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OF GREAT BRITAIN



Maple Leaves

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EDITORIAL

Already we are looking forward to another convention! With this issue will be a booking form and competition entry form. Members who have not previously attended are urged to come along and join in the fun. If you can only make it for one day, then try a free sample - there's no registration fee!

Arthur Jones, our President, has provided an attractive programme, details will be found in his notes so you can see exactly what's on offer. Your attention is drawn particularly to the Thursday morning session; this should provide enough variety for anyone, but only if **you** bring along a few sheets.

This issue sees the final instalment of Kim Dodwell's epic series on World War II. As Editor I thank Kim for producing an article per issue, on time,

without fail, for the last five years. My plea for someone to round off the series with memories of the continuing war in the Far East has fallen on deaf ears, unless someone is beavering away and hasn't mentioned it!

The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society has a number of flown covers (1971-1994) in stock; in some cases only one or two covers remain. Interested members can obtain details from Dick Malott at 16 Harwick Crescent, Nepean, On, Canada K2H 6R1.

Congratulations to Bill Topping on being appointed special representative to Canada for the Royal Philatelic Society, London and to Cliff Guile on his appointment as Canadian Commissioner for PACIFIC '97 in San Francisco.

A good researcher takes nothing for granted. Bill Topping here makes a controversial case for the source of a scarce B.C. flag cancel.

VICTORIA, B.C. FLAG - AUGUST 1901

Bill Topping

The Victoria, British Columbia, Provincial Exhibition flag cancellation of 1901 is one of the most elusive and controversial cancels from British Columbia. The short life of the cancellation and a lack of information has led to much speculation. There are those who contend it was produced by a roller, a rocker, a rubber stamp or a rapid cancelling machine.

Little has been written on this elusive cancel. The first listing appears to have been in A.L. McCready's 1945 edition of 'Canadian Flag Cancellations' (p.7). In 1953, Roger Nairne, a well known Victoria stamp dealer, in a report in 'Popular Stamps', describes his discovery of a copy of the flag cancel which he describes as a roller type and then refers to it being produced by a machine (p.5). Nairne then goes on to state "that the cancellation was made by the same firm that turned out the Toronto Flag about the same time" (p.6) which was the Canadian Postal Supply Co., promoters of the Bickerdike machine. He adds "To bear this out, Mr. Goodale has lately made the remarkable discovery that the brass roller is still in existence in the P.O. Archives at Ottawa!" (p.6). Unfortunately searches carried out in the 1950s by Gerry Wellburn and other leading collectors of British Columbia material have failed to produce the brass roller or any reference to its existence in the Archives. In the view of Mr. Wellburn the reported roller did not exist. Ed Richardson's 'The Canadian Flag

Cancellation Handbook' describes the instrument as "a hand roller of awkward size and shape and difficult to use." (p.32) and suggests it was only used for 'favour' items. Fred Stulberg in the 'Canadian Philatelist' Volume XXI (1970) mentioned the cancellation but added no new information.

A detailed study of xerox copies of 13 of the two dozen known copies has led the author to the conclusion that the cancellations were produced by a Bickerdike or similar rapid cancelling machine acquired from the United States by the postmaster at Victoria, without the authority of the Canadian Post Office Department in Ottawa and as a result it was quickly withdrawn when discovered by Ottawa.

Background

Geoffrey Newman in his book 'The Bickerdike Machine Papers' provides considerable background information on changes in Canadian postal operations during the late 1890's and early 1900's. Victoria was one of the post offices considered for installation of four Bickerdike machines. In a letter dated 24 July 1897, J.Brooks Young, Canadian agent for the Bickerdike Mail Marking Machine, states the cost of installing the four machines was estimated at \$759.45. In the same letter the costs of installing machines in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, and Quebec City were also quoted. (pp 51-54) A later list of 75 potential post offices also includes two electric machines for Victoria (p.68). The

expectation of receiving a mail marking machine at Victoria had been firmly established by the late 1890s.

The Canadian Postal Supply Company, along with a number of American companies, was actively advertising its equipment to postmasters in Canada. Both the postmaster at Quebec City and Winnipeg are known to have made requests to Ottawa for the installation of rapid cancelling equipment and in both cases the request was refused. A letter from W.D. Le Sueur, Secretary of the Post Office Department, states:

"- that in the use of articles of that kind it is the Department, and not the Postmaster, [who] determines the matter." (Newman p.73). The letter clearly indicates that Post Office policy required a postmaster to use only equipment supplied by the Post Office Department.

The policy does not appear to have prevented some postmasters from purchasing equipment from the United States or having it made locally. Privately made cancelling equipment was used extensively by the quasi post offices on the coastal ships in British Columbia. The violation of policy was tolerated by the Postal Inspector at Victoria, Everard H. Fletcher. The Postmaster at Victoria, therefore, might consider it acceptable to acquire his own rapid cancelling equipment for use at Victoria.

Unfortunately all the postal orders from the Victoria Post Office that might have provided information, were burned in 1970 when the Victoria post office was moved to new quarters.

The Cancellation The 'PROVINCIAL / EXHIBITION /

VICTORIA / OCT. 1. TO 5' flag cancellation appears to have been used from 8 to 22 August, 1901 and was withdrawn before the start of the exhibition.

The cancellation, measuring 23mm by 59mm, is almost identical in design and size to the one used for the Canadian Exhibition at Toronto held two months earlier. In particular the shape of the two shields and the number of stripes in the tail of the flag appears to be more than coincidence and indicates the same source of manufacture.



The wording on the hubs may differ, but 'Victoria.B.C. / CANADA' with three lines for time, date, year was normal on all Victoria cancellations after 1879. The one unusual feature of the Victoria cancellation is a tendency to slope upward or downward on the envelope. Measurements show a variation from a down slope of 5mm to an up slope of 15mm over the length of the cancel. Other Bickerdike cancellations of the period often show an upward slope but these were only in terms of 1mm to 5mm. The possible reason for this slope will be discussed later.

Covers

The number of reported covers with the 1901 Victoria flag cancellation is estimated to be around two dozen. Victoria, by 1901, had a population of close to 50,000 and as a result covers from Victoria are common. The table below lists 13 of the known covers. Note the slope, shown in degrees, is the angle between the base of the cancellation and a line parallelling the top of the envelope.

Date in 1901, addressee, degree of slope
AU 8
Post Office, Seattle, Wash. - 1
AU 8 1901
Post Master, Seattle, Wash. + 2
AU 10
Miss Smith, Victoria, B.C. (Mourning)
+ 4
AU 12
Rev. G.W. Taylor, Wellington, B.C.
+ 8
AU 13
H.E. Dubble, Osage, Iowa (PC) + 11
AU 14
Postmaster, Seattle, Wash. (Vic EX)
+ 4
AU 15
Bank of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario (PC)
+ 11
AU 20
Queen City Laundry, Seattle, Wash.
+ 9
AU 20
Hong Chong, Nevada Co., California
+ 7
AU 20
Crease & Crease, Victoria, B.C. + 7
AU 22
Miss May Oppenheimer, Portland, Ore.
(ppc) + 12
AU 22
Miss May Oppenheimer, Portland, Ore.
(PPC) + 11
AU 22
Miss May Oppenheimer, Portland, Ore.
(ppc) - 4

Nine of the 13 covers are addressed to the United States and, of these, two are to the postmaster in Seattle and three to May Oppenheimer in Portland. This confirms the opinion of Ed Richardson that many appear to be favour or CTO items and would have been cancelled one or two at a time. Rapid cancelling equipment was not designed to operate in this manner and as a result envelopes might easily pass through at an odd angle. It should also be noted that the greatest up slope is recorded on Post Cards which are smaller and thinner than the normal envelopes for which the machine was designed.

Supposition

Since no contemporary records are available, let me review the evidence in an attempt to establish the type of equipment used to produce the Victoria Flag cancel of 1901.

Rubber stamps were not in common use by the post office in 1901 and a large rubber stamp would tend to produce a wide, indistinct line, with some doubling or smudging of the cancel. None of the covers show any doubling or smudging and all lines are crisp and clear.

Rollers came into use in the late 1800's and have been widely accepted as the device used to make the flag cancel. Rollers tend to over run, and rarely start or end precisely at the same point each time. Also roller markings rarely run in a straight line and slippage or distortion is very common. There is no over run or side slipping found on the 13 covers examined.

The use of a rocker has been proposed but rockers were never made in Canada. Rockers produce a crisp

strike but like rollers they tend to side slip and unless very carefully used will produce double strikes at one end or the other. The use of a rocker could explain the inconsistent slope of these cancellations but there is no doubling or side slippage found on the 13 covers examined.

A rapid cancelling machine is designed to produce a clean, clear, consistent strike in the same location on each envelope. The clarity of all strikes clearly points to the use of a machine. If it were not for the inconsistent slope of the known cancellations, it is likely that all authorities would agree that the Victoria Exhibition cancel was made by a machine.

Conclusions

As early as 1897, the Victoria post office had expected to receive a rapid cancelling machine but, for reasons known only to the Post Office Department, was bypassed and probably resented this omission. It is also known that the Canadian Postal Supply Company, suppliers of the Bickerdike Mail Marking Machine, had been contacting postmasters in an attempt to persuade them to purchase their own machines. Unlike the United States, Canadian postal policy dictated that only equipment approved by the Canadian Postal Department could be used, although this policy had been overlooked on British Columbia coastal ships. At the same time there was considerable rivalry between the exhibition committees in New Westminster and Victoria, both claiming their exhibition as the 'Provincial' exhibition.

It would not be unreasonable to assume that the postmaster at Victoria,

Mr N.Shakespeare, may have given in to pressure from the Victoria Exhibition Committee to purchase a Bickerdike Machine and to have an obliterator made similar to that used in Toronto to advertise the Victoria exhibition. Mr. Shakespeare would have been aware of the postal policy and, as a result, may have attempted to avoid the use of cancellation on mail for Canadian destinations. This would account for the scarcity of the cancel. Assuming that the use was mainly CTO and only one or two letters were postmarked at a time it is likely that envelopes were improperly fed and as a result cancellations appear at odd angles.

The abrupt end to the usage probably resulted from Postal Authorities in Ottawa hearing of the violation of postal policy and instructing the Victoria Postal Inspector Mr E.H.Fletcher to have the equipment withdrawn at once, probably 22 August.

Although much of the information presented is speculative, it would appear reasonable to assume that the equipment used to produce the 1901 PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION VICTORIA cancellation at Victoria was a Bickerdike Mail Marking Machine purchased without the authority of the Canadian Postal Department.

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Nairne, Reginald, 'Victoria's Mystery Cancellation' **POPULAR STAMPS** June 1953 pp. 5-6
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CANCELLATION HANDBOOK 1896 - 1973, BNAPS 1973

Sessions, David F. THE EARLY RAPID CANCELLING MACHINES OF CANADA Toronto, Unitrade Press, 1982
Stulberg, Fred, 'What's new in old Canada' CANADIAN PHILATELIST Vol. XXI No.1 pp. 29-30

Editor's Note:

Bill's suggestion that the cancellation was of non- Canadian origin, and had to be

withdrawn before the date of the exhibition, gives a very reasonable solution to a question that has often bothered flag collectors. However, it is difficult to visualize a Bickerdike (or similar) machine producing consistently slanted impressions. The restricted use of a rapid cancelling machine, implied in the second paragraph of 'conclusions' completely defeats its purpose. Members are encouraged to offer their views.

THE 6c SMALL QUEEN QUANTITIES. H. Reiche FCPS

The British American Bank Note Company that printed the 6c Small Queen stamps has been keeping a so-called log book of activities dealing with stamps, orders, plates, dates etc. Unfortunately access to this information is almost impossible, although many collectors would love to obtain information that is otherwise very difficult to find. Although these records exist and cover the early stamps of Canada, I can only take these as written, I have no confirmation that all the entry is correct. Here is the data that is listed, it should be of interest.

Three different plates are mentioned for the 6c, with the following dates and the orders received and printed:

July 1871 plate
4,800,000 3,151,000 2,300,800

March 1873 plate
8,652,000 5,455,000

October 1887 plate
3,005,000 1,000,000 825,000 825,000

Total = 30,013,800

Compare this with two other sources:

Hillson 26,634,730
Post Office 1923 28,500,000

These figures show that there is some relationship between them; the differences are not major. It also indicates the usage of each plate, with the third plate being the lowest in quantity.

REPORTED SO FAR

George B. Arfken

When writing about postal history, it's easy to make statements that are too strong or inadequately qualified. Only gradually has this writer learned to add 'reported so far'. Two examples show where these three words should have been included in earlier writing. A third example is in the 'thank goodness they were included' category. Actually this article is not one of penitence and atonement. One of the joys of studying postal history is learning about new covers. Each of the three covers described here is a significant addition to Canadian postal history.

An 1879 15c L Q Cover to Cape Colony. In the 1989 'Canadian Philatelist', an article [1] about the 15c Large Queen contained the statement: "As with India, it seems that no 15c Large Queen Covers (to Cape Colony) have survived." An 1879 cover from the collection of Dr.J.Frank of South Africa is shown in Figure 1. Here is a 15c Large Queen cover to Cape Town, South Africa. This is the only 15c Large Queen cover to Cape Colony reported so far. On the way from Canada to South Africa, this cover was apparently subject to mandatory registration in England. No 15c Large Queen cover to India has been reported so far.

An 1885 19c Cover to New Zealand, via England.

An article in the 1993 'Canadian Philatelist' [2] on Canadian mail to Victoria, Australia, included the statement: "The result of the restoration of trans-Pacific mail service was no more 'Via England' mail from Canada to New Zealand or to eastern

Australia (Victoria,Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland)." First of all, this statement should have been limited to pre-UPU letters. Even so, a 'reported so far' was needed. Steve Menich very kindly sent me the cover shown in Figure 2. Posted in Guelph 20 AU 85, this cover was endorsed 'Via England' and franked with 19c, the proper rate for passage via Brindisi. There are no U.S. or U.K. transit marks but the trans-Pacific packet service was interrupted in August 1885. I have no doubt that Menich's cover went via England and is a wonderful exception to my too broad a statement. This cover is the only pre-UPU 19c Canadian cover sent to New Zealand via England reported so far.

In the 1870s and 1880s, the San Francisco - Honolulu - Sydney/Auckland trans-Pacific mail service was a tremendous struggle against vast distances, inadequate technology, and limited mail, freight, passengers and money. Some of the details of the sequence of shipping lines have been given by Molnar [3].

An 1878 10c S Q Cover to India.

In a 1993 article in 'Maple Leaves' [4], there appeared the statement: "This is the earliest dated cover (reported so far) paying this 10c rate." The article discussed a 10c cover sent to India and Afghanistan during the Second Afghan War. The cover was posted 4 November 79. Shortly after publication of the 'Maple Leaves' article, a collector from western Canada sent me descriptions and reduced size photocopies of some 10c Small Queen covers. One of these

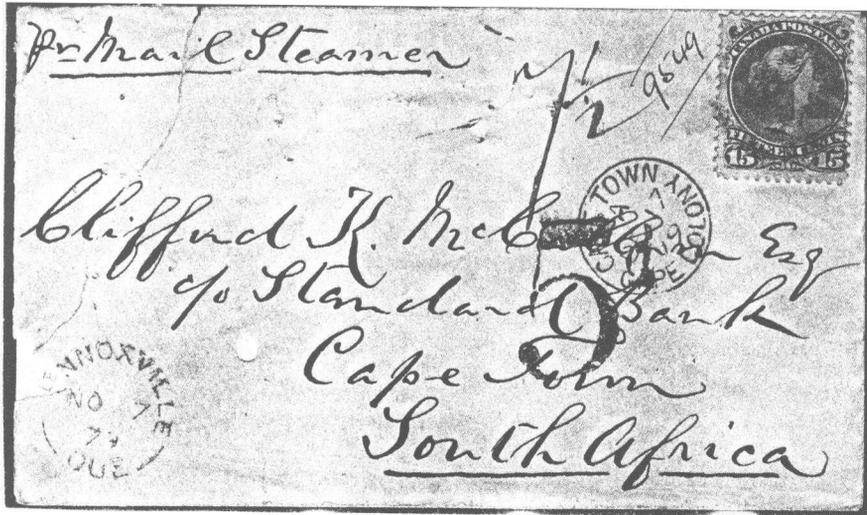


Figure 1. From Lennoxville, Que., No 7 79, addressed to Cape Town, South Africa. The cover was paid one 15c rate with a 15c Large Queen. Courtesy of Dr. J. Frank.

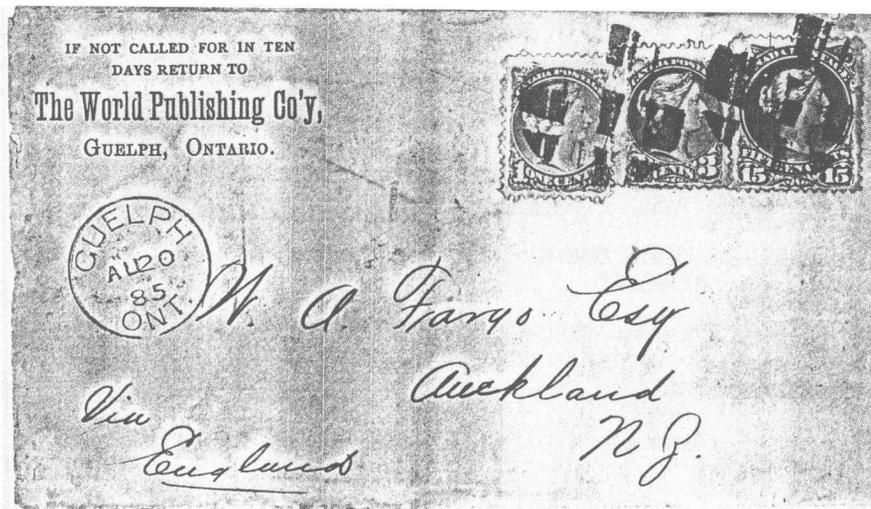


Figure 2. Posted in Guelph, Ont, AU 20 85, and addressed to Auckland, N.Z. The cover was endorsed 'Via England' and paid the proper 19c for going via Brindisi. Courtesy of Stephen J. Menich.

was addressed to Bimlipatam, Madras Presidency, India. This cover had been posted in Truro, N.S., 27 December 78, over ten months earlier than the earliest dated cover of that 'Maple Leaves' article.

Thank goodness that a 'reported so far' had been included. The new earliest dated cover reported so far is welcome.

A note on the Canadian covers of the Second Afghan War. Four covers have been reported addressed to Martin Laubach, R.A., Hazara Mountain Battery. The cover shown [4] is the earliest dated of the four. The remaining three covers were illustrated in Christie's New York auction catalogue, 2 February, 1994, lots 292, 296 and 297.

This writer is grateful to Dr. J. Frank, Stephen Menich and to an anonymous Canadian for sending photocopies of these covers and granting permission to use the photocopies here.

References

- [1] 'Canada's 15c Large Queen and its Postal Usages,' Canadian Philatelist.vol.40,pp. 24-32, Jan.-Feb. 1989.
- [2] 'Pre-UPU Canadian Letter Mail to Victoria, Australia,' Canadian Philatelist vol.44,pp. 48-64, Jan-Feb. 1993.
- [2] 'The Postal History of New South Wales, 1788 -1901', John S White, editor, Philatelic Association of New South Wales, 1988. See Chapter 11 by G.P. Molnar.
- [4] 'A Second Afghan War Cover' 'Maple Leaves' vol.23,pp. 75-77, June 1993.



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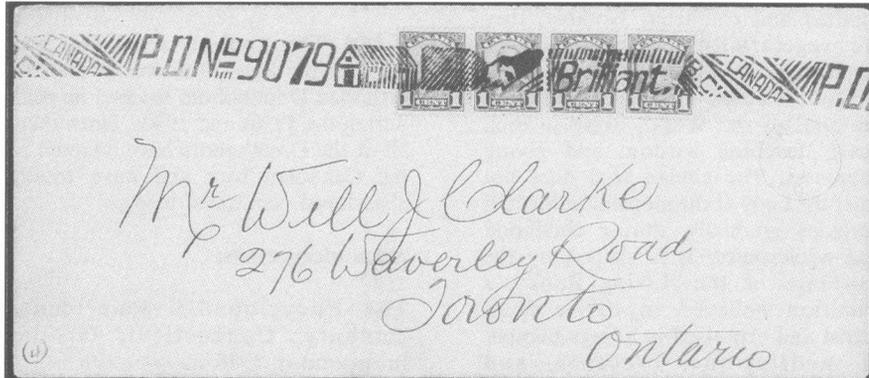




ANNUAL CATALOGUE SUBSCRIPTION: Inland £25, Europe £40, Elsewhere £50

ARSON, DYNAMITE, NUDES!

The Yellow Peril Photo - Canadian Stamp News



The fascinating 'Doukhobor' roller postmark of Brilliant, B.C. depicts Peter (The Lordly) Verigin and the Brilliant Post Office No. 9079. Cover is postmarked with light 'Brilliant AP 26 29 B.C.' circular date stamp at upper right.

Brilliant was the centre of the Doukhobor colonies in the Kootenay Valley (Headquarters of the orthodox Doukhobors). It was also one of the many sites where nude parading, bombings and night fire raiders, sometimes led by a nude woman on horseback, created a reign of terror. Bridges and railways were popular targets for bombings while barns, churches and schools were torched by incendiaries. Wild chanting bands of fanatics would set fire to buildings while others prayed. As buildings burned the entire group would disrobe and stage a nude parade.

Doukhobors, which means 'spirit fighters' are a nonconformist sect that originated in eighteenth century Russia. They seek to restore the simplicity of worship of the early Christian church.

The church, priests, sacraments, and icons are rejected: the altar holding only water, bread and salt. To them it is the individual's religious experiences that counts. Any form of authority is anathema.

The sole authority they accept is that of their leader or his son and successor who are thought to reincarnate Christ. Their most influential leader was Peter Verigin. Under his guidance and with the financial help of Count Leo Tolstoy and the English Quakers, 8,000 Doukhobors emigrated to the Northwest Territories, now Saskatchewan, in 1898. Verigin, however, did not join the sect there until 1902 as he was in exile in Siberia. Many Doukhobors later settled in British Columbia circa 1913. Verigin

was killed when a Canadian Pacific Railway coach exploded near Farron, B.C. in October 1924. Doukhobors place the responsibility on every individual to demonstrate perfect conduct and character. Notably, they are vegetarians. They seek inner inspiration which must come from direct revelation. God is conceived as the Soul of the World, living in each heart, teaching wisdom and giving happiness. The human soul does not enter the body at the moment of birth; it develops gradually, during childhood and adolescence. It is shaped by the teachings of the 'Living Book', a tradition believed to derive from Christ and expressed in a large number of meditations, precepts, and commentaries. The doctrine of original sin is also denied; man being naturally and inherently good. The fall of Adam is understood as having no degenerative influence on his descendants. The sect eventually divided into three colonies: the Independents, who accepted Canadian education; the Orthodox, who tried to walk a peaceful middle path; and the most radical group, the Sons of Freedom. The latter refused to send their children to public schools, rejected modern technology and opposed the Western way of life. They

used violent methods, such as arson, to coerce fellow members who had strayed from the creed and they also held nude parades to demonstrate their desire to return to primitive simplicity.

A Doukhorbor sectarian war between the Sons of Freedom and the orthodox Doukhobors reached its peak during the 1930s and 1940s. Since then, all of the Doukhobors have adapted to the Canadian way and have totally abandoned communal living.

Acknowledgements:

The Encyclopedia Americana. Danbury, Connecticut; Grolier Incorporated, 1986.

Steve Donahue (Toronto Star's former Physical Fitness Director) for his painstaking search through the microfilm library for newspaper reports on the Doukhobors.

Editor's note: The front page of the 18 April, 1989, Toronto Star reports, "About 5,000 Canadian Doukhobors, concerned about the future of their young people in Canada and saying that 'comfort weakens the soul', are thinking of returning to Siberia."

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Members who have not paid the current year's subscription by 31 December will be removed from the *Maple Leaves* circulation list.

The following article supplements that which appeared in the January issue of 'Maple Leaves', both having been brought to our attention by David H. Whiteley.

POSTAL EVOLUTION - II.

Intimate Connection of the Post With the Telegraph - The First Cable Project.

Early Ordinances for Western Union Concessions - The Overland Line to Asia.

The post and telegraph offices are so intimately connected that some day the latter may supersede the former, therefore a rough outline of the evolution of the latter in British Columbia may be of interest.

Although in 1860 electric telegraphs were common in Europe - submarine cables existing between and connecting divers nations, even as far as Constantinople, Balaklava, India and other places, resulting from the Crimean war in 1853, the Indian mutiny, 1857, and the China war - at which time it is assumed telegraph communication overland existed between Russia and Sebastapol, still British Columbia had not any, and none existed between Europe and America. There was a great desire to connect these; the desire ripened into a necessity and, thanks to the energy and enterprise of Cyrus Field and Mr. Giaborne, the means was found of meeting the necessity. The human body seems to have been evolved in like manner: the first intelligent nervous filaments, having a desire and necessity for some addition, in process of time arrived at its production. Therefore the muscular osseous and other systems are merely the creation, the slaves, of the nervous system, for its use, nourishment and protection. The nervous system,

therefore is man, and whatever its necessities may be, these it will provide for.

In 1858 the nervous filaments were approaching British Columbia, for in August of that year the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable was laid between Valencia, Ireland, and Newfoundland, a cable having been laid across the Gulf of St. Lawrence a couple of years previously. The laying of the Atlantic cable was an international affair - America and England sending ships to assist, such as the U.S. Niagara and H.M.S. Agamemnon. Each carried one-half the cable, which they special (sic) [spliced] in mid-ocean and then each went in opposite directions paying it out.

The first message transmitted is said to have been from Her Majesty, "Europe and America are united by telegraph. Glory to God in the highest, peace and goodwill towards men." Then followed a message from the Queen to President Buchanan of the United States, much longer but not extraordinary. The cable then became dumb and spoke no more - three thousand five hundred miles of cable lay in a trance on its ocean bed.

The news of the laying of the cable did not reach San Francisco until a month after the event, and celebrations took place followed by sadness; but it gave an impetus to the desire - the necessity - of having an overland

telegraph to the East.

By many it was considered doubtful whether any other than the first message of four or five lines went over the cable, and it was generally believed it spoke tardily and intermittently for two or three hours. Anyhow, this first cable having taken some years to prepare, cost a large sum of money, the whole of which was lost, and people, not unnaturally, for some time fought shy of investing in another. Yet in 1865 another unsuccessful attempt was made. In 1860 the lamentable civil war commenced. Telegraphy was urged on everywhere by war. The Fraser River gold excitement occurred in 1858. The Panama railroad, which it is said sacrificed a life for every mile driven was completed in 1855.

It may be here observed that in 1866 the Mainland colony, Seymour being Governor, adopted the decimal currency. Previous to this she had the £. s. d. There is no mention of postage stamps in the postal act of 1864, but there is in that of 1867. Now then, we come to the time of the telegraph in British Columbia. The following acts or ordinances of the Mainland government speak for themselves:

In 1864 an ordinance or charter to construct a telegraph line, connecting British Columbia, i.e. New Westminster, with the telegraph lines of the United States emanated from the Mainland, Seymour being Governor, in favour of the California State Telegraph Company for twenty five years. The construction was to be commenced within five and completed within fifteen months. In the event of failure the act to be null and void, but if completed, then in this case the

California Company should have the exclusive right of sending and receiving within British Columbia (i.e. the Mainland) for twenty years, but provision was also made for other companies on conditions. The prices to be paid in any station in Washington Territory were not to exceed four shillings and two pence (i.e. one dollar) for each ten words; messages to be sent over the state shall not be charged higher rates than the lowest uniform rate on such lines; messages between New Westminster and San Francisco shall never be charged more than one pound and six pence (i.e. five dollars) for every ten words.

In 1865 an ordinance was passed rescinding the exclusive rights granted to the company, as it was contrary to the policy of the British government to grant exclusive telegraphic privileges. The same year, however, an ordinance was passed at New Westminster to encourage the construction of a line connecting British Columbia with the telegraphic lines of Russia, the United States and for other purposes. This went on to state that Percy Macdonough Collins, an American citizen, had obtained from the governments of Russia and the United States the right to make and maintain a line of electric telegraph through their respective territories; and whereas the government desired cordially to co-operate with the United States and Russia, in the establishment and maintenance of such continuous line of international telegraph, it was enacted, that Collins and his associates be granted a charter for thirty three years from the 1st day of January, 1870, with the usual conditions of forfeiture.

In the same year (1865) an ordinance was passed legalizing the

transfer by Collins of his interests to the Western Union Telegraph Extension Company. In 1866 the Collins overland line people requested that it be incorporated by statute under the more appropriate name of the Western Union Telegraph Company, and this was accordingly done.

Thus New Westminster became connected with the telegraph system of the United States, Canada and Vancouver Island, for in 1886 a cable going by way of San Juan Island united her to them. The apparent object of the Collins line was to connect America with Europe, either by joining the Russian, existing or contemplated, telegraph system or by the Orient, or both. The failure of the transatlantic cable encouraged them to obtain a necessity. Everything looked favourable. The greatest activity prevailed. Explorations were made and the wires carried to near the headwaters of the Skeena river, through a very rough and heavily timbered country, giving hard work to a large number of employees under the direction of Lamb and Butler. Almost suddenly this gigantic work stopped, and the wires were left on the poles to within a very recent period, occasioning sometimes considerable inconvenience.

Now why did this expensive work stop? Why simply because in 1866 a transatlantic cable had been successfully laid down between Ireland and Newfoundland by that renowned but unfortunately ruinous steamer the *Great Eastern*. This steamer also picked up the sleeping cable of 1858, cured it, and lo and behold, it spoke again and may yet be speaking! In 1860 the French laid successfully a cable, and now there are probably half a dozen more in operation.

Thus in 1886, the year of its political union, British Columbia, in the twinkling of an eye, physically and intellectually became a part of the electric nervous system of the whole earth, and humanity, sharing in its discoveries, inventories, aspirations, hopes, fears, joys, sorrows and indeed everything pertaining thereto. It is impossible to realize the effect of this on British Columbia; the human race at large; the world in general. The telegraph is a nervous organism and when the brain and nervous energy of man puts it in motion, it becomes a living thing - speaking as directed morally and intellectually (and by imparting motion physically) - almost a human being with like virtues and faults; it is living, for life is only a condition. The telegraph is the brain of the earth.

What puts a man's nervous system in motion? What is the inherent vital property in a seed that makes it, under suitable conditions, grow and produce abundantly after its kind? If man knew this he would possibly know all - but the awful power is, at all events for the time, not demonstrable.

Here, then, we have an instance of the nervous system of man providing means to obtain a necessity. It may be that whenever a necessity exists for something the human race requires it will in some way obtain it. Now a cable to Australia is projected - if necessary it will come. Such nervous sympathetic and business unions will make Imperial federation practicable - aye, and produce it in time, like our confederation facilitated and hastened by easy communication.

In connection with electricity it may be said that between 1850 and 1860

wayfarers at night carried a lantern. In 1861 the Victoria Gas Company came into existence to light the city, and in 1883 the corporation substituted for gas electric lights. The telephone made its appearance in 1883 also, and the tram cars later on. It is not too much to believe that the telephone will be improved so as to enable people to talk at long distances, for man is only beginning to understand how to make uses of the forces of nature.

Now to conclude. In 1850 one year was consumed in sending a message to England and receiving an answer. A few months ago a message was sent by telegraph to Manchester in England and an answer received in nineteen seconds, the distance travelled being 13,000 miles! Electricity knows neither time nor distance. They do not exist. In the early years it took five months to reach Europe by ship, now only fifteen days,- the time occupied by the steamer Great Western in her remarkable passage across the Atlantic in 1838. Postage has been reduced from fifty to five

cents, and the cost of a telegraphic word to Europe from one dollar or more to thirty cents. The Atlantic has become a mere ferry - a trip to England a pleasure jaunt. Yet there are more people who say imperial federation is impracticable, Bah! as soon as man's nervous system feels the necessity it will provide the means, and possibly the commercial union of the colonies will be the preliminary step. Looking over to progress during the past forty years, can anyone possibly believe that British Columbia can stand still or retrograde The world and its beings must go on to their predestined end. There is no standing still. Not an atom dies.

This much tedious writing has been evoked by a letter asking for information about the early postal history of British Columbia by some one interested in "philatelics:" The meaning of this term let anyone discover, and "when found make a note of."

J.S. Helmcken, M.D

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THE PEOPLE ON THE STAMPS - VANCOUVER Alan Salmon.

*Over the great windy waters, and over the clear crested summits,
Unto the sun & the sky, and unto the perfecter earth,
Come let us go, - to a land wherein gods of the old time wandered,
Where every breath even now changes to ether divine.
Amours de Voyage. Arthur Hugh Clough.*

George Vancouver's prolonged and accurate surveys of the west coast of Canada are commemorated by the 37c stamp issued in 1988 in the 'Exploration of Canada' series (SG 1286, SS 1200). The stamp depicts his ship, *HMS Discovery*; there are no portraits of Vancouver which are certainly authentic.



He was born in 1757 at King's Lynn, England; his father, of Dutch descent, was deputy collector of customs there. The boy entered the Royal Navy at the age of 14 and was fortunate to be posted as an able seaman, for training as a midshipman, to Captain Cook's ship, *HMS Resolution*, which sailed to investigate the legendary southern continent in 1772. This was Cook's second great voyage of exploration, taking over three years and sailing 70,000 miles. Vancouver furthered his naval education by receiving instruction from an astronomer on board, and from observing Cook's mastery of

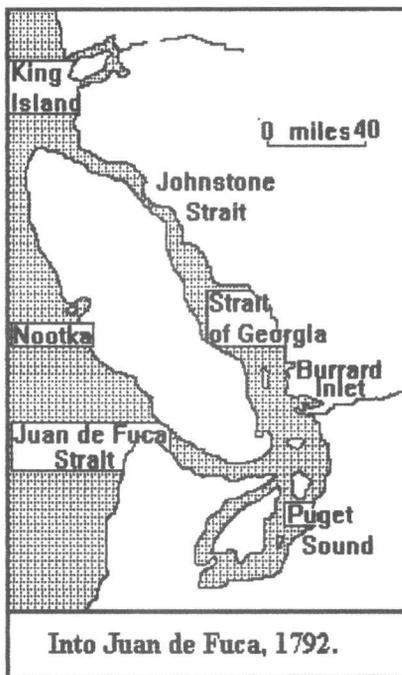
seamanship. He obviously impressed Cook, who appointed him a midshipman on the *Discovery* for the third great voyage, the one to find a passage from the Pacific to either the Atlantic or the North Sea. Thus: he landed on western Canada for the first time at Nootka Sound in 1778, narrowly missed death at the hands of the Hawaiians and recovered what remained of Cook's body from the islanders in 1779. On the return of the expedition, in 1780, he passed his examination for lieutenant. This was the first phase of Vancouver's career, he spent eight years with the greatest seaman, explorer and surveyor of the age.

The next nine years were spent in fighting ships, mainly in the West Indies. The importance of his appointments rose steadily, whilst he established a reputation for attention to detail and for strict discipline.

Wherein gods of the old time wandered.
The third phase involved the exploration of Canada's western coast. About this time Britain's interest in the Pacific was increasing due, in the south, to the settlement of Australia and the commercial importance of whaling. In the north the Pacific fur trade was becoming significant and, after Cook's explorations, Britain was not prepared to accept Spain's claim to the whole

coastline as far as Prince William Sound. Also, hopes still existed of finding a way from the Pacific to the Atlantic; Cook had shown that there was no way in the far north, but could Alaska be an island? Another attempt would be made, a new *HMS Discovery* was commissioned to lead the expedition, Vancouver was appointed second in command.

However in 1789 there was an incident at Nootka Sound - several British ships were seized there by the Spanish navy. Great Britain mobilized for war, Holland sent warships to sail with the Royal Navy, Prussia supported Britain. President Washington wished the United States to be neutral, but Jefferson, then Secretary of State, had arranged that, in the event of a war, the States should offer to protect Spanish territories on the west bank of the Mississippi in exchange for Florida and New Orleans. A great war was in the making; but France, Spain's other potential ally, was in disarray due to its revolution. So, fortunately, Spain backed down and the Nootka Sound Convention was signed in Madrid in 1790. Spain gave up her exclusive claim to the coast and was to make restitution to the British citizens whose property had been seized at Nootka. Preparations for the expedition were resumed and Vancouver was now given the command of the *Discovery*, with the rank of Commander. His instructions were to: recover the property at Nootka to be restored to British subjects, survey the Hawaiian islands (then called the Sandwich Islands), survey the American coast from 30°N to 60°N and seek 'any water-communication' which might be used 'for the purpose of commerce between the north - west coast and the country upon the opposite side of the continent'.



The *Discovery*, together with a small armed tender *HMS Chatham*, sailed from Falmouth in April 1791. On the way to the Pacific the south-west coast of Australia was surveyed. A landfall in America was made about 100 miles north of San Francisco in April 1792; Vancouver then began to survey the whole coast so that no passage would remain undiscovered. The coasts of Oregon and Washington were rapidly surveyed, the Columbia River was considered unusable as its mouth presented a line of breakers from shore to shore. Mount Rainier, Mount Baker and Mount Hood were all named after Vancouver's contemporaries in the Royal Navy. Once the ships entered Juan de Fuca Strait it became much more difficult due to the tides, depth of water and the winds. The ship's open



boats had to be used, each provisioned for a week, to explore every inlet to its head. Puget Sound was surveyed and named after one of Vancouver's officers. After surveying what is now Vancouver harbour he met two small Spanish ships, out of Acapulco, who reported that Spaniards had explored the Strait of Georgia, which Vancouver named after George III, but they had not explored Puget Sound. The channel into the harbour he named 'after Sir Harry Burrard of the Navy'. By August Vancouver had worked up the full length of Johnstone Strait, named after another of Vancouver's officers, and established that he was sailing around a large island. He then went south to Nootka to deal with the Spanish commander, Bodega y Quadra. They established a friendly relationship but could not agree on the property to be transferred, they decided to refer to their respective governments for advice.

Vancouver then sailed south to Monterey and then south-west to Hawaii where he wintered. By May 1793 he was surveying again; in June he was at the mouth of the Bella Coola, a few weeks later he would have met Mackenzie who arrived there, from Fort Chipewyan, late in July. That year he completed the work as far as 56°N, then sailed down the coast to San Diego and surveyed the coast of Mexico to 30°N. Again he wintered in Hawaii, completed the survey of those islands and persuaded the native king to cede the islands to Great Britain.

In 1794 he sailed directly to Cook Inlet, then surveyed south to where he had finished the previous year. By August the survey had been completed, Vancouver was promoted to Captain that month; celebrations took place, with the issue of a large quantity of grog, at a bay he called Port Conclusion on Chatham Strait. All that year's work took place on the coast of what is now Alaska. The voyage home was by Cape Horn, with calls at Nootka, Monterey, Chile and St Helena.

The long trick's over.

The *Discovery* arrived in the Thames in October 1795, after sailing 65,000 miles, the small boats are estimated to have travelled a further 10,000 miles. Thus ended the most prolonged surveying voyage in history - over four and a half years. It showed there was no passage south of the Bering Strait to the Atlantic; also it was accomplished with great accuracy, Vancouver's fixes of locations vary little from the best available today. His care of his men was noteworthy, during the whole saga only one man died of disease; one did die of poisoning and four were drowned.

The magnitude and the success of the voyage were not appreciated immediately. There were complaints from some members of the crews that he had been a harsh commander; there is little doubt that he became irritable and subject to bouts of temper, possibly due to a hyperthyroid condition. He retired that November, on half pay, to write his story of the voyage. He died, at the early

age of 40, when the journal was nearly finished. His brother completed the Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific, three volumes and an atlas, which was published in 1798. Later the accomplishment and its importance were fully recognized; he took his rightful place amongst the great explorers of Canada.

PERFORATION VARIETY ON 10c CONSORT Geoffrey Whitworth FRPSL, FCPS

Canadian stamps were being perforated by a rotary single line method where the machine consisted of a lower shaft carrying 11 wheels drilled with holes around the perimeter. Above this was another shaft containing 11 wheels drilled and fitted with short pins set to the same gauge. At this period the machines in use were giving a perforation of between 11.85 and 11.95 pins per 2cm.



*Variety -
missing pins.*

These two illustrated examples of

10 cents stamps, from printing order No. 23 of 27 July 1866, show that in the vertical direction, four consecutive pins were absent. The two items are not of exactly the same depth of colour, indicating that printing took place over different days; many sheets could have passed through the perforating machine before the flaw was sighted.

On the single stamp one pin is missing on the lower horizontal side of the stamp. This flaw would occur on all values of stamps put through this machine until it was corrected. Stamps of the 23rd. order of the 10 cents value are found dated between January and March 1867.

Between January and September 1867 eight stamps have been recorded with the compound 12 x 11 3/4 perforation. Could it be that when this fault was found the rollers were taken out for repair and the older 11 3/4 perforation machine brought back into use for a short time?

My thanks to Mr. Maresch of Toronto for sending these stamps to me and allowing me to have them.

Following Bill Pekonen's article on early use of 'OHMS', in the January issue, we have one or two other articles in the pipeline concerning 'Officials'. The following short piece should serve as an introduction.

COLLECTING THE OFFICIALS OF CANADA

Trelle A. Morrow

In collecting the Officials the parameters are much the same as collecting in any issue or subject. The collector needs sources of material, reference books and a keen eye for picking up articles in the various stamp journals. Collectors also tend to resolve into two camps, those that collect only the stamps and those that collect covers; the two avenues may not overlap.

There are several publications dealing with the Official Stamps and these are outlined in this essay. Cover collecting presents a different problem in that there are no formal documents or publications dealing with that subject and the collector must rely on a few articles in periodicals and the knowledge of other collectors of covers.

Early students of the subject began work as far back as 1928. Short articles and checklists appeared from several collectors in the 1930s and 1940s. The May 1949 issue of Maple Leaves carried a five-page article 'Checklist of Canadian stamps perforated OHMS'.

The well-known publication for Official stamps is Roy Wrigley's 'Catalogue & Guidebook of Canadian Official Stamps'. This publication has gone through at least nine editions since its inception in 1956 and the latest edition is believed to be still on the

market. Catalogue prices are given for the stamps and the many varieties.

An album for mounting the Official Stamps was also produced by Roy Wrigley in 1961. This is a 3-ring, 8 1/2" x 11", 60-page production and provides spaces for the 5-hole, 4-hole, O.H.M.S. and G stamps and varieties. The spaces for the stamps contain a photograph so the collector can actually see all of the stamps and varieties known at that date.

Another publication of Wrigley's is the 'Textbook & Guide to the Canadian Official Stamps'. This 72-page Guide was produced in 1975 and contains much subjective information about the stamp issues. This is material on stamp production, copies of letters from government personnel and short articles by guest contributors such as H.M. Dilworth. Some of the information in this Guide is also contained in the Wrigley Album and in the various Officials catalogues by Wrigley.

The Album and Guide are believed to be out of print so the collector should watch the auctions or seek those disposing of literature. There is always the chance that a dealer could supply these publications.

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**DEALERS IN
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SPOTTING FAKED CANCELLATIONS

John Hillson FCPS

Over the years one acquires sufficient experience to be fairly relaxed over the possibility of buying items that turn out not to be quite what they seemed, but I have not forgotten my disappointment quite a long time ago when it was shown that my much prized 'Ottawa Crown' was a fake, and my 15c Large Queen with the script watermark was not 'right'. In fact it was this disillusion that helped me to the decision to sell my Canadian collection in 1964. I am prompted to make these notes because fake 'Crowns' appear in auction catalogues with almost monotonous regularity, the most recent example, the exact same fake as I had all those years ago on a 5c. Small Queen, but this time on a 5c. Large Queen. The most extensively faked of all 'Fancy Cancels' are the Ottawa Crowns so, taken from the strikes in the proof book, this is what the genuine ones should look like:



Fig 1.



Fig 2.

As far as the solid crown (fig3. overleaf) is concerned I know of no evidence that it was ever used. Any I have seen either have the centre portion too wide, or have wretched little triangular intaglio bits either side of it, or it is oversize like the illustration in the Day & Smythies handbook. The other Ottawa Crown in that handbook is based on a fake too, if you have a copy, look at the cross on top of the crown.



Fig 4.



Fig 5.

At left a genuine crown; at right a clever effort betrayed inter alia by base of cross which should meet uprights.

Regarding the common Ottawa Crown (figs 4&5), introduced in 1880, the cross on the crown is intaglio in a 4mm square which touches the central rectangle, thus forming part of it. This is important. The bottom segment's sides are formed by triangles touching the top and bottom lines and the centre of this part is a small rectangle; it is not bisected by a straight horizontal line as was my old fake. The outer frame lines are curved, not straight as will be found on a common fake, and form, with the triangles mentioned above, a continuous line to the bottom. There is a particularly nasty fake, sometimes found on British stamps, as well as the more normal Canadian, where the outer lines 'break' at the top of the bottom section. Why anyone should suppose that a GB stamp would get all the way to the Ottawa Senate PO uncanceled, given the enthusiasm with the which British Victorian post office clerks clobbered any adhesive that passed beneath their ministering hands, to have a carefully applied SON cancel stuck on its arrival beats me, but they are, phoney as a 50p note. The centre

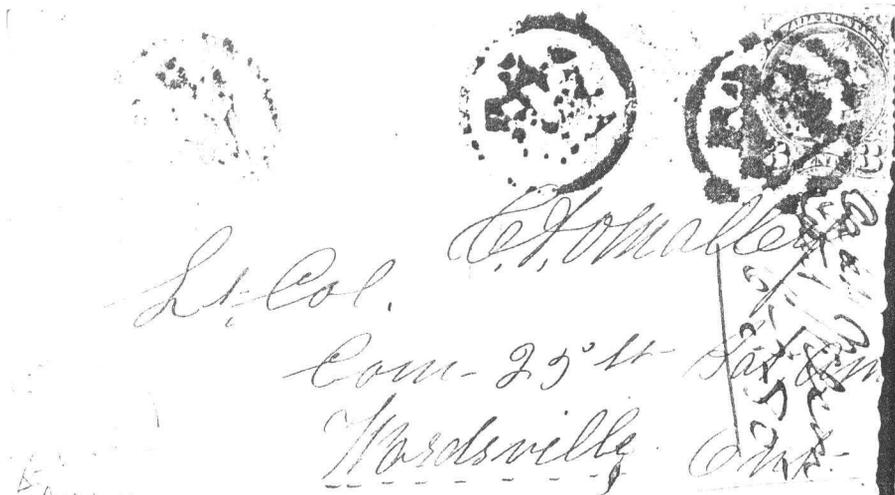


Fig 3. Wrong size, wrong ink, wrong town. He got the date right! Vienna, Ont MR 16 80.

part of the crown forms a rectangle with parallel, not splayed, sides and note also the thickness of the various lines forming the component parts of the cancel as a whole. All these points are important because all faked Ottawa Crowns, bar one, break at least one of the rules. The one that is exceptionally accurate is, I understand, the result of photocopying onto a stamp; however it is a little oversize, the lines a little too thick, and xerox toner is not quite the same as Victorian cancelling ink.

Which brings one to the 'too good too be true' category. Take covers. There is in existence a beautiful cover to France franked respectively by a SQ 10c., 2c. & 3c. A triple rate no less, on an ordinary size envelope. The low value stamps are cancelled by an Ottawa Squared Circle applied in the usual hurried way by a clerk anxious to get through his workload. But not the 10c. placed on their left. That has a meticulously applied 'bull's eye' cancel, half on the stamp and half on the cover, with an ink

more intense than the squared circle. Have you ever seen a postal clerk stopping in the middle of cancelling stamps on an envelope to re-ink his pad, and then pick up another cancelling device from the one he was using. Or is this item just a normal 5c. cover with a 10c. added long after it reached its destination to increase its 'value' by some ten times? So lesson number one is never to be carried away by the superficially obvious - use one's common sense.

Lesson number two is to make sure when cancels overlap, the sequence is right. I remember buying a 'Way Letter' cover at one of the CPS auctions which, when I first saw it, I was sure was a fake and which I therefore wanted for reference (fig 6). Most of the 1880 Way Letter fake cancels have incorrect measurements, and since the cover has overlapping cancels I thought I would have no difficulty in proving its lack of authenticity. Unfortunately when I checked, its measurements are pretty

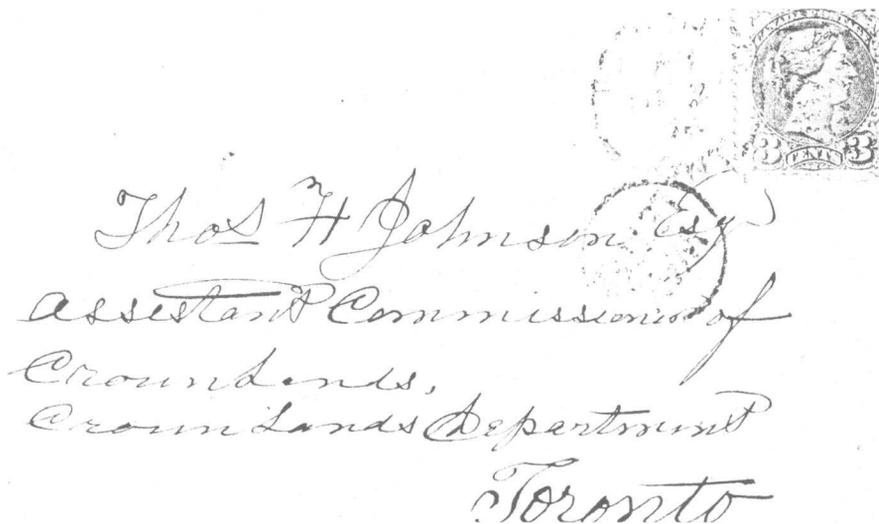


Fig 6. Faked 'Way Letter' cancel, Type B (1880) on cover postmarked Toronto De 27 6.

accurate, and both cancels are so light that I couldn't determine that the 'Way Letter' cancel was applied AFTER the town cancel (on genuine covers it would be the other way round). The illustration actually belies the real difficulty. I was beginning to wonder if my infallible instinct for spotting a phoney was just so infallible after all! However, pride was restored when I remembered that this particular type of postmark was introduced in 1880 and I do not think that this cover could have spent four years 'on the way'.

Which brings us nicely to lesson three - make sure the postmark is compatible with its period of use, and the period of use of the adhesive to which it has been applied if off, or even on, cover. Next lesson, check to see if there are any traces of a postmark underneath the one you are being invited to cough up for - particularly on off-cover stamps. If there is, be wary.



Fig 7. Cancel on Fig 6. shows distorted 'W' to the left of the 'E'.

Fig 8. Genuine cancel, 'W' above the 'E'.

Fifth, does the cancelling ink look right for the period, and if it does, can it be washed off? I have a very nice Masonic cancel (D/S No 246) done in Indian ink. The dealer reduced his price from £35 to 35p., my sort of price range, when it was pointed out to him that (a), it was not a 3c. Indian Red, but an ordinary Orange Red, and (b), the postmark was a fake. I'm not sure I had completely convinced him on the last point, but I took it back to my hotel room and immersed it in a saucer of water expecting it to quickly fade. Well it didn't. All that happened was a cloud

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of black carbon formed above the stamp in seconds, as the dead pigment of the cancel floated off - and then it stabilised. So it was Indian ink, not watercolour that had been employed.



Fig 9. Fake 'Tudor Crown', C.D.S visible underneath.

To avoid possible embarrassment, if you suspect watercolour, a little spit



Fig 10. At the left Beechville, Ont. D/S No 246 Masonic Cancel.

Fig 11. At right, the fake.

on one's finger gently applied will quickly show if you are right - you can then suggest to the vendor that he does the full immersion test.

Continued on page 67



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50 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1945. Kim Dodwell

The contents of the letter illustrated makes pleasant reading, full of thoughts of the war's ending and anticipation of return to Canada and settling down. In the period of its travels from writer to recipient momentous events occurred; the whole Canadian Army was unified under one operational command, Germany surrendered and the Canadian Army began its demobilisation. A triumphant end to five years struggle. At the top of the front of the letter is a handstruck mark, 'ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA', and before we consider the philatelic aspects of the letter in detail, spare a thought for the 41,992 Canadians who would never have that mark on their mail. In serried ranks in war cemeteries, in unmarked graves in their wrecked aircraft on the bed of the North Sea, or in twisted metal in the black Atlantic depths, they lie to this day. They did not have to leave their safe country to come to our aid, but come they did, and I dedicate this series to their memory.

At the start of 1945 the 1st Canadian Army, with the 2nd Canadian Corps under command, was facing the Germans across the river Maas in Holland. The 1st Canadian Corps was with the 8th Army in Italy. It had long been Canadian wishes that all its troops should be under one, Canadian, command, but it was not until early 1945 that the opportunity arose within the overall Allied strategy to bring this about.

Operation 'Goldflake' was the codename given to the movement of the 1st Corps from NE Italy to the port

of Leghorn, then across the Mediterranean to Marseilles and up through France, nearly 800 miles by road, to join the 1st Army in the Low Countries. The logistics of the move were daunting, but it was meticulously planned and smoothly executed. The transfer started on 10 February and, by 15 March, 1st Corps were operational in the Nijmegen area. Last to move were the 1st Division, who did not complete handing their sector of the line to the 8th Indian Division until 25 February.

The Armed Forces Air Letter (AFAL) is from Walter Manuge, of the 1st Division's Postal Unit, written on 2 March in what must have been a hectic period, for within a few days his division was on the move. The letter bears the Unit Censor's purple shield No. 6271, without his officer's counter signature as Walt had made out the prescribed declaration on the back. The second hammer of the No. 314 handstamp, used by the 1st Division's FPO No.DC1, cancels the 3d stamp. This is Walt's own unit, probably still in the Riccione area - one wonders if he cancelled his own letter?

'Goldflake' was carried out under conditions of great secrecy; security was so successful that the Germans did not learn of it until it was almost complete. Typical of most mail from 1st Corps of the 'Goldflake' period, this letter was carefully censored at base. It bears the junior censor's purple '118' in a single 25mm circle, a white sealing strip with red lettering. The Deputy Chief Field Censor's handstamp tying the seal is black.

Continued overleaf.

Open Here

EXAMINED

ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA

AIR MAIL

This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or pillar box, it will not be given air transmission.



TO: 1 Cdn. Repat. Depot
14/8/45
D8208 Pto. Manage. C.P.R.

RECORDS SHOW ADDRESS AS
HQ. Sect. 22 Spec Emp.
Cdr
Coy. C.A.O.

Fold Here

CFQ 11
40/P & S/1448

If anything is enclosed in this letter it will be sent by ordinary mail.

OTTAWA, P. O. 812
BY 11 1945
ONT.
(Sender's full name and address)

I certify on my honor this letter contains private & family matters only
Walter B. Manigel



BY
BASE CENSOR

A much travelled cover with pleasant thoughts of the war's end.

The letter would have gone through Naples and the 'Mailcan' service to England. Walt is writing to brother Don serving with the 22nd Special Employment Company, attached to an Anti-Aircraft unit in England. From the letter we learn that both brothers were among the numerous Canadians - almost 40,000 of them - who had married British girls while overseas, and Walt discusses the problems of getting the girls to Canada and settling them into a strange country. Don has completed five years overseas service and , under a scheme introduced at the end of 1944, will be entitled to 30 days leave in Canada in April. Walt surmises that he may be able to take his wife with him, or at least make arrangements for her reception there.

The letter travels slowly to Don's unit, collecting a 42mm strike of the Canadian Overseas Postal Depot's SC.2 strike on 24 March en route, but Don has already left on his leave and the letter chases him - too late again - to the Canadian Repatriation Depot where the 'ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA' was applied. So the letter follows Don to Canada but, by the time it gets there, all the Records Office in Ottawa can do is apply their own MPO 318 handstamp on 11 May, cross out the 'ADDRESSEE RETURNED TO CANADA' mark with red crayon and apply their sticker to cover the address showing that Don is back with his old unit, his leave completed. After this the scent grows cold; the letter would have followed the normal routing for mail from Canada to servicemen in England, not collecting any more service marks.

By the time our letter reached England for the second time, the first of the 282,000 Canadian servicemen in

Europe were already on their way home. Some went on (as volunteers again), after 30 days leave at home, to serve in the continuing war in the Far East, but most opted for demobilisation. A year later there were less than 50,000 left in Europe, including those who stayed on in the reconstituted 3rd Division in NW Germany, as part of the Army of Occupation, until May 1946. The postal history of the Canadians in Europe from the war's end until the last of them sailed home in January 1947 makes an interesting study and has its followers, but I am not one of them and here my story ends.

FAKED CANCELS Continued from p63

Finally, if the item of interest has passed all your tests, looks right, feels right, maybe it IS right - so buy it. If in time it turns out to be a sow's ear and not the silk purse you hoped, well you pay for experience. Don't we all?

For further information see also E.A Smythies' articles in 'Maple Leaves' as under:

Vol 9 April 1963 P.171 et seq

Vol 10 Oct 1963 P.2 et seq

Vol 10 Aug 1963 P. 134-136

Vol 10 Aug 1965 P. 308-310

Also Kenneth W.Pugh 'BNA Reference Manual of Forgeries'

EXCHANGE PACKET
Have you contributed
lately?
Messrs Johnson & Jones
need your support.

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The arrangements for the 1995 convention are well under way and I trust that it will prove a popular venue. We have a very good deal with the hotel that boasts a purpose-built Conference complex, which we shall use for the philatelic programme etc. In addition the hotel boasts an indoor heated swimming pool, squash courts, minigym and several lounges. It caters for vegetarians and is situated on the East Overcliff, overlooking the sea and just a short distance from the shops and many other attractions that are to be found in Bournemouth.

The provisional philatelic programme is:

Wed. p.m. Brian Stalker
'Travelling P.O's of Newfoundland'.

Thurs. a.m. Members '8 sheets - 10 minutes' session.

Thurs. p.m. Colin Banfield -
'Patriotics'.

Fri. a.m. David Sessions 'Fakes &
Forgeries'.

Fri. 4 p.m. Competition entries.

Fri. p.m. 'Yellow Peril' - 'Unusual
Admiral Stamps'.

Sat. a.m. Michael Russell -
'Advertising on Postal Stationery'.

One session consists of mini-displays by those attending the convention. No more than eight sheets and a maximum of ten minutes presentation. I hope that this will give everyone the chance to show particular favourite items from their collection or other

material that will never see the light of day in a full-blown convention display. I hope that everybody will try to bring something, including those who are giving the main displays.

The social programme will include a talk on local Bournemouth history, a visit to the theatre and an afternoon visit to Breamore House. This is an Elizabethan Manor (1583) on the edge of the New Forest with a splendid collection of pictures and furniture, augmented by a Countryside Museum and Carriage Museum. At other times the ladies need not be idle because Bournemouth has many fine shops and a great many other attractions for the visitor.

A booking form is enclosed. Early bookings are greatly appreciated as the hotel will only hold our block booking for a limited period.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1995

Apr 10 - London Group - Beaver Cup Competition

Apr 27-30 - 'Stamp '95' at Wembley Exhibition Centre.

May 6-7 - 'ORAPEX 95' in Ottawa, incorporating Canada's 3rd National Philatelic Literature show.

May 15 - London Group - AGM
- Subjects A,B & C.

May 25 - Wessex Group

May 26-28 - 'ROYAL 1995' in Quebec

June 2-4 - 'PIPEX 95' in Victoria B.C.

Sept 8-10 BNAPS Convention,

Sept 20-23 CPS of GB Convention,
Bournemouth

Oct 10-15 - Autumn STAMPEX at the
Royal Horticultural Halls, London

1996

Aug 30-Sep 1 BNAPS Convention,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Sep 11-14 CPS of GB Convention,
Station Hotel, Perth

International Exhibitions

1995

May 10-15 FINLANDIA 95, Helsinki

Sep 1-10 SINGAPORE 95 Singapore

1996

Jun 8-16 CAPEX 96, Toronto

Sep 27-Oct 6 ISTANBUL 96, Istanbul

Nov 1-15 GREECE 96, Athens

1997

Apr 11-20 NORWEX 97, Oslo

May 29-Jun 8 PACIFIC 97, San
Francisco

September - MOSCOW '97, Russia

Details of London Group meetings can
be obtained from Colin Banfield: 081
500 5615 (Home) or 071 407 3693
(Office). Wessex Group details from
Dorothy Sanderson: 0794 523 924.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

WANTED: WW I internment camp covers;
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jonathan Rosen

ADMIRAL ARROW BLOCK

I recently acquired a block of MR 3i,
the War Tax 2c + 1c, in the somewhat



scarcer rose shade (the most common
shade is carmine).

This 'arrow' position block is the
common die 1, perf. 12x8, of which
166,800,000 were issued, according to
Marler. The order #937A was used for
plates 1 to 6 inclusive.

Although these stamps are fairly
common, this is an unusual position
piece, a left-hand sheet arrow block,
unusually well centered and with crisp,
bright colour.

Jerome Jarnick

PHOTOCOPIES

The question of showing photocopies
for competitive display was raised in the
January issue of 'Maple Leaves'. When
in London, I visit the Tate Gallery to
view paintings and original art, not

photographs of paintings. Likewise, when I attend a stamp exhibition it is to view stamps and covers, not photocopies of stamps and covers. Any exhibit consisting of photocopies or computer reproductions should be disqualified and not be permitted to be displayed, whether that exhibit is for competition or not.

This, of course, should not rule out the use of a photocopy to show a marking on the reverse of a cover, or an enlarged portion of a stamp to display a variety or flaw, where the original is displayed in conjunction with the photocopy

If we permit photocopies in our exhibits, what's the next step? Collections of cuttings from auction catalogues?

Hans Reiche FCPS

THE 1995 PRECANCEL COUNT

The last count was published in 1991 and a new count has been prepared with the help of Walburn, Izzett and others. The last count contained about 30% more names than this one. This is surprising because more precancel collectors are known than in 1991. The scarcity of many precancels, even the more common types, is evident from want lists dealers such as Walburn experience. A pricing update of the catalogue is now in progress to reflect this trend and Mr. Walburn has undertaken to do this. Some new finds will be reported in the updated catalogue.

**Editor's note: An analysis of the count is available from the Editor on receipt of a SAE.*

Bill Pekonen

EARLIEST USE OF 'OHMS'.

This letter is to acknowledge three responses received to date in respect of the article on the origins of the phrase 'O.H.M.S.' in the January issue.

Based upon the photocopy of a letter submitted by Dr. Dorothy Sanderson, it can now be stated that the initials 'OHMS' (in manuscript form) were used as early as 1790 on what appears to be military correspondence. She states that she has been told that this is the earliest known use of the phrase. So far, that claim holds true as no challengers have made themselves known (see opposite).

Several other examples confirm the use of the printed phrase 'ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE' by government departments circa 1816, and is reconfirmed by copies of covers submitted by N.B. Lazenby. George Bellack also submitted photocopies of 1831 uses.

Furthermore, in an examination of the 1791 'Receiver of the Corn Returns Act' (31 Geo 3 c 30), these references are found:(line 17, page 236) "on the business in which he is employed in pursuance of the Directions of this Act" and (line 27) "shall be certified on the outside thereof, in his Hand Writing, to be on the Business of this Act" and (line 10, page 237) "to be upon the Business of this Act". (see page 12 'Official Franking 1800-1840' by J.G.S. Scott, for an example of an 1805 use).

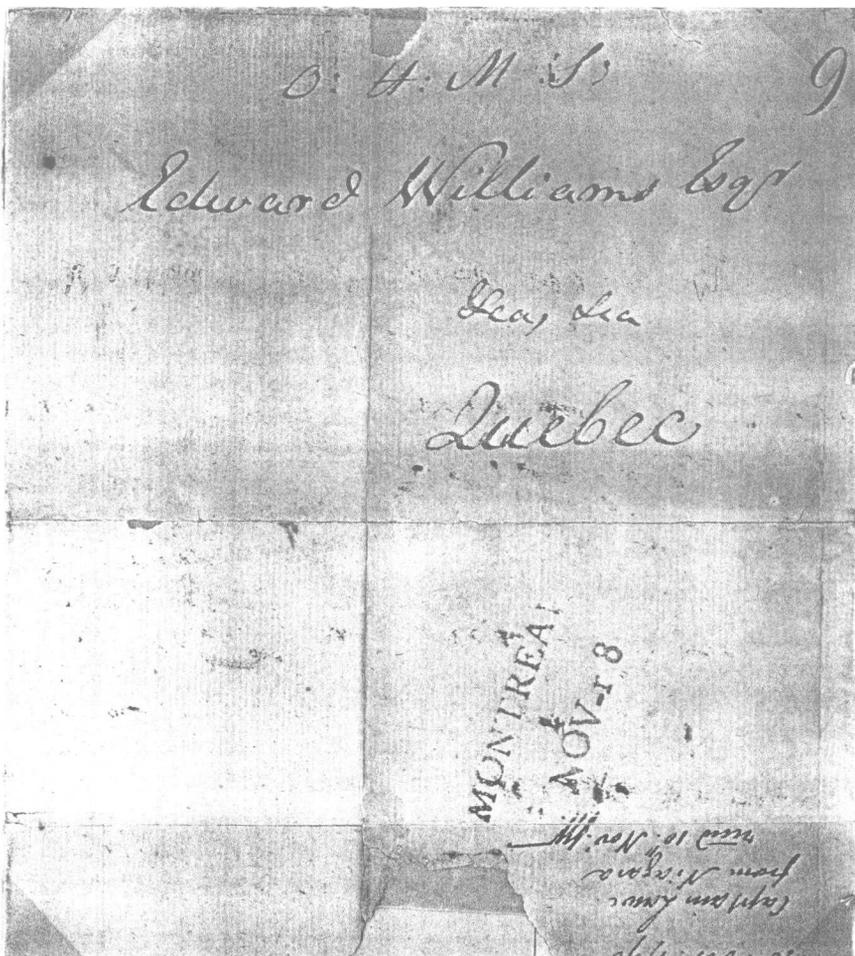
This Act used 'on' in some places and 'upon' in others, as if the drafters of the legislation were unsure of which to use.

It certainly does appear that the popular use of the word 'on' instead of the legislated word 'upon' demonstrates a transition in language. Therefore, it is concluded that the phrase 'On His Majesty's Service' predates the legislated authority - substituting the word 'on' for 'upon'.

The Act then, as in many other

matters, is responding to trends rather than initiating a certain measure. Or, it simply may mean that, although the Act states 'upon', the person using the franking privilege simply found the word 'on' easier or more desirable to use.

Until someone finds some other explanation, as lawyers are wont to say, "I rest my case."



Earliest recorded use of 'OHMS', 18 October, 1790.

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP to 18 February 1995

New Members

2706 Link, David. 14745 51 Ave, Edmonton AB, Canada, T6H 5E6.

PH

2707 Goldberg, Julian. 215-260 Adelaide St. E, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5A 1N0

CR, CR2, CL, CS, PL.

Resigned

2699 Andrews G

2685 Bloomer R A

2582 Davis J H

1660 Edwards R

2265 Hayne N A

Deceased

1610 Arrol A D B

Change of Address

2378 Baron, Dr Melvin L. Delete address.

2262 Bogie, Niall H R. c/o Dickson Smith W S., 9 Rosebery Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5JP.

2261 Bradley, Whitney L. Apt 516, 170 Erb Street, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 1V4, Canada.

936 Forrester, R A C Add postcode BA1 2LT.

2655 Glover, David S. 62A Station Road, Amersham, Bucks, HP7 0BD.

2022 Russell, W.M. Bevenden House, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent TN26 1JP.

2701 Whiteley, David H - Spelling correction.

Revised Total 470

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For further information or a membership application form, please write to the Secretary:

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April 1995

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