

ISSN 0951-5283
JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN



Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 220

Vol.21 No. 3⁴

October 1988



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MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCORPORATED 1946

Founder:

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

Edited by: David Sessions, FRPSL, FCPS.

36 The Chimes, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2NH.

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

Annual Subscription £8.50 – Due 1st October

Vol. 21 No. 4

OCTOBER 1988

Whole No. 220

EDITORIAL

Shortly after a distinguished philatelic party to celebrate his 95th birthday, Vincent (Vinnie) Greene, RDP, passed away. With Vinnie's passing Canadian philately lost one of its all-time greats; an all-too-brief obituary appears elsewhere. The note is based on a fuller tribute paid by Ian Robertson, to whom we are also indebted for the photograph.

Most members will be aware of the birth of the Canadian Postal Museum and its early closure amidst clouds of controversy. North American members no doubt followed the saga with dismay and shared our own doubts over Canada Post's talk of a new centre when suitable premises could be found. For the benefit of UK and other members, who may not be familiar with recent developments, we report that the Museum has now been broken up. The library and philatelic collections become part of the National Archive of Canada, under the sub-head 'National Postal Archives', while artifacts go to the Canadian Museum of Civilization and will be known as the 'National Postal Museum'.

Collectors will generally be more concerned with the archive section and it is good to hear that such die proofs, essays etc., held by Canada Post and not by the former Postal Museum, are also being transferred to the Archive. One can only hope that, once the dust has settled, collectors will again have reasonable access to the wealth of archival material in store.

SOUTH WEST SEMINAR

Following our initial meeting last year, the South West group ran another afternoon seminar on Sunday, 21 August, in conjunction with the Bristol Federation's Convention. A number of dealers' stands provided plenty of diversion for those who made the journey.

We were indeed pleased to see the small London delegation, without whose material the afternoon might have seemed unnecessarily long! George Bellack showed registered covers and Lew Warren weighed in with a delightful display of the ever-popular fancy cancellations. David Sessions showed some Newfoundland forgeries and followed later with forgeries of Canada and British Columbia.

Ted Lewis from Bath made his CPS debut with a few sheets illustrating his broad approach to the collecting of Canadian material. This was supplemented by another debutante, Alex Round, who displayed the 1949/50 'Mufti' issues and Christmas stamps. We wondered whether some sort of record had been set up with these displays. Alex has been a junior member of the CPS in her father's name but, having now reached the age of eighteen, qualifies in her own right; was Alex the youngest member ever to display to a CPS gathering? Incidentally, it was nice to hear one member (who is somewhat more than 18) comment, "I didn't know that before", on looking at Alex's display. Such comment from one's elders is always pleasing – it also epitomises what such a meeting, and perhaps even the Society, is all about.

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MAP STAMP QUESTIONS

Answered by J.L. and R.B. Winmill

When one has produced a volume on a particular subject and become reasonably well known, one tends to attract numerous enquiries related to this field of expertise. Over the years, three questions have been fielded more frequently than any others:

- i) Is this a long or a short centre line cross?
- ii) How can I distinguish a small die proof from other similar matter?
- iii) What does the forgery look like? What is the forged cancel on it like?

These questions can best be answered with illustrations. While imperf blocks would show the centre crosses far more clearly, the temptation to employ them has been resisted as perforated examples are the more normal subject of enquiry. The obvious difference can be noted in figure 1.



Fig. 1
Top: long centre cross
Bottom: short centre cross

Photo courtesy
of Jim Hennok
Ltd.

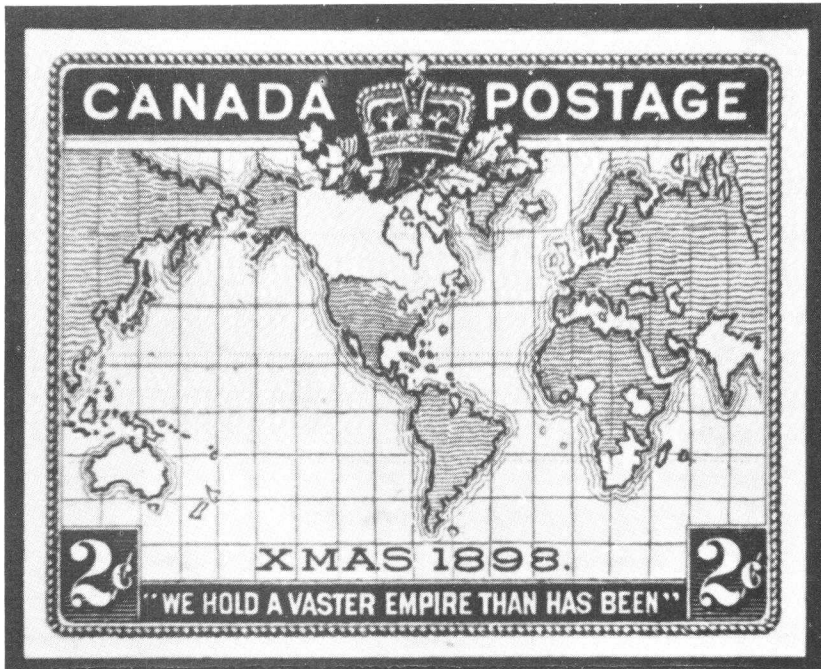


Fig. 2 Small die proof on 0.009" thick card

The subject of the small die proof has been dealt with in a previous article, however, to clarify the matter, the item is illustrated as figure 2. This example most probably can be attributed to the presentation book, once in the possession of the late Dr. Clare Jephcott. The one formerly in the Winmill collection may have been the Lichtenstein example, both attributions are a matter of educated conjecture. While there are differences in clarity relating to the Indian Ocean island group and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the easiest way to distinguish these, from any possible forgeries and stamps, is by the tiny line from the cable and past the value tablet, roughly bisecting the 90° angle formed by the value tablet and the frame line, see figure 3.

The forgery has previously been illustrated by Fred Tomlinson, FCPS, in his fine book but, for the benefit of those lacking that volume, it is reproduced as figure 4.

Hopefully these illustrations will suffice to answer queries members may have about these items.

Fig. 3 Enlargement of portion of small die proof showing fine diagonal line from cable across corner of value tablet.



Fig. 4 Forged Map Stamp bearing forged Montreal postmark.

Photo courtesy of W.L. Bradley



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RARER THAN RARE!
by The Yellow Peril

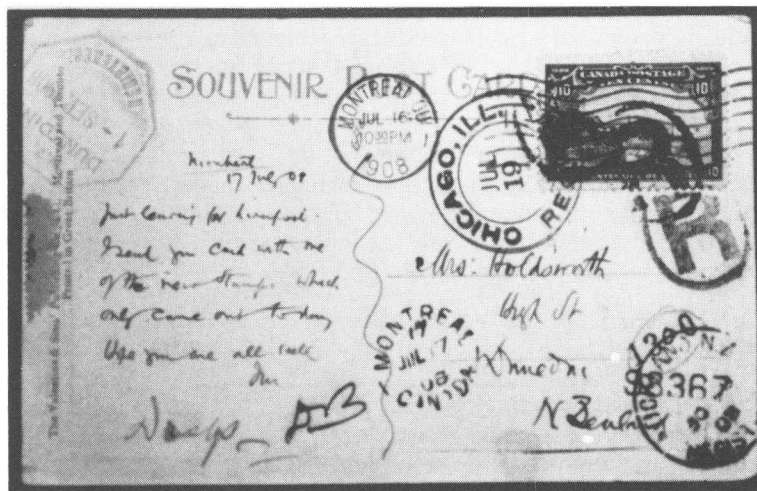
Photo by P. Prude

A somewhat baffling item that has given me more pleasure than all my forgeries, fakes and fantasies (philatelic), is this Quebec Tercentenary post card depicting "Chateau from Laval University" and franked with a 10¢ Quebec stamp.

The card is dated Montreal 17 July 08 and it is sent to Mrs Holdsworth, High Street, Dunedin, New Zealand. The message: "Just leaving for Liverpool. I send you card with one of the new stamps which only came out today. Hope you are well. Jim". The card is also signed "Drags" and "D B".

It would appear that Jim, who was not a collector, wrote the card on Thursday afternoon of July 16, 1908 but dated it the next day. (The practice of post dating correspondence the next working day is not too uncommon, especially when it is written on a weekend, holiday or late in the day). Jim then took the card to the post office where the registration clerk stamped the card with registration number 1300.

The clerk, however, did not postmark the card until later that evening probably just before finishing his shift when he machine-



10¢ Quebec tied to registered first day post card to New Zealand. Note smudged manuscript "11" in MONTREAL JUL 17 cds.

cancelled all the registered mail received during the afternoon. The machine hub reads "MONTREAL QUE JUL 16 (10:30 PM) 1908." The stamp is further tied to the card by three R's. The next morning, shortly after 11:00 a.m. the card left Montreal on its merry way to "down-under" via Chicago. There it was stamped with a double circle rubber Chicago transit marking – JUL 19 and registration number 98367. The colour of the Chicago marking coincidentally matches the violet colour of the stamp. The card, which received the Auckland registration transit handstamp 30 Aug 08, arrived at Dunedin 1 Sept 1908 (octagonal bluish arrival marking at UL). Five postmarks (four different cities) three R's and two registration numbers are all on the address side.

As the post card rate was only 2¢ and the registration fee 5¢ the reason for a 10¢ stamp is most intriguing. Could it be that a misinformed postal clerk "dinged" Jim 5¢ (the first-class letter rate) for the divided-back post card and another 5¢ for the registration fee? The 2¢ divided back post card rate to New Zealand was authorized 5 April 1906.¹ Another not too far-fetched possibility was that before embarking Jim had a Canadian dime (10¢ piece) left but rather than buy a 2¢ stamp to mail the card, only to have four more coins (a 5¢ and three 1¢ pieces) which he could not spend in Liverpool, blew the entire dime on the postage. In so doing, he not only solved the excess coins problem but he also ensured the delivery of the card by registering it.

Whatever Jim's reasons were for using the 10¢ Quebec stamp he, unknowingly, created a rarity that is rarer than rare: a registered picture post card franked with a high value Quebec stamp, sent to a rare destination, cancelled with all transit markings, and on the stamp's first day of issue! Notwithstanding the above, the extremely remote possibility that Jim could have sent other first day post cards to friends and relatives dare not be ruled out. Any fortunate reader, therefore, who has such Quebec first day covers or cards, and they need neither be registered nor addressed to New Zealand, can, on his or her terms, enjoy "open season" on the Y.P.!

¹ Allan L. Steinhart, THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE POST CARD IN CANADA 1871-1911, p. 52

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THE PRODUCTION OF CANADIAN POSTAGE STAMPS (1950–1970) (Part 2) **by Jacques Nolet** **of the Académie Québécoise d'Etudes Philatéliques**

The second point may be assumed to be: was it sufficiently significant to Canadians in line with the theme selected by the Ministry for the event to be commemorated. Unfortunately, projects presented by good Canadian designers were often rejected because they did not conform to this requirement.

The third factor which came into play was the reaction of the Minister to the preliminary sketches presented: that is the ability of the selected artist to complete on time the task entrusted to him. Even if a preliminary sketch was accepted, changes would be needed to bring it to the final stage: was the artist capable of responding to all the requirements of the ministry? Many artists have abandoned designing postage stamps because they find the requirements too restrictive for their creative talents.



The postage stamp issued to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of Quebec city (1958), final work of Gerald Trottier.

e) Follow up on the Work

The ministry strictly judged the preliminary sketches submitted by the artists following an official request or those submitted informally. This was probably why the D of FS requested only those artists whose previous postal work has been in line with departmental needs.

When an artist had the privilege of a green light from the D of FS he was not at the end of his labour – his work had just begun.

Usually many major changes had to be made to the original design in order that it may conform to the requirements of the Ministry or to the wishes of the powerful D of FS.

This latter insisted, first of all, that the graphic design of the project be compatible with the engraving method chosen, then he turned his attention to the lettering of the stamp which had to be in balance within its limitations in order that the face value of this future issue could be easily determined.

There were then delays while the steel engraving was made of the original design while it was being approved for printing, this made a great deal of supplementary work for the engraver.

A number of artists selected by the Ministry have told us that this was the most harrassing part of their artistic work as it was very seldom that the Ministry accepted their artistic preliminaries as is! Many retouchings of the original were demanded by the top brass.

Graphic illustration which aided Gerald Trottier in drawing the portrait of Champlain which was included in the final design of the postage stamp.



f) The Final Work

The changes made to the selected project took at least three months on the part of its creator. When the designer had responded to all the requirements he saw his preliminary sketches “retouched” before the suggestion was definitely accepted.

Each time there was one final step to climb, this was at the insistence of the Ministry of Post, the Associate Minister (usually) or the Minister (when he took the responsibility himself).

This final and definite approval translated into a payment (between three and four hundred dollars) by the Ministry to the artist. We believe that this amount is a mockery of the artist considering the innumerable hours of work he had devoted, first to the preliminary sketches, then to the changes, until the finalization of the project.

The artist had then completed his creative work having turned over an original on which the highest authorities had made decisions.

III THE ENGRAVING OF THE ACCEPTED DESIGN

The Minister of Post immediately sent the original design to the firm to which its production was entrusted and the D of FS ordered the production of the work.

a) The Official Order

The D of FS sent a letter to the Vice-President of the Canadian Bank Note Company indicating that the Minister wished to have a stamp as per the design enclosed.

Moreover he indicated the printing method selected (in this case steel engraving), the number of units foreseen (that is the quantity expected) and the approximate date of issue (this required first delivery a little earlier).

These then were all the elements required in the official order from the Ministry to the company entrusted with the technical production.



Second preliminary sketch by Gerald Trottier.

b) Photographic Proofs

On receipt of the official order from the Ministry, the Canadian Bank Note Company reduced the original photographically to the actual size of the projected stamp. It was these reduced black and white photographic proofs which the CBNC produced which were later submitted in duplicate to the Minister prior to the actual engraving.

The D of FS, at this period, J.A. MacDonald, has explained that the precise object of these photographic proofs was only to show exactly the various graphic elements making up the original design.

When the responsible authority of the Ministry, in this case the Associate Minister, gave his approval in signing the reduced photographic proofs, the company began the actual engraving. This official approval was generally given within seven days.

c) The Definite Start

When the photographic proof was returned to the CBNC, approved by the Ministry, the D of FS asked the company to begin the actual production of the item.

We should add that this photographic proof constitutes the actual official order which the Ministry gives to the CBNC and authorized the company to begin the actual engraving on steel.

d) The Steel Engraving

Contrary to what happened in France, where one master engraver did the lettering and the design, the CBNC usually called on two of its specialists to do the engraving.

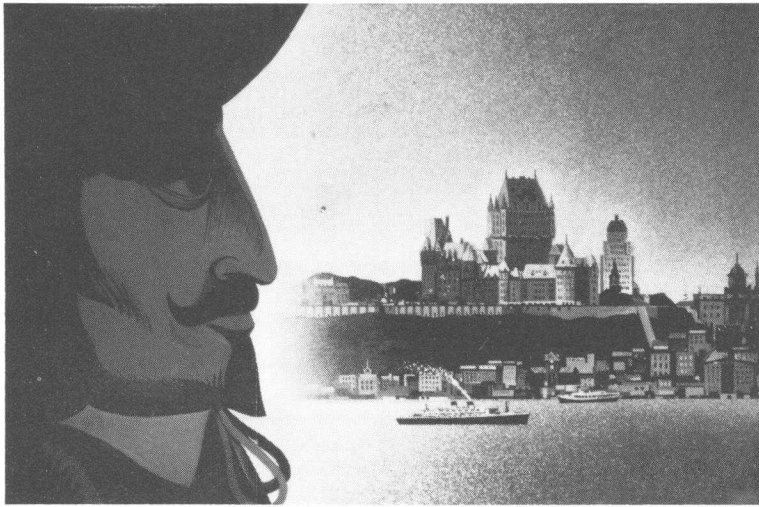
The CBNC first entrusted the original engraving to its specialist in lettering (the Marsh family). He would engrave all the lettering (including the value) on the die, which was about a week's work. When he had finished he turned the die over to the company.

Once the lettering had been done the CBNC turned the die over to its only engraver specializing in portraiture at this time, Yves Baril. Recently this master engraver confided in us that he had engraved more than 150 Canadian postage stamps.

He immediately got to work, as an "easy" engraving on steel required at least four weeks of intensive work while a "difficult" one required as much as three months to complete.

Starting with the reduced photographic proof he asked for a negative proof which was the basis of his engraving. It is important to note that all engraving specialists engrave the design submitted to them in reverse.

Following intensive and very delicate work he turned the completed die over to his superiors. There was a delay varying from one to three months depending on the complexity of the design.



Final original design.

e) Approval of the Engraving

The company pulled die proofs in black which were mounted in an official presentation folder. Two copies were sent to the Ministry for official approval of the engraving.

The original die was not, at that stage, hardened or acid etched by the CBNC because it may have been subject to final changes by the authorities.

Following a minute study of the die proofs the D of FS recommended approval to the Deputy Minister or the Minister.

The official authorized signature was then placed at the bottom of the proof in the appropriate spot and this proof was returned to the CBNC who would then temper (harden) the original die.

(to be continued)



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The following article is, to some extent, exploratory in nature. The postal service which existed at Camp Borden during World War One and to the beginning of World War Two presents the possibility of a most interesting story for military postal history collectors. Perhaps the most significant point in the story is the number of different postal cancelling devices which were manufactured, and put into service, during the period. The first task is to gather these together in order of their appearance on the scene. Information from readers is solicited in order to accomplish the job.

CAMP BORDEN AND ITS MILITARY POSTMARKS

1916–1940 (Part 1)

By Colin Campbell

By the month of February, 1916 there were 16 military camps in Canada of which a few had served the Militia for some years. The remainder however were hastily built to handle the large number of recruits gathering for the Canadian Expeditionary Force which was Canada's contribution to the Allied cause in the First World War. Some of these campsites are still serving the military today.

The need for yet one more training camp resulted from the inadequacy of the camps at Niagara, and Carling Heights (London, Ontario) for handling the training needs of the C.E.F. The site chosen, some 17000 acres, a few miles west of Barrie, Ontario was to be named Camp Borden after Frederick William Borden, cousin of R.L. Borden, Canada's Prime Minister from 1911 to 1920. Camp activity began 15 June, 1916 but the official opening was staged on 11 July with thousands of soldiers on parade. It is interesting to note that the first battalion to



go into camp on the Plains, or Angus Plains, as the area was known locally, was the 157th (Simcoe Foresters) under Lt. Col. D.H. MacLaren followed by the 166th, 180th and 198th Battalions.

From the accounts one reads of Borden's early days the sandy soil on which the entire camp was built, and ashes, the result of burning thousands of pine stumps after clearing the land, was the first "enemy" the recruits were to encounter. Especially trying during a route march on a hot, windy day!

The high concentration of troops was short lived however as after little more than one year the huge camp had fulfilled its primary purpose. One reference is quoted . . . "Unfortunately by this year (1917) the flood of recruits had become a mere rivulet and as trained battalions went overseas few infantry units were left for accomodation at Camp Borden".

As we shall see this period of intense activity brought with it the greatest number and variety of postmarks of any of the camps referred to above and the scarcity, with one exception, of these can be attested to by today's military mail collectors whose diligent search for cancellations bearing the Camp Borden name, is not often enough satisfied.

It seems evident that a Canada Militia type cancellation was the first to be proofed (see 1) and that date was May 12, 1916. To this writer's knowledge no example of usage of this hammer has yet been reported.



Figure 1



Figure 2

A second hammer (see 2) of the same type is known to have been used to cancel mail in 1916 and 1917. The proofing date of the hammer is not known at this time.

A third hammer (3) of the same type is on record and known to have seen "active service" in 1918. Here again the proofing date is as yet unknown. Notice the rim break at the nine o'clock position. The original hammer is in the custody of the National Postal Museum.

A fourth hammer of the same type, proofed 7 July, 1916 is shown at (4) and reports of usage for cancelling mail are on record for the 1917 period only.



Figure 3



Figure 4

The numbers 1 to 4 identifying the Canada Militia hammers above match those used in earlier correspondence with staff at the National Postal Museum. They *do not* match the identifying *letters* used in Canadian Military Posts, Volume I by W.J. Bailey and E.R. Toop of 1984.

Over the past five years a fair quantity of the subject cancels have come onto the market and it is hoped that some earlier dates of usage (e.d.u.) can be established, especially for hammers 2 and 3. Readers are requested to report their findings in this regard and to report all Borden CM strikes so our total numbers can be increased. There surely are more than 17 strikes in collections at this time. In identifying your strikes note the periods (dots) between BORDEN and ONT. in hammers 1 and 2. These are not present in the other two hammers. Hammer 3 exhibits the rim break previously mentioned although the break was not there when the hammer was first made. Hammer 4 exhibits the indented "C" of CANADA. Here is some data on which to base your reports. . .please send photocopies. . . .

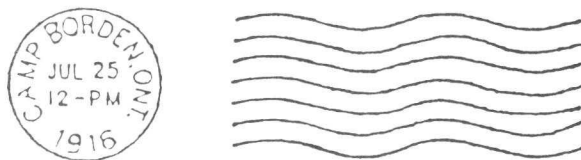
HAMMER	year/years used	number of reports	earliest date reported
1	no reports		
2	1916 and 1917	4	AM JU (JUNE) 10, 1916
3	1917 and 1918	9	APRIL 2, 1917
4	1917	4	MARCH 28, 1917

No January, February or December dates have yet been reported. The year most reported is 1918.

While no Post Office Record Card has yet been found recording the opening date of the Field Post Office at Camp Borden other sources available at the Postal Museum suggest 22 May, 1916 as the first operational day. Closings and re-openings followed at various intervals until World War Two.

The next cancelling device, the first of three machine cancels to appear bearing the Camp Borden title, is shown at 5 with a modest number of examples reported. 3 July, 1916 is, so far, the earliest date reported. It is possible that a late June date exists for this cancellation. If a reader has this card/cover please let me know.

Figure 5



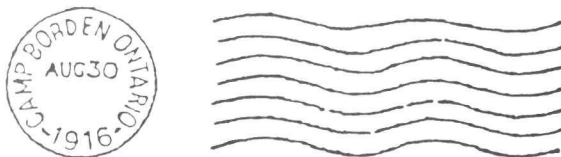
The second machine cancel is shown at 6 with 3 August, 1916 the earliest reported date. This one has proved to be the most prolific of the three and is of the Universal type. Note ONT. abbreviated.

Figure 6



The third machine (see 7) is unique among Internationals with the two radial dashes at year date. 4 August, 1916 is the earliest date reported at this time. This is much the toughest of the three machines to add to a collection. Notice ONTARIO in full.

Figure 7



Also in 1916, 15 July to be exact, two cancelling hammers were proofed. See 8 and 9. No dates of usage are known to this writer.

military camp A



military camp B

Figure 8

Figure 9

August 24, 1916 was the day the double ring cancel was proofed and is shown here at 10. No examples of usage have yet been reported. The next (11) whose proofing date is unknown at this time has been seen on covers with its unique "pie crust" centre. The inscription is in script. Please report any dates in your collection. Two very clear examples of #11 have been seen dated SEP 18, 1916 and AUG 29, 1917; both sent at the Registered rate.



Figure 10



Figure 12



Figure 11

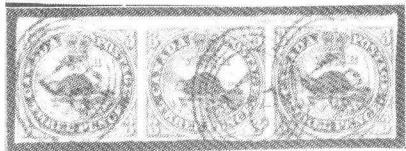
A roller type cancelling device (12) was manufactured for use at Camp Borden and is recorded in the late E.A. Smythies' Canadian Roller Cancellations handbook, 1894-1930, 2nd edition.

Quite recently, a properly applied example of the Borden roller has been found cancelling two Admiral stamps. No date, of course, is in evidence but August, 1916, or afterward, is a likely date of usage.

(to be continued)

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TYPESET AND PLASTIC OFFICIAL SEALS by Dale Speirs

Most philatelists who pay any attention to official seals generally think only of the catalogue-listed labels which bear resemblance to postage stamps. When searching boxes of old covers however, the odds are that any official seals seen will be non-catalogue. There are several types: typeset (Label 39), plastic baggies (the modern procedure), and a few oddities such as election seals.

The typeset seals, known within the post office as 'Label 39', are small squares which are folded over the tear in the envelope. There is an inscription explaining the damage, space for two signatures of postal employees, and a square for the postmark. These seals are rouletted on one or more sides and frequently have straight edges. They are usually bilingual, but not always so. The most common inscription is "Found damaged, torn/ or open and officially/ repaired.". The French translation reads "Trouvé endommagé,/ déchiré ou ouvert et/ réparé d'office."

During the Second World War, another type of seal used was for the purpose of currency control. The inscription reads "Opened to verify contents in/ accordance with requirements of/Foreign Exchange Control Board/ and officially sealed by/ _____/ Examiner".

In recent years, most damaged mail is placed in plastic baggies, about which more later. However, typeset seals are still being used. The older seals are printed in black ink on cream paper; the newer seals are printed in purple ink on white paper.

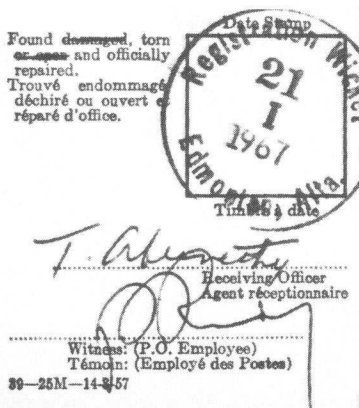


Figure 1



Figure 2

Typeset official seals have printing job numbers on them. There are seals which are blank, but most will bear some kind of marking. A very preliminary list of these numbers is given below. Readers who can add additional numbers are requested to send them to me; I would appreciate clear photocopies if possible, but otherwise copy the numbers exactly as they appear on the seal. (Send to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7).

I.D.L. (a) – 5,000 –10–8–23	39–18,000–23–3–48
39–20,000—sheets–12–8–27	39–25M–31–5–56
39½–4,000–31–8–28	39–25M–14–3–57
39–25,000–sheets–18–9–35	39–10–12–63
39–20,000–sheets–24–12–36	33–85–027 (1–66)
I–B.–20,000–15–2–40	24–86–040 (3–68)
I–B.–20,000–18–7–40	33–86–040 (9–68)
I–B.–25,000 Sheets–4–10–40	33–86–040 (8–69)
I–B.–50,000 Sheets–3–4–41	33–86–040 (8–70)
I–B.–80,000 Sheets–18–7–41	33–86–040 (9–71)
I–B.–125,000 Sheets–18–2–42	33–86–040 (8–73)
I–B.–100,000 Sheets–4–8–43	33–086–040 (2–75)
I–B.–100,000 Sheets–11–5–44	

The seals whose job number is prefixed by I–B. are Foreign Exchange Control Board seals. The first set of numbers or letters appears to identify the type of seal, the next number indicates how many sheets of seals were printed, and the final characters are the date of printing or ordering. The later seals appear to have only the inventory number of the seal and the date ordered or printed.

Most Label 39 or Foreign Exchange seals are postmarked within a few years after the job number date. Some seals were apparently used over an extended period, as shown in Figure 1, which has a job order date of 1957 but is postmarked 1967. It may have been that the seals were left in storage and forgotten, but a better explanation suggests itself from the postmark. Registered mail is handled better than ordinary mail, and is thus less likely to be damaged. Because such mail must be signed for at each stage, the postal employees are careful to avoid damage, which they would have to explain if the next person refused to accept it. The volume of registered mail is lower than other types of mail, also reducing the need for official seals. Consequently, a batch of seals can last for quite a few years.

Modern procedure is to wrap damaged mail in plastic baggies, although the typeset seals are still used. Figure 2 shows a purple-on-white seal with a job order date of 1975, used in 1987.



Figure 3

The Foreign Control seals are shown in figures 3 and 4, as cut pieces wrapped around the edge of envelopes. The postmarks were supposed to go on the 'Date' square, but instead are used to tie the seals to the covers as a precaution against tampering.

The plastic baggies are variable in size, and are often trimmed to fit the envelope. The ones that I have seen are of standard format, being printed in pink ink and of a design as shown in figure 5. The inscription is a bit misleading, as the damaged envelope is not repaired but simply placed into the baggie as is. The advantage of baggies is that there is no need for postmarking, signatures, and other accounting procedures as long as the envelope address is still readable. The baggies are clear. I have one baggie from Calgary, Alberta, with a manufacturer's name at the top (unreadable except for the first letter, 'P') and the number 11-81. The number could be the job order date, or it could be just the manufacturer's inventory number.

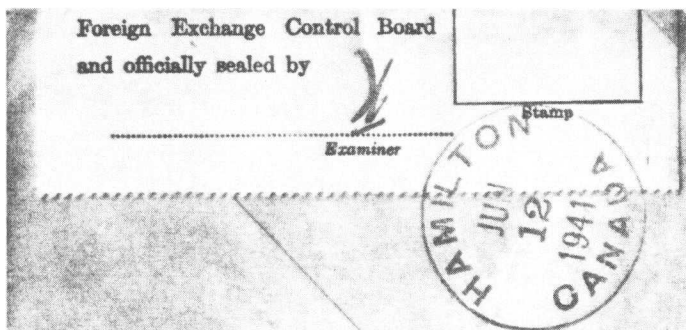


Figure 4



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The rarest type of official seal is the elections seal. After a federal election in Canada, all the poll results are mailed to each candidate. There are usually about four or five candidates per constituency, several hundred polls, and between 250 and 300 ridings. This means that anywhere from 125,000 to 400,000 poll-result envelopes may be mailed out. Those that are torn will be sealed; Figure 6 shows an example from the 1980 general election. Unless the returns were close, and a recount demanded, most candidates discarded their envelopes unopened, since they already knew the results. Up to six signatures may appear on an election official seal. Two are election officers, and up to four may be party scrutineers. These seals are scarce for two reasons, the first as

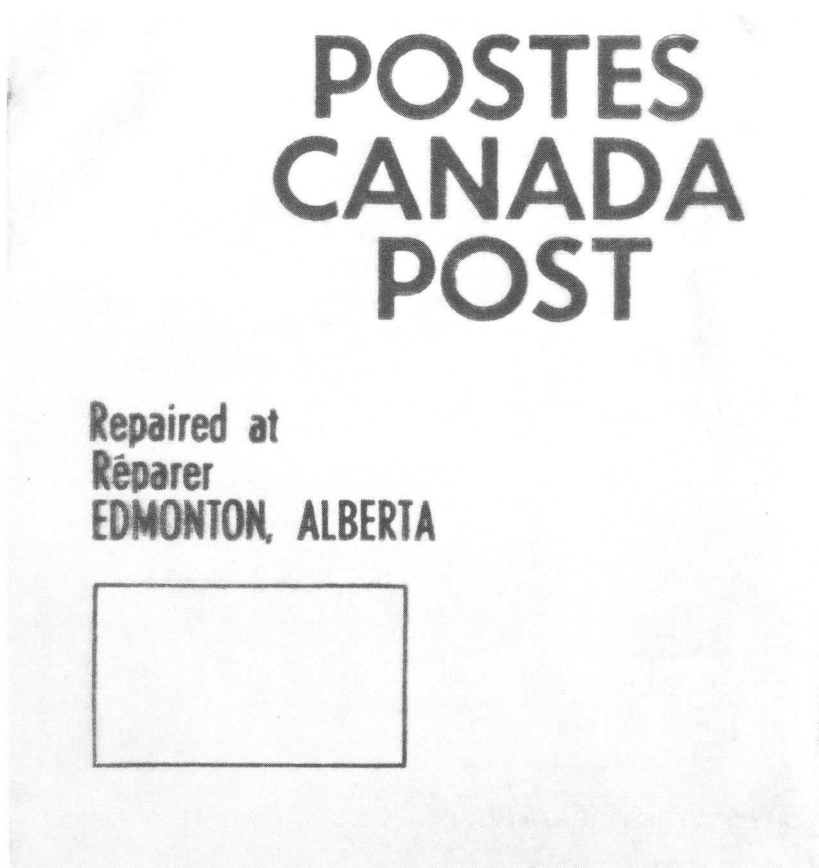


Figure 5

already mentioned, and the second because the poll results are mailed in long, #10 business-size envelopes, unpopular with collectors.

References.

Christiansen, J. (1984) Canadian typeset official seals. *CAND. PHILATELIST* 35:346-352

Christiansen, J. (1987) Canadian typeset official seals. *OFFICIALLY SEALED NOTES* 21:10-14



Figure 6

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**WEBB'S POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUE,
5th EDTN. 1988
Thoughts on Precancelled Special Order Envelopes
by George E.L. Manley**

The new authors should be justly proud of this monumental catalogue of the whole field of Postal Stationery. From the point of view of precancel collectors, two great advantages over previous editions are introduced. Firstly the precancelled envelopes have been separated from the ordinary issues, and secondly two standard precancelled post cards (not being discussed here) are now set apart from the private precancelled cards.

Now for a few thoughts on the listings of the Special Order envelopes: only those precancelled are now being considered. The writer much appreciates the various references to his Handbook on the subject, but it does seem a pity that no mention is made of the Postal Stationery Notes, Special Issue No. 2, 1986, published by BNAPS Postal Stationery Study Group. This up-dates the whole section of the Handbook on precancelled envelopes with over 300 detailed entries.

The heading "Bar Precancels" on page 27 of the catalogue is rather vague. Type E refers to one particular item, but there are two other bar precancels not mentioned against "Precancel Types" under the Dominion Envelope OVAL Issue.

To obtain a clear view of what is covered by the precancel listings, the following definitions (and codes applied) are suggested for clarity:

Priced Samples – P.S. Only 14 examples are recorded, all of which except one are in the Postal Museum, Ottawa. They cannot be classed as either 'Unused' nor 'Used'.



*Examples of 'specimen only' hand stamped.
Left: Double oval in violet, found on KG VI stationery.
Right: Toothed oval in blue, found on KG V stationery.*

“Specimen Only” – S.O. handstamps. Envelopes were produced bearing the name of the prospective customer, to whom a few samples were offered for his consideration. Only two or three copies of each (if that) are known to exist in most cases. Seven examples only (all different) of the EN 503 – entries are recorded. They are neither ‘Unused’ nor ‘Used’.

Unused – UN. This is when the order has been placed and a delivery made. The bulk are used and a few remainders have survived. They should not be confused with *S.O.* envelopes.

Used – U. The order of several thousand envelopes has now been received and distributed through the mails to various addressees. They should not be confused with *S.O.* envelopes.

From the above it can be deduced that the *S.O.* items are many times rarer than the purchased delivery. This point is confused in the Catalogue – see page 28 ‘Other Important Notes’ item 4, where it states “These SPECIMEN markings do NOT command a premium.” As a result several inconsistencies occur in the price listings as follows:

P.S. only reported. (Both records only from the Postal Museum).
EN 502–37 and –50j listed as ‘U’.

S.O. only reported.
EN 502–54 and –60b listed as ‘U’.

But
EN 519–36 and EN 522–35l listed as ‘UN’.

As these listings are inconsistent, surely it would have been more appropriate to leave both price columns blank? One further item of interest is EN 525–40c: a very common Marks Stamp Co. envelope priced at \$3. There is only one copy of a *S.O.* known of this envelope and that is in the Postal Museum. Is this also to be valued at \$3 should another one become available?

With regard to the pricing of these envelopes, it would appear to be very understated considering the scarcity of so many of them. This is especially so when compared to the equivalent precancelled post cards. In several instances envelopes priced at \$5 include some of the rarest items recorded – so good hunting to all!

Two old catalogue numbers have been changed for the better: N 502–65 becomes –75, and EN 519–47 becomes –57.

BOOK REVIEW

CANADIAN REVENUES – Vol.1, Federal Bill and Law Stamps by Edward Zaluski

The collection and study of Canadian Revenue stamps has never really taken off in Britain, whereas the 'Revenuers' have always seemed to flourish in the home country. Perhaps it's the lack of available literature over here; apart from the standard catalogues of Sissons and Van Dam there has been very little.

Perhaps Edward Zaluski is going to change all this. The volume under review is the first of a proposed series of seven volumes, we are promised one a year, a formidable project. As the title implies, volume one covers the federal bill and law stamps and with 140 pages at his disposal the author deals with them in some depth, including proofs. Obviously it is a book for the revenue enthusiast but there is much else besides. An interesting glossary includes, among other things, an extended dissertation on colour identification while a useful addendum covers the Articles of Agreement of the British American Bank Note Co. The stamps are covered in narrative form supported by a multitude of tables, no valuations are offered and this, in my opinion, is right in view of the available catalogues.

The book is 8½"×7" with plastic spiral binding and runs to some 140 pages of good substance. Text appears to originate from a personal computer, an increasingly popular method of producing short run books which would otherwise be outrageously expensive. The black and white illustrations suffer badly in some cases in the translation to print but this is a working handbook, not a coffee table volume, and I am sure most collectors will be grateful for a wealth of information at a reasonable price.

Copies can be obtained from the author, Edward Zaluski, 2777 Springland Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1V 9X2 at \$17.95 CAN + \$1.75 p & p to addresses outside Canada.

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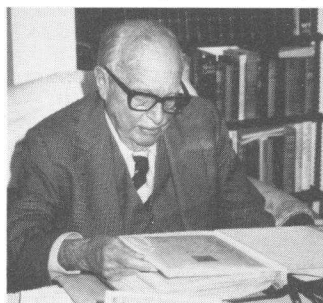
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VINCENT G. GREENE, RDP.

One of the best known of Canadian philatelists has died. Vincent Graves 'Vinnie' Greene, a veritable dean of collectors and researchers, died in a Toronto hospital on 22 July; he was 95.

Born in 1893 he inherited an interest in stamps from his father and at the age of 11 was advertising in 'Brown's Advertiser', offering to exchange Canadian, Newfoundland and US stamps for foreign ones. Interest faded during his teens and the first World War intervened, Vinnie was wounded in 1918 at the Battle of Amiens. Interest in stamps was re-kindled in 1925 when an uncle offered him 25 covers for \$20, most bearing Cape triangulars. The offer was refused! Uncle subsequently sold them for \$500. Vincent Greene learned his lesson and began a lifelong pursuit of knowledge pertaining to stamps and postal history.



Vincent Graves Greene, RDP

Photo courtesy of Ian Robertson

Co-author of 'The Stamps of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia', with Clare Jephcott and John Young, Vincent Greene received many philatelic honours. A Fellow of the Royal P.S. of London, he was a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the philatelic world's supreme accolade, and received the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award, the top honour in the US. He was chairman of the only three international stamp exhibitions held in Canada, in 1951, 1978 and 1987.

He was a past president of BNAPS, the Toronto Stamp Collectors Club and the Canadian Numismatic Association. Concerned that Canada was one of the few western countries without a centre for philatelic studies Vinnie Greene, in 1975, used \$50,000 from the sale of his major collection to form the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto. The Foundation offers one of the foremost expertising services in Canada.

Vincent Greene was a member of the Canadian PS of GB for over 40 years and it is perhaps fitting that collectors from around the world attended his 95th birthday party in the Spring.

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