

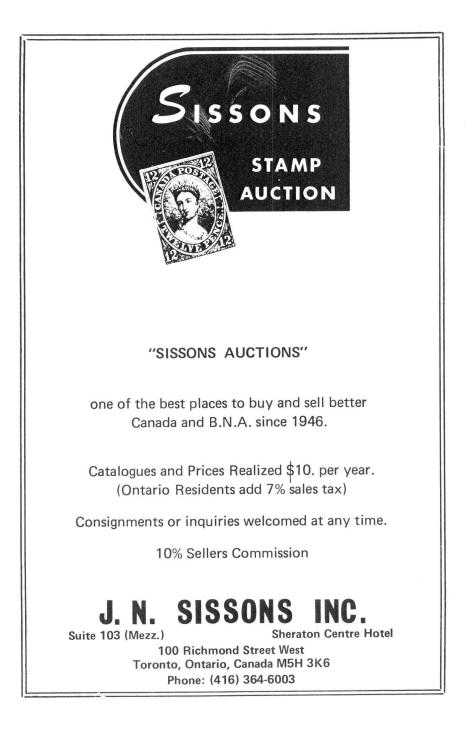
JOURNAL OF THE Canadian Philatelic Society of great Britain

# Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 186 Vol. 18 No. 6 January, 1982



# MAPLE LEAVES

#### Journal of

## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

#### **INCORPORATED** 1946

#### Founder:

A E. Stephenson, F.C.P.S.

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

66 East Bawtry Road, Rotherham, Yorkshire

Opinions expressed in the various articles in this journal are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society

Published five times a year by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Issued Free to Members

Additional copies £1.00 each

Vol. 18 No. 6 JAN

**JANUARY**, 1982

Whole No. 186

## **EDITORIAL**

#### MR. J. H. BRYCE

It is always with mixed feelings that we announce the resignation of one of the society's officers, and express thanks and appreciation, on behalf of members, for their services. On the one hand we are sorry to be deprived of the invaluable help that they have afforded, often over a long period of time: on the other hand we are glad, for their sakes, that they can once more devote more time to their own interests as opposed to those of the society. When, in June 1970, Ian Bryce assumed the assistant treasurership it was impossible for anyone to foresee the burdens which subsequent events would pile upon his shoulders. He assumed office following the death of his predecessor, Alan MacGregor, a long and faithful servant of the society, and for the next eleven years, with but a brief respite, he was actively involved in one of the most onerous duties which fall to the lot of any officer of the society. But this is not all. In 1979, following the death of Alfie Grant, another long-serving and dedicated officer. Ian assumed his responsibilities as treasurer at a time, which it is not an exaggeration to describe as a crisis in the affairs of the society. It is characteristic of the man that he did so with a full knowledge of the very heavy burden that he was undertaking. Having worked in close collaboration with Alfie Grant over many years he was under no illusion about the heavy responsibilities he so readily shouldered. That he did so willingly, when no one could have blamed him for putting his own self interest first, instead of sacrificing it to the well-being of the society, is a matter of demonstrable fact. Now that he has been able to hand over the reins of office to John Hillson, our new treasurer, it is only right that we should pay tribute to him.

It is an understatement to say that Ian has served the members of the society well. As treasurer, assistant treasurer and president he has, in one capacity or another, helped the society during what is undoubtedly one of the most difficult periods in its history. We are glad to place that on record because it is more than an ordinary debt of gratitude that members owe to him. We are also glad, as we are sure that Ian is, that he will now, at long last, once more be able to enjoy his hobby without the cares and distractions of office. To John Hillson, his successor, we extend on behalf of all members, our grateful thanks for undertaking duties which are burdensome, time-consuming, and in many ways more highly responsible, than any others that falls to the lot of the society's officers. To Ian we extend our best wishes for a long and happy indulgence in his stamps. THAT has been well and truly earned!

#### **PROGRAMME FOR 1982**

#### LONDON SECTION OF C.P.S.G.B.

As before meetings will be held on the third monday of the month at 6.30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the Royal Trust Co. of Canada, 48-50 Cannon Street, EC4.

January 18 Perfins and Officials.

- February 15 Invited Display Mr. Stanley Cohen.
- March 15 Auction.

April 8 London Section Display to Dulwich Phil. Soc.

- April 14 London Section Display to Brentwood & District Phil. Soc.
- April 19 Beaver Cup Competition -9 to 12 sheets.
- May 17 Annual General Meeting and Display.

#### STAMP & POSTAL HISTORY NEWS

The official journal of the B.P.F. used to appear monthly as a small pocket sized magazine. Now it is a fortnightly tabloid, the only newspaper for stamp collectors in Britain. Working in close co-operation with the Canadian Philatelic Society it has managed to provide excellent coverage of Canadian topics and also, through Ian Robertson, a Kingston based journalist, has been first in Britain with a series of collector news items from Canada. At 25 pence from a newsagent or free with a B.P.F. collector member subscription, it represents good value for every collector.

#### Convention 1982

The next Convention will be held at the University of Surrey, near Guildford, from 15 to 18 September, 1982.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Being a long time member of the CPS of G.B. and a modest collector of all things Canadian for much longer than that, I am honoured to find myself in the exalted position of President for 1981/82. I follow some very distinguished philatelists in this office and am conscious of the high standards which they have set. Without any pretensions to their knowledge and experience, I can only hope that my year of office will be a good one for the Society. I will certainly do my best to make it so.

Convention 1982 will take place in Guildford, Surrey, from 15th to 18th September. The venue will be the University of Surrey set in its own campus about 10 minutes walk from the centre of Guildford and the main line station for London Waterloo.

We shall be using the Students quarters which are simple, but adequate, and comprise single rooms or split level duplex rooms with 2 single beds. As a result we have been able to keep the costs down to a reasonable figure in these inflationary days – probably around £14.50 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast. The University has a degree course in Catering, so the food should be good! Special diets can be provided if one month's notice is given.

I hope this very accessible location and reasonable cost will persuade those who may not have attended Convention before to come and enjoy the displays and the camaraderie. In particular the closing Banquet should be well worth attending, as it is to be held in the Vice Chancellor's suite on the top floor of the Admin. block with glorious views over the Surrey countryside.

Postal difficulties in Canada last year meant that intending contributors to the Auction missed the closing date. Please note, therefore, that lots for the 1982 Auction should be sent as soon as possible to Mr. C. G. Banfield, 32 Coolgardie Avenue, Chigwell, Essex, England.

Geoffrey Manton and John Parkin have kindly agreed to prepare the catalogue and conduct the Auction in their usual highly efficient manner. With over 1,000 lots to get through this year, their performance was terrific. Congratulations gentlemen!

In conclusion I wish you happy hunting and hope to meet you at Convention.

CHARLES A. KING

#### FROM THE SECRETARY

Members in the Midlands will be interested to learn that the Society is mounting a 400 sheet display of Canadian material in connection with the Solihull Stamp Fair in April 1982. It is hoped that a good number of members will go along to enjoy the display, there will of course be dealers' stands and the opportunity to meet fellow members. Further details will appear in the April issue of *Maple Leaves* but, meanwhile, members can obtain information from Derek Avery of 20 North Street, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1FF.



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## NOTES ON FIVE HOLE 'OH/MS' FAKES by Gary Tomasson and Jon Johnson

#### Introduction

Many collectors have been hearing rumours over the last year of fake 'OH/MS' collections for sale, etc. The research done on this subject by the authors has revealed that not only does there appear to be new fake 'OH/MS' perfins on the market but 80 to 90 percent of all five hole 'OH/MS' perfins in many, if not most, collections are fake *regardless of when and where they were purchased*.

In the past year the authors have only seen one small lot of five hole 'OH/MS's that did not include a single fake and they were in a small stamp shop in Toronto. Some of the five hole 'OH/MS' perfins that the authors have seen photographed in auction catalogues were so bad that they can be positively identified as fakes from the photos alone. Several small lots and individual five hole 'OH/MS's have been offered to the authors, some of which were guaranteed as genuine or money refunded. Most of the stamps (with very few exceptions) that were examined were fakes (including all those guaranteed). This situation, we feel is detrimental to philately and as such, the problem should be publicly recognized. With the problem recognized and with some research the philatelic community, especially the "Official" collectors, can ignore rumours with half-truths and know exactly where they and their collections stand.

#### The Questions

The authors, as perfin collectors, became interested in examining the five hole 'OH/MS' after arguing between themselves as to whether the five hole 'OH/MS' came from a five or ten die perforating machine. On one side you have the popular literature on the 'OH/MS's stating that it was a ten die machine. On the other side, a five die machine would be more than sufficient for the needs of the Department of Finance. Moreover, the five die machine was very popular at the time the Department of Finance purchased their perforating machine. One other question kept bothering the authors, "Why were there so many perfins from the Department of Finance and not from the other two Federal Departments that used perfins in the same era?"

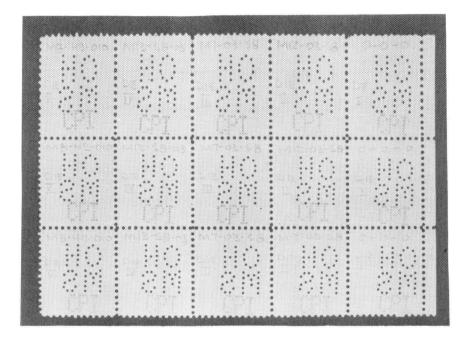
The search for the truth, regarding the five hole 'OH/MS' perfins was started with:

- the authors' collections of five hole 'OH/MS' perfins which have some horziontal strips of three, four and five stamps joined together.
- a library of articles and books on the subject.
- techniques that had been developed by the authors in the plating of other types of perfins. It should be noted that the five hole 'OH/MS' is only one of 310 plus perforated insignia found in Canadian stamps.

- the definition of terms which other perfin collector use, namely:

Perfin - a stamp perforated with a series of holes in the shape of a design or initials for security purposes (not used for cancelling the stamp to prevent re-use).

Die -a set of pins to make one complete design or set of initials. Perfin Variety -a minor difference between dies mounted in a perforating machine.



The back of the original block of fifteen stamps of the five hole 'OH/MS'. The first die on the right is Die I. All five dies are different and can be identified with the use of a twenty-five power magnifying glass.

#### The Search

A block of fifteen 1937 King George VI 1c green stamps (five across and three deep) were used as a starting point. The five stamps across were quickly identified as having five different perforated five hole 'OH/MS' dies in them. These, to perfin collectors, are commonly called die varieties. The stamps in the vertical rows however had the same perfin die as the one below. This meant that we had just identified five different die varieties of the five hole 'OH/MS'. (This identification *cannot* be done by the naked eye or with a ten power magnify glass. A twenty to twenty-five power magnifying glass must be used.) The other strips of stamps at the disposal of the authors with five hole 'OH/MS' dies were checked but no new dies were identified. The single stamps were also examined, but this time very few stamps had dies that agreed with the original five dies. The covers were examined and their dies were the same as the original five dies. Two stamps tied to paper with good Ottawa cancellations were checked but they did not agree with the original dies. The authors counted the stamps that had dies that matched the original five dies and found about ten copies of each die. These only accounted for approximately fifty stamps. What about the hundreds and hundreds of other stamps with the five hole 'OH/MS' perforated in them that did not agree with the original five dies?

At this point, we had a lot more questions than we had answers. We started to identify the different dies and quickly had over sixty different dies, but very seldom did the dies appear more than once or twice. We still had not checked all of the stamps for different dies when we stopped.

We started to rethink the whole problem of five hole 'OH/MS' perfins. Out of this two assumptions were made:

- all five hole 'OH/MS's were fakes until proven otherwise;
- and all information on the subject was incomplete and thus useless until proven otherwise.

We started again on three different fronts;

- find as many strips of stamps with three or more dies in them,
- find more literature on the subject,
- and identify every die variety that we could.

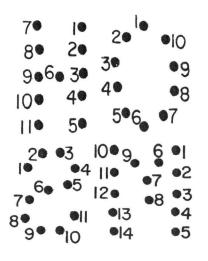
The first front produced more strips all of which agreed with the original five dies except for one, a strip of four on King George VI 4c yellow.

The second front produced much more interesting things. One was a copy of a letter written on the 15th of February, 1947, by Mr. W. C. Gordon, Regional Director of the C.P.S., in which the dies of a five hole 'OH/MS' machine were perforated. There were only five dies, referred to as "Finance Dept. (Machine 1)" which had the second die from the left missing pin 'S9'. Another interesting piece of information was a copy of a five hole 'OH/MS' perforated on a King George VI newspaper wrapper which again had five dies with the second die from the left missing the 'S9' pin.

With these two new pieces of information, the block of fifteen, the covers and the stamps that have dies from the block, the authors concluded that the original five dies were indeed from the Department of Finance perforating machine and it had only five dies.

The identification of the dies was approached but first an identification coding system had to be developed. The authors use holes 'H7' and '01' as the key holes and then noted the holes that had the greatest measured error from the master. As a master die, the authors have chosen Die I (the first die from the left) of the Finance Department perforating machine. The code number M12–03–S8 (Die II with a missing hole at 'S9') represents that the M12 hole has the largest difference between that die and Die I, 03 the second

largest difference and S8 the third. It should be noted that once a 'M' hole (for example) has been used in the file code number it cannot be used again. Therefore, M5-M8-S6 cannot be a code number. At present over one hundred different dies have been identified which means over one hundred fake five hole 'OH/MS' perfin dies have been found.



The code numbering of the holes

in the five hole 'OH/MS' die.

#### The Facts – 'Departmental'

The authors at this time would like to point out that the stamps used by the Department of Finance are not "Officials" but are "Departmental" perfins. Only stamps used by the Canadian Government as a whole can be called "Official". If you require more information on "Official and Departmental" perfins see the June-July 1980 (Volume 1, Number 6) edition of the BNA Perforator published by the British North America Philatelic Society Perfin Study Group.

The following are the documented facts that were found on the "Departmental" perfin:

- the Department of Finance received approval from the Post Office to perforate 'OH/MS' in stamps on May 23, 1923.
- the Department of Finance had offices for the Assistant Receiver Generals in Ottawa and all provincial capitals except Alberta where the office was located in Calgary.
- the Assistant Receiver General offices were changed to the Bank of Canada by the Bank Act of March 11th, 1935. At that time, the Victoria office was moved to Vancouver.

With the above information the authors concluded that the Departmental five hole 'OH/MS' perfin can be found on stamps issued from the Admirals to the 1934 commemoratives. There is no evidence, to date, that stamps from the 1935 King George V Jubilee and pictorial issues were perforated. The authors, however, did find and possess a significant number of very expensive fakes of the 1935 issue.

#### The Facts – 'Official'

The following are the documented facts that were found on the 'Official' five hole 'OH/MS' perfin:

- the five hole 'OH/MS' perforator was in the hands of the Post Office in the middle of May 1939.
- the Post Office did not receive their Cummins Model 53 (ten die) machine until mid July 1939 (four hole 'OH/MS') although all Government Departments were instructed to be using perforated stamps after July 1st, 1939.
- the five die 'OH/MS' perforating machine was destroyed (in front of witnesses) in April 1951 after spending its last years locked up in a vault.

We only found 'Official' five hole 'OH/MS' perfins on the 1937 King George VI issue and 1938 pictorial issues. No genuine Airmail or Special Delivery stamps perforated with the five hole 'OH/MS' were found but this does not mean that they do not exist.

#### Conclusion

When dealing with this subject we strongly suggest that all stamps perforated with the five hole 'OH/MS' be considered fakes until proven otherwise. At the present time the authors are not aware of anyone who has duplicated this research to the point of being able to differentiate between the genuine five hole dies and the better fakes. Therefore, "BUYER BEWARE", you have a 80 to 90 percent chance that you are buying fakes.

It should be noted that fakes can be found among the four hole 'OH/MS's. However this subject is beyond the scope of this article.

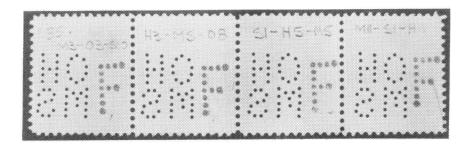
#### (Copyright 1980 by Canadian Perforated Insignia Limited.)

If desired, the authors can be contacted at P.O. Box 6118, Station D, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2C7.

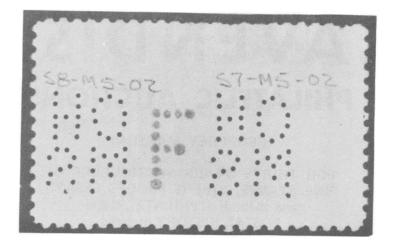
The authors are still researching this field. If anyone has covers or stamps on piece we would like to receive a xerox copy of it. Also if anyone has any questions regarding the 'OH/MS' perforations we shall be happy to be of assistance. Inquiries should be sent to Box 6118, Station D, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2C7.



This fake on a 3c 1932 King George V medallion issue was cancelled with a Ottawa cancel dated 0c 25 37. The perforation is fake but the authors have not passed comment on the cancel.



A strip of four fakes, all different. The machine had at least four dies in it. The strip is of 4c 1937 King George VI issue.



This fake on a 1933 commemorative 5c Royal William is trying to duplicate both Die I and Die II.



The front of the original block of fifteen stamps of the five hole 'OH/MS'. The first die on the left is Die I.

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#### **BOOK REVIEW**

#### The Small Queens of Canada by John Hillson

This monograph, published for Robson Lowe Ltd. by Pall Mall Stamp Co. Ltd., will be welcomed by all collectors of this popular and fascinating issue of early Canadian stamps. In it the author explores convincingly the theory that the change of the venue of the printers, from Montreal to Ottawa, commonly supposed to have taken place in 1888/89 is over simplistic. Instead, Mr. Hillson advances the proposition that there are three possible divisions of printings ranging from the initial Ottawa printings of 1870 to 1874, with an overlapping printing at Montreal during the years 1873-1888 followed by the second Ottawa printing in 1889 to 1897. The distinctive factors of perforations, gum, paper and plate markings are carefully examined and presented in detail which pay eloquent testimony to the thought and care which the author has brought to bear on this admittedly controversial subject. Not everyone will agree with his conclusions; but no one will be able to deny that they are thought-provoking. No one, having read Mr. Hillson's work, will be able to resist the temptation to re-examine his collection and study it anew.

The section which deals with each denomination in turn is particularly interesting, although care must be taken since it is, unfortunately, combined in a chapter which deals exclusively with the Ottawa (second) printings. The omission of a suitable heading to differentiate the two subjects is regrettable; but with this borne carefully in mind the reader will have no cause for confusion: the dates of the printings of the various denominations are clearly set out in the sub headings.

With three appendices concerning the 1867 printing contract, plans outlining the layout of the sheets and positions of the imprints and quantities issued, not to mention a peripheral concern with proofs and essays as well as bisects, the monograph of 24 pages with 12 half-tone illustrations is obtainable from the publishers at the Literature Dept., 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth, BH2 5PX at £3.80 (postpaid inland) or £4.00 (postpaid overseas).

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS 1981/82

Members are asked to note that subscriptions were due on 1st October, 1981 for the following year. Those members who have not yet paid these are earnestly requested to forward them immediately to the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. T. Almond, 2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG3 5DZ. Cheques ( $\pounds$ 5) or the equivalent in the appropriate currency for overseas members should be made payable to the Canadian Philatelic Society of G.B.

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# THE LETTER AND POSTCARD RATES OF CANADA 1875-1898 (Part 1)

## by Dr. M. W. Carstairs, F.C.P.S.

There is no need to dabble in postal rates. It is possible to form an excellent collection of Canadian stamps without giving them a second thought, and even to put together a lot of covers without the need to explore them in any depth.

However, there comes a time when the postal historian needs to know more, perhaps before he commits himself to the purchase of an expensive cover or perhaps before showing his collection to his colleagues at the local club. This series of articles is an attempt to provide some basic facts in a palatable form to help in the construction of a postal history collection.

Even now thirty four years after the publication of the first copy of *Maple Leaves*, you will find very little on postal rates in its pages, and virtually nothing on the period under discussion.

In Horace Harrison's book on *Canada's Registry System 1827-1911* there is little mention of rates to foreign countries, and likewise the late E. A. Smythies in his book *Canadian Registered Letter Stamps* has a brief paragraph only. Jarrett, Boggs and Robson Lowe, all in their turn do not spare more than a few words to foreign postal rates of the second half of Victoria's reign.

So I have had to refer back to the Official Postal Guides to try to fill in the awkward gaps in other sources.

Because the study became so complex, I decided to omit reference to printed matter, book post and parcels, and even now I realise that in our magazine, it will take many parts to complete my survey, which I hope will eventually go as far as 1951.

All rates are expressed per ½oz, unless stated. The exceptions are some domestic and United States rates and certain rates to France.

I chose 1875 as a starting point because in October 1874 the Universal Postal Union met for the first time and the representatives of the major nations of the world agreed to adopt uniform postal rates among their member nations. Great Britain was one of the member Nations but the agreement did not include her possessions and Dominions beyond the sea, amongst which was Canada.

However, Canada applied to join almost immediately, and as a first step reduced the postage to Great Britain to fall in line with the U.P.U. regulations.

In the Universal Postal Union report for 1 June 1878 I found the following; "The entry into the Union of the Dominion of Canada originally fixed for the 1st of July 1876, but subsequently postponed for an indefinite period, owing to the inability of certain Administrations to agree to the conditions of entry, will now take place on the 1st of July next, the unanimous consent of all Administrations having been obtained".

So at the U.P.U. meeting in Paris in May 1879 Canada was admitted retrospectively with effect from 1st July 1878.

Also in 1875 registration stamps were introduced, and prepayment of postage was made compulsory. Finally I must admit that my records are incomplete before 1875, but maybe in the future it will be possible to give earlier data.

About 95% of Victorian Canadian covers in existence to-day are addressed either within Canada, to the United States or to Great Britain and Ireland. Anywhere else is uncommon, and if the rest of Europe is excluded, rare. Even registered covers to England before 1888 are difficult to find, and elsewhere in Europe rare, so many of the rates quoted are really of academic interest only, but serve as a reminder of how complicated it all was before the U.P.U. unified the system.

All rates are expressed per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. unless stated. When a year is quoted this is the year of the Postal Guide when the change is noted. If a more precise date is given then further information was available.

#### DOMESTIC RATES

Letters: 3c per ½oz. until 8 May 1889 when 3c per oz. started.

**Drop Letters:** 1c per ½oz. until 8 May 1889 when weight raised to one ounce, but for free delivery in cities 2c/oz.

A few towns required 2c cash on delivery, and these stayed at 1c/oz. Free city delivery had reached Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, Ottawa, Hamilton, St. John, and Halifax by the end of 1875, and London was added by the end of 1879.

There was no obvious weight restriction for letters.

#### Postcards. Government Issue: 1c

**Private postcards:** 1c as printed matter, or 3c as a "letter" until January 1 1895 when carried for 1c under certain conditions.

Registered Letter Fee: 2c fee until May 8th 1889 when raised to 5c.

#### Acknowledgement of Receipt:

Started in 1881 guide. "The sender of a registered article addressed to the United Kingdom, any Foreign Country, or British Colony in the Postal Union may obtain an acknowledgement of its due receipt by the addressee on payment of a fee of 5c at the time of registration."

In some guides it appears that the 5c fee was attached to the envelope as a 5c stamp, but later special forms were used which were "tied" to the letter, and then sent back to sender.

I have not seen any from the Victorian era.

#### Special Delivery:

Started on July 1 1898. A 10c fee for letters posted anywhere in the Dominion for delivery in 14 main towns of Canada only. The first 14 towns were: Halifax, St. John, Fredericton, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Brantford, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, Victoria and Vancouver.

Incidentally these same towns had a letter delivery system in operation, so drop letters cost 2c/oz. making the total cost 12c for a local letter, and 13c from outside the town.

(To be continued)

#### 8 cents Registered Cover, 1877

We are grateful to those members who have written to remind us that the above cover, the subject of an article (June, 1981 *MAPLE LEAVES*, page 111) by 'The Yellow Peril' was sold some years ago by Harmers. So far from being one of a batch of worthless covers it was, in fact, sold for what it was worth (a great deal of money!). As what is probably the best of the early 8 cents registered covers there is little mystery about it or doubt about its authenticity. As 'The Yellow Peril' puts it, this cover is truly a 'gem'.

#### Canada Specialised Catalogue

In our August, 1981 issue (page 85) we reported that the above catalogue would, apparently, cease publication. A usually 'well-informed' source led us to believe that this might be so; but it will be noted that we were careful (and wise) enough NOT to commit ourselves too deeply over this matter. We are not prone to jumping in at the deep end with both feet, being in fact too long in the tooth for rash enterprises of that sort! We are glad to announce that our usual caution was fully justified. A letter from the Philatelic Publishers Co., states that not only does it intend to continue issuing the Canada Specialised Catalogue every year, but it also intends to improve the catalogue, and indeed has already done so in its 1981 edition. The six new sections added include the Bishop Marks, crown Circle Postmarks, Steamboat Postmarks, Plate Proofs of the Pence Issues and SCADTA issues of Canada. What is more it is now obtainable from our Handbooks Manager (price £2.50 postpaid) and for further details we refer readers to the back cover of our October issue. To say that we are glad to publish this disclaimer is surely unnecessary. We are only too aware of the popularity of this catalogue not to wish it the continued success that it undoubtedly deserves.

#### Canadian Re-entry Study Group

We are informed by Mr. R. E. Trimble, of P.O. Box 532, Station 'A', Scarborough, Ontario, M1K 5C3 that the above study group has now been officially sanctioned by the B.N.A.P.S. Interested readers, who are also members of our 'sister society' are invited to get in touch with Mr. Trimble for further details.

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#### LATHEWORK ON POSTAGE DUE STAMPS by G. A. Wallace

The reason for the lathework has never been really solved. Major K. H. White, in *Maple Leaves*, as well as others stated that the reason was an early indication of plate wear. Major Williams added: 'Another explanation which is more plausible is that the lathework helped in the wiping action prior to printing'. The next explanation (supposed to be official) is; 'The manufacturer used to refer to these as "hold down strips". Ink in the recess of the design prevented the paper from lifting from the printing plate before the first row of stamps was printed'. Each article discarded the prior explanations.

In *The Admiral Stamps part 2* by Hans Reiche on pages 13 and 14, he dispels all theories but does not present an alternative. What he does state is that the retreating lathework could be merely an inking problem, which would account for the albino prints. I accept that there are albino prints on some marginal blocks, but for every one of these there are many without.

Mr. Reiche's theory, although plausible, could therefore be only partially correct and the original reason of plate wear applicable also. The steel used in plate making had to be of the highest quality, but during the Great War the best went into war effort materials, the printers coming well down the list. About 1917 the supply of top grade steel in hand had come to an end, the lesser grade steel then being used. Whether the best steel came from Germany is controversial; however lathework was used during 1917-1925 on some plates.

'Some plates' is the significant phrase! The idea that it helped as a hold down action can easily be ruled out, because the wet printings before 1917 did not need lathework nor did the dry printings from 1925 until the chrome plating of 1927. There were many plates in the interim period also with plain margins. The other reason stated that it helped the wiping action can also be excluded as ink deposited in the engraved design will only have the excess wiped away, not sucked up from the grooves. Unless the plate is worn the imprint should be clear. This then takes us back to the original conception of 'an early indication of plate wear'.

Much has been written about lathework on the Admiral issue, but virtually nothing can be found concerning the same on Postage Due stamps printed during the same period. In the *Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps* by Robson Lowe, volume V on page 222, there is one sentence: "At some time marginal lathe work was added to the 2c plate (?1917)". Winthrop Boggs merely states that Type 2 (Type B) has been seen. This probably is a mistake as all blocks I have seen until recently have been Type A or Boggs Type 1. Type A was in use from January 16, 1917 until March 24, a period of nine and a half weeks. Two printings of the 2c Postage Due are apparent because of the wide difference in colouring. The first, probably some time in January, is in a bright red-violet, but a later printing is in a sombre slate-purple. This shade I have never seen before until a block with lathework was sent to me from Canada. This was accompanied by a

postcard dated early 1924. This could mean that Type A may have been brought back into use after Types B and C had been employed.

Recently in an auction in Vancouver I obtained a block of the thin paper, 2 cent with almost complete lathework Type 'D'. The shade and paper match the 5c Admiral on thin paper exactly, having been checked by natural and ultra-violet lights. This printing seems to be unknown in G.B. If anyone can send me some information concerning this I would be much obliged. Perhaps somebody in Canada can come forth.



2 cents postage due with almost complete lathework type D

#### BNAPEX '81 SOUVENIR COVERS AND PROGRAMMES

BNAPEX '81 souvenir cacheted envelopes are available in limited number at \$2.00 each from Mr. Ian Kimmerly, Suite 200D, 350 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7S8. The beautifully multi coloured cacheted envelopes depict a helmeted lass holding a Union Jack flag and snow shoes, plus a beaver and maple leaves.

The envelopes cancelled with a specially approved BNAPEX '81 flag cancel dated 24 September 1981, carry one 17c Canadian commemorative stamp — one of the four Canadian map stamps, QEII 17c regular definitive, the Parliament 17c coil, and the Niagara-on-the-Lake commemorative. Also available are blank cacheted covers of BNAPEX '81 at three for One dollar and souvenir cacheted programmes at \$2.00 each. All prices are in Canadian dollars. Cheques or Postal Money Orders are acceptable.

#### CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting, held at the Crown and Mitre Hotel, Carlisle, on 10th October 1981.

- 1. The President, Mr. Jim Bacon, welcomed all members present and took the opportunity to thank those who had helped to make Convention possible.
- 2. Apologies were received from Messrs. Banfield, Birch, Bryce, Cheshire, Cohen, Greenhill, Hutchinson, Norris, Williams, Dr. Sanderson, and overseas members Messrs. Benningen, Benson and Taylor.
- **3.** Minutes of the 34th AGM, having been displayed during Convention, were taken as read.
- 4. Matters Arising re 13(b) A 'Canadian' issue of 'Philately' was duly published in January 1981. re 13(c) A run of 'Maple Leaves' was duly entered at Milcopex 81 in the Literature class and received a vermeil award. The President expressed his pleasure at this success which was, he felt due in no small measure to the efforts of the Editor, Mr. Lionel Gillam.
- 5. Officers Reports
- a) Secretary, D. F. Sessions, reported a net decline in membership of 47 which was particularly disappointing. 41 new members had been more than offset by deaths and resignations whilst 45 members had been removed for non-payment of dues. Amongst the seven deaths was that of the Hon. George Marler Q.C. who had contributed so much to the study of both the Edward VII and Admiral definitive stamps.
- b) 'Maple Leaves' Editor, L. F. Gillam, mentioned that he had received material for publication which he had subsequently discovered to have been published elsewhere. He indicated that whilst he preferred exclusive material, other material was not unwelcome although a note of publication elsewhere, either past or potential, should accompany it.
- c) Packet Secretary, R. Grigson, reported that he had successfully replaced the insurance cover on the packet at reasonable terms. The number of books submitted for circulation was substantially down, only 77 against 124 in 1980 and 172 in 1979. He had been able to put eleven packets into circulation and £150 had been transferred to the general fund. Thanks were expressed to the hard core of members who continue to support the packet with contributions.
- d) Handbooks Manager, Dr. M. W. Carstairs, reported that he had physically taken over the stock of handbooks from his predecessor, Mr. Cohen, and that sales during the year had remained good.
- e) Advertising Manager, G. L. Birch, reported gross advertising revenue of £391.29, only £27.21 less than the previous year's exceptionally high figure.

- f) Publicity Officer, Dr. D. Sanderon, issued reports of Convention to the philatelic press and reports that BPF Congress will be in Southampton in 1982 which will enable her to actively publicise the Society there.
- g) Librarian, C. G. Banfield, reported that only 22 members made use of the Library during the year, borrowing 69 books and files. It was felt that ever-escalating postal costs were probably the reason for the fall in numbers from previous years. It is hoped that a supplement to the Library list will be published in 'Maples Leaves' in the coming year, as a number of important books have been added.
- 6. Financial Statement. Following the resignation of Mr. Mewse as Treasurer, Mr. Bryce had agreed at the last Committee meeting to act as temporary treasurer until a suitable replacement could be found. Mr. Hillson was appointed during the year but, due to the time factor, he was not able to present a formal statement of accounts. However, he was able to report that the Society had suffered a loss of £150 in 1979/80 due to the successful reception held in connection with the London International; this would be offset by an anticipated profit fo some £200 in 1980/81. Mr. Hillson felt that the Subscription could be held at £5.00 for the current year but ever-increasing printing and postal costs would make a rise inevitable next year.

It was accordingly proposed by Dr. Carstairs that the rate of subscription should be increased to £6.00 from 1 October 1982, the proposal was seconded by Mr. Parkin and carried nem.con.

7.	<b>Election of Officers</b>	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
	President	C.A.King	J. L. Bacon	D. F. Sessions
	Vice-President	T. Almond	C. A. King	M. W. Carstairs
	Secretary	D. F. Sessions	J. M.H. Parkin	J. Donaldson
	Treasurer	N.J.A.Hillson	J. M. H. Parkin	M. W. Carstairs
	Committee member :			
	Scotland	A.S. Mackie	J. Hannah	J. M. H. Parkin
	North	D. G. Manton	D. F. Sessions	J. Donaldson
	South	N. Pryor E. Burchell	D. F. Sessions T. Almond	J. Donaldson D. F. Sessions

#### 8. Committee Appointments

The meeting was advised of the following appointments by the Committee :--

Librarian	- C. G. Banfield
Editor	<ul> <li>L. F. Gillam</li> </ul>
Packet Secretary	<ul> <li>R. Grigson</li> </ul>
Handbooks Manager	- Dr. M. W. Carstairs
Advertising Manager	<ul> <li>L. G. Bellack</li> </ul>
Publicity Officer	- Dr. D. Sanderson
Asst. Treasurer	<ul> <li>T. Almond</li> </ul>
Asst. Editor	<ul> <li>– E. Killingley</li> </ul>

#### 9. Fellows Report

At the meeting of Fellows earlier in the day the Founders Trophy was awarded to John Hannah for his research into the Admiral series.

- 10. Appointment of Auditor. Mr. E. Killingley was appointed.
- 11. New Handbook. The meeting was advised that the Committee had sanctioned publication of a new handbook on the early rapid cancelling machines, a joint publication with a Canadian publisher.
- 12. Solihull Stamp Fair. The meeting was advised that the Committee had discussed an invitation to provide a static 40-frame display at this event in April 1982. It was recommended that the Society should accept but it was felt necessary to appoint a convenor from the Society. Mr. D. Avery volunteered to act in this capacity and the recommendation was duly endorsed. A number of volunteers to exhibit came forward and were duly noted.
- 13. Reduced Subscriptions for Senior Citizens. It was reported that, following representations, the Committee had discussed the matter but could not recommend such reduction. It was pointed out that a substantial proportion of members would fall into this category and such reductions would impose an additional burden on the younger members which would be unacceptable.
- 14. Venue of Next Convention. President elect, Mr. C. A. King, announced that the 1982 Convention would be held at the University of Surrey from 15 to 18 September.
- 15. Any Other Business. It was announced that, following discussion in Committee, the Treasurer would be investigating the possibility of introducing direct debiting as an alternative mode of payment of subscriptions for U.K. members. It was also announced that, in an effort to improve cash flow from subscriptions, an invoice would be inserted in the January 'Maple Leaves' of members who had not paid by mid-November. It was hoped that this would substantially reduce the postal costs of issuing reminders in lieu of the April 'Maple Leaves'.

#### Appendix to the Minutes

#### **Results of the 1981 Competitions**

Class 1	1st D. Avery 2nd M. W. Carstairs	U.P.U. Postcards Airmail Rates
Class 3 (a)	1st M. W. Carstairs 2nd R. Grigson	Small Queen rates Registered Mail
Class 3 (b)	1st J. Donaldson 2nd A. S. Mackie	'Free' Markings Special Delivery Covers
Trophies:	Godden – M. W. Ca Bunny – J. Donal Members – D. Izzett Aikins – J. Donal	dson 'Free' Markings t Perfins

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Phil Grey writes:

#### Clarenville, Newf'd. Postmark

The old style postmark without enclosing ring described by Mrs. J. A. Silvester (M.L. 18/4/109 – Aug. '81) appears to be the one which reads: "Clarenville, T.B. – Newf'd"

"T.B." stands for Trinity Bay and it is not a T.P.O. I have this postmark dated between March 1945 and August 1964, the diameter being 22mm but a smudged strike might appear larger.

An earlier postmark in the same style in use early in this century has shorter spacing arcs (or "part circles").

(The following letter has been sent to Mr. C. R. McGuire. In it the writer refers to Mr. McGuire's article on the Maple Leaf issue of Canada, 1897-98 (Part 3) which appeared in our June issue. The letter is being re-produced here with Mr. Harrison's consent – Editor.)

Mr. H. W. Harrison, F.C.P.S. writes :-

#### The Maple Leaf Issue of Canada 1897-98 Major Postage Rates

On Page 68 of Maple Leaves therein you say, "Major Postage Rates for which a single denomination of a Maple Leaf stamp could be used to prepay a rate or fee – January 1897 to 24 December 1898". At the end of the article on Page 70 you say, "The only countries to which the two cent postcard rate applied were: Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Newfoundland and Switzerland. Postcards addressed to other countries had to be prepaid at the five cent letter rate". I have the following postcards used within the time period given to other countries as follows: Webb P15 2c U.P.U. card to San Salvador from Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 4, 1898; Webb P16 1c Jubilee Card with added stamp as follows: to Batavia, Java, 1c Small Queen added from Owen Sound, Ont. July 5, 1897; Webb P17, 1c Green Leaf with 1c numeral added to Northwest Provinces, India, from Montreal, on October 15, 1898; Webb P20, 2c Orange, with 3c numeral added to Holland from Vancouver, December 10, 1898 (The one card which I own which substantiates your five cent letter rate); Webb P21, 2c Blue U.P.U. card to New Zealand from Montreal, August 5, 1898.

I have 2c Green U.P.U. cards Webb No. P4 all used prior to 1897 from places in Canada to the following countries: Denmark, Holland, Sweden, India, Japan, Bermuda, St. Vincent, Argentina, Brazil, Panama and Peru. After December 25, 1898, and onwards, I have 2c rated cards used to the following places: Sydney, New South Wales, Argentina, Finland, Salvador, etc. None of the cards which I own and mailed at the 1c post card rate to foreign countries were taxed more than five centimes or at the most ten centimes in some cases being double the deficiency of 1c make up the 2c rate. None of the cards I have mentioned used in the period which you cite where they should have been five cents paid were taxed had any postage due at all. The volume of mail seems too great for it to have merely been an oversight on the part of the postmasters of Canada or the Canadian correspondence to foreign countries. Some reasonable explanation is in order.

#### Mr. R. Holdeman writes:

#### **R.M.S. Ship Titles**

This is with reference to A. M. Palochik's article, "The Eastern Arctic Patrol Hammers" and Mr. H. K. Dodwell's letter, "Canadian Northern Steamships Ltd.".

Mr. Palochik states in his article that the "Nascopie" became a Royal Mail ship resulting in a change of hammer from S.S. Nascopie to R.M.S. Nascopie in 1935.

Mr. Dodwell mentions that his postcards of the "Royal George" and "Royal Edward" have the titles R.M.S. and asks whether they were mail carriers.

The normal supposition is that R.M.S. means Royal Mail ship. In respect of the "Nascopie" and perhaps the "Royal George" and "Royal Edward" the initials indicate "Railway Mail Service".

The factual evidence in respect of the "Nascopie" are Post Office bulletins of 1933, 1934 and 1936 and no doubt this also applies to the "Royal George" and "Royal Edward".

Details of 1936 Post Office Bulletin are as follows :-

#### MAIL SERVICE, SUMMER 1936.

Eastern Arctic, Ellesmere Island, Baffin Island, Hudson Bay.

#### R.M.S. NASCOPIE

#### (Leaving Montreal 14th July, 1936)

Follows details of acceptance etc. Then details of dates and Ports.

Concluded by:

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA. RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, OTTAWA, 5th June 1936.

Issued by authority of J. A. Sullivan, K.C. Deputy P-General.

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#### New Members

- 2321 WOOD, Nigel G., "Lingwood", 118 Commercial Street, Bitterne, Southampton, Hants, SO2 5AF. PH-CQ & CGE.
- 2322 WATSON, William R., PO BOX 2221, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7Y4.
- 2323 MILOS, Michael, 2231 Ott Road, RR1, Stevensville, Ontario, Canada. C.
- 2324 WATT, Jmes H., Aot. 412, 1223 Richmond St. N, London, Ont., Canada, N6A 3L8. CR-CQ, V.
- 2325 CROSS, Martin D., 190 Newton Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6BX.
- 2326 CHAPMAN, James D., 8 Drove Road, Sholing, Southampton. CR-CQ, B.
- 2327 ARMITAGE, David A., 73 Sherring Lower Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts, CM21 9LG.
- 2328 PALMER, Prof. E. E., (QC), 375 St George St., London, Ont., Canada, N6A 3A9. CO. B. PH.

The 1934 bulletin also bears an interesting cachet. This is a boxed "Railway Mail Service – Jun 16 1934 – Post Office Department – Ottawa".

Further to the above, I have a copy of a letter from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, dated December 1960 which inter alia quotes "Our Post Office (Cape Dorset) is operated by the Railway Mail Service of the Canadian Post Office Department".

Mr. Dodwell may find the above information useful in pursuing his interest in the "Royal George" and "Royal Edward".

It is regrettable that few early records are available and that the Post Office in Canada has in the past declined to assist with any inquiries or information. My last letter re the Eastern Arctic Patrols to Ottawa was returned, "Department Closed – No Records available".

Dr. W. L. Bosch writes:-

#### Re-entry on 1 cent Admiral Coil

Almost 70 years after the date of issue, a new "find" has been made in Canada's admiral stamps, specifically, in a batch of 1c green admirals. The find was a copy of the well-known major re-entry on a coil stamp of vertical perforation 8. As far as can be determined from an examination of the works of Jarrett, Boggs, Marler and Reiche, no other such example on a coil stamp has ever been found.

The significance of the discovery lies in the fact that the major re-entry (of which the recent Marler reprint has an exceptionally clear photograph) is known to have come from plate 12, lower right pane, position 35. The find definitely shows that plate 12 was used for the production of some of the early 1c green coil stamps, as well as for the sheet stamps. The researchers/ authors mentioned above could, heretofore, do no better than state that the plates used dually for sheets and coils were probably numbered between 15 and 20. Obviously, plate 12 was used, without any doubt whatsoever.

The stamp has been examined and verified by Mr. Hans Reiche, who has prepared a similar notice to this one for publication in *BNA Topics*. At present, the stamp resides with the finder/writer. I may add that, in my purchases for the purpose of seeking RPO cancellations on admirals, I have found 5 copies of this major recently but only 1 on a coil stamp. As I am not an Admiral specialist, these copies would be available for the right trade, if any member has an interest therein. For those with further curiosity, it took over 125,000 stamps to find those re-entries. and those stamps also contained RPOs at the approximate rate of 2.25% (counting all RPOs found, including non-usable partial strikes). The writer is now working over a batch of some 40.000 of the 2c red admiral for RPOs. It is unfortunate that no really fine

# CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reserved for members' small classified advertisements. Special price 3p a word. Discount for series insertions, 12 insertions at price of 9; 6 at price of 5; for C.P.S. of G.B. members only.

#### WANTED

WANTED Canadian First Day Covers, by collector. 1930 Leaf, 1928 Scroll, 1917 Confederation All Admiral Issues WANTED CANADIAN PIONEER AIR MAIL FLIGHT COVERS 1853 to 1930. All flights and phases, Pioneer airmail mint stamps. Semi-Official airmail stamps and covers, die proofs and essays. Government Issues C1 to C9, CE1 to



## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, 1981/82

President:

C. A. King, 10 St Leonards Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

Secretary: D. F. Sessions, 3 Langfield Close, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7ND.

Treasurer:

N. J. A. Hillson, 52 Stamperland Gardens, Clarkston, Glasgow.

#### Handbooks Manager:

Dr. M. W. Carstairs, Hamilton House, Green End Road, Radnage, High Wycombe, HP14 4BZ. Assistant Treasurer:

T. E. Almond, 2 Filbert Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, RG3 5DZ.

Librarian:

C. G. Banfield, 32 Coolgardie Avenue, Chigwell, Essex.

Exchange Secretary:

R. Grigson, 75 Clarence Road, Windsor, Berks, SL4 5AR.

Advertising Manager:

L. G. Bellack, 11 Mardley Heights, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 0TX.

Assistant Editor:

E. Killingley, 16 St. James' Road, Bridlington, North Humberside, YO15 3PF.

Publicity Officer:

Dr. D. Sanderson, 4 Colt Close, Fernyhurst Estate, Rownhams, Southampton, SO1 8JA.

The Postal History of the Canadian Contingents, Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 by Kenneth Rowe £15.00 plus £1 postage & packing			
The Admiral Era: A rate study 1912-28, Steinhart£7.00			
Canada Specialised Stamp Catalogue 1981 £2.50			
Lyman's Catalogue 34th Edition Winter 1982 £2.10			
Pugh's Manual of fakes & forgeries Parts 10 & 11 £8.25 the pair			
Binder for the above (Volume 3)£3.25			
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