



JOURNAL OF THE  
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

# Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 209

Vol. 20 No. 5

August 1986



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# MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCORPORATED 1946

Founder:

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## EDITORIAL

It was with great sadness that I learned, shortly after writing the June Editorial, that Eric Killingley, former Editor and Past President, had died. An appreciation will be found elsewhere in this issue.

On a brighter note, this Editorial is being written after returning from a most enjoyable philatelic day out. At the last A.G.M. it was agreed that we should try to hold a one-day meeting in early summer to give members a chance to meet between Conventions and perhaps entice one or two members along who are not normally able to attend Convention.

The London Group volunteered to host the first event and most of the organisation was down to one man – Lew Warren. All those who attended, from Yorkshire, Bristol and Dorset, as well as the South Coast and the Home Counties, agreed that the day was an outstanding success. It was generally concurred that arrangements should be made for a repeat about the same time next year.

Ten members presented material in a crowded day and it was very rewarding to see the interest stimulated by the displays. I urge you to watch for announcements of next year's event and make every effort to attend the philatelic feast.

It was a great day – thanks Lew.

For the record, the exhibitors were :-

Lew Warren . . . . . Five Cents Beaver Stamps and Cancels  
George Bellack . . . . . Transatlantic Mail 1809-1899  
David Sessions . . . . . 1939 Royal Tour  
Brian Stalker . . . . . Newfoundland T.P.O's  
Dr. John Gatecliffe . . . . . Special Delivery  
George Manley . . . . . Precancelled Postal Stationery  
John Humphrey . . . . . Fancy Cancels  
Cliff Wheatley . . . . . Transatlantic Ship Letters 1789-1950  
Colin Banfield . . . . . Squared Circles, 2c R.L.S. & Postage Dues  
(Courtesy of Gib Wallace)  
Arthur Jones . . . . . 1967 Centennials

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that the annual subscription of £7 is due on 1 October, 1986. Dues received **after 1 January 1987** will attract an **additional £1 re-instatement fee**. Any UK member who wishes to ensure payment is made in good time may like to pay by Direct Debit. If he has not already made such an arrangement, a form can be obtained from the Treasurer in exchange for a SAE. Members in Canada and USA can save themselves hassle and bank charges by sending dues to either Wayne Curtis at PO Box 74, Postal Station A, Toronto, ON., Canada, M5W 1A2, or to John Siverts at Box 425 Wilmington, Delaware, 19899, USA.

### ERIC KILLINGLEY

In May the Society lost one of its most stalwart supporters. A member for over 26 years, Past President and latterly Editor of *Maple Leaves*, Eric had also been the Society's auditor for the past few years.

Whilst never seeking the limelight Eric was always willing to offer unstinting support and could be relied upon to provide a stimulating and different display from the wealth of material at his disposal. His wide knowledge was also readily made available and I well recall his enthusiastic support of the Yorkshire Group during the time I was involved. Meetings were held throughout the winter months and Eric unfailingly made the 170-mile round trip from Bridlington to Bradford, always with a few 'gems' from his collection. He missed only once and even then he had started out, only to be beaten back by the weather. Such was the measure of the man.

To Joyce and family we extend our deepest sympathy.



## POSTAGE DUE HANDSTAMPS 1931-1951 by G. A. Wallace

As of 1931 an era of rectangles, in many shapes and forms, began. Although the large numerals, so extensively used during the previous period, were being phased out they continued in use until the mid thirties. There are, of course, exceptions; one from Fernie, B.C. has a '6' struck in error and overstamped '8' on March 31 1943. Ken Barlow reports a '4' as late as February 1947. Both sizes of the double lined INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID handstamp mentioned in the previous article<sup>(1)</sup> can be seen until 1935. The only one of the three section rectangles using all serif lettering is the 'Postage Due/blank/Cents' until 1933. All other handstamps did not survive.

From 1931 the most common new design was the simple 30 by 14mm. rectangle, which could still be found in use in Vancouver until 1968 (see Fig. 1). Listed are earliest and latest dates so far known :-

1c	Dec. 30 1931	Oct. 1956
2c	Nov. 13 1931	Jan. 1968
4c	Feb. 17 1932	Dec. 1963
6c	Nov. 18 1931	Apr. 1961
8c	Sept. 23 1947	Dec. 1964
10c	Sep. 02 1932	Aug. 1960



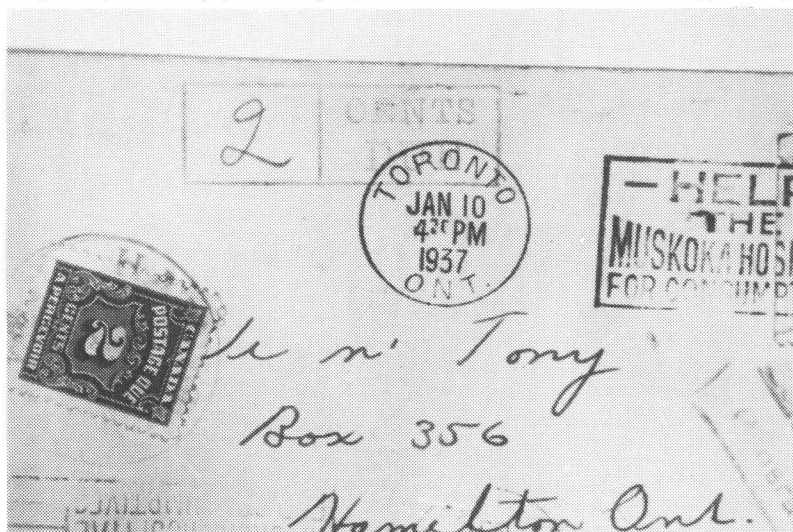
Fig. 1

Larger forms of this type are known but are not consistent in size or shape of both the numerals and lettering. These are quite scarce, because most were ugly in proportions and proved to be unpopular with Postmasters.

Seen to date are :-

1c	Sep. 18 1949	16 x 25mm	thin serif 1
2c	Sep. 23 1933	16 x 34	thin sans serif 2
	July 1938	17 x 30	thick serif 2
4c	May 15 1946	17 x 30	thick open 4
6c	Feb. 05 1951	16 x 30	thin 6
8c	Mar. 09 1948	16 x 30	large 8
	Mar. 12 1950	15 x 30	small 8
10c	Jan. 03 1938	16 x 32	thin 10 All with serif lettering.

The next type in importance is a long rectangle divided by a vertical line, the first section left blank for written amounts, the second with CENTS DUE in serif letters, (see Fig. 2). The idea of this type was for amounts of 12c. upwards, but as inevitably happens in a busy office, the first hammer to come to hand is used. There is a similar type used in Vancouver with sans serif letters and printed numeral '5'. Because there was no call for a 5c rate, except Business Reply Envelopes, it seems to be exclusive to this, (see Fig. 3).



(Fig. 2)

blank	Apl. 14 1934	42 x 14	Oct. 20 1940	serif
blank	July 11 1941	39 x 12/14	Dec. 28 1950	sans serif
5c	Oct. 11 1944	40 x 13		sans serif

The elongated rectangle is also seen in another form, with an inset rectangle in the upper right corner which, in turn, encloses a printed numeral, (see Fig. 4). This type measures 42 x 16mm. and shows a break in the inner rectangle. A larger form of this type measures 49 x 17 with a blank space instead of a numeral. These were in use from 1936 until 1949 mostly in Montreal; naturally bi-lingual.



(Fig. 3)

The three sectioned rectangles, which were used sparingly in Western Canada during the 1906 to 1930 period, came more to the forefront in the thirties; wherein three new types are shown, (see Figs. 5, 6 and 7). The bi-lingual type was particularly neat and attractive.



(Fig. 4)



Fig. 5

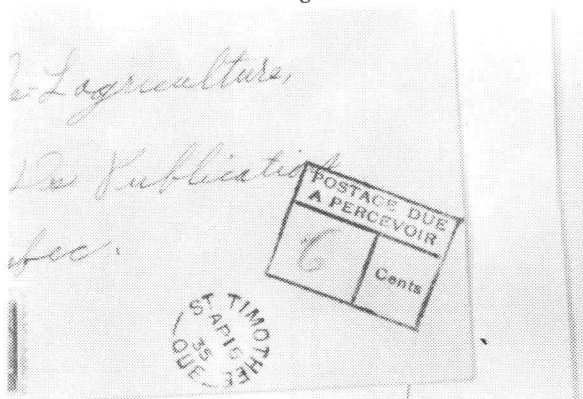


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

TAX (blank) Cents	Feb. 22 1934	40 x 25mm
" " "	Jan. 12 1940	46 x 28
POSTAGE DUE/A PERCEVOIR (blank) Cents	Apl. 16 1935	33 x 24
POSTAGE DUE (blank) Cents	Mar. 26 1936	39 x 24
" " " " "	Aug. 07 1942	40 x 24

This last type in various sizes was used extensively in the fifties and sixties.



Fig. 8

Straight line handstamps used during this period could be in two to five lines depending on the information to be imparted. The largest, Fig. 9, is self-explanatory and stems from 1945 in a 58mm. format. Special Delivery mail from the United States having a different rate from Sept. 1921 until March 1939, the 'Advise' types to be produced, (see Fig. 10). On this there is, used in conjunction with the 'Advise' notice, a faint 'Not in Special Delivery Mail' handstamp. This is interesting in that it must have been sent Special Delivery otherwise why charge the 10c Postage Due. One type similar dating from 1935 is :-

Please inform your correspondent  
the Special Delivery charge  
to Canada is twenty cents.

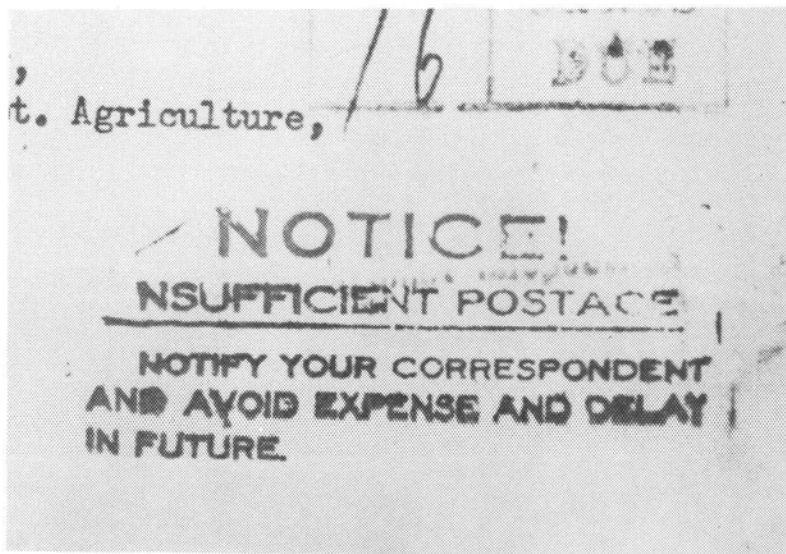


Fig. 9

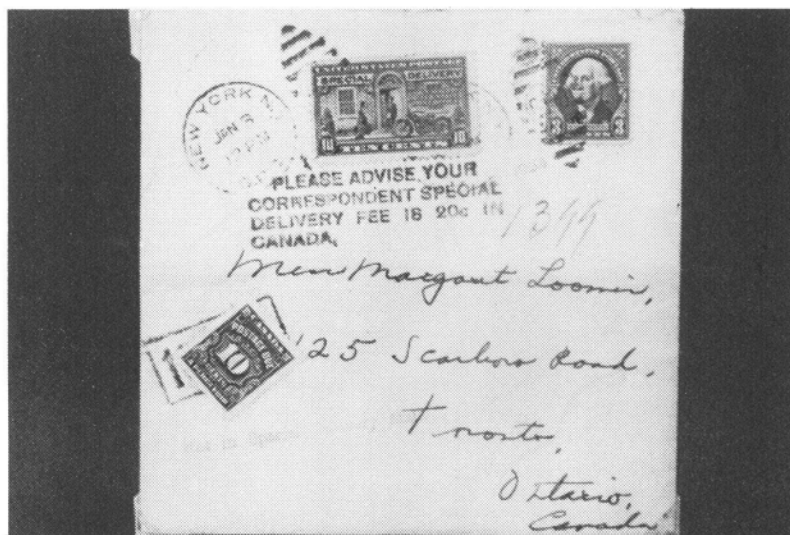


Fig. 10



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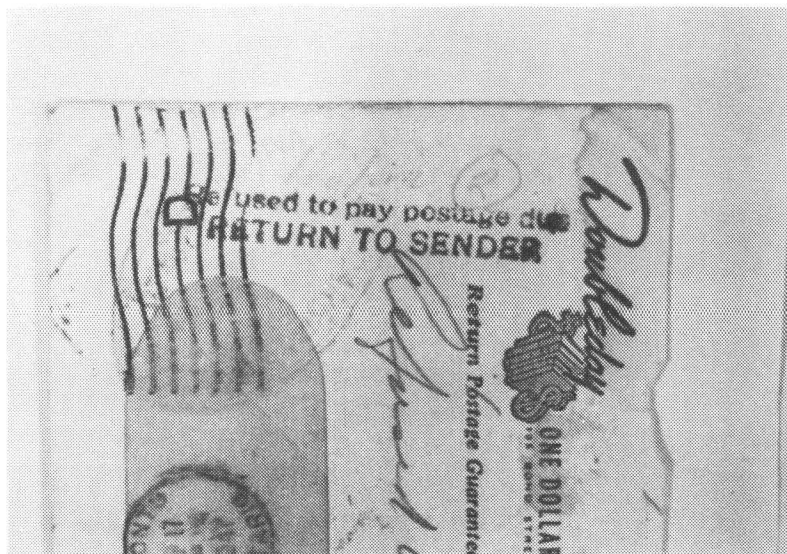
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Seen often written but seldom stamped is Fig. 11. It measures 56mm. dated 1947.



*Fig. 11*

This leaves only two types; the first is bi-lingual, produced to coincide with the first bi-lingual stamps. It reads :—

INSUFFICIENTLY  
PREPAID

Insuffisament Affranchi

The second was used only by customs officials on mail matter to United States. The statutory charge for opening letters suspected of carrying dutiable goods. The service was to be performed by an American official working in larger Canadian Post Offices. It reads :—

COLLECT 10c. POSTAGE DUE  
FOR CUSTOMS SERVICE

This measured 44mm. and was first seen March 07 1933 and was in use until December 1955.

- (1) The period 1906 to 1930 was dealt with in January and April 1984 issues of *Maple Leaves*.



**POSTAL HISTORY VERSUS FIRST DAYS**  
**(The Nieto Post Card "Find")**  
**by The Yellow Peril**

*Photos by Kimmo Salonen*

Collectors may have noticed post cards addressed to Europe with only a half cent Queen Victoria Numeral stamp affixed to their picture sides while their fronts are rubber stamped "IMPRIMES, TIMBRE COTE VUE" and Mme. D. Bedard's return address in form of a blue double oval cachet. The stamps are neatly cancelled with town dated postmarks but there are no other markings on the cards.

Although postal history material without transit markings or receivers are more despicable than single imperforate stamps, readers may be entertained (or provoked) to learn of the mitigating circumstances that led to the YP being shafted into making an exception.

A year ago an American deltiologist, while holidaying in Mexico, purchased a tremendous stock (forty kilos) of world-wide post cards. All the cards are addressed to a J. M. Nieto of Agnas-Calientes, Mexico. The Canadian cards are sent from Quebec, Montreal and Winnipeg but the majority are from New Westminster and Ottawa.

The stamps used on these cards range from Queen Victoria ½c Numerals to George V 2c Medallions. The cards are prepaid with 1c or 2c stamps, but only the cards from Mme. Bedard are found with ½c stamps (mostly ½c Numerals). Curiously, only the cards with 1c and 2c stamps have arrival handstamps.

The American sold the Canada section to a cover dealer who extracted this card (Fig. 1 and 2). It depicts "Laurier Avenue in Winter" and it is signed and dated "D. Bedard Ottawa, 15 Juillett 08". It is also annotated "ou Je Meneure" on the left and "Residence de Sir Wilfred Laurier ler Ministre du Canada" on the right. The ½c Quebec is tied by an Ottawa JUL 16 08 circular date stamp. This cds is also struck on the front (address side) of the card. It is addressed to Mexico to where it obviously travelled.

Evidently, Mexican postal employees treated cards with 1c and 2c (1c overpaid) stamps as first class mail by handstamping them with Mexican receivers. Post cards that carried only ½c stamps were considered as other than first class matter and did not receive any arrival markings. The fact that cards with ½c stamps and some cards with 1c stamps are stamped "IMPRIMES" and carried no messages (Fig. 3) while other 1c cards (Fig. 4) have communications; suggests that there was some confusion over the new preferred rates to Mexico (letter rate was reduced from 5c to 2c and post cards, with or without messages, from 2c to 1c on January 1 1905).\*

As far as it can be ascertained the ½c rate ceased to exist in 1902 and postage for printed matter, circulars, etc., had to be prepaid in cash – some time during or after 1903.\*\* A ½c Quebec singly franked cover, therefore, cannot logically exist.



Fig. 1 1/2c Quebec tied by Ottawa Jul 16 08 cds (first day of issue) to picture side of post card to Mexico. 1c printed matter rate underpaid by 1/2c. Card was neither rated nor arrival stamped.

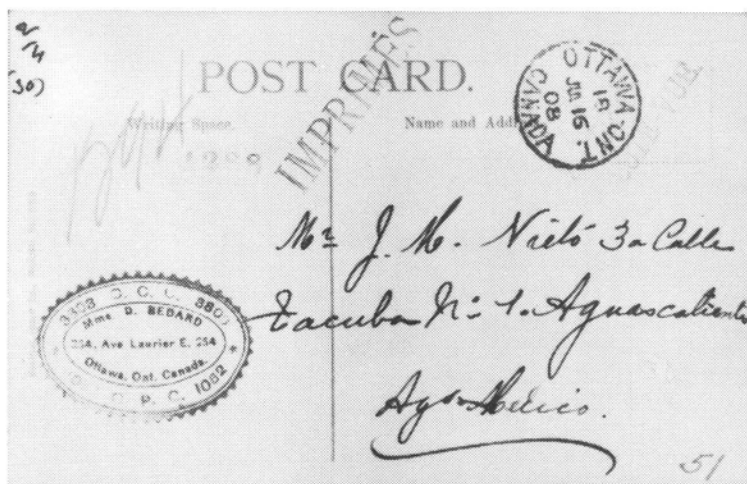


Fig. 2 Address side (front) of the above card.

In the light of these circumstances, this card (Fig. 1) is taken to be the ½c Quebec single usage cover – even though there was no half cent rate during the period when the ½c Quebec stamp was issued. Regardless of any dissenting opinions that postal history authorities may have on this card being a rate cover, the card indisputably documents the rare official first day of the single ½c Quebec stamp.

\* In 1904 the 2c rate to Mexico was successfully negotiated by Sir William Mulock.

\*\* References and confirmation on the ½c final date, and changeover date to cash prepayment would be appreciated.

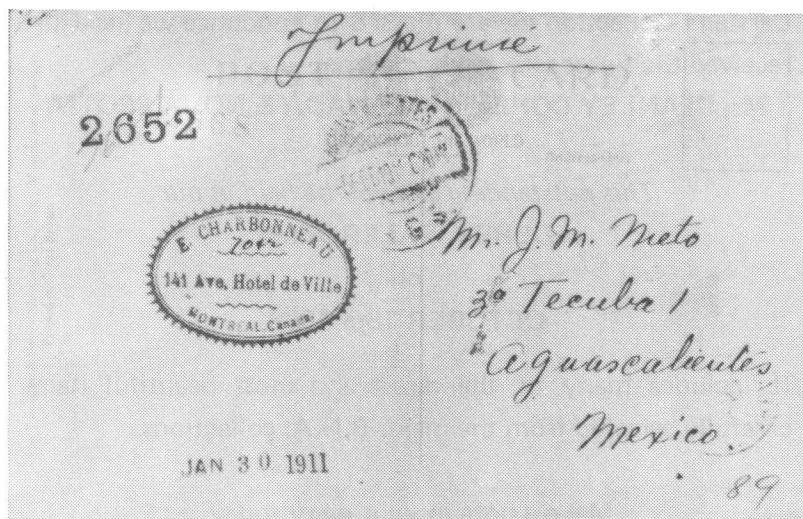


Fig. 3 "Imprime" post card, without message, from Montreal dated Jan 30 1911. 1c Edward stamp on picture side.



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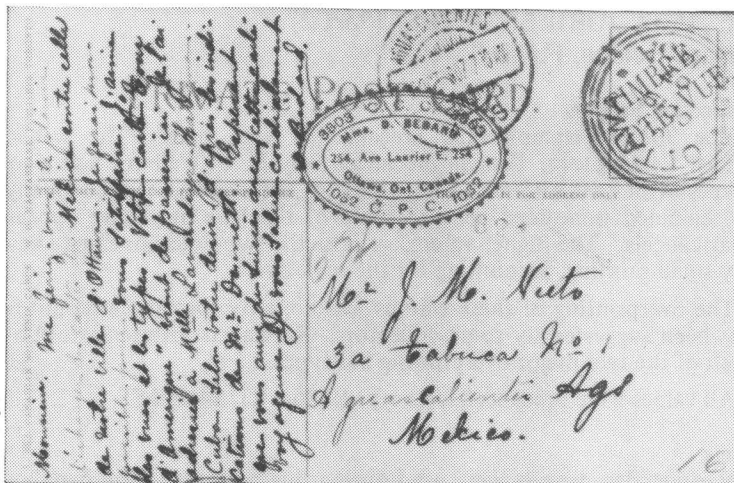


Fig. 4 Post card from Ottawa dated Oct 19 07 with message and arrival handstamp. This card also prepaid by 1c Edward stamp.

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## THE 1897 JUBILEE ISSUE (Part 2)

by Hans Reiche, F.C.P.S.

### Precancelled Stamps

The Jubilee stamps exist precancelled with bars. The well-known "Official Catalogue of Canada Precancels" by H. G. Walburn lists a total of 45 types with two different bars. Most of these are scarce, but many may have remained unnoticed because some of the bars may have appeared as regular cancels. The higher values, such as the two-dollar one, may have had a very small printing, accounting for the scarcity.

The overprinting of these stamps was done by special plates, not rollers, as has been suggested by some collectors. Specialists differentiate sub-types of each of the two major overprinting bar types.

All values were precancelled except ½c, 6c, \$3, \$4 and \$5.

### Cancels

Various flag cancels were used during this period. In the handbook by Ed Richardson, "The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook", a number of flag cancels are listed which were specifically designed for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. These attractive cancels on these stamps can only be fully appreciated if they are used on a cover, because the cancels are long and cover more than just the length of a single stamp. Richardson designated three different flag cancels as the Diamond Jubilee flag cancels because all were issued to commemorate this event. All include the dates 1837-1897 or a crown and VR.

Many of the higher values were used on parcels and rather smudgy cancels, sometimes referred to as "transparent smudge cancels", are found, making the stamp ugly-looking.

Registered cancels of various types exist and a detailed listing of such registered cancels can be found in "Canadian Registered Letter Stamps and Cancellations 1875-1902" by E. A. Smythies and A. F. Smith.

Some of the higher values can be found with a Winnipeg magenta-coloured cancel which was used on registered mail. The magenta cancel should be treated with care when washing such a stamp in warm water.

A good number can be found in blocks of four or singles with nicely-centered Toronto circular cancels. Blocks have a single-centered cancel. Toronto Union Station roller cancels exist on some higher values. It is suggested that some of these stamps may have never seen the mail and were cancelled to order. This should not detract from the value of these stamps.

### Perfins

If anyone has ever seen a perfin Jubilee, he must consider himself lucky. Very few indeed have been perforated with initials. The cover shown is probably one of the most outstanding Jubilee items in existence.

Some of the perfin values which have been noted are the 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 20c, 50c with Type S.8, and 2c and 3c with Type W.8. (1)

(1) Types from the Canada Stamps With Perforated Initials. BNAPS Handbook No. 8.

#### **The Half Cent**

The ½ cent value was printed in sheets of 100 subjects. A single plate was prepared, Plate 9. A quantity of 150,000 stamps were printed. A number were found damaged and 24 were destroyed by the Post Office. In 1906, a further small quantity of remainders were destroyed, but no specific quantity is listed in the records for this value. The value was printed in black but minor shade variations exist with a dark-greyish black predominant.

A guide dot exists in the letter R of RIV. This dot can be found on subjects 11 to 22, 26 to 38, 38 to 39, 41 to 90, 91 to 93, and 97 to 100.

A guide line exists across the letters AL of HALF but the position is not known.

#### **The One Cent**

The 1-cent value was printed in sheets of 100 subjects. Four different plates were prepared, Nos. 5, 6, 15 and 16. A total quantity of 8,000,000 was printed from these plates. A small number were destroyed as unsatisfactory. The colour of this value is orange. Two different shades are listed in retail catalogues. These are orange-yellow and yellow-orange. The first one appears to be more common than the yellow-orange which is a lighter shade and could indicate some plate wear. This value has been reported used as a bisect to make a ½-cent rate. Two reports indicate that this value exists on a vertical wove paper, as well as the horizontal wove paper. If this can be confirmed, the vertical paper must be considered as rare.

#### **The Two Cents**

The 2-cents value was printed in sheets of 100 subjects. Two different plates were prepared, Nos. 7 and 8. A quantity of 2,500,000 was printed from the two plates. 574 stamps were destroyed as being unsatisfactory and a further quantity was destroyed as remainders in 1906. The colour of this value is green with a deep green shade in existence. All copies which have been examined by the writer were on horizontal wove paper. There is a slight possibility that this value exists on a vertical wove paper.

The following varieties have been noted :—

hairline from subject No. 3 to 12, to 13 and to 22;

hairline right corner from subject No. 28 to left-top corner subject No. 39;

guideline through top below the inscription and through the bottom of the crown on subjects 51 to 80.



### **The Three Cents**

This value was printed in sheets of 100 subjects. Ten different plates were used to produce this value. The first four plates were the first Jubilee plates to be laid down. The next four plates were laid down after the 5 Cents plate. The last two plates were the last two Jubilee plates laid down. The plate numbers are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 28 and 29. A quantity of 20,000,000 was printed of which over 2,000 stamps were destroyed initially. The 3-cents exists on a horizontal and a vertical wove paper. The last one is rare but a number of copies have been found. The thickness of the paper used for this value varies from medium to thick. On the thick paper, the weave of the paper is difficult to see. A so-called greenish-white paper on a poor quality of wove paper has been reported but the writer could not confirm its existence.

Varieties noted are :—

vertical guide line between centre of sheet, fifth and sixth vertical row.

### **The Five Cents**

Sheets of 100 subjects were printed for this value. Only one plate was used, No. 10, with a quantity of 750,000 of which 84 stamps were initially destroyed. The catalogues list shades as blue, deep blue, slate blue. Some make a distinction in calling the slate blue more elusive than the other shades. Only horizontally wove paper has been found and it is not likely that a vertical one exists.

The dot in R of RIV is fairly constant on many subjects :—

the dot exists on subjects 11 to 59, 61 to 81, 83 to 86, 90 to 94 and 96;

there is a dot in D of Canada on subject No. 71;

a minor re-entry in the letters "Canada Postage", Subject No. 91.

### **The Six Cents**

This value created the biggest controversy when sold. The small quantity printed made it necessary to ration these stamps by the Post Office, and some offices sold the 6 cents out fast and could not deliver a complete set to collectors after only a short period. What is rather interesting is the fact that not only were 33 stamps destroyed initially, but another larger quantity was destroyed as a remainder. This quantity is not mentioned.

Sheets of 50 subjects were prepared, using a single plate for printing. Plate No. 17 printed a total of 75,000 stamps. Only a vertical wove paper has been reported. The colour is yellow-brown and practically no shade variations can be found.

This particular value is full of constant plate varieties which will be described and can be used to plate many positions in the sheet of 50 stamps.



A dot in the V of RIV can be found on most subjects. Those not showing the dot are where the design covers them :—

- dot between C and E of “Cents” below maypole;
- dot between C and E of “Cents” with a line between the letters;
- guide line extending left corner of baseline and short line extending to the right corner, No. 3;
- dot between C and E of “Cents” and vertical line into margin plus dot in lower right corner, No. 4;
- vertical line between C and E of “Cents” and two dots lower right corner, No. 5;
- guide line left of the baseline, No. 8,
- two dots outside baseline below the maypole, No. 9;
- dot outside baseline below maypole and dots left and right corners, No. 10;
- short line extending to left of baseline, No. 13;
- dot outside frameline below E, No. 14;
- dot lower left corner below baseline, No. 15.

### The Eight Cents

The 8-cents value is another one which was printed in sheets of 100 subjects. One plate was used, No. 20, to print 200,000 stamps. A very large number of these stamps was destroyed by the Post Office, namely 40,097, which is a substantial amount compared to the small initial printing quantity. This is one reason why this value is much scarcer than it actually should be.

The colour is dark-violet and no shade variations can be found. The stamps are printed on horizontal wove paper only.

Jarrett believed that this stamp could be plated because not only the top horizontal row of the sheet but many other subjects show constant plate varieties, such as guide dots. These will be described here.

The following varieties exist :—

- vertical guide line between T and C (Cents) on subjects, 2, 72, 82, 92, 5, 15, 25, 35, 45, 55, 65, 75, 85, 95;
- hairline from subject No. 3 to 13, and from 5 to 15;
- guide line below stamp, subjects 9, 26, 27;
- period between “Eight” and “Cents”, subjects 1 to 10;
- re-entry in “Canada Postage”, VIR and right shading lines extended, subject 10;
- the top and bottom margins show a number of different dots;
- guide line below fifth horizontal row of stamps.

## The Ten Cents

The 10 cents was printed in sheets of 50 subjects. A single plate was used, No. 19, to produce 150,000 stamps of which 26 were destroyed. Printing was on a vertical wove paper; there is a small possibility that a horizontal wove paper exists, but the writer has not seen such a copy so far. The colour is brown-violet, and some minor shade variations can be found.

A number of nice constant plate varieties can be listed.

Re-entry: doubling on left side of most lettering in 'CANADA POSTAGE', guide dot below CE of 'Cents' in margin.

Re-entry: doubling of all left shading lines, extension of lines into oval left, in letters R and V, at top of 1897 and right side of numeral box (Position No. 5).

Re-entry: doubling of top of crown, letters POS, top of R and I and in left arm of V, in 'TEN CENTS', bottom of ovals, in both year values and lower left corners.

Re-entry: doubling towards left side, in 'CANADA POSTAGE', the crown, in V, I and R and extensions into left margin of all lines. Guide dot in lower margin and a guide line.

(A very similar one exists with slight variations which may come from the same position.)


Guide line below fifth horizontal row of stamps.

Vertical line between C and E of 'Cents', No. 1 and No. 7.

Dot in ribbon below top of maypole.

Two of the above-mentioned re-entries may come from positions 6 and 16, but this has not been confirmed.

*To be continued.*



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## THE STORY OF A CANADIAN STAMP COLLECTION (Part 2) by Stanley F. Cohen, F.C.P.S.

Now, I had 59 of the set of 60 different numerals, and, as always in such a collection the last one for completion is always the hardest to acquire. So, as my strategy had worked so well, I struck up a very active correspondence with the owner of the 60th numeral, in the course of which I discovered that he had hardly any interest in these postmarks at all, but he had written me that he was smitten with a new collecting fever, of which at the time I had never even heard. He described them as postmarks to be found of a type known as Squared Circles. He lived in California and a small group of his friends were trying to research them.

Little did I then know that, years later, I too would be smitten with the same 'Squared Circle' bug. Instead I telephoned my dear old friend Leo Baresch in London, and asked him what on earth were squared circle postmarks. Leo had heard of them and told me that they were quite commonly to be found, especially on the small queens issue, and that he, too, had noted some interest in them from Canada but little or no interest in England. I asked him if he would go through his stock and, if he had any, would he be good enough to send them to me.

The next day I received quite a large package from Leo. They mostly seemed to be very common 3 cents small queens, plus a few other values and at least five covers. Each was cancelled with a similar circle surrounded by a barred square and the range of towns was quite large. From memory, I don't think Leo charged me anything at all for them. Take them as a gift, he had said, probably considering the whole lot to be worth little more than a few shillings.

Years later, I was to reprimand myself for not having even noted the towns or dates. For maybe there was a great rarity amongst them. In any event no handbook on the subject had then been published. Off they were shipped to my man in California, with the same offer. Would he be prepared to accept the whole lot for his single Large Queen numeral that I needed? I anxiously awaited his reply which was soon forthcoming. Again, the most profuse letter of thanks. Yes, these were exactly the stamps he was looking for, and how generous of me to offer them in exchange for a single stamp. Enclosed was not only my 60th numeral, for the first ever completion of a set on the Large Queens, but also 5 other fine numeral strikes, which he said would perhaps be 'better in my hands'. I was happy, he was elated, and I realised with some astonishment that both stamps, for which I would have gladly paid quite a lot, had been acquired for . . . precisely nothing, other than a few airmail postage stamps.

It was this principle of trading, and of especially being a very generous trader, that I used continuously from thenceforth. I started to put aside anything unusual of almost every branch of philately that came my way. I had found that other collectors, who might have a Canadian stamp that I

needed, were just as likely to go wild about the early postmarks of Peru or Tibet and so, gradually, I built up a 'trading stock' of the most unusual items, and not necessarily Canadian ones at all.

Years later, I came into the Squared Circle collecting field myself and built up one of the largest collections ever formed, almost entirely by this trading method. I specialised particularly in strikes on the large Jubilee series with my aim to catch up with my friend Doug. Crawford, who collected almost nothing else but 3 cents Jubilees with these attractive postmarks. Before long I had over 200 different towns, but Doug. was always just a leap or so ahead. In fact I never did quite catch him up, but the point is that almost my entire collection of these had been acquired by generous trading. I made a point of giving every collector correspondent the choice of four copies of mine for any one of his that I wanted. I was almost invariably accepted. It meant that I had to obtain a large supply of duplicates, but that was far easier I found than obtaining one copy of a really scarce office.

And so it was with a great many other 'special' interests that I developed from time to time. Collectors will rarely if ever sell their gems, but find them something in their particular field, and then they will gladly part with them.

### **The Large Queen papers**

I cannot leave Horace Harrison without mentioning an unusual incident which occurred around this time. Horace would send me my numeral postmarks and, in return, I would seek out and send to him anything at all unusual in the printings by way of papers or perforations that I could unearth in England. But the sources for Large Queens in England were quite sparse. I would unearth what I could from dealers' stocks during my travels around but they were not plentiful. Another good source in those days was at auction when the larger London sales quite often had fairly bulky lots and I would attend these as often as I could.

Accordingly I recall that one day, Robson Lowe had a Sale in London with some bulky Large Queen lots, which I had examined and determined to buy for Horace. The 12½ cents value which, being the rate to England, was always rather more plentiful here than in Canada, came in a series of six lots of some fifty fine used copies in each. Nowadays, these stamps would be sold singly rather than in bulk. I selected three of these lots as being the best quality and managed to purchase them quite reasonably.

In the examination of one lot, after extracting quite a good number of undescribed Bothwell watermark varieties, I noticed that one of the stamps amongst the fifty was extremely odd. In fact, neither before nor since, have I ever seen anything like it. Firstly, the colour was not the normal bright blue. It was deep navy, almost black. No. 12½ cent could surely be that colour? Perhaps in some way it had become oxidised, I thought, in my ignorance. Then the paper was extremely soft and the whole design a little blurred.

At the time I thought little more about it, but, on posting most of the copies to Horace, I pointed out that there was this very odd stamp amongst them, and perhaps he could fathom out exactly what it was.

I shall never forget the excited reply I received from Horace. In fact on opening his letter, and even before reading it, I saw with some surprise that he had included for me almost his entire collection of numeral postmarks. It appears that he had been making a study of the Large Queen papers in great depth. He had isolated most values as being found on what he described as a 'soft white blotting-paper'. It was a distinctive paper that absorbed tiny drops of liquid placed on the stamp whereas the normal papers would not react in the same way. This paper also seemed to affect the printings which were often slightly blurred and could affect the resulting colour of the stamp. Horace wrote that whilst he had discovered this paper variety on most values, he had only suspected of its existence on the 12½ cents. What I had sent him was his 'missing link' . . . a superb example of the soft white blotting-paper on this value which showed up both a colour and a printing variation more boldly than on any other value.

His elation at the stamp was such that he simply had to have it and suspecting, I suppose, that once I knew what it was, I might want to keep it, he had offered me and sent a huge range of his postmarks in exchange. Of course, I was only too delighted to let him keep it and accepted just a few of the numerals in exchange, returning the rest to him.

Very many years later, when Horace had long since discontinued Large Queens and was heavily into his new love of Registration stamps, by which time I was a little out of touch with him, I discovered that he had sold all his Large Queens. I was disappointed to learn this because I would have liked to have re-acquired that mysterious 12½ cent variety. It must now be housed in some fine collection somewhere. I just hope the new owner, whoever he may be, realises that he possesses what is probably a unique and exceedingly rare copy.

Early in the sixties, Horace and I decided to research the 'fancy' numeral postmarks on the Large Queens, the three main offices being Toronto (2), Ottawa (8) and Kingston (9). In the case of Toronto we found that in 1869 the limited number of official 2-ring '2' obliterations issued to the office were insufficient for what had become a very busy office. The Postmaster was allowed to supplement these and eventually to replace them by a series of fancy cork types, which, so long as they incorporated the figure '2' could be in almost any design. He must have been an imaginative and artistic Postmaster because these 'fancy' corks lasted usually only a week or two and themselves had to be replaced by others, and yet the range of designs was quite large.

We collected and identified over 60 different fancy '2s' of Toronto. These we numbered and illustrated for articles in *Maple Leaves* and *BNA Topics*. To this day the 'C and H' (Cohen and Harrison) numbers are used in reference to this group of postmarks.

*To be continued*

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## BOOK REVIEW

### **THE LARGE QUEEN STAMPS of CANADA and THEIR USE 1868-1872 by H. E. & H. W. Duckworth.**

Published by Vincent G. Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. Price \$125.

This beautiful and well loved issue has produced a number of articles over the years but only two books. Firth's monograph on the 15c value and Reiche's 'Large Queen Report', both slim volumes aimed entirely at collectors of the stamps themselves.

Now we have a meaty 480-page hard-back, the result of many years of study by the Duckworths, published by the Vinnie Greene Foundation. Included in the volume are more than 90 pages on the stamps; 100 pages cover domestic mail, including rates and cancellations; 90 pages are devoted to mail to North America outside the Dominion, while over 100 pages chronicle the mail to U.K. and overseas. Appendices include such diversity as the P.O. Dept. orders for postage stamps and sailing times for mail ships. Nine pages of index add immensely to the value of the book for reference purposes.

The stamps are well covered although perhaps it's not the last word in terms of minor flaws; the postal history aspects of the issue, including postmarks, offer a wealth of information which should satisfy any student of the issue. Any serious student of the issue will obviously need the book and I'm afraid it needs to rest on the shelf for reference, a quick loan from the library will only whet the appetite.

To be fair, however, there are snags. The major one is the price, a hefty \$125, which I fear will restrict sales somewhat. The authors have confined themselves to the Large Queen *period*, i.e. 1868-72, which means that the 5c value is not covered and the 15c value is only examined for a fraction of its 30-year life. Some of the illustrations are less than helpful in that the feature described cannot be seen and I hold the view that photographs of the backs of stamps do little to assist in the identification of the various papers.

It is a pity to have to make such criticism as the Duckworths have done a magnificent job but, at the price asked, one is seeking perfection in all departments.

Students who confine themselves to the stamps alone can probably continue to survive with Firth and Reiche, but those with a broader outlook are going to have to bite on the bullet and fork out because have this book you must!

D.F.S.

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