



# CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN REVENUE GROUP OF BNAPS

EDITOR - W. Rockett

MARCH - 1977 - # 64

Are any of our members planning to Exhibit Revenues at the Edmonton BNAPS Convention in September? If so, please let me know and give me a general idea of the content of your exhibit. As per usual, I will probably display a token exhibit, nothing high powered, probably an exhibit of one of the Provinces.

But I certainly wouldn't want to duplicate someone else's exhibit.

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April 1952, I was appointed to the Board of Governors of the Canadian Revenue Society. I have tried to act in this capacity for 25 years. Looking over our 1977 membership list, there are about 20 members who were on the 1953 Canadian Revenue Society membership list.

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Still reminiscing, looking over the Revenue literature I came across a copy of the "Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Canada" compiled by R. A. Odell, arranged and edited by R. DeL. French, 1942. I still believe this to be one of the best references yet published on Canadian Revenues.

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Remember the Lee Brandom, "Tax Paid Catalog", the Newsletter was very for-

There are no ADVERTISEMENTS in this issue of the Newsletter. If you have a good place to put your ADVERTISEMENTS there is no charge. Here is a good place to put your collection or to display your revenue stamps. If you have a good place to put your collection or to display your revenue stamps. If you have a good place to put your collection or to display your revenue stamps.

fortunate to be able to publish this in its first draft. Again the Newsletter is fortunate to be able to publish the first draft of E. F. Vilter's "Liquor Stamps of Canada", the first draft will have 21 pages with illustrations. Fred will be glad to have you submit any new additions or corrections, so that he can eventually put this into a final publication.

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HISTORY	- Canadian Revenue Society	1938 - 1954	16 years
	Revenue Group of BNAPS	1954 - 1977	23 years (still going)
	CANADIAN revenue Newsletter - Editor - Ed Richardson	- 1962 - 1968	
	CANADIAN Revenue Newsletter - Editor - W. Rockett	- 1971 - 1977	(still going)

Of course, BNA TOPICS had a fairly active Canadian Revenue Column in those years not covered by the Newsletter. I am truly sorry that our Revenue Column has been inactivate the past few years. I would certainly like to see this column activated on a regular basis.

I read with interest the two revenue columns published in the Sept-Oct and Jan-Feb issues of TOPICS under the heading "Revenue Study Group". I am not condensing these articles. However, these two columns were not sponsored or indorsed by any member of the Revenue Group, and as such, should not have been published under our heading.

\* \* \* \*

I have made a personal Guarantee to the 1978 Capex Fund to be listed under Canadian Revenue Group.

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#### RESIGNATION

# 122 - W. H. Mortonson - accepted with regrets.

#### MEMBERSHIPS received to late for listing in the membership list

# 74 - R. H. Shellhamer - 2364 Crestview Rd. - Pittsburgh - Pa. 15216

# 91 - E. A. Dudley - 447 Blythwood Rd. - Toronto - Ont. - Canada M4N 1A8

# 110 - R. V. Mark - 2365 Marlborough Drive - Nanaimo - B. C. - Canada

# 139 - Gene Frampton - 6543 Beach Drive S. W. - Seattle - Wash. 98136

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sed in your ADLETS there is no charge. Here is a good place to  
add to your collection or to dispose of some of your duplicates

Last month I asked for 13 items I could use in my collection. I would say I had great results. I was able to acquire 9 out of the 13 items. NOT BAD.

I received van Dam's January list after the February Newsletter was circulated. I sent for 7 items and was happy to receive 6 of them. This is a comprehensive listing of Canadian Revenues. It is fully illustrated I recommend you give it a good look see. If you didn't receive a copy write to:

E. van DAM - Box 1417 - Peterborough - Ont. - Canada K9J 7H6



A STUDY OF  
THE LIQUOR BOTTLE SEALS  
OF CANADA



First Part - Federal Seals  
Second Part - Provincial Seals

By E. F. Vilter

The making of wine and later spirits in Canada dates to 1636 when the first (Sacramental) wine was made by Jesuit Missionaries in what is now Quebec. The first commercial vineyard and winery was established by Johann Schiller at Cooksville, Ontario in 1811. The oldest winery still operating is the Barnes winery founded in 1873 at St. Catharines; it now has a capacity of 1,500,000 Gallons.

The oldest distillery in Canada was Gooderham and Worts, established in 1832 in Toronto and still operating. Jeagras was established in 1857 and Hiram Walkers in 1858. Bear in mind that the Canadian Confederation did not occur until 1867.

From the earliest days, custom duties were imposed on imported spirits although no special taxes were imposed on Canadian distillers during the industry's infancy. After the union of upper and lower Canada in 1840 the new government imposed the first gallonage or excise tax on Canadian spirits. Effective in 1846 the tax was two pence per gallon. There was also a tax on stills and it was set at \$40.00 per annum on each still. Provision was made for the issuing of licenses to distillers by the district inspector in each revenue district. Thus the distillers were brought under direct government control.

In the mid to late 1800's the millers would grind grain for local farmers and often would accept grain as their pay. If the miller had a surplus he would cooperate with a distiller to realize a profit.

On December 31st, 1864, the "Inland Revenue Act" was assented to (passed). This was among other things, the first authority for the issuance of liquor seals. This was before confederation and under Colonial Law. It would apply to the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada - now Ontario and Quebec. Although the above act authorized a seal, it does not follow that it was produced immediately.

On January 1st, 1875 the "Imperial Proof Gallon" was introduced as the standard upon which the tax is based. It is still in use. The above basic act continued in effect until about 1923 when the excise act, as such, came into effect.

The U.S. used a mixed basis for the taxing of spirits. If the spirit is overproof the tax is on proof gallons. If the spirit is underproof the tax is on gallonage. The Canadian basis, as above, is strictly proof gallons.

The seals (generally) carry the signature of the Deputy Minister or Commissioner of Revenue. He is the top Civil Servant or government employee in the department. He retains his office regardless of the political changes. He comes under the "Minister" who is an elected member of parliament.

The first seal showing a "Cents" value was the "Red" one of 1889 (?) with the 1/5¢ value. This resulted from a charge of \$2.00/M being imposed for supplying the seals. This charge does not represent a tax. The blue seal of 1890 (?) and subsequent years had the 1¢ value. This resulted from a charge of \$1.00/Hundred.

The charge by the department for the labels were in addition to any excise duty or other taxes. Although indicated on only a few issues of seals, these changes remained in effect until 1962 when they were issued free. A charge for the seals was re-imposed in 1962 but it is not indicated on the seal.

The "Seal" or "Spirit Age Label" as it is sometimes officially called, is a government certification of the year of manufacture. The seal is usually put on at the time of bottling as no aging takes place after bottling. Occasionally the seals carry the date of bottling, sometimes by rubber stamp.

The minimum aging period for spirits - after July 1, 1887, was set at one year. After July 1, 1890, two years became the minimum period and as of January 1, 1973 the Food and Drug Act extended the minimum aging period to three years. All Canadian spirits are, however, aged for a longer period. As soon as produced, the spirits are held in a bonded warehouse (usually at the distillery). The distiller is responsible for the spirits as the excise duty has not been paid. They are held in hand until they are released for use. The distiller was not originally allowed to bottle the spirits. They were sold to a distributor by the barrel, he paid the tax on the barrel, and retailed the liquor - sometimes in the customer's jug. The retail sale later came under provincial jurisdiction. Except for exportation, spirits can be shipped either in bond or duty paid, only to provincial liquor boards or commissions.

All spirits bottled in bond must bear a date strip label although the use of the label is optional for: -

- (1) Gin, rum, Vodka
- (2) cocktails, cordials and liqueurs
- (3) blended spirits containing less than 75% domestic spirit
- (4) spirits for exportation in bond.

The use of the spirit age label on spirit bottled duty paid is not permitted.

As the use of the spirit age label is mandatory for some classes of spirits, optional for others, and not permitted for others, the label certainly is not a revenue stamp. Spirit label, or not, excise duty is collected on all spirits except that which is exported in bond.

A point of interest in connection with these labels is the fact that while a given lot from the still must be aged at least three years, the lot may be "Split up" with a part bottled in three years as Brand A, another part bottled in five years as Brand B, and perhaps another part bottled in six, seven or eight years as Brand C. All would carry the same date on the age strip.

Now, to get to the description of the actual seals. (The seals used by the provinces will be treated later.) After considerable research to establish a definite starting point for the seals, I have only able to come up with an approximation as the first three series (7) of seals did not carry a date. They were probably first used in 1868/69 when Mr. Thomas Northington was Commissioner of Inland Revenue (1868-71). He was succeeded by Mr. Alfred Brunel as Commissioner (1871-1882). The third design must also have been issued while Mr. Brunel was Commissioner as the first stamp having a date as part of the design was issued in 1883. That is when Mr. Edward Miall became Commissioner (1883-1901). The first year given above was 1868, one year after confederation. The early seals that did not have a date as a part of the design were used in conjunction with a "Manufacturers Year Label," also called "Body Labels". They were apparently authorized at the time of the authorization for the seals, December 31st, 1864. The body labels - bearing the date of manufacture were put on the bottle separately. Much like some tax labels or stamps are put on the bottle today. At this late date we have not been able to get even one sample of the manufacturers age label.

The seals are shown below in the order in which we believe they appeared. This is, incidentally in accord with the compilation by the Canadian Revenue Society in their "Publication No. 25."

#### FIRST SERIES - The ends of all stamps are imperforate

Year	Color	Length mm	Width mm	Perfor- ation	Type	Photo Fig.	
1868	Blk.	157	11 1/2	Imp.	I	F - 1	In this group no Commissioner Name or Title appears.
1868	Red	"	"	"	"	"	
1872	Blk.	"	"	14	"	"	
1872	Red	"	"	12	"	"	
1875	Blue	123	10	Imp.	II	F - 2	
1875	Blk.	"	"	"	"	"	
1880	Blue	"	11	"	III	F - 3	
1880	Blk.	"	"	"	"	"	

The above types are as given in the Canadian Revenue Society Publication No. 25 - Section 4. Their listing does not give dates. We believe the above to be correct. If anyone has more specific information, please contact the author.

Bl = Blue      R = Red      U = Unshaded      All stamps have imperf  
Bk = Black      S = Shaded date      Rou = Rouletted      ends - Unwatermarked

Year	Color	Length, Width mm & Perf.	Commissioner of Inland Revenue	Figure
1883	U Bl.	120 x 8½ x 14	E. Miall	4
1883	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 14	"	5
1884	S R	157 x 8½ x 12	"	6
1884	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 14	"	5
1885	S R	157 x 8½ x 14	"	6
1885	S Bl.	157 x 8½ x 14	"	6
1885	S Bl.	156 x 12½ x 14 (1)	"	5
1886	U R	120 x 8½ x 14	"	4
1886	U Bl.	120 x 8½ x 14	"	4
1886	S R	157 x 9 x 14	"	6
1886	S R	157 x 9 x 12 (2)	"	6
1886	S Bl.	157 x 8½ x 12	"	6
1886	S Bl.	157 x 8½ x 14 (3)	"	6
1886	S Bl. Green	200 x 20 x Imp (6)	"	7
1887	U R	120 x 8½ x 12	"	4
1887	U Bl.	120 x 8½ x 14	"	4
1887	S R	157 x 9 x 12	"	6
1887	S Bl.	157 x 8½ x 12 (4)	"	6
1887	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 12 (1)	"	5
1887	U R	157 x 9 x Imp (7)	"	8
1888	U Bl.	120 x 8½ x 14	"	4
1888	S R	120 x 8½ x 14	"	4
1888	S Bl.	157 x 8½ x 14 (3)	"	6
1888	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 14 (1) (8)	"	5
1889	U R	120 x 8½ x 12	"	4
1889	U Bl.	120 x 8½ x 14	"	4
1889	S R	120 x 8½ x 14 (10)	"	4
1889	S R	157 x 9 x 14	"	6
1889	S Bl.	157 x 9 x 14	"	6
1889	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 14	"	5
1889	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 12 (9)	"	5
1890	S Bl.	157 x 8½ x 12	"	6
1890	S Bl.	157 x 12½ x 14 (1)	"	5

(10) marked "cancelled"

(9) part sheet of 10

(8) part sheet of 3 strips

(7) date on white background  
- counterfeit

(6) ten stamps per sheet

(5) full sheet is more than 22 stamps

(4) part sheet of 16

(3) part sheet of 16

(2) part sheet of 15

(1) this stamp has an extra "Frame Line"  
on each long side.