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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN



Maple Leaves

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

Shoot First	371	Whole No. 239
Bogus 'Paris' Labels	375	Vol. 22 No. 11
50 Years Ago	381	August 1992
Small Queens	357	

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AUGUST 1992

Whole No. 239

EDITORIAL

Pre-cancel expert, George Manley, has written to say that, after 70 years of collecting pre-cancels, he has had to 'retire'; needless to say George started very young! However, all those years of accumulated wisdom are not to be lost forever as George has kindly donated his collection of precancelled postal stationery to the National Archive of Canada, this includes both envelopes and cards. In addition, George has presented a photostat record, in three books, to the CPS library. One book covers the collection, the other two carry descriptions of pre-cancel users and their envelopes. Thank you George, on behalf of both current members and those yet to join us who may benefit from your generosity.

We were sorry to learn of the death of Gerry Wellburn on 25 May, at the age of 92. Gerry was the longest surviving Fellow of the CPS, being joint second signatory to the Roll with R.W.T.Lees-Jones in 1948, two years after our founder, 'Stevie'. Gerry put together one of the finest collections of British Columbia of all time and was still winning international medals and prizes up to only a few years ago.

On a brighter note, Convention time is coming round again. If

you've not already sent in your booking form or competition entry form, then please do it now; it will help our president immensely. If you've not been before then come along and give it a try, even if only for a day - there's no registration fee.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Preparations for Convention '92 are well in hand. The block booking has about been taken up and hopefully the hotel will come up with rooms to accommodate further applications, The response gives a spread of membership from both sides of the Atlantic and elsewhere in the world,

The philatelic programme is as given in the April Maple Leaves, however, the Committee Meeting will be advanced to Friday morning with the A.G.M. at 9 am on the Saturday. These changes advocated by the Executive allow an additional display group (or review of competition entries) commencing 10.30 am Members will be saddened to learn that Geoff Manton recently suffered a mild stroke which necessitated a spell in hospital, though now thankfully he is convalescing satisfactorily. Assuredly members would join me in wishing Geoff a speedy recovery. Though determined to be at Perth he asks to step back as our Auctioneer and I am pleased to say that Frank Laycock has agreed to step in.

Apologies to members for the omission re despatch of the Competition entry forms as indicated - these hiccups do occur and are no doubt sent to try our patience. Nevertheless I trust that members will still take time to mount an entry, but more particularly I would really be delighted to see more first time entrants coming forward.

On the social side visits have been arranged for GLAMIS CASTLE on Thursday and THE GLENTURRET DISTILLERY and CRIEFF VISITOR CENTRE on Friday afternoon The Perth Repertory Theatre Company is presenting 'Mary Queen of Scots got her head chopped off,' on which is described as an irreverent look at history,

In ending this message I would send the very best of wishes to you all, Safe journeying either on holiday, or attending philatelic functions.

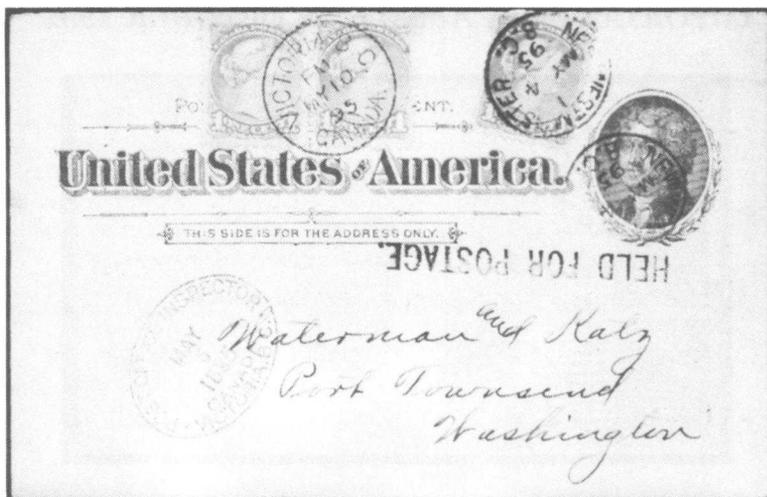
Jim McLaren

SHOOT FIRST!

By The Yellow Peril

Photo by Today's Seniors

Periodically I am offered puzzling but interesting postal history material with which I am unfamiliar and even though my gut feelings tell me that I should have it, I hesitate. By the time I find out just how interesting the item is, it is too late "Just sold it" (and always to an adversary)! Having been frustrated a number of times by dealers chanting these lyrics to me, I decided to "shoot first and ask questions later" when offered this American card with three Canadian stamps.



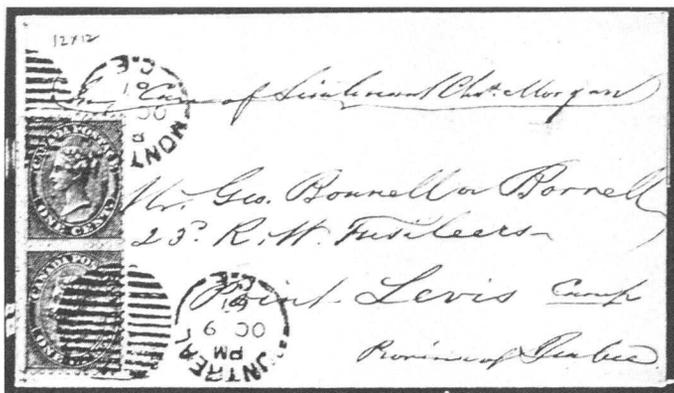
This U.S. post card, insufficiently prepaid by a Canadian 1c SQ, was treated as a letter and held for additional postage.

The above is a 1c United States postal stationery card that was first franked with a 1c SQ and mailed at New Westminster where it was postmarked with a 'MY 4 95 B.C.' circular date stamp. The rate for Canadian post cards to the United States was 1c at the time and were the above a Canadian card, it would have passed. Since it is an American post card with a Canadian 1c stamp, it was treated as a letter underpaid by 2c (letter rate to the U.S.. was 3c). Furthermore, had this card been posted without any Canadian postage, it would have been sent to the Dead Letter Office. Accordingly, the card was sent to Victoria. B.C., the closest Canadian post office to Port Townsend, Wash. (a distance of only 40 kilometres as the crow flies),

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At Victoria the card was stamped with a straight line 'HELD FOR POSTAGE' (purple) and the post office inspector's oval handstamp (blue) on 6 May, 1895. Seemingly, the Victoria post office then asked (and received) 2c from Waterman and Katz - the addressee; affixed a pair of 1c SQs to the card to make up the 3c letter rate; cancelled the SQs with the 'VICTORIA MY 10 95' cds; and sent it on its way. The card arrived at Port Townsend at 7 a.m. the next morning (after only seven days of travelling and commotion from start to finish).

Since purchasing the above I have acquired an appreciation for and enjoyed two other similar cards mailed to the U.S. fully prepaid with 3c stamps. Had I backed down in the initial confrontation, this pleasure would have been denied me.

"Howdy partners. I hope that my rewarding experience will encourage you to be quick on the draw!"

Reference: Steinhart, Allan L., Postal History of the Post Card 1871 - 1911, Toronto: Mission Press, 1980.

Editor's Note: The postal regulation stipulating that American post cards be treated as letters when mailed from Canada is clear cut, although the rationale behind this practice is a mystery.

Does anyone have a similar insufficiently prepaid card sent to the U.S. but rated and/or 'postage due'?

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THE BOGUS 'PARIS' LABELS by C. A. Stillions, FRPSL, OTB & David F. Sessions, FRPSL, FCPS

In the spring of 1901 these four stamps, *figure 1*, were being peddled to the stamp trade as new revenue stamps from Newfoundland; their status was quickly challenged and by April 1902 they were confirmed as bogus.¹ They quietly disappeared from the marketplace only to reappear from time to time with a great big question mark as to their status.⁴



Figure 1

Until about ten years ago the only readily available information was contained in Winthrop S. Boggs' *POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND*.² They are mentioned in Robson Lowe's *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BRITISH EMPIRE POSTAGE STAMPS, VOLUME V NORTH AMERICA* but are not illustrated.¹¹ Since then, Ed Wener of Indigo and L. N. Williams have published new findings. Ed Wener published his new information in his company's December 1981 price list (updated in Spring 1992) and L. N. Williams' appeared in the 16 March and 20 April 1987 editions of *LINN'S STAMP NEWS*.^{7,8} The purpose of this short article is to summarize this information and add some further information. There is a lot of fog surrounding these labels, hopefully this information will lift some of it.

There are four designs with values inscribed. They are the one cent, post rider; the three cents, sailing ship; the five cents, train leaving the sheds; and the ten cents, steamship. Printed by lithography, all are on white unwatermarked paper and perforated 11. They are known both gummed and ungummed. Also, all values are only known unused.

These four values are illustrated in Boggs in a horizontal se-tenant strip of four.² It was Ed Wener who reported a fifth design – a design of a child riding a fish or a boy riding a dolphin of Greek mythology but without *NEWFOUNDLAND* or value. It was discovered in an

imperforate block of four along with the one cent, three cents and five cents. The child riding a fish and the train leaving the sheds are also known se-tenant, both without NEWFOUNDLAND and value. The colour of the block is olive and six other colours are known – black, purple, red, deep blue, brown, and green. Ed Wener speculated that there was only one printing plate and in order to get each design in a different colour, the faker had to print the whole set in each colour. He further speculated that since there were seven colours and only five designs known there may be two more designs.

Many more designs are known. L. N. Williams in an article in the April 1986 issue of STAMPS & FOREIGN STAMPS illustrated two sheets from the British Library's Campbell- Johnson collection, one of which is illustrated here in *figure 2*.⁶ Thanks are due to the British Library for providing photographs of these two sheets. The four Newfoundland designs can be seen along with two Crete labels and six other designs, including the child riding a fish discovered by Ed Wener. However the Newfoundland labels are not adjacent in a horizontal se-tenant strip as can be seen illustrated in Boggs. Also the Crete labels are vertically se-tenant in the British Library's sheets, but are also known horizontally se-tenant.⁷



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Figure 2 - Courtesy of the British Library.

Well your editor has found four strips of the four Newfoundland and the two Crete labels in the same strip. What is unusual is that they are vertical strips, see *figure 3*. This means that there were at least three different plates used to produce these labels. Probably each design was a separate cliché and they were rearranged as additional printings were necessary. It seems every time a little of the fog surrounding these labels lifts, another bank rolls in.

On the five cents value under the words FIVE CENTS can be found the name and address, 'A. BAGUET GR 58 STRASBOURG PARIS' - 'GR' is the French abbreviation for engraver. Rue Strasbourg is now Rue du 8 Mai. It is from this inscription that these labels take their name, 'PARIS ESSAYS'. In the margin above some three cents and some ten cents can be found 'WILLIAM B. HALE' and 'WILLIAMSVILLE, MASS USA' respectively. Around the turn of the century, William B. Hale was a travelling stamp salesman based in Williamsville, Massachusetts, in other words, a satchel dealer. His ethics were not of the highest order. For example, in 1906 while living in Williamsville, he was accused by J. M. Bartels of Boston of selling United States newspaper stamps with forged cancellations to customers in Germany. Although Hale agreed to make restitution, Bartels indicated that the case had been reported to the authorities.³

When Hale died in 1936 in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia; found among his possessions were a number of handstamps and cancellation blocks for forging postal markings, including several from British North America. Photographs of the impressions from Hale's devices were published in the 20 December 1936, 20 January, and

20 February 1937 issues of POSTAL MARKINGS from which the illustrations in *figure 4* were taken. The exact dimensions however are not known! It is not known to us if these markings were ever used on any cover or stamp. Fake cancellations attributed to Hale are known on USA's 'Black Jack' stamp of 1863 (SG 69). It is possible that Hale, after having the handstamps made, never got around to using them.¹⁰ If anyone has a cover or stamp with these markings, your editor would like to know about it.

William B. Hale's accomplice in this little production, A. Baguet, also served time in jail. Alfred Baguet was imprisoned for three months in Paris in 1922 for counterfeiting French and French Colonies stamps. Also, L. N. Williams has traced other Cinderella stamps to Alfred Baguet. In the 16 March 1987 edition of LINN'S STAMP NEWS, Mr. Williams identified two Crete labels as Baguet creations. In the same article the Crete labels are linked to these Newfoundland labels. As can be seen in *figures 2 and 3*, The Crete labels are physically linked to the Newfoundland labels as they were printed from the same plate. Mr. Williams was able to locate Alfred Baguet in 1906 at 4 Rue St. Laurent which is just around the corner from 58 Rue Strasbourg where he had a studio and print shop.⁶ The circumstances that put William Hale and Alfred Baguet together to create these labels is still a mystery.

While Winthrop Boggs and Robson Lowe both called these labels essays, in truth they are bogus creations. Being bogus creations they were created in a fog and some of that fog is likely to be with them forever.

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2. Boggs, Winthrop B., "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland," Chambers Publishing Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1942, p. 176.
3. Tyler, Varo E., "Philatelic Forgers, Their Lives and Works," Robson Lowe Ltd., London, England, 1976, p. 19.
4. POPULAR STAMPS, Alton, Ontario, vol. V, no. 11, December 1942, p. 3.

Figure 3

5. Williams, L.N., "Newfoundland: Mysterious 'Paris' Essays of 1900," STAMPS, November 1982, pp 41 & 43.

6. Williams, L.N., "Alfred Baguet Engraver, Printer, Forger," STAMPS & FOREIGN STAMPS, April 1986, pp 30-34.

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8. Williams, L.N., "Mystery of Newfoundland 'Essays' Unravels," LINN'S STAMP NEWS, April 20, 1987, p. 24.

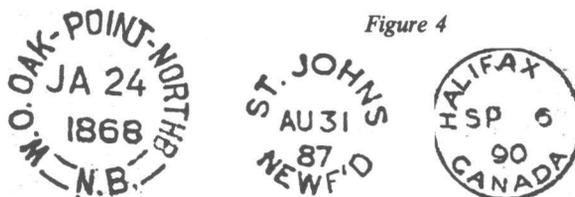
9. POSTAL MARKINGS, Verona, New Jersey, vol. 6, no. 7, December 20, 1936, front cover and p.77; vol. 6, no. 8, January 20, 1937, front cover.

10. Laurence, Michael, "New Info on Stamp Faker William B. Hale," LINN'S STAMP NEWS, July 27, 1987, p. 3.

11. THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BRITISH EMPIRE POSTAGE STAMPS 1639 1952, Volume V, THE EMPIRE IN NORTH AMERICA, Robson Lowe Ltd. London, 1973, p. 479.



Figure 4





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FIFTY YEARS AGO - August 1942

By Kim Dodwell

Ask a Canadian what the single most momentous day of World War II was and there is a good chance the answer will be the single word 'Dieppe'. On 19 August 1942 Canada suffered more casualties than on any other day of the war, and lost more prisoners than in the whole of the subsequent campaign in Europe. The controversy surrounding the disaster still rumbles on.

Nearly 5,000 men of the 4th and 6th Brigades of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division landed at dawn on the beaches around the French Channel port of Dieppe. By the same evening less than half of them were back in England, with over 2,500 of their comrades left behind killed, wounded and/or prisoners. The German defences were unexpectedly strong, the covering fire for the Canadians inadequate, and no amount of gallantry, of which there was plenty that day, could prevent the greatest of all wartime raids from ending in disaster. The Royal Navy lived up to its best traditions in landing the troops and bringing off survivors under devastating fire, the R.A.F. (with significant R.C.A.F. support) had a tremendous battle with the Luftwaffe overhead, the British Commandos on either flank achieved results varying from brilliant to unfortunate, but on the ground the Canadian part in the enterprise predominated, and they bore the brunt of the casualties.

One of the purposes of the raid was to provide a dress rehearsal for the invasion of Normandy 21 months later. That the lessons learnt were put to such good use and saved so many casualties on D-Day is put forward as justification for Dieppe. Whether these invaluable lessons could have been learnt more cheaply will always remain a source of controversy, particularly among Canadians. Many books, many thousand of words have been written since in analysis, defence and accusation. With military history so well covered it is perhaps surprising that the postal history of the raid is meagre, but no Field Post Offices were directly involved, and the postal historian has to make do with letters written by participants before and after the raid.

This tobacco receipt card is one of several types printed by different suppliers of 'smokes' to the Canadian forces, and they are a subject for collection in their own right. This one has been cancelled by the Canadian-type c.d.s. B.T.C.I. of Field Post Office CA-1 which served the 1st Armoured Brigade. This comprised three tank regiments and one of them, the Calgary Regiment, used the unique tank-shaped frame to its Orderly Room handstamp. It was also unique in being the only

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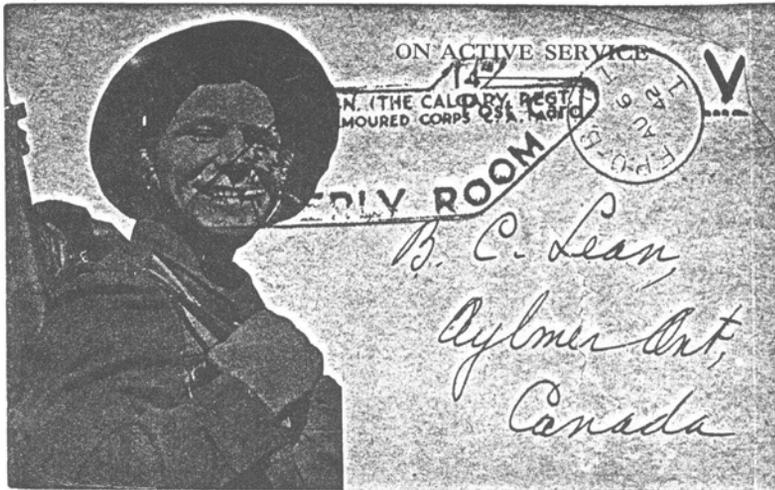
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armoured regiment involved in the Dieppe raid, 13 days after the postcard was posted. Ten naval landing craft carried 30 of the Calgary's Churchill tanks in the first wave, including the battalion H.Q. to which L/Cpl Welch belonged. Four of the L.C.T.s were sunk and others were badly damaged, but 29 tanks were landed and fought with varying success until, either bogged down in beach shingle, or with tracks shot off and all ammunition expended, they became spoils of war for the jubilant Germans. Of all the crews in them, only one man returned to England that evening.



August 5th.....

If you appreciate this gift package of cigarettes won't you drop a line on this card to the donor whose name appears on other side.

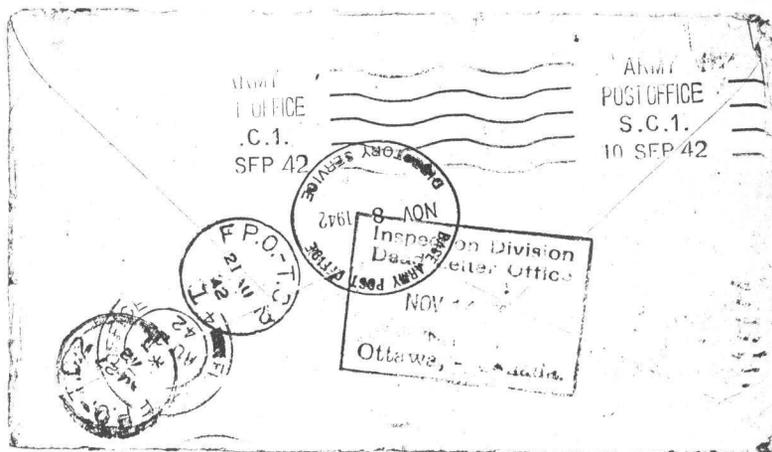
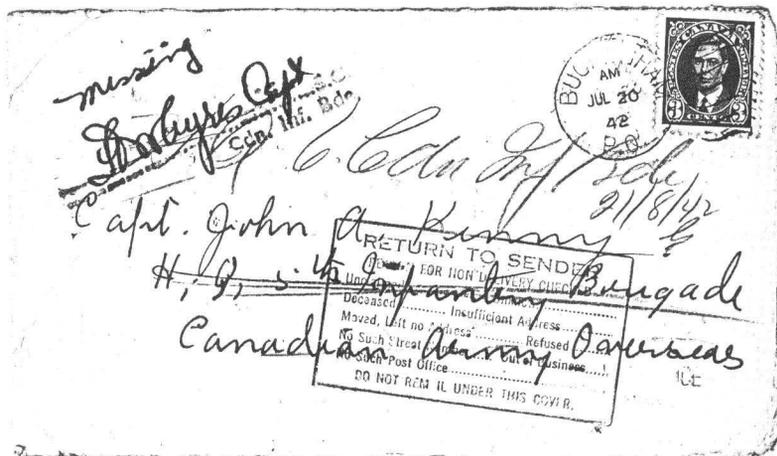
Dear Lean:

Thank you for your contribution to the Overseas League, which made possible the free gift of cigarettes received today. These cigarettes are sometimes sorely needed, always very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
L. Welch

M-26903 L/Cpl. Welch, D.E.
 Bn H.Q., 14 Cdn Army Tank Bn.
 (The Calgary Regiment)
 Cdn Army Overseas.

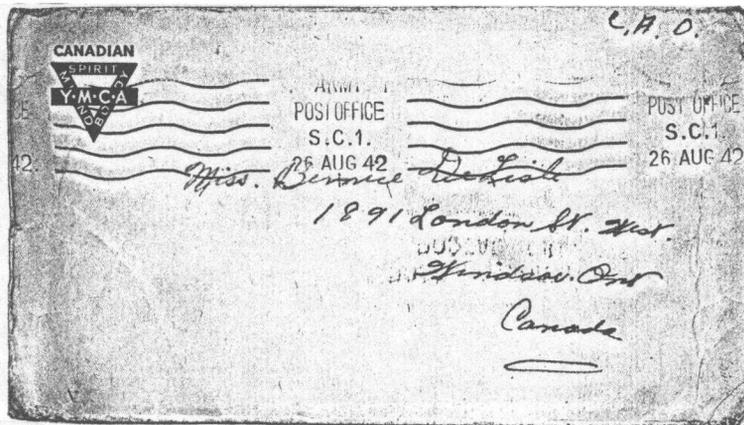
This package of cigarettes is sent you through the Overseas League (Canada) Tobacco and Hamper Fund, Toronto, Canada



Capt. Kenny had been Staff Captain of the 5th Infantry Brigade until shortly before 19 August 1942, when he was transferred to the staff of 6 Brigade. The former did not take part in the raid, the latter did. On that day most of 6 Brigade H.Q. became casualties as they tried to get ashore, and Capt. Kenny became a P.O.W. The surface routed letter arrived too late, and his replacement marked the cover as 'missing' and sent it back to Divisional H.Q. where the Canadian-type 'T.C.2' c.d.s. was applied for the second time and the letter was sent on its way back. It went via the Canadian Postal Corps H.Q. at Acton (S.C.1.) then to Ottawa for the B.A.P.O. Directory Service mark before going to the

D.L.O. where it would have been opened to find the sender's address and placed in an 'ambulance' envelope for the final leg of its fruitless journey.

From the several covers of the Burdick - De Lisle correspondence I have, Pte Ivan Burdick was in H.Q. Coy. of the Essex Scottish Regt. (4 Brigade) before the Dieppe landing, and was back with the same battalion by October. This, the first letter after 19 August, is from No.1 Convalescent Depot, so he must have been one of the 27 men of the Essex Scottish who returned to England wounded. Of the unwounded who returned, there were only 25, out of the 553 who had embarked 24 hours before.





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SMALL QUEENS - Reflections on some theories by John Hillson FCPS.

The study of the Small Queens has something of the appeal of a good detective story. One has a few facts, a few clues, often conflicting, which may or may not be fully appreciated, and little else, from which to try to deduce the correct history of this most intriguing of issues.

The Move to Montreal

What does one have to go on? In 1946 Winthrop Boggs proved beyond doubt that the printer's early operations, the British American Bank Note Company, were centred in Ottawa and not in Montreal, as had been believed previously. From details of the printing contract, proposals and counter-proposals it is clear that the company wished to locate and print in Montreal, but the Government required the work to be produced in Ottawa. It is on record that each printing plate was to be capable of printing 25,000 impressions before and 15,000 after repair, except where 'the patent green is used' (e.g for the two cents) as it was considered particularly harsh. This condition was very conservative and, thanks to the Duckworths, father and son, we also know that the printers were able to invoice for a repair, and invoice for a plate, after the requisite number of sheets had been printed, whether such work had actually taken place or not.

Archives show that a fire occurred in the press room shortly after the introduction of the first Small Queen, the three cents in January 1870. As a consequence the Board of Directors minuted that a request be made to the Post Office Department to allow them to transfer operations to Montreal, and they authorised the purchase of the lease of premises in that city in anticipation of this permission being granted. Moreover, from 1871 all correspondence from the P.O.D. was addressed to the new Montreal premises, and this has led to some speculation that printing operations had been transferred as early as that.

Two other important factors exist which tend to be overlooked; first, a contract is a contract is a contract, one party to it cannot change its terms without the express written permission of the other party; second the British American Bank Note Company was a commercial operation intent on making a profit - and presumably it still is.

In his book Boggs advanced a number of theories regarding the issue which are now seriously being questioned and it is apposite to assess the theories and counter-theories. They are:

1. Transfer to Montreal took place in 1874, shown by the ten cents plate issued in that year from which the imprint had dropped 'and Ottawa'.

2. The reason for the reduction in size from Large to Small Queen was to facilitate production. As the overall size of a Small Queen twin plate of two panes of 100 subjects each was little larger than a single pane 100 subject Large Queen plate, twice as many stamps would be printed at a time.
3. The decision to reduce the size of the stamps was taken by July 1869.
4. By implication all the first Small Queen plates were twin pane format.

It was in April 1975 that the writer first suggested that perhaps the move to Montreal took place earlier than 1874. Having been weaned philatelically speaking on British stamps, I was aware that even in modern times a change of printing venue inevitably meant a change in the physical characteristics of the product and no such significant change is to be found in 1874. It is to be found in 1873 and I argued that transfer probably started at the end of 1872 and continued through 1873 being complete sometime during that year. For the first time, but not the last, the wrath of the gods descended upon my head; it still amazes me how uptight some students become when a pet theory is challenged, particularly when we are all dealing with conjecture anyway. However, no one would seriously dispute today that the move took place before 1874 and I have seen nothing in the last 16 years to change my view of the date. Nevertheless, because of the board minutes cited above, and because of the address to which correspondence was sent, from 1871, some will argue that that was the actual date. I do not think so. First is missing any record of permission from the P.O.D. for production to be moved; if it had been forthcoming such a vital concession would have been recorded. Second it is not unknown to have an office in one location and the works at another. Third there is no significant difference in the appearance of the stamps produced from 1870 until the end of 1872.

A Question of Size

Now as to the reduction in the size of stamps. We know from the records that, due to the rapid rise in mail carried, from the beginning the printers had difficulty in keeping up with orders. Boggs' reasoning seems impeccable. But there are some who appear to think that if it is in Boggs it has to be wrong. The real reason for the change, they say, is that the size of the Large Queens was unpopular, and a letter has been found from a minister of religion which proves it. Thus we have what must have been the fastest reaction to church pressure by any government since Henry II of England submitted to being flogged in penance for Becket's murder. Had unpopularity truly been the trigger would there not have been letters in the contemporary press, signed perhaps 'Disgusted of Toronto' regarding the inconvenience of the Large

Queens? Would not the contemporary press, both lay and philatelic, have mentioned something to the effect that 'owing to public pressure, the post office has now released the first of the new small format stamps' instead of the simple statement that the three cents in the reduced size had been issued?

Further if unpopularity had been the rub, one might have expected to see a rapid withdrawal of the offending stamps, rather than the desultory progress that was never completed inasmuch as the 15 cents Large Queen was never replaced, and the 12¹/₂ cents fell out of use around 1879 due to postal rate changes, although Small Queen dies and, in the case of the latter, a plate, had been made for both values.

When Were the Plates Made?

Until the Duckworths' book on the Large Queens was published, it was assumed that Boggs was correct when he stated that the decision to reduce the size was taken in July 1869, citing as he did the report in the American Journal of Philately of 20 Aug, 1869. The Duckworths argue that the decision was taken very much earlier, and that they believed they had identified invoices relating to the making of Small Queens plates as early as April 1869. What gave rise to this theory is an apparent discrepancy between the number of one cent Large Queens issued before the first delivery of one cent Small Queens and the number believed to have been printed. They argued that only 9,600,000 Large Queens were printed, not 12 million, because of the appearance of the small one cent in March 1870, at which point only that number had been issued to the public. To be correct that meant that the delivery of 3 million one cent stamps in June 1869 was of the small size; in turn this entailed the plate being identified with that invoiced on 30 April, 1869. It is nicely thought out.

I believe a number of points have been overlooked. Firth mentions in his book on the 15 cents that during the mid nineties, i.e. the mid period of the second Ottawa period, shades of this stamp in definite Montreal colours and papers were issued to the public in significant quantities. The conclusion to be reached from this is that the P.O.D. stacked any fresh delivery from the printers on top of the old stock, and indents from post offices were met by issuing sheets from the top of the pile. It was a case of last in, first out.

A delivery of 300,000 Small Queen one cent stamps was made to the P.O.D. in November 1869. These were put on top of the last delivery of Large Queens, the 3 million delivered in June, or what was left of them. This small delivery was issued while a considerable stock remained of the large stamp. The evidence? The incidence of dated one cent Large Queens is much higher in the first three quarters of 1870 than is Small.

Next, as I said earlier, the printers were in business to make a profit, and, as the Duckworths themselves showed, an invoice on work on a plate might only mean that the requisite number of sheets had been printed, and no work had actually been undertaken. The two and six cents values in the new size were not issued until 1872. Why tie up good working capital for some three years when it plainly was not necessary; why also run the risk of plates made too early in advance of need becoming so damaged by corrosion as to require expensive repair, or even replacement? This, almost certainly, was what happened to the Large Queen five cents plate made in 1868 and put away for seven years. The fact that the issued stamps have a different imprint to the plate proofs made in 1868 indicate a new plate; once made the printers never bothered on any other occasion to change the imprint on a plate, whatever it read, and wherever they were located. To make plates too early does not make commercial sense.

Finally there is the evidence of the Sample Sheet. This had impressions on it of every stamp, revenue and postage, that the printers had dies of at the time it was made. It included four impressions of the one cent Large Queen. The five impressions of the half cent denomination, which is a Small Queen in size, was balanced by five impressions of the small one cent. It is believed it was made in the autumn of 1869. If the contention that the Small Queen plates were in existence much earlier, why were examples not included? It could not have been for security otherwise no Small Queen would have been included as at that time none had been issued. They do not appear because they did not exist. They did not exist because the decision to reduce the size of the stamps was taken in July 1869, as reported in the philatelic press mentioned above, and when the sample sheet plate was made there had been time to make only the one cent Small Queen die.

One Pane or Two?

Next one turns to the question of the format of the plates themselves. Some now believe the early plates were all single pane 100 subject plates. Boggs, in other words, is wrong again. The ten cents, certainly, as he says, was a single pane plate. Based on information published by Hans Reiche in 'Topics' the writer showed that the logical conclusion of that research was that the early six cents plates, of which we now know there were at least three, and possibly four, were also single pane plates, so Boggs was adrift on this one. However the requirement for both the six and ten cents was low in relation to the one, two, and three cents. Sufficient pieces survive from the original two cents plate, made actually in 1871, to prove it was a twin-paner. Insufficient evidence has survived on the other two to be positive one way or the other, but given that

Boggs' hypothesis that the reason for the change was to cope with ever rising demand, and given that commercial firms at any particular time tend to adopt a standard practice, the writer inclines to the view that those plates also, were twin paned.

It is undoubted that at best one can only weigh one theory against another; that at any time a piece of hard evidence may be found that supports one in favour of the other, or perhaps scuppers both. Some of the new opinions have been the result of much study and thought, But at best, as things stand, they are non proven. Perhaps time will tell.

Op.Cit. The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada. Winthrop S. Boggs
The Large Queen Stamps. H.E. and H.W.Duckworth.
Canada Fifteen Cents of 1868. L. Gerald Firth
"Letters to the Editor". Maple Leaves Vol.15 No.8 p.237 April 1975
Location of the Montreal and Ottawa Printings of the Small Queen
Issue. J.E.Nixon & W.L. Simpson 'BNA Topics' No.374
New Information on the Six Cents Small Queen.Hans Reiche FCPS BNA
'Topics' No 412
'BNA Topics' No.414. Letters

BOOK REVIEW

Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue

(Second Edition) by Walsh and Butt, published by Walsh's Philatelic Services, 9 Guy Street, St John's, Newfoundland, AIB 1P4.

The first edition of this catalogue, published in 1988, was widely acclaimed by those with an interest in the philately of Newfoundland. Although titled as a catalogue, it is a combination of catalogue and handbook, amounting to 140 pages in a spiral-bound format. Major new features in this edition include monochrome photographs of the stamps and post cards along with more than twenty photographs of 'First-Flight' aircraft. Other additions are 'Officially Sealed' stamps, 'Postage Paid' cancellers, armed forces cancels, registration labels and an expanded list of post offices detailing the various types of postmark used up to the time of Confederation.

The second edition is highly recommended and Messrs Walsh and Butt are to be congratulated on the quality and breadth of their research. Copies will be available from the Handbooks Manager, Derrick Scoot, priced at around £15-00 (to be confirmed).

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RECORD PRICES IN A 'BUYER'S' MARKET

A special report from the Yellow Peril

Despite a poor economic climate; an unpopular and unappreciated field, i.e., first day covers, fetched spectacular prices. At the June 1992 Sissons (Toronto) sale three Admiral registered first day covers were sold at record prices. Each was franked with a plate number (All5, All6 and All7, respectively) block of six of the 1926 2c on 3c two-line surcharged stamps. The covers, estimated to bring \$250+ each, fetched a total of \$4100 (\$1050 - Plate 115, \$1050 - 116 and \$2000 - 117), almost five and a half times valuation. The realizations do not include the buyer's premium or any sales tax.

The record prices not only surprised the auctioneer, both bidders and the floor, but posed some interesting questions as well; for example, are first day covers finally coming into their own and is it possible for collectors to get in on the ground floor? One wonders too if a display of first days in a BNA competition will ever take a high award.

Another FDC Sold

On 17 June R. Maresch & Son (Toronto), sold a first day cover of the 1859 10c dark chocolate brown Prince Consort stamp. The cover, described (justifiably) 'undoubtedly unique' was estimated to fetch \$7,500. It was knocked down for \$6,750 - just 10% below estimate.

This rare stamp in 'very good' condition is catalogued \$1,000 in the current 'Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps' (\$2,750 for fine, \$6,000 for very fine) and \$3,000 on cover. Considering the interesting price range for this stamp, the \$6,750 price realized- even with 10% premium added - is far from being an excessive amount to pay for the privilege of possessing this 'once-in-a-lifetime' gem.

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Dale Speirs

PINS AND PERFORATORS

Philip Mardsen commented in *Maple Leaves* (April 1992, page 325) about pins per inch in perforation measurements. Let me contribute by showing a couple of photographs of a sheet-fed line perforator. Figure 1 depicts the Rosback line perforator and gives a general idea of what such a machine looks like. The wheels are edged with pins and, as they rotate, they perforate the paper fed along the table below them. They can be adjusted to different distances apart from each other, but the thickness of the wheel sets a minimum size for any stamps that might be perforated by them. One can also see that if the paper is misfed or jams, then crazy perfs will result.

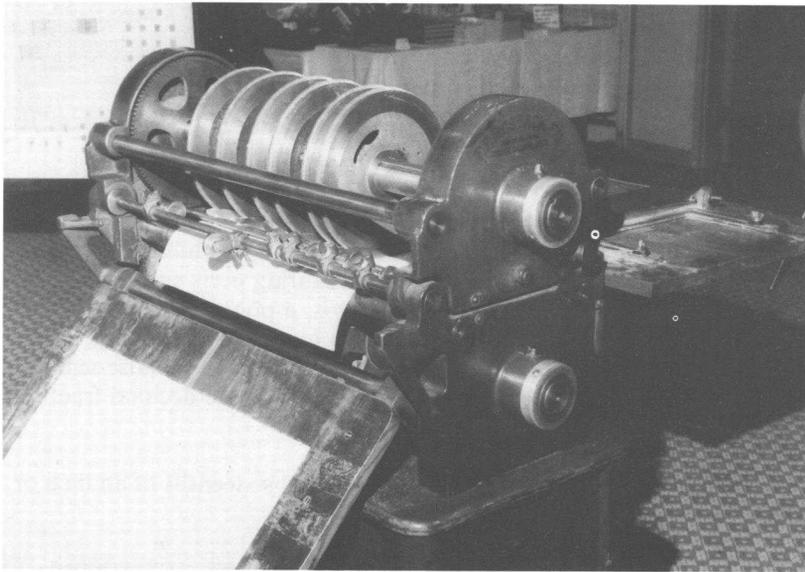


Figure 1. The Rosback line perforator.

Figure 2 shows a close-up of the perforating wheels. Each groove on the wheel lines up with a pin. There are 16 pins per inch on the wheel. It is easy to see that if a pin is bent or broken the perforation will change correspondingly. The markings on the wheels are in the Imperial system. Strong supporter of the metric system that I am, I have never had much patience with the business of measuring perforations per two centimetres. The printers of BNA stamps used Imperial, and any

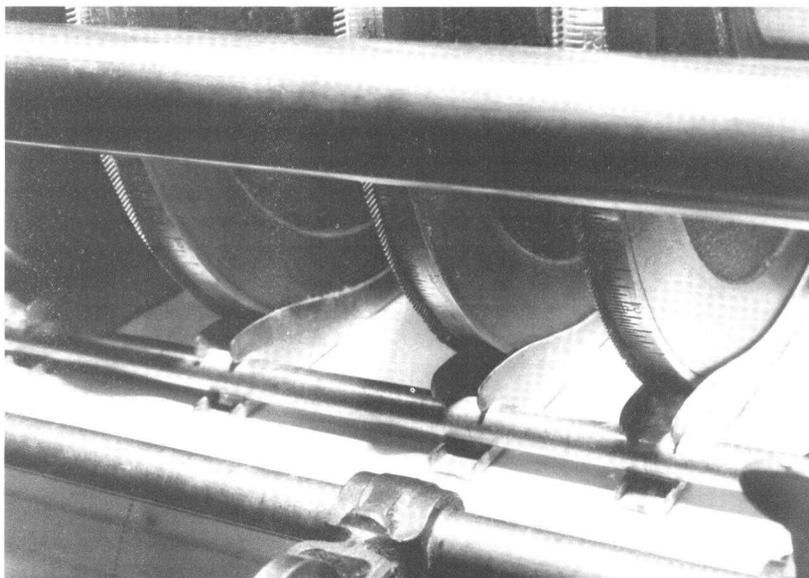


Figure 2. The perforating wheels in close-up.

attempt to measure perforations in any other system will always lead to inaccuracies. While it is too late to change the philatelic way of measuring perforations, any attempt at measuring perfs such as 11.1 or whatever, should be recognized for what it is, a poor approximation of reality. Coupled with paper changes due to humidity or soaking, it can be seen that fractional measurements of perforations give a false sense of accuracy. The margin of error will be greater than the decimal fraction of the perforation measurement.

To sum up then, perforating machines used sixteenths of an inch or other fractions of an inch as the case may be.

John Hillson, FCPS

THE KIUSALAS GAUGE

Major Marsden's comments on the article that appeared in the January '92 issue were most interesting and he put his finger on perhaps the main drawback with this device; namely that because it is printed on aluminium it is useless for stamps on cover, and stamps on cover, properly backstamped are the only proof positive of a particular period of use. The other serious drawback is that, other than to a devoted band

of adherents, citing measurements in 'Kiusalas' is gibberish to the vast majority of stamp collectors, some of whom, hopefully, will be attracted by the lure of the Small Queens. I, too, am a devotee of the 'Instanta'; mine also is about 40 years old, and with a 4cm gauge which checked dead on against a steel rule.

There are a couple of points raised in Major Marsden's article on which I would like to comment. First I presume the 'rare and elusive perforation' referred to is perf 12.5. What evidence there is suggests that the 3c. with this perf was produced in January or February 1870, not mid-summer. In any case it is highly doubtful that ambient temperature would account for half a hole per two centimetres difference from the normal perforation of c12. Second, paper is described as being stable - it is anything but. While it would be more or less dry when being perforated, it would absorb some moisture from the atmosphere, and that would vary according to the time of year. In order to avoid foxing, those of us who value our treasures keep them in pretty dry conditions, which means that the specimens are almost certainly a little smaller than when they were produced. Which in turn means that too much importance is attached to minor differences in perforation, in the same way it used to be given to minor differences in paper.

Finally, the calculation that the width of a sheet of Small Queens should come out close to 8" is also pretty accurate; taking it from the centre of the extreme perforation rows, however well or badly centred, it generally comes out at 7 and 15/16ths.

George B. Arfken

KIUSALAS GAUGE

Perhaps I may be permitted three comments on Philip Marsden's article 'The Kiusalas Gauge' in the April 1992 Maple Leaves. (1) While I continue to believe that the 19th century British, Canadian and American machinists measured center-to-center spacing in thousands of an inch, Mr. Marsden's suggestion of pins per eight inches is an interesting and thought provoking alternative. (2) The discussion of the small variations to be expected in perforations is a welcome reminder that we should not expect absolute exact agreement with the Kiusalas gauge or with any catalogue-specified gauge. (3) Mr. Marsden leads to an extremely important point when he writes "(the Kiusalas gauge) presents a series of finite gauges thus one can test an item against the gauge and say whether it matches or not" Quite so. As Mr. Marsden notes, the gauge is not a perforation gauge in the sense of the Instanta.

Strictly speaking, the Kiusalas gauge is not intended for measuring the perforation. The Kiusalas gauge, with a finite number of alternatives, is intended for determining which of a finite number of perforation wheels was used to perforate the given 19th century Canadian stamp.

I am indebted to Harry Lussey for a number of fruitful discussions of these points.

Bob Bayes

LATHEWORK

In regard to Jonathan Rosers letter reported in the April 1992 issue of 'Maple Leaves', on the lathework of the 10c 'Blue Admiral' (Sc 117), one quickly learns when dealing with most issues of stamps, and the 'Admirals' in particular, never to make an absolute judgement.

Illustrated is a block of Sc 117 in my possession showing full lathework.* If one takes the time to view the plate proofs it will be seen that all have full lathework.



the philatelic community, and only luck and opportunity precludes many from owning them.

**Editor's Note: Bob actually sent illustrations of three different blocks, all showing full lathework.*

In all cases the lathework is never worn but appears incomplete when printed by the wet process, research of which was done by Daniel Rosenblat and reported in 'Topics' (May 1970). His research shows that wet and dry printing, not plate wear, makes this difference.

One can assume a great many more examples of full lathework are extant in

FROM THE SECRETARY

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

In accordance with Rule 28, the following proposed amendments to the Rules have been received and are to be tabled for consideration at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 3 October 1992.

Preview; a proposal to lower the age of eligibility for membership to 15 years was tabled at last year's AGM but remitted to the Executive for further consideration. The following proposals have been prepared by the Executive.

Proposals:

RULE 3 Membership:

Replace '18 years of age' by '15 years of age.'

Add after the first sentence 'Candidates older than 17 years of age will be considered for full membership, candidates of 17 years and under will be considered for Junior Membership.'

RULE 6 Subscription

Add a further sentence

'The annual subscription for Junior Members will normally be half of the approved sum.'

EXCHANGE PACKET RULES

Add to item 6

'Junior members may receive the packet provided that an appropriate undertaking, in a form to be specified by the Society, has been completed by a responsible adult and lodged with the Packet Secretary.'

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

In the April issue I published a brief notice asking members who had any comments on any aspects of the Society to pass them on to me - Dr Charles Hollingsworth, 17 Mellish Rd., Walsall, West Midlands WS4 2DQ, so that, as Chief Executive, I could arrange for them to be discussed and generally looked into.

The result of this request was a NIL Response.

May I ask members to think on these lines again so that any comments/requests can be looked into at our meeting at Convention?

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