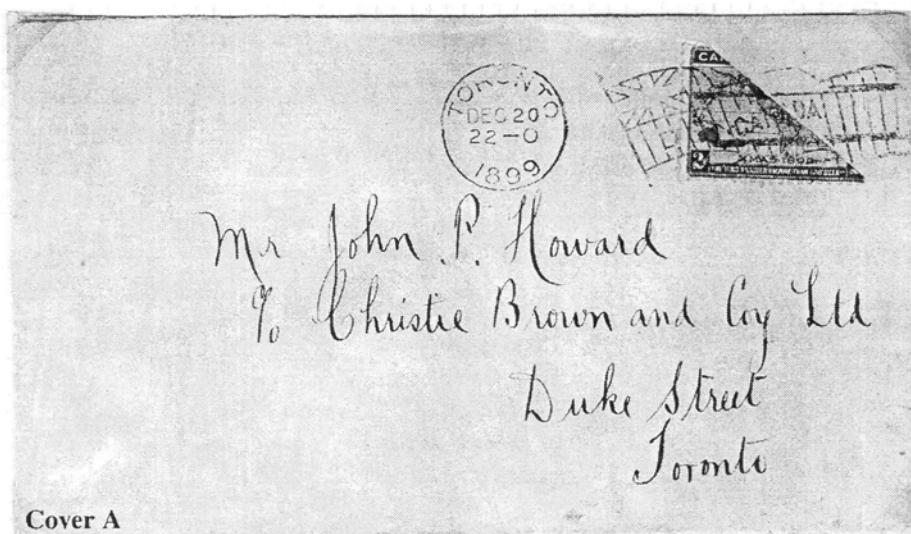
## MAP STAMP BISECTS

J. T. Anders

*The article quoted above led me to investigate the use of Map stamp bisects.*

### Definition: Bisects / Bisected stamps

Stamps cut in half vertically, horizontally or diagonally, usually cut to make stamps of values that the postmaster did not have on hand. In the Province of Canada and in Canada since Confederation, bisected stamps have never been authorized. Stamps cut into any other portions are correctly called "fractional" or "split" stamps and should not be confused with bisected stamps – quoted from D. & M. Patrick "Canada's Postage Stamps" McClelland and Stewart 1964.



Cover A

Bisects should be divided into two categories, those actually made to meet a temporary shortage, or because the sender was thrifty enough to get full value; and those made for philatelic purposes. All bisects were against the regulations, but the habit

persisted especially in the Maritimes Provinces. – quoted from W. S. Boggs *Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada* Quartermain 1974.

Full covers are needed for genuineness as fractions "on piece" may have been cut down to remove postage due marks or other postage stamps. A pair of diagonal bisects connected by the perforations is almost certain to be an example of philatelic use. It is assumed that these 'bisects' must have been affixed to the letters at the post office in the presence of a postal clerk, for otherwise it would have been a simple matter to obtain and reuse parts of stamps showing no cancellation. – quoted from R. McI. Cabee *Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting* Cornwall Press 1957.

**Cover "A"** Diagonal bisect tied by Toronto 'D' flag cancel dated Dec. 20th. 1899

**Cover "B"** Vertical bisect tied by Toronto machine cancel dated Nov. 17th. 1902

**Cover "C"** Vertical bisect tied by Mt. Forrest Type 1 square circle cancel - date is unreadable

The above three covers can be considered as correct commercial usage accepted by the post office without penalty. Bisecting of stamps, although not officially sanctioned, was allowed in the Maritimes, especially Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It is interesting to note that all three covers shown originate in Ontario!!!

Domestic Air Mail rate was 6cents for the first ounce.

The following cover shows an unofficial diagonal Map stamp bisect in addition to a 5cent KGVI paying the domestic air mail letter rate. Once again the letter has been accepted by the post office for commercial usage without a postage due penalty.

**Cover "D"** Diagonal bisect tied by Parker's Cove NS split circle cancel dated Sep. 1st. 1939

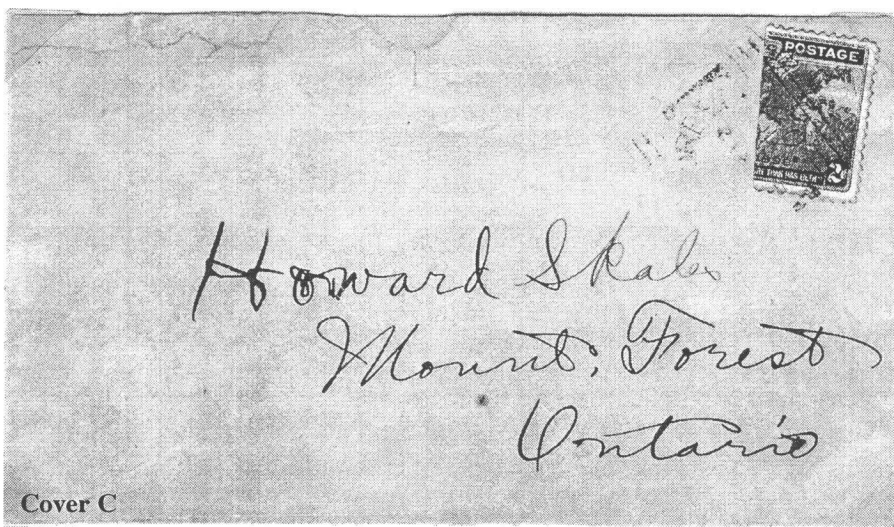
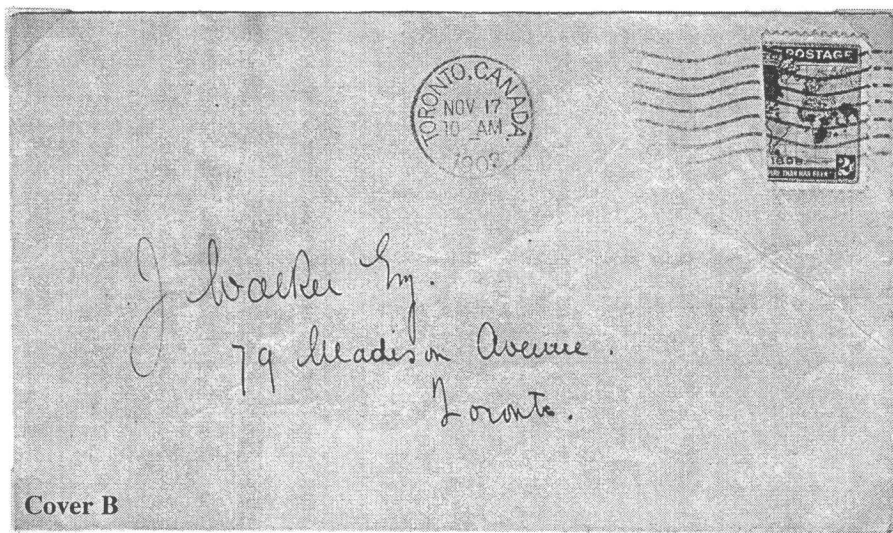
This cover I would classify as "philatelic" for the following reasons:

Late usage of Map stamp  
No receiver or b/s



Air mail service from Parker's Cove to Granville is not officially recorded  
War was not declared for several days after the cancellation date

These four covers reside in my collection. It would be interesting to find out how many more 'bisect covers' of the Map stamp exist. I would appreciate hearing from members that have further information.



## Food for Thought

Everyone realises that one can believe little of what people say about each other. But it is not so widely realised that even less can one trust what people say about themselves.

*Rebecca West*

If you believe you have a foolproof system, you've failed to take into consideration the creativity of fools.

*Frank Abagnale*

## Quotable Quotes

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.

*Oscar Wilde*

Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well.

*Josh Billings*

No one remembers who came in second.

*Walter Hagen*

## 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](mailto: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.



**Remember?**

# Literature Price List (C\$) SPECIAL FOR STUDY GROUP MEMBERS

« The Canadian 1898 Christmas Map Stamp – A definitive Plating Study »

© Vol 1-3 by Ken Kershaw / Vol. 4 by Ken Kershaw & Roger Boisclair

Price list as at June 13, 2004.

PRODUCT NUMBER & DESCRIPTION	DETAIL	PRICE C\$	SHIPPING IN CANADA	TOTAL REGULAR PRICE	SPECIAL PRICE FOR STUDY GROUP MEMBERS (including shipping cost in Canada)**	REMARK
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6.- Blue binder	B&W on HP paper (34 lb)	\$200.00	\$10.00	\$210.00	\$190.00	Original B&W lazer printing. Better paper quality to satisfy dealers, library or the like in general
7.- Black binder	B&W, bond paper	\$150.00	\$10.00	\$160.00	\$135.00	Photocopies. This version to satisfy the average pocket map stamp collector

## Price list for Individual Volumes

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	B&W	\$60	\$10.00	\$70.00	\$65.00	Perfect bound. Includes Vol. 1 & 2, bond paper
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(4 individual volumes)	B&W	\$150.00	\$15.00	\$165.00	\$150.00	4 individual volumes as above described

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