

World War II both restricted and expanded airmails from Canada. New routes, especially the Pan Am route to India via South America and Africa, opened new collecting possibilities, and this has become an area of great interest to airmail collectors. Mail sent to military personnel overseas, official mail, and commercial mail supporting the war effort can be found to many of the airports along the route that developed. Branching lines in Africa went to Egypt and South Africa as well. Mail to and from a number of countries in Asia passed through India. Covers bound from India to Canada bear a wide variety of rates that depended on the particular route followed—routes seemingly determined by the destination of the next airplane to leave. Such incoming airmail covers supplement the knowledge we gain from studying outbound Canadian airmail covers. After the war, resumption of commercial traffic, along with the new knowledge of remote places, led to many new airlines and routes throughout the world. Rate changes were common as carriers contracting the flights tried to determine costs to carry the mail, so that the early postwar period is one in which collecting new routes and rates is interesting to airmail collectors. As systems developed and standardized, the number of new routes decreased, and little new material of that sort is found now. Airmail service has become the standard, and in most situations surface mail is no longer available under postal schemes, but is left to private carriers or contracts between Canada Post and private carriers.

XII. CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS

Cancellations were intended to prevent a stamp from being reused. Over the course of time these have evolved to serve many purposes in addition. The discussion below summarizes the major types of cancellations collected—on stamp, on cover, or both—from 1851 onward. Initially, stamps were to be cancelled separately from any date cancels. This was occasionally ignored, and later was changed so that cancels of stamps often included the town and date. Collectors accumulate them by varieties, on different stamps, and with different ink colors.

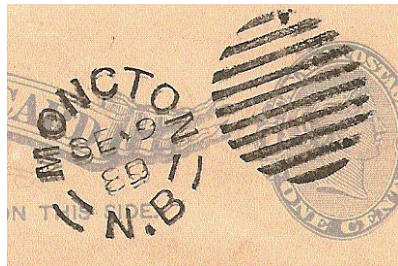
Target Cancels

The earliest cancels, other than pen scratches, were 7-ring target cancels made of brass. These were widely distributed to the larger towns. They are found in black, blue, and less commonly in red or green ink. Used throughout the 19th century in various similar formats, target cancels are one of the commonest to be found in that period.

Duplex Cancels

Originally developed to cancel, date, and identify the office of origin on a letter, the duplex cancel made its debut in Canada in 1860. The original instrument was long-handled with a metal striker composed of a killer and a changeable dating circle all in one device. The original hammers were supplied by D.G. Berri and Company of England, where duplexes were first used.

Berri duplex cancels were used mostly in the 1860s and make a very nice area to collect. Some are pricey because of the stamp they are on or the on-cover usage.



One approach to collecting duplex cancels is to segment a collection into three parts, Victorian era, early 20th century (the three kings era Edward VII, George V, and George VI), and finally Elizabethan. You might elect to further segment the collection into the various provinces and territories. Another approach is to collect strikes on various stamps in one or more of those periods. Yet a third is to work on

so-called calendar collections, showing use of the duplex by day, month, or year. Some collectors try to get the entire duplex cancel used on a part of a cover, like a 2" x 4" piece of a cover. This takes less space than collecting entire covers. While not a good idea for classic stamp material, more commonly found modern duplex cancels lend themselves easily to this approach.

In his *Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancellations*, author Stéphane Cloutier documents over 6,000 different cancels you could assemble for a complete duplex collection of individual different strikes. This work and earlier catalogues by Robert Lee are a must for detailed collecting of duplex cancels. If in your collection you tried to show an early and late date for each cancel, then the number climbs to some 12,000 copies of cancels, which is a pretty daunting task!

You will find that some of the best copies of duplex cancels appear on post cards; the card stock takes a very good ink impression and shows well in a collection. Lucky for us post cards are not that expensive. Shown on the previous page is a strike of a duplex cancel from Moncton, New Brunswick on a post card.

4-Ring Numerals

These were issued in 1859 for Canada, consisting of four concentric rings with a number between 1 and 52 in the middle. Several additional high numbers (516, 627) were included for some unknown reason. Collectors look for them on Pence, Decimal, Large Queen, or even Small Queen stamps and covers, although usage of some numbers stopped by 1868. The 6 was not used, and 48 is not confirmed as being



used. Rarity factors are given in the Unitrade Canada catalogue. Occasionally red or green ink was used, creating great rarities.

2-Ring Numerals

In 1869 the 4-rings were replaced with 60 new 2-ring cancels with numbers 1–60. They were given to the largest towns from 1 to 60. 17 has not been identified and only a few



strikes are known. Usage on the Large Queens is known for all numbers, but with the Small Queens, many were discontinued in favor of other devices. A few were continued to the end of the 19th century and even later (such as numbers 3, 40, and 50). Rarity factors are given in the Unitrade Canada catalogue. Red and blue ink usage created rarities for a few numbers.

Fancy Cancels. Fancy cancels are defined as cancels with recognizable shapes for forms other than the regularly issued cancels. The Fancy Cancel Study Group of BNAPS identifies these in categories as numerals, letters and names, stars and crosses, leaf/flower, crown, fraternal organizations, bogey head, patriotic, hearts,



marine topics, bird and insects, and geometric designs. The height of usage was in the Large Queen stamp period and early Small Queen period through the 1870s, although a few can be found on Decimals and later into the Leaf/Numeral period. A few are found thereafter. Collections can focus on all or any of the categories and periods listed. A remarkable roller cancel from Brilliant, BC is shown here.



Squared Circles. In 1893 a new set of cancels was issued for the major towns. Consisting of a square of horizontal bars with a circular center including town, date, and province, these “squared” circles were used for no more than 10 years (with a couple of exceptions), and yet they remain one of the most popular collecting areas because of the large number of towns (well over 300), types (thin and thick bars), and varieties of hammer, date, and other details. An excellent catalogue

published by the Squared Circle Study Group is available providing details on dates of use, use on various stamps and postal stationery, and variations.

Flag Cancels. Flag cancels form one of the bigger collecting fields in cancel collecting. This is also an area with no rules; you might elect to collect all the cancels, or the earliest and latest dates to show the cancel’s period of use. You might

have an area of special interest, such as the Small Queens, and only collect copies of flag cancels applied to Small Queens. In all cases, you will need to collect more than a stamp, either the full envelope or at least a cut (2" x 4") square that allows you to show not only the flag killer portion but also the dater portion of the cancellation.



Although a few “fancy cork cancels” in the shape of a flag are known to exist before 1896, flag cancels made their first appearance in Canada in 1896, with the use of the first rapid canceling machines. The greatest number were produced during the Admiral period, many with slogans as duplex cancels. These cross into slogan collecting.

Many gold medal level flag cancel collections have been formed over the years; the material is out there to be found and most postal history dealers keep a stock of such cancels on hand.

Of course, like most BNA collections there are rarities and some of them can be expensive and very difficult to find. If you are looking at starting a flag cancel collection, you might look at the twentieth century. Be aware there are rarities here also, but it is an area that needs further study.

The way you collect these cancels is your decision; one way we might suggest is to look for copies of all the cities that used the cancel and possibly the earliest and latest dates for each city. There are some cancels such as the “purple ink” Royal Train cancels where this will prove very difficult and expensive to accomplish. On the contrary, a complete collection of the 1937 Coronation cancel will require you to find more than 75 different examples of these cancels for the 7 days they were in use, but obtaining them will not break the bank.

Another flag cancellation collection you might consider forming is the WWII ENLIST NOW series of cancels. This cancellation was applied at 32 different cities,

many with multiple hub designs and a few with broken killer designs. This collection could form a 75–80 page collection in its own right.

Flag cancellations are a fun collection. They are also a really handsome addition to a postal history collection.

MOON Cancels

Money order office number (MOON) cancels were issued in the mid-1920s to post offices that could sell money orders. These cancels are generally rectangular and include the town name, office number, and date. Less well studied and collected, they offer a challenging yet inexpensive area.

Supplementary Cancels

Cancels telling people what happened, or what a delivery person should do, or indicating special services, are termed supplementary or auxiliary cancels. Among the earliest are Money Letter and Registration marks. Mail given to a postal mail carrier on the route was termed



Way Mail, and bears an appropriate cancel. When the Dead Letter Office was begun to deal with undeliverable mail, cancels indicating a letter passed through the DLO were created. Cancels such as Not Known or No Such Address were used on returned mail to tell senders the letter could not be delivered. Special Delivery cancels are known. These cancels continue today, so that collecting them can include the entire span of Canada postal history or specific periods, type of cancel, or type of service. This area has been little touched by writers, and there is much work to be done to document the types in each area.

Spray-On Cancels

A new area of philatelic study has arisen in the past decade. Late in 1992, a new type of machine cancellation—the spray-on postmark—appeared on the front of Canadian mail. Soon the machines making these modern cancels were installed at a number of



mail processing plants. The marks made by these machines have dot-matrix characters, and the lettering of the postmarks is computer-controlled. The postmarks usually consist of a machine number, the postal code of the processing plant, a date and time, a slogan (even if it is only POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTALE), and several obliterator bars. The first spray-on marks were single lines; now most have two lines, with the slogan on the second line. Because the cancels are computer-controlled, a clerk entering a new slogan can make an error (sometimes intentionally). Some errors are corrected quickly; others last for a day or two.

Spray-on marks are applied by rapid cancelling machines (jet-spray cancellers) that are connected to optical character readers. The readers can decipher the addresses on most envelopes, and code and sort tens of thousands of them per hour. The forwarding codes are the orange bars found on envelopes. In this way, mail is automatically postmarked and sorted at the very fast rates needed for today's huge volumes of correspondence. Some collectors have expressed their displeasure with the new type of cancel, claiming it seriously defaces their used stamps. Some postal historians, though, went with the flow and actively collect the marks. As with any type of postmark, one may save cancels in several ways, such as saving covers marked by all the known machines, or from a particular processing plant or city, documenting the changes that occur in the spray-on marks during the year. Often, alert eyes can spot different slogans and errors in spelling of the slogans on current mail. Joel Weiner's *Canada Inkjet (Jet Spray) Cancels 1992-2005 (3rd Edition, 2006)* lists over 2,300 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 available of these cancels.



Collecting Town and Province Cancels

Many collectors today specialize in finding cancels of their town, county, region, or province. This popular approach lets collectors learn about the history of the topic they selected. Frank Campbell's book *Canada Post Offices 1755-1895* gives a good start for earlier cancels. There are specialized books for each province listing post offices, their dates of operation, and the types of cancels they used. Collectors of a city try to find early markings, cover usages within the city and from it to other places, even mail coming into the city. They may restrict themselves to a certain period or try to represent

the entire span of the city's history. This approach can be inexpensive, or very expensive if one shows the stamps that could be used in the city and the time encompasses the Pence period, for example.

We would give a novice collector a word of warning: if you select too narrow an area to collect, you may become frustrated. Sometimes early postmarks from a small town are so scarce that only one or two exist, and these may be solidly in other collections. Choose a slightly flexible or wide geographic topic that will allow you to get a good start.

Province collecting is much broader, with many thousands of towns to find for provinces such as Ontario or Quebec. The western provinces have long been popular, and with the historical background of the development of the Canadian West from the fur trade through the settlement into the 1900s, finding and obtaining such material can be both difficult and expensive. On the other hand, if one simply wishes an example of each town's name with a cancel, a high degree of completion can often be obtained for little cost. Of course there are towns that existed for only short periods of time, and cancels from these often are both hard to find and costly.

Perfins

Governments (both federal and provincial) and private companies began punching small holes in stamps they used as a security measure to stop theft. These are called perfins. Generally, the holes form initials related to the company or agency creating them. Official perfins were used by Canadian federal agencies and have OHMS punched on stamps of the 1930s and 1940s. These were replaced by printed letters. Company perfins began in the 1890s with the Inter-Colonial Railway and W. G. Gage Company. Other companies such as Sun Life, Canadian Pacific Railway, etc. also began using perfins. These can be collected as stamp or as stamps on cover. Stamps with company perfins were also precancelled and are listed under precancels.

Precancels

Clerks in large post offices often dealt with large mailings of advertising mail, newspapers, etc. and rather than cancel each stamp, the Canadian Post Office permitted mailers to purchase pre-cancelled stamps to put on the material. These were pre-printed on sheets of stamps by printers. Official precancels were created by the Canadian Post Office during the 1800s, using a roller cancel with the number 21 as early as the 1860s. In 1903, city names replaced the straight and angled bars previously used. These were carefully controlled by the Post Office and mostly were issued from large cities.

A comprehensive listing of precancels is found in *The Canada Precancel Handbook* by H. G. Walburn, 1988.



Slogan cancels

Since 1897, the Post Office Department has allowed slogan cancels to be used as an advertising medium. It is preferable to collect slogans on cover but the sheer volume of available material and space required will probably convince the collector to narrow his or her sights. The more common material is considered collectable as a cut-out that includes both the slogan and the dater hub cut to approximate size of



two inches by four inches. Collecting slogans from a favorite city, county, or province would be a very formidable challenge.

Many collect slogans on cover with a related advertising or corner-card. The “Classic Period” of slogans is 1912–1919, when the majority of slogans were produced on International canceling equipment. During this period, the popular fair-, flag-, and war-related material made an appearance. Thematic slogan collecting is popular. The *Coutts Slogan Catalogue* includes 46 main topics and scores of sub-topics.

XIII. POSTAL STATIONERY

Postal stationery comprises government-issued envelopes, postal cards, post bands and wrappers for newspapers and catalogs, letter cards, aerogrammes, letter sheets, and official versions of some of those categories. Similar material is available for both Canada and Newfoundland. *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, edited by Earle Covert and Bill Walton, describes and illustrates the many postal stationery items available.

Envelopes. Beginning in 1860, envelopes with a stamp-like impression that paid a postage rate were issued by the Canadian Post Office, with a premium for the cost of the envelope. Most envelopes were developed for either drop letter, printed matter, or first class rate usage. These are often collected by their royal period: Victorian, Edward, George V and VI, and Elizabethan. Some proofs exist for some issues, and errors and varieties can be found for a few in the printing and in the cutting of the paper for the envelope, as well as types of cuts. Mint copies are often preferred for such studies, while used examples illustrate mail to domestic and foreign destinations. Because the envelopes take impressions of cancels well, cancel