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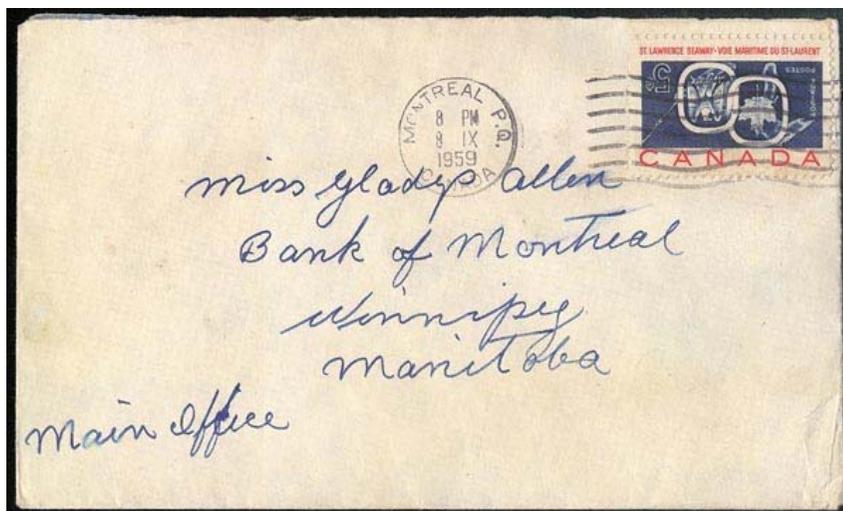
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Volume 63 Number 1



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The Society for Canadian Philately

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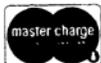
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BNA pics

Volume 63 Number 1 Whole Number 506

The Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd

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The front cover shows one of the most interesting of the sixteen known Seaway Invert covers

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Editorial

Members who have read the recent issue of *BNAPortraits* are aware that *BNA Topics* is in a period of transition. The Publications Committee has encountered an additional setback. After work on this issue had begun the new editor, Henk Burgers, was confronted with a health issue that made it impossible for him to continue with his duties as editor of *Topics*. We all wish the best for Henk and hope for a speedy recovery.

This issue is late. It is being prepared by the Publications Committee which, for better or worse, is burdened with two former editors of *BNA Topics*, Mike Street and Robert Lemire. The next issue is already well advanced, and we expect to be back to a regular schedule in time for the BNAPEX Sudbury convention. Our direct involvement with the preparation of *BNA Topics* is temporary, and a new editor will be appointed later this year.

David Handelman took particular pride in his attention to composition and printing details. We intend to maintain his fine layout style but it may be another couple of issues before we get everything right. Please bear with us—it has been a long time since either Mike or I have had to worry about fonts or kerning, and the art of reproducing pictures has changed completely over the last few years. There are even a few things that could be done on a Macintosh platform that are next to impossible to do in Windows. We apologize in advance to our readers and advertisers for the delay and any inconsistencies.

One thing has not changed. We need articles. Material for *BNA Topics* can be submitted in electronic form in WORD (preferred), WordPerfect or text formats by email to: rlemire000@sympatico.ca

Illustrations should be made on a high-quality colour copier or scanned (300 DPI or higher, .jpg format preferred). If emailing, please send one picture per email. If a file is larger than 3 Mbytes, please contact Robert Lemire first.

Typewritten (or even handwritten) copy and illustration photocopies should be sent to Robert Lemire at: P.O. Box 1870, Deep River, ON K0J 1P0, Canada (phone: 613-584-1574).

Robert Lemire, Chairperson, BNAPS Publication Committee

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Readers write

A column for readers to express their views, ask questions, or add information to previously published articles.

From John Hillson, identifying the philatelic importance of an image of Queen Victoria in *BNAPortraitS*

On opening the latest *BNAPortraitS* (Vol 13 #1, Jan–March 2006) I was surprised to see a picture of Queen Victoria sitting at a table, chin resting on her left hand and, from the expression on her face, obviously wishing she were back in Scotland. The image was described as Lot 60 of the Firby Sale of October 29, 2005. Part of my surprise was because lot 60 was in fact a corner block of six 6¢ Small Queens with some cracking apparent in the left margin—Charles Firby actually wondered if I might be interested in that lot, but as I already have a mint 6¢ Small Queen there was no point in investing more hard-come-by cash on duplication. I digress. My surprise was heightened since the esteemed editor of *BNAPortraitS* was, I thought, aware of



what Small Queens actually look like; this because of a so-called review, more akin to a mauling with a sharp-edged forest implement, he did on my book on the subject some fifteen years or so ago. No doubt he had his reasons.

Although said block was not of interest, the next item in the Small Queens section of the Firby sale certainly was. Lot 61 was described as “A lovely Queen Victoria (in Widow Weeds) Large Die Essay, 50x60mm, in Brown printed on card on linen with ms 84 at T & 953 beneath. VF & Rare.” Some time previously I had attempted to try to find out from the National Portrait Gallery in London (England, not Ontario) who took the original photograph on which the 1868 Bill Stamps and 1893 ‘Widow’s Weeds’ postage stamps vignettes were based. In his book *The Royal Image: a classification of British Royal portraits on stamps* Louis E Young had suggested that it was the work of ‘Hill and Saunders’. However Hills and Saunders (the proper name of the firm) are unknown before 1869; since the photograph must have existed by 1867 at the latest, they could be discounted. Having at the time only a scan of one of the head and shoulder vignettes to send the National Portrait

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Gallery, rather than the full image, it proved difficult to properly identify the photographer. The Gallery was of the opinion that it was probably the work of John Edwin Mayall, who in 1863 had taken a picture, somewhat similar in composition, of the Queen sitting by a spinning wheel.

I thought if I could possibly acquire Lot 61 in the Firby sale, the ability to then furnish the National Portrait Gallery with the full picture might finally result in positive identification of the source. Well, I was lucky, and was even told the auctioneer had saved me some money as he did not have to go to my top bid. This always amuses me; in my book the only time I save money in an auction is a) if I don't bid, and b) when I am outbid! But I suppose that is the Scottish way of looking at things.

When the item arrived my first reaction was, "Goodness, it's a photo", or words to that effect. A glass quickly revealed it to be an engraving of the very highest order; a truly beautiful piece of work, and that it was a die proof, not an essay as described. With fingers crossed, a scan quickly went off to the National Portrait Gallery. In due course came a reply saying that the source could not be positively identified; it was likely to be the work of Mr. Mayall, as suggested previously, but alternatively it could be a Downey photograph. The firm of W & D. Downey took a photo of King George V which was used for the two low value British postage stamps issued in 1911, so it was news to me that they had been in business that long. The National Portrait Gallery contact also suggested I ask the keeper of Royal portraits at Windsor Castle to see if any further light could be thrown on the matter, but the reply from that source was simply that they agreed with the National Portrait Gallery.

Having really drawn a blank I decided to mount the proof, after first acquiring a very nice used pair of the 1893 stamps from one of my favourite Canadian dealers to accompany it. Later, on opening the album in which the mounted sheet now rests, my eye fell on a photocopy of the well-known 1868 sample sheet which shows all the Bill stamps, the Large Queens, and of course five 1 ¢ Small Queens — and a centrepiece of the Queen, seated at a table, chin on hand, dreaming wistfully of Scotland. *The die had been made for the sample sheet!* I had not recognised it, nor had Charles Firby, nor, I suppose, had the previous owner(s); otherwise its description in the catalogue would have been very different— and no doubt its realisation. Probably this die proof is unique. And a Small Queen it ain't.

www.canadacovers.ca



St. Lawrence Seaway Invert errors

John Jamieson

Note: All prices in this article are in Canadian funds, unless noted otherwise. The Canadian and US dollars were close to par in 1959.



With the recent sale of the US ‘Inverted Jenny’ plate block for the incredible price of US\$2,970,000 (about C\$3,500,000), and the choice single that brought US\$577,500 (C\$678,500) only a few months ago, there has been a tremendous interest in invert errors of the world.

Canada has only three invert errors on regular issue stamps. The St. Lawrence Seaway stamp of 1959 with inverted centre, Scott #387a, the \$1 Runnymede with inverted inscriptions (Scott #1181a), and the \$2 Truro with inverted inscriptions (Scott #1376b and Unitrade Canada Specialized #1376v, vi & vii).

The St. Lawrence Seaway stamp of 1959 with inverted centre, Scott #387a, is by far the most famous of these. Having been “the First” it will always remain the collectors’ favorite — the most famous Canadian Error.

The first report of the discovery of the Seaway Inverts was when a young office boy from the Marlborough Hotel in Winnipeg purchased 30 stamps from a Post Office outlet in the Eaton’s department store on August 20, 1959. The late Kasimir Bileski, a long-time Winnipeg dealer, told me he purchased 26 of those in early September 1959 from the hotel office employees for \$1,000 each. In Charles Verge’s article in *Scott Stamp Monthly* [1], he reported that those other four were used on letters mailed by Mildred Mason, the lady responsible for the mail at the Marlborough Hotel.

The other 20 copies from the Winnipeg sheet had been sold through the Eaton’s Post Office and apparently all were used on mail. Covers that exist attest to this. The known covers bearing the Seaway Invert errors are the main topic of this article.

This discovery was the beginning of the story that led to national news reports,

Keywords & phrases: Seaway Invert, printing error, Elizabethan era covers

and the Post Office Department scurried to track down other error sheets still in Post Office stocks. Bileski even appeared on the nationally televised “Front Page Challenge”, a very popular current events quiz show at the time, and “stumped the panel” with the story of the find.

Charles Verge goes on to report that, on September 11, 1959, single panes of 50 were found in the postal stocks at the Winnipeg, Manitoba and Peterborough, Ontario Post Offices. Both panes were sent back to Ottawa.

Inverts also were found in Picton, Ontario. Charles Verge states that 25 from that sheet were used on mail from the Bank of Nova Scotia on August 10, 1959. This is confirmed by the first cover in the listing below, which is cancelled August 10, 1959. This is the earliest-recorded cover bearing one of these great errors.

Charles says that the discoverer kept two copies and gave a third to a friend. The remaining 22 were sold through Jim Sissons of Toronto to Kasimir Bileski for the then princely sum of \$21,250. Charles reports that the lot included a copy used on card and a damaged copy used on cover.



Covers are also known from Ottawa, Smiths Falls, and Southampton, all in Ontario. The one used on cover from Montreal on September 8, 1959 addressed to Miss Gladys Allen is almost certainly from the Eaton's Winnipeg find as there is a cover mailed on August 25, 1959 from Winnipeg to Miss Iris Allen in Swan River, Manitoba. The names and the handwriting on the two covers are far too similar to be coincidence. Someone must have taken one of the stamps on a trip to Montreal and mailed a card back out west.

Some years ago an ex-post office employee had a block of 10 Seaway Inverts for sale. This reportedly was from a third sheet found in Winnipeg that was quietly put away and only sold many years later. The owner was selling one or two stamps from his sheet each year, through Harmer's auctions in New York, to pay for his summer vacations.

Charles Verge also gave details of a pane of 50 found in Joliette, Quebec. Rolland Perreault told this story to Montreal, Quebec philatelic writer Larry

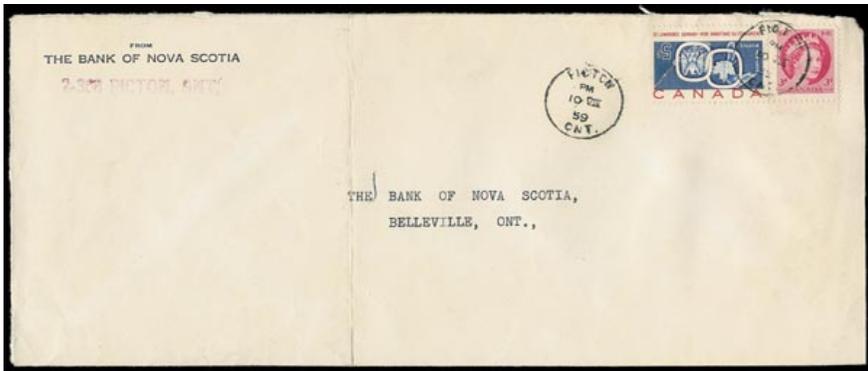
McInnis. Three had already been used on mail. Seventeen had been stuck on window envelopes before the discovery and were sold to stamp dealer Herman Herst. Of the 30 left over, 10 were sold in New York. The remaining 20 were sold to Bileski for \$11,900 — about the price of an average “single” today.

Only sixteen recorded used on covers or post cards

While certainly not as rare as the US Inverted Jenny (there are about 200 mint Seaway Inverts in private hands and fewer than 100 of the Jenny). Quite a few of the Seaway Inverts were actually used by the public before they realized what they had. Used Seaway Inverts are rare but those that exist used on covers or post card are vastly rarer, with only 16 recorded.

Due to two fortunate purchases, Saskatoon Stamp Centre (SSC) currently owns five of those 16 known covers. This is the first time so many covers have been assembled in one offering that we know of. Certainly this presents a unique opportunity to add this great rarity to your collection.

The following is the listing of the 16 recorded covers and cards. Detailed descriptions are provided, and photos shown where possible. The covers are listed in chronological order based on dates of use. Where the cancellations are not known, we have simply listed that cover following any other covers from the same city. Here are the listings.



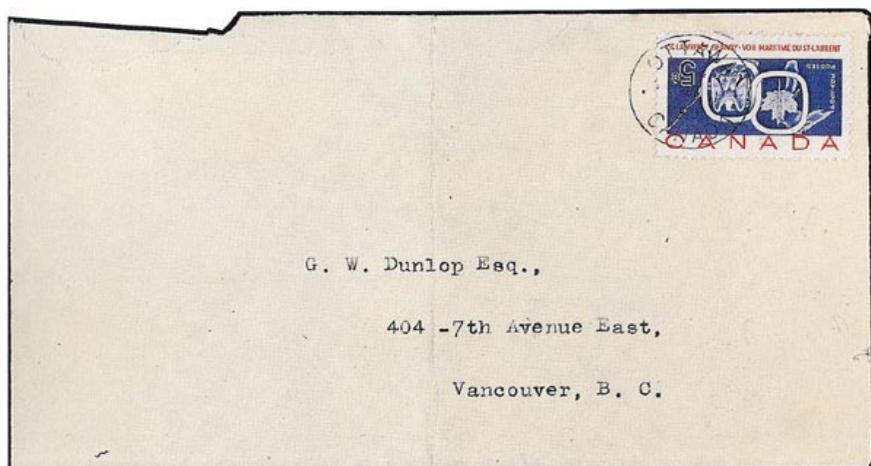
Cover #1

Cover #1 The EARLIEST RECORDED usage on cover. PICTON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 10, 1959 tied on #10 "BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA" envelope cover along with a 3¢ Wilding, by "PICTON ONT. 10 VIII 59" cds cancel paying the 2 oz. double weight rate of 8 c.

The cover has a vertical file crease left of centre. It was in Greg Manning's "LONDON '80 RARITY AUCTION on May 10, 1980, where it was correctly described as a "FIRST DAY COVER" and sold for £7,500, C\$22,500 at the time. I was told after the sale by a little bird that the "book" at that sale had a top bid of £11,500 or about C\$34,500 at the time. The cover was acquired by Toronto dealer Art Leggett sometime prior to June of 1987 when it was sold to the "G. Marnier" collection. It was purchased for stock by our firm in October of 2005.

Cover #2 PICTON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 11, 1959 tied to a post card from the "BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA" to the Royal Bank at Yonge St and Grenville Ave in Toronto by a "Help Prevent Forest Fires" slogan cancel.

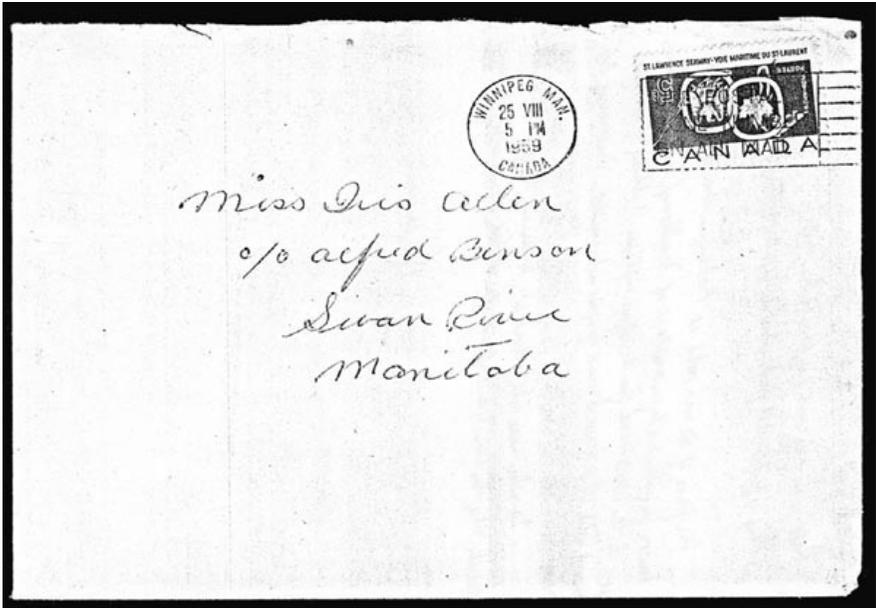
The post card reads, in part, "Notice re \$1,000 settlement". The author does not have a photo of this card, but it was on display in the Robert Cunliffe "Inverts of the World" collection at Anphilex in New York, December 1996. It was reportedly purchased by Mr. Cunliffe within a few months of the original discovery and has been in his collection ever since.



Cover #3

Cover #3 OTTAWA, ONTARIO, AUGUST 11(?) 1959.

While the cancel on this is not perfectly clear on the photo we have of this cover taken from the May 1992 Christie's of London auction catalogue, we feel it is likely the date we have listed. The author hopes that one day he will see this cover in the flesh and be able to confirm the date. This cover was addressed to G. W. Dunlop Esq., 404-7th Avenue East, Vancouver, B.C. The auction catalogue stated that the stamp had "trivial wrinkling", which might have occurred as it was being applied to the envelope. Regardless, it sold for £4,950, about C\$11,500 at the time.



Cover #4

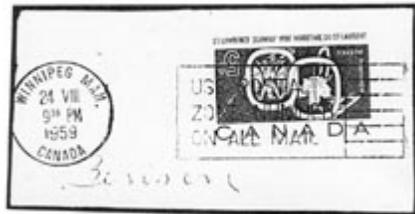
Cover #4 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, AUGUST 25, 1959.

The stamp on this greeting-card-size envelope is tied by a “WINNIPEG MAN, CANADA 25 VIII 5 PM 1959 – USE POSTAL ZONE NUMBER ON ALL MAIL” slogan cancel.

The envelope did indeed contain a birthday card and is addressed to Miss Iris Allen, c/o Alfred Benson, Swan River, Manitoba. Please also see cover #11, below, mailed from Montreal to “Miss Gladys Allen, Bank of Montreal, Winnipeg, Manitoba”. It is tied by a “MONTREAL PQ, CANADA 8 PM 8 IX 1959” wavy line machine cancel. I believe that the stamp on cover #11 was from the same sheet as this one as the name and handwriting are very similar.

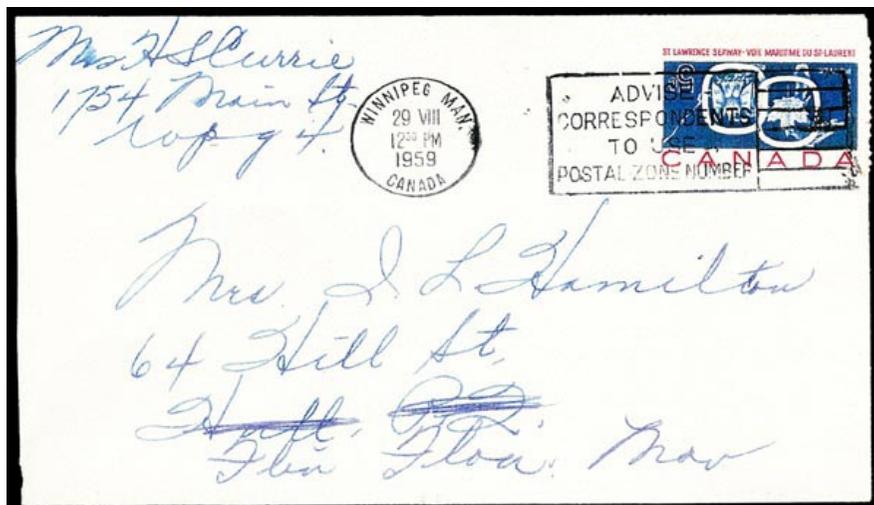
I recall being offered this cover by a Winnipeg dealer in October of 1990. It was subsequently sold to Bileski, who was asking US\$15,000 for it in 1992. Either SSC did not offer enough, or it was simply easier to sell it to Bileski as he was the hometown dealer.

Cover #4 was subsequently sold in June of 1996 to dealer Gary Lyon. In turn he sold it to a Montreal collector with a particular affinity for the Seaway Invert. I expect it is still in that collection.



The illustrated single stamp used on piece has the same slogan cancellation as

cover #4, dated the day before, “WINNIPEG MAN. CANADA 24 VIII 9:30 PM 1959”. This piece was sold in a Shreve auction, June 21, 1996.



Cover #5

Cover #5 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, AUGUST 29, 1959.

The stamp on this cover just overlaps the right side of the envelope and as a result has a few rough perforations on the right edge of the stamp. It is tied by the “WINNIPEG MAN, CANADA 29 VIII 12:30 PM 1959 – ADVISE CORRESPONDENTS TO USE POSTAL ZONE NUMBER” slogan cancel, the same cancel as on cover #6 below. Cover #5 was mailed by a Mrs. H. S. Currie, 1754 Main Street, in Winnipeg to Mrs. J. L. Hamilton in Hull, Quebec. Obviously, Mrs. Hamilton was not in Hull. The cover was re-addressed to Flin Flon, Manitoba. Cover #5 was in the Brigham collection and sold in May 2004.

Cover #6 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, AUGUST 31, 1959.

This stamp is tied on a bank reply form addressed to “THE MANAGER, THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, 216–218 PORTAGE AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MAN Personal Chequing Department” by the “WINNIPEG MAN, CANADA 31 VIII 11:30 PM 1959 – ADVISE CORRESPONDENTS TO USE POSTAL ZONE NUMBER” slogan cancel. This slogan is different from the one used to cancel cover #4 a week earlier. This cover sold in a Maresch auction on June 10, 1981 for C\$11,550. It was in the Brigham collection and was, reportedly, sold to a collector of “Inverts of the World” for an undisclosed sum in May 2004.



Cover #6



Cover #7

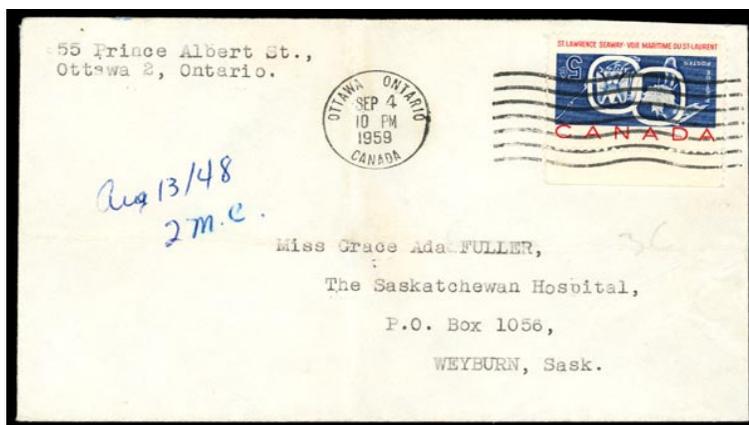
Cover #7 SMITHS FALLS, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 3, 1959.

This stamp is tied to a cover addressed to “The Protective Association of Canada, 72 Main Street, Granby, Que. by a “SMITHS FALLS ONTARIO 4 PM 3 IX 1959” wavy line machine cancel. The return address in the upper left corner is “THE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, HEAD OFFICE, GRANBY, QUE”. The cover has opening tears at the top that do not affect the stamp, which is a lovely left sheet margin single. This cover was sold as lot #497 in an April 1968 Sissons auction for \$1,800. I recall being offered this cover by noted collector Sam Nickle in November of 1985. He stated at the time that he had

bought it earlier from Jim Sissons in a private treaty sale for \$16,000. “G. Marnier” purchased it many years ago, and SSC purchased it for stock in October 2005.



There is also this beautiful top margin single tied on piece by a “SMITH FALLS ONT. 16 3 IX 1959” cds cancel. The piece was sold in Sissons’ February 1979 sale as lot 895 for \$17,000 against a catalogue value at the time of \$3,750.

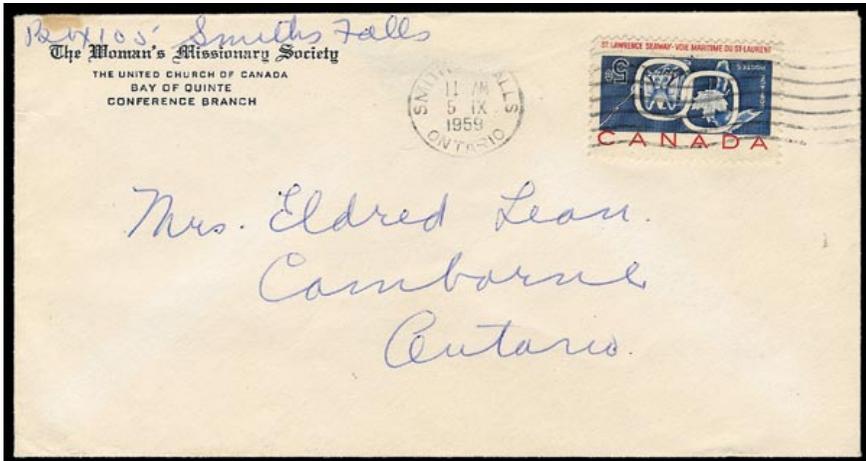


Cover #8

Cover #8 OTTAWA, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 4, 1959.

This stamp is tied on a cover addressed to Miss Grace Ada FULLER, The Saskatchewan Hospital, P. O. Box 1056, WEYBURN, Sask. by an “OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA SEP 4 10 PM 1959” wavy line machine cancel. The typewritten return address at the upper left corner is “55 Prince Albert St., Ottawa 2, Ontario”. The cover has “Aug 13/48 2 M.C.” in blue pen at left. I am not sure what this is all about, but it is likely a notation put on the cover upon receipt by someone at the hospital. This cover was offered in a Sissons auction.

This cover is certainly related to cover #10, below, which has the same return address written in pen at the upper left corner. I wonder if these folks mailed any other covers franked with Seaway Inverts. Did someone buy a whole sheet?



Cover #9

Cover #9 SMITHS FALLS, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 5, 1959.

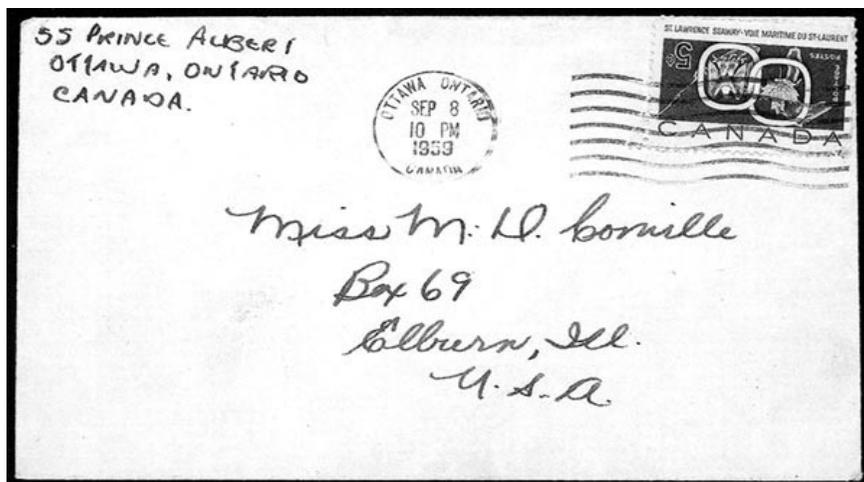
The stamp is tied to a cover addressed to “Mrs. Eldred Lean, Camborne, Ontario” by a “SMITHS FALLS ONTARIO 11 AM 5 IX 1959” wavy line machine cancel. The envelope has “The Woman’s Missionary Society, THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE BRANCH” return address in the upper left corner, with “Box 105 Smiths Falls” in pen above that. There is a tiny stain in the upper left corner, not affecting the stamp. This cover was sold in the Kaufman “GEMS” auction sale on December 7, 1985. I have a note stating that a US dealer told SSC that the cover sold for US\$19,000 in this sale, but I do not have the prices realized to confirm this.

Do any readers have this information? Cover #9 then appeared in a Steve Ivy auction sale in July 1993 where SSC was the buyer. SSC sold it to “G. Marnier” shortly after, and subsequently purchased it back for stock in October 2005. An APS Expertization Certificate #7937 was issued for this cover in June 1971.

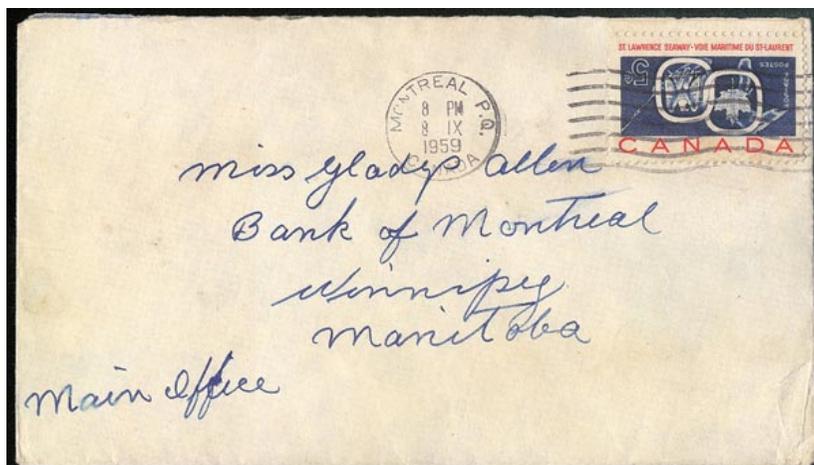
Cover #10 OTTAWA, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 8, 1959.

This stamp is tied to a cover addressed to Miss M. D. Comille, Box 69, Elburn, Ill, U.S.A.” by an “OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA SEP 8 10 PM 1959” wavy line machine cancel. The return address in the upper left corner is “55 Prince Albert St., Ottawa 2, Ontario”, the same as on cover #8 above, but this time the addresses were both handwritten in pen.

The stamp has a corner fault at the bottom right and was placed on the cover rather carelessly as a few perfs extend over the edge at the top and right. The faults on the stamp have certainly lowered the realizations that we have been able to locate for this cover. It sold in the "Pipkin" sale at Sissons in June 1974 for \$1,700, against a catalogue value of \$2,500 at that time. Subsequently it sold at an Ivy-Mader sale, March 28, 1996, as lot #1777 for a mere US\$3,500, plus the buyer's premium, or about C\$5,479 at that time. That certainly shows how important quality is when assigning a value to stamps.



Cover #10



Cover #11

Cover #11 MONTREAL P.Q. SEPTEMBER 8, 1959. (See previous page.)

This stamp is on a cover addressed to “Miss Gladys Allen, Bank of Montreal, Winnipeg, Manitoba” with “Main Office” in pen at the lower left corner of the envelope. It is tied by a “MONTREAL P.Q. CANADA 8 PM 8 IX 1959” wavy line machine cancel. The stamp is a lovely top margin single. This cover appeared in the Eastern Auctions sale of August 24, 2002. There it was stated that this cover was last sold in 1959, just after it was discovered. The cover was sold to a collector in British Columbia for \$16,000, plus the 15% buyer’s premium and our pesky 7% GST for a total of C\$19,688.

Cover #11 is obviously related to cover #4 above. I feel the stamp was from the same sheet as the one on cover #4 because the name and handwriting on both covers are very similar. See the discussion under cover #4 above for more details. As claimed by the auctioneer, cover #11 is definitely one of the finest of the 16 covers known.

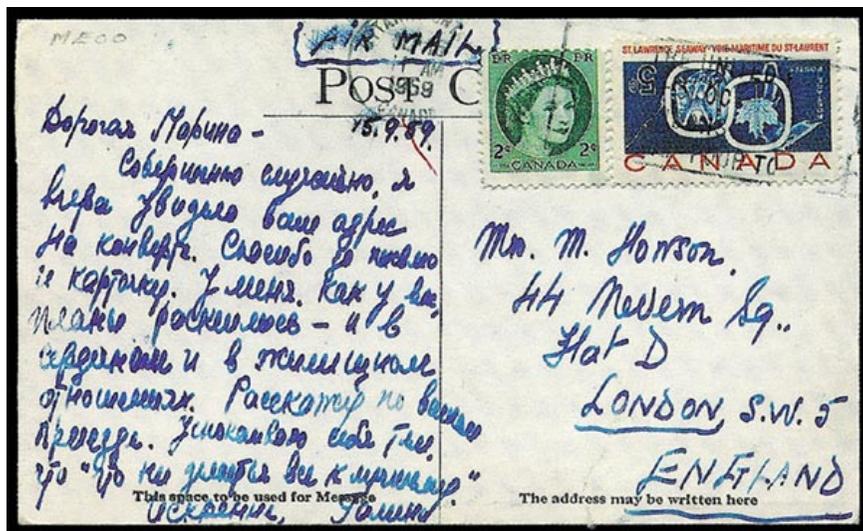


Cover #12

Cover #12 SMITHS FALLS, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 13, 1959.

This stamp is tied to a “blue” greeting-card-size cover addressed to “Mrs. William Giggs, 1620 Broadview Rd., Calgary Alberta” by a “SMITHS FALLS ONTARIO 8 PM 13 IX 1959” wavy line machine cancel. A portion of the back flap is missing. The stamp is a lovely example of this error. This cover was in the October 1976 Sissons auction as lot #1121 where it sold for \$2,600 against a catalogue value of \$2,500 at the time. It subsequently appeared in one of the last Sissons sales (February 24, 1998) where SSC purchased it for stock. The Canadian Specialized catalogue value at the time was \$17,500 and, as is usually the case with

these great rarities, SSC sold it quickly. The cover now resides in a collection in the USA.



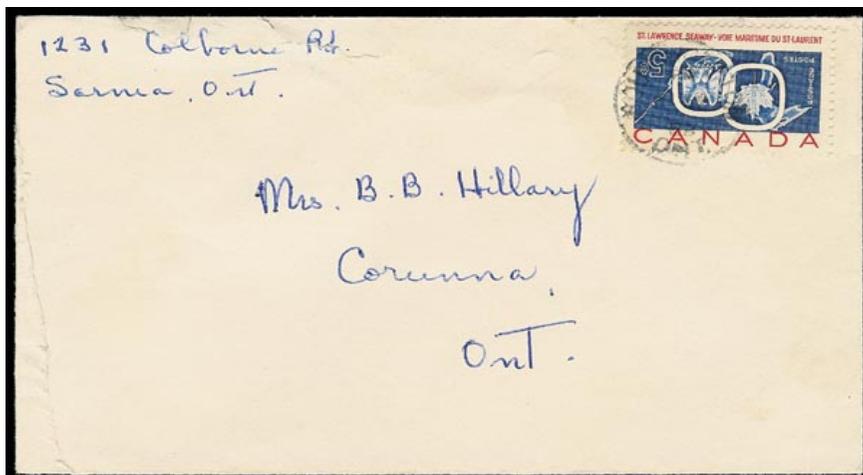
Cover #13

Cover #13 OTTAWA, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 16, 1959 POST CARD.

This is one of the most interesting of the Seaway Inverts, having been used on a post card to London England with the addition of a 2c Wilding to make up the 7c rate at that time. The message was written by a Russian immigrant lamenting to a friend in England about life's difficulties in Canada, saying; "... plans have shattered in the heart and in living conditions." If only the poor immigrant had known how valuable that little stamp he stuck on the post card really was. At the time the Russian put the card into the mail the newspapers had already carried stories about the rare Seaway Invert errors, and dealers were offering \$300 to \$500 each ... about six times the weekly salary of a shop clerk or secretary at the time. The stamps are tied by "OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA SEP 16 11 AM 1959" slogan cancel.

Cover #13, lot #1243 in Sissons' July 1961 auction where it was described as "Only known over seas usage and the only sound post card", sold for \$1,600. Sissons offered it again as lot #634 in the May 1979 auction; it sold for C\$12,500 against a catalogue value of only \$3,750 at that time. This was just when prices for Seaway Inverts were really starting to take off. Cover #13 next appeared as lot #362 in the Siegel Rarity Sale in April 1981 where it sold for US\$14,300. It then appeared in the April 30, 1995 Charles Firby auction where it sold for only US\$9,350 including the 10% buyer's commission, about C\$12,740 at that time. Reportedly it was sold privately early in 2005 to a collector of "joint issues" of the USA and other

countries. This is certainly one of the most interesting of all the Seaway Invert covers.



Cover #14

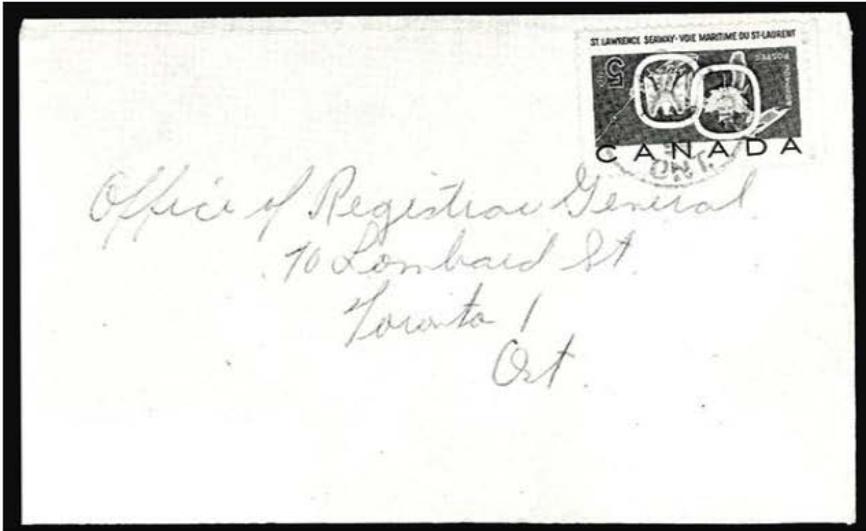
Cover #14 SOUTHAMPTON ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 21, 1959.

This stamp is tied to a cover addressed to “Mrs. B. B. Hillary, Corunna, Ont.” by a faint and somewhat smudged “SOUTHAMPTON ONT. SP 21/59” cds cancel. The return address at the upper left corner is “1231 Colborne Rd. Sarnia, Ont.” The cover has some small tears at top from rough opening but the stamp is a choice right sheet margin single. This cover was offered in an Ivy, Shreve & Mader auction, March 20, 1993 where SSC purchased it for stock, subsequently selling it to the G. Marnier collection. SSC bought this cover back in October 2005 and it is in stock at the time of this writing. This cover is certainly related to cover #16, below, which was mailed to the same address as the return address written in pen at the upper left corner of cover #14. Again I wonder if these folks mailed any other covers franked with Seaway Inverts. Did someone buy a whole sheet? Did they eventually realize what they had?

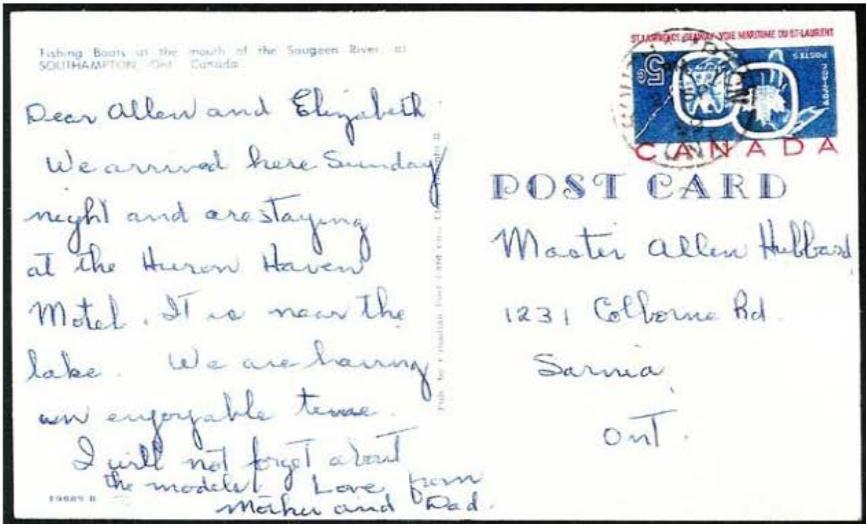
Cover #15 SOUTHAMPTON ONTARIO, 1959.

This stamp is tied to a cover addressed to “Office of Registrar General, 70 Lombard St. Toronto 1, Ont.” by a weak, indistinct strike of the “SOUTHAMPTON ONT. ?/59” cds cancel. While the date is illegible in the photos I have available, I would expect it is sometime in September 1959. This cover was in the Steve Ivy auction of the Virgil Brand collection in December 1986, then in the Kelleher sale of September 1987. Unfortunately I do not have the prices realized from either of these sales in my library. The stamp was affixed slightly

above the top edge of the envelope and was slightly creased as a result. The cover was re-folded along the top to preserve the stamp. I do not know the whereabouts of this cover at present but it is undoubtedly safely tucked away in some collection.



Cover #15



Cover #16

Cover #16 SOUTHAMPTON ONTARIO, 1959. (See previous page.)

This stamp is tied to a post card addressed to “Master Allen Hubbard, 1231 Colborne Rd., Sarnia, Ontario by an indistinct strike of the “SOUTHAMPTON ONT. ?/59” cds. While the date is illegible in the photos available I would expect it is sometime in September 1959. Cover #16 is certainly related to cover #14 as discussed above. Cover #16 was one of the three Seaway Invert covers sold from the Brigham collection in May 2004 at an undisclosed price. Apparently all three now reside in an “Inverts of the World” collection in Florida.

COVER #17. *DO YOU HAVE IT?* The author would be very interested to hear from anyone who has a genuine Seaway Invert on a cover or post card that is NOT listed above. Please contact us if you are the lucky owner of such a great Canadian showpiece.

Do you have a story to tell about a St. Lawrence Seaway Invert? I would like to gather and document as much information about them as possible. If you are a BNAPSer with notes on the Seaway Inverts, especially notes from the first decade, please contact the writer at PO Box 1870 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S2 Canada; telephone (306) 931-6633 or toll free (North America only): (800) 205-8814.

References

[1] *Scott Stamp Monthly*, April 2003.

[This article was originally printed as a brochure to accompany Saskatoon Stamp Centre's December 2005 mailing to its customers. The text has been edited slightly to suit BNA Topics' format.]

The Postal History Society of Canada invites applications for membership



The PHSC publishes an award-winning quarterly journal, sponsors seminars on Canadian postal history, offers awards & prizes for postal history exhibits at philatelic shows across Canada, and publishes important books and monographs relating to Canadian postal history.

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For more information or membership forms, contact the Secretary, Stéphane Cloutier, 367 Lévis Ave, Ottawa ON K1L 6G6 Canada, e-mail: cloutier1967@sympatico.ca

Book reviews



NEWFOUNDLAND SPECIALIZED STAMP CATALOGUE, 6TH EDITION 2006, with stamps of *Classic Canada to 1951; and Colonies: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Colombia, Prince Edward Island*. John M. Walsh and John G. Butt, 498 pages, spiral bound, 9" X 6", colour images. Published by Walsh's Philatelic Service, 9 Guy Street, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 1P4. Price, not including shipping and taxes (if applicable), C\$87 or US\$72. Sample Pages: <http://www.nsscst.nf.ca/>

Editor's Note: It is not easy to review a normal book; a catalogue can be even more difficult. Because of the significant differences between the Newfoundland and non-Newfoundland sections of NEWFOUNDLAND SPECIALIZED STAMP CATALOGUE, 6TH EDITION 2006, Bob Dyer and Mike Street have collaborated to provide this extensive review of the whole volume.

PART I: NEWFOUNDLAND

Bob Dyer

OVERVIEW

When I reviewed the 2002 edition of the NEWFOUNDLAND SPECIALIZED STAMP CATALOGUE (NSSC) I wrote that it was "...the most significant tool a serious collector of Newfoundland philately can own. The NSSC is more helpful for Newfoundland postal historians than any other standard catalogue." The same can be said for the recently released 2006 edition, although some Newfoundland collectors, especially generalists, may find the price a bit high.

The catalogue has grown from 300 pages to almost 500, with 163 of the additional pages devoted to a new section on classic Canada and the provinces. Mike Street has examined this innovation, while I have focussed on the two-thirds of the book still covering Newfoundland. For the first time, colour is widely used throughout the book, adding eye-appeal, even if some of the illustrations suffer from the same washed-out appearance that one often sees in other catalogues.

The Newfoundland part of the book follows along the lines of previous editions, but Brian Murphy has redone the section on postal rates, introducing 22 new pages of detailed rate information from 1849 to 1949, derived from official records. This will be an impressive asset for postal historians. There is also a new illustrated page on Dignitary Presentation Cards.

Besides the previous detailed sections on the postal issues and air mail flights, there is extensive coverage of revenues, the new rate section mentioned above, perfins, post offices, T.P.O./R.P.O.s, pictorial post cards and corner cards.

The catalogue was a monumental task but, as with any complex machine, there are still a few things that could use further adjustment and a few cogs and wheels that could fit together more smoothly. Surprisingly, there are few price changes, although the last edition came out four years ago.

Throughout this evaluation, I will make comparisons between the NSSC and 2006 Scott Classic and Unitrade catalogues.

DEFINITIONS/NUMBERING SYSTEM

The postage stamps in NSSC are priced for “mint”, “used” and “on cover”. Prices for ‘mint’ stamps are for “hinged and margins nearly equal on all sides. VF”. Most experts would say that hinging makes stamps “unused” and not “mint”. In any case, the authors are clear in their intent. However, unlike Scott and Unitrade, there are no illustrations to reflect what is meant by “VF”. Examining the actual images does not help. For example, looking at the 35 images used for the three publicity issues of 1928-31, only about one-third appear “VF” to me, with “margins nearly equal on all sides”. This leaves some doubt in my mind as to what centring was actually intended as “VF”.

Going back to the ‘Mint’ question—both Scott Classic and Unitrade catalogue all Newfoundland issues as unused or mint (never hinged). While Scott’s single grade is VF, Unitrade uses F and VF. In today’s market, whether one likes it or not, it is important to know what one can expect to pay for a never hinged stamp. Even if a collector prefers unused stamps, he/she may see a never hinged copy of a much needed stamp in a pricelist or auction and should know what a fair price is. The examples below show how prices vary, depending upon condition, and hinging. The stamp is the 1908 map stamp—NSSC 80, Scott/Unitrade 86. Prices are in U.S. dollars with Unitrade prices taken at 0.85.

- NSSC—\$25 (VF)

- Scott—\$32.50 (VF unused) \$55.00 (VF NH)

- Unitrade—\$21.25 (F unused) 31.88 (F NH) \$51 (VF unused) \$102 (VF NH)

It’s obvious that there is big market difference between unused and mint (NH). Unitrade provides room for misinterpretation, in my opinion, but NSSC should have a NH factor. Scott Classic wins this challenge with two prices. A quick remedy for NSSC, if it goes to a 7th edition, would be to simply add a NH factor for each era or page, if adding it to each stamp is too cumbersome for the editors.

Another problem I have with the pricing structure of NSSC is that it lacks total values for sets. This is also important to the collector trying to price a complete set—one must add up all the values. This also would not take much work to remedy.

For NSSC, postage stamps on cover “must be paying correct rate and used before issuance of a similar value at a later date...” This is much more specific than Unitrade, which does not even speak to Newfoundland covers, but only to Canadian covers. The latter must be for “proper use”. If the rate is correct, can a specific issue be used decades after issuance? Scott’s definition goes on for almost a page, does not dwell much on rates, but does at least require that stamps on cover be “used in the period contemporaneous with their issuance”. NSSC’s definition is the most clear and concise, and I prefer it.

I did wonder about short periods of overlap as far as NSSC was concerned, and asked John Walsh about this several years ago, in regards to a cover with an 1897 surcharge several weeks after the replacement stamp was delivered to the GPO in early December 1897. He opined that this was close enough.

To some, the NSSC catalogue numbering system is off-putting because it is not the same as Scott/Unitrade’s. Many long-time collectors peruse pricelists or auction lot descriptions with Scott (or even Stanley Gibbons) numbers firmly embedded in their heads. Yet Walsh and Butt’s numbering system is not without merit. Whole numbers are granted only for “different dies”, a “major change in paper type”, or “a major colour change (not colour shades) but using the same die”. Scott (as well as Stanley Gibbons) decided eons ago to distinguish some stamps by colour shades, often leading to major headaches for the collector. Ironically, this was in the era when catalogues universally showed only black-and-white illustrations. One example is Scott 44/45 compared to NSSC’s 45. These listings are for the 1 ¢ green Prince Edward stamp, issued in various shades from 1887-1898 using the same die. For specialists, NSSC numbers merely become another set to be learned by the serious collector, or one must simply keep this catalogue handy when shopping.

COVERAGE/QUALITY

NSSC’s level of detail is what specialists seek, and in most instances it has incorporated the results of recent research. Scott shows only three sub-varieties for the three 1897 surcharges, for example (Scott 75-77, NSSC9-71), while Unitrade shows seven. NSSC shows 24! Despite such a plethora of varieties, NSSC accuracy is quite high, although as a researcher and specialist, I sometimes disagree with a few of NSSC’s choices (quantities issued or the existence of several varieties—one example being the 1896 printing of the 1 ¢ green Edward).

Looking at the level of detailed information on proofs, inscription/plate pieces, flights, as well as the other specialized sections I mentioned in my introduction, NSSC is much more complete, followed by Unitrade and then Scott. Scott does not price inscription/plate pieces, sought by many, even though they promote their Scott Classic as a “specialized” catalogue.

There are also some welcome corrections or additions from the last edition, based upon previous recommendations or research. Examples of these are the elimination of several listings for registered envelopes that do not exist, increasing

the value of the raised ‘E’ varieties of the 3 ¢ 1920 surcharges over the main types (since the raised ‘E’ exist only one to a setting), and the addition of slanted surcharge varieties for the Alcock and Dornier air mails (with appropriate benchmark illustrations.) Sammy Whaley’s census on the Cents issues is now reflected in EKUs (earliest known usages) for those issues.

The section on the 1937 Long Coronation set has been updated with the help of Tom Gosse and C.A. Stillions. There is now a more complete matrix by perforation varieties, including imperforate. Seventeen new items have been listed for the first time, including the 1 ¢ and 3 ¢ with compound perfs 14.1 & 13.7. These two items are cross-listed under the column for 14.1 X 14.1, which caused me some head-scratching. I assume this means that the perforations clockwise from the top are 14.1, 14.1, 13.7 and 14.1. This could have described a bit better, but the new listings are important.

A full page is used to explain the “Newfoundland Sudan Booklet” which is NSSC’s controversial equivalent of the New Carlisle cover of Canada. Fortunately this unique item (now in private hands) has been ‘decommissioned’ to the status of an “essay prototype” as opposed to its previous NSSC full status as “BK1.” Interested collectors may want to read a different view in Dean Mario’s analysis of this item in *BNA Topics* #493, October–December, 2002.

One of the innovations of the expanded postal rate section is quite helpful—providing not only basic letter rates but also the charges for additional weight. The chart on air mail fees has also been made more detailed.

As far as the production quality of NSSC compared to Scott Classic and Unitrade, it is competitive, although Scott, as a hardback, will allow more handling in the long run. Both NSSC and Unitrade have spiral bindings which can be a problem if one forgets to turn pages carefully. The thickness of the paper used appears to be about the same. None of the colour illustrations in these three tomes are particularly good. Scott’s has the worst colour quality, with Unitrade a bit better than NSSC (at least for most images for items of 1880 and later). Because Unitrade’s pages are 45% larger than NSSC, most illustrations are proportionately larger, which seems to permit a somewhat higher quality.

PRICING

One of the reasons many use catalogues is to ascertain the value of stamps, or how much one should expect to pay for items sought. It is important to note, however, that pricing is not the sole criterion in evaluating any stamp catalogue. Here is how NSSC, Scott and Unitrade define their pricing structure:

-NSSC—“Prices for rare items are from auction realizations; dealer prices are used to value the others.”

-SCOTT CLASSIC—“The Scott Catalogue value is a retail value....”

-UNITRADE—“The Unitrade catalogue provides retail value....”

Both Scott and Unitrade have shown many changes in Newfoundland prices during the past four years, while NSSC prices have remained surprisingly static. Looking at NSSC 2006's prices for all its postal issues (mint, used and on cover), absent varieties, I find fewer than 2% of these have changed since the 2002 edition (13), with 10 being for 19th century stamps, and three for rare air mails.

From the viewpoint of a specialist, I reviewed prices for all listings from 1865–1911 (over 850 values), and only about 3% were changed. This could mean that NSSC believes the market is not changing except for a small number of scarce items. It could also mean that efforts were not made to update previous research.

I believe more common issues are priced closer to retail in Scott than the other two catalogues, based upon a random study I did. For middle values, \$25–200, it depends somewhat upon the issue, but Scott's interpretation of the market has generally resulted in lower evaluations, despite some problems with cover prices (more often too low than too high). I decided to test unused prices further by looking at the last nine long sets issued, starting with the 1919 Caribou set, and compared Scott to NSSC. NSSC prices averaged 16% more than Scott and, in my experience, retail prices normally do not even reach the level of Scott's evaluations. Interestingly, if NSSC prices were in Canadian dollars rather than U.S. dollars, they would almost be on a par. As for Unitrade, unused prices seemed generally high at all levels. Cover prices for some of the elite items were more than twice what the market is charging (examples being the Scott #77 on cover at C\$2000 and a C5 cover at C\$17,500). It's possible that the increased value of the Canadian dollar to the U.S. dollar has inflated Unitrade prices somewhat relative to the U.S. market—my calculations were based upon the Canadian dollar being 85 ¢ in U.S. currency.

When we get to stamps catalogued above \$200, NSSC prices more often make sense to me, both for mint (unused) and on cover. There are occasional exceptions, however, even in this category, as NSSC stumbles when evaluating the inverted surcharge of the first 3 ¢ 1920 at \$750. When I last saw one in auction it went for around \$1100, whereas Scott's price of \$1250 is just about right. Prices realized for the Columbia air mail unused singles are only \$5,400 (100% VF sample from 2001–2005), much less than NSSC's \$8,500 evaluation, although the price for on-cover usage is close.

Do not let yourself be deluded by some of the higher evaluations. The true test is the actual market. Besides the standard catalogues, one must also study pricelists and auction realizations. Catalogues are merely guides, and should provide a lot more than just prices. They should also contain accurate and complete information about issue dates, varieties, quantities issued, rates, etc. Under the information standard, NSSC again leads the pack as it offers so much more than its rivals.

SUMMARY

The 2006 edition of the NSSC is an improvement over the 2002 edition. From the perspective of a Newfoundland collector this is a fine product, if somewhat

expensive at C\$100+ (with shipping and tax.) More information is provided on the philately of Newfoundland here than by Scott or Unitrade. By definition, the NSSC is directed to the specialist. Generalists may want to look at other, less expensive options.

PART II: CANADA AND ITS PROVINCES BEFORE CONFEDERATION

Mike Street

On hearing that John Walsh had included in his *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue*, 6th Edition a section for the stamps of Canada and its provinces before Confederation, my initial reaction was “Why? Who needs another catalogue?” Part of the answer comes in C. R. (Ron) McGuire’s Foreword to the new section, where he says that he asked more or less the same questions, but then continues: “Readers will quickly recognize the major difference in this ‘new’ catalogue—stamps printed from the same plate and/or with the same design are all listed together under one whole number. Ron goes on to say that the idea is not new—this is the same numbering system that NSSC has used for the stamps of Newfoundland since inception.

Physically, the ‘Canada’ section is spiral bound in the same volume as the ‘Newfoundland’ part, making for a pretty thick book which tends to flop a bit because the spiral is a tad large. Although there is a ‘cover’ page for the ‘Canada’ part of the book, it is of the same paper stock as the rest of the book. It would be most helpful if the ‘cover’ were printed on thicker paper, with a tab sticking out to help find it and clearly separate the two parts of NSSC.

‘Canada and the Provinces’ starts off with C. R. McGuire’s foreword and a table of contents. There follows an interesting introductory essay that uses the many different aspects of the stamps shown on the ‘cover’ to illustrate in words a sort of road map of the development of stamps and mail in Canada during the period covered by the catalogue. One gets the impression that the essay was cut short to save space and, if so, this is too bad. All philatelists could benefit from reading this text, especially those persons just coming into the hobby.

It should be mentioned right away that the NSSC Canada and Provinces section is limited (and apparently will stay that way) to stamps issued during the reign of the monarchs who ruled while Newfoundland was a colony or Dominion of Great Britain, i.e., Queen Victoria to King George VI. Thus, in 164 pages, it includes all stamps issued by Canada up to the 1951 Royal Visit commemorative, and all those produced by British Columbia and Vancouver Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. There is also a separate section on Canadian Postal Stationery and almost 20 pages on Canadian postal rates. Surprisingly, virtually no bibliography is given for the new section—although there are nods to Marler,

Bileski and Harrison. One would have expected at least a passing reference to Boggs, Howes and Jarrett and, for obvious reasons, Webb for stationery and Boyd for specimens.

CATALOGUE CONCEPT

As in the Newfoundland part of the catalogue, NSSC—Canada and Provinces has a heading, either for a single stamp or a set, which gives the accepted name for the issue, e.g. Queen Victoria—Small Queens, as well as watermark and basic perforation information. (Exceptions to this are the 20 ¢ and 50 ¢ ‘Widow’s Weeds’, which are lumped with the Small Queens and not given their accepted name.) All issues listed were engraved, and this is also stated. An omission here is the name of the printer, which would be useful. On the same line as the catalogue number are found the face value of the stamp, the image depicted, paper type (and method, e.g., wet printing, where applicable), colour, perforations if different from others in a set, issue date and printing quantity. Catalogue values for each identified variation of the stamp are given, where applicable, in US\$ for mint VF, used VF and on cover.

How are the listings different? Take the Pence issues of Canada as an example. Where another catalogue has 13 catalogue numbers for the Pence stamps, separating some shades from others and perforated stamps from the imperforates, NSSC has only six. Shade and perforation variations are each identified by sub-numbers under the main one for that design. Perforation varieties, plate numbers, specimens, proofs and trials of a design are also given sub-numbers, instead of being placed in one or more separate sections. Carrying this on to later issues, coil and booklet stamps have sub-numbers as well, as do ‘OHMS’ and ‘G’ officials. Only if a stamp’s base colour is changed or a different die has been identified, even if the design remains essentially the same, is a separate catalogue number assigned. Examples of this are the 1 ¢ Admirals, where the 1 ¢ green, 1 ¢ yellow Die I and 1 ¢ yellow Die II each have a different catalogue number.

For the most part, the single catalogue number listing concept is carried out consistently for all the stamps of Canada and the provinces. The one glaring inconsistency is that, as in the main Newfoundland section of NSSC, surcharged stamps such as the Queen Victoria and Admiral provisionals have a different catalogue number from the one originally used for that design and colour. It appears that the author has decided that if a surcharge changes the value of the stamp when used, i.e., the amount paid by someone buying it at a post office, then it gets a different catalogue number. To me, doing this negates the idea of letting the collector see everything pertinent to a specific design and colour in one place.

An inconsistency within the inconsistency is that the ‘1Tc’ overprint for the War Tax version of the 2 ¢ red Admiral, which cost three cents at the post office, is included under the catalogue number of the 2 ¢. This is not to criticize inclusion of the ‘1Tc’ stamp within NSSC. Relegated to the back of the book by others, this stamp was much used for postage and should be listed with stamps. The ‘War Tax’

versions of the other Admirals are also listed, except for the 1 ¢ green which is not listed at all. Why ‘War Tax’ versions of Admirals not intended for use as postage should be included here is another question.

A different inconsistency is seen in NSSC’s treatment of specimens, proofs and colour trials. In the listings of the earliest issues, these are found at the very end of the sub-numbers, but on later issues such as the 3 ¢ Small Queen, a specimen item is the very first sub-number, while a proof is the last. In places it is hard to distinguish between imperforate stamps and imperforate proofs. Plate positions also make some listings a bit hard to follow, especially when there are many, or when stamp varieties are introduced in the middle of a long run of plates, as for the 3 ¢ red Admiral. It would be best to keep these categories of items apart within the listing and use additional subtitles or headings to do so.

With the amount of information included in the listings, and the small size of the book itself, spacing is tight and most of us over 40 will need our glasses, but on the whole the listings and layout work. The only real layout annoyance I found was at the beginning and end of the postal rates section, where column headings are repeated on the same line, confusing things a bit. This may have been a production oversight but in any case should be corrected in any future edition. As far as catalogue values go, I did not do any real comparison between NSSC and other catalogues. Bob Dyer’s comments on this aspect for Newfoundland stamps apply equally to those of Canada and the Provinces.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The first thing that hits you when you open NSSC is that virtually all the illustrations are in colour, a welcome though not essential improvement, especially as this certainly made the cost of the book much higher than if everything was in black and white. One immediately sees also that the images are not limited to just stamps—many postal covers, some of them spectacular, are shown. Some viewers may say that the images are crammed into the listings, and to a certain extent they are. The other side of that coin, however, is that the images are adjacent to the corresponding listing and therefore immediately useful.

The quality of the images varies; most are clear but many are fuzzy. The 7 ¢ QV Numeral, shown in a line with its 6-, 8-, 10- and 20 ¢ sisters, and the Edward VII experimental coils are good examples of this problem. Where clarity really becomes an issue is when an illustration, reduced to a very small size for layout reasons, comes from a fuzzy original. The amount of labour and technical skill that went into placing all the images in the book was tremendous; if there are future editions the author would do well to improve them with better quality images wherever needed.

I found it strange that, while some covers shown have explanatory captions, many do not. As an example, two covers at the bottom of page 467 have captions, while three covers at the bottom of the opposite page have none, even though there

is an inch-and-a-half of white space. For the most part, stamp images adjacent to a listing need no captions, but what is the point of showing a cover if you don't tell the reader its significance? A case in point is the incredible Canada Officially Sealed/Dead Letter Office cover illustrated on page 444. There is enough white space above the image for a caption but it is blank. (There are many such cases, but I found this one notable because, after many years of searching, when the author of NSSC finally obtained a cover with the corresponding Newfoundland Officially Sealed stamp, he was high enough to have walked over the water from the 'Rock' to the mainland!) It is also a bit odd that no British Columbia or Vancouver Island postal history items are shown.

POSTAL STATIONERY

The coverage of the Canada Postal Stationery section of NSSC is cursory at best. The 18 pages taken up provide only the barest listing of envelopes, post cards, postal bands and wrappers, letter cards and air letters. There are no illustrations of any of the vignettes of the reigning monarch used on the different postal stationery items, in fact no illustrations at all except for five post cards, one band and an envelope. My reaction to this section was straightforward: "Why did they bother?"

POSTAL RATES

A lot of effort by prominent postal historians has resulted in the section on postal rates effective in Canada during the period covered by NSSC. Surface and airmail rates to different destinations are well covered, as are registration and special delivery fees. Text describing the employment of trans-Atlantic shipping and of railways is useful, as are the brief listings for basic Soldier's mail and early parcel post. Rates from the province of Canada to the other provinces are included, but the lack of the corresponding information for mail from the provinces (other than Canada) to other places stands out. For the most part, the rate information is well presented, appears to be accurate and is surprisingly comprehensive. For example, I was pleased to find that the three different post-WWII airmail rates for airmail to Hawaii were included.

On the negative side, while there is a header for prepaid/unpaid rates in the period when this was possible, only the prepaid rates are given. The date after which stamps were required on all mail originating in Canada is given, but it is 125 pages away from the postal rate section. There are other small things such as: a) a statement that mail to/from the Government of Canada is free to members while in Parliament when it is actually free to AND from members while Parliament is in session and for 10 days on either side; b) although the information that the Soldier rate initiated in 1799 ended a century later with Imperial Penny Postage is correct, the impression is created that this was the end of such rates; in fact there were free rates for servicemen and women in active war zones right into the 1960s, and

concessionary rates for those serving overseas are still in force today; and c) an incorrect year is given for the 20th century rate change for Acknowledgement of Receipt (A-R).

There is no doubt in my mind that having a solid section on postal rates in the same physical book where the stamps that paid the rates are catalogued is a good idea. Stamp collectors can get an idea of how their issues were used, while postal historians can keep an eye out for stamp varieties that may add value or at least interest to a cover. Since lots of mail was sent before stamps were introduced, addition of at least basic rates in the stampless period would be a good idea for a future edition.

CONCLUSION

NSSC—Canada and Its Provinces Before Confederation has much going for it, with a lot of information packed into a relatively small space and helpful illustrations virtually everywhere. A nice touch is the provision of a watermark detector on a half-page printed in black, as well as a perforation gauge, and a small magnifier inserted literally at ‘the back of the book’, along with an early map of Newfoundland which shows many small towns that no longer exist. In a future edition, it would be useful if there was a cross-reference table, giving the NSSC catalogue number and the corresponding numbers from other catalogues. One aspect of NSSC I simply do not understand is that the catalogue values are given in United States dollars. WHY, when the book is produced in Canada by Canadians, concerns only Canadian stamps and postal history, and its primary market is in Canada????

Crunch time – would I buy NSSC? At close to \$100 in anyone’s money when taxes and postage are figured in, if my only collecting interest was stamps of Canada and/or the provinces (other than Newfoundland), no, I would not. Newfoundland specialists, on the other hand, are getting the new part for not much more than the book would have cost without it. However, with the caveats mentioned above, I like the concept of concentrated listings. If the Canada and provinces part was published separately from the Newfoundland part and offered at a reasonable price, I would certainly consider buying it after a few iterations have worked the bugs out, knowing that I would not likely have to buy another one.

Another aspect to be considered in having a catalogue that goes only to the end of the reign of George VI is that there are many people whose collecting interests lie only in the Queen Elizabeth period. At some point in the not-too-distant future it might be economical to have Canadian catalogues split into pre- and post-QUEII editions.

Foreign rates of postage in 1890— new listings

Victor Willson, OTB

In addition to other pre-1900 Canadian post office publications, Library and Archives Canada has now scanned and placed on-line the 1890 *Official Postal Guide*, making available more detailed lists of countries to which at this time the UPU surcharge for remote places was in effect. Covers from Canada to most of these destinations in this period have not yet been found. The lists provide a reference should such items surface in future. They also present a picture of the last stages of the surtax for most destinations, as by 1892 most had disappeared, although a few new countries were organized and listed as colonies.

The URL to access the 1890 *Official Postal Guide* is: <http://phila.collectionscanada.ca/>

Country	Letter rate per 15 gr	Postcard rate	Registration	Printed matter per 2 oz
Aden	10	2	5	2
Africa				
British Possessions	10	2	5	2
French Possessions	10	2	5	2
German Possessions	10	2	5	2
Other	15	-	-	3
Algeria	5	2	5	1
Ascension	15	-	-	3
Australian colonies				
via San Francisco to South Australia	7	-	-	2
via Brindisi to SA	15	-	15	3
via Brindisi to WA	15	-	15	6
via SF all others	12	-	15	3
via Brindisi others	19	-	7	6
Borneo	10	2	5	2
Burmah	10	2	5	2
Cameroons	10	2	5	2
Cape of Good Hope	12	-	6	3
Ceylon	10	2	5	2
China				
via SF or Vancouver	10	2	5	2
via Brindisi	15	-	7	5
Congo	10	2	5	2
Curacao	5	2	5	1
Falkland Islands	10	2	5	1

Country	Letter rate per 15 gr	Postcard rate	Registration	Printed matter per 2 oz
Fernando Po	10	-	-	1
Fiji Islands	7	-	-	2
Finland	5	2	5	3
French Colonies				
in Americas	5	2	5	1
in Asia and Africa	10	2	5	2
Gambia	10	3	5	2
Gibraltar	5	2	5	1
Gold Coast	10	2	5	2
Greenland	10	2	5	2
Greytown, NZ via NY	18	-	10	8
India	10	2	5	2
Java	10	2	5	2
Labuan	10	2	5	2
Lagos	10	2	5	2
Liberia	10	2	5	2
Madagascar except St. Mary's, Tannatave and Majongo	27	-	10	5
St. Mary's etc	10	2	5	2
Marshall Islands	10	2	5	2
Mauritius	10	2	5	2
Morocco	15	-	-	3
Morocco, Spanish	5	2	5	2
Mozambique	10	2	5	2
Natal	15	-	7	3
Netherlands colonies	10	2	5	2
New Guinea	10	2	5	2
Patagonia	10	2	5	2
Persia	10	2	5	2
Portuguese colonies via Brindisi	10	2	5	2
Saba, St. Eustatius & St. Martins	15	-	-	3
St. Helena via UK	15	-	7	3
St. Mary's Madagascar	10	2	5	2
Seychelles	10	2	5	2
Siam				
via SF	10	2	10	3
via Brindisi	10	2	5	3
Spanish colonies	10	2	5	2
Straits Settlements	10	2	5	2
Sumatra	10	2	5	2
Togo & SW Africa	10	2	5	2
Zanzibar	10	2	5	2

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Canadian mail to Boer prisoner-of-war camps abroad

Dr. J R Frank RDPSA, FRPSL

The envelope mailed to a Boer prisoner of war held in Bermuda, featured on the cover of a recent *BNA Topics* [1], generated an impressive response [2]. Readers of *Topics* may be interested in several related items in my collection.

Mail to St. Helena

Some years ago I acquired two very nice Canadian covers mailed to a Boer officer in a British prisoner-of-war camp on the island of St. Helena in the south Atlantic. Both bear a St. Helena receiving postmark on the obverse and are addressed to Capt. De Witt Hammer, a member of the 'Hollander Volunteer Corps' of the South African Republic who was actively involved in the Second Anglo-Boer War. He was captured at Elandslaagte on 21 October 1899, incarcerated and eventually sent to. He remained there until after the end of the conflict.

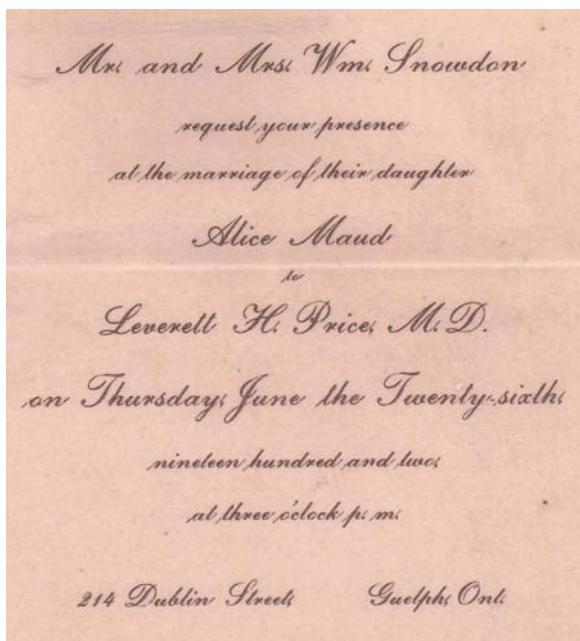


Figure 1. Letter to Capt. De Witt Hammer on St. Helena.

Keywords & phrases: Boer War, St. Helena, prisoner of war



Figures 2 and 3: Second letter to Cat. Hammer and enclosed wedding invitation



The cover from Moncton, N.B. (Figure 1) was sent on 22 May 1902. It reached St. Helena on 23 June 1902 and received a fine strike of the violet St. Helena triangular censor mark. This marking was in use from 15 May till 24 July 1902, a period of a mere ten weeks. There are no back stamps indicating the cover's route, but it is almost certain to have been sent via the United Kingdom.

Imagine my surprise when I found the envelope contained an invitation to the wedding of Dr. Leverett H. Price and Miss Alice M. Snowdon on 26 June 1902 at Guelph (Figure.2). I suddenly remembered C.R. McGuire's interesting article [3] about Dr. Price's sojourn at St. Helena, where he served as a Medical Officer for the Boer prisoners being held there. It is likely that Price had befriended Hammer at St. Helena.

The second letter (Fig 3) was sent from Guelph, Ont, on 14 June 1902 and reached Hammer at St. Helena on 15 July 1902. This cover was not censored, as the authorities must have been aware by now that the war was over.

Both covers are docketed to indicate that the recipient had replied to the letters on '19/7/02'. The letter mailed to Dr. Price by Miss Snowdon, and reported by McGuire in his article, was also sent from Guelph to Halifax, where it was redirected to St. Helena.

Mail from Canada to St. Helena in the early years of the last century is scarce, these being the only two covers known to me.

MAIL TO CEYLON



Figure 4. Canadian UPU post card to a Boer prisoner of war in Ceylon.

The two cent Canadian UPU Post Card (Fig. 4) from Halifax, N. S. was written on board the S. S. Harlech Castle by a Boer prisoner of war. R. Karsten, who was returning to South Africa via Halifax, N.S. after being held in Bermuda, wrote this card to his son Wilhelm, still interned at Ragama Camp in Ceylon. The postcard bears Colombo and Ragama receivers, as well as a nice strike of the violet Ragarna Camp Censor marking. The card's message is interesting in that the sender says that he will attempt to have his son released as well.

The final item is a 'front' from Brigham, Que., to Urugasmanhandiya Camp on 23 April 1902, in Ceylon (Fig. 5). It is addressed to Sgt. A. Brown of 'A Coy. 1st Gloster Reg' at the Boer Camp. The regiment was probably on guard duty at the camp at the time.

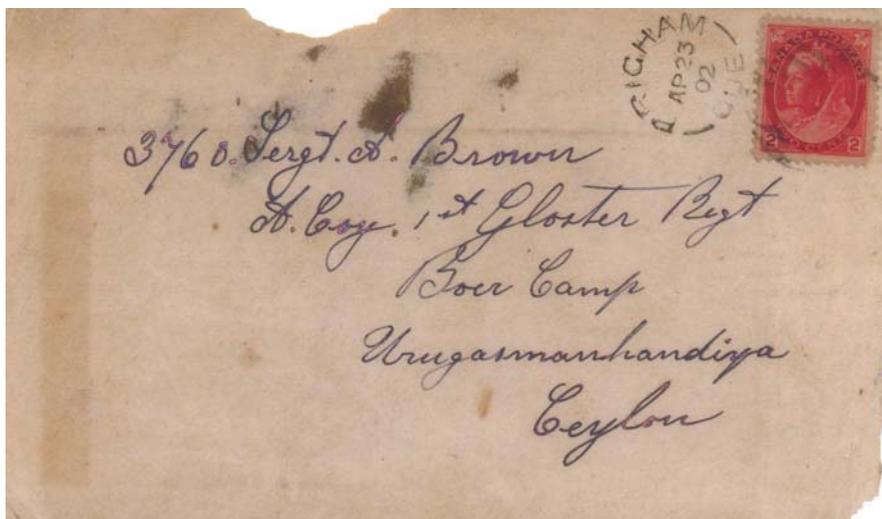


Figure 5. A letter to a British soldier serving at a Boer prisoner-of-war camp in Ceylon

References

- [1] *The Cover on the Cover*, BNA Topics, Vol. 62, No. 2, Whole No. 503, Second Quarter 2005; p. 5.
- [2] *Readers Speak*, BNA Topics Vol. 62, No. 3, Whole No. 504, Third Quarter 2005; p. 68.
- [3] *The Canadian Connection with St. Helena*, C.R. McGuire, in the program for the STAMPEX Philatelic Exhibition, Toronto, June 1981; reprinted in a slightly modified form in BNA Topics, Vol. 38, No. 4, July-August 1981, Whole no. 384. In *A Canadian Military Postal History Anthology*, BNAPS Military Mail Study Group, 1991, p. 224, C. R. McGuire reported a second cover addressed to Dr. Price.

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Early money packets

George B Arfken and William S Pawluk

The Post Office started setting special rates for packages of money on April 1, 1922. In 2001, Robert C. Smith [1, 6] published a detailed list of the special money packet rates as they varied over the years. In that same issue of *BNA Topics*, David Handelman [2, 7] presented a general discussion of money packets. Both authors noted that before 1 April 1922 money packets went by regular first class mail. Handelman illustrated a money packet from 1907. To illustrate the change that was forced on money packets in 1899, the change that led to the use of first class mail, we jump back to the 1800s [3].

The earliest money packets we have seen [4, 102] were sent through the mail as registered parcel post. Canadian parcel post had been established on 1 December 1858 [5] and had authorized packages to be **sealed** and registered. Figure 1 shows a wrapping from a parcel post money packet. The 77 ¢ postage paid for 5 ¢ registration and 72 ¢ for forty-eight ounces at 6 ¢ per four ounces. Parcel post was used because (1) it could be sealed; and (2) it was cheaper. The forty-eight ounces sent first class at 3 ¢ per oz. would have cost \$1.44 (plus 5 ¢ for registration).

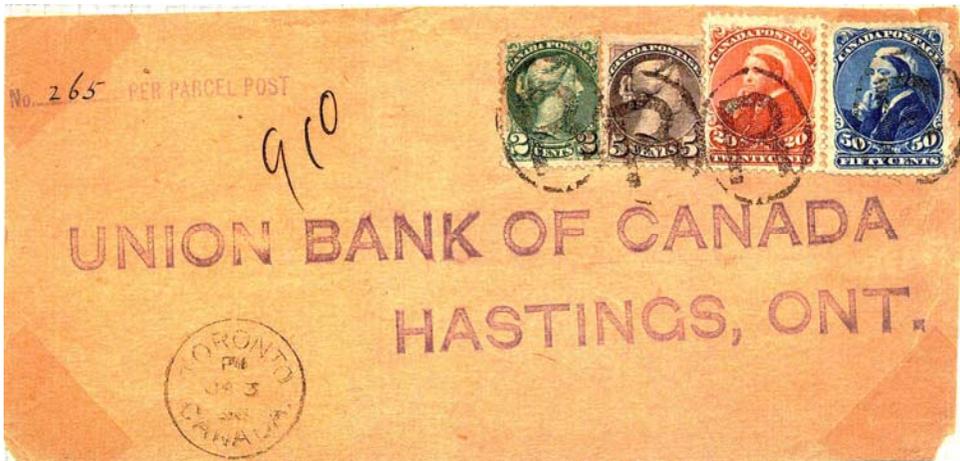


Figure 1. A money packet wrapping from the Union Bank of Canada, Toronto, posted January 3, 1898 and addressed to Hastings, Ont. Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Horace W. Harrison Collection.

Keywords & phrases: Money packet, rates, Victoria, Edward

Harrison's collection [4,102] included two other examples of money packets sent by registered parcel post and franked with Small Queens and Widow Weeds. The 20 ¢ and 50 ¢ Widow Weeds, issued in 1893, were used to pay high postal charges for bulk rates on newspapers and parcel post, especially international parcel post. There were other possibilities for sending money packets. In earlier times, couriers would have been employed and possibly private express lines [6].



Figure 2 .A money packet mailing tag posted in Hazelton, B.C., October 26, 1903, and addressed to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Victoria, B.C. There is a NO 13 03 receiving mark, 18 days transit. Ex. Harrison, now in the Pawluk collection.

The April 1899 *Quarterly Supplement* of the Canada *Official Postal Guide* began with a sentence of 79 words. This sentence said two things:

On and from the 1st April 1899,

1. The existing Fourth Class mail consisting of packets sealed against inspection was abolished.

2. The existing Fifth Class mail consisting of packets open for inspection was renamed Fourth Class.

From 1 April 1899, any mail matter sealed against inspection could only go at letter rate [7]. Bankers, of course, wanted money packets sealed so, for the next 23 years, money packets went first class, letter rate.

Figure 2, on the previous page, shows a spectacular money packet mailing tag franked with twenty-four 5 ¢ Edwards. The \$1.20 paid for 5 ¢ registration and \$1.14 for fifty-seven ounces at 2 ¢ per ounce plus 1 ¢ overpayment. The 20 ¢ Numerals had been issued 24 December 24 1900, but presumably they were not available.

Hazelton, a small settlement in the far north of British Columbia, is now served by the highway and railway joining Prince George and Prince Rupert. Neither highway nor railway existed in 1903. Tracy Cooper advises us that the packet would have gone down the Skeena River by steamer to Port Essington. (Prince Rupert did not exist in 1903.) It is likely that the packet was picked up by a U.S. coastal steamer coming from Wrangell, Alaska and carried to Victoria [8].

Harrison listed this item as a registered money packet but, as it was mailed by a private individual, not by a bank, he noted that it might have contained gold dust or gold nuggets rather than currency. Cooper further notes that little or no gold was coming from Hazelton at this time, but that the packet might have contained valuable furs. Support for this conclusion comes from another registered packet from Hazelton sending furs to Seattle, Wash. [4, 108].



Figure 3. A registered money packet from the Union Bank of Canada, Toronto, to its branch in Smithville, Ont. Courtesy of Jean and Bill Walton, Horace W. Harrison Collection.

A bank-to-bank money packet wrapping is shown in Figure 3. The 91 ¢ in stamps paid for 5 ¢ registration plus 43 ounces at 2 ¢ per ounce. Harrison [4, 106] noted that (1) the 20 cent Edwards had been issued on 27 September 27 1904; and (2) encircling of the original registry number, 1641, became mandatory September 18, 1907; thus this money packet was mailed in that three-year period.

Union Bank of Canada registered money packets to Kingsville, Ont. have been illustrated by the Waltons [4, 107] and by Handelman [2, 7].

References:

- [1] Smith, Robert C *Money packet rates*, BNA Topics vol. 58, p. 6, 4th Q 2001.
- [2] Handelman, David *Money packets*, BNA Topics vol. 58, pp. 7-13, 4th Q 2001.
- [3] This article was adapted from *A Canadian Postal History, 1897–1911* by Arfken and Pawluk, in press.
- [4] Walton, Jean and Bill *Registered Covers: 1875–1911, A Reconstruction of the Horace Harrison Exhibits*, British North America Philatelic Society, 2003. BNAPS Exhibit Series No. 30
- [5] *Department Circular* No, 42, December 1, 1858. This document and other early Post Office documents through 1900 are available at www.collectionscanada.ca. Click on English (or French), click ArchiviaNet, then click Canadian Post Office Publications.
- [6] Arfken, GB, AW Leggett, CG Firby and AL Steinhart *Canada's Pence Era, the Pence Stamps and the Canadian Mail, 1851–1859*, Toronto: Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Foundation, 1997. See Appendix G. Also, Harrison, Horace W *Early Express Company Operations in Canada Competing with the Post Office Department in Quebec and Ontario*, BNAPS Exhibit Book No. 2, Ken Ellison, Editor. 1997.
- [7] These changes were listed in the January 1899 *Canada Official Postal Guide*, but the 1899 *Quarterly Supplements* indicate that the change became effective 1 April, not 1 January.
- [8] Tracy Cooper, private communication, 1 October 1 2005.

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Privately printed corner cards on Newfoundland postal stationery

Dean Mario

Newfoundland issued 3 ¢ and 5 ¢ value postal stationery envelopes in late 1889. Although officials believed that they would be warmly welcomed by the public, they never really captured the attention of postal users. In fact, one can still find legitimate commercial usage of them well into the early part of the twentieth century.

Privately printed corner cards on Newfoundland Postal Stationery, therefore, are understandably scarce and desirable. Only a small handful of examples are known; one, from Lewisporte General Store and Hotel owner Uriah Freake, is illustrated here.



Figure 1.

This attractive multi-coloured corner card envelope was sent registered from Lewisporte on 9 October 1919. It bears a St. John's East 11 October broken-circle receiver along with the customary double-oval St. John's registered marking of the

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, postal stationery, corner card

same date. The cover paid the 3 ¢ inland letter rate and the 3 ¢ registration fee. Paul Burega, in a previous issue of 'The Newfie Newsletter', illustrated an identical registered cover, dated 15 October 1919, with a 30 Caribou value affixed to make up the required 6 ¢ fee [1].

As members know, the late Horace Harrison was an avid student, collector, and researcher of Newfoundland postal stationery. His excellent March 2000 study, published in the BNAPS Exhibits Series, illustrated a different corner card example from that noted above. Horace featured two similar envelopes from 'H. Weeks & Co., Bank Fishing Supplies, Bay Bulls, N.F.' which had been used in 1897 and in 1903. He also remarked that "... any Newfoundland postal stationery with a printed corner card is very unusual." [2]

It is quite incredible that these two types, from U. Freake and H. Weeks, are the only recorded, privately printed corner cards on Newfoundland postal stationery envelopes to date. Collectors having different examples are encouraged to report and illustrate them through the Editor of *BNA Topics*.

References

- [1] Paul Burega, "3¢ Advertising Envelope," The Newfie Newsletter Of The Newfoundland Study Group Of BNAPS, No. 20 (Nov.–Dec. 1988), p.5.
 [2] Horace W. Harrison, *Newfoundland Postal Stationery 1873–1941*, BNAPS Exhibits Series No.18 (March 2000), p.49.

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New issues

William J F Wilson

CANADA Post issued a commemorative stamp on 15 August 2005, marking the 250th anniversary of the deportation of the Acadians. The date is appropriate, since August 15 is the Acadian National Day. This is actually the second stamp to mark the deportation, the first being the 50 ¢ Grand-Pré stamp of 4 December 1930, and the new release features this earlier stamp set prominently against a backdrop of the Acadian flag.

The deportation of thousands of Acadians from Nova Scotia to other British colonies in North America was perhaps the lowest point in the conflict between France and Britain that marks the early history of French settlement in the Maritimes. As recalled by last year's stamp commemorating de Mons' settlement on Île Sainte-Croix, and this year's stamp featuring his move to Port Royal, French colonization in the Maritimes began in 1604. However, Britain claimed the entire region based on John Cabot's discoveries of 1497–98, and in the ensuing tug-of-war the colony changed hands fourteen times before 1700. Permanent possession went to Britain in 1713 with the Treaty of Utrecht, ending the War of the Spanish Succession. Afterwards, the Acadians tried to remain neutral, and Britain tolerated their presence for many years; but when the Seven Years' War broke out in 1755, Britain had doubts about their loyalty, dispossessed them of their land, and expelled them to other colonies. They were permitted to return after 1764, and many did, forming the basis of today's Acadian community.

This is actually the third Canadian stamp on an Acadian topic. The second, the Acadians stamp of August 14, 1981, commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the Acadian Convention at Memramcook, N.B., the first in a series of conventions in which the Acadians chose a national feast day, a flag, and a patron saint, and discussed other ways of strengthening their culture. This delightful stamp features the painting *L'Acadie* by Nérée DeGrâce, a Quebec painter of Acadian origin.

Several stamps of interest to collectors of animals and plants on stamps have appeared. The high-value definitives of October 20 continue Canada Post's excellent series of steel engravings with Walrus and White-tailed Deer on the \$1, and Peregrine Falcon and the Sable Island Horse on the \$2. Question: If there is a deer standing in a field, how do you tell if it is a White-tailed or a Mule Deer? Answer: Check the tail. If it's white then it's a Mule Deer and if it is brown then it's a White-tail. (Logical, huh?) When startled, a White-tail flips its tail up and bounds off into the distance with the underside of the tail showing like a white flag. As can

Keywords & phrases: new issues

be seen on the stamp, the white underside also shows as a border around the upper side of the tail. Two other large animals appear on the Big Cats stamps released a week earlier, a joint issue with China featuring Canada's cougar and China's Amur leopard.

For collectors of plants on stamps, the new definitive coils and booklets feature flowers that grow wild in Canada, two being native orchids and the other two being escapes from cultivation. In the Gardens booklet, each stamp shows both a garden view and a smaller image of an animal that associates with the garden depicted. One view shows an attractive bed of trilliums, with a Black-throated Blue Warbler above it.

The information in the accompanying tables is from the Canada Post website, <http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp?stamp=stamps>, and from philatelic inscriptions on the stamps. Where the number of lithographic colour dots on the stamp selvedge differs from that published by Canada Post, the selvedge is taken as correct. Size, perforations, and number of teeth are my own measurements, and are given as (HORIZONTAL) x (VERTICAL).

Table 1. 2005 Commemorative Stamps

Stamp	Saskatchewan Centennial	Oscar Peterson	Acadian Deportation	Polio Vaccination
Value	50¢	50¢	50¢	50¢
Issued	02 Aug	15 Aug	15 Aug	02 Sep
Printer	CBN	CBN	CBN	CBN
Pane	8	SH: 16 SS: 4	16	16
Paper	C	C	C	C
Process	9CL	7CL	6CL	8CL
Qty (106)	3	SH: 4 SS: 0.5	2.5	2.5
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	PVA	PVA	PVA
Size, mm	48 x 32	32 x 32	39.65 x 48	48 x 35
Perf	Simulated	13.1 x 12.5	13.1 x 12.5	12.5 x 13.1
Teeth	N/A	21 x 20	26 x 30	30 x 23

Table 2. 2005 Commemorative Stamps

Stamp	Youth Sports	Big Cats	Christmas: Snowman	Christmas: Creches
Value	4 x 50¢	2x50¢ s-t	50¢	50¢, 85¢, \$1.45
Issued	01 Oct	13 Oct	02 Nov	02 Nov
Printer	L-M	L-M	L-M	L-M
Pane	8	SH: 16 SS: 2	12	50¢: 12 85¢, \$1.45: 6
Paper	C	C	C	C
Process	7CL	9CL	6CL + 1 clear holographic stamping	7CL
Qty (106)	4	SH: 5 SS: 0.4	40	50¢: 20 85¢, \$1.45: 7.5
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	P-S	PVA	P-S	P-S
Size, mm	irregular	40 x 30	24 x 24	50¢: 24 x 37 85¢, \$1.45: 31 x 39
Perf	N/A	13.5 x 13.3	Diecut	Diecut
Teeth	N/A	27 x 20	N/A	N/A

Table 3. 2005 Definitive Stamps

Stamp	White-tailed Deer, Atlantic Walrus	Sable-island Horse, Peregrine Falcon	Flag	Flowers
Value	2 x \$1 s-t	2 x \$2 s-t	5 x 51¢	Bk: 89¢, \$1.05, \$1.49 Coil: 51¢, 89¢, \$1.05, \$1.49
Issued	20 Oct	19 Dec	19 Dec	19 Dec
Printer	CBN	CBN	CBN	L-M
Pane	SH: 16 SS: 4	SH: 16 SS: 4	10	Booklet: 6 Coil: 100 (51¢); 50
Paper	C	C	F	C
Process	6CL + 3-colour steel engraving	6CL + 3-colour steel engraving	5CL	5CL
Qty (106)	SH: 4 SS: 0.5	SH: 4 SS: 0.5	Continuou s	Continuous
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	PVA	P-S	P-S
Size, mm	48 x 39.65	48 x 39.65	20 x 24	24 x 20
Perf	12.5 x 13.1	12.5 x 13.1	Diecut	Diecut
Teeth	30 x 26	30 x 26	N/A	N/A

Table 4. 2006 Definitive
and Commemorative Stamps

Stamp	Year of the Dog	Queen Elizabeth	Olympic Winter Games	Gardens
Value	51¢, \$1.49	51¢	2 x 51¢ s-t	4 x 51¢
Issued	06 Jan	12 Jan	03 Feb	08 Mar
Printer	L-M	CBN	L-M	L-M
Pane	SH: 25 SS: 2	10	16	8
Paper	C	F	C	C
Process	7CL* + pearlescent + foil & embossing	7CL	7CL	8CL
Qty (106)	SH: 8 SS: 0.95	Continuous	4	6
Tag	G4S	G4S	G4S	G4S
Gum	PVA	P-S	PVA	P-S
Size, mm	27 x 42**	32 x 27	40 x 26	28 x 44
Perf	13.3 x 13.3	Diecut	12.5 x 13.1	Diecut
Teeth	18 x 28	N/A	25 x 17	N/A

* Canada Post lists the process as 8-colour lithography, but there are only seven colour “dots” on the sheet stamp selvage, and the souvenir sheet has no philatelic imprint..

** 42 mm measured along the edge.



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Review of the RR-28 WEST OF WINNIPEG RPO hammers

Robert K Lane

The Railway Post Office (RPO) postmarks known as WEST OF WINNIPEG are included in the Ludlow catalogue [L] as four listings:

- RR-28C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG / # (number, letter)
- RR-27C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG / .
- RR-29C.P.R. WEST OF WINNIPEG / LOCAL #
- RR-30C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG · C. /

These RPOs are “open-ended” in the sense that they were first used on the main line of the CPR between Winnipeg, Manitoba and Calgary, Alberta, even while the CPR main line was still under construction and had not yet reached Calgary. Although not yet demonstrated, it is possible that they were also used on new CPR branch lines, west or south of Winnipeg.

When these hammers were replaced by the Winnipeg—Moose Jaw hammers in 1900 (perhaps late 1899?), the RPO runs became definite in terms of their end points (e.g., Winnipeg, Moose Jaw).

Because of much larger databases and newer technology for hammer identification that exist today, it is timely to re-visit the reference hammer images that can be used for identification.

The rarity factors assigned to these postmarks must be used with caution. For example, the RR-28 listing is assigned $RF = 120$. Twelve hammers are recognized as being RR-28; these vary from being quite common to quite scarce.

This report reviews several RR-28 hammers, with a reference also to RR-27.

Identification

In addition to simple visual examination, collectors have available to them the reference image summary produced by Ross Gray [RG 1]. In what follows, mention of “reference images” refers to that work. Gray’s summary also provided a summary of “chordal measurements” that enable identification through measurements of distances between identified points in the permanent wording of each hammer.

Dates of proof hammers can also be used to eliminate postmarks dated earlier than the proof. Beyond that, however, dates and indicia are of limited use for identification of specific hammers in these listings.

Keywords & phrases: RPO, West of Winnipeg

The availability of inexpensive scanners adds a new dimension to hammer identification. When reference hammer images have been established, transparent overlays can be made from scans of these at larger sizes (e.g., 2× or 3×). When hammer identification of any particular example is required, the postmark can be scanned, and appropriately sized images are printed on plain paper. The overlays now can be applied for hammer verification.

This process can be supplemental to other techniques, but it requires that agreement is reached on the reference image set. The images in this report are not appropriate for reference copying. Readers are referred to the newsletter of the BNAPS RPO Study Group for reference images and chordal measurements. This report presents recent findings of hammer identification for the WEST OF WINNIPEG.

Another tool for hammer identification, when the base of the postmark is not clear, is the distinctive punctuation for the WEST OF WINNIPEG hammers, described below.

RR-28a

The listing includes RR-28a (two hammers with diameter 27 mm) and RR-28b (ten hammers with diameters close to 23 mm). The criteria used by Ludlow for making separate listings for different-sized hammers was 5 mm, so 28a and 28b have been shown as one listing.

There is no reason at this time to suggest changes to the present reference images for RR-28a. Two hammers, showing either 1. or 2. at the base, were issued (Figure 1). These are designated 28a-I and 28a-II, respectively. The chordal analyses produced for these by Gray [RG 1] are confirmed and can be used for identification when the hammer number is not readable.

Also of use is the distinctive punctuation for RR-28a:

C.P.Ry. WEST OF WINNIPEG

Note the period after the “y” and the absence of punctuation after WEST and after OF.



Figure 1. The first three hammers issued: Rr-28a-I, RR-28a-II and RR-28b-I, adapted from Gray [RG 1].

RR-28b – No.3

RR-28b was issued in several configurations, beginning with 28b-I, showing No.3 at the base. This hammer was proofed later than the 28a hammers but seems to have been issued at about the same time. This hammer was used for a lengthy period (until 1904) and the current reference image (shown in Figure 1, above) and chordal measurements are perfectly adequate.

C.P.Ry · WEST-OF ·WINNIPEG / No.3

Note the dot-hyphen after “y”, the dash-hyphen after WEST and the dot-hyphen after OF. This punctuation is unique to this hammer.

The “B” Hammers

An examination of examples has shown that there were three B hammers, all of them with B. at the base. Images for 28b-II and 28b-III (Figure 2) are confirmed. However, it was found that the previously designated 28b-IV is identical to 28b-II. (See superimposed images in Figure 3.) The punctuation for the II and III hammers is:

C.P.Ry. WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / B.

There is a period after “y” and dot-hyphens after WEST and after OF. This punctuation is unique to hammers 28b-II and 28b-III.



RR-28b H-II



RR-28b H-III

Figure 2. B hammers, adapted from Gray [RG 1].



Figure 3. The slightly enlarged overlay of 28b-II and previously identified 28b-IV demonstrate that they are the same hammer.



Figure 4. Reference image for the recently described 28b-IV.

Hammer 28b-IV is now re-described. This hammer matches numerous postmark examples and has some differing characteristics from the other B hammers (Figure 4). It has the same diameter as III but is larger than II. The “B” is shorter than on the other hammers; as are the letters “EG”. The letter “G” is farther from the “B” on III. There is no period after the first “P”, so that the punctuation for this B hammer differs slightly from II and III:

C.P Ry. WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / B.

The “C” Hammers

The proof book contains six “C” hammer strikes. Two are duplicates of others and the four remaining are examples of the reference hammers 28b-V, 28b-VI, 28b-VIII, and 28b-IX. Earlier studies identified two additional hammers not shown in the proof book, 28b-VII and 28b-X. To date, there have been no reference images for those hammers. The punctuation is:

C.P.Ry WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / B.

There is no period after “y” and there are dot-hyphens after both WEST and OF. This punctuation is unique to the C hammers and also to the D hammer (see below).

There are numerous examples of hammer 28b-X and a reference image has now been constructed (Figure 5). This hammer also shows a period after the “C”, as do all “C” hammers. The period following the “P” is found just beneath the right side of the “P” and not over next to the “R” as with the other hammers. This hammer shows the same distance from the rim as 28b-IX.

Figure 5 includes all the C hammers 28b-V, VI, VIII, IX and X.



Figure 5. C hammers, 28b-V, VI, VIII, IX, adapted from Gray [RG 1]; and the newly described hammer 28b-X.

The “D” Hammers

“D” hammer(s) are illustrated in the proof book [H]. However, all three images are identical, and none reflect any of the strikes reported. This hammer is the one shown as RR-28b-XI in the reference images. It is conceivable that this proofed hammer was faulty to the extent that it was not issued and was replaced with the hammer 28b-XII, not in the proof book.



Figure 6. (From left) hammer 28b-XII from Gray [RG 1] and the progression to the two forms of its “second state”, previously known as RR-27, with dot, and without dot (on right, Aug 17 1905)

Reports of hammer 28b-XII are very scarce. Initially, researchers felt that three D hammers were issued, partly because the Post Office seemed to have issued the WEST OF WINNIPEGs in groups of three.

The hammer designated RR-28b-XII (Figure 6) has been confirmed from the few “D” strikes reported.

C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG / D.

Punctuation is the same as for the “C” hammers. This hammer showing a “period” after the D has been shown to have evolved to the RR-27 hammer showing only the “period” [LA1 and LA2].

C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG / .

How and when did this happen? Based on examination of 50 examples I suggest the following theory.

There are very few reports of the D hammer (fairly intact) in 1891 and 1892 (two examples are known to the author). There are apparently no reports between then and mid-1896. There are 46 examples (two showing remnants of the D) reported from that time to 1900, and two reports in 1905. It is possible that the hammer, seemingly damaged, was withdrawn and then placed back into service in 1896.

Furthermore, the (period) eventually disappeared, leading to the feeling that there were two RR-27 hammers; one showing a period and one without (the 1905

examples). The progressive changes of hammer 28b-XII are illustrated in Figure 6. More detailed illustration of the progression is found in *BNA Topics* [LA1, LA2].

Summary

As a result of the above analysis, and no examples of 28b-VII, 28b-XI or 28b-XIII having been found, Ross Gray has determined that they should be removed from his summary. (The number designation will be retained in case valid examples are reported.) Further, it has been decided to de-list RR-27 and show the hammer as a “second state” of the D hammer, RR-28b-XII. Gray’s excellent reference image set has also been revised to reflect the results of recent studies [RG 2].

The punctuation summary for all WEST OF WINNIPEG hammers is:

RR-28a	C.P.Ry. WEST OF WINNIPEG
RR-28b-I	C.P.Ry · WEST-OF ·WINNIPEG / No.3
RR-28b-II,III	C.P.Ry. WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / B.
RR-28b-IV	C.P Ry. WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / B.
RR-28b-V,VI,VIII,IX,X	C.P.Ry WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / B.
RR-28b-XII	C.P.Ry WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / D.
RR-28b-XII	C.P.Ry WEST ·OF ·WINNIPEG / .
(second phase, previously RR-27)	
RR-29	C.P.R. WEST OF WINNIPEG / LOCAL #
RR-30	C.P.Ry WEST OF WINNIPEG ·C. /

Studies of the other WEST OF WINNIPEG listings continue. [LA3]

Acknowledgments

The author acknowledges advice received from several collectors but wishes to mention in particular the very generous and constructive input from Ross Gray, the editor of the BNAPS RPO Study Group.

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Modern junk mail is tomorrow's classical postal history

Dale Speirs

Introduction

I get my mail from a post office box and when I pick it up I am not ashamed to do some rummaging in the garbage cans of the mail box lobby. I don't expect to pick out anything with a good stamp on it, since such mail is almost extinct. What I do look for are envelopes with postal markings, or unusual pieces of direct mail. The people mailing the latter category get very creative sometimes in the desperate attempt to catch the recipient's attention.

Direct mail, popularly known as junk mail, has two critical aspects from the advertiser's point of view. The first is to get the mail noticed and opened, and the second is to make the message good enough to convince the recipient to take action. Postcard direct mail must have a snappy headline or graphic, sufficient to get the recipient to read the text. Envelope direct mail must convince the addressee to open the envelope to see what is inside.

One popular method among many direct mailers is to make the junk mail look official and important enough to open. Although direct mailers normally stay on the legal side of imitating official envelopes, occasionally they step over the line.

An example I recently found while garbage can diving is an unopened 8.5" × 11" envelope from *Reader's Digest*, dated March 2005. Figures 1 and 2 show the envelope, liberally plastered with official sounding notices and warnings. The only genuine Canada Post indicium on the envelope is the bulk mail permit in the upper right of the front side. Throughout the text, the imperative tone is always used. Nowhere is the word "Please" used. None of the notices are false; everything they state is true as far as it goes, but stated in a manner that suggests the envelopes are official products of the post office.

The envelope is identified as EXPRESS DAY TIMED DELIVERY on both sides, which skirts the normal wording of genuine envelopes. There is actually a good reason for this. If the sender uses the word "priority mail", then the envelope will be charged by Canada Post at the correct priority mail rate instead of bulk mail. Given the millions of pieces the company must mail, such a mistake would be very expensive.

The overall design is a *mélange* of different types of courier or express mail with which an average person might be familiar. The general colour scheme is similar to that of the USPS priority envelopes (Figure 3), and the typography very close to it as well.

Keywords & phrases: Direct mail



Figure 1. Front of Reader's Digest ad mail. The addressee's name and address were blanked out to respect privacy.

This envelope was mailed by *Reader's Digest* from Montréal, but it is highly probable that the envelope design was done in the parent company's headquarters in the USA. On both sides are large arrows reminiscent of those of FedEx, and attached to the front side is a bar-coded green label that resembles an airport luggage tag.

The front side

At upper right centre, next to the bulk mail indicia, is a window. Peeking through it is the corner of a letter, with the following text visible: "EMG45 Issue Date: 03/08/2005". Underneath that line, printed in red ink but simulating a hand-applied rubber stamp is "TO BE RETURNED". I haven't opened the envelope so I don't know what the promotional offer is, but I'm willing to bet it is impeccably printed. The simulated rubber stamp is not. It has spotty red ink that looks like the same kind of uneven texture that a genuine rubber stamp creates.

The return address is: "Finance Director / Reader's Digest Association / (Canada) Ltd. / Montréal, QC H3B 5H5". This is intended to suggest to naïve recipients they are so important that a company director himself is writing them. The addressee's section has an impressive array of numerical codes along with her name and address (blanked out in the photo). These might actually mean something so I will not discuss them to protect her privacy.

The green baggage label angling across the right centre has a bar code that is



Figure 2. Back of Reader's Digest ad mail.

likely meaningless. The text below it reads: "Instruction / The contents have / been sealed and / dispatched under / supervision to ensure / compliance with / all entry deadlines." There is a TRACKING REF: 011 followed by assorted gibberish. Where a baggage tag has the airport code number and name, there is "RDA / Montréal". The two Montréal airport codes are actually YMX and YUL, and as far as I have been able to determine, there is no airport with the code RDA.

The label partly covers some more pompous gibberish: "Contents: For Special Classification, Itemize here" (their proofreader missed capitalizing that last word) and miscellaneous verbiage. The label was put on by machine at an angle to look as if someone had slapped it on by hand in the mailing room.

What impressed me as attention to detail is the fake 2-D bar code at right centre, partly hidden by the baggage label. That it is a fake can be seen by the fact that it has too much white space within it, and it is not segmented into squares as are the genuine 2-D codes.

The Back Side

On the back, there are three clumps of text designed to simulate what an official post office envelope might have by way of instructions. The leftmost is: "Limitation on Contents: / Maximum 20 mm thickness. If the gross weight / of contents, mailing envelope and attachments / (if any) exceeds category specifications a higher / mailing rate will apply. Do not ship liquids in this / packaging." That last sentence is inspired; how many people ship liquids in envelope flats? I tip my hat to the copywriter who thought of adding that one.



Figure 3: A legitimate USPS priority envelope. Note the similarity to the ad mail.

The middle text block reads: “Address/Delivery / Use the CPC approved indicia for / shipments within Canada. / Use complete street address or PO Box, / CPC cannot deliver without such / specifications. Please identify house/box# / wherever possible.” Well yes, the post office cannot deliver the mail if you don’t tell them where it is going.

At right is: “Liability Information / Insured by lettershop. Terms/conditions of liability set forth in agreements between / sender/lettershop contractor. CPC to handle / in conformance with Canadian law as / outlined in Sections 48 and 49 of the Canada / Post Corporation Act. Sender not / responsible for lost or misdirected mail.” “Lettershop” is a generic term used in the direct mail industry for companies that specialize in printing, pre-sorting, and dispatching mail. It is a billion-dollar business and the companies ship out billions of pieces of mail. I’m sure that the terms of liability are indeed set forth in agreements between *Reader’s Digest* and their lettershop contractor.

Sections 48 and 49 of the *Canada Post Corporation Act* state that the mails, mail bags, and mail boxes cannot be opened or handled except under authority of the CPC, and that it is an offence to wilfully delay or abandon mail. In other words, only a postie can deliver this direct mail and he had better not toss it in a culvert somewhere.

Conclusion

Today’s junk mail is tomorrow’s postal history. A lot of thought goes into direct mail campaigns, and this is a field of postal history that will repay close examination.

Vignettes of the old west: Corbin railways of the west Kootenays

(Part of an occasional series last featured in BNA Topics Vol. 59, No. 3, 2002)

Peter Jacobi

DANIEL Chase Corbin built the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway from Spokane to the International Border at Fort Sheppard (a short-lived Hudson's Bay Company trading post) between 1889 and 1892. The Canadian extension of this line to Nelson, the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway, was completed by December 1893. This was the beginning of passenger service from Spokane into the Kootenays.



Figure 1. Multi-railway company envelope franked with stamps of Canada and the USA

The Great Northern Railway acquired an interest in both the SF&N and the N&FS in 1898 and two years later acquired running rights on Canadian Pacific track

Keywords & phrases: Railway, British Columbia, US RPO

into the new CPR station at Nelson. In 1907 GN purchased the SF&N and assumed operation of the N&FS. Passenger traffic dwindled over the years and was withdrawn in 1941. The N&FS Railway was finally sold to the GN in 1944. In 1970 GN merged into the Burlington Northern system.

Shortly after the SF&N line was built from Spokane to Nelson to participate in the lucrative mining boom in the Slocan area and around Kootenay Lake, Daniel Corbin saw further business opportunities by pushing a railroad into Rossland. In 1893, he incorporated the Columbia & Red Mountain Railway from Northport to the Canada/US border at Paterson, and the Red Mountain Railway from Paterson to the mines at Rossland.

Corbin hoped to transport ore from some of the Rossland Mines, mainly the LeRoi, to a new smelter that had been built at Northport. Railway construction started in 1895 and was completed a year later. The Northport smelter started operations in early 1898. Later that same year, the GN purchased controlling interest in the RM and C&RM railways. After WWI, traffic to the smelter declined, and the GN abandoned the RM lines in 1921.

The cover (previous page) in Figure 1, showing that D.C. Corbin's railways were managed and operated as a single business entity, likely originated in the company's offices in Nelson and was put on a N&FSR train. It appears that a clerk in the Nelson office, not being sure where the letter would be processed in the postal system, took no chances, and franked the envelope with both a 3 ¢ Jubilee and a 2 ¢ Washington. After crossing the US border at Ft. Sheppard, it then traveled on SF&N Railway lines and was processed by the Northport & Spokane RPO.

FORM 135
 COLUMBIA & RED MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.
 RED MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.
 NELSON & FORT SHEPPARD RAILWAY.
 To *Kearney P. Co.*
Nelson BC

You have been overcharged \$ *1.90* in freight charges on shipment of *iron* from *May 10 1899* delivered to you (or connecting line) on *May 10 1899* covered by my Expense Bill pro. No. *54*, calling for \$ *17.17*

Please sign and detach annexed coupon, pin to original paid freight bill, and mail to me. On receipt, the aforesaid amount of overcharge will be promptly refunded to you.

May 10 1899 *M. T. Kearney*
Nelson BC

IMPORTANT.—If refund is not received within reasonable time after mailing coupon and freight bill, notify Auditor, C. & R. M., R. M. and N. & F. S. Railways, Spokane, Washington, referring to Station No. _____ Auditor's No. _____



Figure 2. Recipient's portion of an overcharge notice on a Canada Post Card

Figure 2 shows both sides of the retained or coupon portion of the Webb's P14 Canada Post Card mailed from D.C. Corbin's railway office in Nelson on 15 May 1899 to the Kootenay Power & Light Co., also in Nelson, at the postcard rate of 1 ¢. The portion shown details a freight overcharge which will be rectified if the other portion of the card is signed, detached, pinned to the original bill and sent back for reimbursement. Overcharges must have been a common occurrence as the railways had a pre-printed form (Form 135) to deal with them. This card is also of interest to postal stationery collectors as it is a very early example of a card privately rouletted (a method of separation), apparently the first reported for the Corbin railways.

Figure 3 shows a different 'Form 135' freight overcharge card dated 9 July 1901, and postmarked the next day in Rossland, BC. Sent by the Spokane Falls & Northern Railway Company to the West Kootenay Power & Light Co., also in Rossland, it advises the customer to call at the railway freight office with the original freight bill and the card. This card differs from the one in Figure 2 in that it was printed on a P17 (green Queen Victoria Maple Leaf) Canada Post Card and does not include a coupon to be snipped off and returned; rather the whole card is to be returned, together with the original bill.

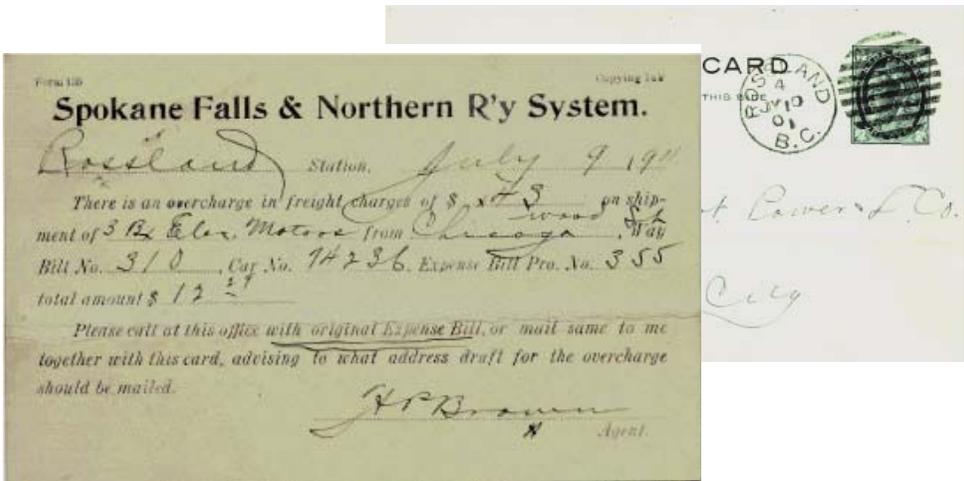


Figure 3 Canada Post Card with a SF&NRS overcharge notice

The 1 ¢ US Postal Card (UX14) illustrated in Figure 4 (next page) was prepared and mailed 14 October 1899, from the offices of the SF&NR in Spokane. Addressed to the Rossland Water & Light Co. in Rossland, BC, it advised of incoming freight and related charges. The card was carried on the SF&N Railway and processed by the Northport & Spokane RPO on 17 October 1899, arriving the same day at Rossland.

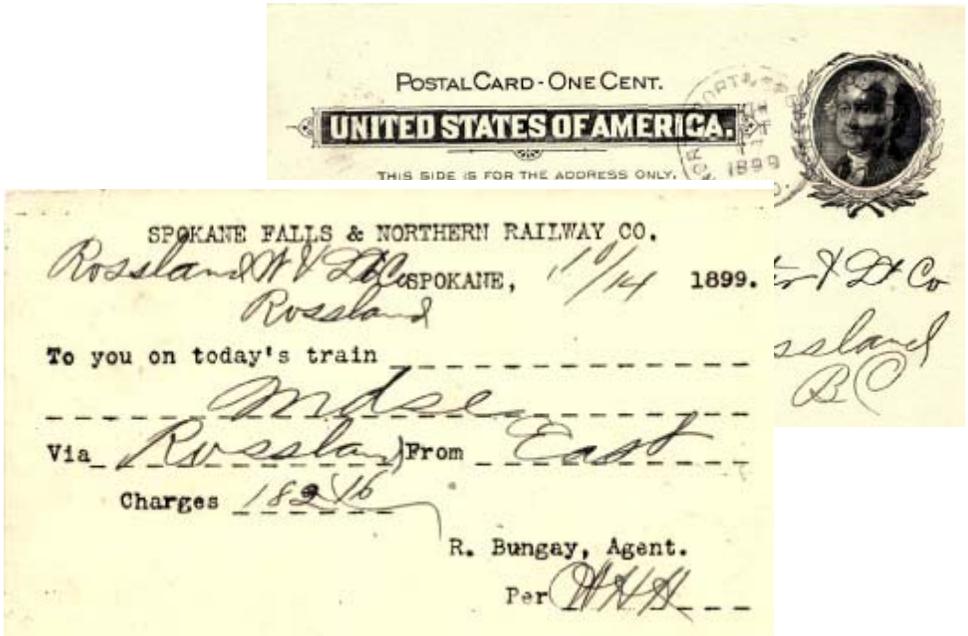


Figure 4: US Postal Card with a SF&NRC freight advice notice

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New book releases from BNAPS

SINCE January 1, 2006 the BNAPS Book Department has released four new books and taken on the distribution of several others.



1. *Plating The More Distinctive Reentries In The Half Cent Maple Leaf Stamp I. Plating Criteria And Detailed Descriptions Of The First And Second Printings*; Ken Kershaw. 2006, Spiral Bound, 136 pages, 8.5 x 11 - (B&W only). Stock #B4h018.0 \$34.95

Ken Kershaw's new book is the first of two volumes in which the author has used today's technology to help collectors plate stamps from the four printings of the Queen Victoria Half Cent Maple Leaf stamp. This work follows closely on his previous major effort (with Roger Boisclair), the four-book series *Plating The Canadian Xmas Stamp Of 1898*.

Born in England, Ken Kershaw became fascinated by plants at an early age. He graduated from Manchester University with a BSc degree in Botany in 1952. After military service, he went on to a Ph.D., working on patterns in vegetation, and was appointed lecturer in Plant Ecology at Imperial College London in 1957. He was seconded to Ahmadu Bello University in northern Nigeria for two years. On his return to Imperial College he became involved with lichen ecology, particularly in alpine and arctic areas, as well as computer modeling and data analysis. He obtained his DSc in 1965 and was appointed Professor at McMaster University, Hamilton in 1969. His research was then devoted heavily to the ecology of the Canadian low arctic and northern boreal forest areas, and in 1982 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is the author of several university texts.

Ken's passion for wild plants has been transferred to Canadian philately. He sees his plating work simply as the "taxonomy of bits of paper" and after a lifetime of plant taxonomy finds it a fairly straightforward and fascinating hobby.

2. *Canada: The 1927 Historical and Confederation Anniversary Issues*, Kimber A. Wald. 2006. Black & White version. BNAPS Exhibit Series #38. 8.5x11, Spiral Bound, 156 pages. Black & white - BNAPS Stock #B4h923.38 - \$36.95; Colour - BNAPS Stock #B4h923.381 \$102.00. (See cover image in the Ian Kimmerly advertisement, p. 74.)

After his *Canada Special Delivery Issues* was published (BNAPS Exhibit Series #28) in 2003, Kimber A. Wald was attracted to the 1927 Historical and Confederation

stamp issues. It was appealing to identify a 20th century field that had all the features of earlier Canadian stamps—much specialized material on offer including proofs and imperforates, with a broad spectrum of associated postal history available—but without the high price tags of 19th century material. Five-hole perfins provided a delightful sideline of the collection. Kimber felt the two issues had a lot to offer philatelically and had never been explored to any extent by earlier philatelists. The significance of the nine stamps, focusing as they did on Canada's Confederation, also appealed to the long-time history buff. The collection, which has now been published as BNAPS Exhibit Series #38, won many awards including the Grand Award at Royal*2005*Royale 2004 in London, Ontario and Golds, in 2004, at BNAPEX/BALPEX in Baltimore.

Kimber Wald was born in Cleveland, Ohio. After ten years in the insurance industry, Kimber went to work for a friend, the new Mayor of Cleveland, as Purchasing Commissioner and later Director of the Office of Budget & Management. From 1971 to 1978 he was Deputy Insurance Commissioner for Consumer Protection of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 1978 he moved to Greater Washington, DC to begin a twenty-five-year career with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, overseeing National Flood Insurance Program contracts. Upon retiring in 2004 he began volunteering at a nursing home, catching up on his reading and working on his stamp collection.

3. *The Wearing of the Green: Plates and States of the Canada 1898 One Cent Numeral Issue*; Peter Spencer. 2006. Spiral Bound, 108 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. Stock # B4h019.1. \$80.00. (See cover image in the Ian Kimmerly advertisement, p. 74.)

This book follows closely on the 2005 release of Peter Spencer's *Pretty in Pink: The Plates and States of the Canada 1898 Two Cent Numeral Issue*. Again using today's technology to great advantage, the author has closely examined the 1 ¢ value of the Queen Victoria Numeral Issue to advise readers how to determine the plate of individual copies of the first stamp in this popular set.

The Wearing of the Green, the first major plating study of this issue, should form an excellent basis for further studies of this stamp and possible discoveries which readers may make as they examine their holdings. This volume contains a ten-page major study of the renowned "10 cent on 1 cent foreign entry" with a well-illustrated startling new discovery: There are actually three of these, not one or two as previously believed. If you are looking for something intriguing on which to spend your free philatelic time, this book may point the way.

4. *Canada Inkjet (Jet Spray) Cancels 1992-2005* (3rd Edition), Joel Weiner. 2006. Spiral Bound, 220 pages, 8.5 x11, black and white. ISBN: 0-919854-77-X. Stock #B4h503.2; \$41.95 (See cover image in the Ian Kimmerly advertisement, p. 74.)

Since their introduction into Canada postal system in 1992, Inkjet or Spray-on cancellations have provided collectors with several new specialty areas to enhance their collecting interests. For those interested in postal mechanization, these cancels provide a great deal to study, ranging from the types of inkjet printers put into use to their association with Multi-Line Optical Character Reader machines used for the sorting and canceling of mail and the arrangement of the printing heads themselves.

For postal history collectors, the introduction of new inkjet printer cancellations provides additional opportunities to record early and late dates of usage and the movement of MLOCR machines within the postal system. For about ten years Canada Post used an array of slogan cancellations that revitalized interest in this collecting specialty. The ease with which inkjet cancellations are programmed has led to a myriad of spelling, date and composition errors that are eagerly sought by collectors. Certainly there are many more yet to be discovered. The ease with which errors occurred and the potential embarrassment to Canada Post resulted in the termination of local slogans as well as national slogans except for a HOHOHO Santa slogan used during the Christmas season and a few Canada Post service slogans. Those interested in the hunt have found inkjet collecting fascinating.

This 3rd edition of the Canadian Inkjet catalogue lists over 2300 distinct varieties along with thousands of minor variations, an increase of about 900 cancels since the 2001 edition. It provides the collector with the most complete listing of these cancels available, and is the work of many collectors across Canada who have provided information included in the catalogue. An excellent introduction to the catalogue by William Topping provides an understanding of the role of inkjets in mechanized mail sorting and the evolution of the equipment used by the post office.

5. The BNAPS Book Department is now acting as the distributor for: *Newfoundland 1865-1879, The New York Printings, A Cover Study*, Sammy Whaley. 2005. Tape Bound, 284 pages, 8.5 x 11. Published by Sammy Whaley. BNAPS Stock # B4h006.0 Retail Price: \$83.00._

In 2001 Sammy Whaley and other knowledgeable Newfoundland postal history collectors agreed that, since the publication of Robert H. Pratt's exceptional study of the postal history of the Newfoundland First Cents period in 1989, many additional covers and much new information had been discovered. Sammy undertook the huge task of updating Pratt's work. He obtained details of nearly 1000 covers, all of which are recorded in this new volume. More than 700 are illustrated, many of them in colour. Commenting on Sammy's new book, collector Colin Lewis said, "Sammy's study has increased the number of recorded covers from the First Cents period by almost fifty percent. Benefits to present and future students of Newfoundland postal history will be immense."

6. The BNAPS Book Department has acquired the copyright to and remaining stock of all five volumes of *The Royal Canadian Navy Postal History 1939-1945* by Maurice Hampson and the late Percy Colbeck, produced between 1993 and 2003.

Volume 1: DB/N Naval Censorship numbers, at Fleet Mail Offices and aboard ships; Fleet mail numbers; NPO numbers; Shore establishments; blackout and other cancellations and markings. 8.5x11, Cirulox Bound, 82pp. Stock # B4h340.1 \$37.95

Volume 2: RCN shore establishment details and markings; named Ship rubber hand stamps; list of covers without DB/N, censor's marks. 8.5x11, Cirulox Bound, 64pp. Stock # B4h340.2 \$37.95

Volume 3 (Supp. I): Additional information and updates on Naval Mail censorship, FMO and Ship censor, numbers, cancellations, photos and covers. 8.5x11, Cirulox Bound, 66pp. Stock # B4h340.3 \$37.95

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The complete set of five volumes of this extensive study is available as Stock # B4h340.0 at a special price of \$165.00.

7. Update Available:

The most comprehensive study of this subject ever published, Brian Stalker's *Travelling Post Office Postmarks Of Newfoundland & Labrador* (Spiral Bound, 115 pages, 8.5 x 11. ISBN: 0-919854-52-4. Stock #B4h016.1 - \$34.95) was released early in 2005. Brian's analysis draws together numerous pieces of a highly fragmented jigsaw into a nearly complete picture, making up in large part for the fact that most official records for the Newfoundland Post Office were destroyed shortly after Confederation in 1949.

Input from RPO and Newfoundland collectors since publication has been such that Brian has prepared a three-page supplement (Update #1) to the book. The update is available in a small PDF file. To obtain a copy of the PDF file, email Brian at: Brian Stalker <freda.brian@virgin.net>

All BNAPS books are available from: Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B6, Canada Phone: Please see Ian's advertisement elsewhere in this issue of *BNA Topics* for more information. Prices given are retail in Canadian Dollars. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices.

Covers reveal family tragedy

Sammy Whaley



Figure 1. October 1874 cover to Rev. J.F. Moor in England.

One great advantage of being a postal historian is the pleasure derived from the investigation into the various personalities who sent/received the covers in one's collection. Sometimes the search for information can be daunting, but this only enhances the pleasure if the search proves fruitful. Often, however, the results are not as we would like. Such was the case with my efforts to ascertain the writer of the Moor correspondence, which has provided us with the largest number of multiple usages of the 3 cent 1873 printing (Scott #34). Thanks to the vast amount of information Newfoundland has supplied to the world via the Internet, and the able help of the staff at the Newfoundland Maritime Museum, I was able to insert yet another piece into the picture puzzle of the Cents Period.

The cover shown in Figure 1, franked with a pair of the 3 cent 1873 printing, is the last of several addressed to Rev. J. F. Moor in the distinctive handwriting shown. The fact that more than one cover addressed to this individual was franked in this manner, when the 6 cent (Scott #35) was readily available, aroused my curiosity.

As the local domestic rate at the time was 3 ¢ per ounce, I assumed the writer was probably a traveler (most probably a missionary as the recipient is "Reverend")

Keywords & phrases: Newfoundland, Cents Issue, mourning cover

who simply bought a plentiful supply of 3 cent stamps as they could be used singly to frank a letter from an outpost to St. John's, or in pairs to send a letter to Great Britain. Next I was easily able to identify (via Google) the recipient of the letters as Reverend John Frewen Moor, a notable member of the clergy in Romsey, England.

By viewing other recorded contemporary covers to Great Britain I also noted that some were addressed, in the same handwriting, to "Mrs. Moor". From this it appeared the writer was most probably a son writing to his parents (speaking from personal experience I know that sons, when on foreign shores at an early age, have a way of yearning for moms). However, at this point I encountered a great deal of difficulty in identifying this apparent son. Help arrived with a scan of the cover in Figure 2 received from fellow Cents collector Randall Martin.



Figure 2. December 1874 Mourning Cover to Rev. Moor.

As can be seen, the cover in Figure 2 is addressed to the same Rev. JF Moor. Two aspects of it were especially intriguing to me: (a) It is not addressed in the same handwriting as the cover in Figure 1; and (b) it is a mourning cover. I noted from my Census of Cents Covers that mourning covers had been sent to Rev. Moor previously, but this one was particularly noteworthy—no more covers were addressed to Rev. Moor in the handwriting used on the envelope in Figure 1 after the mourning cover in Figure 2 was sent. I wondered if this mourning cover could have carried condolences upon the death of the writer of the cover in Figure 1. Taking a shot in the dark, I contacted the ladies at the Maritime Museum Library who kindly checked obituaries from the date of the cover in Figure 1, 6 October 1874, and the date of the mourning cover, 24 December 1874, for anyone with the surname Moor. Within a day I received an email notifying me that the information I

needed was in the mail. The package received solved the mystery of the Moor correspondence with the following sad report:

Dec 5, 1874

The *Times* of Wednesday contains the particulars of a sad accident which happened on the 12th Nov., at Griquet, near the northern extremity of Newfoundland, by which Mr. J. F. MOOR, (a Student of the Theological College in St. Johns) and an English sailor belonging to the Church Ship, lost their lives.

It appears that the Rev. Mr. CURLING was returning from St. John's, in the Church Ship, "Laverock" to his mission in the Bay of Islands, accompanied by Mr. MOOR and two young schoolmasters, with a crew of six men, Mr. CURLING himself taking command of the ship; and having to land one of the schoolmasters at a Missionary station in the Straits of Belle Isle, he took the Northern route, putting into Griquet on the 11th Nov. On the 12th, having had Morning Prayer in the house of a fisherman at Griquet, and intending to have Evening Prayer at the neighboring settlement of Quirpon, he left in the ship's boat for that place, with Mr. MOOR, the two schoolmasters and three of the crew. Having heard that a vessel laying in the bay, belonging to Mr. CROCKER, would shortly sail for St. John's, Mr. CURLING went alongside to leave letters; and Mr. CROCKER having kindly offered to accompany the party to Quirpon, he went in the boat, and as he knew the landing place, Mr. CURLING gave him the helm. A stiff breeze was blowing at the time, and when about a quarter of a mile from the land, in gybing the sail, the boat capsized, and the whole party were thrown into the water. Mr. CURLING, Mr. MOOR, and one of the sailors, struck out to swim to the shore; and after swimming for some time, the sailor sunk, and Mr. MOOR went down soon after. The water being very cold, Mr. CURLING became so benumbed that he could go no further and committing himself to God's mercy, waited to drown. After remaining still for a short time, his strength revived, and a few more strokes enabled him to reach the bottom with his feet, and he at length succeeded in getting on shore. The others who were precipitated into the water, had got hold of and clung to the boat, which was bottom upwards, from which perilous situation they were at length rescued and taken on board Mr. CROCKER's vessel where they were soon joined by Mr. CURLING. The schoolmasters, when they were taken off, were quite insensible, but prompt measures from their recovery being taken, they rallied. Early the next morning search was made for the bodies of Mr. MOOR and the sailor, but though unremittingly assisted in the search by people from the shore, to the number of about fifty, only just before the day closed, was Mr. MOOR's body found, whilst that of the sailor, probably from having sunk in deeper water, was not recovered.

Mr. MOOR was the son of a highly-esteemed clergyman in England, by whom he was committed to Mr. CURLING's care, with the sanction and approval of Bishop KELLY, to be trained for the arduous duties of the Missionary life. He came to the country in 1871, and in 1878 accompanied Mr. CURLING to the Bay Of Islands, as

Lay Reader. He is stated to have been an excellent young man, and well calculated for the sacred work in which he was engaged. [1]

It should be noted the date 1878 in the last paragraph was mistakenly transcribed - the year should read 1874. Parenthetically, I might add that the Rev. Curling mentioned as being a survivor went on to have a distinguished career as a missionary in the Bay of Islands - it is he to whom the outport of Curling owes its name.

Once this information was received I checked the cemetery records in the Bay of Islands and located the following epitaph from Quirpon:

John Frewen Moor
Student of St. John's College
Eldest son of His Rev. J. F. Moor
Vicar of Ampfield, Hants (illegible)
May XII, (illegible) Aged XX years

References

- [1] Unfortunately, the precise source of this quotation is not known. From the way it is written and given the use of certain terms, it seems likely that this account of the accident was printed in the publication of a church in Newfoundland.

This article first appeared in The Newfie Newsletter Of The Newfoundland Study Group Of BNAPS, Number 117, March/April 2006.

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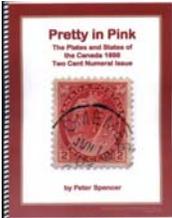
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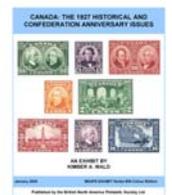
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A few of the BNAPS books when shipped individually will qualify for "other lettermail" postal rates which are reasonable; similarly U.S. and overseas "small packet" rates can sometimes apply. Many other packages have to be sent Parcel Post (starting at about \$8.50) or, sometimes, Xpresspost can be less expensive. We will find the most cost-efficient mailing system and charge exact postal charges plus \$2 per order (regardless of the number of books) for packaging and handling. Please email us giving your address with Postal Code or Zip Code and we will give you the exact postage and handling charge. If you do not have email, please telephone. We will do the calculation and return your call.

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Study group centreline

Robert Lemire

THE purpose of this column is to bring to the attention of BNAPS members some of the fascinating specialist work being done within each BNAPS study group. Highlights are provided for newsletters that have arrived in my mail box from mid-December 2005 through mid-March 2006.

Postal Stationery In the latest issue of *Postal Stationery Notes*, Dick Staecker provides a revised list of “hidden numbers” known on prestamped envelopes issued between 1994 and 2000, and a summary of the different printing dates that appear on the current non-denominated prestamped envelopes. Steven Whitcombe describes a previously unreported Canadian National Railway Express Department money-order card (as Webb’s CNX 26, but in French). Robert Lemire continues to document the varieties in the series of “Post Card Factory” prepaid view cards. More than 30 have been re-issued, with one of two new indicia that are very similar to the original “small flag” indicium. More cards with the “1965 flag” indicium and the “leaf” indicium have also been reported.

Military Mail In the January 2006 newsletter, John Burnett discusses the history behind a 1942 cover sent to a Canadian held as a prisoner of war by the Vichy French in Laghouat, Algeria. Kim Dodwell provides a discussion of the two Field Post Office 313 date stamps used between 1940 and 1945 by the First Canadian Infantry Division. One of the two date stamps appears to be much scarcer than the other, and may have been used only late war. Dave Hanes shows scans of some fairly recent (1999 to 2005) CFPO cancels used primarily in the Balkans and Afghanistan, but also 5046 used by the D.A.R.T. team in Sri Lanka in 2005, and 5001 (1999) and 5108 (2001) from the United Nations Missions in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) and in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), respectively. Steve Luciuk raises questions about the origin of covers mailed from CFPO 32 (Kobe Japan in 1953 and 1954). The three covers that Steve has recorded appear to be philatelic in nature, and all were mailed on the same date, October 10, 1953.

Queen Elizabeth II The latest issue of *Corgi Times* reports two more examples of philatelic items from Canada Post that do not correspond to the mint “over-the-counter” items. This time Andrew Chung and Robin Harris report that Canada Post first day covers (19 December 2005) of the 51 ¢ flag stamps have strips of five that lack rouletting between two of the stamps. Also, the Year of the Dog souvenir sheet on the first day cover (6 January 6 2006) is “straight-cut” at the bottom, whereas on

the mint sheet there is a UPC bar-code tab that can be separated from the sheet along a fine rouletting line. A recently discovered major printing variety on the \$1.05 white-tailed deer booklet stamp is described by Robin Harris. Leopold Beaudet shows why an impressive cutting error variety on the 49 ¢ leaf coil, an item that recently was sold on e-bay, must be printer's waste. He also discusses why a previously reported 45 ¢ Law Society plate flaw is a secondary plate flaw. Examination of the plate proofs at the National Library and Archives indicates that there were at least two sets of plates—the set with the flaw on the black plate was used to print the progressive proofs and likely the majority of the stamps. Joseph Monteiro reports on a Year-of-the-Horse “error” recently offered at auction, and two perforation errors on the 48 ¢ Queen Elizabeth Jubilee issue. Based on research by Del Peters and pricing information put together by John Jamieson (Saskatoon Stamps), Robin Harris has developed a useful on-line database of all reported Canadian tagging errors (www.adminware.ca/tagging).

Revenues Issue 51 of the revenue newsletter consists almost entirely of an eight-page list of licence codes for Canadian cigar manufacturers (1883-1962). To prepare his compilation, Chris Ryan has examined all the official lists of licences (published by the revenue department), found in a number of institutional libraries. These licence codes were used by manufacturers to cancel their excise duty stamps and to mark their packages. Also, there are new reports of two “garbage-tag” revenue stamps issued in 2001—one for the village of McAdam (NB), and one for the city of Whitehorse (YT).

Newfoundland Two newsletters have been received. Colin Bulloch shows stamps from the 1911 Royal Family Issue with one or two printed straight lines across the stamps. John Jamieson indicated that these are “cancelled” stamps from the printer's reference files, and are also described as “defaced sample proofs”. Sammy Whaley shows a philatelic cover with the stamps from the 1896 printings. He also has tracked down information on the sender of a series of early 1870s covers addressed to “Rev. J. F. Moor”. Graham Worrall submitted pictures of two 1927 covers from St. John's to England, with Ayre and Sons' perfin stamps used to pay the double and triple rate.

Pages from Carl Munden's exhibit “Gone But Not Forgotten—Abandoned Outports of Newfoundland on selected Cover and Piece” are presented. The first pages show covers from Balena, North Bay Burgeo, Step A Side, Cape La Hune, Richard's Harbour, Pushthrough and a scarce Coastal West T.P.O. marking. Copies of further pages of Colin Lewis' Newfoundland postal history exhibit and Horace Harrison's Newfoundland postal stationery exhibit are provided.

Post Cards The latest issue of *Post Card Matters* has an interesting article by Don Kaye and David Negus that shows a very early advertising Canadian post card (in

colour). The card, from William Bryce, a publisher, carries an offer to provide pictorial cards in bulk. This card was mailed only six months after private cards became eligible for the post card rate in 1895. Two later cards from the same publisher are also illustrated. Dean Mario shows some medical-related cards, one showing an ad for an “oxygen tent”, and others from Ritholz Optical. Colin Campbell describes two cards, one showing the S.S. Andania, used as a troop carrier during World War I, the other mailed on board the S.S. Lusitania in early 1914.

World War II Censorship and censorship markings continue to be an active area of research. In the November 2005 issue of *War Times* Colin Pomfret shows an early (September 16, 1939) passed-by-censor marking on a picture post card. Chris Miller reports a new Foreign Exchange Control Board circular marking from Halifax, and Hugh Delaney an early use of an “Authorized for Export by Foreign Exchange Control Board” handstamp. Charles LaBlonde shows a 1942 cover from Irvine’s Landing BC to the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. A cover that, for no apparent reason, has *no* censorship markings! Robert McGuinness provided photocopies of mid-war Christmas and New Year’s greeting (post) cards used by Fry & Company (chocolate and cocoa), and Wayne Curtis supplied a *post-war* Christmas message from the December 1945 issue of the Canadian Army Training Memorandum.

Fancy and Miscellaneous Cancels In the December newsletter there are reports on a number of interesting fancy cancels. Brian Hargreaves shows a “star” cancel on a strip of three of the 3¢ Small-Queen issue. The associated circular date stamp suggests that the cancel was used at Brussels, Ontario. John Anders submitted several examples of “primitive numeral cancels”, all used at Simcoe, Ontario. The reason for the use of the various numerals from this one small post office is not known. Also, Gus Quattrocchi reported several more “pointed hand ‘return to’ ” markings. Other items were contributed by Don Fraser, Glen Archer, George Pond, Wally Gutzman and editor David Lacelle.

British Columbia Postal History The latest issue of the newsletter presents a description of the S.S. Minto and its service on the Arrow Lakes in B.C. In 1911, Railway Post Office service (Robson and Arrowhead R.P.O.) was established on the Minto and two other CPR ships serving the Arrow Lakes. A summary list is provided of the cancels used. Also, Gray Scrimgeour shows some examples of early west coast ship mail from the gulf islands.

Squared Circles The November 2005 newsletter contains another group of reports of new time and date markings, and new records of cancels on different stamps. Many of the reports were from a CD of the Hennok collection (supplied by Bill Longley). Hank Narbonne submitted photocopies of the first reported Jubilee cover with a “Type 2, Sackville” marking, and a nice Alma strike. There is a report (and photocopy) from Peter Laycock of early use of a Montreal precursor as a transit marking.

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Our vendors speak

R. Maresch & Son
Toronto Ontario

2 April 1998

Attention: Bill Maresch and Rick Schreyer

Dear Bill and Rick,

Many thanks to you and your staff at R Maresch & Son for all your hard work in selling my West Indies collections so effectively.

I really appreciated your letting me review the descriptions and lotting for my part of the auction, although, in the event, I had little to add to the excellent work you had done. Fellow collectors told me that Toronto was the wrong place to sell West Indies—your results proved them wrong. You certainly performed far better than major auction houses in Europe to which I have consigned material in the past. My worries about having my auction material among the last lots in a five-session 2800-lot auction were also proven to be groundless.

I should also like to pass on to you the comments of several fellow-collectors from overseas, to the effect that they were very pleased to bid with complete confidence on lots where your wonderfully accurate colour illustrations gave them a true feeling for the colour shades that can be so important in our hobby.

You did me proud—many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

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