

Postal Stationery Notes

Volume 22 No. 2

May 2008

A Big Thank You to Dick Staecker

In 1999 Dick Staecker took over as editor of Postal Stationery Notes. In his mind at least, this was a *temporary* measure, necessary to keep the study group functioning smoothly. However, Dick has now decided that after more than eight years it is time for a new editor to be found. On behalf of the Study Group, I wish to thank Dick for the wonderful job that he has done. Over his tenure, he has regularly produced five or six colourful, informative newsletters each year, and in 2001 he won the Sivert's award for the best BNAPS study group newsletter published during the previous year.

However, now **the search is on for a new editor.**

There are approximately seventy members in the Postal Stationery Study Group. **I would ask each Study Group member to consider if they would be willing to take on the job.** What would be required? First, and foremost, an editor needs to be enthusiastic about BNA Postal Stationery. It isn't necessary that the editor be an 'expert', only that the enthusiasm be coupled with a desire to learn more about the subject, and to ask questions of others. Second, he or she should be able to write coherently and to use a computer for word-processing and layout. Third, the editor needs to continually encourage/cajole/coerce/bribe others to write about the subject. Finally, the editor must have the 'spare' time available to prepare the newsletters. The benefits of being editor include getting to know other collectors, obtaining knowledge, often prior to its publication in any other forum (and, in turn, often being able to obtain key items for one's collection).

Although we have not been able to convince Dick to stay on, he is quite willing to assist whoever takes on the editor's position. Also, John Grace has agreed to continue as the secretary-treasurer of the Postal Stationery group, and to oversee the distribution of the newsletters.

Several members of the Study Group are combining to put out this issue, the preparation of which is being coordinated by a former editor. However, this is an interim arrangement only. We feel strongly that it is most unwise for any group to go back to a "former" editor to prepare its newsletters, as that can easily lead to recycling of old worn-out ideas for both content and layout.

If you are interested in becoming the editor (or know of someone whom we should try to convince), please contact one of the following people:

Robert Lemire (P.O. Box 1870, Deep River, ON, K0J 1P0; rlemire000@sympatico.ca; 613-584-1574)

Earle Covert (P.O. Box 1190, Raymond, AB T0K 2S0; ecovert@telusplanet.net; 403-752-4548)

Barry A. Brown (999 Cascade Place Kelowna BC V1V 1J1; barbbarry@silk.net)

Unfortunately, if no volunteer is found, the study group probably will need to suspend operations.

PCF Corner

Summer and winter have come and gone, and aside from a trickle of reports of new “leaf” indicium varieties and a single new 1995 flag type II card (in some cases perhaps these were cards held in storage by Canada Post?), essentially all reports are of cards re-issued with the Type IIIb 1995 flag indicium (this now has been found on more than 160 different views). No new views numbers have been reported this year, though CR 150 has been reissued in a new guise to reflect that the Banff Springs hotel is now part of the Fairmont chain.

All but one of the views reported with the Type IIIa 1995 flag indicium now have been reported re-issued with Type IIIb. No more **IIIa copies of VAN180** have been reported, and this card is **likely to be very scarce**. The leaf indicium BNG 003 with a SKU# was a bit of a surprise. This card is now known with and without a printed SKU#. The earlier card without the SKU# is likely to be the scarcer variety, as the existence of the two varieties was not recognized when the BNG 003 “leaf” cards were readily available.

New Reports (as of 2008-05-14)

These are reports received since late June 2007 (Ken and Sandra Eadie, Earle Covert, Pierre Gauthier, Michel Ledoux, Clarence Wigmore, Robert Lemire, Raymond Gagné, Brian Cannon and Dick Staecker).

leaf indicium

PCF-T3D

AL 040
BNG 003 with printed SKU#
CST7013

1995 flag indicium, type II

PCF-T3E

AL 009
MAN 013

1995 flag indicium, type IIIb

PCF-T2G

C001V
C003
C005
C010V
CR068
CR146
CR151
ED032
NF130
MTL066V
MTL098
MTL107
T049

PCF-T3G

ATC 005	G044	NS132
ATC052	KI011	NS 140
ATC 209	MTL154	NS 142
C095V	MTL 514	NS 173
C179	MTL 536	O 038
CR 284	NB014	O 270
CR 317	NF 154	O 297
CY 081	NFLD 079	PRA005V
CY 094	NS 010	VAN084
CY 106	NS018V	VAN 185
ED 044	NS064V	VAN 189
ED 045	NS 068	VQ101
	NS130	WPG069

also, CR 150

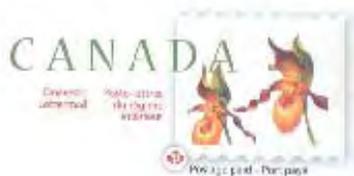
a new version (and with a new PCF logo on the card)—basically the same hotel view as on the previous PCF-T3G CR 150, but now described as a view of the “Fairmont Banff Springs”

What's New

in Postal Stationery

More envelopes (and envelope dates)

As painful as it is to say, there have been as many new envelope varieties released in the last year as new Post Card Factory varieties. Aside from several new printing dates, all the indicia (on both sizes of the ten attractions and the four flowers envelopes) have undergone minor changes, as the words “Postage paid — Port payé” have been added below the printed stamp image. At the same time, recycled paper symbols were added to the printing on the backs of the envelopes.



New indicia (at 78%)



Recycling logo (at 235%)

The list below summarizes the known varieties including the printing dates (130 total so far).

Thanks to Clarence Wigmore, Earle Covert, Robin Harris and Pierre Gauthier for reports.

10 different Attractions

#8	#10
2006.12.01	2006.12.01
2007.26.01	2007.01.26
2007.05.18	2007.05.18
2007.15.10†	2007.13.07†
	2007.11.16†

4 different Flowers

#8	#10
2006.12.01*	2006.12.01
2007.26.01	2007.01.26
2007.05.18	2007.05.18
2007.13.07†	2007.13.07†
	2007.13.11†
	2008.02.14†

*anomalous large indicia

† indicia with added “Postage paid — Port payé and with recycling symbols on the back

More cards

In January, Canada Post released two postage prepaid cards for the “Year of the Rat”. These were followed in March by two cards showing peonies.



Four cards featuring the Art of Yousef Karsh were scheduled for May 21, and June looks to be a busy month with two “Anne of Green Gables” cards (June 20) and four more “Canadians in Hollywood” cards (June 30).

Notes about the Sioux Narrows Bridge PCF Card (PCF-T2A CST7010)

The Sioux Narrows Bridge postage prepaid PCF card was one of several (the CST series) prepared by the Postcard Factory at the request of Canada Post (and usually solicited by a local postmaster). The card was issued in 2002, but there was no national distribution. It shows a lovely wooden bridge (“the longest, single span, wooden bridge in the world”). However, there were severe weight restrictions on the bridge, it was closed in 2003 (a temporary bridge was constructed adjacent to the older structure), and preparations were made to dismantle and replace the wooden structure.

As I travelled west to BNAPEX (in mid-August 2007), it seemed worth seeing what had happened to the bridge, and whether the cards were still available—after all, the initial printing had been several thousand copies. The post offices most likely to have the cards seemed to be Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls (40 km south of Sioux Narrows).

I arrived at Nestor Falls too early for the office to be open, so on to Sioux Narrows. There were a few PCF cards on the rack, including about half-a-dozen of the Sioux Narrows Bridge card. I purchased all the CST7010 copies on the rack; however, the postmaster told me that she had no more. Apparently the postmaster who had requested the cards had retired, and the current postmaster was glad to be rid of them.

Back to Nestor Falls (the post office was now open), where there were no CST7010 cards; but the postmaster confirmed that indeed there had been many copies printed and received in Sioux Narrows. Also, I was told that the current postmaster in Sioux Narrows had written off the remaining stock, and given the cards to the local tourist bureau for distribution! Back to Sioux Narrows, but this time to the Tourist Information Bureau. Yes, they had had the cards, and had distributed them for *free*, but had none left. No copies were available at several tourist shops in Sioux Narrows, or at the post offices in Fort Frances or Kenora.

Clearly, there will be no initiative from Sioux Narrows to have future printings. Of course there still may be boxes of CST7010 in a warehouse somewhere in Ottawa. What we may see eventually are more unused and domestically used copies of this card—copies from the stock given out by the Tourist Information Bureau.

Oh, and the wooden bridge? It had been completely dismantled and a new bridge was nearing completion.

Robert Lemire (rlemire000@sympatico.ca)

Centennial Revalue Election Envelope Discovery

Not too long ago a nice group of late issue Elizabethan election envelopes was offered as individual lots on eBay. One of these was Webb’s EN 818a, the 6¢ on 5¢ Cameo Form 95 in French—a very scarce envelope I have never been able to find, and which I was fortunate enough to win.

The real gem, however, was the previously unrecorded envelope illustrated here. To be numbered EN 816a, it is the 6¢ Centennial revalue on the 5¢ Second Karsh Issue, Form 154 in French (EN 814c). The diagonal stroke through the stamp indicates that this is a devalued example, but the acquisition source is open to conjecture. The EN818a, incidentally, was similarly devalued.

Discovery of this envelope 38 years after its use shows once again that the unexpected can always

occur. So here are two more to watch for: a revalued Cameo Form 154 in French (this would be EN 818c, on EN 817d), and an 8¢ Form 154 with the 4-72 date. You never know - - -.

Bill Walton



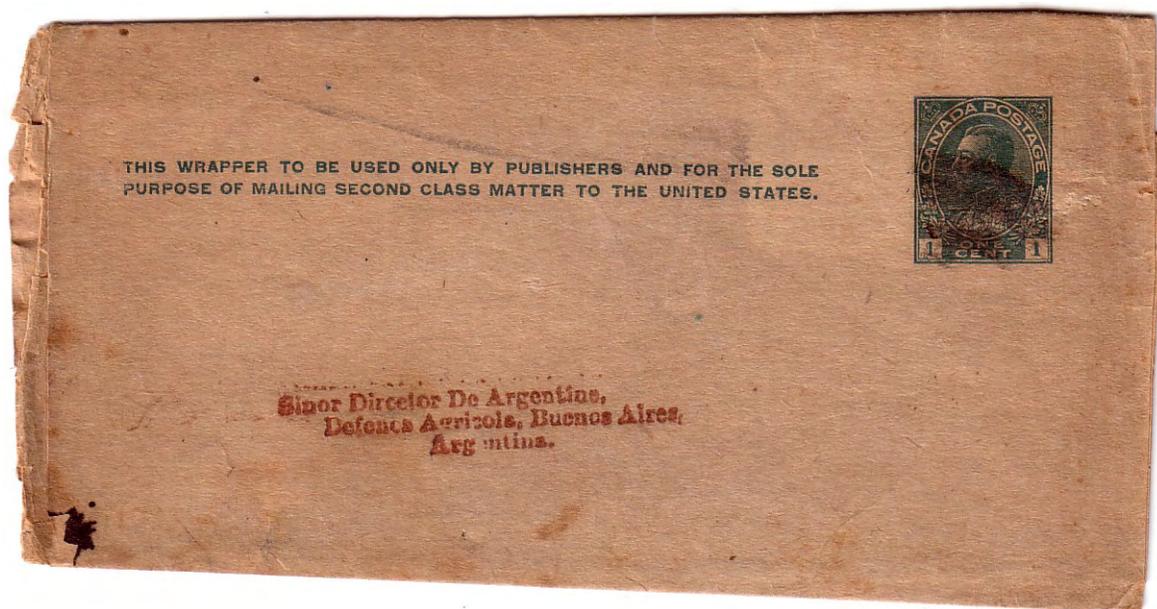
EN 816a. The 6¢ Centennial revalue on the 5¢ Second Karsh Issue, Form 154 in French (EN 814c). The front and back are shown at 72%; the detail of the indicium is shown at 100% of the actual size.

W12d: Another Copy Found

I recently acquired the second reported copy of W12d. This wrapper was bought from an Argentine stamp dealer. The wrapper was addressed to “Sinor Director De Argentine, Defenca Agricola, Buenos Aires, Argentina.” There is no dated cancellation on the wrapper. This is a most unusual destination for a wrapper prepared to be used “BY PUBLISHERS AND FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAILING SECOND CLASS MATTER TO THE UNITED STATES”. The stamp has been a bit smudged with an ink obliterator. Below are a scan of the whole wrapper as acquired, and a scan of the stamp itself at a 600 dpi resolution. On the next page is a scan of the stamp with the heading. I found that one way to differentiate the three headings of the one cent green Admiral wrapper—regardless of the stamp dies themselves—is the horizontal measurement of the first line of the heading: 94.5 mm for W12b, 93.5 mm for W12e, and 92.5 mm for W12d. Also provided for information is a scan of my copy of W12e (addressed to Emma Fluck, Fall River, Mass. (USA)).

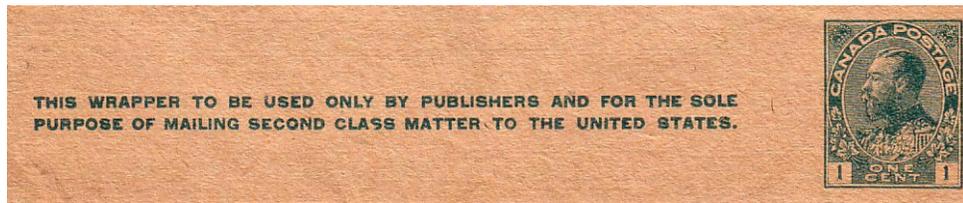
Another way to distinguish between the three dies is to look at the largest maple leaf in the lower left corner. In die I, the right tip of the leaf penetrates nearly all the way into the white border circling the cameo. In die Ia, the tip barely goes half way through the white border. In die II, the tip goes all the way through the white border and into the cameo itself. This may help in identifying items where smudging is a problem.

Pierre Gauthier

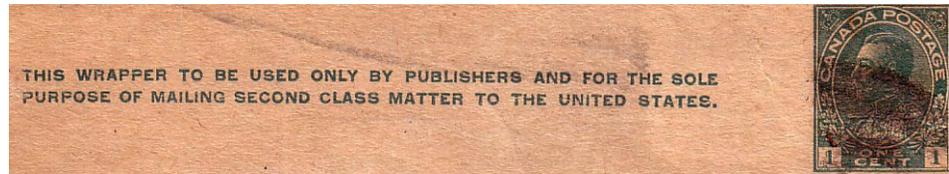


die II

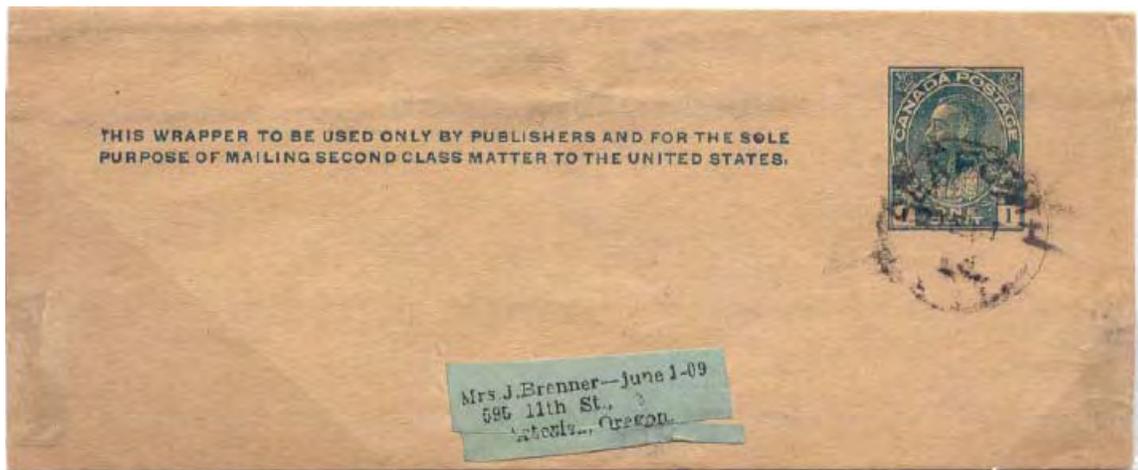
W12e



W12d



But It isn't the Same!



On the original discovery copy of the die II wrapper, the setting of the heading is identical to the setting on the previous Edwardian wrappers (“P” of “PUBLISHERS” over “M” of “MATTER”).

Robert Lemire

Newsletter Back Issues ‘On Line’?

Charles Livermore has scanned all the back issues of Postal Stationery Notes, and will make some or most issues available on line (through the BNAPS website) provided the study group agrees. Because it would be entire newsletter issues, not individual articles, that are displayed, this does not violate the copyright privileges of the author of each article (the copyright on an article is retained by the author, regardless).

I suggest that we make available all issues through to the end of Volume 18, thus leaving a four-five year window during which the issues would be restricted to members. However, this is a decision that must be made by the study group. Please let me know before July 15, 2008 if you strongly agree or disagree, or if you have a different suggestion (Robert Lemire, P.O. Box 1870, Deep River, ON, K0J 1P0; rlemire000@sympatico.ca).

Unusual and Exotic Postal Stationery Usages

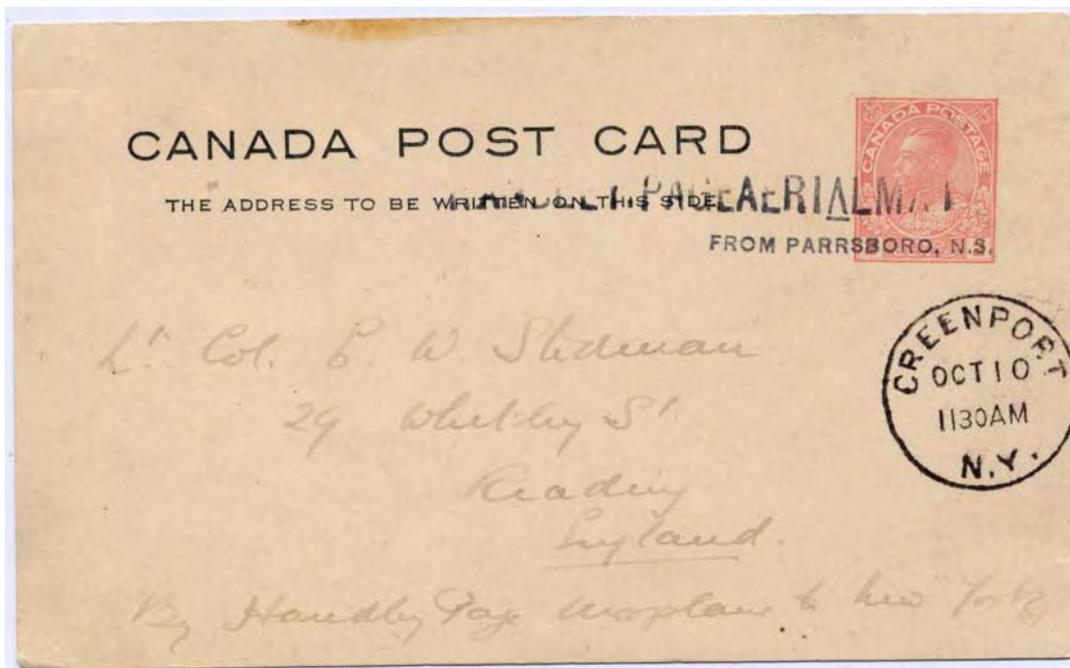
There are many different Canadian stationery items so scarce to rare that they are almost never available. There are also, however, many common postal stationery pieces that are nevertheless eye-catching because of their usage. Beginning with this issue, we will try to devote a little space to an example of offbeat usages or postal misadventures.

1. Handley Page at Parrsboro

On July 4, 1919, Kerr and Brackley left Newfoundland in a Handley Page plane bound for New York. They carried a fairly small amount of mail postmarked either St. John's or Harbour Grace. The plane unfortunately had to make a forced landing at Parrsboro, Nova Scotia, and sustained serious damage in the process. The Newfoundland mail was offloaded, backstamped at Parrsboro on July 7, and forwarded by surface.

The plane was repaired, but this apparently took some time—no doubt in part because of the difficulties in getting parts to Parrsboro. A decision was made to continue to New York once repairs were completed, and the flight left on October 9, arriving in Greenport, New York (near the extreme eastern end of Long Island) on October 10.

The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland (1997), from which I have sourced most of this information (p. 29 and pp. 476-7), notes that only “a small amount of mail was taken on at Parrsboro.” These are listed in that catalogue as PF-20 (p. 29). This was of course Canadian mail, and the 1¢ orange Admiral card illustrated (Webb's P29f) is an example. It carries the two-line “Handley Page Aerial Mail/From Parrsboro, N.S.” undated cachet used as a postmark on Oct. 9, and a Greenport, NY Oct. 10 receiver.



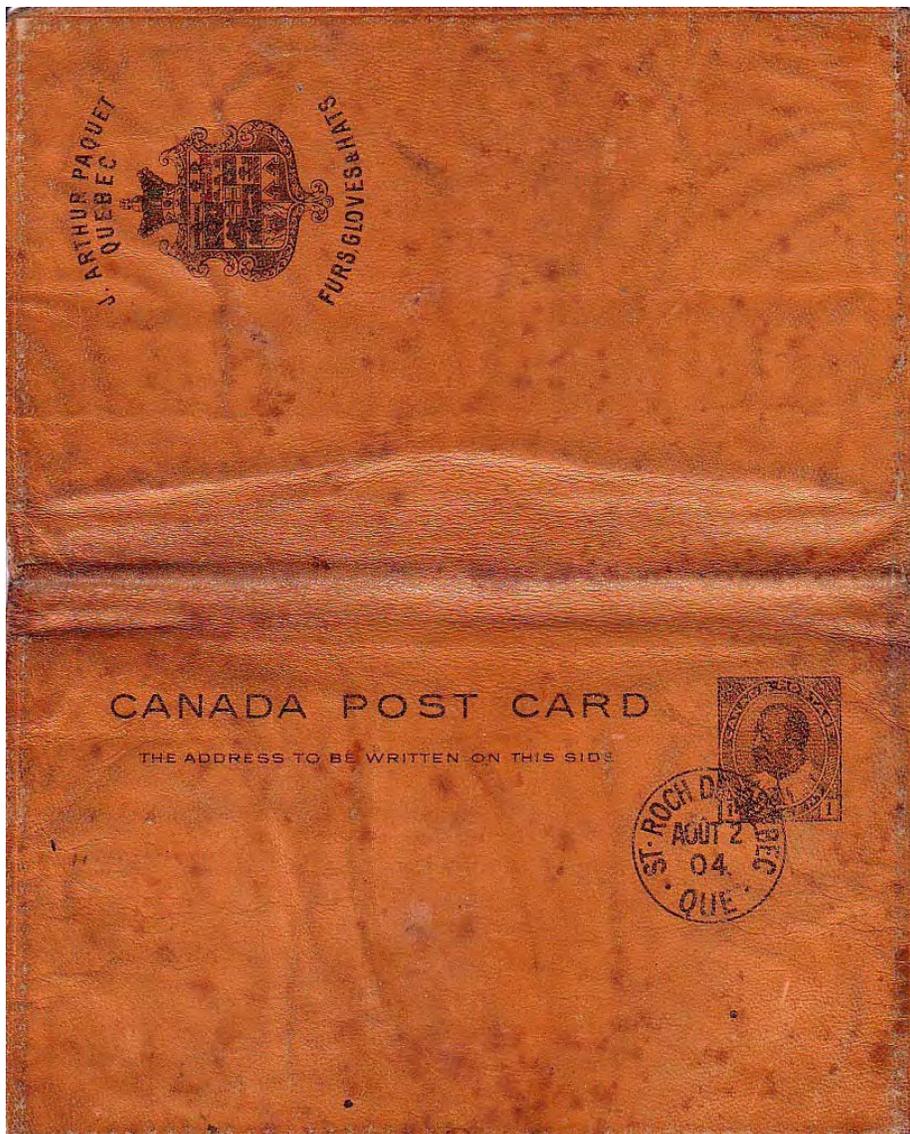
The card—endorsed at bottom in manuscript “By Handley Page Aeroplane to New York”—is addressed to a Lt. Col. Stedman in Reading, England (and is thus 1¢ short paid, but no penalty is indicated). Kerr was Admiral Sir Mark Kerr and Brackley was Major Brackley, so my guess is that one of them (probably Brackley, writing to a fellow officer) prepared the card as a flight souvenir.

There was high awareness among pilots of the postal significance of these pioneer flights. The unsigned message is datelined Parrsboro N.S. and reads “Keep this card old chap, it may become famous.” Famous or not, the sender transformed one of the most common pieces of Canadian postal stationery into an unusual and exotic item.

Bill Walton

Cinderella Items

This used leather wallet shows a facsimile of Edward VII postal stationery card P22 with a circular date stamp (St-Roch de Quebec—August 2, 1904). It also shows a clothier advertisement on the other side with the Dominion of Canada Coat of Arms (J. ARTHUR PAQUET / QUEBEC // FURS, GLOVES & HATS). It was manufactured in Vienna (Austro-Hungarian Empire).



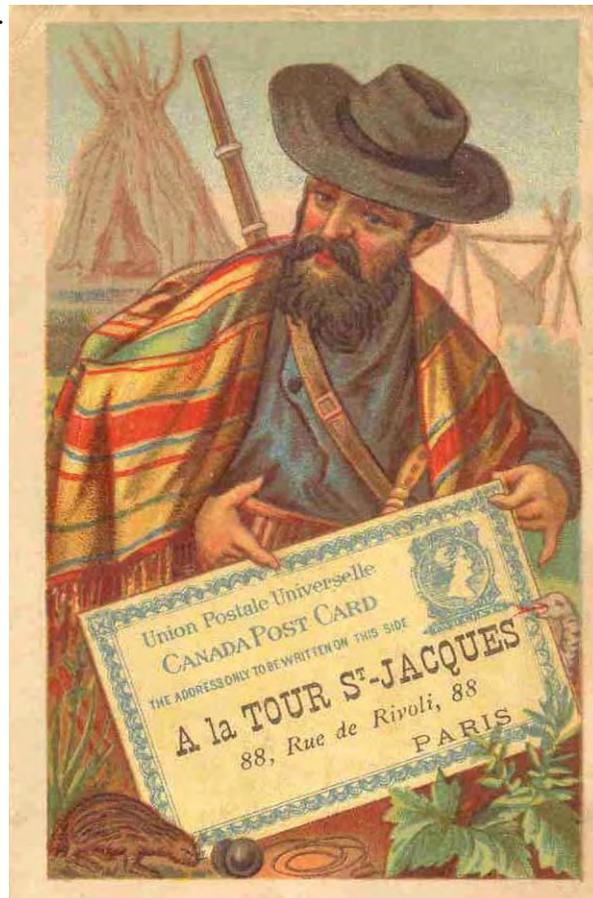
Leather facsimile post card (70%).

I couldn't make out the manufacturer's name. A similar item came up for sale in a Maresch auction (lot 2263, sales 350-3, May 16-18, 2000) with an estimated value of \$500. I don't know the price realized at the time.

Although the card below is not a prepaid French postcard, it shows a facsimile of a blue Canada P4

with a fur trader looking (possibly from the Riel Rebellion?). On the message side, the card lists the merchandise available from this Paris clothing firm.

French advertising card showing a facsimile Canadian post card.



Pierre Gauthier

A New Pair of Private Order XpressPost Envelopes

In February 2008, Andrew Chung reported that a pair of small XpressPost National envelopes had been issued through Shoppers Drug Mart (in the greeting card section) just before Christmas. They were described in the internal Post Office bulletin of November 2007 (Vol 12 No 18, and were probably available from Oct 1, 2007 for 6 months). Earle Covert was able to find a few, and at \$3.99 (+ tax) notes that these represented the cheapest National XpressPost service available. Strangely, there is no mention of Shoppers Drug Mart anywhere on the envelopes. Enquiries at different stores suggested that sales were erratic—high in some stores, very poor in others.

Shoppers Drug Mart
XpressPost Envelopes (50%)

