



MAPLE LEAVES

JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GT. BRITAIN

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Whole No. 18

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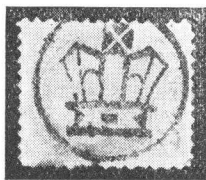
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MAPLE LEAVES

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NOTES AND COMMENTS

1951

The President and Office-Bearers of the Society extend to all members their Best Wishes for the New Year. May it bring a more peaceful world and to members more opportunities of pursuing their hobby.

"Copy"

The Editor heaves a sigh of relief: more articles and notes have come in and there is a small reserve for the next issue. Our newly-joined member, R. G. Woodall sends notes, some of which are printed in this number; ex-president Stephenson since demitting office has found time to do more work on the Maple and Numerals issues and the article on the former is printed in this issue, and member F. Jackson takes time off from compiling his "News Letter" to write some notes for this journal.

Review

The Stanley Stamp Co. monthly News Letter reaches us regularly with its chatty news items. We like their new heading, all it needs now is some maple leaves! In a recent number Mr W. C. Gordon of Horseshoe Bay revises his listing of the O.H.M.S. stamps and our member Major F. E. Eaton, now back from his adventures with the Kashmir Arbitration Commission, writes of some of them in the October number. A card to 877, Hornby St., Vancouver, B.C., will probably bring a specimen copy.

B.N.A.P.S.

Mention of Canada is a reminder that British North America P.S. has started a Study Circle on the Small Cents Stamps. It is open to members even though they are on this side of the Atlantic and our President has set a good example by joining it. Any members specially interested in these stamps and not already members of B.N.A.P.S. can get information about how to join from our own Treasurer.

Group News

"Canadian Comments" comes from the active **Kent and Sussex** groups bringing news of their meetings. The A.G.M. was held at Tunbridge Wells on 14th October. Business was evidently dealt with very quickly and the remainder of the time was pleasantly spent with stamps. Displays were given by members Tomlinson (small cents), Searles (large cents) and Marley (precancels) and by a visitor our Secretary Major Harper (map stamp). "Mrs Cartwright then displayed her usual charming hospitality at the table." Thereafter member Baresh produced a wonderful display of scarce postmarks and dealt with the papers and shades of the large and small cents. At the September meeting J. C. showed a very fine collection of flag cancellations on Queen Victoria issues and Member Vigo showed Queen Victoria stationery. By the way, Editor Tomlinson of "Canadian Comments," who is President of the Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies will exhibit "Canadians" at Sittingbourne P.S. on 18th January.

Notts and Derby group meet regularly and enjoy themselves though they have no ultra specialists or experts among them. They did get a glimpse of an outstanding collection when they attended the Derby P.S. meeting at which member H. C. V. Adams gave a wonderful display of Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Another Grand Prix collection!

West Riding group started their season with the 1859 issues as their subject and intend to meet monthly. The group is to give a combined display to the Huddersfield Society next year. One of their keen members, R. E. C. Thomas, is moving to Eastbourne, a great loss to Yorkshire but added strength to Kent and Sussex.

The **London** meetings in October and November were attended by our Secretary who reports that at the former meeting of the Maritime Provinces' issues were discussed. The Small Cents issue proved popular at the November meeting especially as members Baresh and J. M. Stevenson were there to impart information about their pet items.

Edinburgh group have had two very interesting meetings this season. Under the able guidance of member Bonar "Registration" was the subject discussed at the first meeting and the ever popular Large Cents were again the subject at the second meeting.

Aberdeen, according to Stevie, is having some interesting meetings and, if we can judge by the entries in the list of new members, is flourishing.

Newcastle-on-Tyne group meets on 23rd January to discuss the shades of the 1880-81 issue of Large 15 Cents. On 27th February there will be a display by J. H. Sinton, F.R.P.S.L., and on 27th March the discussion will be about the Maple Leaves and Numerals issues and their varieties. Meetings are held at 6 West Avenue, Gosforth, at 7 p.m.

Convention Auction

To stimulate C.P.S. and local interest in the 1951 Convention it is proposed to hold an auction sale during the Convention. Details will appear in our next number, but meantime it can be intimated that good material, preferably, but not necessarily B.N.A., will be wanted. The commission on sales will go to help the C.P.S. Convention Fund as will any proceeds obtained from lots sent in as gifts for this purpose.

The Maple Leaf Issue—A Study

By A. E. STEPHENSON, F.C.P.S.

I have often been asked to re-write my article on the issues of 1897-98 and incorporate in it the considerable amount of additional facts discovered since the previous article was written. I have been persuaded and this is the result. It is now more of a collective article in which many members of the different Study Groups have a part, for I have begged and borrowed what information is available.

It has always been a mystery to me why the Maple Leaves and Numerals Issues have not been more popular. This lack of interest now happily seems to have disappeared and great interest is now being taken by all Study Groups in these fascinating issues.

Both the Maple and the Numeral Issues are good-looking in design and colour. They are not "difficult" in the matter of cost or scarcity, they have a reasonable number of values to interest the collector, and they abound in matter for study. Varieties, re-entries and re-touches are legion.

In the following note I deal first with the Issue of 1897-98, known to collectors as the "Maple Leaf" Issue.

The Necessity for the New Issue

The necessity for a new general issue of stamps in the Dominion arose in 1897 when the American Bank Note Company made its reappearance in the B.N.A. field by taking over the contract for printing Canada's stamps for the Diamond Jubilee Issue. As this was a Commemorative Issue, the country had, on the exhaustion of the Jubilee stamps and the "Small Head" Issues, to seek a new design for a general issue, now particularly as the old plates of the "Small Heads" were still in the possession of the old printers, the British American Bank Note Co.

It had been felt throughout the Dominion that any future portrayal of the Queen should be more in keeping with her appearance at that time of her reign. It must be remembered that stamps up till then had portrayed her as she was about the 1850s.

We find in the Postmaster's Report dated 30th June, 1898, the official statement :—

"Owing to the change of contract for the manufacture of postage stamps, a new series of stamps became necessary at the beginning of the present fiscal year. New stamps ranging in value from the half-cent to the ten cent denomination (inclusive) were printed, and the first supplies thereof sent out to the postmasters as the corresponding denomination of the old stamps became exhausted."

The new printers prepared a series from a design built up round a photograph portrait of the Queen, popular at the time of her Diamond Jubilee, taken by W. & D. Downie, Elbury Street, London. An illustration of the full portrait is shown in Bogg's Canada (page 322).

The Essays



The American Bank Note Co. set about preparing Essays for the new series. These were submitted and, after modification, one was accepted and used for the issued stamps.

To quote Brigadier Studd:

"The word 'Essay' in a philatelic sense is a very elastic one. There are five classes of essays for Canada and one of these would be better termed 'trade samples.' The first class are those designs which were offered to the P.M.G. and which, after alteration, were

finally adopted and used for the stamps of issue. An example of this class is the essay of the original design by Sir Sanford Fleming for the 3d. value (Beaver). Another example is the essay of the Maple Leaf Issue with a line scroll in the outer letter oval between the words 'Canada' and 'Three' on the one side, and between 'Postage' and 'Cents' on the other side. These scrolls were removed before the die for the Maple Leaf Issue was finally approved."

Incidentally, this Essay used to be in the Brigadier's collection. Where is it now?

Another Essay which was prepared but discarded was one of the same design as that which was finally approved and accepted, but the engraving was much rougher and coarser in appearance.

This design got a long way before it was discarded. We find specimens of it in colour trials in the "One Cent" value. We find it also in the sheet proof stage done in apple green, perf. 12, all round in the "Three Cent" value.

In this essay the general design was the same as that finally accepted but on examination it will be found that the Queen's face is composed of a number of coarse parallel lines, while the face on the accepted design shows cross-hatching on the cheeks. In the rejected design the Queen's jewels show more definition than those in the accepted design.

Also, the proofs of this essay are larger, the design being $22\frac{1}{2} \times 18\frac{1}{2}$ mm. as against $20\frac{1}{2} \times 17$ mm. in the accepted design.

Charles Skinner is credited with having designed the vignette, both of the Maple Leaves and of the Numerals Issues, but it seems doubtful whether it was he who delineated the vignette of the rejected design. The general appearance of that design is such a contrast with the issued designs that it seems the work of another engraver. An engraver attains a certain style of his own, somewhat like characteristic handwriting, which is difficult to disguise. Are we then faced with the problem of discovering the hidden hand of another engraver?

The general designs of the vignettes of the Maple Leaves Issue and of the Numerals Issue have characteristics in common, though there are differences in the formation of the necklarc and of the ear ornaments—in the Maple Leaves Issue the jewels are not so clearly defined. When we compare the rejected design with the Numerals Issue, we find certain similarities in the jewels: in each they are clearly defined, but there is

a distinct difference in the hatching of the face shadows. In the rejected design the hatching is formed by parallel lines, whereas in the Numerals Issue they are formed by crossed lines. When we come to compare the rejected design with the Maple Leaves Issue we see that the differences are more marked since in the issued design there is also the difference in the jewels, which are not so clearly defined.

Mr Ramsay Stewart maintains that this rejected essay and Die were ultimately used for the printing of Postal Stationery of the period.

The modified and accepted design which was the same for all values is composed of the picture of the Queen set in an oval frame. The frame is in solid colour bearing the words "Canada Postage" in the upper half and the value in words in the lower half. Fine horizontal lines extend from the oval to the outer frame line and form spandrels at each corner, each of which contains a small Maple Leaf from which the issue gets its name. The outer frame consists of one broad line all round.

The Dies



Rejected Design.

A master die was prepared which comprised the oval portrait of the Queen surmounted by the top half of the scroll containing the words "Canada Postage," the work being done by Charles Skinner of the American Bank Note Co.

From the master die secondary dies were taken and used for each value; these show the value in each case in the lower half of the oval and the Maple Leaves in the corners. Winthrop Boggs makes the interesting point that the minor differences in the shape and placing of the Maple Leaves are ample evidence of the method used in preparing these stamps.



Accepted Design.

The Plates

Plate Proofs were produced for the "Maple Leaves" in all values in the colours of issue. In the case of the 3 cents and 8 cents values, these were produced also in Orange and Carmine respectively.

Plates were laid down for all values: $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10 cents. One plate was used for each value except the 1 cent and 2 cents, which used Plates 1 to 4, and the 3 cents, which had Plates 1 to 6.

Except in the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent value, the Post Office sheets were printed in panes of 100 subjects, the imprint appearing above the 5th and 6th stamp of the top row. In the case of the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent Maple Leaves, Dr Alfred Whitehead of Montreal reports the first printings were on sheets of 200 subjects, with the imprint coming above the 10th and 11th stamps of the top row. The sheets were then broken into two Post Office sheets, each of 100 subjects, the margin imprint being thus broken. In subsequent printings the plate was corrected to show the imprint appearing above the 5th and 6th stamps of each Post Office sheet, or pane of 100 subjects.

Paper

This issue was printed on soft, unwatermarked, white wove paper except the 5 cents blue, which was printed on a bluish tinted paper. Dr Holmes in his book states: "I have never seen any explanation for this, except possibly imitating the idea Britain has of using coloured paper for some values."

It will be found that there are varieties in the size of the stamps of this issue, this being due to uneven shrinkage of paper after drying. The paper was printed in an ungummed state, and as the gumming was done afterwards, the shrinkage often took place during the drying process.

These variations should not be confused with the varieties of size common in the "Small Head" series which were invariably caused by the uneven punching of the line perforating machines.

All the stamps in this issue were perforated 12 all round. Imperf-orate stamps are known in all values, but whether they came through the Post Office Department is open to question.

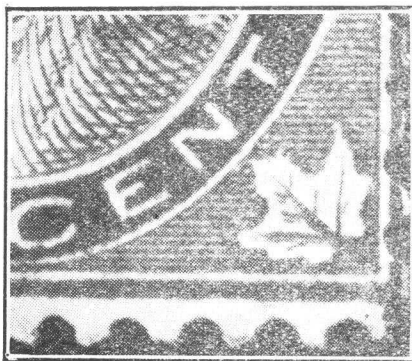
Varieties

It is astonishing, considering the short life of the series, to find such an amazing number of re-touches or re-entries in this series, caused by faulty "rocking-in." This is surprising in the case of a firm like the American Bank Note Co. which had been at the stamp printing game so long.

Varieties are so numerous that I do not intend making a check list of them and will content myself with listing one or two of the more prominent. In the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent black at the top right-hand corner, inside the frame line, there is a vertical line in the white space between the background and the frameline.

In the 1 cent green there is a major re-entry in which the lower Maple Leaves and frame are doubled.

The 3 cents value has a distinct variety, found originally by Fred Jarrett, caused by a worn spot in the plate, showing a dash at the bottom



Typical re-entry: strong doubling in inner frame, maple leaf and cent.

and to the left of "Three. This variety is of particular interest to the collector with ample material at his disposal, as he may be able to trace the wear through its various stages.

In the 6 cent Brown we find perhaps the best variety of the series. This consists of a prong or line breaking away from the bottom frame line under the word "Cents" (Stamp No. 91 of Sheet), apparently caused by a slip of the engraving tool.

In the 6 cent Brown we find perhaps the best variety of the series. This consists of a prong or line breaking away from the bottom frame line under the word "Cents" (Stamp No. 91 of Sheet), apparently caused by a slip of the engraving tool.

"MAPLE LEAVES" SERIES CHECK LIST

Essays.

1. Design with side scrolls in oval (discarded but modified later).
2. Modified design, but engraving coarse (rejected for further modification).
 - a. Die Proof in Black on Thin Paper.
 - b. Colour Trials, all in One Cent value: Black, Yellow, Rose Carmine, Deep Green, Light Blue, Ultramarine—all on yellowish paper.
 - c. Sheet Printing Proof: 3 cents, perf. 12, Apple Green.
3. Accepted Design as issued.
 - a. Die Proof (Engravers), First stage showing vignette and top half of oval, no background (purple on card).
 - b. Second stage, as above, but with oval completed, showing value "half cent" with Maple Leaves in corners and border, but no background lines.
 - c. In various colours in 3 cents value showing white line between upper and lower half (Boggs).
 - d. With horizontal shading lines added. 3 cents value—Purple on India paper; Purple on white card; Lilac on white card.

Die Proofs Proper.

Boggs states that Die Proofs are one white card 5 x 7 ins. and show Die Number and imprint, "American Bank Note Company, Ottawa," and were in black on India paper.

Die Proofs were also made on card.

CHECK LIST OF ISSUED STAMPS.

Value	Die No.	Plate Nos.	Proofs	Colour of Issue	Date of Issue	Number Issued	Major Varieties
$\frac{1}{2}$ cent.	F. 102	1	Black	Grey Black, Black	Nov., 1897	2,000,000	Vertical line between inner and outer top right corner.
1 cent.	F. 103	1, 2, 3 & 4	Green Black	Blue-Green	Dec. 1897	51,200,000	
2 cents.	F. 104	1, 2, 3 & 4	Violet Black	Violet	Dec. 1897	13,350,000	Re-entry lower portion of frame and Maple Leaves.
3 cents.	F. 105	1, 2, 3 & 4 5 & 6	Carmine Black and Orange	Carmine	Jan. 1898	51,750,000	Dash before "THREE"
5 cents.	F. 106	1	Deep Blue, Black	Deep Blue on Bluish Paper	Dec. 1897	3,500,000	
6 cents.	F. 107	1	Brown Black	Brown	Dec. 1897	500,000	Line breaking away from bottom frame line.
8 cents.	F. 108	1	Orange, Black	Orange	Dec. 1897	1,400,000	
10 cents.	F. 109	1	Carmine Brownish Purple, Black	Brownish Purple	Jan. 1898	300,000	

PERFORATION—

All values perforated 12 all round.
Imperforate copies known in all values.

Plate Proofs

Were made on white card or India paper, either in black or in colour of issue. Trials were made either on white card or white wove paper. Boggs gives the following table:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ cent Purple.	3 cents Red-Violet.
2 cents Grey-Black.	3 cents Brown-Violet.
3 cents Pale Grey.	3 cents Violet-Blue.
3 cents Dull Grey.	5 cents Carmine.
3 cents Slate.	5 cents Blue-Grey.
3 cents Apple Green.	5 cents Brown-Violet.
3 cents Ochre.	8 cents Carmine.
3 cents Orange.	3 cents Dark Brown.
3 cents Scarlet.	

1912 Issue 1 Cent Green on Thin Grey Paper

By J. P. MACASKIE (Member No. 377)

So little is known about this variety that these notes are as much a request for information as a statement of known facts.

The 1 cent green, like many other values in the series, can be found on several different grades of paper varying from thin to very thick. All these, however, are basically the same type of paper. On the other hand, the variety on thin, hard, greyish paper—first discovered by Member G. R. C. Searles some years ago—is quite different. The texture is not the same, and the design of the stamp appears embossed when the back is examined. In comparing it with the normal paper, it is most readily distinguished when placed, face down, against a white background. Against a dark background, particularly in some lights, it could be overlooked by anyone not used to seeing it.

It cannot be said that the variety is rare. Nevertheless, it is not easy to find. The writer, up to the present time, has found only 24 copies in 30,000. Even this small percentage would indicate a printing of about 2 millions, although this is a small amount when compared with the total printing of over 3200 millions of the 1 cent green. It may be, of course, that the writer was fortunate to find so many, and that it is in fact much scarcer than the above percentage leads one to suppose. On the other hand, the stamps examined have been obtained from three different sources.

The writer's copies provide the following information:—

1. All are the same shade and are probably from the same plate, being of the type of the Retouched Die with the upper vertical spandrel lines of medium thickness, no breaks in the value tablets, but on some copies a small break in the lower-left frame junction line.
2. Two copies have straight edges, one showing a guide arrow, pointing downwards, in the top left corner. This indicates sheet printings after January, 1914.
3. Few copies with dates were found, and not all of those are clear. Definite ones are as follows:— 2 copies dated June, 1916! 1 dated February, 1916, the latter clearly marked "Dartmouth N.S."

and a pair with part of a slogan postmark incorporating the date May 2nd, 1914. This naturally does not mean that the stamp was used on that date. The writer would welcome information indicating the period during which this particular slogan mark was in use. The decipherable details, apart from the date mentioned above, are "Toronto —?—se Show" (Horse Show, perhaps?).

4. One copy with the perforated name "Ward." (Anyone know what town or area this firm was in?).

The writer understands that Mr Searles' dated copies are of the period late 1915 to early 1916, the stamps being used in Saskatchewan.

The most important problem at the moment would seem to be to trace the plate(s) from which the stamps were printed. The writer has never seen a mint copy, and the question arises whether a mint copy would show the variety to a recognisable extent. A comparison of plate blocks during the period 1914-1915 should enable an identification to be made of this particular state of the retouched die.

The writer welcomes any information, however small, on this subject, and hopes that the above notes may result in the discovery of new facts. Good Hunting!

Rates of Postage in the 1840's

Genl. Post Office,
Quebec, 1st August, 1842.

Department Circular 103.

Respecting Letters for Foreign Countries, British Colonial possessions and other parts abroad comprising in a condensed form the instructions conveyed by Dept. Circulars of date 25th Nov., 1840, 15th May and 12th June, 1841.

Letters may be taken at all offices in the Canadas for any of the countries or places mentioned in the following List, on the prepayment of the rate of Postage therein indicated.

(Single rate of postage, that is, the rate on a letter not weighing more than $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz.).

Sterling		Currency		Sterling		Currency	
S. D.	S. D.	S. D.	S. D.	S. D.	S. D.	S. D.	S. D.
Austria	2 10	equal to	3 2	Malta	2 2	equal to	2 5
Belgium	2 6	"	2 10	Madeira	2 10	"	3 2
Bermuda	2 2	"	2 5	Mexico	3 3	"	3 8
Brazil	3 9	"	4 2	New South Wales	2 2	"	2 5
Buenos Aires	3 7	"	4 0	New Zealand	2 2	"	2 5
Cape of Good Hope	2 2	"	2 5	Norway	2 10	"	3 2
Chile	3 7	"	4 0	Peru	3 7	"	4 0
Colombia	3 3	"	3 8	Portugal	2 9	"	3 1
Cuba	3 3	"	3 8	Prussia	2 10	"	3 2
Cuxhaven	1 8	"	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russia	2 10	"	3 2
Denmark	2 10	"	3 2	St. Domingo	2 5	"	2 9
East Indies	2 2	"	2 5	St. Helena	2 2	"	2 5
Egypt	3 5	"	3 10	Sardinia	2 9	"	3 1
France	1 2	"	1 4	Sicily	2 9	"	3 1
Germany	2 10	"	3 2	Sierra Leone	2 2	"	2 5
Gibraltar	2 2	"	2 5	Spain	3 4	"	3 9
Greece	3 5	"	3 10	Sweden	2 10	"	3 2
Hamburg	1 8	"	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Switzerland	2 4	"	2 8
Holland	2 6	"	2 10	Syria	2 9	"	3 1
Honduras	2 2	"	2 5	Turkey	2 9	"	3 1
Ionian Islands	2 2	"	2 5	Van Diemen's Land	2 2	"	2 5
Jamaica	2 2	"	2 5	West Indies	2 2	"	2 5
Italy	2 9	"	3 1	Demerara and			
Lubeck	1 8	"	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Essequibo	2 2	"	2 5

indicates that the postage to such countries or places to which it is prefixed may be prepaid in this Country or not, at the option of the sender.

By Falmouth Packet from England, but for Letters to the East Indies, Australia, Van Diemen's Land, Cape of Good Hope, etc., by British Packets via Marseilles, or by Private Ship, see Department Circular dated 25th August, 1840.

On letters weighing more than half an oz., the postage is to be computed upon the following scale, being that contained in Department Order of 19th August, 1840, to wit:—

A letter weighing more than
 $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz. and not exceeding 1oz. will be liable to two rates;
 „ exceeding 1 oz. and not exceeding 2 oz. four rates;
 „ exceeding 2 oz. and not exceeding 3 oz. six rates;
 and so on, adding two rates for every additional ounce in weight.

At the above rates letters will be conveyed from Canada to England and forwarded from England to the place of destination by Her Majesty's Packets.

Letters for any part abroad may also be taken in the Canadas, to be conveyed to England by Her Majesty's Packets and from thence to be forwarded by Private Ship, on the prepayment of the uniform single rate of 1s. 10d. sterling, equal to 2s. 1d. currency—for letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz. in weight, increasing on heavier packets in conformity to the above scales.

Individuals posting such letters must mark them with the words, “By Private Ship from England.”

Post Masters will mark with red ink on all letters paid and forwarded under this Regulation, both the Sterling rate and its equivalent in currency, thus:

PAID 2s. 2d. STG.—2s. 5d. CURRENCY

and mail them upon the Quebec office.

Paid postage received on such letters is to be entered in the Letter Bill and brought to account in the Monthly sheet in the ordinary way.

Unpaid postage to be rated in black ink on the Letter in sterling—but not to be entered in the unpaid column of the Letter Bill or Monthly sheet. A simple memorandum of the sterling amount on the left-hand upper corner of the Letter Bill when mailing **Unpaid foreign** letters on the Quebec Office, will be sufficient—after the mode prescribed by Dept. Order 19th August, 1840, for **unpaid** English Packet Letters.

T. A. STAYNER,

D.P.M. Gnl.

The above has been taken from a photostat copy of the above circular kindly forwarded by Frank Staff (Member No. 68).

NOW WE'RE "SHORE"

Mr Grimmer, of Temiskaming, Quebec, is sure there is no “SHORE” where “SHORE” ought to be—in Charlotte County, N.B. (He used to live there). I am sure, too, having mistaken “SHORE” for a place name, being completely fogged with “SHORE” and “S.L. CROSS” — presumably “SHORE LINE CROSSING” (It was the name of the railway). Thanks for the correction, Mr Grimmer.—F. L. R. BROWN, No. 383.

Transatlantic Seapost.

THE COLUMBIA AND THE MARGARET, 1843

By ROBERT G. WOODALL (No. 496)

The wreck of the Cunard steamer *Columbia* occurred in 1843 when she was homeward bound with mails from Boston. A letter concerning this shipwreck came into the possession of the writer, and contained an outstanding item of interest in the mention of a ship, *Margaret*, which was preparing to cross the Atlantic with the mails.

A search through the "Illustrated London News" of that time brought to light a picture of the wrecked *Columbia* and confirmation of the trip made by the *Margaret*.

Here, then, is another early steamer which made the Atlantic crossing as a packet carrying contract mails.

The following are extracts from the letter and the Press report:—

Extracts from Letter from Boston to London, dated 10th July, 1843 :

"... We yesterday received a letter from Mr Menurthazen, dated at Seal Island, 3rd July, giving us the very disagreeable intelligence of loss of the Steam Ship 'Columbia,' on board which vessel he with Mr Huth were passengers. The ship ran on to a ledge near these Islands on the afternoon of the 2nd in calm weather, but the atmosphere filled with dense fog . . .

"... From another source we learn that the Steam Ship 'Margaret,' a vessel kept in reserve at Halifax, might be expected at Seal Island on the 5th to take the mails and passengers to the City, the same vessel will doubtless proceed to Liverpool with such of the passengers who prefer not to wait for the 'Hibernia' which leaves there on the 16th.

"... The mails and luggage of the passengers and ship's company all safely landed. It was at first rumoured here that one person was missing; later intelligence contradicts this . . ."

Extracts from "The Illustrated London News" of July 29, 1843 :

"PARTICULARS OF THE LOSS OF THE COLUMBIA STEAMER.

"The 'Margaret,' a spare steam vessel belonging to the Boston and Halifax Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, arrived at Liverpool on Sunday night last at half-past nine o'clock, under the command of Capt. Shannon (late of the 'Columbia'), bringing the mails and the greater part of the passengers of the 'Columbia' steamer, which was unfortunately wrecked on the rocks at Seal Island, in a dense fog on Sunday, the 2nd July . . .

"... After she had grounded it was ascertained that she was ahead of the pilot's reckoning, owing to the extraordinary indraft of the currents and tides into the Bay of Fundy . . .

"... It was then ascertained that the rock or ledge on which the ship had struck was called 'The Devil's Limb,' and was situate about a mile and a quarter from shore, and nearly the same distance from the lighthouse. The distance was about 150 miles from Halifax and it was about high water when she first struck . . . She was firmly fixed on the ledge about midships."

(Word was sent by a passing steamer)

"... to the agents of the company at Halifax, who instantly despatched the 'Margaret' to convey the passengers and the mails . . ."

(Continued on page 107)

Study Circles

By Dr. W. BYAM

(Reprinted from the "Pantiles Post")

Twelve years ago I wrote a paper on Study Circles which was read at Cambridge before Congress, in June, 1938. It was a good Congress paper, in that it dispelled any tendency to lethargy on the part of my audience and gave rise to a lively discussion, not unmixed with acrimony. My knowledge of the subject, as I stated, was largely based on the activities of the Egypt Study Circle, which I founded only three years previously.

Reading again my attempt to define a Study Circle, I find my views have changed so little during the intervening years that I make bold to repeat what I wrote in 1938: "As I see it, a Study Circle is a group of Philatelists bound together by a common interest; with a desire to study the stamps they collect; acknowledging no order of seniority among themselves in that a circle has neither top nor bottom, ends or sides. As with every circle, a centre there must be; a member who acts as chairman; and on his powers of leadership and his capacity for inspiring interest and enthusiasm, much of the success of the Circle will depend. Such a leader should not always occupy the centre of the group, but should delegate his functions to each member of the periphery as occasion offers." The "common interest" may be one of many kinds: the stamps of a single country or of a group of countries allied politically or geographically; the process by which stamps are produced; the uses to which stamps are put.

Those having a "common interest" are scattered far and wide, and yet a Circle may bind them together. This fact was alluded to by many in the debate at Cambridge and failure to recognise it was held to explain the short life of many Study Circles in the past. This applies more particularly to Circles studying the stamps and posts of a given country. It should be obvious that collectors resident in the country in question will have access to sources of information which do not exist elsewhere—the official archives, the national libraries and museums, which may contain such things as the original printing surfaces or dies from which the stamps were produced. We of the Egypt Study Circle have received the greatest assistance from our members resident in the Valley of the Nile who, stimulated by requests and fortified by suggestions, have not only uncovered information of the greatest importance, but have built around themselves one of the most flourishing philatelic societies to be found anywhere.

Our members in the United States have proved themselves equally efficient students and by sustained output they uphold the best traditions of their country. Our Circle would be immeasurably the poorer had we no members in Egypt and America. Differences of language have made collectors in this country diffident about establishing relations with collectors abroad, but this should not be so, as the jargon of philately is not dissimilar when expressed in other tongues — and few are the serious students anywhere who have no knowledge of either English, French or German.

The need for such an organisation as a study circle arises from the difficulties facing the would-be general collector. Few of us nowadays have either time or money to make a general collection which will satisfy

a philatelist of the student type. Specialisation has therefore become the natural development as the alternative to throwing up the sponge and, unfortunately, specialisation has led to a narrowing of interests. We all know the little enthusiasm aroused by highly specialised displays at the more usual clubs. Tactful secretaries spend much time thinking out how to refuse them without giving offence; only other specialists in the same field can appreciate the niceties of the points displayed; problems propounded remain unanswered; and the student realises that to make his display attractive he must reduce it to the simplest form, carrying on his researches unaided and bereft of the informed criticism so essential to reasoned progress. Without the corrective influence of his fellows, the specialist too often degenerates into an accumulator of material, so that he can well be described as "one who collects more and more of less and less." I suggest the Study Circle is the antidote of which the specialist is in need.

Much routine business, though of little interest to the members as a whole, is essential to the well-being of a Circle, and for its enactment an Executive Committee is required. This should consist of the Secretary, who may also undertake the duties of Treasurer, the Keeper of the Philatelic Record; the Leader of the Circle; and possibly a Deputy Leader. The duties of these individuals are fairly obvious from their titles, but it may be well to explain the functions of the Keeper of the Record. All correspondence relating to philatelic details is carried on by him, so that observations, comments and queries may be duly recorded, tabulated and dealt with. Conclusions arrived at by the members in session must also be written by him. Reports for publication pass to him as Editor, and it is his responsibility to see that all relevant facts already accepted by the Circle are included in these reports. He must also see that undue overlapping of different reports is avoided. It having been agreed that all publications are made in the name of the Circle as a whole, it becomes necessary for each individual member to see every report before it passes to the Press, so that each may have an opportunity to make suggestions for additions or alterations to what has been written. Each member wishing to do so, writes his suggestions on a separate sheet of paper and attaches it to the report, for the consideration of the member to whose care the subject or study has been entrusted. The circulation of these draft reports and the collection of the suggestions offered is the duty of the Keeper of the Record. The keeping of a membership roll, the recording of minutes of meetings, the collection of subscriptions, the care of monies, correspondence and business of a general nature, fall to the lot of the Secretary-Treasurer.

In the discussion at Cambridge it was suggested that the Executive should be elected annually, and that at least the Leader should be changed each year. Such a happening endangers continuity of effort, and as a Circle to achieve any success philatelically worth-while must continue its work for a number of years, such syncopation would nearly certainly lead to failure.

The full circle may well meet only once a quarter, so that intensive work may be carried on by smaller groups during the intervals. Each of these groups should undertake research work on a single study, presenting its progress reports at the quarterly meetings. A group has its own leader to whom the care of a study has been allotted at a meeting of the full Circle, and makes its own arrangements regarding the time and place of its meetings. Studies entrusted to corresponding members

resident abroad are reported on by letter, so that progress can be recorded at each quarterly meeting. This correspondence is carried on through the Keeper of the Record.

At the beginning of each year a full list of the studies in progress, or to be attempted, should be submitted to all members of the Circle. This list is drawn up by the Executive, who are guided by suggestions made at the meetings or received in correspondence. The procedure is as follows: When a study is to be begun, the fact is announced in the agenda, and members are requested to bring or send all material from their collections having bearing on the subject. This material is carefully inspected by the members attending the meeting, while the Keeper of the Record makes notes of all facts and items likely to be helpful in the solution of the problems propounded. Frequently the material is sufficient in amount and importance to require study at one or more subsequent meetings, but eventually a summary of the information obtained should be prepared by the Keeper of the Record, usually assisted by the Leader. A volunteer may then be called for, to take charge of the study and act as leader of the group which would continue the research by seeking further information from any source of which they have knowledge. In due course a draft report setting out the findings is prepared and submitted to the Circle through the Keeper of the Record. The circulation of this report has already been referred to. Each Study Circle will probably select its own medium for the publication of its findings, but obviously, long and highly specialised papers on the stamps of a single country are not suitable for many journals and the serial articles appearing in some magazines today are more often passed over than read. The ideal, of course, is that each Circle should publish its findings in a periodical of its own. In addition, such a periodical should contain (1) resolutions passed at the meetings; (2) brief records or displays and interesting material shown before the Circle; (3) queries from individual members which cannot be solved at the meetings; and (4) information supplementary to reports already published, which does not yet justify a further formal interim report. But, don't forget, a Circle is formed primarily for the entertainment of its members and not for the value of its reports, which may never be published, though every endeavour should be made to lay them before as large a section of the philatelic world as possible in the hope that the fruits of the Circle's labours may add to the enjoyment of others, both now and hereafter.

STAMPS FROM SLOT MACHINES

A rather curious method of selling stamps in practice in Canada now consists of selling stamps of various denominations of the current issues from slot machines as we used to buy bars of chocolate, etc., from automatic machines here.

The stamps are in singles and are contained in very small flat cartons not much larger than the stamp. The cartons mostly contain mixtures such as 1c. and 3c., at a cost of 5c.; 3c. and 4c. at a cost of 8c.; single 7c. Air Mail, etc.; the premium being 1c. in each case. The cartons themselves have advertisements on them and they also have "fortunes" printed on them.

The machines are to be found in places such as railway station paper stands, and in large shops that have no post office of their own (many have out there). They are small machines and not found at post offices as they are here.—J. MILLAR ALLEN (Member No. 422).

Non Cents

(With an Admixture of Wisdom)

Well! Check my perfs! I've got competition! (Hey, Clarence, whip over the page and see if Jacko's done all his "G" overprints yet!).

To justify my existence I'll kick off with a market tip—get all the OHMS you can lay hands on! Perfs and over-prints! The latter are in more demand at present than anything else Canadian and that's saying something! Last week they were freely offered in the various retail mags. at 27s 6d; this week I see they are 35s., and I bet you in another six months they'll have doubled this price. The old 50c. is the best of the bunch and dealers over the other side are badly short of them to complete sets. The 2c. War Effort overprint is also off sale and now retailing at 15c. each over there and the other 3 W.E. values obviously won't last long. The inclusion in S.G. of these overprints has created a terrific demand for the similar perforated issues and, though scorned by the cat. publishers, I guess they always will be in demand now. The 50c. and \$1 values are quite scarce whilst the 1937 4c. and 8c. and 1942 4c. Grey, 8c. and 13c. are on the up and up. Personally, I fancy the 1946 8c., either M or U, as it was used on official mail for only a few months before becoming obsolete. (What's that, Clarence? The bloke's got a bogey head? Blimey, so he has! Wish your mother could see HIM!).

Did you know how easily you can get Boggs, Holmes, or any other dollar publication? Just apply through your bank on Form E for the necessary dollars! In this way you may import ONE copy of any of these works. Proof of the published price has to be submitted when applying, and don't forget to add the postage to the published price—it's not more than a dollar on any of them. (He wants a saw-toothed roulette, Clarence? Refer him to my mother-in-law!)

Why should 1898 Maps used on cover, or even on piece, be so elusive? I've only come across about a dozen covers in the last two years and reckon first-day covers must be as scarce as hens' teeth! See a Toronto dealer recently picked up a bundle of Maps on F.D.C.s! A bundle! I'll go a "mizz."! (The geezer wants a 3d. Beaver with sewing machine perf, Clarence? Quick, whip this up to your mother, tell her to quit punching Toronto coils for a minute and slip this under the Singer!)

You don't like this tripe? Good, I'll write some more for the next issue! You wonder who I am? That's nothing—plenty of people want to know WHERE I am! Ta, Ta!

TRANSATLANTIC SEAPOSTS—(Continued from page 103)

(A skeleton crew was left to salve materials from the wreck before she broke up).

"... The 'Margaret' left Halifax on the 9th instant, at half-past five, and made the voyage in thirteen days, stopping at the Cove of Cork one day for a further supply of coals. She has brought upwards of sixty passengers . . ."

A later note refers to the place of wreck as Black Ledge Reef, near Seal Island, off Townsend, Bay, N.S.

Has anyone any further information about this ship, Margaret, and her return voyage?

NEW MEMBERS

No.	Name	Address
496	WOODALL, R. G.,	58 Thornby Road, Wigton, Cumberland, PH. PA.
497	CANHAM, H. E.,	2509 Wallace Street, Regina, Saskatoon, Canada. C.N.B.
498	KENDRICK, F. W.,	66 Seel Street, Liverpool, I. C.
499	KING, A. E.,	2 Temple Fortune House, Finchley Road, N.W. 11. C.N.B.
500	LATHWELL, A. K.,	33 Reginald Street, Luton, Beds. C.P.
501	LYSTER, P. G. (MAJOR),	The White House, Marazion, Cornwall. C.
502	BRANTINGHAM, T. A.,	1 Cooper Lane, Higher Blackley, Manchester, 9. C.MO.
503	BACON, C. L.,	4 Tynning End, Bath, Somerset. CQ-GG. M.O.
504	LEA, W. E.,	14 Exchange Street, Manchester, 2. C.N.B.
505	BURR, R.,	642 Erin Street, Winnipeg, Man., Canada. C.PL.
506	WATSON, J. C.,	35 Woodburn Avenue, Airdrie, Lanarkshire. C.N.B.
507	POLE, W. V.,	112 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh. C.N.B.
508	SANDERSON, C. W.,	Birnieknowes, Cockburnspath, Berwickshire. C.N.B.
509	PARSONAGE, J. S.,	2 Stanhope Drive, Huyton, Near Liverpool. C.N.B.
510	GEORGE, G. F.,	40 Warwick Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. C.
511	DALE, S.,	69 Monkseaton Drive, Monkseaton, Northumberland. C.N.
512	MASON, F.,	The Cottage, Byfleet, Surrey. CR-CQ.
513	NICHOLSON, E. A.,	72 Brinkburn Drive, Darlington, Co. Durham. PC. R.C.
514	SETTER, W. F.,	11 Affleck Street, Aberdeen. C.B.N.
515	MONRO, H. (M.A.),	140 Gray Street, Aberdeen. C.M.
516	MIDDLETON, D. J.,	c/o Addie, 3 Strawberry Bank, Aberdeen. C.B.N.
517	ORKIN, P. (Mrs),	19 Fraser Road, Aberdeen. C.B.N.
518	CHEARER, J. L.,	44 Polmuir Road, Aberdeen. C.B.N.
519	WAY, C. B. (Miss),	Garthmyl Hall, Montgomery. C.
520	GREENWOOD, C. H. (Capt.),	Cornerways, Upplowman Road, Tiverton, Devon. C.N.
521	THOMAS, H. G.,	53 Eileen Place, Treherbert, Rhondda, Glam. C.B.N.
522	GOLLOP, R. H.,	109 College Avenue, Ottawa, Ont., Canada.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

482	KING, C. A.,	38 Buchanan Street, Milngavie, Near Glasgow.
485	MORRIS, J. S.,	Knole House, 2 Walsingham Road, Hove 3, Sussex (for six months).
424	HOLLINGSWORTH, C. W.,	192 Lichfield Road, Walsall, Staffs.
362	YARD, J.,	Gladswood House, Gladswood Gdns., Double Bay, N.S.W., Australia.
330	LATCHFORD, D.,	15 Park Court, Preston Park Avenue, Brighton, 6.
372	BREWER, D. J.,	Coberville, 2 Lower Audley Road, Torquay.
435	CHAMBERS, J.,	Drawer 1532, Merritt, B.C., Canada.
142	COWAN, A. W.,	1 St. Margaret's Road, Edinburgh, 9.
419*	MELVILLE, D. G.,	51 Duddingston Road, Portobello, Midlothian.

*This entry was left out of the listing in July Maple Leaves.

RESIGNATIONS

358	BAXTER, R. W.	277	FROST, T. W.	131	SMITH, J.
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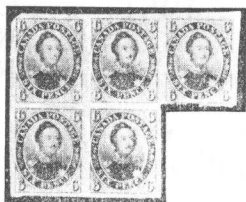
CORRIGENDA

89	For ANDERSON, read ANDERTON, and 434	REV. W. T. F. CASTLE read 484 Rev., etc.
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