THE 1898 CHRISTMAS MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

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REFLECTIONS & STUDIES

While perusing Whit Bradley's original newsletters of the 1980's I came across a listing of items he thought could be pursued by collectors and/or reported on.

In this same article he was mentioning his interest in the plating of the map stamp, and mentioned that he had written three articles on the subject which he was hoping would be printed in TOPICS. It did not seem to be in his thoughts at that time that he would ultimately compile the treatise he ultimately issued.

Some of the areas that he felt could be studied and reported on:

- Squared Circles onMaps. Possible cancellations
- RPO's on Maps, Possible cancellations
- Calender Collections
- Earliest Dates and periods of use of each plate
- Split Ring and CDS cancellations
- Flags on Maps
- Literature Avaialable
- The British Empire in 1989 Names of Islands etc
- Additional Recut Cable links(other than those in Tomlinson)
- Studies of Numbers on each Plate and Ocean Colour
- REGISTRY OF Map Stamp Data and Collections
- Prices Realized and Current Values
- Upcoming Auction Material
- Specialties of Each Member

While I am aware of the interests of some of the members of the study group, as well as those members whom I have come in contact with; there are many members for whom I have no knowledge of their area of interest. I do know that many members are interested in assembling a Map Stamp collection that encompasses many areas and in fact some of the areas not mentioned by Whit in his list above such as:

- covers, imprint blocks and colour changelings,
- re-touches and re-entries, imperfs and orb cancels.

I have also received some information about some Calendar Collections, Earliest date usages, (*although not specifically tied to each plate*), and Flags on Maps. If ny of the study group would like to send me some information on their specific area of interest I would be please to receive it, and if they have any unusual or interesting material which they could scan it would be very gratefully received, and we could use it with or without the appropriate recognition.

About the Printing of the Map Stamp

It is interesting to note that in 1896 the American Bank Note Co., who printed the Map Stamp, had established a Canadian Division known as the Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd, presumably to overcome the appearance that the government was granting contracts to non-Canadian agencies. However the contract to print the Map Stamp was not placed with the Canadian entity it was completed through the parent company American Bank Note at their facility in Ottawa.



American Bank Note Building, 224 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario **Decorated For Queen Victoria's Jubilee** Topley Studio Fonds / Library and Archives Canada / PA-028091

The American Bank Note, had been formed in 1858 by the merger of seven companies;

Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson	(23.9% share)
Toppan, Carpenter & Co.	(22.4% share)
Danforth, Perkins & Co.	(21.8% share)
Bald, Cousland & Co.	(13.3% share)
Jocelyn, Draper, Welsh & Co.	(8.4% share)
Wellstood, Hay & Whiting	(8.2% share)
John E. Gavit	(2% share)

The Association , as this evolving entity was initially known then absorbed two additional operations in th US the National Bank Note Co. and the Continental Bank Note Co. and in 1879 the American Bank Note Co. was formed under which name it continued until the present day.

RETOUCH or REENTRY

There are abundant copies of the Map Stamp in various hands and within various collections. The many varieties which have been discovered attests to the popularity of this issue with philatelists, and one is left to ponder whether the original designers had an inkling of what great enjoyment they were in the process of creating when they set out on their mission to create this commemorative masterpiece.

Aside from categorizing the Blue or Lavender of the two oceans or musing over the changelings or Muddy Oceans, as the various transformed blues have been described, and analyzing the extra islands in the Pacific, by far the greatest research focuses on the cables surrounding the "global village" as well as the printing of the motto combined with the description "XMAS 1889" beneath the Map itself.

That having been stated it follows that the majority of research arguably centres on the "Black Plates" and the changes made to those plates, together with the rationale or reasons for which these changes were undertaken. This analysis then develops into the next item to be defined or determined which is what exactly were these changes that were made, were they "Retouches" or "Re-entries, and therein was somewhat of a conundrum for the author.

I say conundrum, because it is somewhat difficult to determine. *What is the difference between the two?* In an effort to clarify my somewhat enfeebled mind I contacted two of the experts in the field:

Ralph Trimble who is chairman of The BNAPS Reentry Study Group and *Ken Kershaw* who wrote the publication on the matter. My query :

What is the difference between a Re-entry & a Retouch ?

And here is what they had to say:

Ralph Trimble's Response

Regarding the distinction between re-entry and retouch, re-entries always occurred from the misapplication of the transfer roll on the plate whether it be strengthening a worn impression, or entirely replacing a faulty transfer. Retouches involved the use of hand tools and the plate maker working directly on the impressions in the steel by hand to strengthen worn or broken lines, or even to try to hide the errant lines of a re-entry itself.

Retouches = by hand Re-entries = by transfer roll

This is an extremely important distinction, and one which is confused all the time, even by some experienced dealers and collectors.

Ken Kershaw's Response.

A retouch is usually of limited extent, determined readily by the characteristic "hands on" quality. They are hand done using an engraving tool. Usually restricted to an engraved line but equally widely seen in lithographed stamps as well, and I have three books coming out over the next months on PEI lithographed stamps and all have good examples of retouches.

In lithography the weak or missing part of the image is simply added to the lithograph using a grease based pencil. Again, since they are done by hand they are usually readily seen in a computer scan at 1200 dpi or even a lot less.

Retouches are of course hand done and are a quick way to repair a small fault. Where the problem is more widespread, often due to plate wear for example, re-entry is obviously much more efficient, and is then used. It can be evident over the whole image or even restricted to one corner.

The re-entry involved the use of the transfer die which had to be lined up perfectly, rarely achieved and hence the obvious "doubled" image so characteristic of a re-entry. A retouch and re-entry are poles apart.

The real question to ask is how on earth did they manage to restrict a re-entry to one corner of a stamp which they did all the time. Look at the images in my book on #66 the half cent Maple Leaf...lots of examples there.

The map stamp is not a terribly fertile ground for this topic since only the black engraved outline was retouched or re-entered and then largely restricted to the frame.

Plate 5 position 91 however does show much more extensive doubling in the lines of longitude and latitude

These two explanations were most helpful clarifying the distinction between the two processes. In the re-touch, the artisan worked on the precise area and position in the plate requiring repair or re-engraving to correct the deficiency or the wear that had occurred. The reentry entails aligning the original transfer roll with the plate in a very precise manner, and essentially reinforcing the impression. It is thus very obvious why there is sometimes a doubling of the impressions on a re-entry, when there was not a precise alignment.

As Ken Kershaw points out and as was stated above, the reentry as well as the preponderance of the retouching of the Map Stamp is primarily limited to the cable, although there was some alteration done to the value tablets as well as the lettering and the Crown atop the stamp.

We are aware of the wealth of information currently available on this topic, but where did all this research into this fascinating area of philately begin?

THE START OF IT ALL

It was forty years after the issuance of the Map Stamp before anyone began in-depth research, and even then it was residents of Great Britain who tackled the subject of the Map Stamp printing flaws. In the introduction to Frederick Tomlinson's publication he mentions three prominent articles; one by R.W.T. Lee-Jones published in October 1930 in The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain another by Col. Adams in March 1946 in The London Philatelist and a further article in the same publication in December of 1947 by A.S. Deaville, all of whom dealt with an assortment of variations of the Map Stamp including the Re-entries and Re-touching of the cables, value tablets and inscriptions.

Tomlinson's publication, "The Canadian Map Stamp", printed in 1960, almost 70 years after the stamp's issuance, was an anthology of articles he had previously published in Maple Leaves. It was intended as a handbook, and comprised an outstanding treatise on retouched cables, as well as varieties he had discovered. When one considers that he was probably working with a magnifying glass, and utilizing his own artwork, the research he completed and notes he compiled formed an excellent basis for further research, and there has really been very few additions to what he disclosed.

The next major analysis of the stamp began when Whit Bradley initiated the study group in 1980 and began his in-depth studies analyzing among other topics the complete plating of the various positions on each of the plates of the Map Stamp. This undertaking together with the newsletter, seemed to be the first analysis within any Canadian group and soon became a daunting task, with the sheer quantity of graphics and sketches required to supplement and complement his research and written text.

Thus it was in the 1990's, that Ken Kershaw armed with the background of available information embarked on the compilation of his research and very graphical presentation, utilizing the much advanced and current technical and sophisticated devices available today such as computerized microscopes and optical scanners. Although it is believed that the only stamps finally released to the market were produced with the four Black Plates I, II, III and V.¹ Kershaw together with Roger Boisclair augmented the available information on the fourth plate, and have added immeasurably to the fascination of the Map Stamp research.

HOW MANY R & R'S ?

Tomlinson as the initial detective identified the following re-entries and re-touches on the various plates:

P I – Two Plate 1 Re-entries at stamp posititions 3 and position 89,

- **P II -Ten Plate II Re-entries** occur in columns 7 & 9 at positions 7, 17, 27, 37, 47 9, 19, 19, 29,39 and stamp 84
- fourteen re-touches were identified being the ten bottom stamps of the plate at positions 91–100 as well as to stamps 5, 60, 78 & 90

P III – One Plate III re-entry at position 47
the retouches occur at 19 postions although the one stamp at position 100 is retouched in 2 areas. The retouched positions are the bottom row nos. 91-100 and the 10th column nos. 10 – 100.

P V – Plate V was totally re-entered but two positions stand out as Major re-entries Pos'n 29 & 90
as well there are 30 Minor re-entries at the following positions:

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 12, 14,15, 23, 28, 32, 42, 43,44,52, 53, 54, 55, 62, 64, 74, 82, 83, 87, 88, 92, 97, 99, 100

DESCRIPTION OF R & R'S

As was defined at the start, the re-entries are generated by utilising the original transfer die from which the plate was made to reformat the plate. This is done in an effort to sharpen the image being produced by the plate when printing. When the plate and die are slightly misaligned, then a re-entry may be created.

The re-touches are undertaken to correct situations where the re-entry did not totally correct the deficiency, or perhaps the re-touch may be undertaken independently of the function which produced the re-entry.

Tomlinson's hand book is reasonably detailed as to the details of the re-entries and the re-touches, but he did not go into a lot of detail.

Bradley on the other hand was more specific and itemized the changes in much more detail, which is probably understandable having the benefit of greater access to much more material living in Canada, and having many more items for research, as well as having a head start with Tomlinson's publication to work from.

As great and as illuminating as Bradley's publication was, Kershaw's and Boisclair's volumes virtually explode the stamp in pictures and graphics, as well as layout all of which becam possible with recent technology utilizing the computerized microscope, and colour reproduction.

It is interesting to note however, that between the dates of Tomlinson's handbook and Bradley's study and Kershaw's update, there were no new re-touch or re-entry discoveries, although there were Boisclair's Plate IV revelations.

Kershaw did also confirm that Tomlinson's one suggested item was indeed a re-entry, and it is possible that the use of the microscope probably assisted in this confirmation.

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ It may be possible, that there is an actual used stamp from Plate IV.

WHAT & WHEN

So what was the reason for the various re-entries and retouches, and when were these carried out. There does not appear to be any definitive research on the matter as to when the retouches or re-entries appeared on the scene, and the editor has been unable to locate anyone who has any basic info as to possible cancellation dates to provide evidence of these occurrences.

Without any such evidence we decided to work from other information and make some assumptions. One of the assumptions is that the printers probably switched plates whenever the quality of the printing had deteriorated. The next assumption is that the information as set out in Tomlinson's handbook is reasonably accurate as well as Col. Adam's information as to when certain colours appeared in the market probably as an indication when the various plates entered production.

The following table sets out the details from Tomlinson's handbook, which are attributed to Col.Adams, as to when he felt the earliest cancellations occurred²:

Plate I	Lavender Pale Blue Deep Blue	Dec 7, 1898 Dec 16, 1898 Dec 23, 1898
Plate II	Very Deep Blue Lavender	Jan 1, 1899 Feb 11, 1899
Plate III	Lavender	Mar 7, 1899
Plate V	Lavender Deep Blue	Mar 27 , 1899 Mar 27 , 1899

Plates I & II were the most durable, and it was Plate II that was the most durable being used to print close to 30% of the production. The following shows quantities printed over the life of the plates::

Plate #1	5,181,150
Plate #2	6,180,525
Plate #3	4,782,600
Plate #5	3,786,100

THE TIMING ASSUMPTIONS

Proceeding with some assumptions, since Plate II stamps didn't appear until January 1899, and Plate V stamps didn't appear on the scene until late March, 1889 we could possibly assume that Plates I, II and III were used to complete the early printing, through to the end of-February 1889, and that the December production was all done on Plate I.. It appears that Plate V required some retouch and/or re-entry work before it went into production³.

Plate II probably went into production in late December so as to enable postal use in early January and Plate III was put into employed in early March.. The production up to that time⁴ (*late -February*) totaled 96,000 units or sheets (9,600,000 stamps)., and if we assume further that the fist three plates all needed some repair at the end of that initial cycle, then it may be safe to presume that Plate V was relied upon for most of the April 1889 production of 13,000 sheets (1,300,000 stamps). This would then suggest that Plate I produced about 42,975 units (4,975,000 stamps) and Plate II produced about the same 47,125 units (4,712,500 stamps) through March 1889.

The printing from the end of April through May and June appears to have involved only Plates III and V. The May deliveries were 8,000 sheets and during June there was nominal production (4,000 sheets). By this time $^{2}/_{3}$ of the order had been completed , and it appears that the plant shut down from June 15th to the 22nd of August, or at least the production of the Map Stamp halted for that period since no deliveries were made. Perhaps the Ottawa heat, with no air conditioning was a major factor in this cessation.

During this time the second and third states as mentioned by some of the researchers probably occurred, and when the printing began again on August 22^{nd} , it would appear that while all of the plates may have been used. Plate I seems to have been used very little 8,750 units and Plate II produced and additional 14,700 sheets, with Plates III and V each producing the balance of the order in equal amounts of about 21,000 sheets.. (Total balance of order 66,175 sheets 6,617,500 stamps) While there is no evidence to confirm this assumption, the statistics from Tomlinson's handbook as above when compared with the total deliveries per the America Banknote delivery sheets in the Archives, were used to produces these quantities.

Based on the above and reviewing the list of shipments from the America Banknote plant to the Government, it would appear that Plates I and II initially lasted for about 40,000 units (4,000,000 stamps) before upgrading was needed with Plate III requiring some work after about 30,000 units (3,000,000 stamps) and Plate V being the least durable, lasting only half of that time, then requiring considerable repair.

This complete timing probability is not based on any factual data, as none could be gleaned from a variety of sources researched as well as discussions with various persons familiar with the stamp itself, thus if anyone should have information which could assist in this matter please contact the editor, as all suggestions would be gratefully received.

MAP STAMP NAMES REVISITED

In previous issues of the bulletin we had begun a naming tour of the Map Stamp and compiled some current information on those areas which were identified. We continue that series in this issue, and as you see there are some queries about some of the locations which we cannot identify, so any help in this matter would be appreciated, and/or if someone should not agree with our names please feel free to so advise.

² Based on Col. Adam's examination of 5,000 used copies

³ Kershaw suggests all plates required some pre-production touch-up. *Plating the Canadian Xmas Stamp of 1898.*, *pp8*.

⁴ Excluding the 100 sheets of Imperfs and proofs

PACIFIC ISLANDS GROUP

(1) NAURU

Lying only 42 kms south of the equator, and only 21 kilometers square, Nauru is an uplifted coral reef, some 4,000 kilometres from its nearest neighbour, Australia. Due to its isolation, Nauru had remained free from European influence for longer than any of the other larger Pacific Islands. When named by the first Europeans to visit Nauru in 1798 as Pleasant Island, Nauru was an island of lush tropical vegetation and friendly indigenous inhabitants. Early visitors were mainly whalers and then later traders in search of treasures of the Pacific In the late 19th cemtury, Great Britain and Germany became embroiled in an ongoing dispute for control over the Pacific regions, and Nauru, although a very tiny island, became split in two. Thus at the time of the Map Stamp's issuance, this tiny speck was really only partially part of the Dominion. For a brief time the island's guano deposits were thought to have some commercial significance, however the distance from Europe soon diminished this prospect,

(2) GILBERT & ELLICE

Ellice Island is now referred to as the Republic of Kiribati , and has an area of 342 sq mi (886 sq km), spread over 33 islands scattered across 2,400 mi (3,860 km) of the Pacific Ocean near the equator. It includes 8 of the 11 Line Islands, including Christmas Island now Kiritimati as well as the Gilbert and Phoenix groups and Banaba (formerly Ocean Island). Tarawa is the capital. The population is nearly all Micronesian. At the time of the Map Stamp's issuance, the islands were administered as a British protectorate, having come under the British administration in 1892.

(3) COOK ISLANDS

Cook Island is the home of the original. Maoris The Cook Islands are believed to have been settled about 500AD by a migration that left from western French Polynesia. The islanders were experienced sea navigators and travelled between islands in large double-hulled catamarans that could accommodate up to 60 people. They navigated using the stars, cloud patterns and the swell, temperature and currents of the sea. When looking for

new islands they would take frigate birds with them and on their release, follow their direction to find land. Seven such canoes departed from Ngatangiia Harbour on the east coast of Rarotonga and eventually reached New Zealand to colonise these two islands.

(5) FIJI

Fijians first settled their homeland about 8,000 years before the Map Stamp was issued, with immigrants arriving form south-east Asia. These Melanesian people, as they were to be referred to in the history books, also settled the islands to the north and east of Fiji like Vanuatu, New Caledonia and The Solomon Islands. A second migration from south-east Asia, distinguished by the arrival of Lapita pottery, brought Polynesians to Fiji about 3,000 years ago. Some of these Polynesians progressed further to the then uninhabited islands of Tonga, Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand and Hawaii. Ancient Fijians are well documented as being cannibals, and they lived in small fortified villages forming clans with neighbouring villages through polygamy.

Europeans 'discovered' the Fiji Islands in 1643, but it wasn't until after The Mutiny of the Bounty in 1789 that contact with the people was made. Over the next 100 years, trade, wars and friendships were made between rival Europeans and rival Fijian tribes. In 1874, tired of endless quarrels and warfare, King Cakabau ceded his kingdom to Britain at the historic old capital of Levuka on Ovalau. The British, in turn, brought Colonial rule and introduced Indian labourers to the new sugar plantations.

(6) TONGA

Tonga, before Europeans arrived, was one of the most powerful islands in the region and at times its empire stretched across Samoa, Futuna, Uvea (Wallis), Rotuma, Niue and parts of Fiji. Testimony to these powerful times are evident along the northeastern coast of Tongatapu where the powerful kings (Tui) resided. Captain Cook landed very close to the ancient capital of Mua in 1777 and visited the then King of Tonga. Tonga is one of the few islands in the South Pacific that never resigned its independence and remains the only monarchy in the region.



PACIFIC ISLANDS GROUP OF THE MAP STAMP

PACIFIC ISLANDS GROUP (CONT'D)

TUVALU (7)

Capt. John Byron visited the islands in 1764 and they were administered by Britain as part of a protectorate (1892–1916) and as part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony.

PITCAIRN (4)

An isolated volcanic island 1,350 miles southeast of Tahiti, Pitcairn has achieved notoriety as the result of becoming the refuge for the mutineers of the infamous Mutiny on the Bounty. The island itself was named after British midshipman Robert Pitcairn, who first sighted the island on July 2, 1767 The *Bounty* had sailed to Tahiti in 1788 to collect a cargo of breadfruit saplings, which was then to be transported to Jamaica where the breadfruit would serve as food for slaves working on the plantations.

After sailing for over 10 months, and covering 27,000 miles, the crew spent a sybaritic idyll on Tahiti, where they reveled in the subtropical climate, lush surroundings, and overwhelming warmth and hospitality of the Tahitians.

On April 4, 1789, the *Bounty* embarked on the second leg of its journey with a cargo of a thousand breadfruit saplings aboard. A little more than three weeks later, near the island of Tonga, the crew, led by first mate Fletcher Christian, staged a mutiny against Captain William Bligh. After the mutiny, Christian and his sailors returned to Tahiti, where sixteen of the twenty-five men decided to remain for good. Christian, along with eight others, their women, and a handful of Tahitian men then scoured the South Pacific for a safe haven, eventually settling on Pitcairn on January 23, 1790.

A NEW COLOUR OF BLUE HAS BEEN FOUND

Our newsletter received a most welcome item from a collector of 19th Century Canadian items in Hamilton, Mr. Walter Krasowski, who has a very sharp eye for unusual items. This time it was an entirely different blue shade that caught his eye, which has never been catalogued before. The colour as matched to a non-philatelic coding system specifies that the shade is a "Porcelain Blue" code 94-J-3.



PLEASE CHECK YOUR COLLECTION TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OTHERS AROUND.

Although a British ship spent three months searching for them, the mutineers eluded detection. Those who had remained on Tahiti were not so lucky. They were swiftly captured and brought to trial in England, where seven were exonerated and three were hanged.

Bligh himself, was appointed governor of New South Wales, in Britain's newly established colony of Australia. The colonists however, eventually found Bligh's rule intolerable and they too mutinied within three years and Bligh was imprisoned and eventually sent back to England. Having two mutinies on his record did not stymie Bligh's career—he was eventually promoted to Vice Admiral of the Royal Navy.

Pitcairn flourished under the leadership of the last surviving mutineer, John Adams, a Cockney orphan who had joined the *Bounty* under the pseudonym Alexander Smith. He reverted to his real name on Pitcairn—apparently deciding it was the sort of place where he could let his hair down. Adamstown, the capital, is named after him. In 1825, a British ship arrived and formally granted Adams amnesty, and on November 30, 1838, the Pitcairn Islands (which also include three uninhabited islands—Henderson, Ducie, and Oeno) were incorporated into the British Empire.

The island has only 88 acres of flat land, and within thirty years, as a result of simple procreation, Pitcairn became over populated and most of the Islanders vacated. The islanders support themselves by producing postage stamps and making handicrafts, which they sell primarily to visitors on passing ships.

AN ADVERTISING PIECE

This copy of a very unique stamp was sent in by John Anders who has been trying to determine it origins.

It appears that an enterprising vendor, presumably in in the London, Eng. Borough of South Hackney, imprinted the glued side of the Map Stamp, and offered them to the public, likely at a Stamp Show or Shows. This is the only known copy of this item.

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Winter 2006 Vol VII - No 3

MAP STAMP NEWSLETTER

A POSTMARK QUERY.

Another of John Anders submissions is a copy of a 1953 letter sent from Belgium to the Postmaster in Prince Albert, querying a straight line across the stamp, (*being a Map Stamp*), that reads "**PRINCEAL**". The query asks if there was ever a postmark from this post office in that format. The response suggests that the mark is obsolete, presumably a polite way of suggesting "fake" and then states there is no such cancellation at this office... and provides copies of all existing cancellations available there in 1953



As a collector of Canadian cancellations, I would like to know if the one line cancellation shown on the photograp herewith is from your Gity and when it has been in use.

Should your office happen still to be in possession of that cancellation, would you have the great kindness of sending me a clear strike of it. If this is at all possible, I would like to have a clear strike of all cancellations in your possession.

I do realise this must be a bother to you and would be most glad if I could render any service at this end. Should you, or any one in the service of your office, be interested in Belgian or Beigian Congo postage stamps, I would be very glad to send a selection over.

Thanking you beforehand for your kind cooperation, I am, Dear Sir,



A WATERMARKED MAP STAMP ???

This item was also forwarded by John Anders and is interesting since it was done by a forger by the name of Andre Frodel, who is well known to the philatelists who collect such items. John is looking for additional information on this item as well as Andre Frodel.

STAMP HAS BEEN ENLARGED TO SHOW THE MARK CLEARLY.. *Red shows through*





CROWN CC WATERMARK

THE WATERMARK ABOVE

The question is, how and why was it done. Research indicates that Frodel was experimenting with the insertion of waterwarks on philatelic material, and may have used the Map Stamp as one of the experimental pieces. According to the research he somehow separated the front of the stamp from the glued backing , inserted the watermark, and then put the layers back together.

MAP STAMP AS LEGAL TENDER

This interesting item was also received from John Anders. A receipt for payment , for the bulk mailing of Newspapers weighing 2 Pounds sent from Berlin, Ontario (*now Kitchener*). The Map Stamp was used as the tender, (1 cent per pound) and was inserted on the receipt form, duly cancelled CDS at the time of tendering AP23/00, and initialled by the clerk CAW or CAD. Reverse shows rceipt with 2^e numeral. ⁵



⁵ There is one other known receipt for bulk mailing illustrated in R.B. Winmill's book

THE RE-ENTRIES AND RE-TOUCHES OF ROWS 1 TO 8 OF PLATE 2



Winter 2006 Vol VII - No 3