

BNAPEX 2010



The annual convention of the British North America Philatelic Society
is hosted by the society's Pacific Northwest Regional Group

September 3 to 5, 2010

The Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre
Victoria, BC

150 YEARS OF STAMPS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Welcome from the Convention Chairman

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Regional Group and our parent organization of BNAPS I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all our member friends and guests to BNAPEX 2010 in beautiful Victoria. The last time this province hosted a convention was BNAPEX 1999 in Vernon, 11 years ago, so it was high time to bring our annual meeting and show back to British Columbia. Our convention hotel is the totally renovated historic Empress, once one of the CP Chateau-style hotels, now part of the Fairmont group, but just as grand as ever.

Victoria, the capital of BC, located on the south end of Vancouver Island, is a holiday destination in its own right, where you will find a host of activities for collectors and companions alike. Your convention committee has incorporated a number of interesting tours into the convention schedule, from a get-acquainted-with-Victoria tour to a visit to the world-renowned Butchart Gardens to the truly once-in-a-lifetime experience of a whale-watching excursion.

We have looked back into history and realized that the first stamp of the colonies of British Columbia and “Vancouver’s Island”—the two-pence-halfpenny dull rose with the portrait of a young Queen Victoria—was issued exactly 150 years ago, which gives this convention its decidedly historical theme.

In the spirit of good fellowship and philately, we welcome you to sample our West Coast hospitality here in Victoria over the next few days.

On behalf of our convention committee,

Peter Jacobi
Chairman



THE CITY OF VICTORIA
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Greetings from the Mayor of Victoria Dean Fortin

On behalf of the City of Victoria, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 Annual Convention for the British North America Philatelic Society.

I understand that you have a busy convention ahead of you, including a variety of exhibits, study groups and even displays by BNA dealers from across Canada. Conventions like this are always an outstanding opportunity to learn from and share with other collectors and specialists from far and wide.

I wish you the best of luck in your deliberation. I am confident that your convention will be a success.

Victoria is a truly remarkable City – surrounded by stunning natural landscapes, beautiful heritage architecture, and wonderful people. I encourage you to take some time to explore the City and meet the people that make Victoria such a great place to live, work and play.

Enjoy your stay.

Sincerely,
Dean Fortin
MAYOR



Fairmont Empress Hotel, 721 Government St, Victoria
Victoria Convention Centre, 720 Douglas St, Victoria

Friday, September 3, 2010 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday, September 4, 2010 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, September 5, 2010 10 am to 3 pm

(non-registered visitors will be charged a one-time \$5 entry fee)

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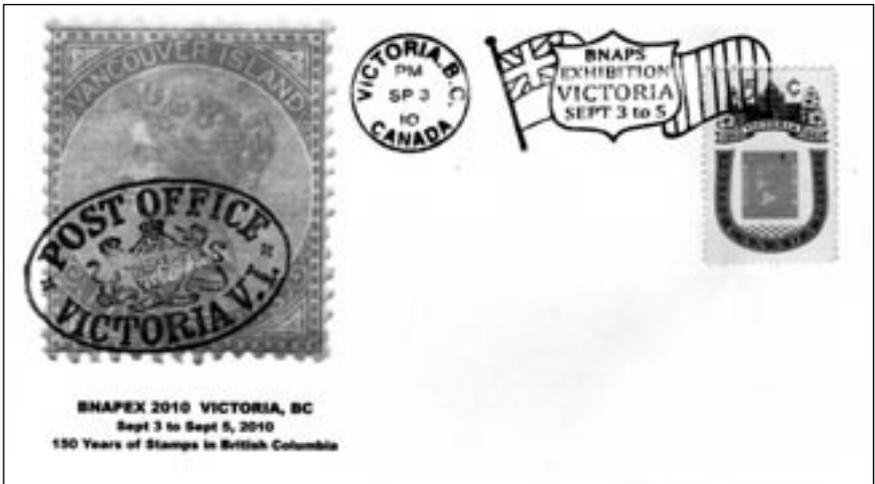
**The 2010 annual convention of the British North
America Philatelic Society is hosted by the society's
Pacific Northwest Regional Group**

**BNAPEX 2010
Exhibition Committee**

Chair Peter Jacobi
Vice-Chair John Burnett
Exhibits Tracy Cooper
Treasurer John Keenlyside
Dealers Tom Watkins
Program Andrew Scott
Set Up Neil Donen
Palmares Gray Scrimgeour
At Large Rob McGuinness
At Large Mike Sagar

Special thanks:

Beverly Fox and Andrew Blanchard
of Weeda Stamps and Malcolm Leitch for
assistance with the show covers (see below)



One of the four different show covers created for BNAPEX 2010.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FIRST STAMP

2010 Marks the 150th Anniversary of a Philatelic Classic

The story of the region's first postage stamp is as complex and turbulent as the early colonial history of BC itself. The two-pence-halfpenny stamp is most unusual: it is inscribed with the names of two separate British colonies (Vancouver's Island and British Columbia) and was valid for postage in either colony. When Vancouver Island and BC merged, in 1866, the stamp was also used in the united colony. Due to the general shortage of stamps, it bore five different values over the course of its career, in both decimal and sterling currency, though it was never overprinted.

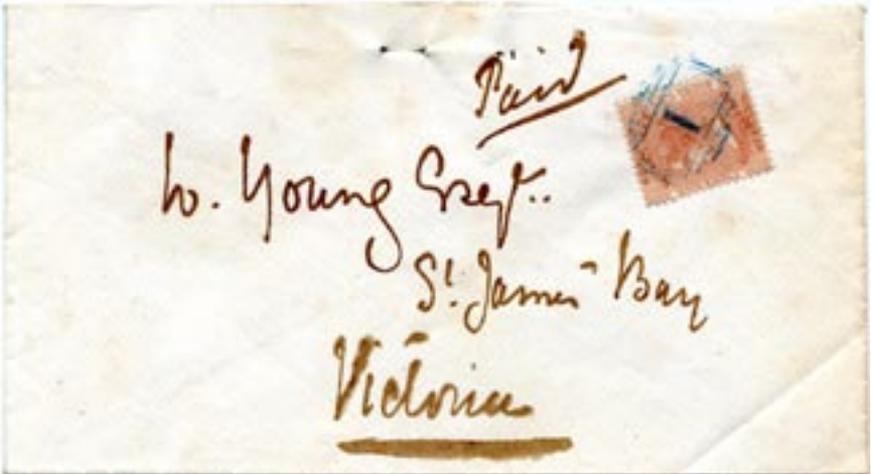


Victoria's #35 numeral grid marking is not recorded on BC's 2½-pence stamp (at least, not as a dispatch cancellation). This example carries a fine strike of the New Westminster #1 grid, which is known on this stamp in red and blue ink, as well as in black.

A state of great postal confusion affected Britain's colonies in northwest America, especially after the discovery of gold on the Fraser River in 1858. The impoverished government, lacking the resources to establish a regular postal service, relied on private express companies to carry the bulk of the mail, while exacting a small postal fee on each letter. Before the arrival of postage stamps, envelopes were franked with various hand cancels to indicate that the fee had been paid in cash. This system lacked accountability, however, and resulted in several instances of fraud.

A C Anderson, Vancouver Islands's first postmaster-general, writing to Governor James Douglas in April 1859, suggested that "some measure for the providing of adhesive Colonial postage stamps should be authorized." In June of that year, Douglas requested "a thousand sheets of stamps" from Britain's colonial secretary. "To lessen expense," he wrote, "we propose to have only one description of stamp, to the value of Two-Pence-halfpenny, and of such design as may be deemed most fit by those competent to judge. A rough sketch is forwarded herewith." Douglas, who presumed that each sheet would contain 240 stamps, also asked for "a supply of about three dozen obliterating dies, with a proportion of Ink and boxes."

The "rough sketch" for the stamp, sadly, seems to have disappeared. It may have been prepared by Captain William Gosset, Anderson's successor as postmaster-general. Gosset and Douglas never got along, unfortunately, and the governor considered that Gosset's proposals for the improvement of the postal service were impractical and far too expensive for the youthful colony. Gosset returned to England in 1862.



The two-pence-halfpenny stamp paying the letter rate from New Westminster to Victoria. William A G Young served as colonial secretary for both BC and Vancouver Island.

The stamp was printed by London's Thomas de la Rue & Co and shipped out to Victoria on December 29, 1859, likely arriving the following March. The total number of sheets prepared was 981 (or 235,440 stamps), at a cost to the British Columbia treasury of £104 (£90 for the die and plates, and £14 for paper and printing). The original die for the stamp was engraved by Jean Ferdinand Joubert, De la Rue's chief engraver. Sheets were laid out in four panes of 60 stamps each and typographed in a dull rose colour on thin, unwatermarked, hard-woven paper. They were then comb-perforated 14 by the steam "triple-cutter" machines at London's Somerset House. Every sixth stamp has a wide or

“wing” margin. All the stamps were issued between 1860 and 1867. The earliest recorded use is April 10, 1860, on a pen-cancelled cover from Victoria to New York, with a US 10-cent stamp postmarked at San Francisco on April 30.

The region’s first stamp was valid for use, at least initially, in either colony, and sold for five cents on Vancouver Island and two-pence-halfpenny in BC. It paid the postal fee required on all mail from the colonies, no matter where destined. Used alone, the stamp sufficed to send a half-ounce letter between Victoria and New Westminster, or within Vancouver Island. On June 20, 1864, a new postal ordinance went into effect in the colony of BC and, as a result, the stamp was provisionally increased in value to three pence—the new rate per half ounce for letter mail from New Westminster to Vancouver Island. It now had a different value in each colony. In October 1864 Vancouver Island decided not to use the stamp any longer and insisted on prepayment of postage in cash instead. BC, which had paid for the stamp’s original production, demanded that all of Victoria’s remainders be transferred to its New Westminster treasury and, in November 1864, 102,050 stamps were handed over.

In May 1865, Warner Spalding, BC’s postmaster-general, informed Henry Wootton, postmaster at Victoria, that mail for the BC Interior would now have to be fully prepaid. Spalding sent Wootton 28 sheets of the two-pence-halfpenny stamps, and Wootton sold them in pairs, at 15 cents (7.5 cents each), to cover BC’s six-pence letter rate to points beyond New Westminster. This practise ceased in October 1865, after Vancouver Island’s new five- and ten-cent stamps arrived. On November 1, 1865, BC received its own new, three-penny stamp, and the trusty old tuppence-halfpenny was withdrawn for sale and retired.

But not for long. One final twist remains in the complicated story of this venerable issue. In November 1866 the two colonies were united, to become British Columbia, and the following March a new postal ordinance was passed. A revised postage rate of 12.5 cents was fixed for letters (of half an ounce or less) destined for points between New Westminster and the Cariboo. On April 11, 1867, the remaining 8,964 two-pence-halfpenny stamps were reinstated for sale, mostly in pairs, at 6.25 cents each, to satisfy the new 12.5-cent rate. The issue sold out in July 1867.

BC’s first stamp can also be found (at a price!) in imperforate form, though these varieties were never sent out to the colony. A few copies were probably cut from the first sheets and submitted to the postal authorities for approval before the main run was printed. Some are overprinted “specimen.” In 1862 one or more imperforate sheets were reprinted for display at the London International Exhibition, at the special request of the Duke of Newcastle, the colonial secretary. The stamps sent out from Victoria by Governor James Douglas apparently did not arrive in time. The reprints, on very white paper, are in a bright orange-rose shade. — *Andrew Scott*

BNAPEX 2010 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 2, 2010

9:00 am	Board of Directors meeting (Kensington Room)
Noon – 10:00 pm	Exhibit & Bourse set-up (Salons A & B)
2:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Registration
5:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Suite open (Blanshard Suite)

Friday, September 3, 2010

8:00 am – 9:45 am	Exhibit & Bourse set-up (Salons A & B)
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Registration
9:00 am	City Tour leaves from front of hotel (includes visit to Craigdarroch Castle)
9:45 am	Official opening ceremonies
10:00 am	Exhibits & Bourse open (Salons A & B)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	British Columbia Postal History Study Group meeting (Kensington Room)
11:00 am – noon	BNA Forgeries Study Group inaugural meeting (Kensington Room)
Noon	Regional group chairmen/representatives' meeting (location TBA)
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Fancy Cancels & Miscellaneous Markings Study Group meeting (Kensington Room)
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Newfoundland Study Group meeting (Kensington Room)
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Admiral Study Group meeting (Kensington Room)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Library & Archives Canada/Philatelic Collections meeting (Kensington Room)
5:00 pm	Exhibits & Bourse close
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Suite open (Blanshard Suite)

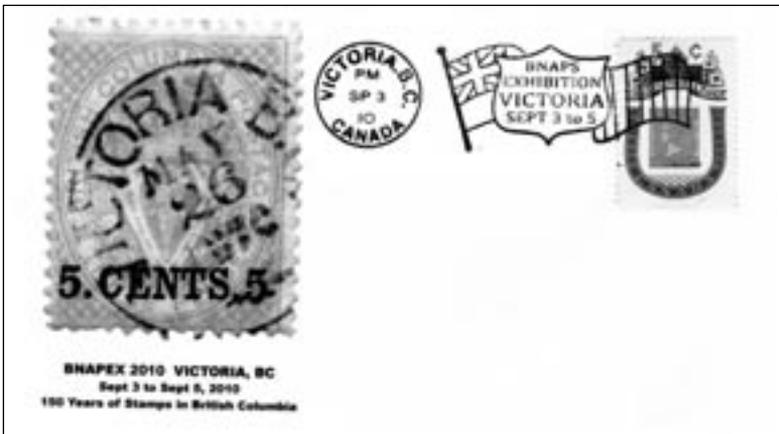
Saturday, September 4, 2010

7:30 am – 9:30 am	Order of the Beaver Breakfast (location TBA)
9:00 am	Butchart Gardens Tour leaves from front of hotel
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Dead Letter Office Study Group Meeting (Kensington Room)
10:00 am	Exhibits & Bourse open (Salons A & B)
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Postal Stationery Study Group (St James Room)
11:00 am – noon	First Day Covers Study Group meeting (Kensington Room)
Noon – 1:00 pm	Railway Post Offices Study Group meeting (St James Room)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Elizabeth II Study Group (Kensington Room)
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Air Mail Study Group: <i>First Air Mail to the Arctic, 1929</i> , by Denny May (Kensington Room, joint meeting with the Canadian Airmail Society)
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	George VI Study Group (Kensington Room)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Large & Small Queens Study Group meeting (St James Room)
5:00 pm	Exhibits & Bourse close
6:00 pm	Dinner at the Union Club, a short walk from the hotel Guest Speaker: Danda Humphreys on <i>Victoria: A Lady with a Past</i>
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Suite open (Blanshard Suite)

Sunday, September 5, 2010

8:00 am – 9:45 am	BNAPS Annual General Meeting (Palm Court/Crystal Ballroom)
9:30 am	Whale-watching Tour leaves from the pier
10:00 am	Exhibits & Bourse open (Salons A & B)
10:00 am – 11:30 am	Judges' Critique (location TBA)
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Canada Post Ephemeral/Collateral Material Study Group inaugural meeting (Kensington Room)
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	WWII Study Group meeting (St James Room)
3:00 pm	Exhibits & Bourse close
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Exhibits take-down
7:00 pm	Past Presidents' Reception (Palm Court/Crystal Ballroom)
7:30 pm	Awards Banquet (Palm Court/Crystal Ballroom)
10:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Suite open (Blanshard Suite)



Another BNAPEX show cover for 2010.

BNAPEX 2010 PARTICIPATING DEALERS

(see floor plan for table number locations)

- 1** Tom Watkins, Victoria, BC, & Bill Longley, Waterdown, ON
tomwatkins@shaw.ca www.longleyauctions.com
- 2** Roy's Stamps (Roy Houtby), St. Catharines, ON
roystamp@cogeco.ca
- 3** Royal William Stamps Ltd (Robert Graham), Edmonton, AB
royalwil@compusmart.ab.ca
- 4** Rudyk Philatelics (Ihor Rudyk), Calgary, AB
- 5** The Stamp Collection Connection (Jim Miller), Sherwood Park, AB
jmson@telus.net 780-999-8299
- 6** BNAPS Book Department (Ian Kimmerly), Ottawa, ON
www.iankimmerly.com
- 7** Greenwood Stamp Company (R.F. "Hank" Narbonne)
McDonalds Corners, ON 1-800-247-5619
- 8** D & L Kaye Enterprises (Don Kaye), Lake Country BC
dlk@silk.net
- 9** Bartlett Collectibles (Bill Bartlett), Victoria, BC
- 10** MJR Postcards & Covers (John Bucci), Edmonton, AB
www.mjrpostcardsandcovers.ca
- 11** Quality Stamps & Covers Inc (John Attrell), Edmonton, AB
www.quality-covers.com
- 12** Coates & Coates Philatelists (Bill Coates), Thorold, ON
www.canstamp.com
- 12a** Deveney Collectibles (David Deveney), Penticton, BC
wesellit@shaw.ca
- 13** Firmin Wyndels, Victoria, BC
- 14** Jim Miller Ltd. (Jim & Mary Miller), Nanaimo, BC
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John S. Keenlyside

*John S. Keenlyside
& Company Ltd.*

Investment Counsel

john@keenlyside.ca

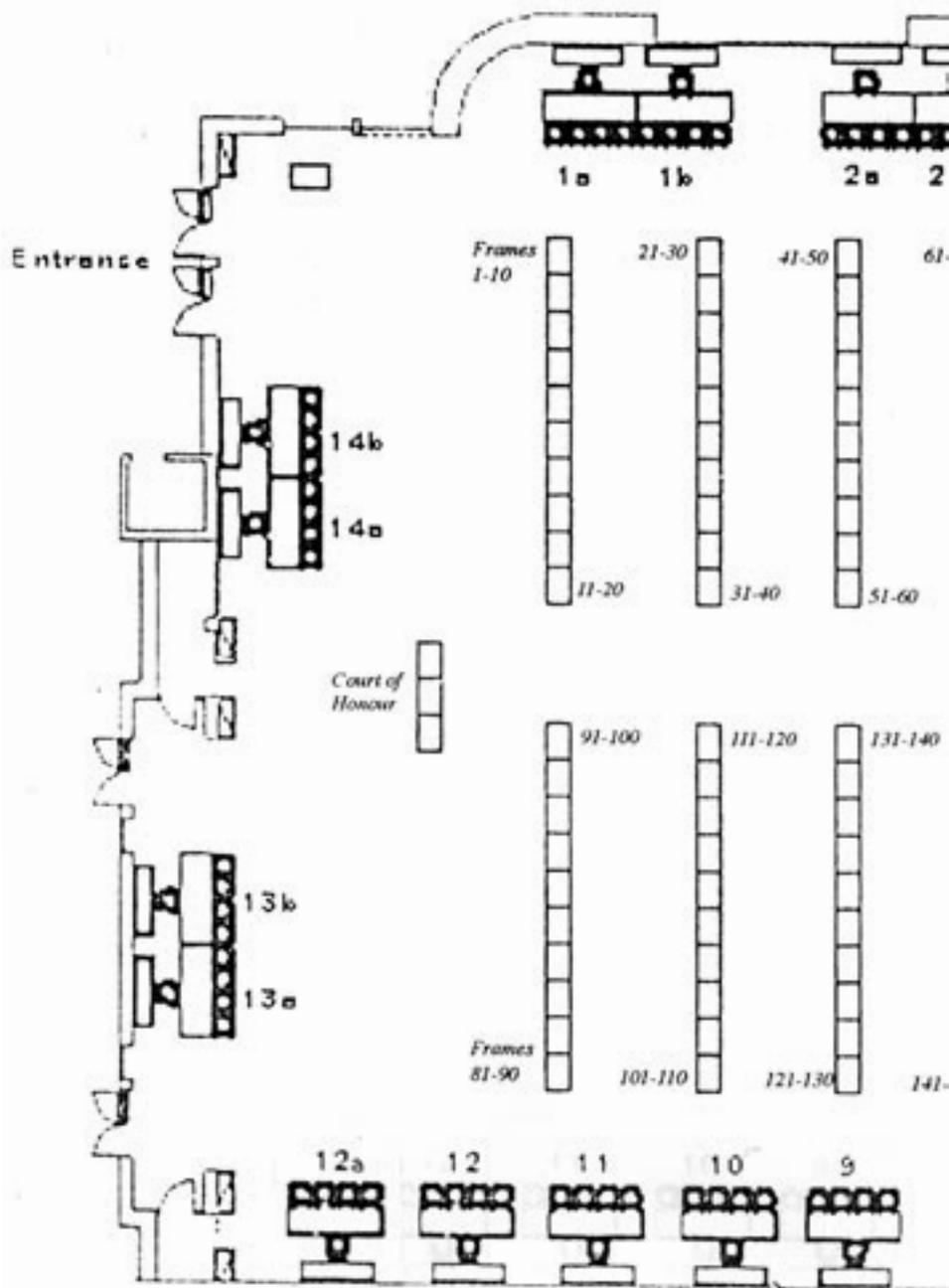
622-470 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1V5

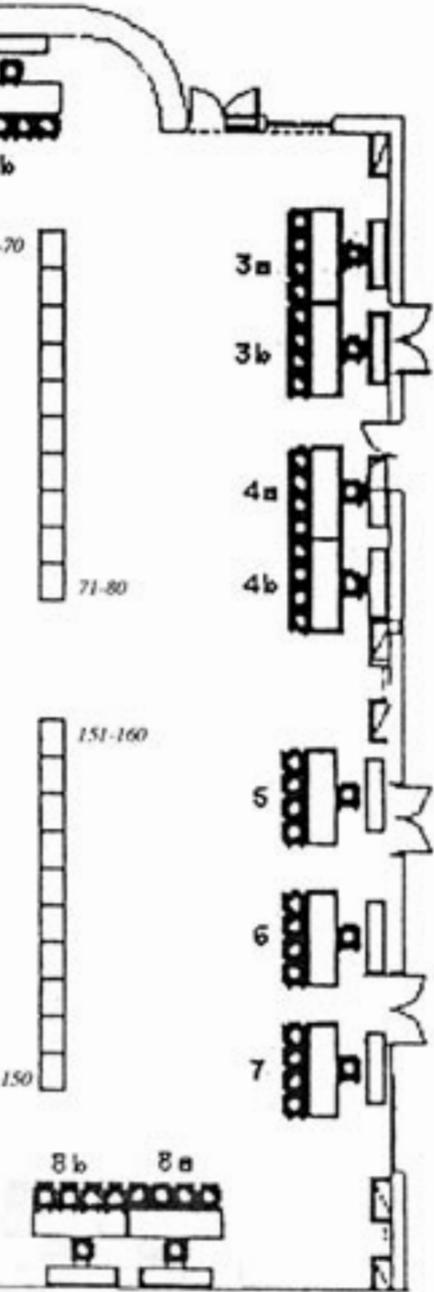
Tel: 604-688-2378
Fax: 604-688-6455



The Edmonton Stamp Club sends best wishes to the organizers and all participants in BNAPEX 2010. We offer best wishes for lots of philatelic enjoyment in September in Victoria.

We invite all philatelists to join us for the Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show, March 25-26-27, 2011, and we especially wish to invite you to be part of *Royal*2012*Royale*, at the Fantasyland Hotel Conference Centre, West Edmonton Mall. Our club will celebrate its centenary that year—come join us! For information on developments, follow www.edmontonstampclub.com.





**BNAPEX 2010
FLOOR PLAN
Exhibit Layout &
Dealer Location**

**SALONS A & B
(Level Two)**

**VICTORIA
CONFERENCE
CENTRE**

**720 Douglas St
next door to the
Fairmont
Empress Hotel**

BNAPEX 2010 LIST OF EXHIBITS

Court of Honour

Jack Wallace, *The Two-Pence-Halfpenny, BC's First Stamp* (one frame)

Don Thompson, *The Stories of the Riel Uprising at Fort Garry in the Red River Settlement, 1869-71, and the Northwest Rebellion in Saskatchewan, March-August, 1885* (five frames)

Competitive Exhibits

Frames 1-10 Hugh Westgate, *The 1898 Imperial Penny Postage Issue*
The evolution of the Imperial penny postage rate and the 1898 Canadian map stamp, from concept to centenary.

Frames 11-18 Malcolm Montgomery, *Transatlantic BNA Mails, 1759-1851*
The postal history of the exchange of mails between the United Kingdom and British North America, 1759-1851.

Frame 19 Earl Covert, *RCMP—The Postcard Factory® Cards*
RCMP viewcard variations produced by The Postcard Factory® and the government security printer, 2004-09.

Frame 20 Peter Newroth, *Decimal Postage Stamps of New Brunswick*
Proofs, stamps and usages of New Brunswick's decimal stamp issue of 1860.

Frames 21-26 David McLaughlin, *The Maple Leaf Issue of 1897-98*
The Maple Leaf issue and its usages, including proofs, varieties, re-entries, imprints, cancellations and covers illustrating the postage rates in effect 1897-98.

Frames 27-30 Peter Motson, *E R Krippner Covers, 1895-1910*
The activities of philatelic entrepreneur Emil Reichardt Krippner traced by covers through a 15-year period of his life in Canada.

Frames 31-38 Bob Forster, *British Columbia and Vancouver Island, 1858-71*
Postal franks, stamps and covers of colonial BC and Vancouver Island from the 1858 gold rush to Confederation with Canada in 1871.

Frames 39-40 Nicholas Escott, *WWII Prisoner of War Camps, Lake Superior*
Mail sent to and from the three Prisoner of War camps on Lake Superior: Angler, Neys and Red Rock.

Frames 41-50 Jack Forbes, *Blocks of Canada's Small Queens Era*
The printings of the stamps of Canada's Small Queens era,

explored chronologically in blocks, and based on colours, shades, perforations and cancellations.

- Frames 51-56** Gary Steele, *The 1937-38 Canadian Definitive Issue*
Usages, rates and routes of the 1937-38 definitive issue, including single stamp usages, surface mail, airmail, shortpaid mail, and service suspended and DLO mail, 1937-42.
- Frames 57-60** Hal Kellett, *Canada's Participation in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902* Canada's efforts in the Boer War, as seen through covers sent to and from South Africa and within Canada.
- Frames 61-66** Neil Donen, *The 1935 3-cent Canadian Silver Jubilee Issue*
Production (proofs and varieties) and usage (postage rates, cancellations, postal administration, transportation and perfins) of the 3-cent Silver Jubilee stamp, 1935-36.
- Frames 67-70** Earl Covert, *Canadian Liquor Seals*
Seals used on federal, provincial and territorial distilled spirit and beer products from Ontario and Newfoundland.
- Frames 71-75** Alex Price, *Early Canadian Pacific Railway Hotels*
Covers and cards from early CPR hotels, chalets, chateaux, houses and bungalows.
- Frames 76-80** Arlene Sullivan, *New Westminster Postal History, 1898-1950s*
The postal history and marcophily of New Westminster (the Lower Mainland's largest postal district) from the Great Fire of 1898 to the 1950s.
- Frames 81-88** Larry Margetish, *Canada's Caricature and Landscape Issues*
A study of the stamps, markings and usages of the Caricature and Landscape definitives, 1972-79.
- Frame 89** Jeffrey Arndt, *The Canadian 5-cent Blue Wilding Queen*
An examination of the 5-cent Wilding, including plate inscriptions, coils, booklets, precancels, perfins, tagging, cellopaqs, varieties, usages and official overprints.
- Frame 90** William G Robinson, *Canadian Military Postal Presence in Siberia, 1918-20* Markings, postal usages and censorship of Canadian military postal involvement in Siberia.
- Frames 91-100** Cecil Coutts, *Blackout Postal Markings of Canada*
1942-45 blackout postal markings from the east and west coasts of Canada.
- Frames 101-09** Richard Fleet, *Canada's Second Bill Stamp Issue*
The 1865 bill stamps and their usage on financial instruments and as trade samples.

- Frame 110** Derek Smith, *Transatlantic Mail Rate Handstamps, 1840-59*
Handstamps used in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island indicating postage due and used on transatlantic mail from the UK to inland destinations beyond Halifax.
- Frames 111-15** William G Robinson, *Canadian Participation in the Anglo-Boer War* Postal history of the Canadian contingents serving in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902, and the South African Constabulary, 1901-06.
- Frames 116-18** Peter McCarthy, *Mail by Rail in Southwestern Ontario*
Railway post offices of southwestern Ontario that operated over lines absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway, 1853-88.
- Frames 119-20** Jack Wallace, *British Columbia's Numeral Cancellations*
British Columbia numeral cancellations on colonial and Canadian stamps and covers.
- Frames 121-30** Peter Jacobi, *Gems of the Kootenays*
The early postal history of the Kootenay region of British Columbia.
- Frames 131-38** Brian Stalker, *Coastal Labrador Mail Steamer Services*
Coastal Labrador and Strait of Belle Isle mail steamer routes and postmarks 1880-1968, when post office employees served as mail officers.
- Frames 139-40** Nicholas Escott, *Early Postal History of Northwest Ontario*
Development of mail services in the Algoma District, from the fur-trade era through the completion of the CPR.
- Frames 141-50** W E Topping, *British Columbia Ship Way Mail*
Examples of almost all legitimate British Columbia way-mail markings, presented chronologically and grouped by company.
- Frames 151-56** Ian Mowat, *Yukon Revenue Stamps, 1898-1962*
Yukon's mining court and territorial revenue stamps, including proofs, essays and usage on documents.
- Frames 157-60** Steven Luciuk, *Remembering the Korean War, 1950-55*
Postal markings used by Canadian forces post offices during the Korean War and post-armistice period.

BNAPS wishes to thank Gary J Lyon and Eastern Auctions for assistance with funding BNAPEX exhibits. Please see the Eastern Auctions display among the exhibit frames.

BNAPEX 2010 EXHIBIT AWARDS

Medal Levels: Five levels of BNAPS medals are awarded—Gold, Vermeil, Silver, Silver-Bronze and Bronze—as judged according to BNAPS standards.

Horace Harrison Grand Award: Given to the exhibit judged “best in the show.”

Allan Steinhart Reserve Grand Award: Given to the exhibit judged “second best in the show.”

Daniel Meyerson Award: Given to an exhibit of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland judged to be the most complete presentation in the finest quality for the area exhibited.

Sam Nickle Award: Given to the best military exhibit.

Ed and Mickey Richardson Award: Provided by the BNAPS Prairie Beaver Regional Group and given to the exhibit that represents the highest level of achievement in one or more of the areas of research, originality, innovation and presentation.

Wilmer Rockett Award: Given to the best revenue exhibit.

Order of the Beaver Novice Award: Given to the best exhibit by a person who has not shown previously at a BNAPS exhibition.

Elizabethan Award: Provided by the BNAPS Elizabethan Study Group and given to the best exhibit dealing with the Queen Elizabeth II era.

McNaught Award: Given to the best single-frame exhibit.

BNAPEX 2010 JUDGES

John Keenlyside, FRPSC, FRPSL (chief judge)

A Vancouver native and resident, John has been a director of BNAPS and the RPSC as well as other historical and library boards. He collects early B.C. postal history, documents and ephemera and enjoys relating the material to our social and cultural history. He continues to work with his two sons in the investment counselling business he founded in 1973.

Robert McGuinness

Rob has been a stamp collector since 1953. His current interests include Canadian barrel cancels of the Elizabethan era, and Canadian and Newfoundland postage meters. His first judging experience was at VICTOPICAL back in 1986; since then, he has judged many philatelic exhibitions. Rob is a member of several philatelic societies, including BNAPS, RPSC, RPSL, APS and ATA.

Brian Plain

Brian served a number of years at the apprentice and regional levels before becoming a national-level judge, and has judged at VANPEX, PIPEX and the Edmonton Spring National show. He has collected for more than 50 years. His current specialities include the Dead Letter Office in Canada, international mails sent via the Trans-Siberian Railway and military mail from Canada's involvement in WWI.

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SOME EARLY COVERS FROM VICTORIA



On July 20, 1871, BC joined the Dominion of Canada as the sixth province in Confederation. As the first Canadian stamps did not arrive in the province until later in August, BC's colonial stamps continued in use during this interim period, as this August 10, 1871, cover illustrates.



On August 14, 1871, Gilbert Griffin, post office inspector for territory west of Hamilton, visited BC to take over the former colony's postal service on behalf of Canada. With him he brought a small supply of Dominion stamps. This cover, with Victoria's #35 grid and a money order cancel dated September 13, 1871, travelled via Olympia, as did the envelope above.



Large Queen covers from British Columbia are exceedingly scarce. This one, dated July 27, 1872, is the only reported franking of its type and pays the rate to England. The cover arrived on August 21, 1872.

Season's Greeting

Gary W. Steele gwsteele57@gmail.com
 Wanted to Purchase and items For Sale:
 LARGE & Small Queen collections, any size
 Cover and stamp collections
 Specifically looking for: 1937-1938 Precancel Plate Blocks
 including blocks of 20 of the Warning strips #231-233
 Dead Letter Office Material

Dealing in Covers, Plate Blocks, Precancels, Complete Booklets

Gary W Steele

Dealing in Covers, Plate Blocks, Precancels, Complete Booklets

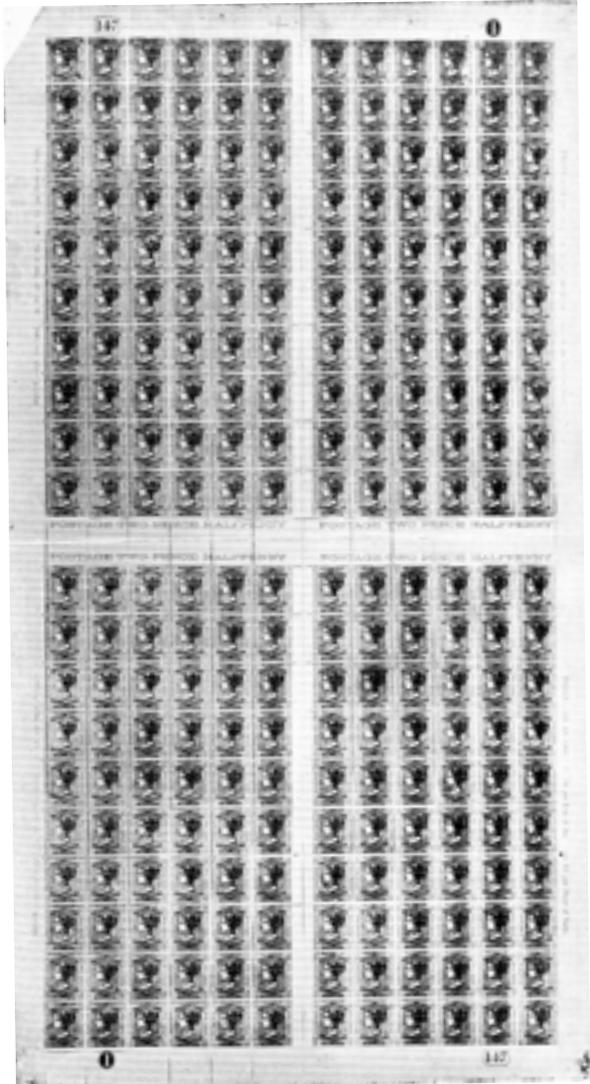
gwsteele57@gmail.com

THE STORY OF THE MAYFAIR FIND

The Fate of the Only Surviving Sheet of BC's First Stamp

In the early 1860s an unidentified resident of Mayfair Street, in London, England, decided to collect or invest in stamps. This person, perhaps unable to obtain certain issues from the Crown agents, instead sent £5 directly to the postmasters-general of various British colonies (and also to the postal authorities of several other states) and ordered whatever was available. After the stamps arrived, the collector's interest seems to have waned, and the mint sheets and large blocks were secreted away in a desk, many of them still in their original envelopes.

More than 50 years later the hoard was discovered. According to one story, the desk's hidden drawer popped open in 1918 when a bomb was dropped in the vicinity during a Zeppelin raid. In 1925 the Mayfair find was auctioned in London by H R Harmer. It was broken into 84 lots and included complete or near-complete sheets of early stamps from Ceylon, Thurn and Taxis, Grenada, the Ionian Islands, Natal, Queensland, Western Australia, and British Columbia and



The famous full sheet of 240 stamps.

Vancouver Island. Some of the sheets had creases as a result of being folded but were mostly in remarkable condition.

Six of Harmer's Mayfair lots were from the BC and Vancouver Island colonies. One of them, lot four, consisted of a sheet of 240 of the two-pence-halfpenny stamps (BC #2)—the only complete sheet to ever come on the market. It was made up of four panes of 60 and showed full margins with inscriptions, and plate and control numbers. Between the upper and lower

panes was a horizontal gutter with the words "POSTAGE TWO PENCE HALFPENNY" printed four times. A few stamps were slightly damaged, but Harmer nevertheless described the sheet as "a brilliant and unique piece." Alfred Lichtenstein bought the lot through an agent for £750 (about \$3,750 at the time), and it remained in his collection for years.

H R Harmer was again the auctioneer when the sheet was resold in New York on April 10, 1956. Estimated at \$6,000, lot 701 was knocked down for \$3,300 to Kasimir Bileski of Winnipeg and Stuart Johnstone of Vancouver. Johnstone kept the four corner blocks of four (with the plate and control numbers), and Bileski broke up and sold the rest of the sheet.

He offered the block of 48 stamps from the centre of the sheet, divided by the horizontal gutter (and the only block of its kind in the world), to BC collector Jim Pike for \$2,000. Pike declined to purchase it. On April 19, 1972, Stuart Johnstone's collection came on the market and was auctioned by J N Sissons of Toronto.

Other large blocks of two-pence-halfpenny stamps from the Mayfair find continue to grace fine BC colonial collections. Lot five from the 1925 Harmer sale, for instance, consisted of a complete lower-right-hand pane of 60 with full margins and the horizontal "centre" gutter at top. It was acquired by Sir Hildebrand Harmsworth. The bottom two rows, complete with control number, found their way into the Gerald Wellburn collection, and are illustrated on page 52 of *The Stamps & Postal History of Vancouver Island & British Columbia*, edited by Daniel Eaton and Jack Wallace. It sold for \$6,500 at the 1988 Eaton & Sons auction of the Wellburn collection. A block of six with gutter inscription (shown on page 54) also came from this lot. Wellburn owned another prize from the Mayfair find—18 stamps from the left pane with a full horizontal gutter (page 53); this choice block, which apparently came from lot six of the 1925 Harmer sale, realized \$6,000 at the 1988 auction. — *Jack Wallace & Andrew Scott*



DAY OF SALE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1925
AT 3 O'CLOCK



CATALOGUE

— of —

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10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.; and on Saturday, November 7th, between 10.30
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PLACES OF INTEREST IN VICTORIA

An abundance of sightseeing activities are available in and around the city of Victoria. The list below is a sampling of the more popular things to see and do. For more information visit:

www.tourismvictoria.com

Parliament Buildings, adjacent to the Empress (tours available).

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1040 Moss St.

Maritime Museum of British Columbia, 28 Bastion Square

Royal British Columbia Museum, 675 Belleville St.

Royal London Wax Museum, 470 Belleville St.

Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum, 715 Bay St.

One Moon Gallery, First Nation art, 1192 Kosapsum Crescent, Esquimalt.

Craigdarroch Castle, former Robert Dunsmuir home, 1050 Joan Cres.

Miniature World, 649 Humboldt St.

Emily Carr House (a must see for art fans), 207 Government St.

National Geographic IMAX Theatre, 675 Belleville St.

Pacific Undersea Gardens, 490 Belleville St.

Victoria Bug Zoo, 631 Courtney St.

Point Ellice House (fine Victoriana collection), 2616 Pleasant St.

Butchart Gardens, Brentwood Bay (a BNAPEX tour is planned).

Whale watching (a BNAPEX tour is planned).

CFB Esquimalt Naval & Military Museum.

Victoria Harbour ferry tours.

Victoria Butterfly Gardens, 5 minutes from Butchart Gardens.

Hatley Park National Historic Site, former home of James Dunsmuir.

Victoria's Chinatown, a few blocks from the Empress Hotel.

Glendale Gardens, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific.

Victoria Classic Boat Festival, held Sept. 4-6.

Fisherman's Wharf (get there via the harbour ferries).

Many of the above attractions are located in the inner city and can be reached quite easily on foot. City bus transport or taxis are available for some of the more distant locations. The harbour ferries leave virtually in front of the Empress Hotel and are relatively inexpensive.

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