

DECEMBER 1973 Volume 30, Number 11 (whole number 329)



# BNA TOPICS

Official Journal of The British North America Philatelic Society

# 1974

*By the time this is read it will probably be too late to wish you a Merry Christmas, so let us hope that you had one; and we now go on to wish you a Happy New Year.*

*1974! This will undoubtedly be a year to remember for many reasons. At the beginning of most years it is usually possible to make some kind of forecast or "guesstimate" of what the year might bring economically and philatelically. Anybody that can do that for 1974 must have a better crystal ball than ours, so let us take the positive approach and say that we hope for a good year philatelically for all our collector and dealer friends.*

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# BNA TOPICS



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Whole Number 329

DECEMBER, 1973

Vol. 30, No. 11

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Varieties of the  
1967-73  
Definitives

## The 8c Slate

BY KENNETH W. PUGH

In an earlier article I stated that the 'dotted line' variety found just above the design on the 8c slate, originated from post offices in the Dauphin, Manitoba area. Since that time I have received a large number of copies from post offices all over Manitoba and one example from Hamilton, Ontario. It is without a doubt a major variety.

In my recent handbook, *Varieties of the Queen Elizabeth Era—Part II—Major Varieties*, I stated that no mint copies had been reported at that time (November 1973). Since that date I have learned that a Winnipeg collector, Mr. D. Sibbett managed to locate a number of mint sheets containing this variety. The dotted line is situated right across the pane and may be found in either the third or fourth horizontal rows. Most of Mr. Sibbett's find was sold to a Winnipeg dealer, Mr. Frank Whitebread.

I have not yet learned how this variety could have been caused, and am open to your suggestions.

The variety illustrated may cause some controversy. Most of you know of the extended frame line on the 6c orange values, perf 12.4 x 12. This extension appears as a small protrusion of the bottom frame line about .25 to 1.0 mm past the vertical right frame line.

The most favored theory as to the cause of this extension is that it is a retouch to the bottom frame line. Is it?

Recently Dr. R. E. Florida showed me the following 8c slate variety. If you look closely at the right frame line you can see that the line is broken by numerous horizontal extensions. The appearance of a large horizontal extension at the right corner, identical to those found on the 6c orange, prompted me to associate the cause of these extensions as retouching as well.

I put the item aside and didn't think of it until I visited the local post office. Upon examining a mint 8c slate pane I quickly came across some more 'retouching' examples.

It is obvious that if the extension was caused by retouching it would appear in the same position on every sheet. Such was not the case!

The extensions, lower right corner included, were not constant. This proves that retouching was not the cause for these varieties on the 8c slate.

What about the 6c orange? Since it is no longer available at the post offices how can we check? Had anyone checked at the time to see if the familiar extensions were constant? If so please contact me so that this problem can be solved. My address is 134 20th St., Brandon, Manitoba R7B 1L4.

# Postal Beginnings at Ingersoll and Woodstock

OD STOCK  
Sept 9  
1834  
20

A year before the post office became official, T. S. Short used this homemade canceller

BY MAX ROSENTHAL

In February, 1793 Governor Simcoe walked through what is now Oxford County on his way west from Brant's Ford to the site of London. He chose a site for a military town to be called Oxford. It was known as the Town Plot until the first houses were built there, which was not until 40 years later, when it became known as Woodstock, after a place in the English Oxfordshire. The whole of the land to be called the township of Oxford-on-the-Thames was given to Major Thomas Ingersoll. He arrived from Boston, Mass. in 1793.

Ingersoll built the Old Stage Road by widening the existing trail from Burford.

## Ingersoll

Ingersoll's homestead was the site of the future town named after him by his son Charles. At the same time, the Queen's Rangers were cutting a more direct route through for Governor Simcoe from Head-of-the-Lake (Dundas) to the Town Plot (Woodstock), the Governor's Road or Dundas Street.

Major Ingersoll left soon after, but his son Charles in 1817 bought his farm on the Thames, moved there in 1821, and 'opened' the first post office in Oxford County, called Oxford. "It was established January 6th, 1821, and Charles Ingersoll, Esq., was appointed postmaster, James Ingersoll, Esq. in 1834," noted Thomas S. Shenston in the *Oxford Gazetteer*, published in 1852 at Hamilton.

## Woodstock

In 1832 Jed Jackson began to carry the mail from Brantford to London twice a week along the Old Stage Road, still missing Woodstock. It was not until the next year, upon the advent of Captain Drew and Major

Barwick, that the village of Woodstock began. Drew had been sent from England by a cousin of the future Queen Victoria, Rear Admiral Vansittart, who followed next year. Drew had St. Paul's Church built, as well as houses for himself and Vansittart, as the nucleus of Woodstock.

The first store was opened in Woodstock in the latter part of 1833 by Patrick Phelan, whose son Daniel would later become postmaster of Ingersoll. The *Oxford Gazetteer* stated that "Woodstock post office was established October 7th, 1835. T. S. Short was the first postmaster, and the office was kept in the old framed store opposite the 'Victoria Buildings'. Mail three times a week till some time in 1844, since which period there has been a daily, or rather, as the *Woodstock Herald* of the time said, a 'nightly mail'."

Another letter, from H. C. Barwick, Woodstock to R. B. Sullivan, Toronto, written July 13, 1840, when the latter was Commissioner of Crown Lands, informs him:

"I had the honor of addressing you in the course of the last month, tendering my services to you as agent for the sale of lands in the District, and fearing that my application may have escaped your attention, permit me again to intrude myself on your notice. As a guarantee for my respectability, etc., I beg to state that I am treasurer for the Brock District."

## A more central location

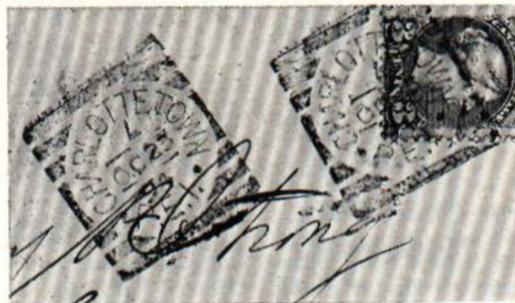
The *Oxford Gazetteer*'s writer, Thomas Shenston, had been the prime man the previous year in a campaign to relocate Woodstock post office. The Toronto Reference Library has a letter written to him October 21, 1851 by Postmaster-General James Morris, from Quebec.

(Continued on page 290)



# Rounding Up Squared Circles

Dr. W. G. Moffatt, Hickory Hollow, RR-3, Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019



Column No. 126—Still another example of abnormal indicia for CHARLOTTETOWN has turned up, and is illustrated through courtesy of Doug Murray: 7 (inv.)/ OC 23/ 94. My first thought was that this should have been 3/ OC 27/ 94 in which the 3 and the 7 had gotten mixed up during insertion in the hammer. Evidently not; the letter is addressed to SUMMERSIDE, and carries a c.d.s. receiving mark of that town dated OC 23/ 94. Now known for this town are the normal time marks AM, PM and 1, 2; and abnormals Blank, 0, 3, 5, inverted 2, inverted 5, and inverted 7.

\* \* \*

Did you know that among many other features which make it an invaluable reference work, Glenn Hansen's *The Guidebook & Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, 2nd Edition* contains a 15-page section on Squared Circle Postmarks, including the complete 1970 Roster, and a checklist of towns arranged in order of increasing rarity.

\* \* \*

Roster forms are still available. I urge new readers and others who were not able to participate in the last Roster to write me for a form. The new Roster forms include the request for information on the 1892 Postmark. A sufficient number of the new Roster forms have been returned, as well as information supplied by previous Roster participants that I will shortly provide interim counts for the several towns. To my knowledge, no previous information other than estimates by a few specialists has ever been documented; I think you may find a few surprises in the counts.

I am in receipt of a long, interesting letter from Lew Ludlow whose information about HAMILTON, and Squared Circles on Admiral issues adds a new dimension to a recent listing of known late use of a number of these towns. This information, plus other recent reports, makes for considerable changes in the listing of Squared Circle strikes on Admirals as presented in the January 1973 column. An up-to-date listing follows:

OTTAWA—"nude" strikes on Admirals;  
13 examples now reported.

NEWPORT LANDING—10 examples, MY  
15/ 12 to JU 28/ 16.

RIVER LOUISON—late date, 19/ MR 23/  
13 (2nd Edition Handbook) is in Ad-  
miral period.

DANVILLE—2 examples, JA 31/ 14 and  
FE 5/ 14.

FARNHAM—nude strike on 1c Green  
Admiral reported by Lew Ludlow; this  
is first example reported in Admiral  
period. Dated copies known on Edwards  
through NO 23/ 07, and nude strikes  
known on issues later than Admirals.

IBERVILLE—7 examples, DE 11/ 12 to  
JY 7/ 14.

LAURENTIDES—5 examples, SP 15/ 13  
to SP 9/ 18 (no strikes reported for  
years 1914-16 inclusive).

MELBOURNE—3 examples, JY 21/ 12,  
OC 23/ ?, MR 3/ 17.

CHELTONHAM—5 examples, AP 2/ 20  
to MR 10/ 26 (no strikes reported for  
years 1922 and 1923).

GORE BAY—16 examples, DE 25/ 12 to  
MR 2/ 26 (no strikes reported for years  
1914-17, 1921-23, or 1925).

HAMILTON—69 examples, MR 11/ 13 to NO 18/ 16. Only one strike reported for 1915 (17/ NO 18/ 15) and one for 1916 reported by Lew Ludlow as 15/ NO 18/ 91 = 15/ NO 18/ 16. I rather think that there was more problem than an inverted 16 in this strike; comparing the month and the day with the 1915 strike, I think there is a good possibility that the "16" strike was actually intended as 16 (or 19)/ NO 18/ 15.

LONDON—130 examples, JY ?/ 15 to FE 1?/ 24 (no strikes reported for 1916, 1919 or 1921-23); more than half (71) are 1917 dates.

MOUNT BRYDGES—8 examples, AP / 12 to JA 19/ 14 (7examples) plus MR 26/ 25. No MOUNT BRYDGES Squared Circle postmarks are known with 1915 or later dates except for the lone 1925 date which is a receiving mark on a 2c green Admiral cover.

PORT ARTHUR—31 examples, FE 26/ 15 to NO 17/ 18 plus MY 31/ 25 backstamp on cover.

ROSENEATH—2 examples, MY 25/ 12 and JA 11/ 13; both are on cover as free strikes and stamp cancelled by grid.

WATERLOO, ONT.—19 examples, AP 2/ 12 to JY 28/ 22 (including three "nudes" on 1c Admiral and 1c War Tax). No strikes are yet reported for the years 1913, 1916 or 1918 to 1921 inclusive.

WOOLER—2 examples, JU 13/ 12 and AU 10/ 12.

MORDEN—3 examples, JA 16/ 13, ?/ ? / 17, and JA 30/ 23.

SELKIRK—The latest reported date is DE 10/ 19 which is probably on Admiral issue, although this is not documented.

PRINCE ALBERT—23 examples, MR ?/ 16 to OC 17/ 17.

NANAIMO—8 examples, OC 25/ 12 to JY 1/ 28. Strikes are not reported for years 1915-17, 1919-21, or 1923-27.

\* \* \*

It has just dawned on me that the WOOLER, AU 10/ 12 listed above is a new late date for this town.

\* \* \*

I have not mentioned time marks during the Admiral period in the above listing because Lew Ludlow has called my attention to some interesting patterns which I have not yet had time to test my other recorded data against. I do expect to have this done for the next column.



## Perfin Study Group

R. J. Woolley, secretary, 1520 Bathurst Street, Apt. 206, Toronto

### Type or Issue

In a recent issue of the *Perfins Club Bulletin* the following notes were published. Both have a bearing on the collection of perfins in general so are repeated here for the information of Canada Perfin collectors.

"A letter from a member tells us that many of the collectors he corresponds with don't seem to know the difference between *issue* collecting and *type* collecting in Perfins.

"The distinction is important — especially to collectors trading with each other. What is to one a duplicate is to the other a choice item. Very simply, a *type* collector wants one example of each perfin pattern without regard to the stamp the pattern is on. The *issue* collector, on the other hand, wants an example of each perfin pattern on every stamp it appears on.

"A *type* collector will seek one copy of the "TRAV" pattern of Travellers Insurance Company, for example, and consider his hunt over when he has one nice example of that pattern. He will likely mount the stamp face down so the pattern will show clearly.

"An *issue* collector won't consider his hunt over until he has rounded up a TRAV perfin on every stamp known to have been punctured with the pattern. That may mean several hundred stamps. The *issue* collector mounts his stamps face up to show the different issues.

"Obviously the *issue* collector is going to have a much bigger collection than the *type* collector but then the *type* collector will probably have more duplicate perfins than the *issue* man."

\* \* \*

The other quotation is short and defines

a perfins as suggested by the Perfins Club:

"To qualify as a 'legitimate' perfins, a stamp must have been perforated by an individual, business firm or Government Agency to prevent unauthorized usage. Such a definition precludes manufactured-for-collectors perfins—regardless of the stamps that they are on."

\* \* \*

In the Canadian handbook we have listed three which would not meet this description as, so far as I know, they have only been used to cancel stamps on documents. These have been previously reported and are the two "CH" as used by the Customs House and the two line "CANCL'D / C.S.O." used by the Colonial Secretary's Office at St. John's, Newfoundland. All three are now noted as cancelling devices.

As to manufactured-for-collector perfins we have to watch for those made by a collector who has access to an old machine and could, for example, punch a Canadian

stamp on a machine of a U.S. company thus creating a new Canadian design.

There are also cancellors, possibly still available in banks that by careful placement will punch one or two letters such as "PA" of "PAID" or "CA" of "CANCELL-ED". I suppose there is the odd joker who would go to no end of trouble to produce a new design just to confuse the more serious collectors of perfins. I have seen several "hand made" five hole OH/MS perforated stamps but so far, perhaps because they generally have so little value, no private company design that I have been able to recognize as a fake.

This is not an invitation.

I did recently see a 2c War Issue Scott 250, punched with initials "RED" with traces of a preceding letter, possibly "E". This could be the last four letters of "REGISTERED". Can anyone tell me where such a machine would be used or have any other ideas?



## Tagging Along

Kenneth G. Rose, Box 7086, Station 'E', Calgary T3C-3L8, Alberta

I am not a procrastinator by nature, but I do admit to sitting on the fence for far too long a time on at least two decisions. I am not alone on at least one of them, and will now take a stand on both issues, and be prepared to accept both agreement and disagreement on both issues.

First—the 6c orange, Winnipeg Tag, on Hibrite paper. I feel this question is somewhat like Hitler's death. We all know it happened, but we lack that last small conclusive item of proof, which makes us all just a little bit skeptical. I have seen, and I have had reported, dozens of used copies of this stamp on Hibrite paper, both on piece and removed from paper. For the skeptics, I have also seen, and have a copy of a used manufactured copy, and to use an old phrase, "You could fool me!" If I had not been told, I would pronounce it genuine.

I have been through untold millions of covers from a multitude of sources—most of them in Winnipeg naturally—and I have

a few 6c Hibrites on piece from several different sources. I do not deny that the 6c orange Winnipeg Tagged on Hibrite can be very effectively forged, but I refuse to believe that all the copies on piece I have seen and have in my possession have been forged by dozens of people paying their Bay—Eaton's—Hydro—Gas—etc. bills. I therefore go on record as being of the opinion that it does exist officially. I would be very wary of a copy used off piece. I would not pay more than \$1 for a good used copy on piece, and of course a mint copy could almost command its own price.

My second decision concerns paper. Since this is being written before Fred Keanes co.'s complete listing of the Centennial issue reaches the members, I do not wish to take anything away from that monumental work—to which I have even contributed in some small way. However, I do not think the average collector wants to go into quite such a large listing of papers as Fred's work contains. Therefore, I have broken

my listing down to four basic paper types, with a further breakdown of two grades within three of the four basic types.

I feel there may be terms which describe the papers better than the ones listed here, and I would welcome suggestions.

1. *N. R. (Non-Reflective)*—This is the dull paper, which has no reflective qualities under the (UV) lamp. It will be divided into two sub-classifications: dull and bright.
2. *Reflective (Fluorescent, but not to the degree of Hibrite)*—This paper does have some fluorescent reflective qualities both in the paper itself, and sometimes in the fibres. This also comes in two grades: dull and bright.
3. *Hibrite (Fully reflective, and cannot be confused with any of the foregoing, and no sub-breakdown is necessary.)*

4. *Coated*—Used mainly on commemoratives, and has a shiny surface. This one, too, must be broken down into two sub-classes: dull and bright which may appear either on the face or the back of the stamp or both.

There are a few items of general interest. I have received the new \$1 on FDC dated 24 Oct. from Dick Malott. Also from Dick, the new 6c Christmas on FDC from Ottawa with *no* tagging. Found a couple of current 50c definitives used on some shooting targets I received from down east with *no* tagging. Reported in my last column, I now own copies of the 10c Jackpine Winnipeg Tag on dull paper Type 11a, and the current 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 50c with type 04a, and the new 6c type 011a. Still no report of a Perfin on General Tag—but they must be around.

## TOPICS: THE NEWSFRONT

Postmaster General André Ouellet announced some new policies to about 100 collectors at an Ottawa meeting on November 19. The highlights are these:

- Sales of new issues will be limited in the future, likely to one year, and afterwards will be burned—which, the PMG said, would result in dealers becoming the suppliers of recent-vintage stamps, and copies in collectors' hands rising in value sooner than at present;

- Orders for plate blocks and sheets of stamps will likely be packaged in "cello-paq"-type jacket with a stiffener, without extra charge. Only singles, single plate blocks and bulk orders won't be prepackaged;

- There will be a minimum on orders from the philatelic service of \$1, which won't apply to deposit account holders;

- Plate block collectors will not have to buy a minimum quantity of stamps to get their inscriptions; regardless of denomination, only four stamps will have to be bought;

- A "handback" service will be set up for cancelling covers, so that collectors won't have to wait for the mails to get their copies. But it won't apply to first-days-of-

issue, because of the congestion expected. Hand-in covers will cost 10c each, and mailed-in covers 15c each; FDCs will continue to cost 20c over face value, and FDCs will be cancelled, as in the U.S., in cities having an interest in the commemorative event being depicted.

None of this has so far appeared in a press release from the post office; we picked it up from *Linn's Stamp News* through its Ottawa columnist David Gronbeck-Jones.

Ouellet was also favorable to a proposal that more technical data be released on future issues—particularly in the fields of postal stationery, coils and booklets. Possibly a periodic technical bulletin might be published, he said.

\* \* \*

Canada Post did officially announce that the 1972 Souvenir Card, containing all the stamps issued last year, will be on sale before the end of this year—except the card has grown to an 8-page booklet with a red and gold cover. The stamps have a face value of \$1.63, and "the booklet itself sells for \$2" says the ambiguous press release—not making it clear whether \$2 is the cost of the booklet plus stamps, or booklet only.

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(Applications shall be pending in two successive issues of the magazine)

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### Applications for Membership

(Objections must be filed with the Secretary within 30 days after month of publication)  
(C—Collector D—Dealer DC—Dealer-Collector) (c—correspond x—exchange)

- BEATTY, G. Walter, R.R. 2, Norland Holstein, Granton, Ont. N0M 1V0 (C-cx) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and used blocks. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used Airmails. Postal Stationery entries. Squared Circle cancellations.  
SPECIALTY—Squared Circles. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).  
FORREST, Chester S., 60 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017 (DC-c) CAN, NFD—Semi-official Airmails and on cover. SPECIALTY—Flight covers. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).  
GLASS, Donald J., 11 Mayfair Rd. S.W., Calgary, Alta. T2V 1Y5 (C-c) CAN, NFD, N.S., N.B.—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint and used Airmails. Proposed by W. W. Charles (2233). Seconded by J. Payne (2175).  
HILL, Geoff, 458 Smith Lane, Oakville, Ont. L6L 4X2 (C) CAN—19th century used postage and blocks. 2 and 4-ring. Squared Circle and Duplex cancellations. Proposed by W. F. Anderson (2965). Seconded by G. F. Hansen (2203).  
L'ECUYER, Mme. Lucie C., 165 Grande-Allee Est. No. 616, Quebec 4, Que. (C-x) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. Prestamp, stampless and 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint, used booklet panes and complete. Precancels. Federal and Provincial Revenues. Mint, used and semi-official Airmails. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).  
MACINTYRE, Milford M., P.O. Box 231, Drumheller, Alta. T0J 0Y0 (C-x) CAN—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and blocks. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).  
MALLEK, Ed, 402—4999 Kahala Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 (C-cx). Proposed by A. Charkow (643). Seconded by J. Bennington (1881).  
MARTIN, L. W. Jr., P.O. Box 1061, Bellaire, Texas 77401 (DC) CAN, NFD—Mint and used postage. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes. Mint and used Airmails. Proposed by E. A. Richardson (168). Seconded by M. Arons (1153).  
MEYER, David S., 310 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017 (C) CAN—20th century mint postage and blocks. 1st Day covers. Plate Blocks. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint booklet panes and complete. Mint Airmails. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).  
OSATTIN, Dr. Morris R., 727 Harbor Island, Clearwater, Fla. (C-cx) CAN, NFD—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. OHMS-G. Mint and used Airmails. Proposed by J. Levine (L1).  
LONERGAN, Brian, 4902 Robert St., No. 23, Montreal 457, Que. (C-cx) CAN, NFD, N.S., P.E.I.—19th and 20th century mint and used postage. Coils. Mint Airmails. RPO and Cork cancellations.  
SPECIALTY—Victoria Issue. Proposed by H. Schneider (2502).  
SALAKI, C. J., 13 Radcliffe Drive, Milford, Mass. 01757 (C). Proposed by D. Verity (2312).  
TURKOWSKI, Robert, 1535 Park Ave., North Chicago, Ill. 60064 (C) CAN, NFD, PROV—19th and 20th century mint and used postage and mint blocks. Plate Blocks. Coils. Mint booklet panes. Mint and semi-official Airmails. Literature. SPECIALTY—Small Queens, Admirals, Registered Mail. Proposed by G. F. Hansen (2203).

### Changes of Address

(Notice of change MUST BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY. Any other office causes delay)

- 2082 Black, C.F., 30 Charlotte Drive, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
2376 Blair, Charles D., 5586 Lahser, Birmingham, Michigan 48010  
1867 Conn, Clair C., 1903 North 18th, Lafayette, Indiana 47904  
2774 Gray, L.A., 2165 Queensway West, Apt. 6, Mississauga, Ontario  
1502 Hetherington, Dr. R.B., 45A Graham Road, Worthing, Sussex, BN11 2DU, England  
2146 Jackson, Lt. Col. R.F., Command Surgeon, FMO, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2668 Jean, Roger, 12, 105 Laurentian, #209, Montreal, Quebec  
2396 Jephcott, William C., 278 Glengrove Avenue, Toronto, Ontario  
2854 Johnson, Peter K., 1394 Eagle Crescent, Prince George, British Columbia  
2397 Kuipers, Gerald, 10839 - 147 Street, Edmonton, Alberta  
2599 Lamontagne, Jacques, P.O. Box 272, Ste. Therese de Blainville, Quebec  
**L1465 Ludlow, Lewis M.**, c/o Gamlen Chemical Co., 333 Victory Ave., South San Francisco, Calif. 94080  
2280 Riddle, George J., 729 Calle De Los Amigos, Santa Barbara, California 93105  
2591 Sharpe, Milton F., 2 Bryn Mawr Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 3P5  
**L2372 Squirell, Michael J.**, 241 - 12th Avenue, Lively, Ontario P0M 2E0  
2948 Moss, Lt. J. Stephen, 036-32-4645, 1/2 Arm. Cav. Rgt., APO, N.Y. 09411  
2627 Switzer, Gary E., 73 Ravine Park Crescent, West Hill, Ontario M1C 2M5

### Deceased

- 1270 Thomson, Robert T., Box 27, Victoria Harbour, Ontario

### MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, October 1, 1973 .....	1346
NEW MEMBERS, November 1, 1973 .....	15 1361
DECEASED, November 1, 1973 .....	1 1
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, November 1, 1973 .....	1360

## Further Sketches of BNAPSers...



# GEORGES APRIL

**His collection started when  
he traded bread for stamps**

Georges  
April  
No. 1118

Without a doubt, the most interesting letter that I have received from a BNAPSer writing to give me their personal and philatelic biography for a *Sketch*, has been the one from Georges April. Consequently, it is most difficult to condense it for the size *Sketch* that our tough editor holds me to.

Georges was born in a little village on the St. Lawrence River 50 miles below Quebec City, where shipping and farming were the principal occupations, and the shipping introduced him to stamps—trading French lessons to a stamp-collecting sailor. More stamps were acquired from other visiting sailors in exchange for fresh-baked bread. Then, a gift of a stamp album almost 50 years ago cinched it.

But the sea and the lonely life was not for Georges. He went to work for the Quebec government and got married (they have one daughter). Because of two brothers in the service during World War II, and saving their covers, he developed an interest in postmarks and covers. Immediately after the war, Georges had the good fortune to acquire his uncle's (a bailiff) papers which included a wooden box full of covers, in packs of 50, from 1864 to 1900—with both large and small Queens, too!

The duplicates aided his trading for Quebec Province pre-stamped covers (one being from 1764 — one year after Ben Franklin opened the Quebec Post Office). More recently he acquired a cover collection after much bargaining—the gentleman died four days later and his stamps disappeared much to Georges' dismay.

Now with retirement, Georges states that "I must say my philatelic hobby was one of the most agreeable things in my life"—and isn't it true for so many of us?

—Dr. R. V. C. Carr

## ...and some doodles by The Editor

Boggs, in his famous reference work, devotes several pages to the history of the early printers of Canadian stamps — Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, the American Bank Note Co. and others. While much space is given to brief biographies of the engravers and executives, a great deal more is devoted to a rather dull financial history of these firms—their incorporation, charters, listings of shareholders, and the like. Fortunately Boggs also reproduced seven illustrations from *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* of February 1862 showing various views of the ABNCo's plant, located in the Merchants' Exchange Building on New York's Wall Street.

For some research lately we unearthed the original *Harper's* article from the reference library. The 20-page story dealt with the ABNCo and was one of a three-part series called "Making Money"—the other parts covering the assaying of metals and the minting of coins. The ABNCo item contained over 20 woodcuts and the article examined every aspect of the printing of banknotes (and therefore the early Canadian stamps) — lathe-work, design, paper-making and storage, security and so forth. A short portion appears on the next page, and in later issues we will excerpt other passages of interest to collectors. (Rawdon, Hatch, etc. occupied the same premises before the firm became the ABNCo.)

# MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS

## Recent used stamps

In the *Trade Talk* column (page 230, October Topics) I note the remarks in connection with the shortage of used blocks and singles of recent commemorative stamps. What is said is perfectly true, but the inference that the dealers are not interested in these should perhaps be clarified.

There are a few offerings from the public and very few from wholesalers these days and neither of these sources include enough of the 10c, 15c and other odd values and blocks of all values to supply the needs of the trade.

In the past, there used to be wholesalers and some part-time dealers and collectors who had sources of controlled mail whereby these scarcer values and multiples could be obtained at a reasonable price. There seems

to be little, if any, controlled mail being put through these days and the result is that what stamps are used in the catalogues mentioned go mostly out of the country on parcel post and heavy air mail packages.

Just what is meant by "going out after them on their own" is not quite clear. With labor costs being at their present level and steadily increasing, there is no question of any dealer who hopes to stay in business of being able to process quantities of stamps which will retail for only a few cents.

This leaves only two sources — stamps cleaned and processed from wholesalers, or stamps cancelled to order, which will of course cost face-plus.

As long as collectors are prepared to pay for the latter, the problem will be solved. Otherwise, there is little that the dealer can do to help.

— George S. Wegg

## The Amazing Perforating Device

— from *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*,  
February, 1862



PERFORATING MACHINE.

In a small room we find a machine, for the invention of which almost everyone has daily cause to be thankful. It is used to perforate those little holes in a sheet of postage stamps which enable us to separate them so readily. It consists of a couple of cylinders revolving together; the upper one is studded over with little punches which fit into holes in the lower one. A sheet of stamps — already gummed, dried and pressed — is passed between these cylinders and each punch cuts out a piece. A hundred stamps are usually printed on a sheet and 250 of these sheets can be perforated in an hour. Simple as this machine is, no one has hit upon it for years after the introduction of stamps. A statistician might make a curious estimate of the number of years of human life that would otherwise have been expended in searching for knives and scissors, and then cutting stamps apart, which have been saved by this machine. Thus: it took so many seconds to cut off a stamp; so many hundreds of millions have been used; multiply these figures together, and reduce the product to years or centuries, and we have the saving. . . .

"I am in receipt of your letter of 3rd inst. upon the subject of the removal of the Woodstock Post Office.

I delayed my decision on this question until I could have an opportunity of visiting the town. I saw at once on walking thro' the place that the post office was in a most inconvenient position, and without consulting with anyone, beyond the post office inspector who accompanied me, I directed the post master to remove to a more central situation — and this I understand has been done.

"I wish to add that altho' I met a gentleman in the street who had formed one of a deputation to me at Toronto urging the removal of the post office, I did not acquaint him with what my decision would be."

During much of the 1840s the postmasters of Woodstock and Ingersoll were both also officials of the Brock District, H. C. Barwick its treasurer, James Ingersoll its registrar. When the Registry Office was moved from Ingersoll to Woodstock in 1847, its head went with it, and Ingersoll got a new postmaster, Daniel Phelan, of Phelan and Adair, merchants.

In 1852 Oxford post office became Ingersoll and Charles E. Chadwick became postmaster; the next year Charles De Blaquiere took over at Woodstock. Chadwick was local agent for the Niagara District Bank.

### The Ingersoll dismissal

Postmaster Chadwick was standing opposite a hotel in Ingersoll in the autumn of 1858 watching a demonstration in favor of the newly elected member of the Legislature for the riding. Four bystanders wrote

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to Postmaster-General Sidney Smith that, "We head Mr. Chadwick say on one occasion, before not less than four or five hundred persons — I do not hesitate to say that never was there perpetrated a more unconstitutional act than has been forced upon the Brown-Dorion Administration by the head of the executive — the Governor General — who certainly was knowingly a party to the trick or shuffle of the Ministry. I cannot call them anything better than a corrupt set of criminals.

"The Governor General implicated himself in the crime by swearing the Ministry into office at 12 o'clock at night to perform and carry out the duties of which they had not the slightest intention of doing. They evidently calculated at the same time to give another shuffle in the morning; and the Governor was aware of, and a participant in, the iniquitous transaction.

"On a former occasion, we heard him say he would 'hurl the petty office he held in the teeth of the Governor and his Ministers, before he would be disfranchised or prevented from expressing his opinions.'

This reported attack on the Governor-

General, Sir Edmund Head, and the Ministerialists, led by John A. MacDonald, who had come into power by means of the "double shuffle", led to Chadwick's dismissal. The *Ingersoll Chronicle*, a reform newspaper supporting the ousted Brown-Dorion administration, reported on November 19 a meeting in the town hall, chaired by the Reeve, which petitioned the Postmaster-General not to dismiss Chadwick, claiming that he had not uttered the remarks attributed to him. Former postmaster Daniel Phelan was among those present. It was no use, on December 29 *Chronicle* ex-claimed:

"So the office-seeker of 22 years standing has at length succeeded — by the aid of four unprincipled Government white-washers and by the aid of an unprincipled P.M. General, in obtaining a long-sought-after appointment to a government office worth, perhaps, a clear £150 a year!"

The new postmaster, Joseph Thirkell, had come from Albany, N.Y. to Kingston in 1817, where he was for many years proprietor of a large foundry. In 1855 he moved to Ingersoll.

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*from the Editorial Board*

*— and from the Board of Directors*

*and the Officers*

*of BNAPS*

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Usually reservation forms are included with the May issue of the magazine for that year of the convention. However, the Williamsburg Lodge cannot confirm any costs until May 1974! Understandable. So, we cannot provide the rates at this time but we sure would like to have some advance reservations to ease our concern. So — if you plan to attend, please send a reservation with dates of arrival, etc., to me and I'll hold them until they can be turned over to the Lodge and then give them priority in the order of receipt. Beat the rush!!!

**Who is me? Jack Levine, 2121-G North Hills Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609**

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It is unfortunately true that rare early British North American stamps are more likely to be "as represented" when offered in Turin, than early Italian States offered in Toronto.

In such a hypothetical case, lack of knowledge is a more probable handicap than dishonesty. One must also comment that an Italian collector is more likely to show interest in early classic Canada than a Canadian collector in Sardinia.

I maintain a library of several hundred items and also have a reference of **genuine** stamps covering the range of classic issues of the world. This reference includes most of the rarities in second rate quality.

Should you wish to take up a new country or collecting group, do not hesitate to consult me. Despite the fact that you may feel that local sources will not be able to supply you, I can probably give a general idea of the availability of the material in your proposed field.

One of the frequent problems in selecting a new country is that the collector finds that after he has reached a certain "plateau" that additional material is almost unavailable. This is the case with some small colonies, etc., but if a wide enough field is selected I am sure that I will be able to locate stamps for the prospective collector. This applies whether the country is Afghanistan or Transvaal.

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