

MAP STAMP “PARCEL POST” COVER – TORONTO SQUARED CIRCLE CANCEL (Rick Friesen)

Illustrated above is a legal sized cover in which 2 TORONTO/CANADA Squared Circle strikes dated 2PM/FE 16/99 cancel a 2¢ Map, a 3¢ Jubilee and 2 x 1¢ Leaf stamps. A TORONTO/CANADA 2-ring orb dated FEB 16/99 also cancels the Map stamp in addition to a 2¢ Leaf and 3¢ Leaf.

It was sent from the Office of the Clerk in Chambers at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, using the stationery of the Master in Chambers of the Supreme Court of Ontario (backflap seal in blue), to the Deputy Clerk of the Crown in London, ONT. What makes this cover interesting is that the 12¢ postage paid the domestic “parcel post” rate as indicated by the handwritten endorsement “Parcel Post, no correspondence” on the front (presumably, it only contained printed matter or copies of legal documents). According to the *Census of Squared Circle Map Stamp Covers* (R. Friesen, BNAPS website, page 418), this is the only documented “parcel post” rate on a Squared Circle Map stamp cover. But did it pay the “parcel post” rate?



From September 1, 1879 to the end of 1898, the domestic parcel post rate (4th class mail) was 12¢ for parcels “exceeding 4 oz. and not exceeding 8 oz.” (*Canada Official Postal Guide 1898*, page xv; see also R.A. Chaplin, “The Establishment of a Canadian Parcel Post”, in *Maple Leaves*, Vol 14, #12, Whole #144, page 320 (1973), and A.L. Steinhart, *The Rates of Postage of Canada 1711-1900*, PHSC, page 364 and 381 (2011)). Based on the handwritten “parcel post” endorsement, we can only assume that the sender expected that the 4th class rate would be applied.

However, on January 1, 1899 the 4th class parcel post rate was discontinued (*Canada Official Postal Guide 1899*, page xvi) and a “parcel” from Toronto to London should have been charged at the new 1st class domestic rate of 2¢ per oz. Therefore, it is unclear whether the Toronto postmaster picked up on the new rate regulation on this early February date and charged this “parcel” at the new 1st class rate or at the old 4th class rate. According to the old 4th class rate, it would be sufficiently paid if weighing between 4 and 8 oz. Unfortunately, we do not know the weight of the parcel and so the application of the correct 1st class rate is speculative.

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The table below outlines the postage that should have been applied according to the 1st class designation.

Weight	1 st class postage	Comment
>4 - 5 oz	10¢	overpaid by 2¢
>5 - 6 oz	12¢	sufficiently paid
>6 - 7 oz	14¢	underpaid by 2¢
>7 - 8 oz	16¢	underpaid by 4¢

Using the new 1st class rate of 2¢ per oz, 12¢ postage would be sufficient for a package weighing between 5 and 6 oz (6 x 2¢ = 12¢). However, if the package was >6 oz to 8 oz, it would have been underpaid by 2¢ to 4¢ according to the new regulations. Similarly, if the package was >4 oz to 5 oz, it would have been overpaid by 2¢. Regardless, it can't strictly be considered a “parcel post” cover since it was mailed in 1899 and this rate designation was no longer recognized.

NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES

Antigonishe, NS: The first reported strike on a ½ Cent QV Leaf, strikes dated -/JY 11/98 on an advertising cover with a block of six stamps (below).



Truro, NS: First reported strikes on the 50 Cent Widow Weed and the 10 Cent Small Queen issues, dated AM/JU 17/97(?) on a periodical mailing receipt (right)

Bobcaygeon, ONT State 2: First reported strike on a 2 Cent Government envelope; strike is dated -/OC 25/02.



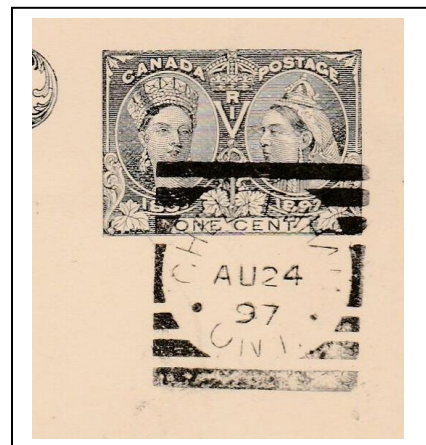
NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES (Continued)

Cheltenham, ONT: First reported strike on a Jubilee postcard; strike is dated -/AU 24/97 (right).

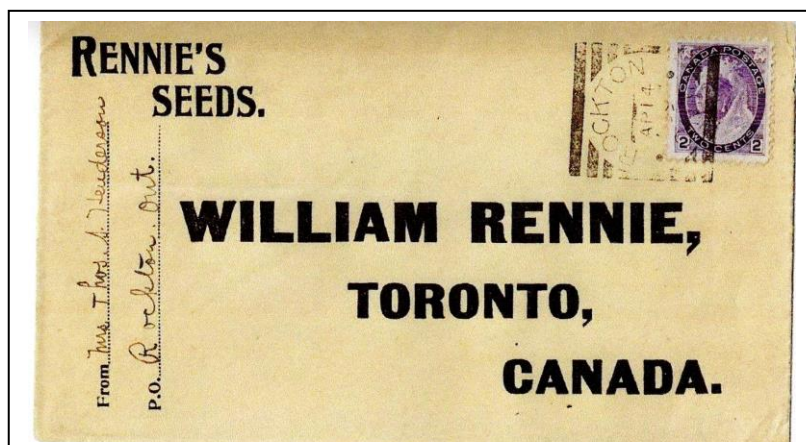
Flesherton, ONT: First reported strike on the ½ Cent Jubilee; receiver/backstamp on drop rate cover franked with pair of ½ Cent Jubilees; strike dated -/JA 17/99.

Goderich, ONT: First reported strike on a 3 Cent Government envelope with two 1 Cent Small Queens to Switzerland: strike dated -/JA 7/95.

Huntsville, ONT: First reported strike on a 2/3 Cent QV Numeral (free strike on piece w/ stamp) dated AM/AU 7/98.



Little Current, ONT: First reported strike on a 2 Cent Small Queen issue; strike on the block of four is dated -/MY 30/95 (below, right).



Rockton, ONT: First reported strike on 2 Cent QV Numeral purple issue; strike on Rennie cover, strike dated -/AP 14/99 (above, left).

Toronto, Canada: First reported strike on a 50 Cent Jubilee issue; strike on piece with 20 and 50 cent Widow Weed issues is dated 5PM/AP 20/96 (left).

Hartney, MAN: First reported strike on a 3 Cent Government envelope: strike dated -/DE 28/9?.

NEW REPORTS AND UPDATES (Continued)

Minnedosa, MAN: The 6th Edition Handbook notes purple strikes (of varying shades) are reported in 1893-94, 1897 and 1898 and black ink strikes in 1895-96. David Robinson sent scans of a cover with a purple shade strike dated -/OC 17/96 and two covers with black ink strikes dated -/SP 6/97 and -/NO 2/97 which extend the time frames noted in the 6th Edition Handbook.

Nanaimo, B.C, State Two: Two separate strikes on the 1 Cent orange/yellow (Scott 105) issue; strikes on stamps are dated AM/AP 7/24 and AM/MR 7/25 (right); not previously reported on this issue.

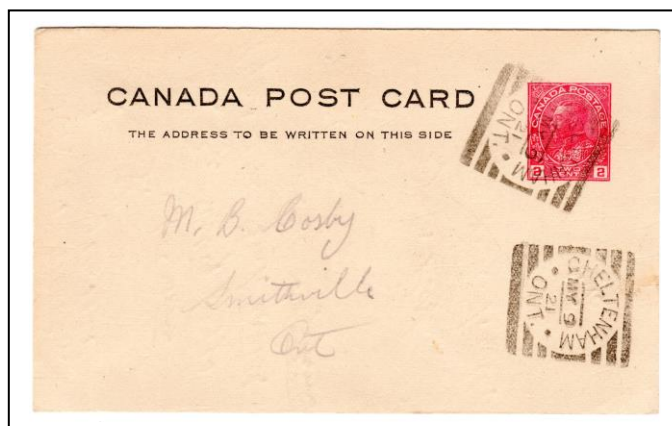
Souris & Winnipeg M.C. No. 1: A second example of a single digit year date; strike on Edward postcard dated E/AP 25/8 (far right).



A CHELTENHAM ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE (Gary Arnold)

In December 1984, I was fortunate to be able to purchase from Art Leggett the collection of Admiral Period squared circle cancels formed by Dr. Robert Chaplin of Toronto. Included in Dr. Chaplin's collection was the postcard to the right, with two strikes of the Cheltenham squared circle hammer dated -/MY 9/21.

The card was sent by a J.A. Fuller, addressed to a M.B. Cosby, Smithville, Ontario. The sender requests pricing for a "setting of Cornish eggs..... let me know by return mail".



Some thirty plus years later, I purchased several items from the estate of Jack Gordon. To my surprise, Jack's collection included a postcard (left) from the same correspondence chain as the Chaplin postcard, posted exactly one month later than the first card.

This second postcard, also sent by J.A. Fuller to Mr. M.B. Cosby, Smithville, Ontario included the following message: "Your letter to hand, you may send me two settings of Cornish eggs to Nowak(?) Station G.T.R."

Note that on the first card, the postal clerk applied both a free strike and a strike on the stamp image. The second card, on the other hand, only received a single free strike.