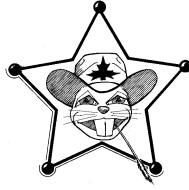


**BEAVER****CHATTER**

The Newsletter of the Prairie Beaver Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd.

Chairman: **George Dresser** Treasurer: **John Furlong** Editor: **Vic Willson**

Volume 36, No. 2

Whole Number 135

November 2011

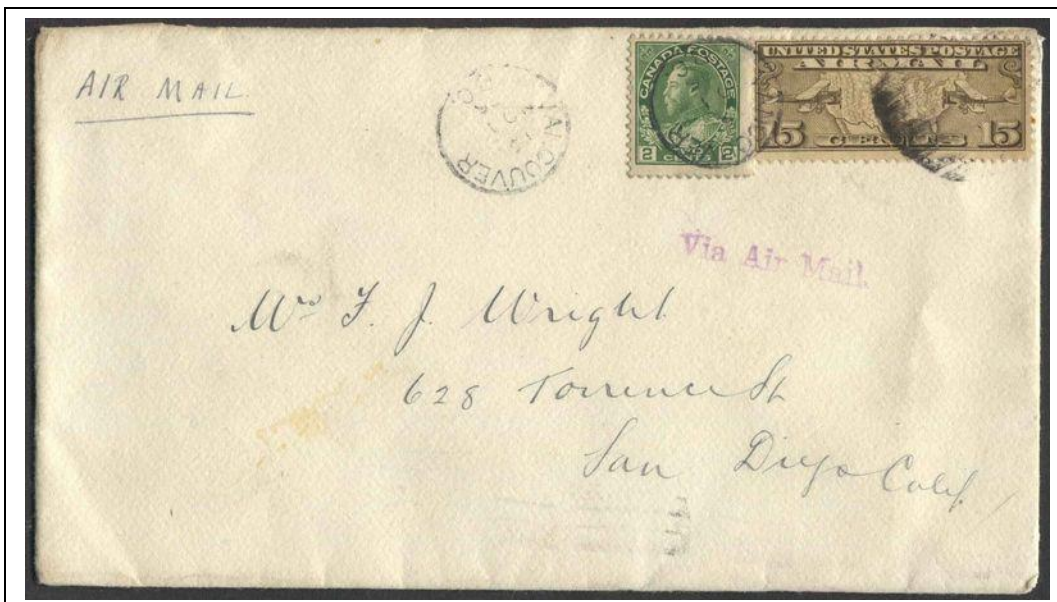
## DECEMBER 10 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

We will meet at the St. Mary's Catholic Church 603 Church Avenue, College Station, Texas 77840, meeting wing on the second floor, room to be determined, but should be easy to find. Map p.2

**BNAPS 2012 IN CALGARY** The upcoming BNAPEX is scheduled over the Labor Day weekend in Calgary next year. It is being co-hosted with the Calgary Stamp Club, with a dual exhibit, as was done a few years ago. This is a great time to visit the Rockies, as the weather will be wonderful. Banff is about 60 miles to the west, Lake Louise only a few miles further, and the wonderful parks all the way to Jasper northward from there.

We have always had great experiences in Calgary, which has a nice Chinatown downtown, great restaurants and shops, a wonderful museum (the Glenbow). Those who have not been there before should consider making the trip. The show will be good, dealers not seen below the border or on the East Coast, good meetings, fun activities.

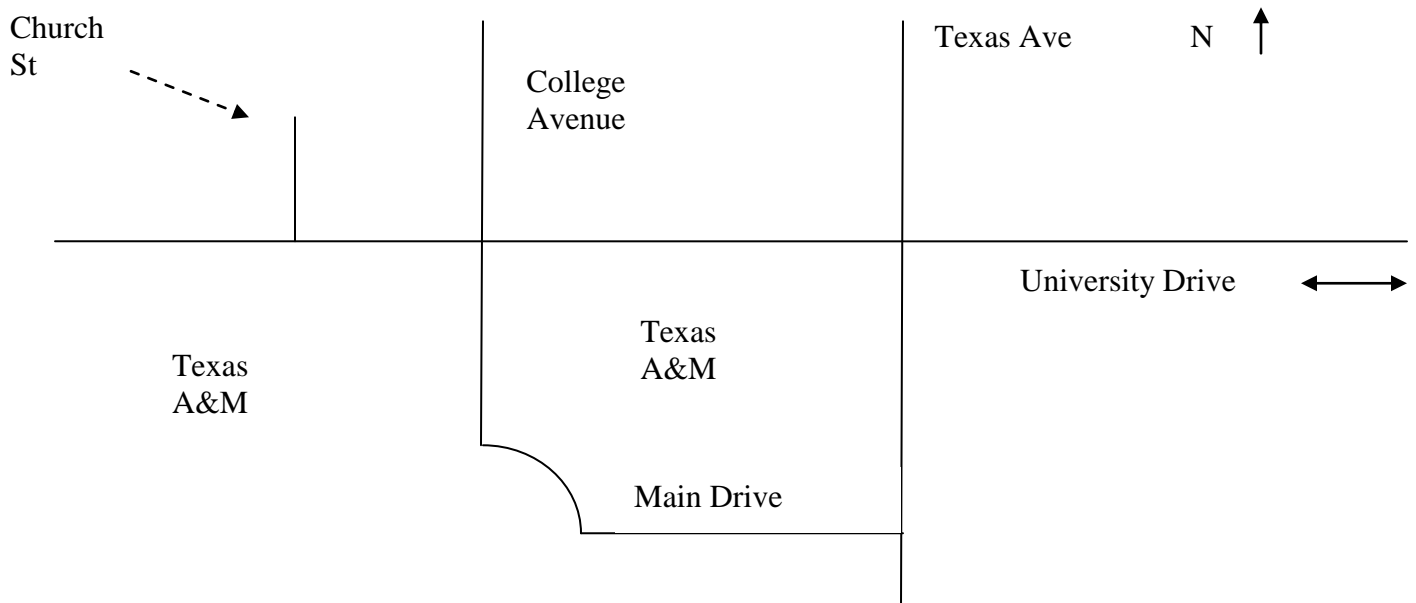
**AIRMAIL RATE TO U.S.** The agreement between the US and Canada put into effect in mid-1925 let Canadians put US stamps on in Canada to pay the airmail fee in the US, whether ending there or transiting to another country. The rate from Feb. 15, 1926, to Jan. 31, 1927, was 15¢ per oz. for a route over 1000 miles and under 1500. The only route that really qualified was the Seattle-San Diego CAM 8 route, established Sept. 15, 1926. A few first flight examples from Victoria (FAM 2) are recorded, but the example below, from Vancouver (rail to Seattle) and CAM 8 thence, is both noncommercial, nonphilatelic, dated Nov. 1, 1926, to San Diego. This is my first showing the entire route.



**PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, March 12, 2011  
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

8:45 - 9:00	Coffee, donuts, informal
9:00 - 9:15	Introductions
9:15 - 9:30	Book reviews- new BNAPS books
9:30 - 9:45	Internet review (new sites, Auctions, including Cantor etc.)
9:45 - 10:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
10:15 - 10:45	Presentation: <i>WW-2 Transpacific Airmail</i> - Bill Fort
10:45 - 11:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:15 - 12:00	Clothesline Exhibit I: BNA-related
12:00 - 1:30	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 - 1:45	Business meeting and BNAPS info
1:45 - 2:00	Presentation: <i>Canada Roadside Attractions</i> - George Dresser
2:00 - 2:30	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
2:30 - 3:00	Presentation: <i>Curious Collectibles of US Commemoratives, 1945-today</i> - Jeff Switt
3:00 - 3:45	Swap, Sell, Buy Trade
3:45 - 4:15	Presentation: <i>10 Cent Small Queen- Vic Willson</i>
4:30 - 5:00	Wrapup 5:15
local restaurant	Dinner at

Map of College Station north side of TAMU



**The 10 Cent Small Queen on Cover Part 1- Vic Willson** Some stamps lend themselves to census development, such as many of the 1869 US pictorials. In Canada the Large Queen issue has a similar place, and particularly for on-cover use many of the denominations have sufficiently limited use that they can be individually listed. At present only the 15 cent has been so developed. For the following Small Queen issue this is much more of a challenge and probably not possible due to the great increase in volume of mail post 1870, except for the 10 cent value, which was issued in late 1874, probably about November 1. The earliest on-cover is dated 1872 and is also at present the earliest for on- or off-cover use.

A number of BNA collectors have now contributed to a comprehensive listing of the stamp on cover. I recently added four new items recorded in smaller auctions from up to 20 years ago as well as new finds, principally on ebay or European auctions, from which new material continues to emerge. The census includes town and date of posting, town and country of destination, all additional stamps by denomination and issue, registration or other service, and total franking. While the original census did not include non-letter usages, I have expanded it to include them, and it is a quite limited addition. A total of 547 covers are included. Membership in the Confederation Study Group of BNAPS confers access to the data base.

One can use the database to list the number of stamp combinations, such as how many covers include both the 10 cent and 5 cent Small Queens. I recently produced the table below for the Confederation Newsletter to be published soon. An interesting collecting goal might be to secure as many of the co-franked covers as possible. What is the "story?" How was the stamp used with others to pay different postal rates. Showing how different combinations tended to be associated with particular rate

½¢ SQ	5x	1x				12½¢ LQ	2x	1x		
	5	1					1	1		
1¢ SQ	8x	5x	3x	2x	1x	15¢ LQ	4x	2x	1x	
	1	1	1	11	42		1	1	11	
2¢ SQ	3x	2x	1x			20¢ WW	1x			
	2	10	37				9			
3¢ SQ	5x	4x	2x	1x						
	1	4	5	28		50¢ WW	1x			
5¢ SQ	6x	4x	3x	2x	1x		3			
	2	1	2	5	46	2¢ RLS	1x	2x		
6¢ SQ		1x					16	1		
		13				5¢ RLS	Domestic		Foreign	
8¢ SQ		2x	1x				6		34	
		1	2				solo	0	23	
5¢ LQ		1x				8¢ RLS	1			
		2								

types, particularly in different rate periods that the 10 cent spans, helps illuminate its use, since it served almost no purpose when issued. Two it did serve is shown below. The ¼ oz. rate (1<sup>st</sup> oz.) to France was initiated July 1, 1870, a rate reduction from 17¢ dating to the start of the of the Decimal era July 1, 1859. The odd weight was a conversion from gram weight increments agreed to between the UK and France as of various Anglo-French treaties of the 1850s. By 1870 the 10¢ Decimal was exhausted beyond a few chance stamps retained by individuals. I have a post-1870 cover to France that had a fragment of a 10¢ on it that I have since replaced with a full example, paying the 16¢ ½ oz. increment, with only two reported examples with the Decimal 10¢. Commonly the rate was made up with a 6¢ and two 2¢ Small Queens after early 1872. Perhaps postal authorities decided requiring four stamps for a somewhat popular rate was a problem. The fifth earliest cover use of the stamp, in my collection sent April 8, 1875, to Paris, is shown below. But it is not even the first to France, with a Feb. 2 cover known. The rate changed to 10¢ per ½ oz. January, 1876, and reduced to 5¢ on Aug. 1, 1878.

The stamp is from the first printing, pale milky pink per the Hillson and Nixon designation, perf 11.6 x 11.9. A total of 65 10 cent covers was sent to foreign destinations. Of those, 22 were sent to the UK and 19 to France. Given that ratio, with no exact rate to the UK either, it perhaps begins to explain

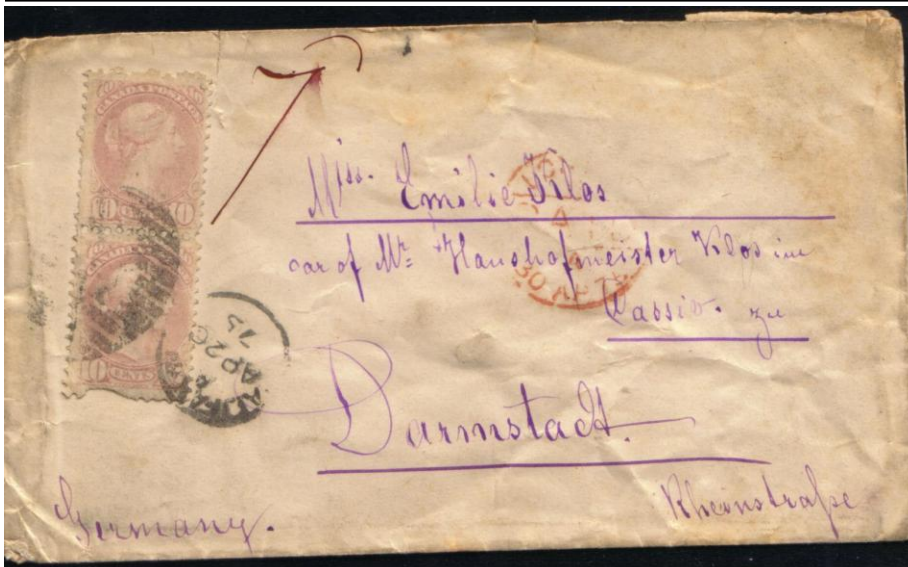


Within even the first printing or printings, there is a great deal of color variation. Below is shown a pair to Germany, mails 12 days after the one above, much paler, termed dull rose-lilac. Again, these are the generic perf 11 ½ x 12 but actually 11.6 x 11.9.

The rate to Germany was reduced from 23¢ per ½ oz. (see cover below) to 10¢ per ½ oz. on July 1, 1870, and remained until reduced to 5¢ on April 1, 1877. Three covers are known in the 10¢ rate period, the one below, a 24¢ cover in 1876 paying double Cunard routing, and a single in March 1877. Thus, this cover is the earliest to Germany, only pure double rate, and 6<sup>th</sup> earliest recorded.

There are examples of the 10¢ shade so pale that the design cannot readily be seen- it just looks like a washed stamp. Nevertheless, that shade is correct and seen on several of the early covers.

Clearly, the bulk of 10¢ covers were used after Canada joined the UPU in August, 1878. For quite some time, varying by destination, Canada could surcharge letters from the 5¢ per ½ oz. to Europe and other well-traveled destinations to 10¢ per oz. for the out of the way places.



Note: sent on my birthday April 20 to my birth city, Darmstadt. It was just meant for me.

Clearly, the bulk of 10¢ covers were used after Canada joined the UPU in August, 1878. For quite some time, varying by destination, Canada could surcharge letters from the 5¢ per ½ oz. to Europe and other well-traveled destinations to 10¢ per oz. for the out of the way places or non-UPU members such as New Zealand, Australian States, Uruguay, Brazil, and China. A total of 119 covers with 10¢ stamps are recorded to such places. By far most are to India, 95, a UPU country, mostly from one correspondence, with New Zealand and the Australian States comprising most of the rest- 19, with those non-UPU until January 1892. That leaves 6 covers for the rest, UPU (2) to Suez and Brazil and non-UPU, to China (3) and Uruguay. The earliest is to Suez (a question given the standard routing via Mediterranean to Alexandria and Aden by this time, but a fabulous cover that went for well over \$9000 recently- I was a lowly underbidder). After that the cover shown below is the second earliest UPU surcharge rate cover. Sent to Rio Sep. 23, 1880, it was registered properly at the 5¢ rate. This is important because registration to non-UPU countries remained typically at an amount equal to the initial rate amount. This cover is significant as the only undisputable surcharge cover and the only surcharge cover with registration. The stamp is perfed 11.75 x 11.9, color dull rose lilac, an 1879 printing.



*Note: Registration stamp replaced, 10 cent faintly tied at top.*

**A New Large Queen Cover Find-** Vic Willson The cover shown below was offered on ebay this summer. It rates 23¢ paying the ½ oz rate in effect from Jan. 1, 1867 to Feb. 7, 1870. Paid with 2¢, 2 x 3¢, and 15¢ Large Queens, it is a unique franking of the three Large Queen rate covers recorded. Another has a 6¢ in place of the pair of 3's, and the third with 12½¢, ½¢, 6¢, and 2 x 2¢.

Of greatest concern to potential buyers was if the 15¢ was properly tied, as the scan was inconclusive. After I received it I scanned the Quebec duplex on the 3¢ and 2¢ as well as the 2¢ and 15¢ to see if they matched. These are shown below.



The strikes similar in orientation with the right strike shifted slightly downward, the spacing of the circle to bars is the same, and the size of the circle of the dater is identical. Faint lettering can be made out on the right dater as well. The staining on the right is often seen on covers of this period, as the clerks would apply glue to a cover to adhere the stamps rather than lick them as patrons would usually have no idea of the rate and how much postage to apply, buying stamps at the wicket.



Several dealers who spotted the lot decided not to bid because the seller would not provide closeup scans or guarantee the item. After careful study I concluded it was genuine and gained it at 1/3 my high bid. It was still not cheap, but the last example to sell went for \$30,000.

Since the rate began in 1867, still in the Decimal period, it is interesting to note that there are four covers in the period up to the beginning of the Large Queens, April 1, 1868. All are incorrectly paid:

- 2¢ + 5¢ + 17¢ to Saxony (overpaid)
- 2 x 12½¢ to Germany (overpaid)
- 2 x 1¢ + 2¢ x 10¢ (1¢ stamp missing)
- 1¢ + 10¢ ( 12½¢ missing) to Germany (overpaid)

There are very few Large Queen pre-UPU covers to Europe: the 17¢ rate to France, including one to the border to Spain (unpaid in Spain), 21¢ and 29¢ rates to Rome, a 25¢ rate to Norway, 34¢ double rates to France and Switzerland, 44¢ double Cunard rate to France (overpaid 1¢), 51¢ triple rate to France, 58¢ double rate to Italy, and 66¢ triple Cunard rate to France. Most are unique, others only two covers. These covers are getting their due financially, and will likely climb very high in future.

*Beaver Chatter* is the unofficial newsletter of a bunch of BNAPS members who, through no fault of their own, happen to live in the state of Texas. Opinions expressed are those of the authors who like to put their thoughts, philatelically or otherwise, into writing. Unless noted, articles are the effort of the Editor. Distribution is free to BNAPS members in the area who find it worth their while to participate in the group's activities, to certain BNAPS officials, and to whoever strikes the Editor's fancy. Newsletters are available to editors of other publications who wish to exchange samples of their labors. Articles, opinions, and general BS are solicited for publication by anyone who cares to write, and contributors will be rewarded with a complimentary copy of *Beaver Chatter*. Submissions can be sent to Vic Willson, P.O. Box 10026, College Station TX 77842 or emailed to [lloydwill@aol.com](mailto:lloydwill@aol.com) or [v-willson@tamu.edu](mailto:v-willson@tamu.edu)