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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN



# Maple Leaves

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# MAPLE LEAVES

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## EDITORIAL

In the April issue I broached the subject of a cumulative index and called for members' comments. They flooded in, both of them! It seems therefore that a formal publication is not called for and we must look for informal means. Perhaps we should be thinking of personal computers and creating a cumulative index that can readily be up-dated and made available to those who require it.

I was not exactly inundated with photographs of bygone conventions either, with one honourable exception; no doubt members are stacking them up to bring along to Convention and hand over in person.

Enough of this self pity, let's be positive. Congratulations to CPS members Dr Melvin Baron of New York and Stan Lum of Ontario on winning the Philip H. Ward Memorial Award for first day cover literature. The Award, established in 1964, is given each year by the American FDC Society in recognition of outstanding FDC writing and research. The 1990 Award recognised a series of articles on classic FDCs of Canada, co-authored by our members.

Pressure of space prevented a mention in the last issue of two aerophilatelic offerings from the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society.

First, a set of nine separately autographed Canadian 78 cents aerogrammes flown in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Snowbirds, 431 Demonstration Squadron, Canadian Forces aerobatic team. Only eleven sets were autographed by the nine current members of the Snowbirds and were flown at Moose Jaw in April 1990 and at the National Capital Air Show, Ottawa, on 1 July 1990. The set, complete with brochure, was available at \$50 on a first come, first served basis. Second, a group of 99 envelopes, some pilot signed, that were also flown at the National Capital Air Show in a Russian MIG-29. The covers bore the 39c Canada Day flag stamp, dated 29 June 1990; most outlets did not receive the new stamp till after this date. Signed covers are \$20 each and unsigned \$15. Anyone interested should write to Dick Malott at 16 Harwick Crescent, Nepean, ON, Canada, K2H 6R1 to ascertain availability.

Given sufficient space, readers should find a healthy selection of letters in this issue. This is a most encouraging sign. It is not surprising, perhaps, that Derrick Avery's letter in the April issue has brought forth more response but it is pleasing to find members responding also to articles and queries by fellow members; this surely is the prime function of a Society such as ours. I know that contributors get direct response from some members but if the points are worth making then they are probably worth sharing with the membership at large, so a copy to the Editor would not come amiss. In this issue one or two letters are quoted in extract and one or two in summary form. Wherever possible relevant letters are published in full but sometimes, in the interest of best use of available space, the Editor's pen is pulled from its cobwebbed holder.

Members will be sorry to learn of the death of Charles Jockel who, with a membership number of 57 (earliest in the current Handbook) was, as Derrick Scoot writes, "one of our very early members. He was an active member of the London Section and was made an honorary member of the Society in 1989. A good friend who will be long remembered."

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### SOCIETY TIES

Ties featuring the Society's logo on a plain ground can be obtained from Brian Stalker, the Secretary, at £6.00 each. A choice of green or navy blue background is available. Overseas members requiring Airmail delivery should add £1.00. Cheques, in £ Sterling should be made payable to the CPSofGB.

## THE WINTER MAGDALEN MAIL 1910 by Arthur F. Hobbs

It was the cachet on a philatelic first flight cover that aroused my interest and led me to seek further information about this unusual method of carrying mail, introduced to overcome an emergency which occurred in the island in 1910.

The cover, one of a pair carried in 1933 on the first outward and return flights of a winter service between Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and Grindstone Island, one of the Magdalen group, bears a cachet depicting a barrel rigged with a sail bearing the inscription 'Winter Magdalen Mail 1910'.



*First flight cover Grindstone Island to Charlottetown*

Grindstone Island lies in the inhospitable waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, midway between Newfoundland and northern New Brunswick. The air route, although only 105 miles long, was over sea throughout its entire length, and was considered to be the most dangerous of all in Canada at that time.

In 1910, navigation between Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the Magdalen Islands ceased in December, when the seas became too rough for the small boats conveying mail to venture out into the Gulf, and the islands were left in isolation until the following May when services would be resumed again.



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The only link with the mainland was a telegraph cable. On 6 January at the height of a storm, the cable parted and the islanders' isolation was complete.

In the face of the emergency several Madelinot fishermen offered to attempt the dangerous crossing. The sea was free of ice and the winds favourable but the elders of the community persuaded the young sailors not to risk their lives on what they considered would be a foolhardy undertaking. Their boats were mainly small sailing vessels, some fitted with unreliable single cylinder engines, inadequate for the crossing should the weather deteriorate. In addition, all the mainland harbours were ice-bound at that time of year and a landfall on an unprotected coast was a hazardous undertaking.

It was then that Alcide Gaudet, a young sailor from Havre-Aubert, mooted the suggestion that the mail be entrusted to an unmanned 'boat' fitted with a sail and set adrift in the prevailing current directed towards a port in Nova Scotia.

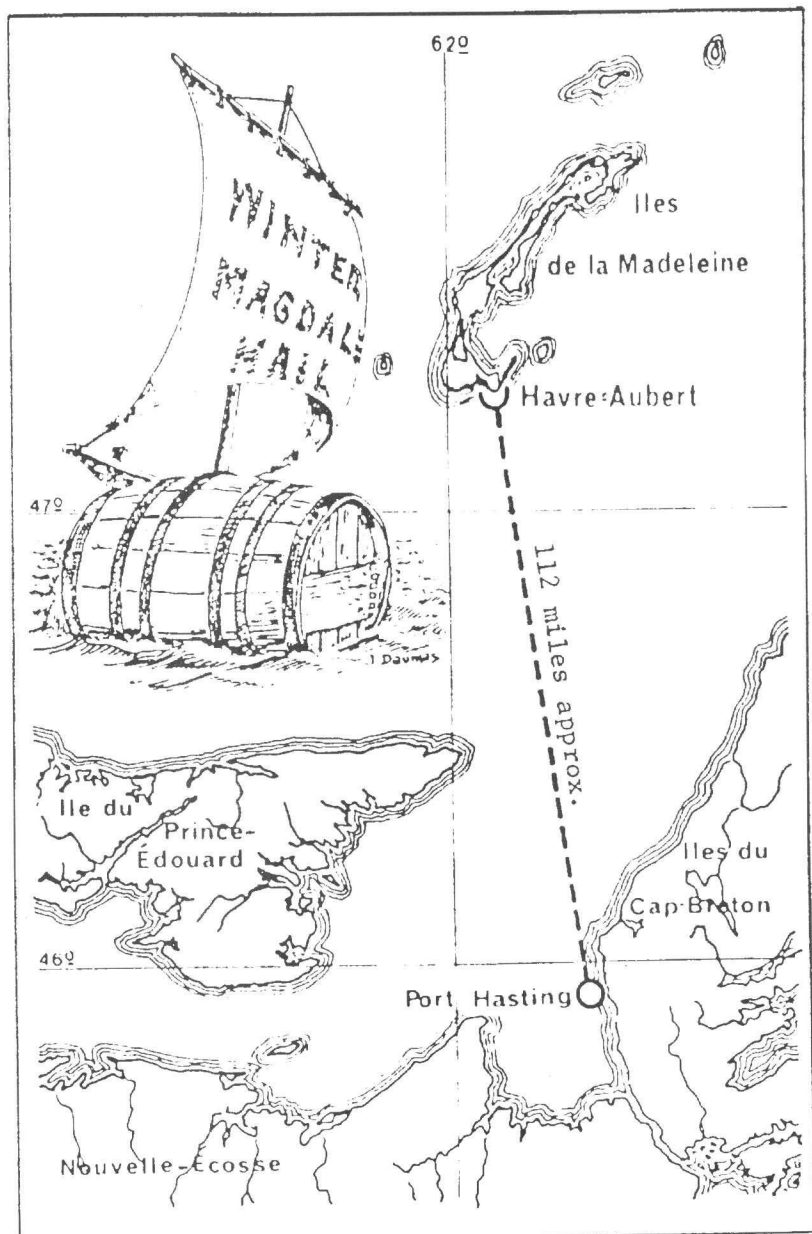
The boat which the islanders chose was a Ponchon, fitted with a rudder and sail. A Ponchon is a large barrel used locally for the storage of molasses, made of oak, looped with metal bands and entirely watertight when sealed.

The local womenfolk embroidered a star-fish on the sail along with the inscription 'Winter Magdalen Mail'. The inscription was in English as the craft was destined to make a landing on Nova Scotia, not part of the French speaking Quebec province.

The mail to be carried consisted of about 100 letters, one of which was addressed to the Minister of the Navy in Ottawa. They were placed in metal containers used for preserving lobsters, soldered shut and placed in the barrel which was sealed and made ready for the launch.

On 2 February the wind was favourable and looked fair to blow from the North-East for several days, so at 2p.m. the little vessel was launched from the harbour at Havre-Aubert, cheered by the entire population of the island. The letter to the Minister of the Navy, the Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux told of the break in the cable and of the traumatic situation in which they found themselves.

The natural elements, which so often brought death and suffering to the islanders, in this instance served them well. The Ponchon with its



*Voyage of the Ponchon*



precious cargo made landfall a few days later at Port Hastings, Nova Scotia, some 112 miles distant.

Once the craft was secured, its contents were forwarded to Halifax where the post office took over distribution. Upon receipt of the letter consigned to him the Minister despatched the steamer 'Harlow' from Sydney N.S. with a message that henceforth there would be communication with the Magdalen Islands in winter. In autumn of the same year, a Marconigram station was set up at Cap-aux-Meules which re-established the vital link with the islands.

*Acknowledgment*

The foregoing is taken largely from the book 'Captaine des Hauts-Fonds' by Frederic Laundry 1978. I am indebted to my correspondent, Peter Downman of Mansonville, Quebec Province who provided me with much of the reference.

**A SUBTLE RARITY**  
**by Robert Lunn**

I'm sure all collectors have at one time or another read an article in Maple Leaves that highlighted some rare and important philatelic piece that they dearly wished to own. I am no exception. I have read many such articles about the Canadian map stamp of 1898. One find in particular has always interested me. In Maple Leaves Whole No.205 Vol.20 No.1, October 1985, an important map stamp postal history find was reported by the 'Yellow Peril'. These were the 'Tantalizing' Latchford covers.

While looking over a catalogue for a recent auction, I was stunned to see one of the Latchford covers up for sale. Having read the description of the lot I was quick to realize the importance of this particular cover. It read:

#85. The Olive Green Ocean variety tied to cover (file creases) dated Dec 25, 1898 (First Day of Penny Postage) via Boston bs to Kingston, Jamaica bs. F-VF. Also incl the Reply cover from Jamaica Jan 2, 1899 to Mr Latchford, Ottawa. Latchford was the originator of the Dec 25 covers to the various countries in the Commonwealth that exist today. He sent these reply envelopes w/the Map covers & requested the P.M. return the cover to him. Only a couple of these reply covers have survived. An exceptional pair.

On the morning of the auction I drove a distance of approximately 400 kilometres and managed to arrive 45 minutes before the start of the sale. I viewed the lot and sure enough it was one of the 'Tantalizing



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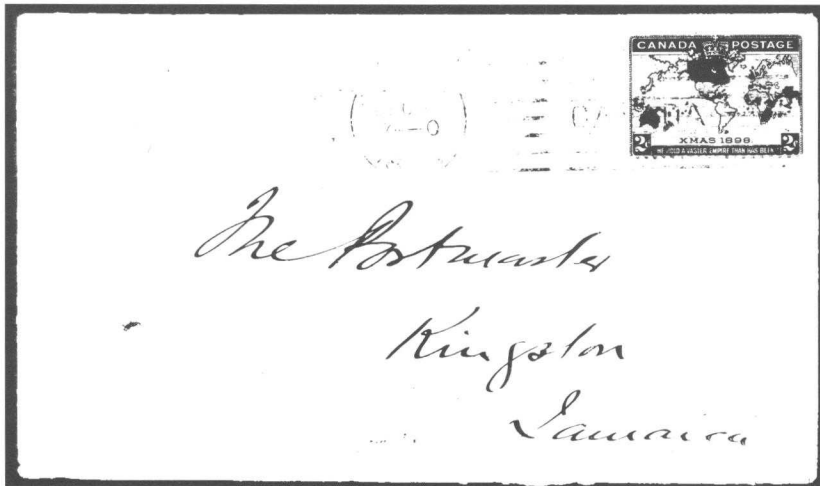
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Latchfords'. In less than one hour I was on my way home with the cover.

As soon as I arrived home I reread the story about the covers in Maple Leaves. Mr. Latchford's intention was to obtain a set of covers that had been sent to all of the **participating** countries of the Imperial Penny Postage scheme. One of the covers (Jamaica) however should not have been sent. According to the Yellow Peril and Ron Winmill (The Evolution of Imperial Penny Postage and the Postal History of the Canadian 1898 Stamp), on 25 December, 1898, Jamaica **was not** a participating country. Therefore, this is not a first day of the rate cover; it is a much rarer cover. It is an underpaid map cover sent to exotic Jamaica prior to its adherence to the Penny Postage scheme. Since it was sent to the postmaster at Kingston, it was neither rated nor postage due charged.



The return cover from the postmaster of Kingston, Jamaica, bears a one penny stamp postmarked 12 January, 1899. A question I would like to ask of my fellow members is: When exactly did Jamaica adhere to the Imperial Penny Postage scheme? I contacted Ron Winmill and asked him if he knew the answer to this question. Apparently the answer is not easy to come by, however he has agreed to look into the matter further.

*Editor's note: I understand Jamaica joined the Imperial Penny Post scheme on 24 May, 1900, Queen Victoria's birthday. The 1d Llandoverly Falls stamp was issued on 1 May, 1900 in anticipation.*

## LARGE AND SMALL QUEEN FORGERIES FETCHED BIG PRICES!

By the Yellow Peril

Photo by 'Super B'

Attending the sale of the 'REVAL' collection of BNA forgeries has enabled me to elaborate on my concept of the values of forgeries in relation to the catalogue prices of genuine originals as outlined in 'Fakes and Forgeries' (Part 1), October 1990, Whole No. 230.

This fine collection was auctioned by Jim Hennok in Toronto, 27 October, 1990. To my recollection, this is the first time such a large and comprehensive collection of BNA forgeries was ever sold in Canada. Twenty-nine years ago, on 11 October 1961, Robson Lowe Ltd sold the famous 'G.P. Bainbridge' world-wide reference collection, but this was in England.

The REVAL collection can be broken down into: fakes, forgeries, similitudes and 'Frodels'. Similitudes, although not forgeries, are interesting and scarce. According to Boggs, (pp. 177-8) 'they were engraved by a reputable firm to be used on a philatelic letterhead or visiting card'. Frodel made so many fakes, forgeries, and bogus stamps that large collections of them can be formed. (For the Frodel story see the October and December 1974 issues, Nos. 149-150, of Maple Leaves.)

The fact that prices realized, with a few exceptions, were a shade lower than I had expected, could possibly be explained by any of four or more factors; e.g., weak economy, a down market, forgery collecting not yet popular, or a side-effect of Scott's lowering prices.

Prices for fake precancels, including those horribly crude Type U's on the 1898 map stamps, were strong. This was startling because fake precancels applied to genuine stamps, or fake precancels added to genuine precancelled stamps, or fake 'doubles', etc., are the easiest to fake. Another surprise was the lovely selection of similitudes which averaged only 69 per cent of estimate. Considering their rarity and excellent workmanship, the similitudes were the bargains. Many Frodels, including forgeries of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, did not reach their estimates. Even the star piece - the 2c Admiral (carmine) with inverted centre - fetched only \$325.

Recognised forgeries, on the other hand, fetched higher prices. An 1859 1c for example, realized \$110 - more than three times the catalogue value (\$32.50) of the genuine stamp. An Oneglia forgery of the mighty

12d (Cat. \$50,000) was knocked down for \$300. The two well-known and recognised forgeries of the 2c Large Queen by Spiro made \$450 each - almost 13 times the catalogue price of \$35 each. Forgeries of a 3c and 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>c LQ (without postmark) fetched the same amount. I do not know if the latter two items are legitimate forgeries; i.e., made for the sole intent to defraud collectors.

Fig. 1.



*I waited 24 years  
to repurchase  
this little jewel!*

To me the most spectacular price realized was for a 1/2c Small Queen forgery \$270 (43 times the catalogue value of \$6.25). If memory serves me correctly, the 1/2c SQ forgery is illustrated and described in one of Earee's books. I first became aware of the existence of this forgery around 1955 when I saw it listed in a C.N. Richardson newsletter. I must have acquired mine in 1956 at the Paris open-air stamp market; sold it in Toronto in 1966; and bought it back at the REVAL sale. If there is such a thing as a classic in forgeries, this 1/2c SQ would be it.

*Editor's notes:*

*Prices realized do not include the customary 10% buyer's premium.  
1988 Scott catalogue prices are used in this report.*



Fig. 2. This imperforate pair of the 1/2c SQ, made by Frodel, fetched \$260, \$10 less than the price of the above used single (Fig. 1.). An imperforate pair of 1/2c SQ lists at \$550.

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## THE PEOPLE ON THE STAMPS - THE MISSIONARIES by Alan Salmon.

*They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way,  
They found no city to dwell in.  
Hungry and thirsty,  
Their soul fainted in them.  
Then they cried unto their Lord in their trouble,  
And he delivered them out of their distresses.  
Psalm 107. The Book of Psalms.*

Champlain's advocacy led to the first missionaries arriving in New France. On his return from France in 1615 he brought with him four members of the Récollet group of the Franciscan Order. These were followed, in 1625, by the Jesuits. The missions of these men, their explorations and their suffering in the wilderness are commemorated by the 34c multicoloured stamp of 1987 (SG 1235, SS 1127).



### **The Beginnings**

The Récollets, known as the Grey Friars because they originally wore grey robes, are an ascetic branch of the Franciscans dedicated to poverty. They were certainly keen to spread their teaching amongst the Indians - within six months of landing Father le Caron was with the Hurons, near Georgian Bay; Father Jamet was with the Montagnais; whilst Father Dolbeau and the lay brother du Plessis had established their headquarters at Quebec. Indeed Le Caron had left Champlain and the others to travel ahead to Lachine within two days of landing at the small fur-post of Tadoussac. His onward journey to Huronia was hard;

the recorder of these pioneering efforts reported 'He had suffered on the way to the limits of his physical capacity.' He had to do his share of paddling and to keep up on the portages or be left behind to find his own way. He got there safely, before Champlain had been in this part of Canada; However Champlain soon arrived on his way to defeat at Oneida.

On Champlain's return to Huronia in 1616, with the frustrated war parties, he and Le Caron visited the Tobacco nation which lived to the west of Huronia (for the locations of the tribes please see the map in the story of Brûlé, June issue P168). The travels of the missionaries were a continuing source of useful information to Champlain on the lands and the tribes to the west of the St Lawrence. The records of the Récollets and, especially, the Jesuits provide the major source of our knowledge of the events and conditions there and then.

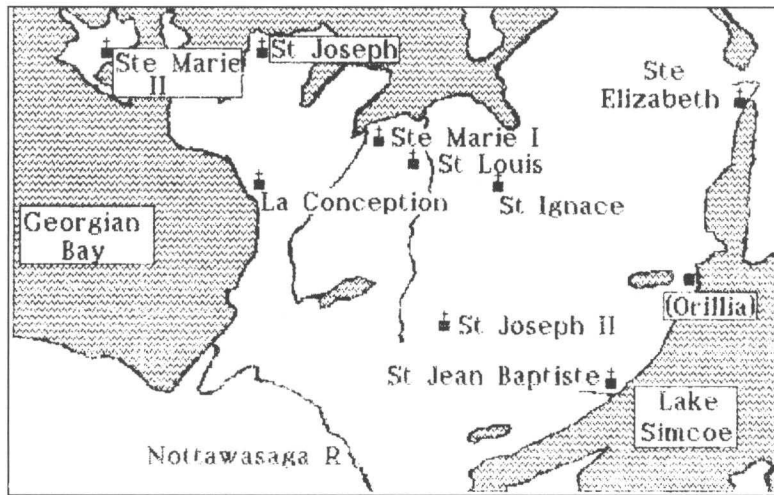
For ten years the four Récollets were the only missionaries with the Indians; their main work was with the Hurons and the Algonkians; they attempted to work amongst the Neutrals, in the approximate location of present-day London, but here they were were violently rebuffed. In 1625 a new Order of missionaries appeared amongst the Indians and were welcomed by the Récollets who appreciated that their resources were inadequate for the task of converting the natives.

### **The Jesuits**

The Franciscan Order was founded in 1209, it was an ancient organisation; the new arrivals were the Company of Jesus, the Jesuits; a relative newcomer in the Roman Catholic Church; they were founded in 1540. Already powerful, their confidence and aggression were welcomed by Champlain as further support for his New France. The French Court had allocated the territory of Acadia to them in 1607 and the first arrived there in 1613, but a Jesuit conversion of the Hurons was a grander, more alluring objective. This was particularly so as, in 1627, the Scots had occupied Port Royal and were claiming sovereignty over Acadia, calling it Nova Scotia. At this time the white population of Acadia was about 100 souls, with no more than 300 in all New France; the Hurons were the largest and most sedentary tribe, numbering some 25,000. Also peaceful, friendly Hurons would be advantageous to the fur trade, which was New France's main asset. Surely the needs of the few settlers, who were already Roman Catholics, should take second place to the conversion of the numerous savages? This they set out to do and, somewhat sadly, by 1632 little more is heard of the Récollets - the missionaries are all Jesuits.



For the black-robed Jesuits, Jean de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalement were amongst the vanguard, they were to live and die with the Hurons. The Montagnais were visited and the sale of liquor to the Indians was discouraged. Father le Jeune described living with Montagnais: 'You cannot stand upright in this house as much on account of its low roof as the suffocating smoke; and consequently you must always lie down, or sit upon the ground, the usual posture of the Savages. When you go out, the cold, the snow, and the danger of getting lost in these great woods drives you in again more quickly than the wind, and keeps you prisoner in a dungeon which has no lock or key. This prison, in addition to the uncomfortable position that one must occupy upon a bed of earth, has four other great discomforts - cold, heat, smoke and dogs.'



*HURONIA, showing the Jesuit missions founded between 1634 and 1645. The position of present-day Orillia is indicated. Iroquois war-parties used the Nottawasaga to attack the Hurons.*

### **The Missions**

During the brief period of English occupancy of New France, from 1629 to 1632, priests were banished; but following the return to French rule the Jesuits also returned, now without the Récollets, and established their missions throughout Huronia, see map. They also returned to Acadia establishing the first school in Canada, in 1632, at La Have, NS. In 1639 Marie Guyard (Mère Marie de l'Incarnation) founded the Ursuline house at Quebec, the first congregation of women in North America; she is honoured by the 17c stamp of Canada issued in 1981 (SG 1009, SS 886). In 1642 another mission, and a hospital for the

Indians, was founded - Ville Marie, the ancestor of modern Montreal. The Island was already an important trading post, situated as it was near three great rivers: the Richlieu, the St Lawrence and the Ottawa. This mission was funded by a society of Catholic laymen and led by a soldier, M. de Chomedey, sieur de Maisonneuve. Amongst the party was Mlle. Jeanne Mance who became the first nurse in Canada; the 300th anniversary of her death was commemorated by the issue of an 8c stamp in 1973 (SG 754, SS 615).

Torture of prisoners was an inherent part of Indian culture, as was the belief that courage in the face of torture was a measure of manhood. The missionaries also suffered such tribulations. In 1642 Father Isaac Jogues was captured by the Iroquois near Trois Rivieres. During the journey east, for three weeks, he was beaten, bitten and burnt, lost the use of several of his fingers and had a thumb cut off - 'I picked it up and offered it to you, O my God'. He became a slave until the summer of 1643 when, during a fishing trip to the Hudson, he was rescued by the Dutch and returned to France. Pope Urban VIII gave him special permission to say Mass despite his mangled hands. Father Jogues returned to New France the next year to attempt conversion of the Iroquois! His first visit in the summer of 1645 appeared to be a success, he returned to the Iroquois villages on the Mohawk in September to spend the winter there as he 'could not endure to be so long away from my spouse of blood'. He had barely arrived when a tomahawk split his skull. He became St. Isaac Jogues in 1930.

Notwithstanding all the zeal and heroic efforts the results, in terms of conversions, were small. The behaviour of the wild fur-traders was not a good example of Christianity; nor did the epidemic in the 1630s, possibly transmitted by the Europeans, which resulted in about 15,000 Huron deaths, help the missionary cause. The Jesuits were punctilious in not counting a conversion until after a probationary period of good conduct, but they were keen to baptise anyone in danger of death. The Indians could not help noticing that many who were baptised soon died, this did little to increase their enthusiasm for baptism. The Black Robes certainly made the effort, but the Hurons, whilst not unfriendly, were sceptical. The Nipissings and the Neutrals were also visited, but with no success. After twenty years of piety, hope and self-sacrifice little lasting impact seemed to have been made upon the Indians.

### **Disaster**

In 1643 the Iroquois intensified the aggravation of the French and their Indian allies; before it had been sporadic raids now it was much more serious, almost continuous war. The cause was the fur trade, the supplies

available to the Iroquois were declining and they wished to divert the western supplies from the French on the St Lawrence to the Dutch on the Hudson. Father Jogues' journeys to the Iroquois may seem to have been especially foolhardy in such circumstances, however they also had a diplomatic purpose - to secure peace with the Iroquois. Unfortunately his mission failed; the Iroquois, well armed with Dutch muskets, crossed to the northern banks of the St Lawrence, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to exterminate the Neutrals, the Tobaccos and the Hurons. In 1648 and 1649 all the missions in Huronia were either razed to the ground or abandoned. The Huron nation was broken and dispersed, among those tortured and slain were five Jesuit priests, including Jean de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalement. The missionaries, and the fur trade, were forced back 400 miles to Montreal.

#### **Foundations**

New France, now about 700 strong, was severely troubled by the Iroquois for the next 15 years. However the spirit of missionaries, and their support from France, helped to lay the foundations which were to stand New France in good stead during the next century. Many died, but their dreams lived on. Their missions to the Indians, their explorations and their sufferings, in this period from 1615 to 1650, are a noble and stirring part of Canada's story.

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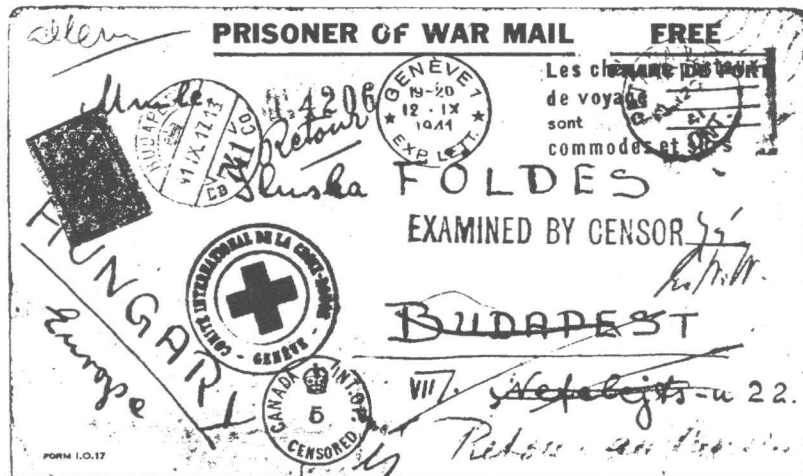
**CHRISTIE'S**  
**ROBSON LOWE**

## FIFTY YEARS BACK - AUGUST 1941

By Kim Dodwell

Robert Kramer was a Hungarian merchant seaman, but, from his name, was probably of German descent, serving on a German merchantman at the outbreak of World War II. He fell into allied hands and ended up as a POW Class 2 (Internee) in Petawawa Camp, Ontario. By January 1941 he was understandably bored and to pass the time wrote to a girl he had met in Budapest before the war.

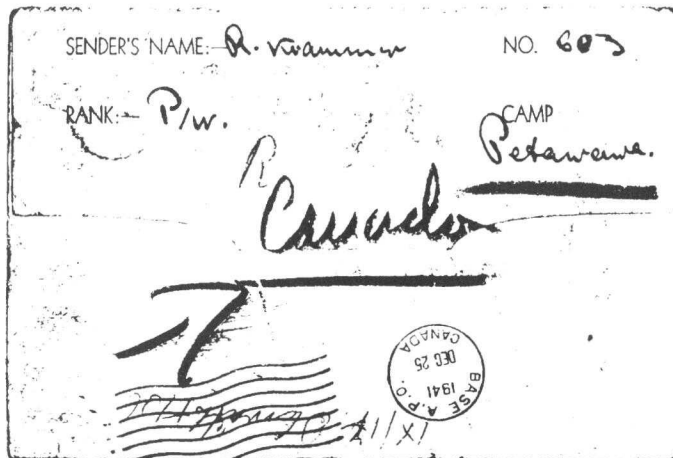
He used the unsealed, folding, tuck-in, letter sheet (Form I.O.17) issued for the use of POWs. As an internee he was allowed to write one letter and one postcard per month only. These went free by surface mail, but the transatlantic rate of 30c was charged for airmail on both letters and postcards.



He wrote in bad French, probably thinking that it would be censored more quickly than if it had been in Hungarian; he asks her to reply in either French, German or English, presumably for the same reason. He writes " ... you will be surprised to get this letter .... let me help you remember me ..... " and goes on to describe the circumstances of their meeting. He says that camp regulations preclude him from sending a photograph, but asks for one of her. However, alas for Robert's hoped-for pen friendship, Mademoiselle Iluska was unknown in Budapest, and the letter was returned.

By August 1941 the letter was in Geneva, being processed by the

International Red Cross Committee, then on to Budapest where the c.d.s. of 17.9.41 and the 'Inconnu' label was applied. After that it was back to the I.R.C.C. in Geneva on 12.11.41, to the Canadian Base A.P.O. in Ottawa on Christmas Day, and, finally, back to disappoint Robert almost a year after he had written.



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## A TALE OF THE SEVEN SEAS by Gordon Morgan

Some years ago, I bought the cover illustrated (fig.1), always intending to do a little research on it. However, it was not until I retired that I set about the task, little did I realise what an interesting tale would unfold.

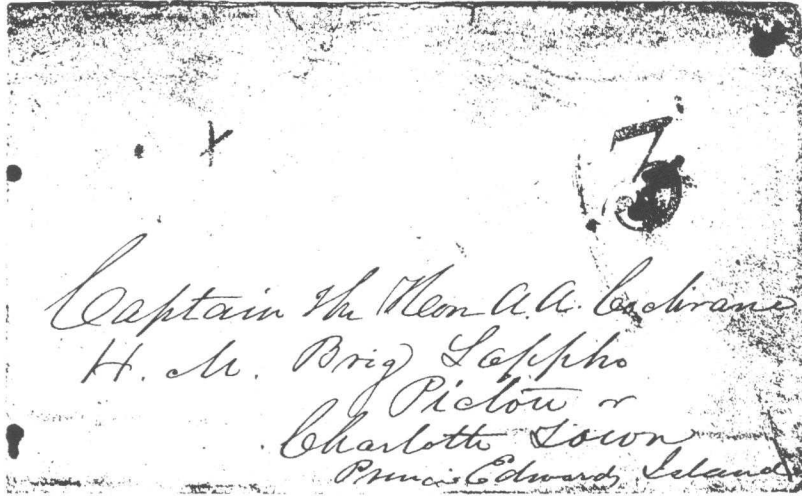


Fig.1. Cover addressed to Captain Cochrane, backstamped Halifax 6 September and P.E.I. 8 September, 1851.

With the help of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, I established that the Captain was the Honourable Sir Arthur Auckland Leopold Pedro Cochrane, son of the 10th Earl of Dundonald, who entered the Navy in 1840 and served in the Crimean and China Wars. He was appointed Admiral in 1881 and died on 27 August, 1905.

The Sappho, a Brig Sloop of 12 guns eventually foundered in mysterious circumstances off the coast of Australia in 1859.

With the help of the State libraries of Victoria and Western Australia, who provided a print of the ship and cuttings from the Melbourne Argus, it appears that the Sappho sailed from the Cape of Good Hope on 1 January, 1859 under the command of Commander Fairfax Moresby, nothing more was heard of her, there were many rumours, but the fate of the ship was apparently never determined and the Argus of 20 April, 1859 stated that the name of Sappho was to be removed from the Navy List on 31 April.

But that was not the end of the story. Whilst preparing some photocopies for posting at our village post office, the postmaster noticed a letter heading and mentioned that he was ex-navy and told me that the Navy Depot at Rosyth was named HMS Cochrane!

The Commanding Officer was most helpful and it transpired that the Depot was named after Thomas Cochrane 1775-1860, 10th Earl of Dundonald, and his biography by Donald Thomas, 'Cochrane - Britain's last Sea King', showed that he had a brilliant and dashing career during the Napoleonic War, a cross between Lord Nelson and Captain Hornblower.

He first entered Parliament as MP for Honiton and later served as MP for Westminster. In 1814 he was expelled from Parliament and the Navy and served a year in prison for supposedly being involved in a Stock Exchange swindle. He paid a fine of £1000 to secure his release from prison and the Bank of England confirmed that they hold note No. 8202, dated 26 June 1815, endorsed with the following statement:-

"My health having suffered by long and close confinement, and my oppressors having resolved to deprive me of property or life, I submit



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to robbery to protect myself from murder, in the hope that I shall live to bring the delinquents to justice.

(Signed) COCHRANE"

"Grated Chamber  
King's Bench Prison  
3 July 1815"

After his release, he became a mercenary Admiral and commanded one after another the navies of Chile, Brazil and Greece in their wars of independence. On his return to Britain, he regained his good name and was reinstated in the Royal Navy in the Rank of Admiral. He lies buried in Westminster Abbey.

There is still more research to do and I acknowledge with grateful thanks the help given by the various agencies mentioned, I should be interested to learn if members have any covers connected with this Cochrane Story.

## **SMALL QUEENS ISSUE**

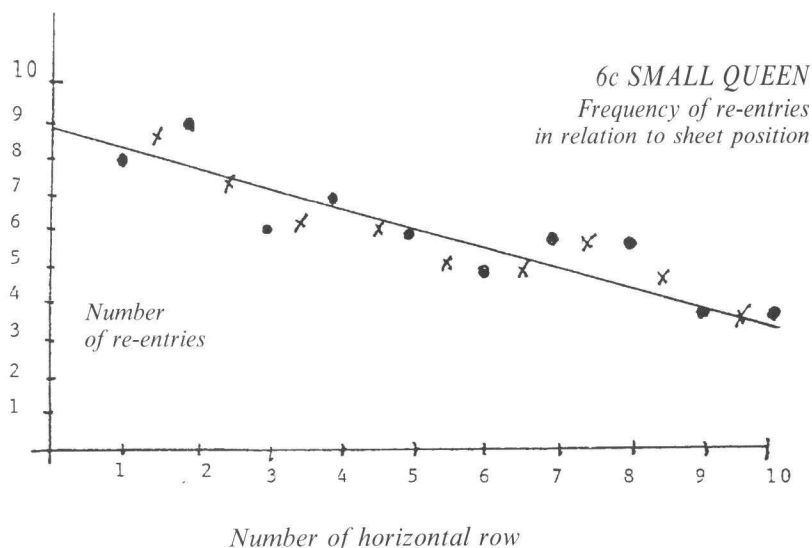
### **A Statistical Survey of the Re-entries on the 6c Value by Hans Reiche FCPS**

A study was made to determine if there is any relationship between the number of re-entries found on the 6 cents Small Queen and each horizontal sheet row. All re-entries which have been identified as coming from certain positions on a sheet have been counted regardless of the plate or printing order. The results of this study are interesting.

The number of re-entries located on each horizontal sheet row was totalled and recorded. This information was plotted by using a graph. The vertical axis represents the total number of re-entries and the horizontal axis the number of horizontal rows in a sheet, namely ten rows in a sheet of one hundred. For each row the number of re-entries located was marked by a dot. As can be seen these dots are rather distributed on the graph, some high, some low, but the dots do not form a straight line. To draw a straight line and indicate the trend, namely an increasing or decreasing number of re-entries per horizontal row, the following technique was used which is one of many statistical techniques. Take row number one and row number two and add these up ( $8 + 9 = 17$ ) and divide this value by two, the result is 8.5. It is this value which was marked on the graph by a cross. These crosses can be connected much better by a straight line than the dots, even though not all crosses fall directly on the straight line. The straight line shows there is a decreasing trend of re-entries from the top horizontal row to the

bottom horizontal row on the sheets. The first rows have almost double the number of re-entries on the bottom rows. This decreasing trend holds true for the total cumulative number of re-entries found on each sheet row. The number of re-entries recorded, in accordance with the recently published third edition of *Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens*, are sufficient for a statistically valid analysis and the statistical confidence in the results is high.

The technique used for plotting the graph is called 'paired point linear regression line.'



What does this result mean? The result indicates that the top rows became damaged faster than the bottom rows and required repeated plate corrections, such as re-entries, during the life of the plates. Looking at the first decimal issue and their re-entries a very similar picture could be drawn but, starting with the King Edward VII issue, the trend reverses in that the bottom rows become the predominant faulty subjects. This may indicate how the sheets were fed into the press. We certainly know that the ADMIRAL plates entered the blank sheets from the bottom of the plates, one reason for the large number of problems at the bottom rows.

Mike Sendbuehler provided valuable editorial and technical comments which have been incorporated.

## REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

The London Section held its AGM on Monday, 20 May. Arthur Jones was re-elected Chairman and Colin Banfield Secretary/Treasurer.

The programme for 1991/2 was agreed as follows:

October 21	New acquisitions and bourse
November 18	Booklets
December 9	Fakes, forgeries and specimens
January 20	Advertising Covers
February 17	QE II stamps and cancels
March 16	Precancels and perfins
April 27	Beaver Cup
May 18	AGM and letters 'Q', 'R', 'S'.

Meetings are held on Monday nights starting at 6.30pm, in 8 Trinity Street, Southwark; two minutes walk from Borough tube station. Visitors are welcome but please check by telephone beforehand - 071 407 3693 (Colin Banfield's office).

The South West group will not be holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the Bristol Federation Convention this year as the dates coincide with our own Convention. It is hoped that normal service will be resumed next year.

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## Letters to the Editor

Jonathan E. Rosen

### ADMIRAL ON THICK PAPER

About five years ago I purchased, from a Montreal dealer, a corner lathework block of six of the 3c brown Admiral (Scott108) on very thick, almost blotting paper. The piece came from the George Marler estate and was described by the dealer as 'thick paper variety with worn lathework Type B (actually it's Type D inverted), from the only known sheet of 100. Extremely rare.'



The dealer also stated that this sheet of 100 was an experimental printing, in the late 1920's, and was set aside for Marler by the post office, furthermore the printing was a failure. The sheet was not sold at the Marler auctions in 1982, instead it was broken up before the sale and sold to various collectors. The dealer further stated that the worn lathework covered only seven of the ten bottom stamps, it completely faded out at stamp seven.

Observation of my corner block shows it to be a very intense bright, dark brown shade, almost black-brown, over-inked all over and with some ink smears, especially in the top two stamps, centre and right. It is also better centred than the rest of the sheet which, I'm told, was rather poorly centred. I'm told by Jim Hennok, the Toronto dealer, that a used single 3c on thick paper is known on cover.

Despite much research I have found absolutely no reference to the 3c thick paper in any of the published Admiral studies or in any philatelic magazine. None of the specialised Canadian catalogues mention it either.

If anyone can shed more light on this item or knows of any other reference to it, please write to me, via air mail if possible, at Suite 28, 211 W92nd St., New York City, 10025, USA. I will answer all letters.

### **Leonard Harris**

In response to Derrick Avery's letter in the April issue may I say that, firstly, the questionnaire that Tom Almond sent out was not ignored by the many, though perhaps the few bore the brunt, but he and his committee seem to have been satisfied with the result.

Secondly, I have always been of the opinion that among the prior aims of the Society was that there should be an exchange of material as well as information. Thanks to the fine effort by Reg Lyon with his cover lists and Exchange Packets, I am more than pleased with my results, both in material and in cash, and long may his efforts continue.

Thirdly, at a very rough count, the 1991 Society auction contains just about 33% of the total number of lots all priced on estimate at £5 or less, the majority being for mixed items. Also the suggested £1 fee on unsold lots was for those with a reserve on them so - motto - only estimate.

Finally, with some 43 years of membership I'm still very proud to receive cheerful letters, swops and information from my many friends in GB, USA and Canada.

### **John Parkin FCPS**

I am totally in agreement with Derrick Avery's views on these matters (unsold charge, minimum lot value) and, at the time, I was incensed enough to telephone this year's auction convener to voice my opinion and ask for some explanation as to the authority for such a charge. I received no satisfactory explanation other than that the catalogue cost a lot to produce, and I have confirmed that there has been no authority given at any AGM to impose such a charge.

Is it too much to ask of our Society, which normally makes a handsome profit on the auction anyway, to stand the cost for the benefit of its members, especially our overseas members and those who cannot

attend Conventions. After all, with the apparent demise of any exchange packet of consequence, there is little enough to encourage anyone to remain, or become, members of the Society (apologies to our Editor duly tendered).

Since the notification of the intent to charge on unsold reserved lots appeared, several members have been in touch with me, probably because I myself have convened the auction on a number of previous occasions, to complain. One member, possibly our best auction contributor, has asked my advice about a different outlet for his material.

For goodness sake, forget the unsold lot charge at least and try to encourage more members to submit material for auction. If they price it too high they don't sell it, plain and simple. Let us keep our annual auction going please; it is as yet one of the major advantages of membership.

#### **Ron Winmill**

Regarding Derrick Avery's letter, I feel that a minimum £5 bid is not outrageous. After all £5 (\$10) is an inconsequential sum. It does cost money to produce the catalogue and it is unfair to, in effect, subsidise very cheap material from commission earned on more expensive lots. Similar arguments can apply to unsold lots. Nor do I feel that 15% commission is excessive.

The CPS is a specialist society, that is not to say that one must specialise in high priced material. Stamps and postal history are a hobby, surely most can expect to spend £10 a week on a hobby; every hobby incurs expense. At least with philately some money is ultimately recouped.

One can study, for instance, Small Queens, Leaf & Numeral series, Map stamp, Edwards, Admirals, re-entries, relatively cheaply; the research and study are at least as important as the acquisition. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and it's a case of 'to each his own'. It would be dull if we all collected the same thing - and very expensive if we were all chasing the same material!

#### **Brian Stalker**

Regarding Derrick Avery's letter, the lotting fee was proposed by John Hillson, with my support, in order to try to reduce the number of lots received with unrealistically high reserve prices. Each entry in the

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catalogue costs over 50p in printing costs; add in postage and admin and the £1 levy on unsold lots *with reserve* does not seem unreasonable. I do not think that a matter such as this needs to be referred to the AGM.

I agree with Derrick's sentiments on cost/collectability - it is unfortunate that he appears to criticise Charles King for not having arranged a more balanced display at Stampex; Charles could only display that which he received.

*Editor's note:*

Derrick's letter has given rise to valuable discussion and I feel we should close it here. No doubt the matter of auction costs will now be discussed, formally or informally, at Convention. If vendors bear in mind that the £5 minimum was not mandatory and that our auctioneer imposes his own 'reserve' of about 70% of estimate anyway, then much of the problem disappears.

**Joseph M. Smith**

I read with much interest Mr Bellack's short article on the registered cover in the April issue of *Maple Leaves*. I have a strong interest in the Jubilee issue, especially its cancels.

The PRESCOTT parcel roller is an interesting cancel for a number of reasons. Every example that I have on hand is very neat and deliberate in appearance. They always appear in a vertical format (other towns you can expect just about every configuration possible, more often than not from bottom to top or skidded more or less sideways as if done as fast as possible). Off cover I have two examples on the 1 cent, a single 3 cent and a pair of 3 cents. The pair extends almost the full length of the stamps (about 4mm short on one end), the singles have a complete image across the face.

PRESCOTT was a small town with about 2,200 pop. in the 1890s and had only one bank, namely the Merchants Bank. Seeing this strip on cover lends some credibility to the possibility that the bank and P.O. found it to their convenience to precancel limited quantities of low value stamps.

The destination of the cover is SHANLEY about 12 miles to the north east. One must give credit to the Tor. to Mont. eastbound mail coach to have handled this item so quickly as I am sure they could not have had it on hand for more than 20 minutes before dropping it off at CARDINAL for transit to destination. The reversed E in the direction slot is well known at this time on Hammer # 11. The little straight line

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REGISTERED is, I am sure, a bank marking for the office boy who probably applied the stamps and took same to the P.O.. By pre-cancelling them in this manner they also had built in a means to foil theft at the bank. That is to say only Merchants Bank correspondence would be accepted at the P.O. with this cancel and on first class mail. Human error may have accounted for the overfranking. Last comment; this may be a doctored cover. Original stamp may have fallen off and this strip substituted by someone not fully aware of the going rate or this was all he had available to make a credible looking piece. Any other cover or stamp on piece found in this condition may lend more weight to our first suspicions. Lets hope someone will report this.

### **Jeff Switt**

Regarding George Bellack's 'Unusual 1897 Registered Cover' in the April issue - from the photograph it appears that the leftmost stamp slightly overlaps the left edge of the centre stamp. There also appears to be an interruption of the roller as it crosses the perforations of the left stamp.

If the stamps are indeed 'precancelled' then the roller impression should continue the full width of the centre stamp. With a little care, the edge of the left stamp could likely be lifted to determine if the roller is continuous beneath the overlap.

### **Hans Reiche FCPS**

Reference is made to the 'Unusual 1897 Registered Cover' (April issue p 146). A number of strange things may be worth examining. Shanley Ont. is a small farming community which at that time had less than fifty dollars worth of mail revenue listed, indeed a very minute amount. Its location is in Glenville County and not far away from Prescott. But the cover for some reason travelled via Toronto to Montreal and then somehow back to Shanley. The damaged letter R in the RPO cancel is unusual and all the types I have, do not have damaged or even missing R in G.T.R. The Jubilee stamps created some problems in the initial distribution due to the fact that the Post Office was concerned about large purchases and profit-making ventures. It took some time to plan the actual distribution, especially to smaller post offices. Prescott may have received these Jubilee stamps much later than July 1897. Unauthorised rollers are well known and, as correctly indicated, were forbidden. The Precancel Handbook discusses this problem in some detail. Maybe some more strange factors are evident to other collectors.

**Stanley Cohen, FCPS**

### FAKES AND FORGERIES

The Yellow Peril's article in the April issue was interesting as always, but I am not entirely convinced that the stationery cover illustrated on page 116 is a fake.

It is, of course, most difficult to tell without seeing the actual cover, but note that the duplex just touches the stamp and does not adequately cancel the stationery stamp.

This would be good enough reason for another clerk later to apply a different canceller in a different ink (quite possibly) to cancel it properly and also to cancel other stamps if they had been on it originally. The registered 'R' in oval appears to be genuine so that they probably were.

The single ring Peter Street dater seems to be genuine and no-one reasonably would fake such a dater just for this purpose since the cover is 'philatelic' anyway and of very little value. Such philatelic covers of this period are quite common and were very popular with collectors at the time.

What the Yellow Peril overlooks is that it was not the clerk who chose the stamps at all but the ardent philatelist who wanted a 'pretty' cover.

Fakes and forgeries are certainly to be carefully looked for in valuable covers but this is certainly not at all in this category, and it seems to me to be highly improbable that anyone at all would go to this trouble to create something worth so little.

**George Bellack**

### SHORT-PAID LETTERS

I am somewhat intrigued by the question of whether in 1898 there existed any Canadian P.O. Dept. regulations concerning short-paid letters to other UPU countries. Were such letters forwarded to their destination (for the recipient to pay the charge raised) or were they simply returned to sender? Also, was any distinction made for registered letters?


## The Yellow Peril

Re: UNUSUAL 1897 REGISTERED COVER - APRIL ML

Does any other member have a cover similar to the one reported? It would be interesting to know the opinion of an expert committee if the cover in question were submitted for certification.



The above severed strip (single and pair) of 3c Jubilee with the Hamilton roller, an 'R-in-Circle' hammer and an envelope with backstamps could be the ingredients of another unusual cover!



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Revised Total: 537

## COLLECTING INTERESTS

Recently published comments encouraging a greater diversity of collecting interests, and a letter from Colin Campbell, have prompted a review of the list of interests included in the Members Handbook. The next Handbook will be compiled at the end of this year and the following additional interests will be included in the Key:-

CGE	1953-67	K	Klussendorf Cancels
CGF	1968-81	PPC	Picture Post Cards
CGG	1982 et seq	RM	Registered Mail
DLO	Dead Letter Office	RT	Royal Tours/Visits
FC	Fancy Cancels	SOA	Semi-Official Airmail
For	Forgeries	TA	Transatlantic Mail

If you wish to change your published interests or to include any of those quoted above for inclusion in the 1992/93 Members Handbook, please forward details to the Secretary not later than mid-December 1991.

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