

# PRECANCELS/CANADA

SPECIAL EDITION

## WELCOME to the CANADA PRECANCEL STUDY GROUP

by Andy Ellwood - Chairperson

The collecting and study of Canadian Precancels has been a philatelic specialty for many decades. Although it has not had a high profile, a dedicated few individuals have undertaken to research, record and publish a meaningful amount of information about these stamps that had cancels printed on them before being issued, primarily for use by businesses. As a result, now there is a Canada Precancel Handbook, a periodic Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue (SCPC) and several other works available to assist the collector.

Thanks for the results of these efforts are due to a fairly short list of contributors, many of whom are identified in the Handbook. Unfortunately, we have lost some of these pioneers and others are in the process of giving up their Precancel collecting. Consequently, there is a need for a new breed of specialists to take up the banner and continue the work.

Fortunately, there are still many areas to be studied and research results to be published. Under the BNAPS banner, the Canada Precancel Study group is adopting the following purpose: to focus attention and provide leadership in the continuation of research, communication, and promotion of Canadian Precancels. In doing so, it will undertake to exploit new advances in technology in support of this purpose.

Duncan MacDonald has agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer; Larry Goldberg

has agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor. The addresses of these two volunteers are listed elsewhere in this first Newsletter. We are also fortunate to have three individuals who have volunteered to serve as the first Research Coordinators, but more about that in a moment.

Several areas have been suggested in which meaningful research can be done, including the following.

**1 Pricing.** With the passing of H.G. "Geoff" Walburn, the Editors of the SCPC (Jim Kraemer and Hans Reiche) will welcome some assistance in their ongoing revision of catalogue values which was an area in which Geoff made an essential contribution. Dave Marasco has agreed to coordinate this extremely important area and will be seeking the assistance of all Study Group members to provide him with current information about prices and quantities. He will supply Jim and Hans with this information for their future updates of the SCPC.

**2 Internet Usage.** The omnipresent impact of the Internet on our lives offers us the opportunity to dramatically improve our Communications amongst ourselves and to increase the Promotion of Precancels within the BNAPS community and throughout the philatelic world. Duncan MacDonald has offered to coordinate the development of the Internet as a tool to support us and will serve as our Webmaster. The first

results of his effort are now available and access addresses are listed elsewhere. He will also liaise with Larry Goldberg to ensure that all pertinent information on the Web Site is made available to all members.

**3 Major Users.** Since the Precancel was primarily created to support businesses, it is appropriate that further research be undertaken into the Major Users of the service. Norm Wagner has agreed to coordinate the study of this aspect of precancels, an area about which little has been published to date.

**4 Precancel Printing.** Further review of the printing equipment and processes, time periods, quantities, and plates overprinted, particularly of the City Types, seems to be in order. Detail of this background information is skimpy and yet it is very important in many aspects of identification and pricing.

**5 Small Queens.** Recent efforts of the Small Queen Study Group to improve the listing of the various printings and major shades on these stamps, offers an opportunity to improve the listing of precancels.

**6 Admirals.** Similarly, the current listings of the many Admiral varieties are very rudimentary. A good start has been made with the 1-cent yellow and 3-cent carmine types, but there are sparse references

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADA PRECANCEL STUDY GROUP



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**WELCOME to the CANADA PRECANCEL STUDY GROUP**

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to the basic shades of the 4 cent, 7 cent, and 10 cent. There is an opportunity to examine the range of basic shades and papers of the Admirals and to formulate a consistent list of well-established sub-types with precancels. Perhaps they can eventually be included in the SCPC.

**7 Bar Types.** This continues to be the most difficult area to understand. Inability to properly identify the correct bar type frequently leads to misrepresentation and this can be serious as many of the bar types have high catalogue values. While many of our advanced specialists can identify bar types with ease, it is not an area which is well-documented and it also contains many unresolved variations such as the R, S and T types.

**8 City Types.** There continues to be difficulty in identifying City Types. The SCPC does not provide a consistent method of measurement of the different types, especially in the major cities. A more rigorous set of defined measurements would be of assistance and might reduce the number of reported "new" finds.

**9 Type 21 Precursor.** While most collectors accept the "21" roller cancel as a precursor, it remains unlisted in the SCPC as do many other quasi-precursor rollers. An in-depth review of this area could lead to a listing or else an explanation as to why it remains unlisted.

**Other Areas.** There are several other areas which have not yet been researched very extensively.

These include perfins, plate blocks, lathe work, re-entries, and revenues. Also, the whole world of postal history is virtually untapped with a start having only been made on Precancelled Stationary.

You may have noticed that the majority of these areas of research do not have a coordinator. I trust that as time goes on, members will identify those areas that interest them and will volunteer to be coordinators.

Membership in the BNAPS Canada Precancel Study Group is open to all BNAPS members for a small fee of \$10 Cdn or \$7 US per year, with January to December being the membership year. Individuals who are not BNAPS members may join for a period of one year, following which they must become BNAPS members to remain in the Group. Kindly forward your membership dues for 2000 to Duncan MacDonald.

I am hopeful that this latest Study Group in the BNAPS stable will be of interest to many members. Precancels are interesting, finite in number, reasonable in price (to the greatest extent) and still realistically available to the average collector. With over 3500 stamps catalogued, approximately half are priced at less than \$50 and scarce examples are still to be discovered in existing collections of Canada. The presence of an active Study Group will fill one of the few voids in this BNA speciality.

**SECRETARY/  
 TREASURER'S  
 REPORT**

**by Duncan MacDonald**

There are currently 16 members in the precancel study group. Bob Lee will be sending out a notice on the formation of the Precancel Study Group to his mailing list with his next catalogue, in December, and this should help boost our membership. Arrangements are also being made to announce the study group formation through other philatelic associations.

Dues are \$10.00 Canadian or \$7.00 U.S. and I will be e-mailing invoices in December to those of you who haven't already paid.

Costs for newsletters, postage, etc. will be closely tracked and I will try and have budget estimates for the next newsletter. Currently we have \$70 in the treasury.

## A WORD from YOUR EDITOR

by Larry Goldberg - Editor

This is the first issue of what we hope will be a long line of issues for the collector of Canadian precancels.

### Managing Expectations.

As a strong believer in managing expectations, other's as well as my own, let me say that this is a somewhat atypical issue. While future issues will certainly have a word from each of the three officers, they will not comprise the bulk of the issue as they do this time. In the future, the emphasis will be on pertinent information on precancels and not on the workings of the study group. We (Andy, Duncan and I) decided that doing this issue in this way would allow us to get double duty out of it. It would serve as an overview of the study group for charter members as well as a promotional piece to use for the solicitation of new members. In fact, if you would like a couple of extra copies to pass on to interested collector friends, let us know.

**In This Issue.** Consequently, this issue contains an overview of the objectives of the study group by Andy Ellwood, our chairperson, a report on both the financial well-being and cyber well-being of the study group by Duncan MacDonald, our secretary/treasurer-web master, this word of welcome from yours truly as well as short biographies on each of the three of us. We have also included photos of our handsome faces. (Who said, "Vanity, thy name is woman?")

**None of us is as good as all of us.** The quality of the content will increase in direct proportion to the active and relevant participation of the membership. If you sit and wait for someone to fill your plate with information without adding your own input to the meal, we'll all ultimately go hungry, wither, and the study group and this publication will pass into history. If you do not feel that you are expert enough to write an article, then don't. BUT, bear in mind, anyone, regardless of their level of expertise, can ask questions. Questions require answers to complete the transaction, and interesting transactions can and will appear in print. In short, this study group and, by association, its newsletter will only be as good as we all will make it. By the way, do not be overwhelmed by the fact that some people are considered "experts." By definition, experts are just people who know more and more about less and less. The goal of our group is not to become experts, but to know more and more about more and more about the precancels of Canada.

If you plan to submit articles for publication, please let me know and I will send you a copy of the style sheet I use. While following the style sheet is not mandatory, it will make my life a whole lot easier if you do.

Glad you're aboard. May we prosper together in our pursuit of knowledge.

## WELCOME to YOUR WEBSITE!

by Duncan MacDonald - Web Master

The Canada Precancel Study Group (CPSG) website is now in operation.

Come and have a look at what is being developed! This is a new approach for a study group, and we are experimenting with the possibilities offered by on-line communication. Some of this site is available to the general public, and there is a restricted area for members only, which requires a member name and password to enter. If you do not already have a member name and password, contact me, at [duncan@camacdonald.com](mailto:duncan@camacdonald.com) to obtain one.

The unrestricted area contains information that is possibly of interest to the general stamp-collecting public who might be interested in precancels. It contains a section on general information about precancels, a gallery of rare and unusual precancels, a few articles on specific aspects of precancels, precancel dealer information, information on joining BNAPS and the study group and a bibliography of precancel literature. The restricted area contains a membership list, working pages on specific study group projects, members' want/sell/buy/trade lists, and information on upcoming auctions. I am also working on developing a bulletin board to facilitate on-line discussions.

This site has already demonstrated its potential for collaborative action. For example, David Marasco forwarded an article on

"Often Misidentified Town Cancels". I sent David a scan of two stamps that I was having difficulty identifying. David realized he had omitted this area from his article, and within a day had sent a new section for the article with a scan of a pair of stamps illustrating the differences.

So far, David and I have been the primary contributors to the website. We are looking forward to seeing the work that the rest of the study group members are doing and adding to the website, so we can get general comments and assistance from all group members. Please send articles, scans of rare and unusual precancels, or anything else you think would be of interest to the rest of the study group to Duncan for mounting on the website.

It is intended that material contributed by Study Group members will remain in the restricted portion of the website until it has been available through the newsletter for at least one month. On the recommendation of the Chairman of each study area, final articles will then be transferred to the public portion of the website so that other BNAPS members or interested members of the general public can access the information. Members of the study group that do not have access to a computer and the WWW will receive periodic updates of the contents of the website in print form.

Visit the Precancel Study Group Web Site at  
<http://www.camacdonald.com/precancels>

## MEET YOUR OFFICERS

### ANDY ELLWOOD

#### Chairperson

Andy Ellwood has lived in Ottawa Ontario since 1964, settling there halfway through his initial career of 12 years in the RCAF, including 4 years at RMC. For 26 years he was with Canada Post where he managed Computer Systems, Urban Fleets and Domestic Transportation. He "retired" in 1995 and is currently filling his days at Ian Kimmerly Stamps and in running a home-based philatelic business known as Starr Stamps.

Andy returned to philately in 1978 in a planned effort to prepare for retirement and has gradually expanded his knowledge and interest in many different aspects of philately. Currently, he is deeply involved in operating a major public auction and is gaining an insight into running a small business. He has also expanded into the "society" aspect of philately and is operating the Exchange Circuit for the BNAPS. In the past, he chaired the R.A. Philatelic Club in Ottawa, operated the Sales Circuit for the CFPS (Canadian Forces Philatelic Society) and formed a philatelic society for Canada Post Employees.

Over the years, Andy's personal collecting interest have included German Colonies, Rhodesia, Samoan Express, Ceylon, British Commonwealth War Tax, and Canadian Admirals. He is currently concentrating on Canadian Precancels. As a small dealer, he is continually exposed to new philatelic areas and is often off on a new tangent.

### DUNCAN MACDONALD

#### Secretary/Treasurer & Webmaster

Duncan MacDonald lives in Edmonton Alberta. He has been collecting Canadian stamps for over 20 years. His main collecting interests include used Canada, officials, and precancels. He is particularly interested in precancel lathework, varieties, blocks and revenue precancels. Duncan is a management consultant specializing in the area of welfare fraud, preventing not perpetrating, and health policy analysis for both the federal and provincial government. He can be reached by e-mail at [duncan@camacdonald.com](mailto:duncan@camacdonald.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 37013, Lynnwood postal outlet, Edmonton, Alberta, T5R 5Y2.

### LARRY GOLDBERG

#### Editor

Larry Goldberg is a resident of Buffalo Grove, IL, a suburb about 45 minutes northwest of downtown Chicago not too far from O'Hare airport.. He has been a philatelist for over 40 years and his collecting interests include KGVI, Ascension, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, East Africa and the Rhodesias. He collects East Africa postal history, especially military mail of World War I. Of course, he also collects the precancels of Canada.

He is a member of many philatelic organizations, including: APS, BNAPS, RPSC, APS Writers' Unit #30, Philatelic Computing Study Group, KGVI Collectors Society, Ascension Study Circle, East Africa Study Circle, Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group, Rhodesia Study Circle, Waterlow Study Circle, St. Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society, and the Oriental Philatelic Association of London.

Larry is a graphic designer/writer by education and editor/publisher of *George VI*, a quarterly for KGVI specialist collectors. He is also a licensed minister and frequently preaches at area churches.

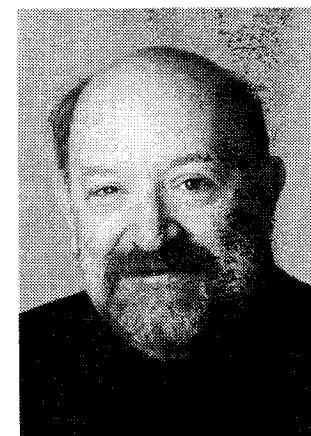
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