



JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Maple Leaves

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Vol. 18 No. 5

October, 1981



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MAPLE LEAVES

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Founder:

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Edited by L. F. Gillam, F.C.P.S.

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EDITORIAL

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAPLE LEAVES

Over the years we have frequently reminded members of our need for articles and other contributions to *Maple Leaves*. "Pleading poverty" in this way can be self-defeating; perpetual beggars are conditioned to remaining poor, at the worst. At the best they enjoy temporary relief; long periods on short commons are interspersed with generous helpings from regal banquets. "You are always crying wolf", writes one correspondent, "and yet somehow or other you manage to keep the wolf from your door. Maybe that wolf is a figment of your imagination?"

Later on he writes: "You are never satisfied." Well, we can agree with him there. Editors never are; it is in the nature of the beast always to be hungry. Sometimes when the plate is full the wolf wonders where the next meal is coming from, however. Long experience of the gnawing pangs of hunger concentrates the mind wonderfully on what the future may bring. There are some things worse than sudden death; slow starvation is one of them. This is NOT special pleading on our own behalf. But it is a cry for help, and fortunately for our readers our cries do not go unanswered.

We are grateful to all our members who have answered our 'Mayday' calls despite their monotonous repetition; that goes without saying, we hope. Without them there would be no *Maple Leaves*, or at least not one worthy of the society, and certainly not one with which we would wish to be associated.

To them *ALL* the credit belongs. We are reminded of this by the announcement that at the recent *MILCOPEX* our journal was awarded a 'Vermeil' in the face of competition from some of our more prestigious contemporaries. We hasten to add that it was not our doing; it is a long time since we last went 'pot hunting'. The initiative came from our secretary, David Sessions. We have no cause to be proud of the award; but we *ARE* proud of our contributors who made it possible. "Virtue", said Becky Shape, "is its own reward". But she was a cynic; there are times when the reward is more tangible. This is one of them.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA IN NEW YORK

6/7 October, with all the rarities of Canada, British Columbia, the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland. B.N.A. also features regularly in our monthly auctions in Bournemouth and usually in the specialised British Empire sales in London, the next one is on **18 November**.

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SAY YOU SAW IT

IN "MAPLE LEAVES"

'INTERNATIONAL' AFFAIRS — Part 11

by D. F. Sessions

Quebec

Like Montreal, Quebec took delivery of an International machine late in 1902 and it was withdrawn, as in most other towns, in mid-1919. Despite the size and importance of the town there is no evidence of more than one International machine having been in use at any one time. However, again like Montreal, Quebec took delivery of a Universal machine in 1913.

It has long been known that both hand-cranked and electrically driven International machines were used by the Canadian Post Office. Since this series of articles commenced, evidence has come to hand which suggests that hand-cranked machines produced a Type 3 impression approximately 1¾" long whereas electrically operated machines produced an impression approximately 2¼" long. Measurement is often difficult as the impression may start at the extreme edge of the mailpiece and one cannot be certain that a full impression appears. Allowance also has to be made for stretching or compression of the obliteration as a result of the mailpiece slipping or jamming on its way through the machine.

Based on the foregoing it seems that the original machine delivered to Quebec was hand-cranked and that this machine was replaced by an electrically driven one when the general distribution of machines took place in 1907.

Early slogans are in French but Quebec shared the 'omnibus' issues of 'Buy Victory Bonds . . .' in 1918 and 'Buy War Savings Stamps . . .' in 1919.

Chronology

	<i>Standard obliteration Type 3</i>	
3.12.02	Hub C	9.10.07
1. 1.08	Hub G	19. 3.13
20. 9.14	Hub H	18. 3.19
	<i>Slogans</i>	
6. 7.12	Exposition Provinciale de Quebec . . .	24. 8.12
28. 5.13	Exposition Provinciale de Quebec . . .	22. 8.13
2. 7.14	L'Exposition Provinciale de Quebec . . . (1)	6. 9.14
6. 8.15	L'Exposition Provinciale de Quebec . . . (1)	5. 9.15
26. 2.17	\$25.00 Pour \$21.50 Comment? . . . (Flag 32-1)	1.10.17
29. 4.18	L'Exposition Provinciale de Quebec . . .	2. 8.18
31.10.18	Buy Victory Bonds . . . (Flag 37-6)	16.11.18
28. 4.19	Buy War Savings Stamps . . .	

Note 1 The latest recorded dates for both the 1914 and 1915 'Exposition' slogans are one day after the Exhibition closed.

Note 2 A Universal machine has been noted from 6.8.13.

Standard obligation used in 'slogan period'.

3.10.12	5.7.16	18.3.19
19. 3.13	22.4.18	

Illustration of standard obligation Type 3 and hub Types G and H will be found on page 75 of the June issue of *Maple Leaves* . Hub Type C carries the wording "Quebec, Que. Can."

Acknowledgements :— Basic data from Ken Barlow, additional information from Bill Robinson, Doug Murray, Dr. Charles Hollingsworth, Dan Rosenblat, Graham George, Bob Heasman.

Additional data and comments please to David Sessions, 3 Langfield Close, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7ND.

— OBITUARY —

THE HONOURABLE GEORGE C. MARLER

P.C., B.C.L., L.L.D., F.R.P.S.C., F.R.P.S.L., F.C.P.S.

The philatelic community lost an eminent member when the Honourable George C. Marler of Montreal, Quebec, passed away suddenly at the Royal Victoria Hospital of a heart attack on Friday night, 10th April, in his 80th year.

George Carlyle Marler was born in Montreal on 14 September 1901. His great-grandfather, a British Army officer, arrived in Quebec in 1808. Married in 1928 to Phyllis Constance Walker, they have one son, George Eric, and three daughters, Anna Evelyn, Harriet June and Phyllis Claire. He is also survived by six grandchildren and a brother, John.

Mr. Marler was educated at Selwyn House School, Bishop's College School, the Royal Naval College and received his civil law degree from McGill University, Montreal. He was awarded Honorary degrees by the Universite de Montreal and McGill University.

In 1940 he became vice-president of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal Council, a post he held until 1947. In 1942 he was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly in the Province of Quebec and served in that capacity until 1953. This was the period when Quebec was governed by Premier Maurice Duplessis of the Union Nationale Party. Mr. Marler sat in the house as a Liberal and was Leader of the Liberal opposition from 1948 to 1953. Known for his mastery to near perfection of the French

language, he became known as the chief opposition to the government of the day and gained the respect of his opponents.

In 1954 his good friend, Louis St. Laurent, asked him to join the Federal Cabinet. Elected as the member of Parliament for Westmount-St. Antoine, he served as the federal Minister of Transport from 1954 to 1957 during which time Prime Minister St. Laurent formed the government.

In 1960 in the Liberal Provincial Government of Premier Jean Lesage he was appointed government leader in the now-defunct upper house of the Quebec legislature. He was also a Minister without Portfolio and remained in the cabinet as one of the Premier's chief advisers until 1965. George Marler, a notary, took a leading role in the financial matters of the Province of Quebec. As a result his critics often criticized him unfairly as being an envoy of Montreal's St. James Street financial barons. In 1966 he left the provincial cabinet but remained as Liberal leader of the upper house. At this time he embarked on a speaking tour of Western Canada to explain the regional aspirations of the various parts of Canada, particularly Quebec and the West. After Mr. Marler left active politics he continued to maintain a keen interest in public affairs.

Always an ardent philatelist, Mr. Marler was noted for his research and writings on the Admirals, the Edwards and, to a lesser extent, the historical issue of 1928.

He contributed many well researched articles to the Canadian Philatelist, B.N.A. Topics, the American Philatelist, Maple Leaves, the Collectors Club Philatelist, Philatelia, the Essay Proof Journal and the Canadian Postal History Journal. His first philatelic book, "Canada – Notes on the 1911-25 Series" was published in 1949. In 1975 the National Postal Museum, Ottawa published his beautifully illustrated book entitled "The Edward VII Issue of Canada". It has received many awards, worldwide, for its excellence.

A manuscript based on his thorough comprehensive study of Canada's Admiral stamps was completed very recently. This large volume, the result of hundreds of hours of research, is being published by the American Philatelic Society and will be available within a month or two.

A long-time member and a former Director of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Mr. Marler was honoured by being named a Fellow of the "Royal". He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, England, and a Fellow of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. For a number of years he served as a member of Canada Post's "Stamp Design Advisory Committee".

George Marler will be remembered not only as "a fearless spokesman and defender of the highest ideals of freedom, decency and integrity" as spoken by Rev. Kenneth Cleator who conducted Mr. Marler's funeral on the 14th of April, but also as a friend and a gentleman.

It was a privilege to have known George Marler. Men of his stature and honour are uncommon.

CANADIAN RAILWAY POSTMARKS (Part 9)

by L. F. Gillam, F.C.P.S.

Type 17G postmarks form a small, yet exotic group, the numbers of which on their own would scarcely warrant separate treatment were it not for their unique features which differentiate them from type 17F postmarks so slightly, yet so importantly, that the two types can easily be confused.



They differ from type 17F postmarks only by virtue of the great variety of 'ornaments' that are to be found inside the ring of the datestamp on the right and the left, immediately preceding and following the lettering of the termini. (See example illustrated in the heading.) These 'ornaments' take the form of stars, crosses, dollar signs, diamonds, pound signs (with one or two strokes through the cursive 'L'), extra curved lines (one, and sometimes two) parallel with the outer ring, division signs, 'cent' signs (i.e. 'C' with an oblique line through it) etc.

As such these embellishments reflect both the individualism of the mail clerks and the separatism of the provincial postal administration which, far from merely tolerating this departure from the norm, must actively have encouraged it. In this sense type 17G postmarks were "official" in a way which cannot describe the eccentricities of mail clerks in Quebec in the late nineteenth century, and who, for reasons best known to themselves, soldered their initials or numbers etc. on to their handstamps. That these reasons were not sufficiently convincing to the postal authorities to ensure the survival of these excrescences for very long is a matter of fact. They were not tolerated at all; they were suppressed with a very firm official hand!

Such cannot be said of the "ornaments" with which type 17G postmark were decorated in British Columbia. To begin with they formed an integral part of the hammer and must, therefore, have been ordered as such from the manufacturers by the British Columbian postal authorities. It was not, of course, a sufficiently important matter for the federal postal administration in Ottawa to make an issue about, at least until the early 1940's. At this time it came to the notice of the Canadian Post Office in Ottawa that one of the postmarks used on the Calgary & Vancouver R.P.O. actually incorporated a swastika! An explanation was called for and the offending hammer, or hammers, had to be destroyed. The fate of the mail clerk (or clerks) identified with this hammer, or hammers, is not known; but it is to be hoped that it did not lead to internment as a potential enemy agent, or agents! The so-called 'swastika' merely looked like one in a superficial way; it lacked the refinements of the true swastika to start with. Moreover, the particular hammer, or hammers, had been in use at least as far back as the First World War and could not, therefore have had any sinister connotations! This is the

only known instance where the Canadian Post Office authorities asserted themselves as far as postmarks are concerned. As Professor Richardson has said: "British Columbia is in many ways a law unto itself in R.P.O. matters".

In no way is this more graphically illustrated than in type 17G postmarks. Used exclusively in British Columbia, they appear to have been first introduced on the Calgary & Vancouver R.P.O.'s immediately they superseded the C.P.R. British Columbia Mail Cars at the turn of the century. In a "run" of 671 miles this R.P.O. was by far the longest and in terms of volume of mail carried was only rivalled by the Montreal & Toronto R.P.O. Not unnaturally, therefore, the greatest variety of 'ornaments' is to be found on the numerous "C. & V." or "Cal. & Van." postmarks that were in use for at least 65 years. (The termini incidentally were always abbreviated.) The number of different hammers of various types (not exclusively type 17G) would be the subject of a detailed study involving the resources and collaboration of many collectors, a great deal of time and unlimited patience. For all this it would not be an impossible task. Calgary & Vancouver postmarks are the most commonly encountered and there must be many thousands in the possession of collectors.

Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery other British Columbian R.P.O.'s, namely the Prince George & Prince Rupert, the Penticton & Okanagan Landing, Victoria & Wellington, Nelson & Midway, Okanagan Landing & Sicamous, Robson & Arrowhead, Hope & Vancouver *et al* followed suit. Their 'ornaments', however, are prosaic indeed compared with those of their big brother which, in the words of the old carol, must "bear the palm".

CANADIAN POSTAGE METER STUDY GROUP

The Study Group will be an informal avenue for information exchange, publication of brief articles, identification of new varieties and for the sale and trade of Canadian meter material. At present, we do not envisage a formalised structure to membership other than recommending membership within the Postal History Society of Canada. The Canadian Meter Study Group is proposed to be affiliated with the PHSC as meters are in fact an important and interesting field of postal history.

We would like to contact Canadian meter collectors to form a cohesive Group. Collectors with only a related or specialized interest in meters (such as free franking or military mail) are also invited to contact us.

Please contact —

Mr. Clay Rubec
2473 Huntley Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario.
Canada (KIV8E7)

OR

Mr. Ross Irwin
PO Box 1263
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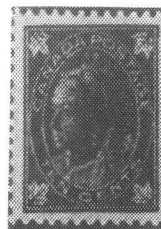
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THE MAPLE LEAF ISSUE OF CANADA
1897–1898 (Part 5)

by C. R. McGuire

Acting Curator,
National Postal Museum, Ottawa.



APPENDIX I
DETAILS OF THE PRESS PROOF SHEETS

Denomination	Plate No.	Colour	Type Specimen Overprint	Notations
½ cent	1-State A	Grey-Black	c)	"made Oct. 30/97"
½ cent	1-State B	Black	a)	
1 cent	1	Blue-Green	c)	
1 cent	2	Blue-Green	c)	
1 cent	3	Blue-Green	a)	
1 cent	3	Blue-Green	b)	
			and over five pairs of stamps	
1 cent	4	Deep Blue-Green	b)	
2 cents	1	Purple	a)	
2 cents	1	Purple	c)	
2 cents	1	Purple	a)	"Imp (ression) after retouching Feb. 98"
2 cents	2	Purple	c)	
2 cents	2	Purple	a)	"Impression after retouching Feb. 98"
2 cents	3	Purple	b)	"N.L.G. 9-2/98" (initials of representa- tive of the ABNC)
2 cents	4	Deep Purple	b)	"N.L.G. 9-2/98" on reverse" "Impression of each each plate made" and "Last of Maple Leaf Series Feb. 4/98" see note in text for details.
3 cents	1	Carmin	a)	
3 cents	1	Carmin	c)	
3 cents	2	Carmin	c)	
3 cents	3	Carmin	b)	
3 cents	4	Carmin	b)	

3 cents	5	Carmines	a)	"N.L.G. 28-1/98"
3 cents	6	Carmines	a)	"N.L.G. 28-1/98"
5 cents	1	Pale Blue	a)	
5 cents	1	Dark Blue	c)	
6 cents	1	Brown	a)	(has "engraver's slip" variety)
6 cents	1	Brown	c)	(has "engraver's slip" variety)
6 cents	1	Brown	a)	("engraver's slip" corrected but a trace of the "slip" may be distinguished)
8 cents	—	Orange-Vermillion	a)	(plate imprint cut off)
8 cents	1	Orange	a)	
8 cents	1	Yellow-Orange	a)	
8 cents	1	Deep Orange	c)	
10 cents	—	Brown Violet	a)	(plate imprint cut off)
10 cents	—	Deep Brown Violet	a)	(plate imprint cut off)
10 cents	1	Pale Brown Violet	a)	
10 cents	1	Pale Brown Violet	a)	
10 cents	1	Brown Violet	c)	"Eng(raved) 2.29" (1898)

APPENDIX II DETAILS OF THE ISSUE

Denomination	Date of Issue	Plate Number(s)	Format	Quantity Printed
½ cent	6 Nov. 1897	1 States A & B	200-on	2 million
1 cent	21 Dec. 1897	1 - 4	200-on	34 million
2 cents	4 Dec. 1897	1 - 4	200-on	16 million
3 cents	3 Jan. 1898	1 - 6	200-on	44 million
5 cents	10 Dec. 1897	1	200-on	5 million
6 cents	22 Nov. 1897	1 States A & B (with & without "engraver's slip")		500,000
8 cents	17 Dec. 1897	1	200-on	1,400,000
10 cents	27 Dec. 1897	1	100-on	300,000

Various denominations exist as essays and/or proofs.

All values are known as :-

— die proofs in black;

- die proofs in colour of issue die sunk on card, numbered with die numbers F-102 (½ cent) to F-109 (10 cents) inclusive, and with the inscription “AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA’, under each proof.
- plate proofs in colour of issue;
- imperforate on wove paper in colour of issue; – the imperforates were produced during three printings. All values exist on vertical wove, gummed paper except the 5 cent, known only on horizontal wove. The 8 cent and 10 cent values were printed on both papers. The 1 cent, 2 cent and 5 cent exist ungummed in shades differing from those on paper with gum.

Denomination	Colour	Plate Used	Quantity Thought to Exist
½ cent	Black	1	300
1 cent	Blue-Green	2 & 4	400
2 cents	Purple	3	400
3 cents	Carmine	6	200
5 cents	Dark Blue	1	400
6 cents	Brown	1	200
8 cents	Orange	1	300
10 cents	Brown Violet	1	300

- perforated on horizontal wove paper – “wide” variety, 17¼ x 20½ mm;
- perforated on vertical wove paper – “narrow” variety, 17 x 21mm – The paper was dampened before printing. After printing the paper was left to dry and contracted. This contraction was not uniform because, when absorbing moisture, paper expands more in one direction, than the other. The direction of greater expansion is what is technically referred to as the “cross direction”. This is the direction across the flow of pulp in the paper making machine. During the flow of the pulp, the bulk of the fibres lie parallel with the movement of the wire gauze. The diameter of a fibre is increased much more than is its length by the absorption of water. Conversely, the subsequent shrinking on drying is also uneven. As a result the vertical measurements of the issue vary as much as ½ mm and two distinctive varieties exist for each value, a “short” wide (squat) stamp and a “long” narrow (thin) one.
- precancelled for bulk mailing purposes.

Perforated – 12.

Shades – all denominations exist in one or more distinctive shades.

Paper – unwatermarked, soft wove to thin-brittle, white to creamish stock with either vertical or horizontal mesh. For reasons unknown, the 5 cent was printed on paper with a bluish tint, making it Canada’s first stamp on coloured paper.

Gum – clear, with a yellowish tint, applied evenly but thickness varies from .004-.009 mm, the average is approximately .007.

APPENDIX III
DETAILS OF THE PRINTING ORDERS

One Half Cent	24 Mar. 1,000		29 Mar. 12,000
	5 Apr. 1,000		5 Apr. 8,000
	12 Apr. 8,000		12 Apr. 16,000
			14 Apr. 24,000
			19 Apr. 30,000
			21 Apr. 30,000
			26 Apr. 17,500
	10,000		
	Completing order		
One Cent	18 Feb. 12,000		
	22 Feb. 3,000		220,000
	24 Feb. 8,000		Completing order
	1 Mar. 42,000		
	8 Mar. 48,000	Three Cent	3 May 4,000
	15 Mar. 7,000		30 May 2,000
			7 June 3,000
	120,000		9 June 12,500
	Completing order		14 June 6,000
One Cent	18 Mar. 2,000		16 June 8,000
	22 Mar. 8,000		21 June 6,000
	24 Mar. 2,000		23 June 18,000
	26 Apr. 6,000		28 June 18,000
	28 Apr. 2,000		5 July 1,000
	3 May 2,000		7 July 24,000
	5 May 17,500		12 July 15,500
	10 May 18,000		22 July 6,000
	12 May 12,000		28 July 12,000
	17 May 18,000		3 Aug. 12,000
	26 May 6,000		5 Aug. 18,000
	30 May 3,500		9 Aug. 3,000
	16 June 3,000		12 Aug. 9,000
			17 Aug. 500
	100,000		19 Aug. 7,000
	Completing order		23 Aug. 10,000
			26 Aug. 4,500
Two Cent	15 Feb. 3,000		
	17 Feb. 1,000		200,000
	18 Feb. 5,000		Completing order
	22 Feb. 9,000	Five Cent	2 Mar. 500
	15 Mar. 7,000		8 Mar. 4,000
	18 Mar. 5,000		18 Mar. 2,000
	22 Mar. 7,000		22 Mar. 14,000
	5 Apr. 3,000		24 Mar. 4,500
	40,000		25,000
	Completing order		Completing order
Two Cent	12 Apr. 6,000	Six Cent	7 Feb. 1,000
	14 Apr. 6,000		15 Feb. 1,000
	26 Apr. 6,000		22 Feb. 1,000
	28 Apr. 22,000		
			3,000
	40,000		Completing order
	Completing order	Eight Cent	22 Feb. 2,000
Three Cents	7 Feb. 3,000		24 Feb. 2,000
	10 Feb. 4,000		8 Mar. 2,000
	15 Feb. 52,000		15 Mar. 4,000
	17 Feb. 1,000		
	18 Feb. 1,000		10,000
	22 Feb. 6,000		Completing order
	15 Mar. 6,000	Ten Cent	18 Mar. 2,000
	18 Mar. 1,000		Completing order
	24 Mar. 8,500		

SOME PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE VARIOUS HAND-STAMPS OF STRATHROY UPPER CANADA (ONTARIO) 1851-1910 by R. B. Winmill

In 1832, John Stewart Buchanan became the first settler in the Strathroy area. A mill was erected and by 1840, the townsite boasted 14 inhabitants. By 1848, there were no less than three stores and Mr. Frank (remembered by Frank Street), laid out one hundred acres of town lots. The Sarnia Branch of the Great Western Railway reached the hamlet in 1856 and by 1860, Strathroy was incorporated as a village. In 1871, the village became a town and by 1878, the town boasted more than 4,000 souls and 2,329 acres, a high school, four public schools, five churches, two newspapers, and two banks (plus two private banking houses).¹

This is the setting in which the post office developed. By 1851, the thriving little village had secured a Post Office which first opened on November 6, 1851. Yet, surprisingly little information is known about the hammers used in this town over the next sixty years. This is largely due to a dearth of covers, and thus conclusions reached in this work must be regarded as highly tentative.

Several handstamps (other than cancellation devices) are to be found. Some of these are illustrated and it can be seen that a large "7" (unpaid letters) and a "paid 5" were employed. The "paid 3" was introduced at a later date to accommodate the reduced first class letter rate. The manuscript marking, applied over the "7" was employed to designate a free franking. Evidently a "free" handstamp was not employed.² A "paid 6" was employed and a fancy "paid 3" (pence) in both red and black is known.

The straight line "registered" marking was utilized in the early years of this office – it is known on a ten cent Nesbit cover! The familiar "R", was a device employed in later years by this office and is quite common. A bullseye was also employed. (*see pages 131 & 132*)

Several of the date stamps employed, at least partially spanned the same period of time. Frequently, they were apparently not introduced until long after their proof date. The best known and most widely accepted example of this, involves the squared circle hammer, which Whitehead records as being proofed on October 9, 1893.³ Yet, it is not known to have been used prior to late 1897.⁴

At least fifteen different hammers are recorded, over this sixty year period. Given the size of this community, and its gradual decline after 1890, this is a phenomenal number.

There was, in all likelihood, a short period in 1851 and possibly early 1852, when manuscript marking were employed. This was done in several nearby locations, including Glencoe.

The earliest strike examined was of a double broken circle type, bearing manuscript indicia and dated May 15, 1855, (Holmes' type 55).⁵ This style of hammer, being less desirable than those bearing typeset indicia, was a

strange choice for an expanding office. However, this device appears to have had a rather short life because a similar, typeset hammer, is known at least as early as De 19, 1856 (Holmes' type 56).⁶ Initially fine, clear strikes are noted, however by about 1863, virtually all strikes have deteriorated into an almost illegible state. The relative scarcity of these strikes is no doubt due to many being indecipherable. Whether the cause of this was a sloppy clerk, a worn hammer or a dried ink pad, is unknown, though hammer wear is unlikely because the ten cent Nesbitt cover known has both a perfect and a dreadful strike beside each other.

In any event, during, or prior to 1870, a broken circle was introduced. However, on most examples seen it was employed as a date stamp with an indistinguishable cork cancel being utilized as a killer. (This represented a departure from the early and mid 1860's when a target cancel was often employed as an obliterator). Simultaneously, a bullseye is also known as a killer.

In 1876, this first broken circle was superceded by a second. But, was the second broken circle, a single device? The evidence would suggest that indeed, two hammers were produced, both on May 12, 1876.⁷ The proof books show two strikes, on this day and while these appear to be slightly different, the differences are too insignificant to be conclusive. Similarly, an examination of actual strikes, suggests a third hammer, especially when one considers slight variations in the lengths of the arcs and almost imperceptible differences in letters. But these could be due to different levels of inking. The evidence, while far from conclusive, is sufficient to draw the tentative conclusion that there were indeed three separate and distinct broken circle hammers. However future research may reveal this to be an incorrect assumption.

If there is a third hammer, it is virtually indistinguishable from the second. However, the first two hammers are easily separated. The first hammer is characterized by large, bold lettering, noticeable throughout but especially prominent in the "ONT". The second "R" is pinched and the second "T" stands straight above the "N" of Ontario. The letters in the second hammer are not as bold, especially the "ONT". The second "R" is broad, while the second "T" is slightly on the right of being centred over the "N" of "ONT". The letter "O" is round on the second hammer and distinctly oval shaped on the first hammer.

Chronologically, the next hammer is the first Strathroy duplex. This hammer was invariably employed without indicia and the killer utilized was comprised of eleven medium bars. According to Smythies, the period of use was 1885-1899,⁸ though this period can be extended somewhat. A registered cover dated August 7, 1900 is known and two covers dated Septmeber 10 and 11, 1900 have recently been unearthed. This hammer was used concurrently with the CDS, squared circle and nine barred duplex.

Following the 1885 duplex, the next hammer to make its appearance is a plain circular date stamp. This hammer was proofed on December 3, 1889,⁹ yet for over two years, there appear to be no strikes! While the

precise date of introduction for this hammer is not known, it was employed extensively from at least February 1892 and is commonly found on the Jubilees, possibly explaining the rarity of squared circle strikes on this issue. In instances where due to partial strikes, doubt exists, this hammer can be readily distinguished from the concurrently used first duplex, by the shape of the letter "Y". In the first duplex, the "Y" appears to have been reproduced sideways, resulting in an enormously broad top to that letter. In the CDS, the "Y" is quite normal in shape. This strike has been noted only on postcards as a receiving mark, and without indicia, in 1906, 1907 and 1908 (to June 10).

Without doubt, the cancel from Strathroy, which has been most studied and has aroused the most interest, is the squared circle. By no means is this a rare squared circle, or even scarce, yet it is far from common. A real anomaly occurs because the proof book strike is dated October 9, 1893,¹⁰ and there is no reason to suspect that delivery to the local Postmaster was delayed, yet the earliest recorded strike occurs on November 27, 1897!¹¹ The latest known date was recorded as February 27, 1900, but a recent discovery demonstrates usage to at least October 17, 1900. The squared circle was employed as a killer, as a free strike to date correspondence, as a transit mark and as a receiving mark – curiously enough, as a receiving mark it appears to have been extensively employed on the face of the cover. This strike is noted for its clarity.

The failure to put this hammer into use before late 1897, is curious. Perhaps the hammer was not required, as both the CDS and duplex were in use between 1893 and 1897. It could have been put away and forgotten, or even lost. Since square circle hammers are known to have been awkward to use, perhaps it was a simple case of expediency which dictated the four year period of non use. Unlike strikes of many earlier hammers, squared circle strikes are invariably clear and well struck.

Specialists in squared circles have noted a most peculiar scarcity of the Strathroy strike on jubilees and map stamps. The fact that the hammer lay dormant for several of the first months of the jubilee period (they appeared June 19), explains that deficiency. However, given the number of strikes on other stamps, during 1899, the scarcity on map stamp defies explanation, save to note that already the squared circle was in the process of being retired!¹²

The next hammer thus far recorded for this town is once again a duplex. This time it was comprised of the usual dater (with a properly shaped "Y", thus permitting separation of partial duplex strikes where the date is not available and only partial bars can be observed) and nine thick bars as a killer. As with all other Strathroy devices, to this point, initially no indicia were used. Indicia were introduced on the duplex strikes sometime between Au 28/05 and Au 8/06. AM and PM were employed. However as a CDS July 20/06, showed no indicia, it would seem logical to presume indicia were first introduced in mid 1906. However, no CDS, even in 1908, has been reported with indicia, hence this conclusion is highly suspect. According to

Smythies, this strike is found in 1901.¹³ The earliest strike known to the author is January 27/00, while the latest is PM SP 17/07. Examples are known used in 1902 and 1903 as well as 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907. Strikes examined have proven to be clear distinct and sharp.

Of the remaining five hammers in use prior to 1914, it will probably be impossible to ever prove the first date of use for two, however, we do have good data on the other three. Given the current sketchy state of knowledge of Strathroy postal history and the nature of these two hammers (a roller and an oval parcel post hammer), a proof date may prove to be the best that can ever be hoped for, and a proof date for the oval parcel cancel is unavailable to the author.

H. Harrison, in his excellent 1971 work illustrates an oval registration cancel, not dissimilar to the parcel cancel.¹⁴ Across the top, the cancel reads "Strathroy, Ont.". The indicia are enclosed in the centre of the oval while across the bottom, is the word "Registered". Presumably, this is a tracing. It is dated Sep 22, 1907, and as a consequence, this hammer is known from at least this point.

Smythies was able to determine that a roller of Type IV was issued to the Strathroy Post Office in 1908.¹⁵ When this instrument first saw actual usage will probably never be determined because rollers were rarely employed on classes of mail which would be dated. However, there is no doubt that this roller saw service.

A thirteenth hammer was employed by at least 1909. But once again the date of introduction is uncertain due to a lack of reference material. This was Strathroy's third duplex hammer. The killer was characterized by eleven thick bars and was quite elongated. While it is unknown how long this hammer was employed, it is known to at least 1922.

The next hammer is an oddity in that it is rarely seen, and never bears a date (hence earliest date of use is impossible to pin down) and the style of hammer is comparatively scarce to begin with. It is assumed that this hammer was issued about 1908 but this is impossible to prove and it could well have been in use before either the duplex, roller or registration hammer. The proof books could not be checked to even determine when the hammer was produced.

The item in question is a large oval handstamp with four bars in the centre and of course, no indicia. Across the top, is "Strathroy" and centred across the bottom is "Ont." (the period may just be a spot of dirt on the example examined). The oval, at its widest point seems to be 1.45 inches high and 2.60 inches long. However, as the strike examined was not a full clear one and was struck on an irregular surface, the length was calculated, hence the measurement must be regarded as tentative and approximate. The item on which this strike occurs was used in the period 1908-1909, thus the conclusion that it falls within our period of interest.¹⁶

The final hammer, where we are aware of at this time, is another oval, single circle with the word "Registered" across the top, the indicia in the

centre and “Strathroy Ont.” across the bottom.¹⁷ The hammer was proofed on December 24, 1912, and to this date, the author is unaware of usage of this hammer.

To conclude, it can be said that until very late during this period, indicia were not employed in the hammers used in this town. At least fifteen cancellation devices were employed between 1851 and 1914. It is suspected that possibly additional hammers may be found. Several were quite worn before being replaced – this applies particularly to the second hammer. At least two hammers, the cds and squared circle, were mothballed and were not employed for some years after being received from the manufacturer. Postal clerks were quite careful – of all the hundreds of strikes examined, only three indicia errors were noted. Two were inverted “8”s – the dates concerned being Mr. 1 ‘81 and Mr8 ’99. The third was on a cover dated PM De 27 01. This is a reversed year date because indicia were not employed at this time, the strike was of a hammer not yet used and the Mount Brydges squared circle backstamp confirms that 1910 is the correct date.

1. This information is largely abstracted from *The Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Middlesex*, Toronto: H. R. Page and Co., 1878. This work has recently been reprinted.

2. The initials were those of Timothy Cook, Postmaster until his death in October 1865. Strathroy postmasters were as follows :—

	From	To	
Timothy Cook	6.11.51	10.65	Deceased
Mrs. Harriet Cook	1. 4.66	9.67	Dismissed
Charles McIntosh	1. 1.68	21.11.70	Resigned
Henry Burton McIntosh	1. 1.71	20.10.75	Resigned
Hugh McColl	1.11.76	22. 1.10	Deceased
David Evans	24. 3.10	1. 3.24	Deceased

There must have been some acting or interim appointments but these do not appear on the Post Office card kindly provided by the Public Relations Director in London. Mr. McColl, for those who are interested, wrote the definitive history of Strathroy.

3. Dr. A. Whitehead, *The Squared Circle Postmarks of Canada* (3rd Edition), Thornhill: BNAPS, 1964, p.50.

4. There is a report of this strike existing No. 6, 1896, however the item in question has vanished and cannot be confirmed, despite extensive enquiries through personal contact and via the Squared Circle Study Group. Letters Dr. W. Moffatt – R. B. Winmill, Ja 18, 1981 and Fe 26, 1981.

5. L. S. Holmes, *Holmes' Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America*, (11th Edition), Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1968, p.9.

6. *Loc. cit.*

7. This is the proof date as shown on photostats provided by Mr. Gary Arnold. Letters G. Arnold – R. B. Winmill October 20, 1980 and November 10, 1980. Mr. Arnold's kind help is gratefully acknowledged.

8. The Strathroy eleven bar duplex is recorded in the literature. See E. A. Smythies, *Canadian Duplex Cancellations of the Victorian Era 1860-1902*, (second edition), CPSGB, April 1963 p.22

9. G. Arnold, *Op. cit.*

10. Whitehead, *Op. Cit.*, p.50.

11. See *Infra* P. 2. An account of this hammer can be found in R. B. Winmill, "Some Notes on the Strathroy Squared Circle" in *The Grand News*, Volume 12, Number 4, December 1980, p.4.
 12. See R. B. Winmill *ibid*.
 13. Smythies, *Op. cit.* p.22.
 14. H. W. Harrison, *Canada's Registry System: 1827-1911*, State College: American Philatelic Society Inc., 1971, p.64.
 15. E. A. Smythies, FCPS, *Canadian Roller Cancellations 1894-1930*, (2nd edition, CPSGB, ND., Appendix I, p.12.
 16. See Jarrett, *Stamps of British North America*, Toronto: W. R. Philips and Company, 1929, P.438 (Diagramme 356). Jarrett gives the date 1903 for the introduction of a similar device in Hamilton.
 17. Harrison, *Op. cit.*, p.65 and 68.
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SOME HAND STAMPS OF STRATHROY 1851 - 1910

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON SOLDIERS' LETTERS

by Lt-Col. D. M. C. Prichard F.R.P.S.L.

By a British Act of Parliament in 1795 a special postage rate of 1d per ½ oz. was authorised for letters to or from a soldier of the British Army or a sailor of the Royal Navy below commissioned rank anywhere within the U.K. or any colony serviced by a British ship. Postage to be prepaid.

So far as Canada was concerned, this concession was little used for two reasons. First, except for two special periods described later, the British military garrison in Canada was only of a token size; secondly, the majority of British soldiers and sailors were almost illiterate and unlikely to write letters. Prior to the 1860s I believe that the only surviving soldiers' letters are 6 stampless covers (the earliest being dated 1821) and a solitary specimen of 1857 franked by two ½d imperf. Sailors' letters are even rarer. Perhaps with a wife in every port they had no need to write. I only know of one from any period, dated 1858, from a sailor in HMS Satellite from Vancouver Island to England franked by a 1d red G.B.

In April 1861 the Southern Confederate States seceded from the Union and the American Civil War began. The economy of the agricultural South was based upon slavery while the industrial Northern States were free but, contrary to a popular belief, the issue was not the abolition of slavery but the maintenance of the Union. As late as August 1862 President Lincoln declared "My paramount object is to save the Union and is not to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving some alone, I would also do that". In the end, when the long struggle had become embittered, Lincoln was forced to yield to political opinion and proclaimed the emancipation of the slaves in the rebellious Southern States. The basic cause of the war was a growing resentment in the South against the increasing political dominance of the Union by the North. The South felt that they no longer had any common interests and wished to become a separate nation.

The Civil War had repercussions in Britain, where there was much sympathy for the Confederates. The English aristocracy were naturally sympathetic to the Southerners regarding them as landowning country gentlemen and the Northerners as industrial tradesmen. Moreover the blockade of the Confederate ports by the Federal navy had a disastrous effect on employment in Lancashire whose mills relied upon the import of American cotton.

British public opinion in all ranks of society was therefore already critical of the Federals when an international incident occurred. In November 1861 two Confederate commissioners, Mason and Slidell, were sent to Europe to negotiate recognition of the Confederate States in London and Paris. They embarked at Havana in the British ship Trent which was stopped on the high seas by a Federal warship commanded by Captain Wilkes and the Confederate

commissioners were forcibly removed. Lord Palmerston, the British Prime Minister reacted in characteristically bellicose fashion. 8000 British soldiers were immediately despatched to Canada with the intention of teaching the Yankees a lesson, together with a demand for an apology and the release of the commissioners. Such was the tone of the note drawn up by Palmerston that had not the Prince Consort, practically on his death bed, modified the wording, war might well have ensued between Britain and the Federal States. In the end President Lincoln gave a grudging admission that Captain Wilkes had made an error of judgment and exceeded his authority. The Confederate commissioners were released and the matter was closed. Nevertheless the 8000 British soldiers had already been despatched to Canada and remained there until after the war ended in 1865. Some were still there in 1867.

This naturally led to an increase of soldiers' letters although the writers were almost entirely confined to the more educated non-commissioned officers. Nearly half the surviving specimens were sent by 2nd Class Army Schoolmaster J. Chambers, Scots Fusilier Guards [as the Scots Guards were then known] to his wife in Ireland. Soldiers' letters had to be addressed in a standard form, and this included the personal signature of the Commanding Officer. Among the increased British garrison was the 2nd Battalion Prince Consorts Own Rifle Brigade, stationed at Hamilton and commanded by Colonel Lord Alexander Gordon Russell, 7th son of the 6th Duke of Bedford. Three examples survive of his 'signature' but on close examination it can be seen that all three are identical in size and configuration (FIG. 1). Such a perfect match would be impossible to reproduce with a manuscript signature. It is evident that his lordship found the task of personally signing documents a tedious business and had a handstamp made to relieve himself of this chore. The fuzzy appearance of the 'signature' confirms this. Today one would expect such a device to be a rubber stamp but, according to the Shell Book of Firsts, rubber stamps were not invented until 1864, while the earliest of these letters is dated July 1863. This handstamp must therefore have been cut in wood or metal.

No sooner was the American Civil War over than a new crisis arose. A secret society called the Fenians had been founded in Ireland in 1858 dedicated to the liberation of Ireland from English rule, similar to the I.R.A. today. The potato famines of the 1840s and 50s led to extensive emigration from Ireland to the U.S.A. and the Fenian Society spread to America. From 1864-66 the Canadian Volunteer Militia was called out on active service to repel a possible invasion of Canada by the Fenians who by 1866 were reported to have no less than 380,000 members. On 31 May 1866 the Fenians crossed the border and raided Niagara but they were defeated in a clash with the Volunteers. Unfortunately for the Fenians one of their chief leaders proved to be a British agent and this, combined with strong action by the U.S. Government, led to the collapse of the Fenian movement by 1867. Hitherto the concessional 2c rate for soldiers' letters had been confined to the British regular forces, but on 1 January 1865 this privilege was extended to the Canadian Volunteer Militia on active service.

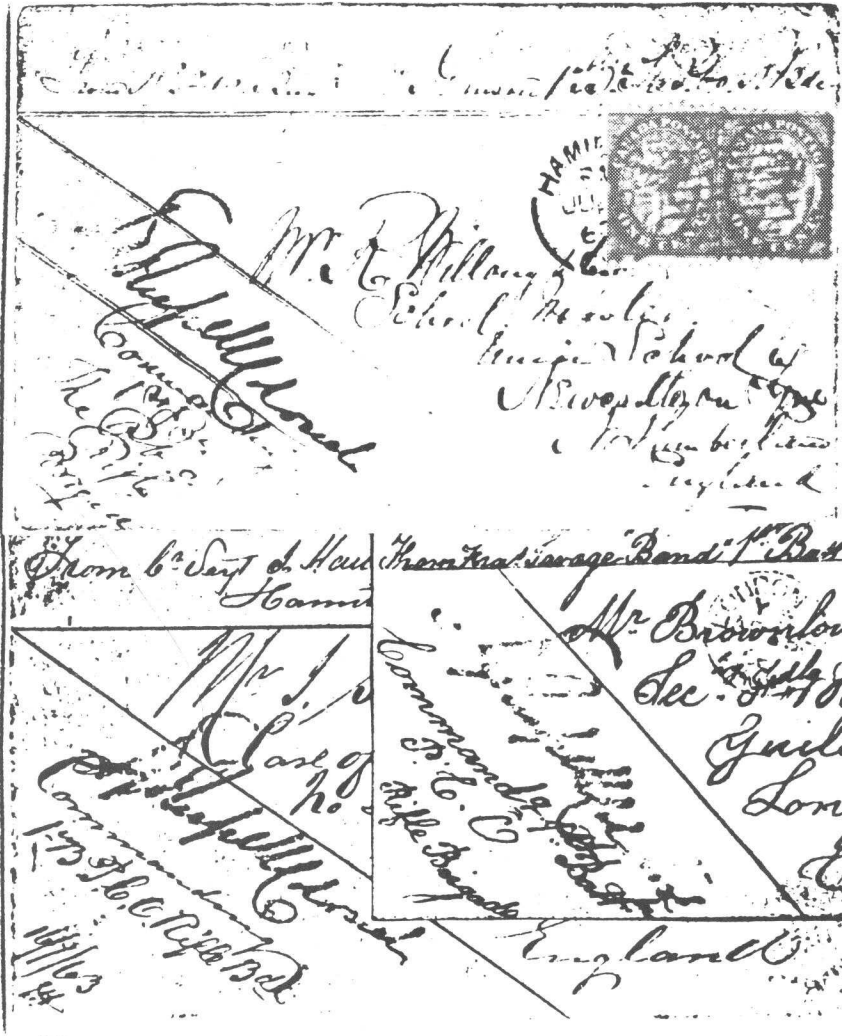


Fig. 1

The regulations laid down that soldiers' letters had to show the name and regiment of the sender and the signature and regiment of the Commanding Officer, in addition to the address. This left little room for the two 1c stamps to be affixed. The 2c stamp was introduced in 1864 primarily to cater for this difficulty, although in practice it was not much used for this purpose.

Soldiers' letters of all sorts are rare, but the gem must be (FIG. 2) from Quarter-master Sergeant J. Devery 53rd Regiment from London, Canada to Mr Devery [his brother?] Bandmaster 3rd Dragoon Guards in India. This soldier's letter has two unique features. First, it is addressed to an overseas destination other than Great Britain; secondly, it is from a soldier to a soldier, thus doubly qualifying for the concessional rate.

About 1867 the British military garrison was again reduced to a token force. Consequently, soldiers' letters practically ceased and only a very few stamped with large or small Queens exist. With the introduction of Imperial Penny Post in 1898 the need for the concession ceased.

The table below, although not necessarily complete, summarises all the soldiers' letters up till 1867 the existence of which are known to me, from which the following conclusions can be drawn :-

1. Contrary to what has been stated by some authorities, Canadian Volunteer letters are not significantly scarcer than British soldiers' letters.
2. Letters to (as opposed to from) a soldier are the rarest, only 4 being listed. This is not surprising as letters are more likely to survive at home than in the rough and tumble of a barrack room.

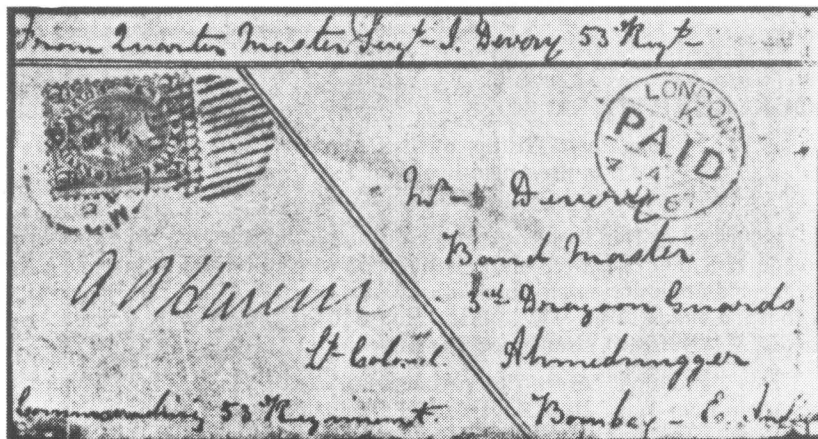


Fig. 2

3. The vast majority of British soldiers' letters are franked with two 1c stamps (the 2c stamps were not available until 1 August 1864), whereas nearly all the Volunteers letters used 2c stamps.

TABLE

STAMPLESS LETTERS (1821-58) From a Soldier					Total 6
<hr/>					
STAMPED LETTERS (Up to 1867)					Total
PENCE TO G.B.					
From :-	Soldier	(Two ½d Imperf)			1
	Sailor	(1d red G.B.)			1
1st DECIMAL ISSUE	From a soldier		To a soldier		
	Two 1c	2c	Two 1c	2c	
British soldier to G.B.	15	2	—	—	17
British soldier within Canada	2	—	—	—	2
British soldier to India	—	(1) (From and to)		(1)	1
Canadian Volunteer within Canada	1	11	2*	1	15
					<hr/>
TOTAL					37

**One illegally addressed to an officer but passed without comment.*

BOOK REVIEW

**“The Postal History of the Canadian Contingents
in the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902”
by Kenneth Rowe**

Published as Handbook #1 of a continuing series by the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, and available from: Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, P.O. Box 100, First Canadian Place, Toronto, Canada, M5X 1B2. Price Can. \$30.00, plus postage and packing, Canada & U.S. £2.00, elsewhere \$3.00 .

This handbook covers the entire history of Canadian involvement in the Anglo-Boer War. Its 104 pages include chapters on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Contingents, The Canadian Division of the South African Constabulary, the Y.M.C.A., Canadian stamps used in South Africa, Patriotic Stationery and lists of dates and locations for every Canadian Unit involved.

Hard bound 60 illustrations.

A SQUARED CIRCLE CURIOSITY

by R. B. Winmill

In a field such as squared circles, which has been subjected to extensive, in depth research, it is very unusual, these days, to be able to report even a minor original find.

However, recently, an interesting item surfaced. This is a copy of a three cent small head, obliterated by a strike of the Paris squared Circle. Strikes of Paris normally bear one of four timemarks, "A", "B", "C" or "D", though a blank has also been observed.

Recently, however, a strike bearing "A", but with "B" carefully struck over it, was found. Actually "found again" is more accurate because this item was first located in 1975, but only recently was it relocated (and presented to an enthusiastic collector friend).

After pondering over this seemingly peculiar situation, several possibilities presented themselves. The two timemarks could not have been side by side in the hammer because it is doubtful of the slugs would fit and secondly, they could not possibly yield the overlapping strike. Nor could the indicia slugs have been changed and the hammer struck again, because there was absolutely no evidence of doubling, save for this curious indicia doubling.

This left only one possible explanation. A lack of indicia errors suggests that the postmaster here was meticulous, conscientious and extremely careful. It would appear probable that realizing the time had changed, he sought to correct his inaccuracy. This he endeavoured to do by taking the indicia slug and carefully placing it over the original. This act succeeded in correcting his earlier error. It also provided us with an interesting curiosity to reflect on, and heightens our interest in an otherwise dull town!

THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA

Montreal, at the turn of the century, was Canada's largest city and its leading commercial centre. In the latest Postal History Society of Canada Journal, postal historian Max Rosenthal lists and locates the numerous branch, sub-offices, and suburban post offices which existed during the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII to meet the postal needs of the city's population. Also in this issue, the twenty-fifth published by the Society, a retired postal official remembers processing ship's mail at Victoria during the waning days of World War II. Other articles cover British Columbia cancellations, the Bolton post offices of Lower Canada, and a 1900 Blayney, Ontario, manuscript postmark.

Membership information is available without charge from the Secretary of the Postal History Society of Canada, Andy Palochik, Box 3461, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1Y 4J6. A sample copy of the Journal may be obtained from Palochik by sending \$1.00.

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394 CHAPLIN, Dr. R. A.
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2128 LEHR, J. C.
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T2K 1X4.
2316 SCOTT, Rev. J. H., Priests' House, 5 Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6PA.

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