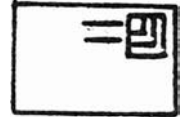
N
S

POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES

P
S
T
S
T
R
Y

Volume 7, No. 2

May 1988

WEBB'S 5TH EDITION ISSUED

The new edition of the Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland, edited by Earle Covert and Bill Walton, has been released. The latest edition was published by The Unitrade Press of Toronto, and should be available (\$14.95) from most Canadian philatelic dealers. For more information see page 15.

CANADA'S FIRST POST CARDS
PART 2 - DIES AND PLATES OF P1

As I've already mentioned (PSN Vol. 7, pg. 1-2), at least three working dies (maybe four) were used to lay down the eight plates of P1. Let's now take a quick look at the features of each die, and the plate, or plates that each die was used to make.

The first die (Die I) can be described as follows (Figure 2, next page):

1. There is a rather large dot below the "O" of "POST", about half way down to the line of text below.
2. The fine outer frame line is complete along the bottom of the card, below the imprint.
3. There are no dots (or only exceedingly faint dots) to the left of the "T" of "THE", at the left of the card.
4. There is a very faint dot above and to the right of the inner projection of the upper-left corner ornament.
5. There is a dot about 2.5mm above and just to the right of the right end of the middle address line.
6. There is a dot between the middle and bottom address lines, about below the "E" of "CENT" in the stamp.
7. The impression of the stamp (especially towards the upper-left corner) is quite weak.
8. The fine outer frame line is complete along the top of the card.

* Postal Stationery Notes is the newsletter of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group, *
* and is edited by Robert Lemire. All information for the newsletter, and *
* correspondence about the study group, should be addressed to Robert Lemire, Box 549, *
* Pinawa, MB, Canada R0E 1L0. *

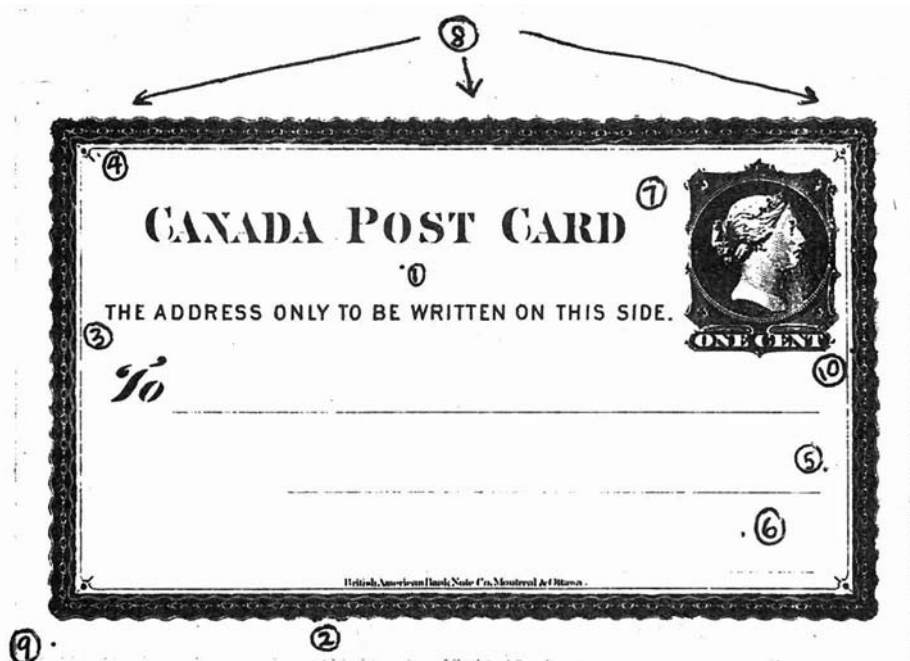


Figure 2. Pl, Die I

Die I was used to lay down the first four plates of Pl. It appears that all four plates were laid down and put into service at about the same time, and all plates share some general characteristics, as described below. Because no plate numbers have ever been reported from any of these plates, and because there appears to be no unquestionable progressive sign of wear in the working die as the four plates went down, I have simply designated these plates "A", "B", "C" and "D", the order representing no more than the order in which I identified them.

The four plates share the following similarities:

1. There is a guide dot about 2.5mm below the lower-left corner of each subject (#9 on Figure 2).
2. There are vertical and horizontal guide lines (probably cutting guide lines) all around each subject. That is, vertical lines at the left and right edges and down the centre of the plate, and horizontal lines across the top and bottom of the plate and between each row of subjects. These lines are quite faint on plate "D".
3. In the initial state, there are no other guide dots (except that there are generally dots along the cutting guides, probably so placed to facilitate the drawing of the lines).

To further refine the issue, it could be noted that the guide dots at the lower-left tend to be larger on plates "A" and "D" than on plates "B" and "C".

I have not yet seen all 40 subjects of these four plates in the early states, but I have seen most of them. Slight double-entries are not uncommon, but the majority are quite minor. There is, however, one significant misplaced entry (subject #1 of plate "C").

It appears that the plates were used in the initial state for the duration of 1871. There may have been more than one printing, but I think all copies are a very pale blue on a sort of "laid-looking" paper. Some time early in 1872, plates "A", "B" and "C" had the stamps (only) re-entered (subjects from plate "D" have not been found in this state). In most cases, the work was very well done, and there is very little doubling. However, the entire impression of the stamp (especially the fine lines of the circular portrait border at the upper left) is much clearer. On many subjects a dot has been added just inside the scrollwork border at the right, to the right of the bottom of the stamp (#10 on Figure 2).

In the summer of 1872, a fifth plate was laid down. I have always assumed that the same working die was used for this plate as for plates "A" - "D", but note that there are a couple of die differences:

1. The stamp impression is not particularly weak.
2. The dot between the middle and bottom address lines (item (6) in the characteristics listed for Die I) is no longer present.
3. The outer frame line along the top of the card is broken (see below and Figure 3).

It could very well be that the slight die differences noted could be due to the use, perhaps, of greater pressure to rock in the subjects. I don't know; other die details remain as for the first two plates. At any rate, in the course of laying down this plate ("E"), the fine outer frame line along the top of the card developed a number of breaks. These breaks appear primarily towards the left and right ends, and in the middle, of the top. The damage appears to have been suffered early in the laying out of the plate. All subjects seen so far have a significant degree of damage.

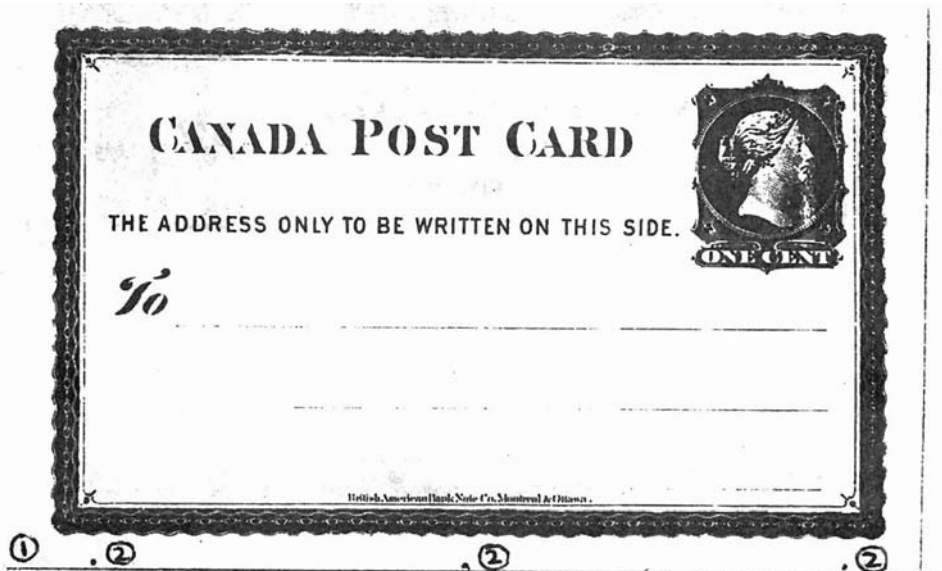


Figure 3. Pl, Plate "E"

There are a few features of the layout of plate "E" that differ from earlier plates, as noted in Figure 3:

1. There is no longer a guide dot below the lower-left corner of the subjects.
2. There are cutting guides, as described for plates "A" - "D", but (especially in later states) there are three dots just above the horizontal line at the middle and towards the ends of each card.
3. The middle dot, above, is probably now the card's guide dot.

I have not yet seen all ten subjects of plate "E" in the first state. For those I have seen, I can say that minor double entries are, again, not uncommon. However, subject #1 has a particularly good double entry.

Whether or not it was a new die that was used to lay down plate "E", that die (with the top frame line quite broken) was used one more time, to do some re-entering on plate "C". So far, I have seen only one subject from this plate re-entered (and there is some reason to believe that there is only one), and this card appears at about the same time as other subjects from plate "C", re-entered with a completely new die (spring of 1873). It could be that, after using the new die to lay down a couple of new plates, someone decided to do some re-entering on plate "C" then, mistakenly, used the old, soon-to-be-discarded die for one of the subjects.

The new die (Die II) is not too terribly different from Die I; there are some new marks, and some marks from Die I are missing. However, there is little doubt that it is truly a new working die, especially in that the severe damage to the top outer frame line is simply no longer in evidence. Details of Die II are as follows (Figure 4):



Figure 4. Pl, Die II

1. There is, at the very most, only an extremely faint trace of the dot under "O" of "POST".
2. There is a significant break in the outer frame line at the

bottom of the card, affecting the tips of the two scallops to the left of the imprint.

3. There are two clear dots to the left of the (top and bottom of the) "T" of "THE", at the left side of the card.
4. The dot near the upper-left corner ornament is always present and clear.
5. The dot above and right of the right end of the middle address line is still present, but very faint.
6. The dot between the middle and bottom address lines is no longer present.

NOTE: Many subjects (in some states, at least) have the frame line break (#2 above) repaired by retouch. Sometimes the retouch is just of the broken scallops; on some subjects (in some states), the retouching is more extensive.

Die II was first used to lay down plates "F" and "G", with subjects from these plates first appearing about April of 1873. The new die was then used to re-enter plate "C", as noted above. By the end of 1873, all earlier plates ("A" - "E") were re-entered at least once with Die II.

Plates "F" and "G" share a couple of characteristics which differ from earlier plates, as follows:

1. There is a guide dot below the centre of each subject, about 2.5mm below the outer frame line, under the "o" of "Note" in the imprint (#7 on Figure 4).
2. There are no longer cutting guides all around each subject. There are lines around the edges of the plate, and short line segments between some horizontal pairs of subjects on the plate, at least in some states.

I have already mentioned that plates "A" to "E" were re-entered with Die II; no new guide dots were added to plates "A", "B", "D" or "E" to do this. However, plate "C" has had guide dots added, quite similar to those described for plates "F" and "G". The dots appear from the third state onward.

As re-entering or retouching work was done on a plate, dots were arbitrarily placed about 2-3mm to the left of the upper-left corner of the card (#8 on Figure 4); also on or just to the right of the outer frame line at the right, to the right of the bottom of the stamp (#9 on Figure 4). This is true for all P1 plates, throughout the life of the issue, but is somewhat haphazard (sometimes the dots were placed, sometimes they weren't).

The seven plates so far described, with frequent maintenance, seem to have been enough until early 1875, when another plate (plate "H") was laid down and put into service (first use, May of 1875). A new die was used for this plate (Die III, which will be described below), although it is interesting to note that each of the several times this plate was subsequently re-entered, Die II was used. Die III was, in fact, never used again. Details of Die III are as follows (Figure 5):

1. The outer frame line is complete along the bottom. There seems to be some irregularity in the vicinity of the Die II breaks, but the line is unbroken and the subjects are not retouched.

2. The dot near the upper-left corner ornament is gone.
3. There are several new constant dots:
 - A. Below, but close to, the inner frame line at the top, above the first "A" of "CANADA"; and between the "D" of "CARD" and the stamp.
 - B. Just to the right of the top shadow point of the stamp.
 - C. Above the "AD" of "CANADA" and the "R" of "CARD"
 - D. A few others.
4. The dots left of the "T" of "THE" are still present.



Figure 5. Pl, Die III

Plate characteristics for plate "H" are as follows:

1. A plate number has been seen; a small portion of an "8", quite far above and to the right of subject #2 (on the sheet) (#5 on Figure 5).
2. There is a guide dot below the centre of each subject, about 4.5mm below the outer frame line at the middle (#6 on Figure 5).
3. There are no horizontal cutting guides, but the plate is framed with rules (at least the top and sides), and there is a vertical rule down the centre of the plate.

This completes the basic notes for the eight Pl plates. Most of the plates were used long after P2 first appeared, and saw many episodes of re-entering and retouching. Many of the re-entries are fabulous, often showing evidence of three or more images (in later states); sometimes multiple entries are displaced a considerable distance. A more complete listing will be given later, but a quick summary of activity for Pl plates is given on the next page.

Altogether, then, there are over 430 different, identifiable varieties of Pl. I have found about 65% of these so far. There is no doubt in my mind that all can, and will, be found; but it may take examination of thousands of cards, because subjects from some states are quite scarce.

<u>PLATE</u>	<u>FIRST USED</u>	<u>LAST USED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF STATES</u>
A	mid-1871	end of 1877	7
B	mid-1871	end of 1877	6
C	mid-1871	end of 1875	4 or 5 *
D	mid-1871	end of 1876	5
E	spring, 1872	middle of 1876	6
F	spring, 1873	end of 1876 **	6 **
G	spring, 1873	middle of 1877	4
H (8)	spring, 1875	end of 1879	6 ***

* I currently list five states for this plate - states 3 and 4 may be the same (only one subject has been found, so far, in the 3rd state, and this subject has not been found in the 4th state; also the period of use overlaps for all such cards found so far).

** The 6th state may affect only one subject. This plate was re-entered with P2 late in 1877 and saw continued use until the end of 1880 (four more states).

*** It is very interesting that, even after plate "F" was re-entered with P2, plate "H" was re-entered again (about in the spring of 1879) with the Pl, Die II frame.

(to be continued)

Steven Whitcombe

We were sorry to learn of the recent deaths of two study group members, Bernard Scott of Armdale, Nova Scotia, and Richard Wilsey of Edmonton, Alberta. We also deeply regret reporting the passing of John Siverts of Deleware, a former collector of Canadian postal stationery, and a staunch supporter of BNAPS.

THE NEW WEBB'S - HINTS FOR USERS OF THE EARLIER EDITIONS

To those acquainted with earlier editions, the 5th edition of Webb's will look familiar but different. To start, reading pages ix and x should give an idea of the basic changes. There are also various text notes added throughout the catalogue, and some of these are probably worth a look.

An attempt has been made in all the regular issue listings, envelopes, post cards, post bands and air letter sheets, to reduce the listings to actual over-the-counter items. This was particularly done with newer collectors in mind. The regular issue listings were becoming crowded with high-priced, relatively esoteric items. The regular issue envelopes have been weeded down to a straight forward basic list.

One major change is the creation of an "Official" section (pg. 106-108), followed by the Election Envelope section. This is consistent with stationery catalogues around the world. The section includes regular issue items adapted for official use, such as the Victorian Lighthouse Keeper Envelopes and the Weights and Measures post bands, and it also includes special order items specifically for official government use - such as the meteorological envelopes and address labels and the recent

test-mailing envelopes. Again consistent with stationery collecting in most countries, the "Official" listing includes only items issued for departments or agencies of the federal government, or for the Post Office itself. If you cannot find an item you are looking for, and it looks official, look in the "Official" section.

Similarly, for consistency with standard postal stationery practice, the George V registered envelope (previously EN33) has been put in a separate section and renumbered as REL.

Precancelled material has been separated out, and the different methods of listing the precancelled envelopes and post cards are explained in the notes on page ix.

The proof and essay section has been completely renumbered - the only substantial renumbering in the catalogue.

Specific Changes

- EN7 and EN8 have been folded into EN5 and EN6. This also affects EN14f and EN14i that have been folded into EN14c and EN14d.
- Based on earlier findings of the Study Group, EN55 has been folded into EN54, and EN62 into EN60; similarly EN29b, EN29c have been folded into EN29, EN29a and EN40d, EN40e into EN40, EN40a.
- The air letter sheets A17 and A18 have been folded into A13 and A14.
- The Edwardian envelope die varieties have been dropped. These may be added in a later edition as an Appendix with photo-enlargements to show the details.
- In the Centennial Issue revalues, both envelopes and post cards, the listings have been grouped by style and put in order of the original items revalued; we hope this will make these issues easier to work with.
- An attempt has been made to define the thick-soft stock of the Admiral issue. Many collectors may not like this definition because some of their thick-soft examples will not qualify - but we believe this is what was traditionally meant for these issues.
- Post card headings are now found on the last four pages of the catalogue. We placed the headings there, after the advertisements, to make them easy to locate. Heading type 4 is now broken into types 4A, 4B and 4C, but aside from this the heading types have not been changed. They have, however, been reordered, so that (for example) the four 1/2¢ card headings are grouped together on the same page.

Two Corrections

The catalogue contains a few typographical errors and at least one accidental omission (already reported by John Aitken). A list will appear in a future issue of PSN. However, there are two items for which typesetting problems have made the catalogue listings confusing.

page 81 - The fifth item under the Arch Issue should read:
P43h 1¢ green, type 1, die II (P43) 100.00

page 86 - The second item from the bottom of the page should read:
RKP106f 8¢ slate, type 1, on cream, 5 3/4" x 7 1/2"
(146 x 192) 5.00 7.50

Split Numbers

Members may wish to take particular note of the following items. In each case items grouped under a single number in the fourth edition of the Webb's Catalogue have been given two or more different numbers in the new fifth edition.

EN73 -----> EN73, EN73b (pg. 19)
P29b -----> P29b, P29q (pg. 80), P29r, P29s (pg. 81)
P38a -----> P38a (pg.80), P38c (pg. 81)
P43a -----> P43a (pg. 80), P43h (pg. 81)
P62b -----> P62b (pg. 80), P62j (pg. 81)
P66c -----> P66c (pg. 80), P66s (pg. 81)
P83g -----> RKP83g, PKP83j (pg. 85)
P85b -----> RKP85b, RKP85d (pg. 85)
P94a -----> KP94a, KP94m (pg. 83)
P94g -----> KP94g, KP94n (pg. 83)
P97a -----> RKP97a, RKP97e (pg. 86)
P941 -----> HKP941, HKP94o (pg. 87)
P101 -----> RKP101, RKP101c, RKP101d (pg. 86)
P103 -----> RKP103, RKP103f (pg. 86)
P104d -----> HKP104d, HKP1041 (pg. 87)
P106b -----> P106b, P106j (pg. 78)
Nfld. P13 -----> Nfld. P13, Nfld. P13a (pg. 127)

In the railway views the CPR multicolour, and GTR, now have an added "K" column for the 2c Admiral die IA cards. A Canadian Pacific card formerly identified in the "I" column might now be "I" or "K". **Grand Trunk Railway** cards formerly identified in the "H" column may now be "H" or "K".

Bill Walton and Earle Covert

ERP UPDATES

Updates this issue are from Art Klass, Colin Campbell and Mike Sagar.

P29k Dec. 6, 1921	P30a June 26, 1924	P42g July 24, 1930
P50c Jan. 10, 1932	P62 Nov. 23, 1935	P62e April 24, 1936
P65 Oct. 24, 1936	P74b May 15, 1952	P88 May 10, 1955
P94i April 22, 1966	W2b June 25, 1885 (1)	

(1) The date is from a Swiss receiving cancel, therefore, the usage may have preceded this date by some time.

Railway View Card ERPs

CPR-F36 May 1, 1914	CPR-H38 Oct. 18, 1916 (2)	CPR-C75 Mar. 18, 1919
CPR-B73 Sept. 28, 1922 (3)	CPR-D66 Oct. 21, 1927 (4)	GTR-B32 April 17, 1898
GTR-E14 June 9, 1915	GTR-F55A Dec. 24, 1914	GTR-K17 Nov. 25, 1915
GTR-J28 Jan. 29, 1923	CNR-B12 Feb. 12, 1930	CNR-D2 Oct. 14, 1929

(2) a new ERP for the "H" series

(3) a text date for a previously unlisted card. Art Klass should be congratulated in particular for turning up the first recorded copy of CPR-B73 - the only 1c orange sepia view card that had not been reported. Art turned this up at the Garfield-Perry show last March in

Cleveland where he and I spent the weekend. It was the only railway view card on the floor of the show, which had almost no Canadian stationery of any sort. He gave the card to me to check his number, which I did quickly - it was obviously the B column, and a quick run down the titles showed it was B73. Art took great pleasure in finding his first unlisted railway view card (cost \$15), and I suspect even more at my casual glance that missed what it was.

(4) a text date, but the first date reported for this card

Also, manuscript dates have been reported on CPR1A (July 11, 1898) and CPR-E17 (May 19, 1914). However, we accept manuscript dates as ERPs only for items for which no postmark or text date copies are known.

Bill Walton

WHO WAS THE USER ?

Can anyone help? The "cut-outs" shown below are from precancelled envelopes. All have been known for a long time, but I have not been able to identify the user or obtain information about the entires (dimensions, flap etc.). All three "cut-outs" are addressed to the same company in Galt, Ontario. Any information on these items would be greatly appreciated.

George Manley

EN502-??? poor white paper ("cut-outs" 3 1/4" long)

- (1) Can 1 printing in brown, double line at upper right in black
- (2) Can 1 printing in red
- (3) Can 1 printing in black

