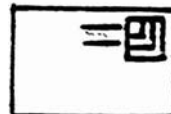
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POSTAL STATIONERY NOTES

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Volume 7, No. 4

August 1988

BNAPEX'88 STUDY GROUP MEETING

The annual meeting of the BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group is scheduled for Thursday September 8th, from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m as part of BNAPEX'88 (Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center). I hope many of our members will be able to attend. Among the topics to be discussed at the meeting are the publication of the results of our ERP project, and a new handbook project on the railway view cards.

PUZZLES IN CANADIAN STATIONERY

Over the past twenty years, many important questions in Canadian stationery have been resolved. Most of the "solutions" seem to be standing the test of time fairly well, but many, many problems, paradoxes and puzzles remain unaddressed. Most of you, if you are like me, deal with these most of the time by ignoring them. I have found for the most part that this approach works fairly well. (There is one thing that works even better - and that is not even recognizing that a puzzle exists - and there are probably quite a lot of these little landmines still waiting for us to stumble over them.)

Every once in a while, usually when I am tired, some of these puzzles surface in my mind and annoy me. In thinking about it, I have decided to share these problems. My theory is that either one of two good things may happen. Collectively, we may come to some hypotheses that work, through the sharing of ideas and information. Alternatively, we may not solve anything at all, but the problems may start bothering someone else instead of me. Robert Lemire will welcome correspondence of any sort - even sketch notes of fragmentary ideas - on any of these puzzles.

PUZZLE #1 - Webb P15-P1 (5th edn. pg. 120 - the former P15a)

This card has been separated from P15 for a number of years in more than one catalogue. What makes it distinct is the shade of printing ink. The card stock is identical to the issued card stock, and it appears to have been printed from an identical original source. The ink, however, is unquestionably distinctive. All copies I have seen have been essentially identical in shade, and could not be confused with P15 (although P15 does

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- * 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. *
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vary in shade somewhat, probably due at least in part to age and chemical change). In all, I have probably handled and inspected at least fifteen of these cards over the past twenty-five years, in collections and in dealer stocks.

Here is the puzzle.

There are two things make this card hard to explain. First, although it is unquestionably very scarce, it is not a rarity with only one or two copies known. Second, to my knowledge, it has never been seen used by anyone I know to be familiar with the scarlet colour of this card on sight.

So what is this card? There seem to be too many copies for a proof or colour trial. On the other hand, there appear to be too few copies for an individual printing that went into Post Office stock - and in any case, rare shades of adhesive or stationery issues that go into Post Office stock are usually far likelier to be encountered in used condition.

PUZZLE #2 - Webb EN5b and EN6e (the "Old Berkshire" watermark)

These envelopes are somewhat of an anomaly. The chain (or batonne) lines on the First Dominion Issue were about 18mm apart. Beginning in 1887 with the Second Dominion Issue, the paper supplied showed these lines from 24-27mm apart. This is a fairly sharp and distinct break in the envelopes, and as 1888 progressed, fewer and fewer of the older 18mm envelopes are found used.

Here is the puzzle.

First, the Old Berkshire watermark envelopes clearly show a watermark date of 1881. Second, the only used examples are from 1884 and 1885; this is in itself a puzzle, since it seems rather a long time for the envelopes to come into use if indeed they were printed in 1881. Third, the chain lines on these envelopes are of the 24-27mm variety, definitely not 18mm.

The question is, what explains this? It is highly unlikely that a paper supplier would have changed the necessary hardware to create one run of paper, and then switched back to the 18mm hardware. The presence of the watermark does not of itself suggest a different paper supplier, but certainly addresses the possibility. Where was the bulk of paper for the First and Second Dominion Issues coming from? Do the two issues in fact reflect papers from two different manufacturers - that is, was the supplier changed? Whether one supplier or two were involved, was the manufacturer(s) domestic or foreign? The CP Co. watermark (EN6f) suggests Canada Paper Company, but also may mean something altogether different. During a shortage from the regular supplier (perhaps early in 1884) was an emergency supply of paper obtained from a second supplier (who sent some stock dated 1881), and who subsequently became the single source of supply in 1887? This could be, but it is purely a guess.

What manufacturer produced paper watermarked "Old Berkshire Mills" watermarks of any sort, dated or undated? If we can't identify the manufacturer, can we identify the country of origin? At present, very

little about these envelopes makes sense. Incidentally, there is one further peripheral puzzle - will this watermark ever turn up on EN6b, the larger size 3¢ envelope?

Bill Walton

P1 AND P2 - CORRECTIONS

In the first installment of my article on Webb P1/P2, two errors were made:

- (1) In Table 1, the description of the imprint on P2 should have been "... larger type" rather than "... round period".
- (2) I referred to a "6¢-over -5¢ re-reentry" in the Small Queens; this is, of course, the famed "5¢-over-6¢ re-entry".

Steven Whitcombe

ERP UPDATE

A few new ERPs this issue (from Colin Campbell, Robert Lemire and Bill Walton).

P34e July 18, 1929	A24 Aug 18, 1958
KP30e Jan. 9, 1929 (1,2)	KP33 Dec. 21, 1916 (1)
KP52i Feb. 9, 1935 (1,2)	KP90a Jan. 25, 1967 (1)
KP91e Jan. 28, 1963 (1)	KP94a July 23, 1964 (1,2)
KP94m Jan. 5, 1967 (1,2)	KP104j June 30, 1971 (1,2)

- (1) "KP" number in Webb's 5th edn., "P" number in the 4th edn. and in previous ERP lists
- (2) first date reported for the card

Bill Walton

THE CANADIAN LETTER CARDS - SOME PUZZLES

One of the more neglected fields of Canadian postal stationery is the letter cards. Partially, this is because these cards were printed only for a period of approximately ten years. Also, the British American Bank Note cards (Webb L1 - L3) are particularly unattractive (Howes described them as "wretched", "hideous" and "poorly engraved"). However, more than eighty years after the last letter card was produced for the Canadian Post Office there remain some interesting questions about these issues.

On May 1, 1897 the contract for printing stamps, and prestamped post cards, post bands and letter cards passed from the British American Bank Note Company (BABNC) to the American Bank Note Company (ABNC). There was an urgent requirement for the new printer to prepare items to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign before mid-June. Therefore, it was later in the year before the ABNC could produce new regular issue stamps and stationery.

Bill Pawluk has supplied me with a photocopy of an "order book" indicating the quantities of postal stationery items ordered from and delivered by ABNC from 1897 to 1902, and the dates the orders were placed and received. It would appear that the first general order for letter cards was on September 22, 1897 for 50,000 each of the 1¢ and 2¢ and 60,000 of the 3¢. The first delivery of the 1¢ and 3¢ cards was made on October 23, 1897 and of the 2¢ on October 27th 1897. The earliest "Maple Leaf" letter card ERP is May 5, 1898, more than six months after the first ABNC stock was turned over to the Post Office. This seems like an unreasonable delay given the extensive business use of the letter cards, and the fact that some were prepared and shipped specifically on the request of banks. Based on contemporary reports, Howes suggested December 1897 for the release of the 2¢ cards and January 1898 for the release of the other two values.

There was at least one interesting difference in the manufacturing processes used by BABNC and ABNC. Examination of the BABNC cards shows that they were perforated after folding (at least for perforation type A). In cases where cards were misperforated, the misperforation is identical on the front and back portions of the folded cards. However, the ABNC cards were perforated flat and then folded. I have unfolded examples of Webb L8 and L10. Does anyone have an unfolded copy of cards L1 - L3?

The banks used reasonably large quantities of letter cards to notify customers of transactions and of due dates for promissory notes. Because the BABNC cards seem to have been only available when folded and perforated, any printed message on the inside of the letter cards was added most easily by BABNC during the manufacturing process. Of course, BABNC charged the banks (and other users of letter cards with printed messages) for the additional printing.

In the "order book" are a number of orders that indicate that for a while the same procedure was followed by ABNC. However, there is one printing noted in the order book as having been filled before the first main ABNC letter card orders were filled.

The order in question is:

September 8th 1897 Bank of Montreal, St. John N.B.,
 type 5000 2¢ letter cards form 1 on face, return clause on back,
 type 5000 2¢ letter cards form 2 on face, return clause on back
 band in lots of 50
 ordered Sept. 8, 1897
 10,000 2¢ letter cards received from Dept. Sept. 17th/97
 completed Oct. 5, 1897 cost \$1.00/M
 paid - check Bk of Montreal 11-10/97

This printing, done on "letter cards from Dept.", was therefore probably done on old Post Office BABNC stock! Were these cards printed on stock that was already perforated and folded? Were they printed on stock with perforation A or the later perforation B? Used copies of the 2¢ BABNC letter card with perforation B have not yet been reported. It appears that 1¢ and 3¢ BABNC cards of perforation B were also normally folded before perforation (although, as I have seen only a few copies, there is no way to rule out the possibility that some of the stock was not prefolded). I would be very interested in seeing copies or photocopies of

L3 or L3a, used by the Bank of Montreal in St. John NB (with printed form 1 or 2), dated after September 1898.

While on the subject of perforations it should be noted that the cards with perforation B are scarce, used or unused. Our ERPs for L2a and L1b are Dec. 24, 1897 and Nov. 15, 1897, respectively (i.e., dated after ABNC stock should have been available). Why would BABNC purchase a new machine for perforating the letter cards at a time when it probably knew its contract would not be renewed?

The commonest BABNC perforation B card is the 3¢ (L1b), but this card has not been reported as revalued in used condition (L9e). Yet revalued copies of L1 (i.e., L9, L9a) are common. This is not what would be expected if the perforation B cards were simply a late BABNC printing. What was going on? Were the perforation B cards some sort of emergency printing used to bridge the gap until the ABNC cards (or dies) were available?

I have been puzzling over these questions for several years and seem no closer to resolving them than when I started. Can anyone supply relevant information? Part of the problem may simply be that collectors have not carefully examined their letter cards for ERPs and for the two perforation types. Thus, the period of use of the perforation B cards may have been earlier than it seems. Please check your cards.

Robert Lemire

DOMINION ENVELOPE SPECIMEN MARKINGS

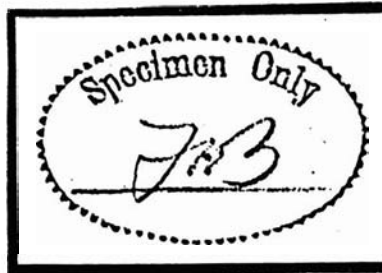
So far more than fifty different precancelled envelopes have been recorded with "Specimen Only" handstamps on them, mainly on King George V issues (in various shades of blue) and a few on King George VI envelopes (in violet). Similar handstamps are, of course, found on other Dominion Envelope special order envelopes (not precancelled) of the same period. The specimen markings bear a number of different sets of initials as shown in the following illustrations. J.R.N is the most usual. I would be interested in reports of other specimen markings and initials.

George Manley

K.G. V, Toothed Oval in Blue



"G.W."



"J.H.B."



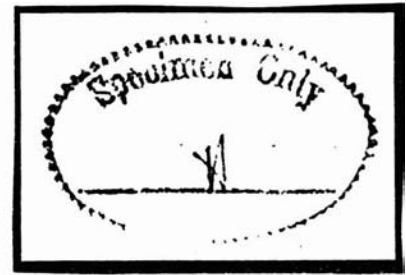
"S.A.J."



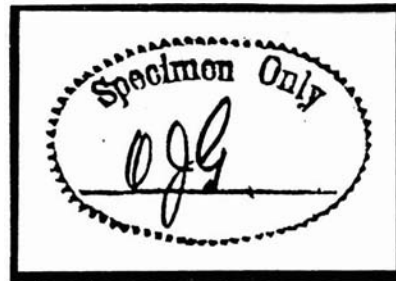
"J.R.N."



blank

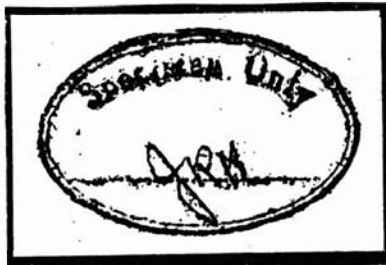


"N."



"O.J.G."

K.G. VI, Double Oval in Violet



"J.R.N."



"N."



"A.B."

CORRECTION - EN141 LISTED PREVIOUSLY

Your editor has shown his fallibility again, this time with respect to the note on the new Webb listing EN141 (PSN Vol 7, pg. 19). Bill Walton reported the envelope during a telephone conversation, and I did a short write-up on my own initiative. This is indeed a new listing for the Webb's Catalogue. However, the envelope has been noted before - in Holmes (1018a in the 11th edn.) and in Arnold (EN14C, albeit followed by a question mark). I only thought to check after the newsletters had been mailed.

CORRECTIONS TO THE 5TH EDITION OF THE WEBB'S POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUE

A few corrections, several of which are listed thanks to observant members, including Pierre Gauthier and John Aitken:

pg. 12 - EN6f should follow EN6g, and the description should read:
EN6f as EN6b with watermark C.P.Co. (1894)

- pg. 43 - the entry for KP104e should be identical to that for the same item as listed under Miscellaneous Private Post Cards on page 84, i.e.
 P104e 6¢ black flimsy & 6¢ black card, types
 l & l, multiple form, 7 1/2 x 4 1/4 (192
 x 108), rouletted four sides, initials
 with stamp (MWC) (Mississauga) \$100.00
 k 6¢ black flimsy (used message half KP104e) \$40.00
- pg. 74 - incorrect prices listed for P68b: prices should be
 \$0.50 unused and \$0.35 used
 - P72c should be described as (38/T) not (38/O)
- pg. 77 - the same typographical error in both figure captions
 - "VALEUR" not "VALUER"
- pg. 86 - RKP106j should have been RKP106k, and should not be confused
 with P106j on pg. 78
- pg. 94 - CPR B40. Used price should be \$125.00
- pg. 107 - description for DW1e should read violet-black not black. The
 price is for a used copy (no unused copies have been
 reported).

Bill Walton

MAINSTREAM BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

The majority of Canadian stationery collectors today probably use Webb's as their primary catalogue, but others (e.g., Higgins and Gage, Scott Specialized) are also available and in use. Webb's first appeared in 1971, and for many it is probably the only primary catalogue they have worked with. Longer time collectors probably relied heavily on Holmes, and the old four-digit numbers are still often found pencilled on items in collections.

When Jim Webb put his First Edition together, he relied in part on the other catalogues in use at the time, as every cataloguer does. Where did the other catalogues draw their own inspiration?

In fact, there has been a continuity of major catalogue efforts in Canadian stationery that is more or less traceable. In (hopefully) short bursts scattered over succeeding issues of PSN I will attempt to list the most important efforts chronologically. This should provide a sort of thumbnail history of how we have reached where we are today in our catalogues.

1. J.-B. Moens Catalogue Prix Courant de Timbre Poste

Moens was a dealer in Brussels, Belgium, and he is generally recognized as one of the great pioneer cataloguers of philately. His listings were in many cases more detailed than those found in the listings of Gibbons or Scott. Unlike Scott and Gibbons however, his catalogues did not outlive him. During his life, however, he went through many editions extending across many years. His sixth edition, for example, was published in 1883 but his publications continued on into the 1890's.

Moens listed everything - stamps, all types of postal stationery, revenues and tobacco stamps. When Forbin published his classic revenue stamp

catalogue of the world at the outbreak of WWI, he drew heavily on Moens. In postal stationery, as well as in other fields, the Senf brothers (die Bruder Senf) of Leipzig clearly consulted Moens, and when Dr. Ascher constructed his worldwide postal stationery catalogue using Senf as a starting point, he was indebted in turn to Moens.

Moens' numbers essentially died with Moens and consequently are never encountered today. They were four and five digit numbers, using a system something like Holmes'. What is important about his work today is not his numbers, but the detailed information listings that he created in his books. Not only did he describe items in detail, but he attempted, to the best of his ability, to indicate a month and year of issue. These listings, which were in constant use in Europe, and which were in the hands of serious collectors worldwide, were an important reference source for the other major cataloguers of the day.

Moens' books today are highly sought after by collectors, particularly in Europe, and tend to fetch high prices in literature auctions when they appear. If you happen to see one, be sure you know what it is before you make an offer: many of his editions were bound in several volumes (postal adhesives in one, postal stationery in another, telegraphs in a third etc.). Also, in many cases he made available single country catalogues of all issues.

Bill Walton

MORE NOTES ON PRECANCELLED POST CARDS

There is an error on page 27 of the Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery Handbook. Under the entry for P26d, three bars, medium, a spacing error is listed for a card used by L. White & Sons of Toronto. The normal and error precancels were supposed to have been illustrated as the third and fourth cutouts in the first line of photographs below the text. The picture of the "error" card (-6-21 x 9 1/2 spacing error) is correctly shown. However, the figure showing the "normal" precancel (-6-21 x 9 1/2) is not correct. The two precancels are correctly illustrated below.



- 6 - 21 x 9 1/2



- 6 - 21 x 9 1/2
spacing error

It may also be worth noting that the card identified as P51c, 3 bars - thin, -7-17x9, Montreal, Leduc Drug Co. on page 39 of the Handbook is not the same size as normal, unprecanceled copies of P51a. It is closer in size to KP52i (i.e., about 5mm taller than the standard size card).

George Manley