



# MAPLE LEAVES

JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GT. BRITAIN

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Vol. 2, No. 1

OCTOBER, 1947

Whole No. 5

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# MAPLE LEAVES

JOURNAL OF THE  
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Edited by A. BRUCE AUCKLAND, M.A.

Published Quarterly and issued to Members. Additional Copies, 2/- Post Free.

Vol. 2, No. 1

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

### **The New Journal.**

With this issue we venture into print. The Society has had a remarkable growth in the short period of its existence and judging by comments received from members the Bulletin contributed in no small measure to recruiting new members. The Society's Officers considered that the Bulletin should be improved and that additional copies should be produced to meet the demand of new members for back numbers. The Bulletin had therefore to be printed. It was a risk to be taken on limited finances but the Officers considered that it was one that had to be taken sooner or later.

In one of our own members—Member Ian B. Pollock—we have found a person able and willing to help with its production and the copy now before you is the result.

### **Society Finances.**

It was not without qualms that the Treasurer gave his blessing to the new venture. We must therefore ensure that he will soon be free from worry about inroads into the Society's funds. May we call on all members to try to interest in the Society, other collectors of B.N.A. and secure them as members? There will be sufficient extra copies of the Journal available for members to purchase and pass round their friends. The Society's subscription is still 5/- per annum but, until the Constitution is altered, 2/6 extra will be charged for 'Maple Leaves.'

### **The Ballot Questions.**

Not all members returned their Ballot forms but those who did were unanimous in agreeing to the re-election of the retiring Office-Bearers. The Office-Bearers thank members for their confidence in them and hope that their efforts on their behalf in the coming year will likewise meet with approval.

The alteration to Rule 3 regarding Life Membership was carried with only one member dissenting.

On the question of charging a special amount of 2/6 towards the additional expense of producing a printed Journal there were only three members who were unwilling to subscribe. These three members will get copies of this issue and we hope they will change their minds. All other members are requested to send their half-crowns along with their subscriptions, now due, to the Treasurer.

### **The Groups.**

In the Summer months there was little activity apparent among the Groups but we are pleased to record that the Kent and Sussex Group were an exception and continued their meetings until the last Saturday of June when they met at Eastbourne. Canadian displays were given by members Vigo, McLaren, Tomlinson and Cartwright and a fine display of Newfoundland was given by member Richardson.

No Groups have yet been formed in Lancashire, Yorkshire Gloucester and West of England—to mention only a few districts. Are there any volunteers in these and other areas to start Groups? The Groups already formed are now so enthusiastic that members in the 'backward areas' must be missing many of the advantages of membership of the Society.

#### **Articles and Notes for the Journal.**

We want to provide varied fare to suit the interests of all members. We want to do this so far as possible, by using notes and articles from our own members. A number have already been very helpful but other members, we feel sure, can help to keep up the supply required. Specialist articles on stamps are particularly desired. Newfoundland and the Provinces have not yet had much space devoted to them and there is much to be written about the Colonial and Dominion issues.

The Editor will welcome correspondence on suggestions for articles and features and on the manner in which the Journal may be improved.

## **CONGRESS AT BIRMINGHAM**

**Seen from C.P.S. of G.B. Viewpoint**

The Society's delegates were President A. E. Stephenson, Treasurer H. B. Davie, Member J. C. Cartwright and your Editor. Other members present included Librarian F. H. Fairweather and members R. H. Poole, N. M. Clougher, G. C. Skinner and that G.O.M. of philately, member Dr. J. Morton Evans R.D.P.

A welcome accession to the Society's membership followed a certain amount of quiet propaganda by your delegates and the very successful Study Circle on Canada.

At the Study Circle the chair was taken by member J. C. Cartwright.

Some magnificent early class from the collections of members J. Beresford and R. W. T. Lees-Jones were shown. Member R. H. Poole gave a brief talk and a fine display of items from his collection. Our President then gave a talk on his search for truth about the Canadian watermarks. (His talk in the form of an article will be found elsewhere in this issue.)

It was good to meet old friends and make new and we took full advantage of the time available. An opportunity was taken to have a quiet 'get together' of our members and one or two recruits to talk on the work of the Society and in particular, to try to get leaders to start Groups in the Midlands. We were fortunate in being able to persuade member R. H. Poole to become contact member for Birmingham and Midlands Group and member R. Knight to start a new Group at Leicester. Member Nugent M. Clougher promised to contact all London Members at an early date regarding the programme for the new season.

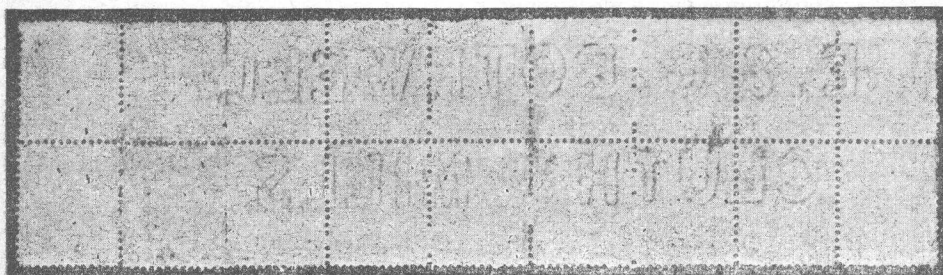
#### **Welcome to New Members.**

The Society welcomes a number of new members and in particular its distinguished new member, Gerald E. Wellburn of British Columbia, writer on Canadian Philatelic subjects. Members able and willing to contribute to *Maple Leaves* are doubly welcome.

# Chasing the Large Head Phantom

A paper read to the Canadian Study Circle at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Birmingham, 1947.

By A. E. STEPHENSON (Member No. 1).



## The Problem.

Much ink has been spilled over many years, in Philatelic writings, about the watermarks appearing in certain values of the Canadian "Large Head" issue of 1868-88.

I often wondered why watermarked paper was used and who were the papermakers, and a short time ago, decided to make an effort to settle these points. I was anxious to trace the paper's progress from the makers to the printers, the British American Bank Note Company.

There are two makers' watermarks (a) the rarer, shows parts of the words "Alexr. Pirie & Sons" in one line in script lettering; and (b) the less rare, though still uncommon, shows over a block of 12 stamps, the words—"E. & G. Bothwell, Clutha Mills," watermarked in two lines of block letters.

I will not go into fuller details of the stamps, etc. on which these marks were to be found, as much reliable information has already been written on that matter, but shall limit my remarks to describing my adventures in the search.

My first problems were to decide who were these firms, Alex. Pirie and E. & G. Bothwell, and where were they located? It was obvious they came from an English speaking source. Were they from Canada, U.S.A., or Great Britain? Canada could be ruled out as no fine paper was made there until 1882 when the Rolland Paper Co. began operations, years after the stamps in question were issued.

The neighbouring United States were busy trying to reorganise their affairs after the Civil War, so I thought we could rule them out as the place of origin.

These conclusions brought me home to the Old Country and the Scot in me decided that the names were probably Scottish.

### The Search.

I wrote to the Philatelic Branch of the Canadian G.P.O. at Ottawa, stating my conclusions, and asking the following questions :—

1. Do you have any record of watermarked paper supplied to the British American Bank Note Company ?
2. Was it the intention of the Post Office Department that water-marked paper should be used ?
3. Is there any record of names of firms (not the papermakers) supplying such paper ?
4. If no record of vendors of such paper, is it possible to get the names of the main contractors of paper to the Bank Note Co. for the 1868 issue of stamps ?

I received the following reply from the Post Office Department :—

“ Post Office Department, Canada,  
Financial Branch,  
Philatelic Division,  
OTTAWA.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant regarding the water-marked paper which was used in the printing of certain stamps of the 1868 issue of Canada, I regret to inform you that the Department has no official information in its possession which would clear up the questions you mentioned.

In reply to similar enquiries received in the past, the Department has suggested that the intrinsic evidence of the watermarks themselves would appear to indicate that the sources of the paper were in Scotland, but this is entirely hypothetical and has no basis of official information.

I can only say it was evidently not the intention of the Department that watermarked paper should be used, but that possibly in consequence of some emergency or an actual error on the part of the manufacturers, some such paper was utilised, either with or without official permission.

The Vice-President of the British American Bank Note Company states that their records pertaining to these stamps are no longer in existence, having been destroyed shortly after the occasion of the transfer of the contract to the American Bank Note Company on the 9th March, 1897. I may add that the destruction of this material is greatly regretted by the Department and it was apparently carried out without consultation with departmental officials at the time.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) H. E. ATWATER,  
Financial Superintendent.”

This reply, though scanty, was sufficient confirmation of my own conclusion for me to follow H. V. Morton “ In Search of Scotland.”

### The Pirie Trail.

My first search bore fruit very quickly. The name Pirie is of Aberdeenshire origin, and I was not long in tracing the firm of Alex. Pirie & Son to the village of Stoneywood, a few miles north of Aberdeen.



The firm was now however incorporated in the Wiggins Teape group of papermakers.

My good fortune continued when I was introduced to the Convener of the Aberdeen County Council, Mr. James Cruickshank, himself interested in Historical and Antiquarian matters. Mr. Cruickshank, who had been at one time a director of the Pirie Company and had toured the world, particularly Canada and the U.S.A. in the interests of his firm, went to great pains to help me in my quest. From him I learnt that Alex. Pirie & Sons made a number of grades of paper each having its own distinctive watermark as follows :—

1st Grade Extra Superfine Wove paper, showing the watermark " Alex. Pirie & Son " in block letters **with the date.**

2nd Grade Superfine Wove paper, the watermark as above, but **script letters and no date.**

2nd Grade Superfine Laid paper, the watermark as above, but with **block** letters and no date.

3rd Grade Fine, as above, with block letters and no date.

It was clear therefore that the paper we were dealing with was the 2nd Grade Superfine Wove Paper. The Dandy Rolls for these papers, I ascertained, were made by Edward C. Woolard of Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire.

We were able to trace that Pirie papers had been sent to the Dominions and supplied to The Canadian Government Departments, to Messrs. D. McFarlane & Sons, Montreal, Wholesale Paper Merchants, and to a number of small retail establishments.

Messrs. McFarlane & Sons also supplied the Canadian Government Departments at the time.

Other Canadian customers of A. Pirie & Son at this time were small retailers not doing a sufficiently large trade to be in a position to wholesale paper to the Bank Note Company or the Canadian Government.

### **The Bothwell Trail.**

In the search for E. & G. Bothwell, named in the second watermark, I found myself chasing a Phantom. Here my deductions led me to the Clydeside where the name Bothwell is reasonably common, both as a personal name and a place name. Again, an old name for the Clyde was Clutha, derived from the word Clotta, a one-time Ancient British Community on the River Clyde.

Armed with this knowledge I spent hours in the Mitchell Library and other reference libraries in Glasgow searching old directories and records dated as far back as 1850, but could find no trace of E. & G. Bothwell.

My next move was to comb the small town of Bothwell on the Clyde and thence down the river, searching for any possible old paper mill. Usually I was directed to some ruins of an old flax or flour mill. I even landed in the local police station—a free and voluntary entry—in the hope that I might get a clue. In my widespread enquiries I was very patiently handled and was no doubt regarded as a harmless kind of fellow who collected little bits of paper and who, like Don Quixote and Sancho Panzo, ran round tilting at windmills.

My next effort was amongst the present day papermakers who, I

may add, went to no end of trouble to help me in every possible way. To them the matter opened up a rather interesting point of history, of interest to the papermaking industry. In this part of my search I was twice directed towards a firm Andrew Whyte & Sons of Edinburgh, who were known to have a **trade mark** "Bothwell."

I approached this firm, but they told me they knew nothing about the mark "**E. & G. Bothwell**" or Clutha Mills. They conceded that at the time the stamps were issued the firm had a considerable business with the Canadian Government. Again the Phantom was rearing its ugly "Large Head," and my search had brought me back to where I started.

But the ghost, I discovered, had already been laid. It was only fitting that this should have been done by that Master of Canadian Philately, Mr. R. W. T. Lees-Jones, F.R.P.S.(L).

Mr. Lees-Jones had like many others found himself interested in these watermarks and had set out in search of the papermakers. He interested Mr. R. Roberts of the Royal Society, who was particularly interested in papers; together they had been attacking the problem from different angles.

Mr. Lees-Jones also had arrived at the conclusion that Messrs. Andrew Whyte had something to do with the E. & G. Bothwell mark and had been in touch with them, only to get the same reply—"We know nothing of this mark."

In the meantime Mr. Roberts, working on different clues, arrived at Andrew Whyte's door, and he also received the same reply.

Andrew Whyte and Sons by this time were sitting up and taking notice. They asked the makers of their "Bothwell" Trade Mark Dandy Rolls, Messrs. T. and J. Marshall & Co. Ltd. of Stoke Newington, as to the possibility of a previous roll having been made. It was then discovered that an earlier roll had been made in 1867 to the order of Messrs. W. & J. Somerville, Bitton Mills, Gloucester (now the Golden Valley Paper Mills Ltd.).

A letter received later by Mr. Lees-Jones completely laid the ghost of the "Large Heads." This ran as follows:—

"Dear Sir,

You asked us if our watermark "Bothwell" is from papers made by E. & G. Bothwell, Clutha Mills, to which we replied that we had never heard of the firm. Since then, we have been making enquiries regarding such a watermarked paper and find that it was an old watermark of ours in the 1800s, the mark being E. & G. Bothwell, Clutha Mills.

It was an artificial name made up from Edinburgh and Glasgow; we had a warehouse in Bothwell Street, Glasgow in the middle of last century.

The last Dandy Roll with this mark was destroyed in a mill fire in the 1890s.

We may say that it was a previous enquiry from London in regard to an issue of Canadian Postage Stamps bearing this mark that set us investigating.



All information possible regarding it has been sent to London, and we presume your enquiry came from the same source.

Our only reason for writing you now is to correct the impression that we had no connection with the mark. Our present watermark is simply "Bothwell Superfine."

We are,

Faithfully yours,

For Andrew Whyte & Son, Ltd.,

(Signed) AND. W. JEFFREY."

The reference in the letter to an "inquiry from London" was without doubt Mr. Robert's enquiries.

Messrs. Andrew Whyte, being paper merchants, did not make their own paper but had the paper made for them by Messrs. W. & J. Somerville of Gloucester with a "coined" name as watermark.

I would like to note here that Winthrop Boggs' Pan-American outlook gives scant credit to Messrs. Lees-Jones and Roberts for their discovery, which was one of great philatelic interest.

### **The Paper Trail.**

We now come to the second part of the problem. Who supplied the British American Bank Note Company with the Bothwell and Pirie papers? We have at various times had it stated that they were supplied by local firms, but this theory, I contend, can be discounted. The only local firm at the time likely to be in a position to supply paper suitable for the printing of postage stamps would be Messrs. McFarlane & Son of Montreal (now Messrs. McFarlane & Hodgson). I have correspondence from Mr. McFarlane of this firm who states—"I can safely say that the then existing firm (formed in 1866) and its successors never sold any paper to the British American Bank Note Company for postage stamps." The firm at no time even did business with Messrs. Andrew Whyte & Sons.

We do know, obviously, that the Bank Note Company used both Bothwell and Pirie papers, but we have never had any proof that either Alex. Pirie & Son or Andrew Whyte & Son supplied the Bank Note Company, though both Companies would be in a position to do so.

We do know, however, that all three firms, Alex. Pirie & Sons, Andrew Whyte & Son and McFarlane & Son, all supplied the Canadian Government with paper.

It is therefore for some student of Canadian Philately to produce proof that Pirie and Whyte supplied the Bank Note Company with paper direct. Or can we assume that the paper was supplied to the printers by the Canadian Government Printing and Stationery Departments?

Thus ends my tale, but before I finish, I should like to thank the various papermaking firms who endeavoured to help me. Particularly Mr. James Cruickshank of Alex. Pirie & Sons and Mr. C. H. McFarlane of Montreal for their help and information, and last, but not least, Mr. R. W. T. Lees-Jones who very generously placed at my disposal, all his correspondence relating to the Bothwell mark.

## PROOFS OF EARLY CANADIAN STAMPS

by Brig. M. A. STUDD, D.S.O. (Member No. 75).

Adapted and reprinted from article published in  
"Godden's Gazette" in 1934.

There are still a few philatelists, who look upon a collection of proofs as an interesting and pretty display, but, at the same time, of little philatelic value, or importance. I do not agree with such views in so far as Canadian proofs of the early issues are concerned.

Canadian stamps of issue from 1851 till about 1880 are exceedingly scarce in blocks or strips, and they are not too easy to acquire even in pairs. It is well known that the task of plating from single stamps is a very difficult if not an impossible one.

The fact remains that all the Pence values have been plated, and the majority of the 1859 cents issue. A well known American philatelist had complete proof sheets of all the Pence issue values and plates, and also from at least one plate of each of the 1859 cents issue. All his proof sheets were "Contemporary," that is, they were issued before the receipt of the actual stamps by postmasters.

It is not necessary to labour the point that these proof sheets were essential to the successful plating work that has been achieved.

I think I am correct in stating that the number of plates for values of the first two issues were as follows :—

### 1851-1858 PENCE ISSUES.

3d. value.—Two plates or panes, with the possibility of a third or composite plate.

12d. value.—Two plates.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. value.—Probably one, possibly two plates.

6d., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 10d. values.—One plate each.

It is worth noting here that as only 1,500 odd 12d. were issued to postmasters, the plates could not have shown any signs of wear. Copies showing wear should be treated with the gravest suspicion, as they are probably cleaned proofs. The fine lines on the black proofs with "Specimen" are clearer and more distinct than on the stamps of issue.

### 1859. CENTS ISSUE.

1 cent value. Probably six or more plates.

5 cent value. Certainly 11 plates, possibly more.

The other values. One plate each only.

I do not know if complete proof sheets of any of the plates of the large cents (1868) or small cents (1870) issue exist. These proofs are quite scarce. Probably the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent and 3 cent large, and all the small cents issue, except possibly the 10 cent value, had many plates. The large 2 cent and 6 cent values certainly had two plates each, but I believe that the 1 cent, 5 cent, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cent and 15 cent (all large) had only one plate each.

The stamps of these two issues do not lend themselves to plating in the same way as the two earlier issues, owing to their lack of true

plate varieties, and, to a lesser extent, to their lack of guide dots and lines within the design.

In the later issues, complete issue sheets from the various plates of each value are probably extant to-day, and so proofs are not necessary for plating them.

I must now give a warning to philatelists who make use of proofs to detect true plate varieties and define their position on the plate. Contemporary proofs sometimes contain varieties such as re-entries, scratches, and flaws that were removed before the stamps of issue were printed from the plate. A variety on a contemporary proof must therefore be confirmed on a stamp of issue before it can be accepted. As an example, proofs of the 12d. black surcharged "Specimen" are all abundant in frame-line re-entries or scratches, but many of these were erased before the issued stamps were printed from the plate. I have owned only three 12d. stamps of issue in my life and cannot say much about them, but about the other values I can say that proofs in black certainly contained scratches and flaws that were not repeated on the issued stamps.

So far as the first two issues of Canada are concerned, contemporary proofs are not the only such items of philatelic value. The engravers and printers of the Pence issue were Messrs. Rawden, Wright, Hatch and Edson, of New York. It is not generally realised that the American Bank Note Company of New York, who engraved and printed the 1859 cents issue, were either the same firm in another name, or direct successors who bought the entire stock and goodwill. One of the employees of the American Bank Note Company was named Mandel, and somewhere about the "seventies" the firm decided to issue examples of their work, i.e., trade samples. The products of this decision are generally known, on this side of the Atlantic, as "Mandel Reprints." These reprints can be divided into three classes:—

(a) Single die proofs, or proofs from two dies of different stamps locked together, thus giving a die proof of two stamps on the same piece of paper.

(b) Complete proof sheets from the issue plates.

(c) Sheets showing 17 different examples of the firm's work, including stamps of countries other than Canada.

In (c) the spaces between the proofs were large, and so a single proof cut from this sheet has the full margins and appearance of a single proof from the Die. The same remark applies to proofs from the locked dies mentioned under (a).

For philatelic research work (a) and (c) are practically valueless, as all they can prove is the final state of the die at the time of printing.

Plate proofs under (b), however, are of very great importance because they show all the flaws, scratches, etc., that occurred during the life of the plate, and which, of course, did not appear on the "contemporary proofs." They show also for example, that the 1859 12½ cents plate was extensively retouched, and many of the frame lines redrawn about 1867. In this plate redrawing of the frame lines often did not "cover" the old lines, which were not erased. The result has

the appearance of frame line re-entries that did not appear on the original plate. They show also that original weak "rocking in" by the die roller on to the plate was retouched, and, in some cases, worn portions also were touched up.

After this rejuvenating process the plate developed wear in other positions as a natural result of age, and further use. The result of all this was that the stamps of issue from about 1867 till end of issue (early 1868) differed in many respects from the earlier stamps, and this naturally, gave rise to the suspicion that a new plate had been brought into use, but the dots and lines of the part of the engraving that had not been retouched, still looked worn, and did not resemble impressions from a new plate.

The 12½ cent value has two guide dots, and in nearly all the positions on the plate these are within the design. The only exception is the left vertical row which has only one dot, viz., outside the left margin. The right marginal row has a third dot, just inside the design at the right centre. The position of these dots in the design, and also their relative position, differs in every position on the plate. Thanks to a complete contemporary proof sheet the plating of this stamp was facilitated. It was then proved that the later issues, although renovated, came from the same plate. Manifestly it would have been quite impossible to lay down a second plate with all the positions of all the guide dots identical to the first plate.

Hence Mandel plate proofs of the 12½ cent value showing the last state of the plate are invaluable for determining exactly where this retouching and redrawing of frame lines took place, quite apart from the detection of scratches and flaws which occurred during the life of the plate. This rejuvenating process may also have been extended, in a lesser degree, to the 10 cent and 17 cent plates.

Mandel plate proofs of values that had several plates, such as the 1859 one cent and five cent, are also valuable in that they probably show the last plate, whereas contemporary proofs show the original plate. Mandel plate proofs of the final plate of the 1859 5 cent value do exist.

To give one final instance of the philatelic value of Mandel plate proofs. Senator Calder, of Canada, discovered some years ago that a flaw developed over Cartier's shoulder on the 1859 17 cent value during (but not at the commencement of) the last printing of 500 sheets (50,000 stamps). Obviously less than 500 issued stamps with this flaw saw daylight, and in point of fact only about ten copies are known to-day. There are at least three states in the development of this flaw, which occurred on No. 7 on the plate. I have a block of 17 cent Mandel plate proofs in ultramarine which show not only the position of this flaw on the plate, but obviously the last state of the flaw.

Before concluding this part I think I should mention what I will term "intermediate" plate proofs. By this term I mean proofs taken from the plate during the useful life of that plate. The object of such proofs might be to indicate the position of flaws and scratches on the plate which it is desired to repair or efface. Another object might be to try out a contemplated change of colour.

I cannot say for certain that there are any intermediate plate proofs of Canada. I have often wondered whether the orange-yellow plate

proofs bearing the marginal imprints were intermediate. If they are not intermediate they must be Mandel plate proofs, as the imprints (giving the name of the engravers and printers) were not "rocked-in" on the margins of the plate until about 1853 in the case of the pence issues, or until about 1864 or 1865 in the case of the 1859 cents issue. The orange-yellow proofs are often found mounted on cardboard, and this does not apply in any case to plate proofs which I know to be definitely the work of Mandel. Some of the plate proofs with imprint of the 1859 10 cent value may be intermediate colour trials.

If further research proves the existence of intermediate plate proofs for Canada, they will be of value in determining the state of the plate in the middle of its life, when only one plate was used, or they may even show the layout of an intermediate plate, where more than one plate was used.

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**Editor's Note.** In Britain the name "Mandel Reprints" was given to these proofs because many of those extant came from Mandel's accumulation of these which were disposed of after his death.

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## The Little Things That Bother Us

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In the latest Canadian Commemorative look at the Citizen's right hand. Is the second finger missing? Try holding your hand in the same fashion. Now can you bend your little finger into that position without bending the third finger also and leaving more of the second and the middle finger uncovered? The second finger is the longest and surely its tip should show above the others. The diagonal shading between the first and third fingers may possibly conceal part of the

missing finger, but where is the finger tip? It can't surely be hidden behind the tips of the other fingers.

We understand that the P.O. Department were approached about this discovery but they did not regard it at all seriously and it is therefore unlikely that a fingertip will appear. The discovery that a finger is missing is not like the detection of an error in French punctuation! That made them so hot and bothered that they hastened to correct the mistake!



## VARIETIES FOR THE FINDING

In this feature we hope to list varieties of Canadian and other B.N.A. stamps that may be of interest to members. Brig. Studd has kindly contributed the undernoted results of his studies of the small Cents issues. Reports of varieties for inclusion in this feature will be welcomed from other members.

### Small Cents Issue 1870-1897.

1. 2c. The word 'CENTS' is clearly doubled and re-entry shows in both figures '2' and in the scroll work on each side.
2. 2c. Marks in both figures '2' but less pronounced in the right hand one, in the scroll work under left figure '2' and slightly in 'CENTS.'
3. 2c. Several horizontal bars of colour similar to the lines of the background of the central oval show in the bottom left corner of the left figure '2' and in 'E' of 'CENTS.' In the margin below the right hand corner there is a clear reproduction of part of the circle surrounding the head showing the horizontal lines of the background and the double perimeter of the circle.  
The entry is more than half the length of the stamp out of place and it is difficult to explain by other than the theory that an old plate had been scraped almost clean and the metal used for a new plate.
4. 3c. There are numerous re-entries in this stamp, particularly in those printed

between 1874 and 1878. They include :—

- (a) doubling at left of the outer frame line of the circle.
- (b) on the left of and below the left bottom scroll ornament round '3.'
- (c) a combination of (a) and (b).
- (d) at bottom below the figures '3' and 'CENTS.'
- (e) in the top right scroll ornament.
- (f) in 'CENTS.'
5. 6c. The whole of the left side clearly doubled from the bottom up to just below 'C' of 'CANADA.' 'CENTS' clearly doubled and both figures '6' slightly doubled.
6. 6c. At bottom from left corner to under 'N' of 'CENTS.' In 'ANADA PO.' In left figure '6' and, slightly, in 'CEN.'
7. 6c. In 'CANADA POSTAGE' especially in 'PO.' In 'CENTS' and both figures '6.'
8. 6c. Doubling of bottom left portion (on a stamp on cover dated September, 1878).



9. 6c. Scroll above left figure '6' slightly doubled on outside edge. Shading to top curl of left figure '6' extends into the white body of the '6' below it.



10. 6c. A very unusual variety that may be a re-entry. A straight line from the left edge passes through 'NA' of 'CANADA.' It is then hidden by the shaded background and reappears in 'AG' of 'POSTAGE.' About a millimetre below this line there is crossline shading in 'AN' and 'AG' of CANADA POSTAGE' and in the

white curved part on each side of 'CANADA POSTAGE.' So far as can be seen this is not a re-entry from another part of the 6c stamp. How this variety occurred is a mystery. Is there an explanation similar to that suggested for number three above?

## THE SOCIETY'S SERVICES

**EXPERT ADVICE** will be given concerning problems in B.N.A. philately by an Expertisation Committee under the Convenership of

Member R. W. T. Lees-Jones,  
Merrivale,  
Bankhall Lane,  
Hale, Cheshire.

### EXCHANGE SECTION.

An Exchange Packet, B.N.A. only, circulates among members.

A 'Members' Wants List' is kept by the Exchange Secretary—

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110 Strand,  
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### LIBRARY and INDEX.

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4 Struan Place,  
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who will endeavour to produce some information on any branch of B.N.A. philately.

### THE LIBRARY.

Here are the titles of a few of the books that are obtainable by members on loan from the Society's Library :—

B.N.A.—Holmes  
Canada : Vols. 1 and 2—Boggs.  
Newfoundland—Boggs.  
Stampless Cover Catalogue—  
Konwiser and Campbell.  
Hoover's Pre-Cancel Catalogue—  
Sohne.

# "WAY LETTER" POSTMARK

by L. DORLAND CARN (Member 167)

Collectors of Canadian stamps are familiar with the "Way Letter" cancellation. Some, however may be unaware of the facts relating to its use.

I have in my collection a 5 cent red of the 1870-88 issue bearing this cancellation. It was given me some years ago by Mr. F. G. Bing who was for many years postmaster of Croydon and President of Croydon Philatelic Society.

Great interest was shown in the stamp and eventually a full account of the matter was obtained from the Canadian postal authorities who sent the following reply subsequently published in an article by Mr. Bing in "Postage Stamp" under the title "A Rare Canadian Postmark."

"Post Office Department, Canada.  
Office of the Superintendent of the  
Postage Stamp Branch,  
Ottawa, 13th March, 1908.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your enquiry on the subject, as to the object of the post office mark consisting of a rather thick circle in which are the words "Way Letter" impressed upon a Canadian postage stamp (3c.) similar to the one you enclosed, I find on enquiry that previous to the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867 there was in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick a regulation requiring mail couriers on the coach roads to accept letters for mailing, when these were offered them at a distance of not less than one mile from the nearest post office, to place them in a locked leather pouch provided for the purpose, and to post them at the first post office, the Postmaster of which was instructed to stamp these letters with the words "Way Letter." After Confederation this postmark lingered at some of the offices in the provinces named, when it was used for general cancellation purposes, if not for its primary purpose. It has now, however, wholly disappeared. Some think it lasted up to between 1887 and 1891, but I am sorry I cannot furnish you with a more definite date as to its extinction.

Very truly yours,

E. P. STANTON,

Superintendent."

From this letter it will be seen that in the first instance the postmark was applied to the stamps of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. No doubt these provinces continued the practice for some time after Confederation. Evidently Canadian postal authorities did not definitely prohibit its use otherwise Mr. Stanton would have been able to give the date of its extinction.

Holmes lists the cancellation on the 3 cents Large head 1868 but makes no mention of it in the later Small head issues of 1870-89 although he gives a list of about a dozen other cancellations. It would be interesting to know if this postmark exists on any of the later issues.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. To supplement the above we would refer readers to pages 35-36 of Holmes' "Canada and B.N.A." "Way Letter" or simply "Way" was struck on letters passing through the hands of keepers of "Receiving Houses" who, for convenience of persons in a neighbourhood distant from a post office, collected letters and possibly also kept them for delivery for an additional charge of twopence on each letter handled.

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