

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



# Maple Leaves

*Jubilee Issue*  
1946-1996

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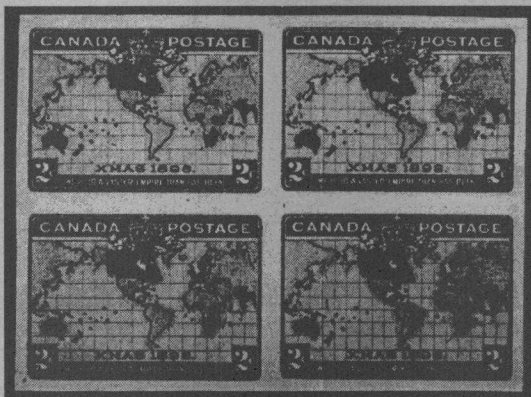
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# MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCORPORATED 1946

Founder:

A. E. Stephenson, FCPS

**Edited by: David Sessions, FRPSL, FCPS.**

31 Eastergate Green, Rustington, Littlehampton, W. Sussex, BN16 3EN

Opinions expressed in the various articles in this journal are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society.

Published five times a year by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Annual Subscription £12.00 – Due 1 October 1996

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**Vol. 24 No. 10**

**OCTOBER 1996**

**Whole No. 260**

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## EDITORIAL

Well, here we are, 50 years old and by the time you read this we shall have held our 50th annual Convention, at the Station Hotel in Perth, where the first Convention, a two-day affair, was held in 1947.

Much thought was given to a suitable means of marking the occasion. Any sort of special gathering, such as an anniversary dinner, would of necessity not embrace the whole membership; the only way that everyone could benefit was felt to be through the pages of 'Maple Leaves'. A decision was therefore taken to publish a double length issue of 'Maple Leaves' – it was then left to the Editor to fill it!

This seemed an ideal opportunity to publish one or two longer articles that would have caused imbalance in a

normal issue or been serialised over two or three issues. We have been blessed over the years by a willing, indeed erudite, band of contributors and it seemed almost impertinent to approach prominent names with a request for 'something a bit meatier'. It could have been a long job working down the list in no particular order. But no, the first batch of potential contributors approached all agreed to produce something and they were as good as their promise. As Editor, I was extremely grateful and I know the membership at large, if they think about it, will be grateful too.

If one or two names are missing it is not because their contributions in the past have been less valuable, just the fact that the first names approached on a random basis all came up trumps.



This, our 50th Anniversary issue, seems an appropriate vehicle for a very short history of the Society for the benefit of our newer members.

## THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

In the 1930s a small band of enthusiasts in Scotland met in a Glasgow coffee house or at their homes, to discuss their mutual love of Canadian philately. In May, 1939, the loose-knit group moved towards formality when they became the Scottish Canadian Study Circle, with A. E. Stephenson as the first president. Then came the War.



*A. E. (Stevie) Stephenson, the Society's founder.*

After World War II, letters went out to previous members. Inevitably some came back marked 'no trace'. Nevertheless a nucleus was there and new members were recruited from south of

the border. This brought about a change of name, in 1946, to 'The Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain', still under A. E. Stephenson's leadership. A. Bruce Auckland was appointed journal editor and, in September 1946, the first, cyclostyled, issue of 'Maple Leaves' appeared. After only four issues the bulletin was upgraded to a printed magazine, the first of which appeared in October 1947. Publication has continued, unbroken, ever since.

In 1947 the new Society held its first Convention, a two-day affair at Perth. The following year, in Edinburgh, the Convention was a four-day show and has been so ever since. This year the Society returned to the Station Hotel, Perth, for its 50th Convention.

Despite being a British Society, the CPS of GB spread its net worldwide at a very early stage and today more than half the members are based overseas; those who are able to attend Convention are always very welcome. The founding fathers always stressed that Conventions should be social as well as philatelic occasions and this tradition has been maintained in that members' partners are actively welcomed and enjoy their own social programme. Members are actually encouraged to forego philatelic pleasures on occasion and fraternise with the non-believers!

\* \* \* \* \*



# THE 12d BLACK A PROBLEM FOR THE FORGERS

David Sessions FRPSL, FCPS

Canada's best known and most expensive stamp is undoubtedly the 12d black. No less than 51,000 copies were printed but only 1,510 were issued to postmasters, of which 60 were returned, so only 1,450 were made available to the public. It is likely that little more than 100 copies have survived the passage of some 145 years.

## Too Dear for the Forgers

It has always been regarded as a considerable rarity, genuine copies sold for \$5 in 1865, a substantial price to pay for a postage stamp in those far off days. One might wonder then why forgers have not gone to town on this stamp over the years. After all, many of the early

practitioners of this black art were quite open about their 'facsimiles'; they were advertised as high class copies and made for collectors who were otherwise unable to fill those ugly gaps in their collections. A scarce classic like the 12d seems an obvious target for such philatelic 'benefactors'.

The prime reason seems to have been its scarcity; forgers could not afford or obtain examples from which to make their careful copies. This is borne out by the notorious Jean de Sperati who, thankfully, did not copy any of the Canadian Pence issue. He did, on at least one occasion, remove the word 'SPECIMEN' from a proof for a client, to whom he wrote, "... their price is for me an impediment to reproduce the almost totality of the scarce of the issues 1851-1864."<sup>(1)</sup>



Fig. 1. Proof of the 12d black with 'SPECIMEN' overprint (in green).

## The Oneglia forgery

This scarcity, even in early times, is almost certainly the reason why Erasmus Oneglia made such a mess of his forgeries of the 3d, 6d and 12d values; he worked from the equivalent design of 1859 issue (5¢, 10¢ and 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢) so the four corners of his products had a cross-hatched background instead of a sheaf-like design (fig. 2). However, his engraved copy of the 12d is in itself a rarity, for it is almost certainly scarcer than the genuine article! In fact this can probably be said about all his engraved forgeries of the Pence and 1859 issues. Despite its greater rarity, Oneglia's 12d forgery does not command quite the high price of the original, but it can be said that his copies of the 5¢ Beaver



Fig. 2. Engraved forgery of the 12d black by Oneglia: note lack of ornamentation in the corners and the long neck.

(1859), for instance, are more expensive than the genuine article.

While we have talked here of Oneglia as the forger, it is almost certain that he did not do the actual engravings, the quality varies so much that it is likely he used different engravers to do the work, which varies from fair to very good. His copy of the 12d black is not of the highest quality; apart from the aforementioned howler over the background to the four corners, the portrait is not flattering. It is the same portrait as seen on his 7½d and 12½¢; the Chalon portrait seems to have acquired a giraffe-like appearance which, once seen, is not easily forgotten.

The Oneglia forgery was probably made in the late 1890s; it featured in his 1899 catalogue, along with 17 other

Canadian items. While the run-of-the-mill forgeries were priced at only a few francs each the 12d was listed at 25 francs, more expensive than any other item. Much of Oneglia's stock was handled by other dealers, in fact Angelo Panelli, who was still selling such material 20 years later, was for many years credited with the creation of Oneglia's Canadian forgeries.

#### A scarce item

Perhaps at that price there was not a thriving market and this would account for the scarcity of this particular forgery today. The Revd. R. B. Earee, in his monumental 'Album Weeds' (1906)<sup>(2)</sup>, makes no reference to any Canadian forgeries (a few fakes but no forgeries); Jarrett (1929)<sup>(3)</sup> and Boggs (1945)<sup>(4)</sup> between them record only eight forgeries of the Pence values (five engraved and three lithographed) but no 12d is included. Peter Hurst (1953)<sup>(5)</sup> specifically claimed that no engraved forgery had turned up and Smythies (1972)<sup>(6)</sup> saw no reason to disagree. Robson Lowe, in his *Encyclopaedia of the British Empire Stamps*, vol. V (1973)<sup>(7)</sup>, specifically refers to engraved forgeries of the ½d, 3d, 6d, 7½d and 10d values but not the 12d.

However, a letter following Hurst's article draws attention to G. P. Bainbridge's find of a 12d forgery in Paris in 1951. He apparently showed it to Sir John Wilson, then Keeper of the Royal Collection, who said he had never seen one before. The letter writer apparently found a second copy in Toronto the same year, cancelled with blue bars.

A detailed cull of auction catalogues has not been attempted but an example turned up in the important forgery sale held by Jim Hennok in October, 1990,

with a light 12-bar cancellation. In Hennok's December, 1990, sale a further copy with a light blue 8-bar cancel appeared; was this the one referred to in the previous paragraph as found in Toronto in 1951? Ken Pugh illustrates an example from the Cohen collection, with a cancel consisting of 12 bars in a circle, in his BNA Reference Manual of Fakes & Forgeries<sup>(8)</sup>.

So, a few examples of this elusive forgery have surfaced and there must be a few more tucked away in reference collections, but it is a fair assumption that there are somewhat less than the c100 copies of the genuine stamp.

#### **Dangerous forgery**

When all is said and done, scarce though it is, the Oneglia forgery is unlikely to trouble any panel of experts. A much more dangerous forgery is that shown in



*Fig. 3. Dangerous forgery, compare the pattern of dots in the face with that of the genuine (proof) example.*

figure 3, which has not been noted in the literature. The design is remarkably well drawn but the pattern of dots on the Queen's face appears to be random whereas, on the genuine stamp, they form a distinctive curved pattern. On close examination there are slight differences in the lettering and the background thereto is not so solid as it should be. If this were a relatively common stamp then one could be easily fooled but it is unlikely that a collector today would fork out a five figure sum without very careful inspection or, better still, a valid certificate of authenticity. This is the only example I have seen of this particular forgery and I should welcome reports of similar items.

#### **Recent forgery**

A more recent forgery is that produced by Peter Winter, who offered reproductions of classic stamps, on and off cover, through 'Pro Phil Forum' in Bremen, Germany, in the mid-1980s. Following legal action by the British Library c1986 for breach of copyright in reproducing items from their collections, a number of items were withdrawn. The operation moved to Switzerland as 'The House of Stamps' and is believed to have ceased in the early 1990s. In addition to the reproductions, a repair service was also offered.

Only one BNA stamp came under Winter's purview, the 12d black. It was printed in blocks of four on white or cream paper and was the first of his British Commonwealth forgeries to be engraved (fig. 4). No genuine block of four exists today. Winter also produced covers bearing a forged pair and addressed to Dr Edwin D. Newton at the Hospital, Richmond, Va. Shading behind the head is wrong and delicate shading under the Queen's lip appears here as a tuft of hair.





*Fig. 4. Peter Winter's forgery, note the beginning of a beard!*

### Lithograph

Apart from the engraved forgeries of the 12d there exists an execrable lithograph which would not cause any collector sleepless nights, other than for the sheer horror of its appearance. This is Ken Pugh's type 2<sup>(8)</sup>. Some copies of these bizarre creations are further 'enhanced' with a London, Ont. type II squared circle cancellation. The cancellation was not in use until 1895, 36 years after Canada converted to decimal currency. Just to confuse the issue, the cancellation, which bears no date, is genuine, the hammer having fallen into private hands!

### Facsimiles

Another class of 'non-genuine' 12d black is the facsimile or similitude. Such items are reproductions made for legitimate purposes but, on occasion, attempts have been made to misrepresent them. Ken Pugh illustrates

four different subjects in this class; his type 3 is taken from a French language publication and carries the word 'FACSIMILE' diagonally in red; type 4 is an embossed similitude taken from the headed notepaper of W. E. Lea Ltd.; type 5 is taken from a souvenir sheet published in 1973 to mark the first edition of the Canadian Specialised Postage Stamp Catalogue; type 6 is another souvenir sheet example, from the Winnipeg Philatelic Society's Second Annual Stamp Exhibition of 1967<sup>(8)</sup>. These items should not deceive a serious collector and one would need to be serious to contemplate the purchase of a genuine 12d!

### Fakes

Having considered the various types of forgery of the 12d that are known, we must also consider the work of the faker who often presents a more serious problem. The 12d is unusual in that rather more proofs than genuine stamps are available; this situation has arisen because proofs of the Pence issues were pulled after issue. Proofs of the 12d exist with the word 'SPECIMEN' vertically or diagonally in red and vertically in green, the latter is the scarcest of the three varieties. Fakers have succeeded in removing the overprint without leaving signs visible to the naked eye; application of a suitably positioned 'postmark' helps to disguise any slight imperfections. 'Specimens' are usually found on soft, India paper, quite unlike the genuine, but the deficiency is sometimes overcome by skilful backing with a more realistic paper. It's not everyone who is prepared to boil their 12d black to see whether a backing sheet comes away! It is the fakes rather than the forgeries that are likely to trap the unwary. However, most of the surviving genuine 12d blacks have, by now, been seen by expert committees and acquired

certificates of authenticity.

### 'Essays'

An unusual aspect of fraudulent philately is found among the Pence issue, a series of artist's drawings purporting to be essays for the stamps. I have seen illustrations of, or a reference to, two versions of the 12d (one is in my collection) as well as four versions of the 10d, three of the 1/2d and one of the 7/8d, though others may exist. The drawings, mostly in ink but at least two in pencil, are by 'Clinton Wright' and are said to have graced the Burrus collection before being sold via the infamous Dr Paul Singer of Shanahan Auctions in February, 1959. A statement to this effect appears on the items in question and is 'signed' by Singer and Maurice Burrus. Two other signatures are appended, presumably to add authenticity; one has not been translated, the other seems to be Wilhelm Hofiger of Munich.

The background story is that these drawings were made in Paris in the late 20s or early 30s and were used to separate Burrus from a little of his wealth. The earliest reference I have found to these fabrications is in 1980<sup>(9)</sup> when some were offered to Harmers for sale by auction and were turned down by the auction house; some were offered in the same year by David Feldman in their Zurich sale of 3-8 November, 1980, but were withdrawn when the auctioneers were appraised of their spurious nature.

There is no doubt that they are not true essays, but merely artistic renderings, albeit very attractive ones. In my own mind there is also considerable doubt over the cover story. It is difficult to accept that Burrus would have been taken in by the 'essay' story, though he

may have fancied one or two examples to decorate his collection (but surely not all of them). I have not yet traced a catalogue for the Shanahan auction of 1959 and have doubts as to whether it took place. This in turn places a large question mark over the authenticity of the statement and signatures on the pieces. One of the problems with studying forgeries and fakes is that one develops a nasty, suspicious, mind! Anyone with further information on these drawings, or the Shanahan auction, is urged to contact the Editor.

Despite the implications of the foregoing, the 12d black has not been heavily forged but, if the proceeds of your win on the National Lottery or its equivalent are burning a hole in your pocket and a copy comes your way without a certificate then the advice is to obtain one and, if it's good, buy the stamp, it's a beauty.

### References:

1. 'BNA Topics'. Jan. 1963.
2. 'Album Weeds' third edition (1906). Revd. R. B. Earee.
3. 'Stamps of British North America' (1929). Fred Jarrett.
4. 'The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada' (1945). Winthrop S. Boggs.
5. 'Weekly Philatelic Gossip'. Vol. 57, no. 5 (Oct. 1953).
6. 'BNA Fakes and Forgeries' (1972). E. A. Smythies FRPSL, FCPS.
7. 'The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps' Vol. V - 'North America' (1973). Robson Lowe.
8. 'BNA Reference Manual of Forgeries'. Ken Pugh.
9. 'Essays Which Are Not What They Seem'. Barbara R. Mueller. Essay-Proof Journal Nos. 147/9 (1981).



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## 'TEN AND TEN'

### The Yellow Peril

### Photos by Super 'B'

In most Canadian stamp auctions 'Ten and Ten' is a term of sale where the buyer pays the auctioneer a ten per cent premium on the hammer price and the consignor pays the seller a ten per cent commission. Insofar as this cover (fig. 1) is concerned the 'Ten and Ten' ditty is a bit of a puzzle.

The cover, with neither a return address nor a backstamp, was sent to a relative of the former owner. It is franked with an American 2¢ carmine Washington stamp and a 10¢ special delivery stamp – each tied with a 'SARANACLAKE JUN 11 NY 1912' duplex '1' style postmark. It is allocated number 1894, annotated 'due' and handstamped '10'. A Canadian special

delivery adhesive at lower left is cancelled with the same '10' with the split '0', presumably a Toronto marking.

The manuscript 'due' on this cover is thought provoking! If it were a domestic letter, insufficiently prepaid the special delivery fee and franked with the correct postage, it would be specially delivered. Double the deficient fee, however, would have to be collected from the addressee. This conclusion is based on an illustration of a cover featured on page 74 of the book by the 'Big Wheel' (member Allan Steinhart) on 1912 – 1928 rates<sup>(1)</sup>. The cover illustrated is annotated 'special delivery' and franked with one 3¢ and five 2¢ Admiral stamps (totalling 13¢). The stamps are tied with

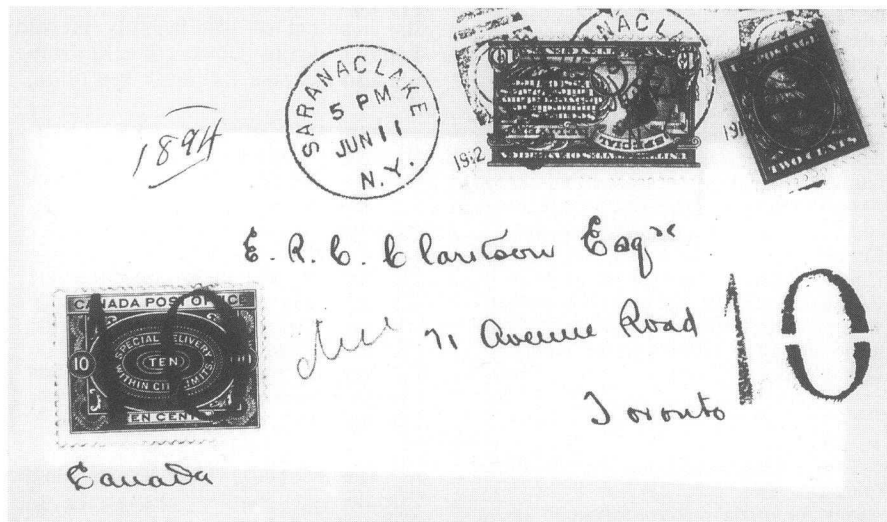


Fig. 1. The original caption with this cover reads: "Two American stamps purchased and cancelled at Saranac Lake but because the US 10¢ special delivery stamp was not acceptable for special delivery, the 10¢ Canadian special delivery was added and paid for by the recipient."

several strikes of the 'BROCKVILLE JUL 15 25 ONT' cds. The letter, addressed to Toronto, is handstamped '20' twice. Its description reads, "20¢ special delivery fee plus 2¢ forward letter rate plus 1¢ War Tax – 1925, short paid 10¢ and charged 20¢ postage due." Likewise a letter fully prepaid the special delivery fee but short paid the postage would be treated as an insufficiently prepaid letter. It would be specially delivered but double the deficient postage must be collected from the recipient.

This cover originated in the United States and a fascinating set of regulations applies to special delivery service between the two countries. The following are excerpts from pages 73 and 75 of the aforementioned 'bible':

"At this time (1912 – Editor) there was really no interchange of special delivery between Canada and other countries where special delivery could be prepaid with the stamps of the country of origin. As an example let us take the United States and Canada. If a letter from Canada was sent to the United States and special delivery was required, the letter had to be franked by a U.S. 10¢ special delivery stamp or ten cents equivalent postage, in addition to the normal Canadian postage. Conversely, if a letter was mailed in the United States for special delivery in Canada, a Canadian 10¢ special delivery stamp or equivalent Canadian postage had to be affixed in addition to the normal U.S. postage.

\* \* \*

The situation vis a vis the use of Canadian and U.S. special delivery stamps for special delivery service in the other country was changed in 1923. The January, 1923 Postal Guide Supplement gave note of a change in the former method of prepaying special delivery on letters to the U.S.A. and from the U.S.A.

to Canada. This was as a result of a Postal Convention between Canada and the United States effective 1 January, 1923.

Letters bearing in addition to ordinary postage, a Canadian special delivery stamp or bearing Canadian postage stamps to the value of twenty cents additional to the ordinary postage, and the words "Special Delivery" legibly written across the upper left hand corner of the address, will be accepted for special delivery at places in the United States.'

It is assumed the same in the reverse was also true although Canadian special delivery stamps could still be found used in the USA for special delivery service in Canada and vice versa. Prior to this time US and foreign special delivery stamps could not prepay special delivery in Canada."

Not only is the prepayment of special delivery fee on correspondence to and from United States interesting but the handling of insufficiently prepaid letters is just as unusual. The following are also from the 'rate book' (pp 147/8):

#### CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE UNITED STATES

76. '... No letter will be forwarded that is not prepaid one full rate. The deficiency in prepayment in the case of over weight letters prepaid one rate only will be collected on delivery in the United States; and in like manner any deficiency in prepayment of a letter coming from the United States will be collected on delivery in Canada, according to United States rate, which is also 2 cents per ounce.'

The February, 1919 Postal Guide Supplement gave a change in the treatment of shortpaid letters and post cards.

'Postmasters are informed that in future short-paid letters and post cards, whether

it is the war tax or postage that is lacking, are to be rated up and sent forward subject to the collection of double the deficiency from the addressees.

Letters for the United States must be prepaid at least 3¢. If prepaid at least 3¢, but still short-paid, they are to be forwarded taxed with the deficiency. Post Cards for the United States must be prepaid 2¢.'

As a result of the 1920 Madrid Universal Postal Union Congress, the December, 1921 Postal Guide announced changes in the treatment of unpaid and short paid mail matter.

'Should a registered letter addressed to the United States or Mexico be inadvertently accepted at any office and forwarded therefrom without sufficient prepayment, it may, if prepaid one rate (3 cents) be sent on to destination, subject to the collection on delivery of the total deficiency (not double the deficiency, in this case) as regards postage and registration charge'.

Although these regulations do not mention 'special delivery', they nevertheless provide a clue to solving the puzzle. Just as long as one full rate is paid, a letter, whether over weight, registered or special delivery, will be forwarded and the deficient amount collected on delivery. In this instance the full rate was paid by the US 2¢ stamp; the amount deficient being the incorrect country's stamp (American instead of Canadian), and the amount collected in Toronto was paid by the Canadian 10¢ adhesive. The use of a Canadian special delivery stamp to pay the postage due produced a possibly unique item – a Canadian special delivery stamp paying the postage due on a US to Canada special delivery cover!

The cover in figure 2 is franked with a US 10¢ special delivery and a pair of 2¢ (double weight) Washington stamps that are tied by two strikes of the Philadelphia Nov 12 1925 '3' postmarks. It is also annotated '21', handstamped



Fig. 2. A companion to the Saranaclake Cover.



'Special Delivery Mail' (in purple) and '10', the amount by which the letter is underpaid. The deficiency collected is paid by two Canadian 1906 5¢ postage due stamps tied by a blue 'OTTAWA ONT NOV 14 1925 Letter Carrier Branch' double oval.

The two special delivery letters are similar. Both were sent from USA to Canada with one full rate paid but deficient the special delivery fee by 10¢ which was collected at destination. Seemingly, the addressees had to collect their mail and pay the dues at the post offices as evidenced by the postmarks cancelling the due stamps. The letter from Philadelphia, however, was mailed (a) after 1 August, 1921, when the special delivery fee was raised from 10¢ to 20¢ and (b) after 1 January, 1923, when a United States special delivery stamp was accepted for delivery in Canada.

The interpretation of the regulations is that a domestic double (or triple) weight letter prepaid only one rate will be taxed two times the deficiency. A similar letter sent from the United States or Mexico, will attract only the total, not double, deficiency; a precursory principle to 'Free Trade' perhaps!

Members who have a different understanding of the rules are requested to send their comments to the editor.

*Reference:*

- (1) Steinhart, Allan L., *The Admiral Era: A Rate Study 1912-1928.* Toronto, Jim A. Hennok Ltd.

*Editor's note:*

This report deals only with short paid incoming letters from the United States and Mexico.



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

When Stanley Cohen and Horace Harrison presented their findings back in 1961 there seemed little more to be said concerning numeral cancels on Large Queens, not so . . .

## NUMERAL OBLITERATORS ON THE LARGE QUEENS H. E. and H. W. Duckworth

The Large Queen stamps of Canada were issued in the spring of 1868 and were largely superseded by the Small Queens by 1872, although the ½, 12½ and 15¢ values continued in use for varying times thereafter. What follows refers to the period 1868-1872.

Postal regulations called for the stamp itself to be obliterated with a special hammer and the town date stamp to be applied elsewhere on the postal item. This regulation was not followed to the letter. Some postmasters may never have received obliterated stamps, but did their best by pen-cancelling the stamps or using their town date stamps as the obliterator. Meanwhile, other postal clerks, although their offices were equipped with the necessary paraphernalia, brazenly used the town date stamps for both purposes.

But most postal employees followed the rule, with the result that obliterated stamps form a popular collecting interest. Of special interest are the numeral obliterated stamps, both those issued to the pre-Confederation colonies (and which continued in use in many offices) and those issued after Confederation (1867). These obliterated stamps were described by Stanley Cohen and Horace Harrison in *Maple Leaves* in 1961 (Whole Numbers 69-72) in a monumental series of four articles, on which much subsequent study has been based. New information has emerged in the intervening 35 years

and is included in this status report.

### PRE-CONFEDERATION NUMERAL OBLITERATORS

Obliterated stamps in numbered series were issued by the Imperial Post Office to the pre-Confederation postal agencies of New Brunswick, Canada and British Columbia and are commonly found on the stamps of that period. Many of these obliterated stamps continued in use into the Large Queen period and some of their impressions are also found on later issues. Examples of these three types of cancellation are shown in figures 1A, 1B and 1C, respectively. Although Nova Scotia was issued with distinctive grid obliterator, none had a numeral incorporated in it.

No official records survive of the post offices to which these distinctive cancelling devices were assigned, but most have since been identified by stamp collectors using covers bearing both obliterator impressions and town date stamps.

### New Brunswick

The New Brunswick series was numbered 1-39. Number 1 was assigned to the principal town, St. John, whilst numbers 2-34 were assigned to other post offices in alphabetical order. Subsequently, several of these numbers were re-assigned to less important post offices. Numbers 35-39 may have been assigned on an *ad hoc* basis. All but '36'

have been identified. Probably the best list of post offices and their obliterator numerals is found in 'THE LARGE QUEEN STAMPS OF CANADA' and is based mostly on the work of Argenti, Chadbourne, Brassler and Carr.

Impressions of obliterators 2 (Andover), 3 (Baie Verte), 5 (Moncton – originally called 'Bend of the Peticodiac'), 6 (Campbellton), 8 (Chatham), 9 (Grand Falls), 10 (Dalhousie), 11 (Dorchester), 13 (Fredericton), 16 (Harvey), 18 (Kingston), 19 (Memramcook), 21 (Newcastle, reassigned to W.O. Victoria), 22 (Oromocto), 26 (Shediac), 33 (Upper Mills), 35 (Sheffield) and 39 (Indiantown) have been reported on Large Queens. Undoubtedly, others are hiding in the bushes. The cover shown in figure 2, originally in the Cohen collection, shows that hammer 21, originally assigned to Newcastle, was in use at Way Office, Victoria in December, 1870.

### **Canada**

The Canadian obliterators ran from 1-52 (with the exceptions of '6' and '9', which could be confused with one another), plus '516' and '627'. Thus, numbers 1-50 were assigned alphabetically, except that the post offices that would have qualified for '6' and '9' were given '51' (Brockville) and '52' (Clifton). No rationale has been given for '516' (Montreal) or '627' (Ottawa and Prescott RPO). As with New Brunswick, no official list of post offices and their respective numerals has been discovered, but Jarrett and others have pieced together a list which may now be complete. It can be found in the 'SCOTT SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS', although we question the identification of '627' with Ottawa (Legislative Senate) and have

not seen the evidence for '48' (Thorold). The cover in figure 3 identifies '29' with Perth.

Most of these obliterators continued in use into 1868, and some for many years thereafter. Thus, four-ring numeral strikes have been seen on Large Queens for all of the hammers except 3 (Berlin), 5 (Brantford), 14 (Goderich), 16 (Hamilton), 18 (Kingston), 30 (Peterborough), 32 (Port Dover), 33 (Port Hope), 37 (Quebec), 38 (St Catherines), 43 (Simcoe) and 48 (Thorold).

Certain of the four-ring numerals are found in other surrounds, as shown in figure 1. Thus, numerals 4, 17, 19 and 42 are found within heavy single rings (fig. 1D): numerals 17 and possibly 42 are new hammers, but 4 and 19 simply clogged-up four-ring ones. Montreal's 21 can be found in a roller obliterator, (fig. 1E) whilst Quebec's 37 exists in an oval of bars and in a diamond of bars (fig. 1F). As George Manley has shown ('Maple Leaves', No. 76, 1962), the Montreal roller has three impressions of the '21', only two of which are shown in figure 1E.

### **British Columbia**

The British Columbia series (illustrated in fig. 1B) runs from 1-36 and, as for the others, the identification of numerals with post offices has been done philatelically, in this case mostly by Welburn. The material is very scarce and the list is less than half complete (see 'THE LARGE QUEEN STAMPS OF CANADA').

Large Queens have been reported with British Columbia obliterators 1 (New Westminster), 4 (Yale), 5 (Similkameen), 8 (Clinton), 9 (Seymour), 13 (Quesnelmouth), 28

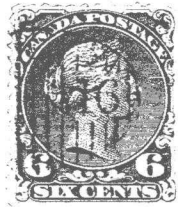
**NEW BRUNSWICK**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

A



**N.B. "13"  
FREDERICTON**



**N.B. "16"  
HARVEY**

B



**B.C. "28"  
BURRARD  
INLET**



**B.C. "33"  
LADNERS  
LANDING**

**CANADA**

C



**4-RING "44"  
WHITBY**



**4-RING "27"  
OTTAWA**

D



**1-RING "17"  
INGERSOLL**



E



**ROLLER "21"  
MONTREAL**



F



**'37" IN DIAMONDS  
QUEBEC**



*Figure 1. Pre-Confederation numeral obliterators and their derivatives.*

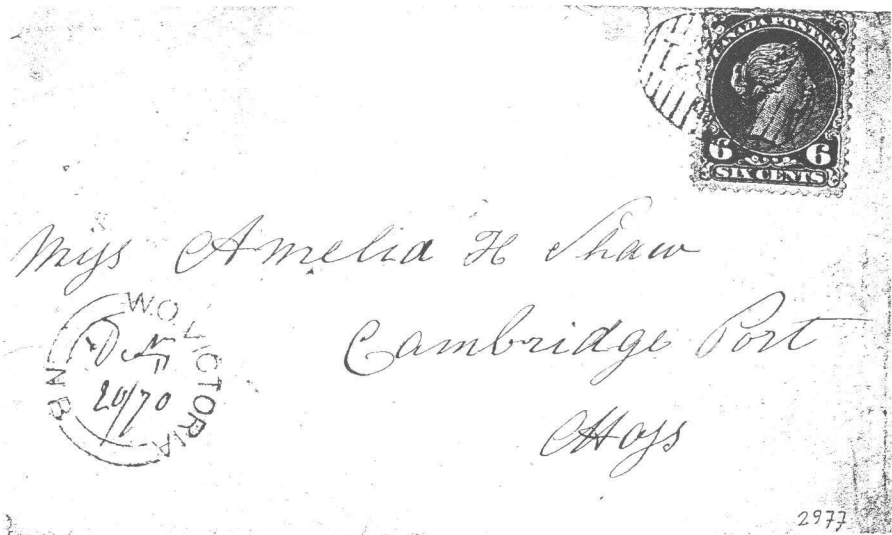


Figure 2. Cover posted W.O. VICTORIA/DEC 20/70/NB identifying New Brunswick obliterator #21. The back-stamp, WOODSTOCK/DE 21/1870/N.B., was applied as the letter left Canada for the United States.

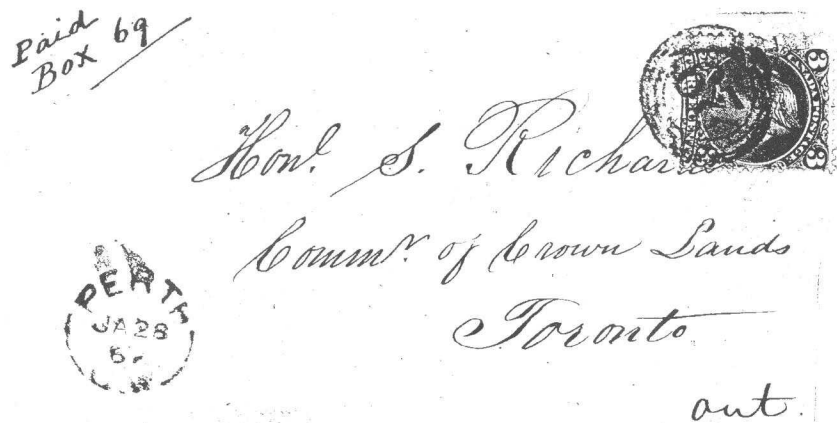


Figure 3. Cover posted PERTH/JA 28/69/C.W. identifying four-ring obliterator #29. Back-stamp is HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY/JAN 30/1869/ONTARIO (in red).





Figure 4. Piece dated VICTORIA/MY 27/72/BRIT-COL identifies obliterator #35.

(Burrard Inlet), 33 (Ladner's Landing), 35 (Victoria) and 36 (Nanaimo). The piece in figure 4 identifies '35' with Victoria, the principal post office.

## POST CONFEDERATION NUMERAL OBLITERATORS

### Two Ring Numerals

This series of 60 obliterators, illustrated in figure 5A, was issued in the spring of 1869, approximately a year after the Large Queens themselves were introduced. They were assigned to post offices in rough order of importance, but with some precedence given to low-volume offices in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Any confusion between '6' and '9' was removed by cutting a gouge out of the rings at the base of the numeral, as shown for the Kingston '9'. As with earlier numerical obliterators, the task of identifying the respective post offices has fallen to stamp collectors, who have yet to identify numerals 17 and 20. Further, only one cover has been reported for each of numerals 8 and 42: that for 8 is shown in figure 6 which, incidentally, illustrates the 6 cent rate to the Red River Settlement prior to the entry of

Manitoba into Confederation on 15 July, 1870. A list of post offices and their numerals can be found in the 'SCOTT SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS' and 'THE LARGE QUEEN STAMPS OF CANADA', along with indications of the relative rarity of individual hammers.

The two-ring numerals are a handsome feature of the Large Queens, as are the more elaborate hammers which embodied the numerals themselves, and which are now described.

### Duplexes derived from two-ring numerals

In March/April 1870, Hamilton and London incorporated their two-ring numerals (5 and 6, respectively) into duplex hammers, as shown in figures 5B and 5C. The '5' was later mutilated, but continued in use.

### Fancy Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston & Oshawa Obliterators

In the late summer and early fall of 1869, the post offices of Toronto and Kingston began replacing their two-ring hammers with obliterators carved from cork or wood and incorporating their official two-ring numerals. This outburst of artistry may have been inspired by incoming mail from the United States where many post offices were devising elaborate and imaginative hammers involving geometric and other designs. Jarrett was the first to illustrate the Canadian versions, but most of our knowledge of different types comes from Cohen and Harrison.

### Toronto 2's

The first fancy Toronto '2' appeared in mid-August and, during the next five

*Text continued on p. 348*

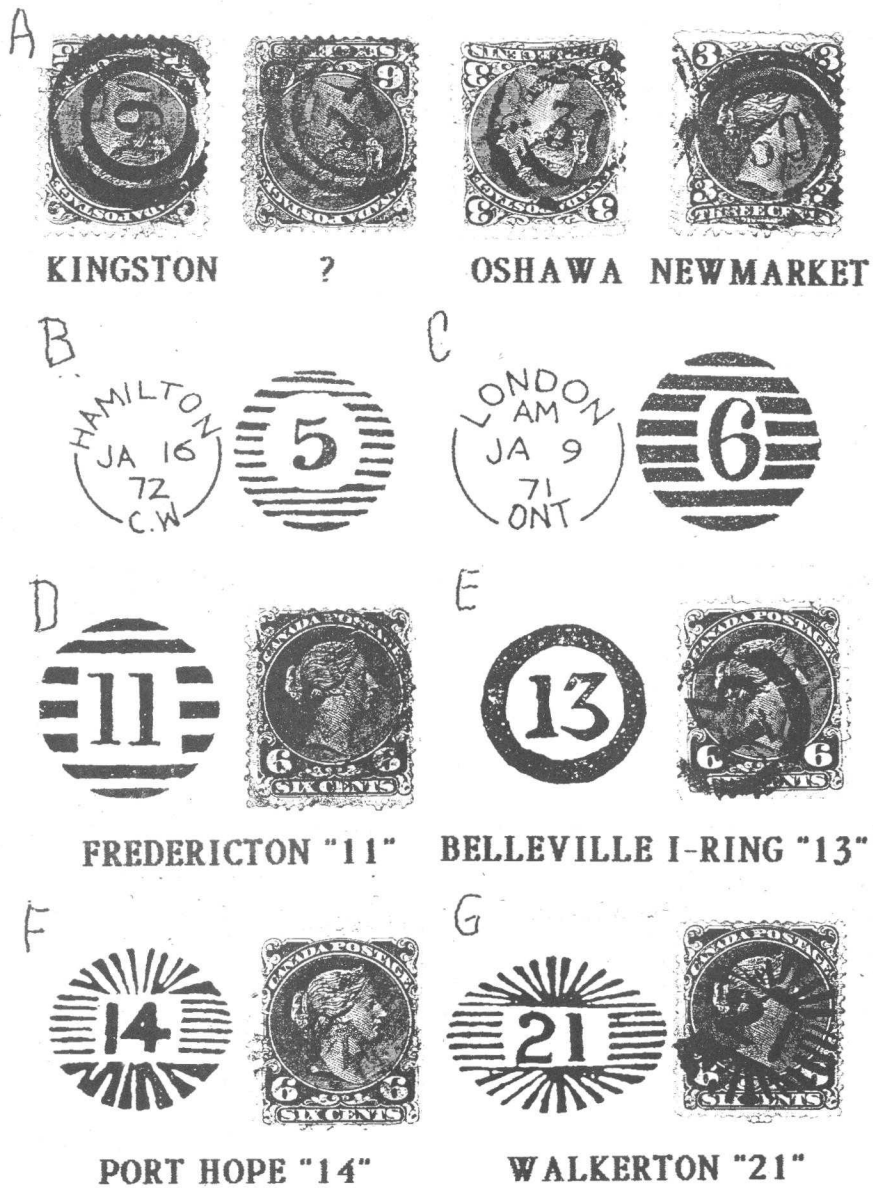


Figure 5. Post-Confederation numeral obliterators, as described in the text.

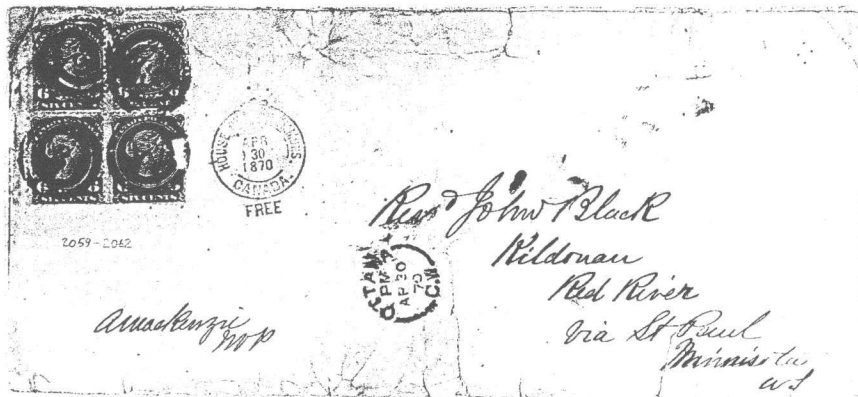


Figure 6. Cover posted OTTAWA/PM/AP 30/70/C.W. identifying two-ring '8'. The 'HOUSE OF COMMONS/AP/30/1870/CANADA' handstamp may suggest use on government mail.



Figure 7. Prices Current dated TORONTO/SEPTEMBER 22/1869 and back-stamped LONDON/PM/SP 25/69/C.W. showing fancy Toronto '2' as a Roman numeral.

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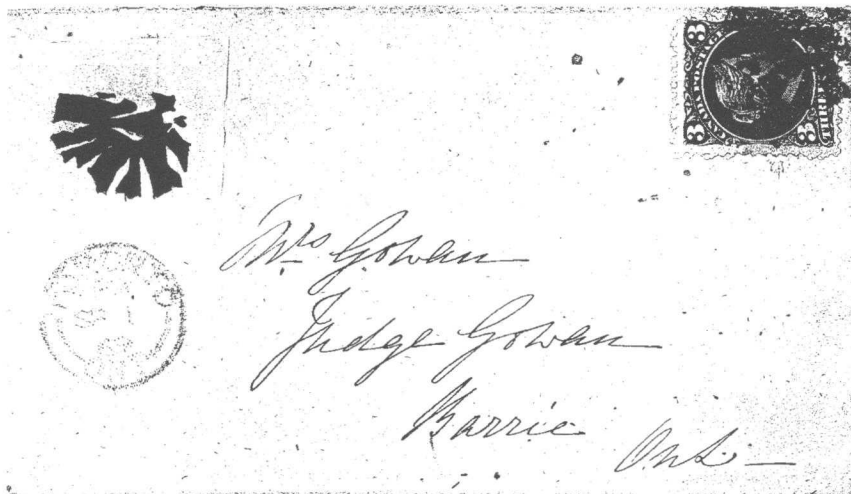


Figure 8. Cover dated TORONTO/PM/SP 1/69/ONT showing unreported intaglio '2'. Superimposed at upper left is a drawing of the cancellation.

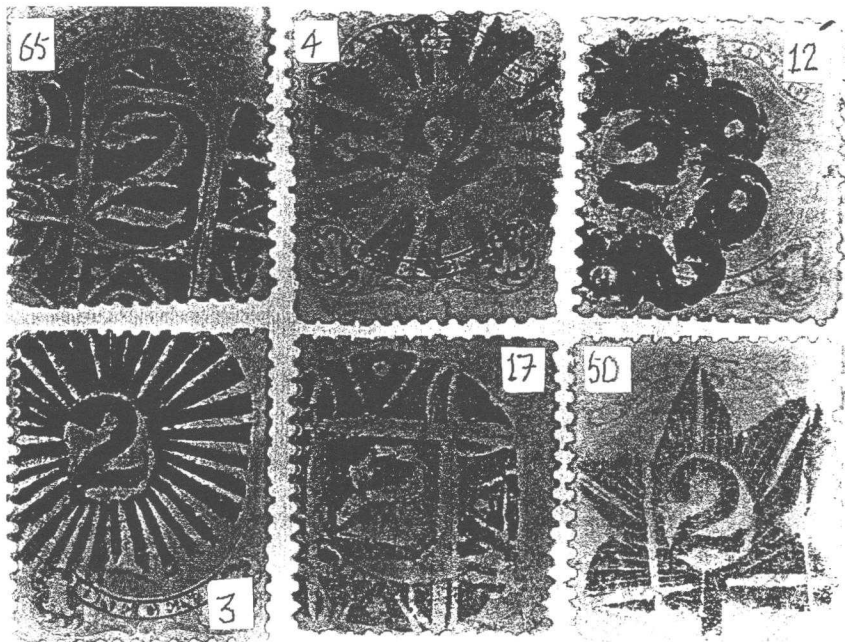


Figure 9. Toronto Fancy '2's on the 1¢ Large Queen. Numbers shown are Day & Smythies types.



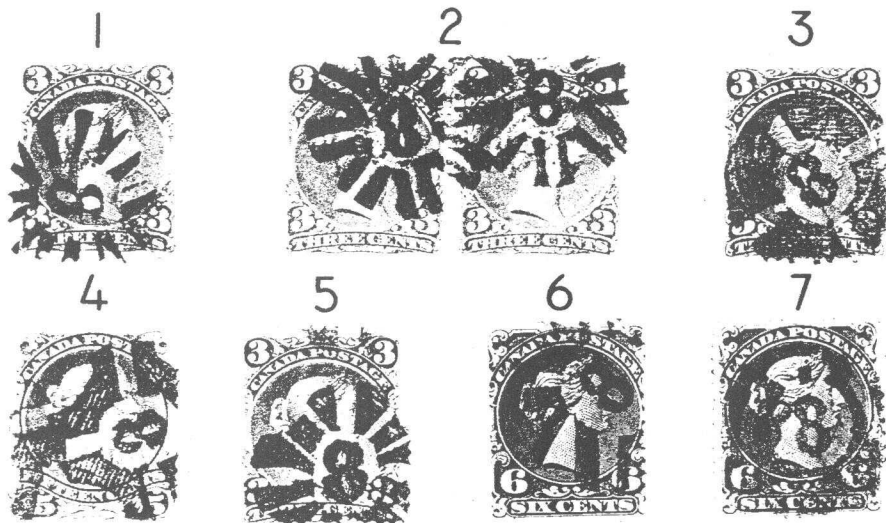


Figure 12. Ottawa fancy '8's with their Day and Smythies type numbers. All known varieties are shown.

Text continued from p. 348  
 months, almost 60 different cork hammers had seen use. These were fragile devices and were employed with little or no overlap; it has been an ongoing challenge to collectors to establish the period of use of each.

Although we possess some fifty varieties, we are unable to illustrate the complete series; instead we refer the interested reader to the second edition of Day and Smythies 'CANADIAN FANCY CANCELLATIONS OF THE 19TH CENTURY'. This listing, however, may contain some duplication. Thus we believe type 6 is a worn version of Type 4, 7 a worn version of 17, 8 an early version of 5, 16 an unclear drawing of 50, 33 is the same as 12, 35 may be the same as 9, 39 is not a fancy 2, 40 is a fake, 43 is not a fancy 2, 51 may be a worn version of 41, 56 may be the same as 55 and 62 may be the same

as 45. We also illustrate in figures 7 and 8 two varieties not shown in Day and Smythies, and in figures 9, 10 and 11 magnified examples of certain other

types in which the '2' appears in both direct and intaglio forms. A couple of varieties in which the '2' is a metallic insert appeared in the fall of 1870 (fig. 11 – types 14 and 38).

#### Ottawa 8's

Ottawa's contribution to fancy numerals was less flamboyant than that of Toronto and appears to have been delayed until early 1870. All known varieties are shown in figure 12, in which the assigned numbers are those of Day and Smythies.

#### Kingston 9's

Kingston entered the competition in early September, 1869, by segmenting its two-ring hammer (figs. 13-18) and

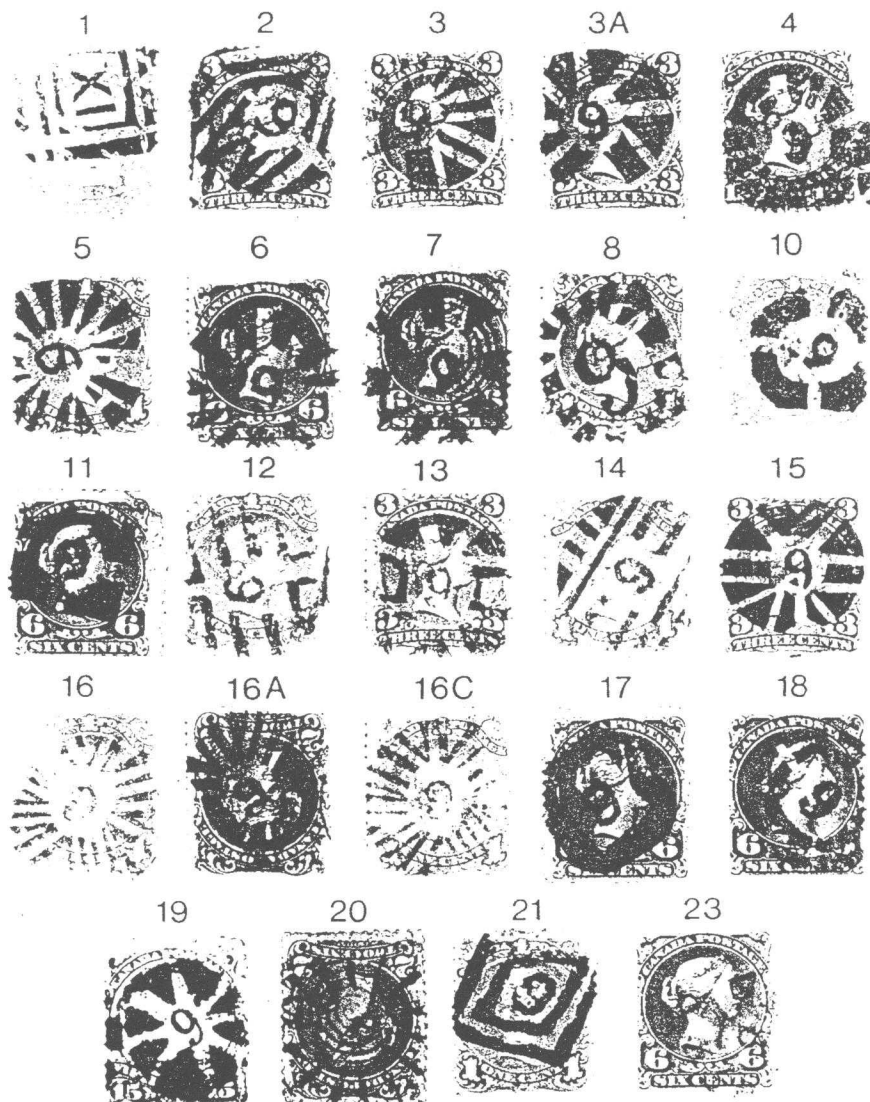


Figure 13. Kingston fancy '9's with their Day and Smythies numbers. All known varieties are shown.

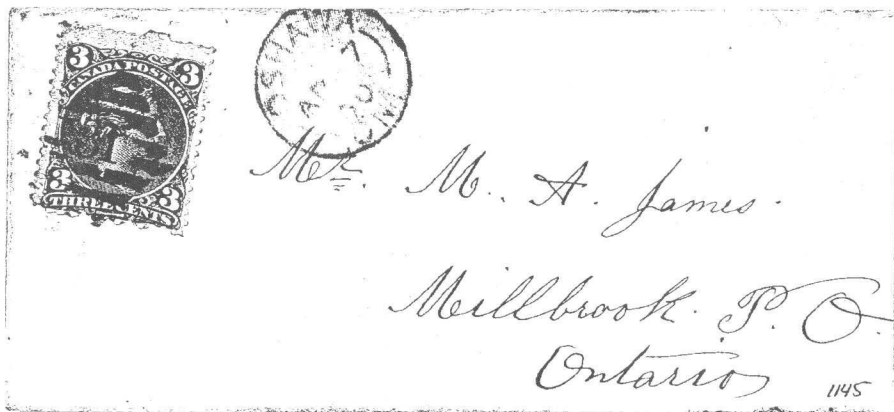


Figure 14. Cover posted OSHAWA/AP7/70/ONT showing '31' in diamond grid.

then moving on to the other varieties shown in figure 13, which illustrates all varieties known. The type numbers are those assigned by Day and Smythies.

#### Oshawa 31s

As shown in figure 5A, Oshawa was assigned the two-ring numeral '31'. In 1870, however, it employed two quite different metallic hammers which incorporated its two-ring number, one in a circular grid and one in a diamond grid (fig. 14). A third version, '31' in a six-point star, was probably also used at Oshawa.

#### OTHER HAMMERS INCORPORATING TWO-RING NUMERALS

Fredericton used its '11' in a bar grid (fig. 5D), Belleville contrived a modest '13' in a single ring (fig. 5E) and three crudely carved '57's presumably emanated from Paris.

#### Port Hope, Walkerton & Watson's Corners

These post offices were not assigned

numerals in the two-ring series, but took remedial action to correct that oversight. Thus, Port Hope appropriated Guelph's '14' in May, 1870 and enclosed it in a grid (fig. 5F), whilst Walkerton, which was a post office of little consequence, did the same in the spring of 1871 with Goderich's '21' (fig. 5G). Watson's Corners, also an insignificant place, is reported to have introduced in 1872 a slender version of Halifax's two-ring '4'. No documentation has emerged for these unilateral actions.

#### CONCLUSION

Collectors wishing to justify to themselves or to their significant others the purchase of additional Large Queens may find the answer in the numerical obliterators described above. Much documentation regarding types and periods of use has yet to be recorded, whilst the examples themselves represent an outburst of creativity which is philatelically the equivalent of the Italian Renaissance.

Many newer collectors of Canadian stamps find that the earlier issues have already been heavily researched and are too expensive to handle in quantity. The Centennial issue presents a formidable challenge and the basic material is still available. The following brief overview highlights the possibilities of this fascinating series.

## CANADA'S CENTENNIAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE 1967-1973

Arthur Jones, CBE

The definitive set first issued on 8 February, 1967 has something to offer to any philatelist. The 16 basic stamps – nine small and seven large format, develop to 53 individual and different stamps apparent to the naked eye; 97 different items to the naked eye if one takes into account plate block numbers and booklet formats. Armed with an ultra-violet lamp and only recognising three different papers there are at least 230 different items without considering the known varieties, phosphor/tagging errors and postal stationery, both regular and special order. Initially the Canadian Bank Note Company's (CBNC) production of five small and seven large format stamps, two booklets and two cellopaqs appeared a somewhat boring continuation of what had gone before. Events, however, ensured that this issue exploded beyond all expectations.

During the sixties nearly all postal administrations had a common desire to produce better looking stamps – brighter, whiter paper. Automation was demanding the means of identifying stamps and the world's currencies were caught in an inflationary spiral of unfamiliar ferocity. No wonder that this brew, well-stirred, produced such a quantity of collectable items.

It was the postal rates change on 1 November, 1968 that started the rush.

The first class letter rate of six cents required a new stamp and the contract went to the British American Bank Note Co. (BABNC) as did the future production of booklets. Further rate changes on 1 July, 1971 and 1 January, 1972 required a seven cent and then an eight cent stamp. These new stamps, printed by the BABNC, carried two sizes of perforation, different from those used by the CBNC, consequently there is never a doubt about the printer of any Centennial stamp.

Both printers used off-white and hibrite paper with dextrine gum and white paper with PVA gum. Some enthusiasts can get carried away and identify 49 different one cent sheet stamps under ultra-violet light, but the three basic paper types will give most collectors enough variety.



*The Centennial issue – 6¢ value.*

Initial tagging was by Winnipeg phosphor as used on the Cameo series and this was superseded by 'General Tagging' – one or two fluorescent bars. The initial type of fluorescence used, known as OP-4 was highly migratory and great care must be taken that other items are not contaminated. Its successor OP-2 presents few, if any problems. The two types are easily identified under ultra-violet light OP-4 having a greenish tinge and blurred bars caused by migration; OP-2 has no greenish tinge and the bars are clean-cut.

The six cent value is of particular interest and, although the BABNC had the contract for the sheet stamps and booklets. The CBNC continued to produce the six cent coils. In the original orange stamp there is a striking variety; some sheet stamps perf. 10 and some booklet stamps were printed with fluorescent ink – uncommon but not rare. When the colour was changed to black in 1970 the two companies continued to produce the stamps in the same form. The BABNC stamp displayed weak and defective shading lines such that a modified die was produced. In 1972 the CBNC produced sheet stamps of the six cent black. The three dies – one CBNC and two BABNC – are easily discernible with the right information. Many catalogues and some handbooks turn the subject into a nightmare, but any enthusiast should consult 'Canada, The 1967-73 Definitive Issue' – Second Edition, edited by Douglas C. Irwin & Murray H. Freedman. This book is, as far as I am concerned, a 'must' for anyone interested in this issue and I acknowledge its invaluable assistance in preparing this introduction to 'Centennials'.

Precancelled stamps are found in the

two to six cents of both colours and there are three types – thin horizontal lines, thick horizontal lines and thick vertical lines. The two cent is by far the scarcest and I have yet to see one genuinely used on cover.

Booklets, in similar fashion to the stamps, made a modest beginning with two printed by CBNC. The number increased rapidly once the BABNC took over the contract. They introduced folded card covers and se-tenant formats that provided many new items to collect. A tendency for the booklets to 'spring' open in vending machines necessitated sealing strips presenting even more variations with either a clear or black sealing strip. Some 35 different booklets can be found of which eight types can be found with ten different pictorial covers.

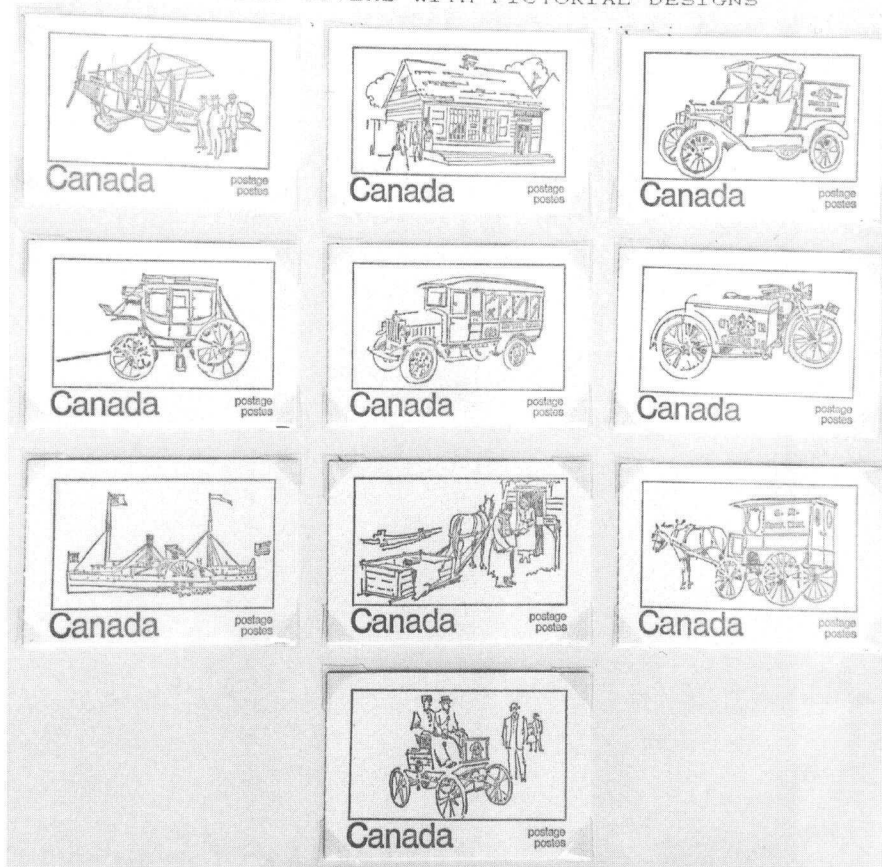
The regular postal stationery has its own interest. The initial three values of envelope issued in 1967 (3¢, 4¢ and 5¢) were produced with a plain interior and in two sizes. Later in 1967 the four and five cent values were produced with a grey security printing inside, 'POSTESCANADAPOST' in a repeated fashion. In 1971 there was a change in the security printing when a message panel regarding apartment numbers was included on the inside of the flap. Precancelled envelopes were produced and the changes of rate produced further collectable items as a result of surcharging existing stock.

Postcards followed a similar pattern to the envelopes. Two types of card stock were used – white and ivory and the cards were produced in three formats – individual cards; sheets of ten for commercial undertakings to print up as they wished or, in the case of third class rate precancelled cards, in sheets of three, rouletted between.



APRIL 1972

BOOKLET COVERS WITH PICTORIAL DESIGNS



*Booklet covers April 1972 – ten different designs.*

In 1968 post offices were requested to return stock for surcharging; envelopes were surcharged by Gasparo Printing (GP) of Hull, Quebec and The International Envelope Co. Ltd. (IEC). Stock returned from post offices was dealt with by GP, whilst the IEC only surcharged three different envelopes that had yet to be turned over to Canada Post after production. The dies used by the

two companies are easily identified – the GP surcharge has the vertical line through the 'c' whilst the IEC surcharge does not. Postcards were similarly surcharged by two companies. GP used the same dies as those used on the envelopes, whilst the BABNC used dies slightly finer in appearance and with the 'R' of 'VALEUR' having a rounded right leg.



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Philatelists will not be surprised that pre-centennial material was returned and duly surcharged; both Karsh and Cameo items can be found. The surcharging and issue happened from late 1968 and these items are therefore

regarded as part of the 'centennial' scene. There are difficult items to find – some surcharges on envelopes with plain interior, surcharges on Karsh and Cameo impressions and items from particular card formats.

Special order stationery falls into five categories – envelopes, letter sheets, flimsy multiple forms, postal card types and election envelopes. Regulations at the time required a minimum of 1,000 items for the application of a printed stamp impression. Because these did not have to be of the same denomination, figures for special order items vary between 500 and 1.5 million with the average around 5,000. Information from Canada Post is that 267 special order printings were made using centennial stamp impressions and most of these have not been seen and are not recorded! Of the known items a few are known to exist in a thousand or so. A multiple form used by General Distributors Ltd. Winnipeg (i.e. Sony) has 45-60 surviving copies, whilst for many items

a typical figure is 15-20 copies. Other items have only one known copy and that discovered almost 30 years after its use.

The Centennial issue has many other facets to offer. There are varieties, perfins, fakes and forgeries, covers using the rates that evolved from the various changes, an aerogramme, postcards of the EXPO '67 exhibition, slogans used during the period and an official facsimile printed on an official form. Modern stamps have gained a bad reputation as outpourings of greedy postal administrations eager to fleece the collector. Here is a seemingly plain definitive set with the fullest possible range of interest to anyone who wishes to take up the challenge.



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CENTENNIAL (1967) ISSUE  
CINDERELLA MATERIAL  
DEAD LETTER OFFICE  
DISASTER COVERS  
DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS  
EDWARD VII ISSUE  
EXHIBITION & FAIR COVERS  
FANCY NUMERAL & SPECIALTY CANCELLATIONS  
1859 FIRST CENTS ISSUE  
FIRST DAY COVERS  
FLAG CANCELLATIONS  
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MANITOBA POSTAL HISTORY  
MAP (1898) ISSUE  
MAPLE LEAF ISSUE  
MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY  
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NASCOPIE POSTAL HISTORY  
NEW BRUNSWICK POSTAL HISTORY  
NEW BRUNSWICK STAMPS  
NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL HISTORY  
NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS  
N.W.T. POSTAL HISTORY  
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NUMERAL ISSUE  
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OFFICIALLY SEALED STAMPS  
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# MAJOR CANADIAN LETTER RATES 1851 TO 1900 A SUMMARY

## G. Whitworth FRPSL FCPS

At recent Conventions early Canadian postal rates have been a central topic of displays and competitive entries. It has been requested that a simple, concise, chart be prepared for recording in 'Maple Leaves'.

Before the Post Office Act of 1867, which was effective from 1 April, 1868, there were many confusing letter rates. This Act produced more uniformity of rates within the Dominion and with the westward spread of the railways this became a fact as the years went by.

All mail for the west coast of both Canada and America had to pass through the United States or the Panama isthmus with rates that were not always known at the office of posting. The published rates were:

- 1851 - 9d per 1/2 oz.
- 1859 - 15 cents per 1/2 oz.
- 1863 - 25 cents.
- 1864 - 10 cents.
- 1868 - 10 cents.

To Newfoundland:

- 1851 - 1/-.
- 1859 - 20 cents.
- 1868 - 12 1/2 cents.

All mail carried through the United States had to be surcharged to cover the cost of transport. The one exception was that the Canadian Allan Line was permitted to use Portland as their terminal during the winter months when the St. Lawrence river was frozen over. Mail was carried through America in sealed bags and letters carried the Canadian rates of postage.

Transatlantic mail ships also carried mail for reshipment through London to Europe and the Commonwealth. Before 1854 the letter rate was per 1/2 oz. although some places in Europe had to pay one rate per 1/4 oz.

From 1 March, 1854 a new system was announced as follows:

- up to 1/2 oz. = 1 rate
- 1/2 to 1 oz. = 2 rates
- 1 to 2 oz. = 4 rates
- 2 to 3 oz. = 6 rates.

This was repealed on 1 February, 1866 when all United Kingdom mail was rated per 1/2 oz.

*Table of rates follows on next page.*

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**Announcement:** The CALTAPEX show is to be held in Calgary, Alberta 18-20 October, 1996, at the Chinese Cultural Centre. Details from Hugh Delaney, PO Box 1478, Calgary, AB, T2P 2L6.

**Wanted:** Back issues of 'Maple Leaves', whole numbers 194, 215, 225, 228, 229, 230 & 233, any or all seven. Please state number(s) available and price. R. Thompson, 540 Buckland Avenue, #216, Kelowna, BC, Canada, V1Y 5Z4.

**Exchange:** Canadian resident wishes to exchange Canadian stamps for British on a 50 to 100 different basis. Ernie Ward, 404 Valade Cr., Orleans, ON, Canada, K4A 2W2. We suggest members make contact in the first instance.



	Domestic, N.B. N.S.		U.S.A.		U.K.			
	Letter	Reg.	Letter	Reg.	Direct from Canada	via U.S.A.	Reg.	
Apr. 6 1851	3d Cy	—	6d Cy		1/1½ Cy 1/- Stg	1/4 Cy 1/2 Stg	—	Apr./May issue of 3, 6, 12d stamps PAID in RED ink UNPAID in black
Mar. 1 1854					7½d Cy	10d Cy		10d stamps issued
Jan. 1 1855								Registration within Canada collected in U.K.
Mar. 31 1855		1d cash		1d cash			1d cash †6d Stg	½ & 7½d stamps issued
Jul./Aug. 1857								prepaid*
Jan. 31 1858		cash or stamps		cash or stamps			7½d Cy	stamps in cents issued
Jul. 1 1859	5¢	2¢	10¢	5¢	12½¢	17¢	12½¢	cash or stamps
Feb. 1 1866							8¢	
Jan. 16 1868							15¢	
Apr. 1 1868	3¢		6¢					L. Q's head stamps issued
Jan. 1 1870					6¢	8¢		S. Q's head introduced
Oct. 1 1875			3¢		5¢	5¢		5¢ L. Q's head issued Registration prepaid by stamps only
Nov. 15 1875		R.L. 2¢		R.L. 5¢			R.L. 8¢	2, 5, 8¢ Reg. letter stamps issued
Jan. 7 1876								obligatory use of R.L. stamps. Not to be used for postage†
Jan. 1 1878							R.L. 5¢	
May 8 1889		5¢						2¢ R.L. stamp MAY be used with other stamps to make up the 5¢
Aug. 1 1893								8¢ S. Q's head stamp issued. R.L. stamps ceased to be issued; no longer obligatory
Jan 1. 1899	2¢	5¢	2¢	5¢	2¢	2¢	5¢	Imperial Penny Postage

\* British PO circular of 29 January, 1858 gave effect to this rate but the circular was not received in Canada. Following protracted correspondence the rate became effective on 1 April, 1859 following Canadian POD circular No. 43 issued on 1 March 1859.

† It was never intended that the RLS should be used for ordinary postage; Dept. Order of 7 Jan, 1876 clarified the point to Postmasters.

# THE PEOPLE ON THE STAMPS – JOHN FRANKLIN

## Alan Salmon

*Lands that loom like spectres, whited regions of winter,  
Wastes of desolate woods, deserts of water and shore;  
A world of winter and death, within these regions who enter,  
Lost to summer and life, go to return no more*  
*The Winter Lakes*                      *Wilfred Campbell.*

Sir John Franklin was the foremost British explorer of the first half of the 19th century. He was on four expeditions to the Arctic; three of those he led, two of the latter ended in tragedies, nevertheless his work mapping the northern coast of Canada was outstanding. It was celebrated by the issue, in 1989, of the 38¢ stamp (SG 1320, SS 1234) in the Exploration of Canada series.



He was born in 1786, the twelfth and youngest son of his parents. Like another famous leader, Mrs Thatcher, he was the offspring of a Lincolnshire shopkeeper. His father tried to dissuade him from going to sea, without success; he joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman at the age of fourteen. He fought in the battles of Copenhagen (1801), Trafalgar (1805) and New Orleans (1814). After Copenhagen he went to Australia with a surveying expedition, during which he learnt navigation and distinguished

himself by his ability at astronomical observations. He returned home in 1804, via China after being shipwrecked off Australia. By the summer of 1815 the War of 1812 in the west and Napoleon in Europe were both finished, peace prevailed at long last. The Navy had to slim, Lieutenant Franklin was discharged on half-pay.

### The Northwest Passage Again

The Admiralty now revived the idea of finding that elusive passage they had sought for three centuries. In 1818 Franklin was recalled to command the *Trent*, it was the second ship of an expedition to sail between Spitzbergen and Greenland, to attempt to reach the North Pole and then to sail, if possible, to the Bering Strait. The ships were stopped by the ice, the lead ship was badly damaged and had to return to England accompanied by the *Trent*. They were only away six months but they proved the pack-ice was impenetrable; Franklin enhanced his reputation and gained some Arctic experience.

On his return Franklin was appointed to command a land expedition to improve knowledge of the northern coast of British North America, especially from the Coppermine River eastwards. He was to start from York Factory, then the route was at his discretion. He had little to guide him; that coast had been visited by only two explorers before, Hearne (SG 682, SS 540) and

Mackenzie (SG 658, SS 516), and it was hundreds of kilometres north of the fur traders' domains. Both the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and the North West Company (NWC) agreed to give considerable assistance; but they knew little of the region and they were still fighting each other. Franklin, Dr Richardson a surgeon, and two midshipmen, Hood and Back, both map-makers and artists, with six seamen reached York Factory in August 1819. The HBC could provide only one man and one boat, so much of the supplies were left to follow later – the expedition was always beset by shortages of the promised supplies and experienced men.

The party collected Canadian voyageurs and interpreters en route. It arrived at Fort Providence, a NWC post, in July 1820, where Indian guides and hunters awaited them. That winter was early and they could get no further than a spot where they built, and named, Fort Enterprise. No progress was possible until the next June, then they launched their canoes on the way to the Coppermine; short of food and ammunition. Five weeks later they reached the sea, and saw Eskimos who fled. Franklin reported: ". . . from Fort Enterprise to the north of the Copper-Mine River, is about 334 miles. The canoes and baggage were dragged over snow and ice for 117 miles of this distance".

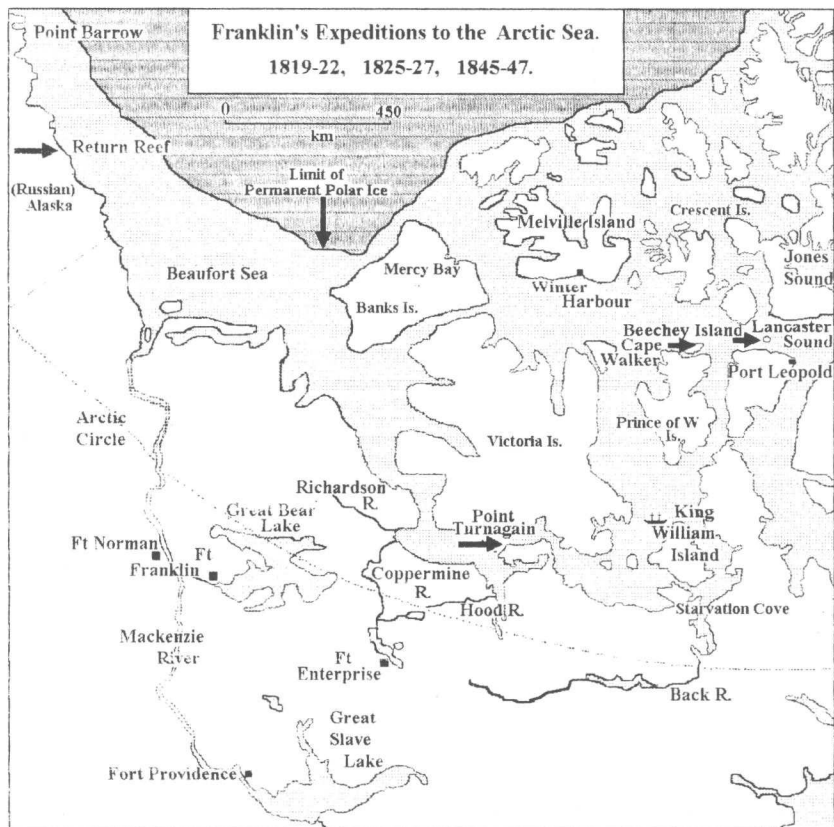
Twenty men in two canoes then paddled along the inlets and islands of the coast, over 900 km, to Point Turnagain. Hunting had been poor, the day's ration was a small portion of soup and a handful of pemmican. Also the weather was deteriorating, the voyageurs wanted to go home; Franklin records: "The Canadians now had the opportunity of witnessing the effect of a storm upon the sea; and the sight

increased their desire of quitting it". He also recorded their courage in these unusual circumstances. He set out for Fort Enterprise on 22 August; after three days they left the sea, not having enough provisions to retrace their route; they went up the Hood River, named later after their midshipman. Before, they had been cold and hungry, now disaster struck. Hood, who was now very ill, was murdered by an Indian canoe-man, for meat! Nine men died of exposure or starvation; the Indian was executed by Dr Richardson for the murder of Hood, and for fear he was going to kill again. When the survivors reached Fort Enterprise they found the Indians had not stocked it with food as planned; they had to exist on bones, skin and lichen for another three weeks. They reached York Factory in June 1822. "Thus terminated" wrote Franklin "our long, fatiguing, and disastrous travels in North America, having journeyed by water and land 5,500 miles (8,870 km)".

On his return he was appointed to the rank of Captain and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. His Journal of the expedition became a best-seller, he was a national hero.

### **Back to the Arctic**

Franklin now proposed an expedition to explore east and west from the Mackenzie delta, he was to lead it; this was accepted by the Admiralty in 1823. His plans incorporated the lessons he had learnt; especially not to rely on others for men and provisions. The party now relied on naval equipment, naval seamen and copious supplies. Each member of the party had two of the new water-proof suits made by a Mr Macintosh of Glasgow. Franklin, again with Richardson and Back, sailed from Liverpool in February 1825; by July the expedition was assembled on the



Mackenzie. After a comfortable winter, at a base they built and called Fort Franklin, the expedition was at the mouth of the Mackenzie by July 1826.

Two parties were formed, one going west under Franklin and the other east under Richardson. The latter explored the coast as far as the Coppermine, Franklin's group reached Return Reef; as winter was approaching and as his men were beginning to suffer from exposure he decided enough had been accomplished. He was back at Fort Franklin on 21 September, winter was again spent at the Fort. The expedition

arrived back in Liverpool in September 1827; 2,500 km of unexplored country had been mapped, it was an unblemished success.

He published his account of the expedition and was knighted; he was described at this time as a square, strong man of 5'6", dark complexion and hair, his head very round and balding. He spent the next three years in command of a frigate, mainly peace-keeping off the coast of Greece. In 1836 he was appointed Lieutenant-governor of Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania); his efforts ensured that the colony developed and

prospered. He encouraged education and stopped corruption but he was often in conflict with his civil servants who regarded it as essentially a penal colony. He arrived back in England in 1844.

### **The Final Return to the Arctic**

The northern coast of America had now been almost completely traced by the Royal Navy and the HBC, it was believed that a northwest passage was possible. The Admiralty decided on a further effort to break through; Franklin claimed the leadership of the expedition. The First Lord of the Admiralty pointed out to him he was 60 years old, "No, no, my lord", retorted Franklin, "only fifty-nine". He was appointed and allocated *HMS Erebus* and *HMS Terror*. Both ships had served in Antarctica and were well-suited for their purpose; but the names were unfortunate and prophetic, Erebus being the ancient god of Darkness whose father was Chaos, and there was to be Terror in plenty.

The ships sailed from the Thames in May 1845, with a Captain Crozier in command of the *Terror*; there were provisions for three years. The food in cans, some 30 tons of it, was ordered only seven weeks before departure; it was delivered late. An inexorable tragedy had begun. Franklin's instructions were to proceed to Cape Walker and then go south and west to the Bering Strait. In July the ships parted company from an Aberdeen whaler at the entrance to Lancaster Sound, then they vanished. In the spring of 1848 a tremendous series of searches began; by 1859 there had been 50. Throughout Lady Franklin sustained the authorities' and the public's interest in finding the explorers. Probably the first use of a balloon post in BNA occurred in 1853 when Captain Sir Edward Belcher despatched a balloon, hoping the

expedition would find it, with a note giving the locations of provisions, search teams and ships.

Slowly the horrible puzzle was resolved; in 1850 it was discovered the expedition had spent the winter of 1845/6 at Beechey Island, there were three dated graves. Also found were many empty food cans. In 1854 Dr Rae, an HBC surveyor, met Eskimos who told of white men on the mainland. The Eskimos had articles from the ships, including a silver plate engraved 'Sir John Franklin'; they also told of cannibalism by the dying men. In 1859 a Captain McClintock found a boat and skeletons on King William Island; there were also records which related that after sailing from Beechey Island the ships had been trapped, in 1846, by the ice off north-western King William Island. Franklin had died, whilst beset by the ice, in June 1847; his last resting place has never been found. By April 1848 24 had died; Captain Crozier abandoned the ships and led the 105 survivors towards the Back River. The written record ended; but the Eskimos had said that about 40 reached the mainland. The skeleton found farthest from the ship was at a place now called Starvation Cove.

One outcome of all the activity was that one RN search crew, led by a Commander McClure, got through the Passage. They went from the Bering Strait by sea, got trapped in the ice at Mercy Bay on Banks Island, abandoned their ship, then went on foot to Winter Harbour. They had spent four winters in the Arctic; almost all were half-dead from scurvy.

In 1981 Dr Beattie, a forensic scientist from the University of Alberta, examined the skeleton of a seaman

found on King William Island, there were clear signs of scurvy and probable signs of cannibalism. The remains of the skeleton were examined in Alberta, they contained ten times the expected level of lead. In 1984 Beattie led a team to conduct autopsies on the bodies in the graves on Beechey Island. They exhumed a John Torrington, the intense cold had preserved his body; he appeared as if he had just died. Beattie noted that the solder (90% of it lead) on the empty food cans was poorly applied and had oozed down the inside of the cans, further examination showed that some of the side seals were incomplete, the food in these would have gone bad. In 1986 the other two bodies were exhumed, the autopsies revealed lead levels 20 times normal in the hair of all three seamen. This indicated acute lead poisoning and that the poison had been accumulating during the expedition. One body had been autopsied, obviously the ships' surgeon had been concerned

that the death was unusual and was seeking answers.

Franklin did not have as much good food as was planned. Also, the entire expedition, from the day it left the Thames, was being contaminated by lead in the food they thought to be good. Lead poisoning would have led to a decline in energy, sharp pains in the abdomen and damage to the nervous system. Their situation, locked in the ice, starving and dying from an unknown cause affecting them all, especially their will to survive, must have been horrible. All died, probably from a mixture of scurvy, lead poisoning and starvation. Perhaps the most fortunate was Franklin, who died before he fully appreciated the terrible fate that was about to befall his men. He was a brave man, not a perfect explorer, but one who accomplished much, and paid a dreadful price.

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# NINETEENTH CENTURY CANADIAN REGISTRATION TO THE U.K.

George B. Arfken and Horace W. Harrison, FCPS

## Canadian Money letters to the UK

Canadian money letters date back at least to the early 1800s<sup>(1)</sup>. The money letter shown in figure 1 is rather special; it was not domestic mail but was addressed to Scotland. From St. Mary's Blanchard, C.W., 27 Feb. 1849, this cover was paid the Cunard rate 1/2 stg, 1/4 cy. The cover missed the Cunard '*Europa*' that sailed from New York 7 March. It was carried by the Cunard '*America*' out of Boston 21 March and arrived at Liverpool 3 April. There is a Coldstream 4 April backstamp. In Liverpool, the cover was registered with a manuscript 'Registered' and a MORE to PAY 6. From Liverpool to Coldstream, the money letter went registered, collect.

## Canadian Domestic Registration

Britain started registration 6 January, 1841 with a fee of one shilling<sup>(2)</sup>. This registry fee was reduced to 6d in March 1848. Nova Scotia introduced registration when it took over control of its postal system, 6 July, 1851. New Brunswick followed a year later. Canada Post moved more slowly. Finally Department Order No. 22, 10 April, 1855, announced that registration of domestic letters with a 1d registry fee would start 1 May, 1855. This Department Order has been reproduced by Harrison<sup>(3)</sup>.

## Registered in Canada, Reregistered, Collect in the U.K.

With domestic registration available in Canada, a payment of 1d secured registration of a cover addressed to the

UK until the cover went into closed bag from the Canadian exchange office to the British exchange office. The cover was not registered while in transit. Upon arrival in the UK, the cover was *reregistered*, with a stamped red crown and curved REGISTERED and a written black 6 for due 6d. The cover went on to its UK destination registered, collect.

These registered in Canada, reregistered in Britain covers are rare. Firby lists only five going by Cunard steamer and two going by Allan packet<sup>(4)</sup>. Figure 2 shows a registered, double rate mourning cover to England. The two 7½d stamps and the two 3d Beavers paid the 20d double Cunard rate and the 1d Canadian registry fee. The cover was mailed in Barrie, C. W., 21 NOV 1857 and the stamps were cancelled with the Barrie 4-ring 1. The Cunard '*Arabia*' carried the cover to Liverpool, 6 Dec.

There is a LONDON DE 7 57 backstamp. The cover was reregistered in London with a red crown and curved REGISTERED and a black 6 for due 6d.

## The UK-Canadian 'Misunderstanding'

There were two problems with this system of Canadian domestic registration plus British domestic registration. First, the Canadian writer could not prepay registration to destination. Second, it is not clear that the letter had any special protection after leaving Canada but before arriving in the UK. There was a need for

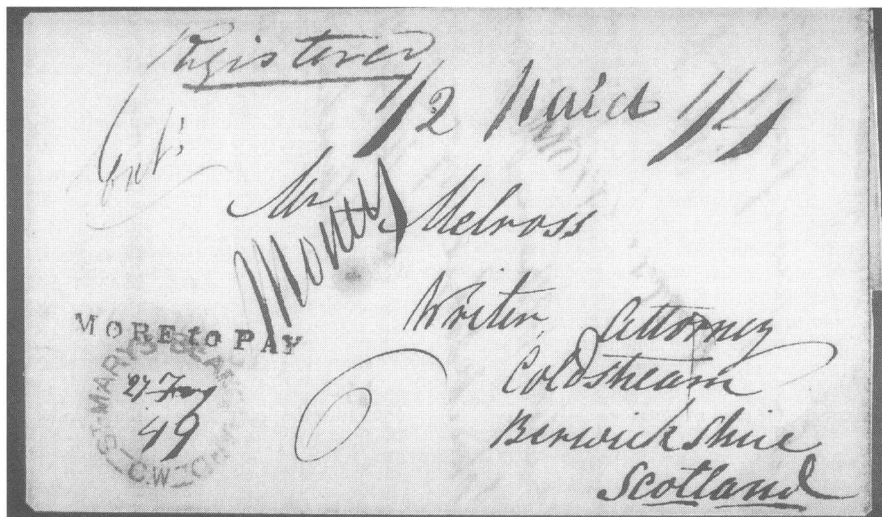


Figure 1. Posted in St. Mary's Blanchard, C.W., 27 Feb., 1849, this Money letter was addressed to Scotland. The postage paid was 1/2 stg. 1/4 cy. Carried by the Cunard 'America', the cover was registered in Liverpool and rated MORE to PAY 6.

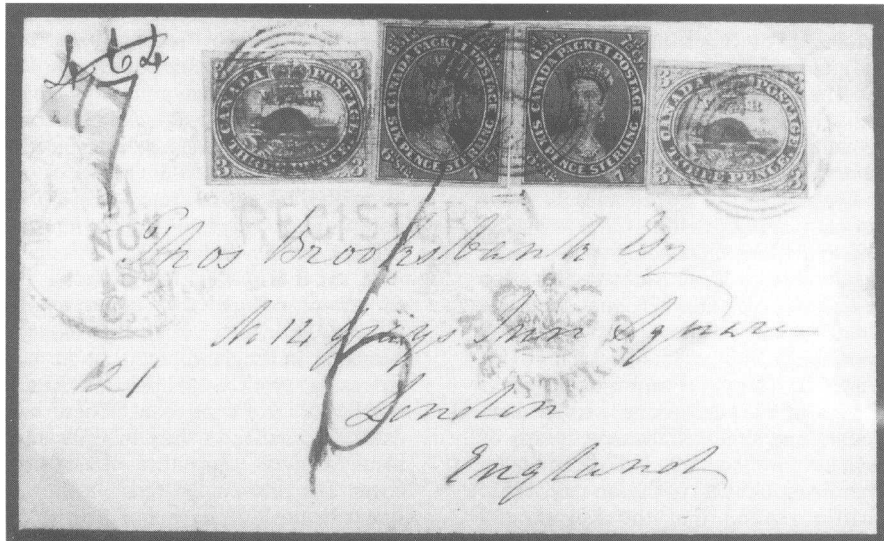


Figure 2. A double rate mourning cover to England, registered in Canada, 1d. The cover was reregistered in England, due 6d. Posted in Barrie, C.W., 21 NOV 1857, the double Cunard rate and domestic registration were paid with two 7/2d and two 3d stamps. Carried on the Cunard 'Arabia' out of New York, 25 Nov.

the registry fee on letters to the UK would be reduced to 8¢ effective 1 February, 1866<sup>(7)</sup>, B#37. (The Order actually described the reduction as 'from six pence to four pence sterling, equal to eight cents.'). The Department Order also stated 'No Letter can be received for Registration unless both Postage and Registration fee are fully prepaid.' The decimal era continued only 26 months after the introduction of this 8¢ registry fee, a relatively short time interval. So, decimal franked covers to the UK paying this 8¢ registration rate are rare.

The Firby Recording<sup>(4)</sup> lists seven Canadian packet decimal stamp franked covers paying the 8¢ registry fee with stamps and an eighth cover paying the 8¢ registry fee in cash. Also paying this

8¢ registry fee was a block of 13 12½¢ decimal stamps on piece, offered in Christie's Nickle sale, 19 March, 1993. This is the largest known franking of the 12½¢ decimal stamp. Firby records only one Cunard 8¢ registry fee decimal stamp franked cover. This unique cover is illustrated as figure 5. The cover was posted in Montreal, OC 29 66, addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The double Cunard rate (for not over 1 oz.) was paid with two 17¢ stamps. The 8¢ registry fee was paid with a 5¢ and three 1¢ stamps. The cover was carried on the Cunard 'Scotia' from New York; it received three straight line REGISTEREDs, stamped in red in Canada. There is also a crown and curved REGISTERED stamped in red in Scotland.

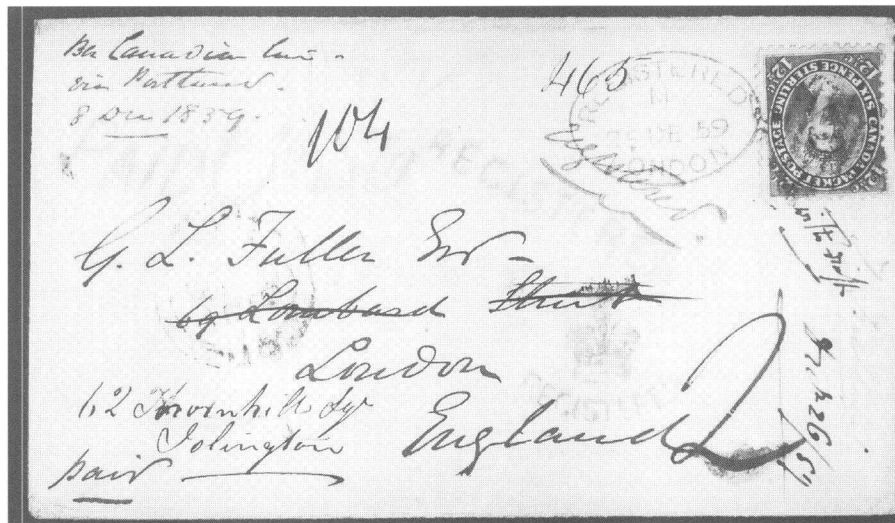


Figure 4. A registered cover from Toronto, U.C. to London, England. The 12½¢ registry fee was paid in cash (no adhesive stamp). A red PAID 6 stg served as notice of payment. The 12½¢ Decimal paid the Allan packet postage but the cover was sent on the Cunard 'Europa' out of Boston, 14 December. The large '2' at lower right meant due 2d stg. There is a red crown and curved REGISTERED and a red REGISTERED LONDON 26 DE 59 oval.

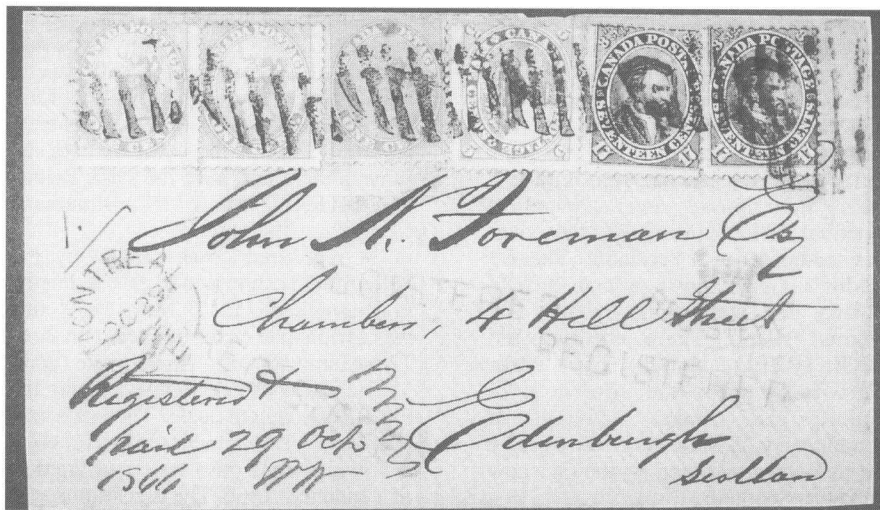


Figure 5. A registered double Cunard rate cover from Montreal, OC 29 66, addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland. The 8¢ registry fee was paid in stamps. The cover was carried on the Cunard 'Scotia' out of New York.



Figure 6. The unique registered Soldier's Letter. Mailed in Montreal, MY 17 67, this cover was registered with two red REGISTERED marks. The 2¢ postage and 8¢ registration were paid with a 10¢ decimal stamp. The cover was carried on the Allan 'Nestorian' out of Quebec, 18 May, and by the Glasgow Packet, 29 May. Courtesy of Charles G. Firby Auctions.

Soldiers' Letters were part of the English mail. According to the data given by the Duckworths<sup>(9)</sup>, Soldiers' Letters formed a significant part of the mail. Still, from the pence and decimal periods, only one registered Soldier's Letter to the UK has survived. Figure 6 shows this unique cover. Posted in Montreal, C.E., MY 17 67, the cover was addressed to Scotland. The 2¢ Soldier's Letter postage and the 8¢ registry fee were paid by the 10¢ decimal stamp. There are two red REGISTERED marks. The Allan 'Nestorian' carried the cover out of Quebec 18 May. Arriving at Londonderry 28 May, the cover went by rail to Belfast and then by the Glasgow Packet to Scotland.

#### **Mandatory Registration**

With a circular dated 24 Sept., 1867, the Postmasters of Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto and Hamilton were notified that letters to the UK containing coins must be registered<sup>(7)</sup>, C #102. If not registered in Canada, such letters would be registered in the U.K. and charged double the registry fee. The effective date was 1 Oct., 1867. The authors do not know of any examples of this mandatory registration of Canadian covers in the UK during the last few months of the decimal period. Several examples of Small Queen covers registered in England (and charged double registry fee) have been reported<sup>(10)</sup>, p.254.

#### **8¢ Registry Fee, Large and Small Queens**

Canada became a Dominion, 1 July, 1867. The first stamp issued by the new Dominion was the 15¢ Large Queen in March 1868. This stamp was intended to pay the reduced Cunard rate to the UK. Figure 7 shows a registered cover from Toronto, Ont., 15 March, 1869, to

London, England. A 15¢ Large Queen paid the Cunard rate postage. A 6¢ and two 1¢ Large Queens paid the 8¢ registration. Only one other 1868-1869 15¢ registered cover to the UK has been reported. Both of these covers bore the same address and have the same British REGISTERED, MR 27 69 postmarks.

A registered cover carried by the Allan Line is shown in Figure 8. Posted in Dunnville, U.C., 5 May, 1869, this was a triple rate cover franked with three 12½¢ Large Queens. A triple rate (up to 1½ oz.) was not recognised under the old British weight scale. The scale was changed by Department Order No. 66<sup>(7)</sup>, B #37 and triple rates were permitted as of 1 January, 1866. The registration was marked with a red REGISTERED and paid with a 6¢ and a 2¢ Large Queen.

Registration was not limited to letter mail. Book packets to the UK could also be registered – for 8¢. Figure 9 shows a rare example of a registered book packet wrapper. Sent by Allan packet, the postal rate was 7¢ for four ounces<sup>(11)</sup>. The registration was 8¢ for a total of 15¢ paid with four 3¢ and three 1¢ Large Queens. The package was mailed in Quebec, C.E., 23 April, 1869, and addressed to Yorkshire, England.

#### **The 8¢ Registered Letter Stamp**

The Post Office Act 1875, effective 1 October, 1875, authorised special stamps to pay registry fees. For letters to the UK, the Act authorised an 8¢ blue stamp. The October 1875 Official Postal Guide stated that the 8¢ RLS should be affixed to a letter addressed to any place in the UK (to register that letter). Unfortunately the registered letter stamps were not available. The printer had been asked to print the 5¢ Large Queen and three registered letter stamps. The 5¢ Large Queen was ready



Figure 7. Posted in Toronto, Ont, MR 15 69, this cover was addressed to London, England. The Cunard postage was paid with a 15¢ Large Queen. The registry fee was paid with a 6¢ and two 1¢ Large Queens. The Cunard 'Russia' carried the cover out of New York, 17 March.



Figure 8. Registered from Dunnville, U.C., MY 5 1869, to Ireland. The 8¢ registry fee was paid with a 6¢ and a 2¢ Large Queen. Triple rate Allan postage was paid with three 12½¢ Large Queens. The Allan 'Nestorian' carried the cover out of Quebec, 8 May. There is a Dublin 18 May, 1869 receiving backstamp.



on time, the registered letter stamps were not. Some writers have given 15 November, 1875 as the date of issue of the registered letter stamps. This is a reasonable date but there is no documentary evidence. The philatelic evidence is consistent with a late November or early December date. The earliest registered covers appeared in December 1875 for the 2¢ RLS and January 1876 for the 5¢ RLS.

The earliest dated 8¢ RLS cover to the UK is shown in figure 10. This cover was mailed in London, C.W. on 2 March, 1876 and addressed to London, England. The double 5¢ preferred rate to the UK was paid with a 10¢ Small Queen. The 8¢ RLS paying registration was tied with a London, C.W. date stamp. Canada stamped the cover with a straight line REGISTERED. England added a REGISTERED LONDON oval. Only 17 8¢ RLS covers to the UK during the period of required use, 1876-1877, have been reported<sup>(10)</sup>, p.258.

#### **The 5¢ Registry Fee, 5¢ Registered Letter Stamp**

The green 5¢ RLS had been issued to pay the 5¢ registry fee on letters to the US. On 1 January, 1878, the registry fee on letters to the UK was reduced to 5¢<sup>(12)</sup>. The blue 8¢ RLS became obsolete. The green 5¢ RLS became the stamp required on registered letters to the UK.

The earliest dated example of the required and proper use of the 5¢ RLS on a cover to the UK is shown in figure 11. From Brockville, Ont. 13 March, 1878, the cover was addressed to London, England. A 5¢ Small Queen paid the preferred rate to the UK. A green 5¢ RLS paid the new reduced registry fee. In Canada, the cover was stamped REGISTERED. In England, it

was stamped with a REGISTERED LONDON oval.

The requirement for a 5¢ RLS on a registered overseas letter was repeated annually in the Official Postal Guides through January 1893. Then on January 1894, the Official Postal Guide announced that the registered letter stamps were being withdrawn. Those outstanding could still be used to pay a registry fee (and only a registry fee) but they were no longer required. The registry fees could be paid with Small Queens. The 5¢ registry fee on letters to the UK lasted for 42 years. The end came on 15 July, 1920 when the registry fee was raised to 10¢<sup>(13)</sup>.

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Figure 9. Bookpost from Quebec, C.E., AP 23 69, to Yorkshire, England. The postal charge for 4 oz. via Allan Line was 7¢. registry added 8¢. Four 3¢ and three 1¢ Large Queens paid the 15¢ total. The stamps were cancelled with the Quebec 2-ring 3. The book post packet was carried out of Portland, 24 April, by the Allan 'North American'.



Figure 10. Registered, double rate letter from London, C.W., MR 2 76, to London, England. A 10¢ Small Queen paid the double 5¢ preferred rate to the UK. A blue 8¢ registered letter stamp paid the registry fee. The cover was carried by the Allan 'Prussian' from Portland, 4 March.

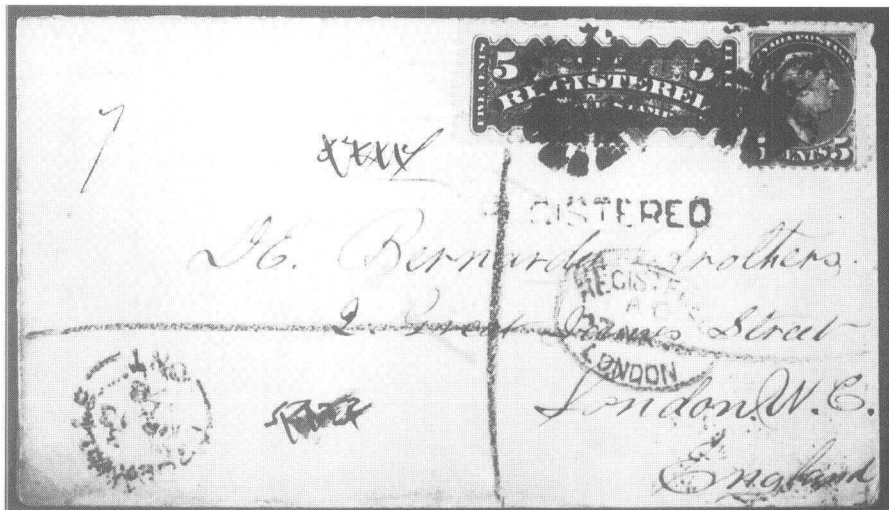


Figure 11. From Brockville, Ont., MR 13 78, this cover was registered to England with a green 5¢ RLS. Postage was paid with a 5¢ Small Queen. Courtesy of Harry W. Lussey

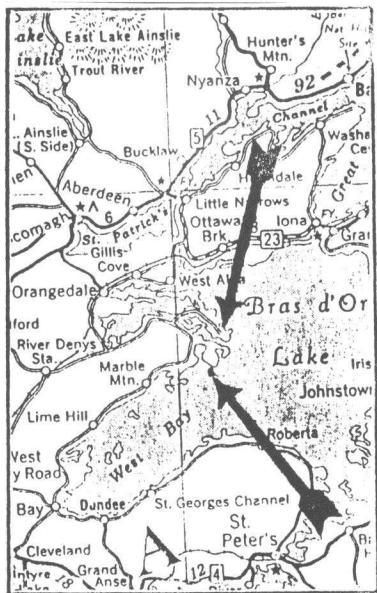
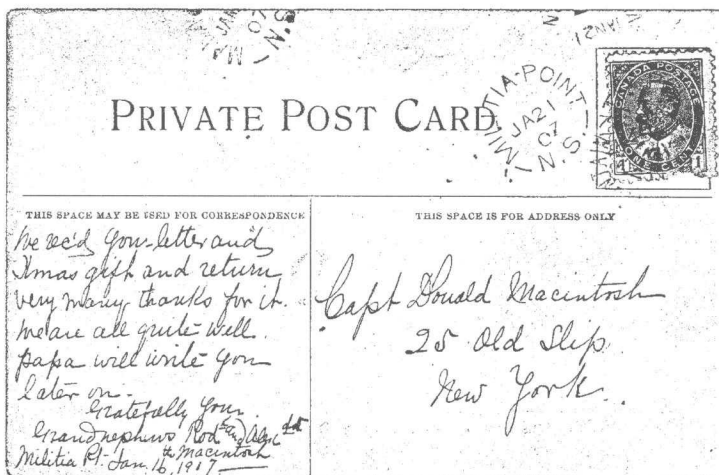
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**WHY KEEP ALL THAT JUNK IN YOUR STOCK BOOK?  
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# MILITIA POINT, NOVA SCOTIA

## J. Colin Campbell



Top arrow: Militia Point post office.

Bottom arrow: Militia Island.

A recent article in a Postal History Society of Canada Journal by Carl Munden, Dartmouth, N.S., provided the spark for this brief story.

Munden states that the origin of the name MILITIA POINT cannot be found in official journals. He records, however, that the older folk in the area, and the local historian, Mr. McKenzie of Christmas Island, say that the area in Inverness County, on Cape Breton Island, was used for training the militia during the 19th Century at the time of the Fenian Raids in the 1866-1871 period.

Records show that the 94th Victorian Battalion of Infantry (Argyle Highlanders), with the headquarters at Baddeck, was organised October 13, 1871 with the companies, at various times over the years, at Baddeck, Middle River, Grand Narrows, Forks

*Continued on page 388*

# TREASURE TROVE

John Hillson, FCPS

At Stampex in spring 1992 I stopped at the stand of a Los Angeles dealer, whose pipe-smoking image will be familiar to most through his extensive advertising, to ask if he had any Canada Small Queens. I don't know if he mistook me for a man of means, or simply wanted to get rid of an importuning nuisance, but the only item he mentioned he had was the 6¢ perf 12 x 11½. Whether or not this was the copy that was once owned by the late Sir George Williamson I do not know, but on asking the price, to be told £3,000, reflected on the effect of inflation that had occurred since 1971 when Cavendish sold that item at auction. I muttered that I would no doubt come across one sooner or later and departed to try to find a dealer whose ideas on what my pocket would stand would be more in line with reality.

Our American friend may have been thinking 'in your dreams', or even something less complimentary as I removed myself, but the fact is that I have been extraordinarily lucky since 1965 when I bought back the remnant of the Small Queen section of the general BNA collection I started ten years earlier, from the dealer to whom it had been sold. I say 'BNA' because anything issued by any of the territories that now make up the Dominion of Canada from 1851 on was grist to my mill – apart from postmarks. You may feel that I was a trifle ambitious, and of course if one attempts too much eventually one becomes hopelessly bogged down, as I did. But it is part of the learning process.

I decided to collect Small Queens, rather than Admirals, which was the other field that was considered, because

quite a nice lot of Admirals had been in the sold collection; it doesn't do to go back, one always grieves over the irretrievable treasures that one parted with; secondly, looking at the listing in Gibbons, the 1870 issue did not seem too formidable pricewise – used anyway, nor too complicated.

## Luck

The remainder of my Small Queens had been put into a house auction with an estimate of £3.10/- (£3.50 to the youngsters), so I said yes. I would give £3.10/- for them. 'You've got to put in a bid'. 'Oh, all right then, I'll bid £3.10/-', bemused not for the first time by the labyrinthine workings of the professional mind. Unluckily for him and luckily for me no one else wanted them. The lot included a fair number of 5¢ stamps, both Montreal and Ottawa printings, a 6¢ with a 'Gretna, Man' squared circle postmark dated earlier than that in Whitehead's book, the then bible – did I say I didn't collect postmarks? – well not much – and five 10¢ examples, and maybe a few examples of the lower values; I remember being disappointed most of the 2¢ from my first collection had gone. One of the 10¢ turned out to have the re-entry from Row 9/9. I only discovered this some years later when I borrowed the CPS file on Small Queens from the library. It was from the same file that I discovered what the 'Strand of Hair' on the 1¢ looked like so I thought it might be worth checking the 50 or so copies of that denomination I then had, in spite of the odds against. Sure enough there it was – an example of the medium 'Strand' sold me by the same dealer as my remnant. He'd wanted 2/6d (12½p)

for it to my amazement as the pair – it's in pair – was not exactly centred. "RPO" he said. "'B.C.' stands for 'British Columbia'" I said. "D--n, I read it as 'MC'" he said "I paid two bob for it, have it for sixpence." Which I did; eventually. Well, the pair is off-centre. To be honest I think the only reason I took it was the loss the dealer was taking.

I had no compunction about buying a 3¢ perf 12½ from Stanley Gibbons for 30/- however. In fact it was actually a strip of three. In the early '70s they had approval books of Small Queens in which was this horrible strip of three described as SG 83b, the pale rose-red shade in the old numbering before some clever clogs got them to revise the list. It really was horrible, both outer stamps being very badly damaged, but greenhorn though I was, I thought the stamps were Indian Reds, and the stamp in the middle was all right, fairly lightly cancelled in fact, so it was not much of a gamble if I were wrong, that stamp was at worst worth the asking price.

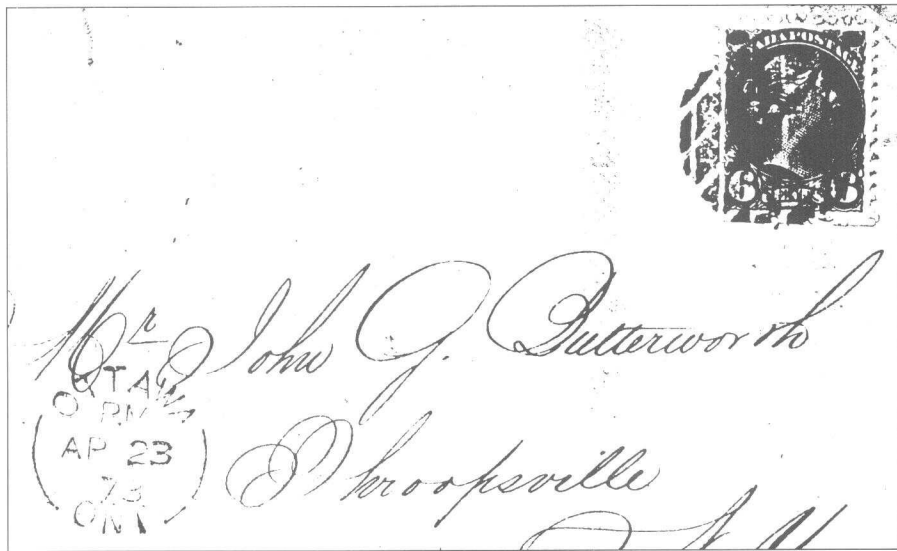
The middle stamp was quickly and carefully separated from its defective companions. It was not 'perfed' until some years later when after a visit to the late and very much lamented Matthew Carstairs at his home, he showed me a '12½' on cover which was in the exact same shade as this, and it seemed to be worthwhile checking it. Surprise, surprise.

### **Judgement**

I think only twice have I actually spotted something before buying it, that looked as if it might bear further investigation. The first was in a Glasgow stamp shop (Aba for those who remember it) where, in a remainder lot of a Canadian collection, I noticed, the second time

around, a 2¢, on piece with a really awful 3¢, which had an interesting smudge of colour in the bottom margin. Thinking that either it was an ink smear, or a variety I had been looking for for twenty years the price was asked. The SG minimum handling charge at that time was 5p, which is all the stamp catalogued, so the dealer, who was a very nice man who not long after had to retire due to ill health said I could have it for nothing. Getting it under a good glass at home showed it to be as good an example of the unplated latent entry as one can get. There is an illustration of it on p.53 of my 'Small Queens' book (2nd edition – the first doesn't have 53 pages). I told Jimmy, the dealer, what it was; I think he was as pleased as I – as he said he would not have known what to charge for it if he had known about it, and I certainly didn't know at the time what it was worth – as at least one Canadian member can confirm. Nice man, but then he is a Scot, so one would expect no less.

The second time was an item in the CPS Auction at the Chesterfield Convention. In the postmark section was a pair of 6¢ adorned by what is perhaps the commonest of all Squared Circle postmarks – lot 628. The 6¢ is probably my favourite value so I tend to be interested in any lot comprised of it – and particularly a multiple as there is often a fair chance on Ottawa printings of at least one showing a re-entry (why am I telling you this?). It appeared that both stamps in this particular pair had re-entries, quite good ones too, so I was prepared to fight for it. It was estimated at £6 and my opening bid got it! One supposes that because of the commonplace postmark (Toronto) it was of no interest to either the previous owner or anyone else. When I eventually came to draw the varieties on stamp



Cover bearing 6¢ Small Queen perf. 12 x 11½, a rare variety. Editor's note: in order to reproduce the stamp 'actual size', the illustration has been cropped, no philatelic markings have been lost.

matts the left hand stamp turned out to be the position R9/1 major re-entry from the 'C' pane of the 'Montreal' plate. Major re-entries from this plate are as scarce, if not scarcer, than the full blooded 5¢ on 6¢'s.

### The Big One

So what of the 6¢ perf 12 x 11½, one of the major Canadian varieties? Did I ever come across one? Well, yes. At the Bournemouth Convention last year. My favourite Canadian dealer, as those who were there will know, attended that convention, and had brought some things for me to look at which he thought might be of interest. Among them was a clean, slightly reduced cover used at Ottawa in April 1873, priced modestly as always with that gentleman, as a normal. Well it was obviously asking me to buy it so I did.

When I got it home I wondered whereabouts in my collection it should rest, it looked to me like an early Montreal printing though April 1873 is very early for an 11½ 6¢ – they don't normally come much before November. But it looked like 11½ up the side so I checked it – sure enough 11.6 as near as may be. I checked the top to make sure it was 12 – 11.8. At this point the penny dropped. First thing was to check the illustration of the Williamson copy – 11.8 x 11.6. Then the stamp was checked again – twice. Then photocopied and the photocopy checked. Then all four sides of the stamp again. The perfs hadn't moved. It is one supposes the Small Queen equivalent of buying a 2¢ Large Queen and on getting it home finding it is printed on laid paper – and I confidently expect to acquire one any day now!

Very little has been written in 'Maple Leaves' about this rarity. The only substantial reference that I could find was in an article on 'Canada and Compulsory Registration' by one of our Fellows, the late George Searles, in Vol. 10, No. 11, pp.273-278.

The cover he illustrates as an example of compulsory registration dated June 1873 has two single examples of the variety, and the following is what he had to say about the stamp and which is I think worth reprinting in full as not every member will have a complete run of back numbers:

"This cover is probably unique. Even if all the information it gives were not enough the two 6¢ Small Heads would make it so. They are an unrecorded variety. The perforation on the two single 6¢ stamps on the cover measure  $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  – not the catalogued  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ . As to the rarity of this variety there is no doubt. In the 1930s Small Heads in bulk were easy to obtain. After going through many thousands only one copy was found measuring  $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ . Many years later I found another copy so with those on the cover – just four copies in all. There are many more copies of the 3c Indian Red  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  known than this 6¢ variety.

For this reason I think the cover illustrated is unique.

How did it happen that the perforation came  $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ ? I found no other Small Heads from the 1¢ to the 10¢ with this perforation variety. The earliest dated copies of the  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$  perf are 1873.

Brig. M. A. Studd who made a

wonderful study of the Small Heads and recorded the results of his research in the *Philatelic Journal of G.B.* in 1932 gives the date for the earliest 6¢  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$  as 5 November, 1873. This cover was posted early in June 1873 so it could be from one of the first 6¢ sheets perforated which could account for it being  $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  instead of  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ .\*

As the illustrations of this cover are reproduced to the exact size of my photographs, members of the C.P.S. of G.B. can measure the perforations for themselves."

Measuring the perfs on the illustration confirms again the actual measurements on my 40 year old Instanta, the one that only goes up to perf 16, is 11.8 x 11.6 almost dead. A photocopy of my 'Treasure Trove' is reproduced with the same invitation as Mr Searles'. It should be of particular interest to its previous owner, one of our American members.

A question asked at Bournemouth was 'Do you actually LOOK at your stamps?' Do you? How much treasure is lying in your collection unnoticed? But if it is of Small Queens please do not trouble yourself, I ain't finished yet.

\*Problem is the 3¢ p.  $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$  was in use as early as Jan. 1873 so why is this 6¢ the 'wrong way round' – another Small Queen enigma.

**WHEN DID YOU LAST  
INTRODUCE  
A NEW MEMBER?**



# THE CANADIAN ARMY IN BRITAIN, 1939-45

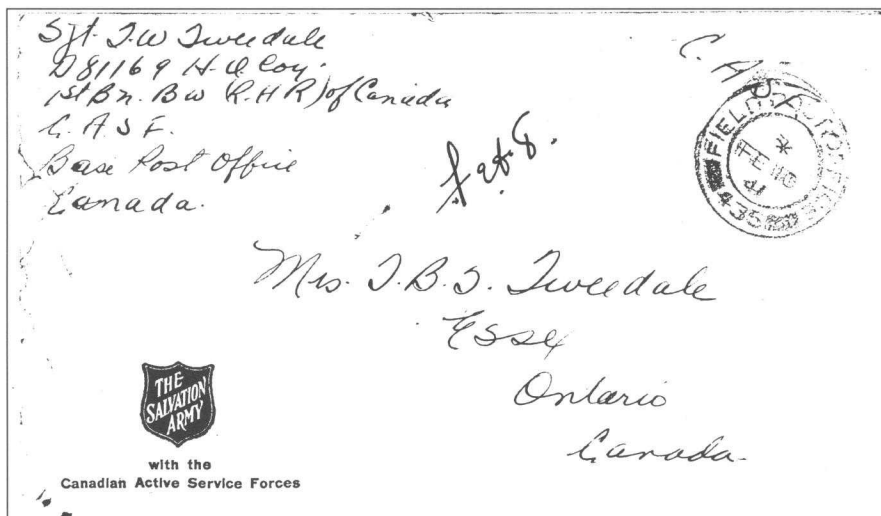
Kim Dodwell

I am sometimes asked by collectors of British postal history how they can find Canadian World War II forces material relating to their town or county collecting interests. In this article I will describe some of what is available, and how it can be recognised. It can be no more than a guide as lack of space precludes a complete list of what is potentially available and giving full dates to the innumerable moves made by Canadian FPOs and units. An invaluable book, 'The Canadian Military Posts, Volume 2' by W. J. Bailey & E. R. Toop (hereinafter 'B&T') is essential for a serious collector of this material, but although it gives much useful detail, it does not tell the whole story.

I must start with some explanation for the neophyte military postal historian. FPOs can be divided into 'Static' and 'Mobile' FPOs. The former served depots, hospitals, training centres, etc., that moved seldom, if ever. The latter served what may be termed 'the combat army'. The First Canadian Army consisted of its Headquarters (HQ) and the 1st and 2nd Corps. Each corps consisted of a HQ and two or three divisions. In turn, each division consisted of a HQ and two or three brigades. In addition to these divisional brigades there were two independent armoured brigades. Brigades and above were known as 'formations' and each formation had one, sometimes two, FPOs serving it. The brigades were subdivided into units, either infantry battalions or armoured (tank) regiments; each unit comprised about 600 men. Additionally there were smaller units made up of specialists, such as artillerymen, engineers, transport

drivers, etc., attached to formations. Units did not have their own FPOs, but were served by those of the parent formation; they did have, however, Postal Orderlies who, at their post office desk within the unit headquarters, applied the Unit Orderly Room handstamp to the back of outgoing mail, thus authenticating its eligibility for concession rate postage. This handstamp is vital to the historian as it shows the unit's name and the date. The same information was also on the handstamps of the RCAF's units – the Squadrons.

The manner in which the formations and units were organised was known as the 'Order of Battle' (ORBAT), and B&T give the ORBATs for all the Canadian divisions, together with somewhat sketchy details of the movements of formation FPOs. They do not cover unit movements or dates, and for these the collector must turn to either the War Diary maintained by each unit, or the unit's Regimental History, where it exists. The War Diaries, which are usually very dry, factual records, are lodged in the National Archives of Ottawa, but copies of most of them can be found (with some difficulty!) at the British Public Record Office in London. Regimental histories of most units, especially the infantry and armour, have been written, some under regimental arrangements, others published as normal books by professional authors. They vary greatly in quality and usefulness to the historian, but are often invaluable in establishing where a unit was at a given time. The Imperial War Museum library holds copies of many regimental histories; other copies



*HQ Black Watch billeted in Roedean Girls School, Brighton 14 Jan-14 Feb 1941.*

occasionally appear in second hand bookshops.

It is important to appreciate that while the Canadian datestamps used by Canadian FPOs are distinctive and logical in their lettering and numbering, they were in short supply when the FPOs arrived in Britain from Canada. To make good the shortage, British-type datestamps were made available and the numbers on these datestamps bear no relationship to the number of the office using them. B&T give illustrations of

most of the handstamps used in each office, and a useful table correlating the relationship between the British numbers and the FPO using it. Where appropriate in the list below the Canadian FPO number is shown first, with the British-type number in brackets after it. Static and mobile FPOs are shown as are a number of units, against the counties that 'hosted' them, whether in permanent camps and barracks, tented camps, or requisitioned civilian billets.

### **A County List of many of the Towns and Villages of Britain that hosted the Canadian Army in 1939-45**

CID – Canadian Infantry Division; CAD – Canadian Armoured Division; CIB – Canadian Infantry Brigade; CAB – Canadian Armoured Brigade; CBPO – Canadian Base Post Office; CAR – Canadian Armoured Regt; Hldrs – Highlanders; R (prefix) – Royal; R (suffix) – Regt; Fd – Field.

#### **Aberdeenshire**

Aboyne. 2 Coy, Cdn Forestry Corps, 1941++?

#### **Argyllshire**

Acharacle. 2 CID's Calgary Hldrs. Oct 43. 3 CID's Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Hldrs,

Jan 43, and others. Used SC1 (648).  
Inventory. Combined Operations Training  
Camps. Aug 6-14. Princess Patricia's  
Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and  
Edmontons, prior to Spitzbergen raid; 1 CID  
2 CIB Feb 43, 3 CIB Mar 43, prior to Sicily  
landing; 3 CID Aug-Sept 43, training for  
Normandy landing.

### **Ayrshire**

A staging area for 1 CID on its way North to  
embark for Sicily landings. Darvel. Hastings  
and PE Regt. May 43; Auchinleck Camp.  
48th Hldrs, May 43.

### **Berkshire**

Hungerford, Part of 5 CAD for six weeks on  
arrival from Canada, late 41.

### **Buckinghamshire**

Slough. No. 2 Cdn Tobacco Depot.  
Taplow. Nos. 7 & 11 General Hosps. SC28  
(824).

Wootton Park. 2 CIB in anti-invasion role,  
23-30 Jun 40.

### **Cambridgeshire**

Chippenham. 4 CADs 22 CAR. 1 Oct-11  
Nov 43.

### **Dumfriesshire**

Annan. Staging area for 1 CAB, pre-Sicily  
(see Ayrshire).

### **Essex**

Colchester. H.Q. A/A & A/Tank Gps., Cdn  
Troops. SC9 (115). Mar 41-Apr 44. Cdn  
Convalescent Hosp. SC36 (240). Apr 44-Mar  
45. 18 Genl. Hosp. (Cherry Tree) SC37 (831)  
Jun 44-Jun 45.

### **Fife**

Dunfermline/Rosyth. PPCLI & Edmontons  
19-25 Apr 40 for aborted expedition to  
Trondheim, Norway.

### **Hampshire (1)**

Static FPOs: Basingstoke. No. 1 Cdn  
Neurological Hosp. & 11 Repat Gp. SC29  
(825). Bournemouth. CBPO No. 1 (also  
RCAF's SC14 (539). Borden. HQ  
Reinforcements. SC3 (320). Reinforcement  
Groups – B.Gp. SC5 (247), C.Gp. SC6 (321),

D.Gp. SC11 (4). Cove. E.Gp.  
Reinforcements, SC12 (496). (Note – most  
Reinforcement Groups became Repatriation  
Gps in 1945). Bramshot. Nos. 2 & 22  
General Hosps. SC26 (822).

### **Hampshire (2)**

Mobile FPOs. Mainland Hampshire had little  
to do with Mobile FPOs until the end of  
1943, when elements of 2nd Cdn Corps  
began to move from Sussex to areas nearer to  
the South Coast ports in preparation for D-  
Day. In the spring of 1944, 3 CID was at  
Sway and the units were in tented camps.  
Some of these were established camps, such  
as Halnaker, Hiltisbury, Hursley and Barton  
Stacey, others, the 'Tent Towns', were  
temporary ad hoc sites.

From mid-April Orderly Room  
handstamps were replaced by Unit Censor  
handstamps, struck on the face of covers,  
bearing only serial numbers. The question of  
which units were allocated which numbers is  
still being researched, but many are known.  
Two Hampshire examples from the many  
will have to suffice:

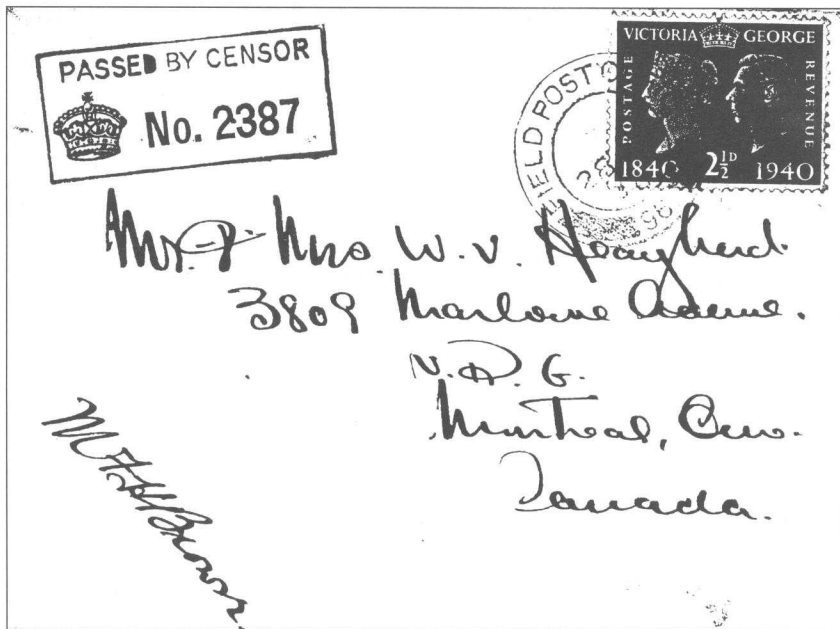
Horndean. Queens Own Rifles of Canada.  
Unit Censor no. 11867, with FPO 486. 15  
Apr-5 Jun 44.

Lee-on-Solent. 1st Hussars (6 CAR). Unit  
Censor No. 11858 with FPO Ca.2. 15 Apr-5  
Jun 44.

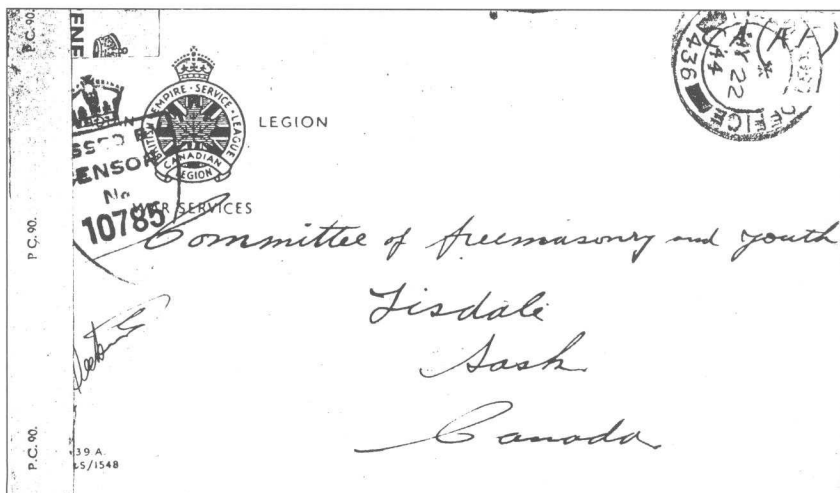
### **Hampshire (3)**

The ISLE OF WIGHT saw the Canadian  
army in two different periods. As it could be  
sealed off from the mainland, it was ideal  
from the point of view of security, and was  
used for training before the Dieppe Raid,  
when 4 and 6 CIB of the 2nd Division were  
there. Examples:- Norris Castle – South  
Saskatchewan Regt; Ryde – 6 CIB HQ and  
Royal Rifles, later to Freshwater; Parkhurst –  
Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, then to North  
Court. Norton and Sway Camps – Essex  
Scottish Regt. all in the period 18 May to 4  
July 42.

The Second period was from the first week  
in December, 1943, to the first week of April  
1944, when 7 CIB of 3 CID were undergoing  
pre-invasion training. Examples:-  
Ryde – Canadian Scottish Regt; Ft.  
Goldenhill – part of Cameron Hldrs of



Cover from the Edmonton Regt; in Wooton Park, Bucks 23-30 Jun 1940.



The S. Sask. Regt; in Broome Park, near Folkestone, Kent, prior to D-Day.

Ottawa. Bramble Chines, Freshwater – 6 Fd. Coy, RCE.

### **Kent**

Saw little of the Canadian army until 1944, when, as part of the brilliantly successful Allied deception plan, 'Operation Fortitude', 2nd Canadian Corps HQ [FPOHC2 (640) & THC2 (641)] with supporting troops, including 2 CID, moved into the Dover-Folkestone area to threaten the Pas de Calais with invasion. They remained there until the first week of July, although from 24 April to 21 May 2 CID were away in Scunthorpe. As with 3 CID units in Hampshire at this period, Orderly Room handstamps were replaced with Unit Censor numbers. Examples are:-  
Denton Park Camp: Essex Scottish Regt (10751) with FPO TC2 (433) or (434)  
Wooton Park Camp, Shepherd's Wall: Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (10784). FPO TC2 (433) or (434)  
Waldershore Park: 6 Fd Regt (10742) FPO TC2 (433)  
Folkestone: Black Watch (10759) & Calgary Hldrs (10746) TC2 (433) or (435)

### **Lancashire**

Manchester. CBPO No. 1, 1941 to 1943 (then to London, q.v.) No. 2 Cdn tobacco Depot.

### **London**

Cockspur St. Canadian Military HQ SC7 (465).  
Acton. Canadian Postal Corps HQ. SC1 (322), (200) & (471). CBPO No. 1 ('43 to '45).

### **Norfolk**

Both the 5th Armoured Division in July, 1943, and the 4th Armoured Division in Sep-Oct 43 used the extensive Brecklands training areas for advanced manoeuvres and exercises. Units were stationed in nearby camps and towns, e.g.:  
Hunstanton: Perth Regt (11 CIB), Argyll & Sutherland Hldrs (10 CIB)  
Kings Lynn. Irish Regt (11 CIB) Algonquin Regt (10 CIB).  
Thetford. Governor General's Foot Guards (4 CAB).  
Yarmouth was used as a top-security training area for the secret tanks that 'swam' ashore in the van of the assault on D-day; 2 CAB's 1st

Hussars (11858) sent 2 squadrons there in December 43.

### **Northamptonshire**

The only contact the county had with the army was a brief but hectic period, 29 May-6 Jun 40, when just after the fall of France, 'Canadian Force', of four brigades under Gen McNaughton, formed the main reserve for the British Army. It was rushed to Northampton, as a strategically central position, with 1 CIB in Wellingborough, 2 CIB in Kettering, 3 CIB in Northampton, with the Divisional Postal Unit occupying 'four small empty shops in the Westonia Estate, Weston Favell'. The hospitality of the citizens was so overwhelming that for the sake of the efficiency of the battalions they were moved to a camp under canvas at Boughton Park. 2 and 3 CIB remained there until 23 June. At this period 1 CID were using British-type FPO daters nos. 95, 96, 97, 98 & 99, but I have not yet been able to find out which brigades used which numbers.

### **Northumberland**

The battle-training ranges in Redesdale were used by the artillery regiments of 4 CAD, in the first three weeks of December 43, and again 10-20 Apr 44.

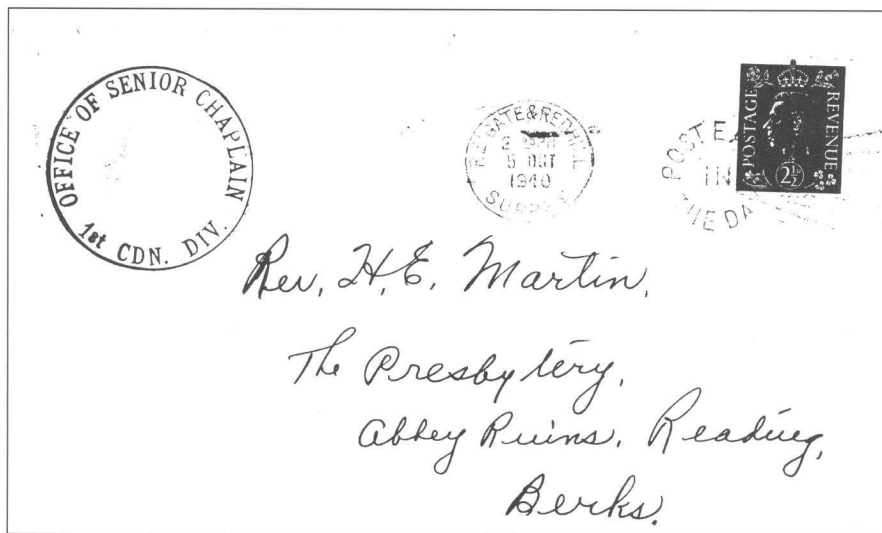
### **Nottinghamshire**

Nottingham. Army Distribution Office – Cdn Section SC8 (853). 2 May 44-end 45.  
Retford. Cdn Reinforcement Unit 4 May 44-?? Dec 44. 9 Repat Depot 31 Aug 45-1946 SC38 (621).

### **Oxfordshire**

'Canadian Force' left Northamptonshire (q.v.) on 23 June (less 1 CIB which was the only Cdn formation involved in the abortive attempt to reinforce the crumbling French, via Brest) and were in Oxfordshire until 2 July with 3 CIB in Blenheim Park.

Oxfordshire (and neighbouring counties) was traversed by many Canadian units during training exercises in 1941 – 3, particularly in the biggest of them all, 'Spartan', lasting from 16 Feb to 12 Mar 43 and involving more than four divisions, British and Canadian, which *The Times* described as "the greatest offensive exercise in the history of the British



*1 CID at Reigate, Surrey, Jul 1940-Nov 1941. Use of the civilian P.O. was permitted as concessionary postal rate was not involved.*

Isles". However, units were constantly on the move, and although the FPOs moved with their formations, it is almost impossible to ascribe mail to any one town or village.

#### **Pembrokeshire**

Castlemartin (Linney Head). The field firing ranges here were used by the armoured regiments of 5 CAD in the summers of 1942 and 1943. The Strathcona Regt, for instance was there throughout July 42 and again in the first half of June 43. Regiments of 2 CAB also went there in 1942.

#### **Perthshire**

Crieff. 3 CIB trained for mountain warfare, 23 Apr 43 and remained in that area (except for a short period at Inverary) until embarkation for Sicily operation in mid-June using FPO SC16 (648).

#### **Somerset**

Minehead. 4 CAD used the field firing range in June '43.

#### **Suffolk**

Minehead. The Brecklands training area

spills over from Norfolk (q.v.) into Suffolk, and was used by both Armoured Divisions in 1943. Higham Heath hosted the 22 CAR (Canadian Grenadier Guards), for example, 17 Sep 1-Oct 43.

#### **Surrey**

Farnham. Cdn Section, 2nd Echelon. SC10 (119). Apr 41-Feb 46.

Peper Harow. Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps Vehicle Depot.

Aldershot. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Cdn Divisions were all stationed in and around the town soon after their arrival in Britain. Although B&T ascribe them all to Hampshire, several units spilt over into Surrey, e.g. Ash, Elstead, Millford and Tilford.

Bookham. No. 10 Repat. Depot. SC18. 31 Aug 45 onwards.

1st Cdn Corps was in Surrey in a tactical (anti-invasion) role from Jul 40 to Nov 41, stationed as follows:-

Leatherhead. 1 Corps HQ, HC1 (452) & (454) & THC1 (453).

Reigate. 1 CID DC1 (314) & TC1 (313).  
1 CIB C1 (310).

Oxted-Godstone. 2 CIB C2 (311).  
Caterham 3 CIB C3 (312).

### Sussex

Although Aldershot, with its concentration of peace-time barracks and camps remained the reinforcement and rear base for the army throughout the war, Sussex, from the end of 1941 onwards was the county that saw the most of the Canadian fighting army until they went overseas; Sussex collectors are really spoilt for choice.

The threat of a German invasion receded after the grim days of 1940, but thereafter there was always the possibility of raids from the sea. Beaches and cliff top defences were manned by Canadians from Rye west to Wittering, with reserves of the forward battalions in the hinterland of downs and valleys. Other brigades lay further back, around Horsham, while the armoured units trained in the Ashdown Forest from camps in the Crowborough area. There were few towns in Sussex whose streets did not sound with the tramp of Canadian boots on the innumerable training exercises, often by night, and whose pubs did not ring to the sound of Canadian off-duty revelry.

The problem for the philatelist is that a unit would seldom stay in the same area for more than a few months. Brigades changed places with brigades within the same division, and divisions with divisions. To record every move would fill a book (perhaps somebody will write it one day), and I can only list some of the places that saw significant Canadian occupation, and for each mention just one of the formations or units that were there. For some places that saw almost continuous Canadian presence in 1942-43 this could be only 10% of the entries possible, had space permitted.

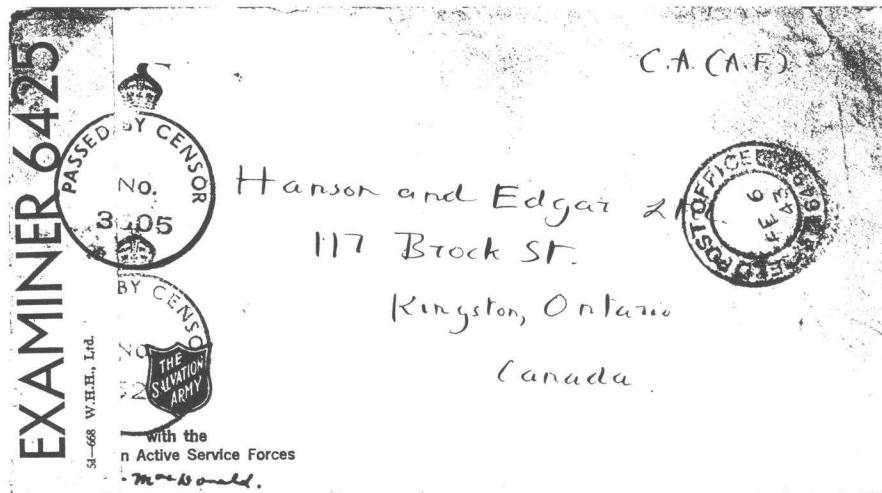
Alfriston. 3 CIB & 51 Btn, 1 A/Tk Regt C3 (312) Aug 42-May 43.  
Angmering. R22R 17 Nov 41-Jan 42.  
Ardingly. 2 CID HQ in Brook Ho. DC2 (432) & TC2 (433) spring 42.  
Arundel. RCR Apr-Aug 42  
Bexhill. Calgary Hldrs. 3 Jul-12 Aug 42 & Mid Oct-19 Dec 43.  
Billingshurst. 2 CID HQ, DC2 (432) & TC2 (433). Sep 42-winter 43.  
Bognor Regis. RCR Jan 42-Apr 42.

Brighton. 7 Recce. R. 7 Oct 42-6 May 43.  
Crowborough. British Columbia Regt. 19 Nov 43-mid Jul 44.  
Denton. Carleton & York. 10 Aug 42-4 Mar 43.  
Eastbourne. Black Watch. Mid Oct 41-mid Jan 42.  
E. Wittering. Black Watch. Oct 42-Feb 43.  
Hassocks. Q.O. Rifles. 9 Aug-18 Oct 42.  
Hastings. West Nova Scotia Regt (WNSR). 8 May 42-early Jul 42.  
Haywards Heath. Algonquin R. 24 Nov 43-mid-Jul 44.  
Horsham. Slinfold Camp. Essex Scottish R. end Sep 43-mid Apr 44. Denne Park. Royal Regt of Canada (RRC). 29 Sep 43-mid Apr 44. Strood Park. R. Hamilton L.I. S29. Sep 43-mid Apr 44.  
Hove. Black Watch. End Sep 43-Apr 44.  
Lewes. 66 Fd. Regt. 8 Oct 41-15 May 42.  
Littlehampton. 48th Hldrs. 19 Nov 41-4 Aug 42.  
Maresfield. RRC. 18 Dec 41-4 Mar 42.  
Middleton-on-Sea. Essex Scottish. 20 Aug 42-17 May 43.  
Newhaven/Peacehaven. Q.O. Cameron Hldrs. Jul 41-15 May 42.  
Petworth. 6 Fd. Regt. 6 Aug-9 Oct 42.  
Pulborough. Black Watch. 15 May-end Jul 42.  
Rustington. Stormont. Dundas & Glengarry Hldrs. 4 Aug-3 Sept 43.  
Rye. Essex Scottish. 5 Jul-10 Aug 41 & 16 Oct-early Dec 41.  
Shoreham. Edmonton R. 24 Nov 41-8 Aug 42.  
Seaford. Seaforth Hldrs. 12 Apr-5 May 43.  
Selsey Bill. RCR. Nov 41-Jan 42.  
Steyning. Cameron Hldrs of Ottawa. 7 Aug-5 Oct 42.  
St. Leonards. Essex Scottish. Early Dec 41-29 Apr 42.  
Uckfield. Argyll & Sutherlands Hldrs. 6 Nov 43-14 Feb 44.  
Worthing. WNSR. 22 Nov 41-8 May 42.  
Walberton. 1 A/Tk Regt & HQ 1 CIB [C1 (310)]. 19 Nov 41-Apr 42.  
Winchelsea. RRC. 5 Jul-11 Aug 41 & 17 Oct-18 Dec 41.  
West Grinstead. 7 Recce R. 7 Aug-7 Oct 42.

### Warwickshire

No. 16 RCAF Hospital, Marsdon Green





*From 'A' Coy, Stormont; Dundas & Glengarry Hldrs at Barrowdale, Ardnamurchan, 27 Jan-15 Feb 1943. The double censoring is because the area was in the Scottish security zone.*

SC34 (827). No. 1. Cdn General Hospital, Birmingham.

#### **Wiltshire**

Marlborough-Swindon-Hungerford. 5 CAD were in this area on arrival in England, 24 Oct to end 41.  
Larkhill. School of Artillery (British Army) – most Canadian gunner regiments spent varying periods here, e.g. 23rd (Self-Propelled) Royal Canadian Artillery (4 CAD) 23-30 Nov 43.

#### **Yorkshire**

Scunthorpe. Units of 4 CIB and 5 CIB – FPOs C4 (434) & C5 (435) respectively, underwent tidal river crossing practice on the Ouse. 25 Apr-21 May 44.

\* \* \*

RCAF Squadrons. I have touched on the whereabouts of some RCAF static offices above, but space does not permit coverage of the RCAF Squadrons that moved from one airfield to another and (sometimes) back again with

considerable frequency. Among several books that give the information required by a collector, 'The Squadrons of the Royal Air Force and Commonwealth, 1918-1988' by James J. Halley, now available from the RAF Museum Shop, Hendon at £15 is among the cheapest. With the aid of the book and given the squadron number showing in the Orderly room handstamp on the back of RCAF covers from Britain, it is possible to find material from these counties:- Aberdeenshire, Anglesey, Banffshire, Cornwall, Devon, Durham, Caithness, Co. Fermanagh, East Lothian, Fife, Gloucestershire, Lincoln, Orkney, Ross & Cromarty, Shropshire, Shetland and, especially, Yorkshire. These are additional to the counties covered under Army occupation, almost all of which also saw RCAF squadrons.

RCN Fleet Mail offices. These are covered in B&T. Apart from the RCN's

British HQ in Leith House, London EC2, FMOs were in Glasgow, Greenock, Liverpool, Londonderry and Plymouth.

The GB collector who looks up his county in this list may next wonder where to find such material. Bulk lots of WWII FPO covers still sometimes come up at auction, but with decreasing frequency. The best course is to work through a specialist Military Postal History dealer, and those with the largest stocks are in Canada itself, where 90% of the covers we have discussed were consigned in the first place. Material from Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire is still easy to find, with basic covers costing a few pounds apiece, but even material from counties that only saw a few Canadians needs knowledge and patience to find rather than a deep purse. Good hunting!

## MILITIA POINT *contd. from p. 375*

Bridge, Nyanza, Iona, Inverness, etc. It is important to note that much of the training took place on Militia Island, not at Militia Point. (See map) The Island is, and was, uninhabited with location at 45/50N 60/56W.

The post office was located at Militia Point and was designated as rural. In Inverness County at 45/51N 60/57W, it opened 1 June, 1896 and closed 14 February, 1948. There were four postmasters over its 52 year life.

A brief check of all Gazetteers of Canada failed to show any other use of the word MILITIA as a name. A close second was MILITIA POINT in Alberta at 53/28N 112/58W.



## THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Postal History Society of Canada publishes an award-winning quarterly journal, sponsors seminars on Canadian postal history, and awards prizes for the best postal history exhibit at philatelic shows across Canada.

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**From the earliest days of the Canadian postal service, theft by dishonest employees was a problem. Introduction of the Money Letter and, in 1855, the Registration System, failed to resolve these difficulties completely. This article examines a typical instance of such misbehaviour.**

## **A DISHONEST POSTAL OFFICIAL**

### **R. B. Winmill**

During the mid-1880s, because of the disappearance of several unregistered and registered letters which originated in, passed through, or were destined for St. Thomas, it seemed something was seriously amiss in the 'Flower City'. This was credible because, even in its earlier days, this post office was under suspicion. However, on this occasion the Postal Inspector can scarcely be faulted for his apparently tardy response.

Investigations had been undertaken following the disappearance of several letters such as those posted by the Cochrane Manufacturing Company on 10 November 1884 to St. Thomas and containing \$200 and \$315 respectively<sup>(1)</sup>, or that posted by Mrs J. P. Moore to Mrs J. Weyell of St. Thomas, dated 8 November, 1884, and containing £7<sup>(2)</sup>. The investigation centred on St. Thomas proved fruitless because it was determined that the losses were sustained between Winnipeg and Emerson, due to theft by a railway mail clerk, A. B. Campbell, who eluded justice by fleeing the country<sup>(3)</sup>.

Perhaps Inspector Barker and his assistant, Inspector Fisher, can be excused for not pursuing additional complaints promptly and with vigour, having already experienced a wild goose chase at St. Thomas.

Yet there were problems. A registered letter was allegedly posted by McDiarmid & Price, from Aylmer West

on 12 February, 1885. This letter, containing \$24, was never received. The entry in the PMG Report read, ". . . stated to have been contained in (a) mail package despatched from (the) loop line G.W. Railway<sup>(4)</sup> passing west, (on the) postal car, to (the) C.S. Railway<sup>(5)</sup> Post Office, but to have failed to reach the latter office."<sup>(6)</sup>

This incident was not followed immediately by further abstractions; however, a letter from I. T. Stevens, despatched from St. Thomas, 19 October, 1885, and containing \$54.35, was allegedly not received by the Merchants' Bank at London<sup>(7)</sup>. A letter from Brownsville, Manitoba, dated 28 October, 1885, disappeared at St. Thomas in transit to Dutton<sup>(8)</sup>. Finally, a registered letter from J. Stoliker of Highgate, containing \$50 and despatched to St. Thomas on 23 January, 1885, was allegedly not received.

#### **St. Thomas Under Scrutiny**

Given an obvious pattern of problems, careful scrutiny by the Post Office Inspector was instituted. Rumours were running rampant. For example, it was reported:

". . . Our Belmont correspondent says that the Post Office Inspector visited that village last week, and that there are rumours that his visit was connected with the reported disappearance of money from some registered letters." (St. Thomas Journal). Inspector Barker states that he has not been in Belmont

for years, and that there is absolutely no foundation for the above story.<sup>(10)</sup>

In an article of 18 March, 1886, it was stated "For some months past it has been apparent to Mr Barker, Post Office Inspector of the London District, that a dishonest person was operating in the St. Thomas post office, four registered letters passing through that office at different periods having mysteriously disappeared."<sup>(11)</sup> Thus it was that the report stated "Mr R. W. Barker, Post Office Inspector, has been investigating the disappearance of a letter at St. Thomas."<sup>(12)</sup>

Six days later, the efforts of Mr Fisher and Mr Barker paid off. There had been irregularities in signatures in the registered letter book<sup>(13)</sup> but these had been insufficient to secure an adequate case against the guilty party. However, the guilty party threw caution to the wind. His cardinal error was to steal the letter of a young high school student, Mr Harley McConnell. Mr McConnell was a tenacious and persistent victim. He pursued the matter rigorously, demonstrating that his money order, allegedly paid to a commercial traveller of the same name, had in fact not been so paid, thus the money order bore a forged endorsement.<sup>(14)</sup> Eventually the pressure brought to bear on the Assistant Postmaster antagonised him so that he dealt unwisely with the student. "Last week Mr McConnell went to the post office, and was ordered from the premises by Boggs. He thereupon wrote to Mr Barker, Post Office Inspector of this city, detailing all the circumstances connected with the case."<sup>(15)</sup>

### **An Arrest**

This incident provided the impetus for action and the culprit was arrested and

charged on 17 March:

"Geo. W. Boggs, assistant postmaster at St. Thomas, where he has been employed for sixteen years past, was arrested yesterday at the instance of Inspector Barker on a charge of forgery in connection with the stealing of registered letters, four of which had disappeared within (sic) a recent date. One of these contained a money order for \$43 which was cashed upon the forged signature of Harley McConnell."<sup>(16)</sup>

The above report is clearly in error because, as will be seen later, this was the fourth (of five) counts against Mr Boggs and this charge was later dropped for technical reasons. During the interrogation by Inspector Barker, Mr Boggs confessed to five thefts<sup>(17)</sup> so "Mr Barker caused a warrant for his arrest to be issued by Police Magistrate White, and he was taken into custody by Chief Fewings on Wednesday night".<sup>(18)</sup> There were other complaints; however Mr Boggs declined to confess and action on these was suspended. The following day Mr Boggs was arraigned on charges involving theft and forgery, before Police Magistrate White. Mr D. J. Donahue prosecuted, while Mr J. H. Coyne acted for the defendant<sup>(19)</sup>. More specifically, the accused "was charged with embezzling, stealing or destroying the following letters":

1. Letter posted and registered at Aylmer West on the 12th of February, 1885, by Messrs McDiarmid & Price addressed to R. W. Hill, Kingsmill, contents, \$24.
2. Letter posted and registered at St. Thomas West, on the 19th October, 1885 by Ira P. Stevens, addressed to Merchants Bank, London, contents, \$54.35.
3. Letter posted and registered at Brownsville, on the 28th November,

1886 (sic) by Thomas R. Woods, addressed to E. McDiarmid, Dutton, contents \$60.

4. Letter (unregistered) posted at Birtle, Manitoba, on or about 26th November, 1885, by Oscar F. Orr, addressed to Harley McConnell, St. Thomas, containing post office money order for \$43.

5. Letter posted and registered at Highgate on the 23rd February, 1886, by James Stoliker, containing \$50.<sup>(20)</sup>

Before considering these five charges, it is necessary to be familiar with the relevant sections of the Post Office Act:

79. Everyone who steals, embezzles, secretes or destroys any post letter is guilty of felony, and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years and not less than three years: unless such post letter contains any chattel, money or valuable security, in which case the offender shall be liable to imprisonment for life or for a term not less than five years.

80. Everyone who steals from or out of a post letter any chattel, money or valuable security, is guilty of felony and liable to imprisonment for life, or for a term not less than five years.

87. Everyone who forges, counterfeits or imitates any post office money order, or advice of such money order, or post office savings depositor's book, or authority of the Postmaster General for repayment of a post office savings bank deposit or of any part thereof with intent to defraud, is guilty of felony and liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding seven years, and not less than two years.

101. Everyone who, being a postmaster, wilfully destroys, mutilates or obliterates or refuses to

produce or deliver up to any inspector or other proper officer of the Post Office Department on demand, any book containing or which ought to contain the record of account of the money orders issued or paid, or of the registered letters or other business of his office, is guilty of misdemeanour.<sup>(21)</sup>

Further, there had been an additional charge of forgery concerning Harley McConnell with respect to the endorsement of the money order and, despite confessing to the forgery of Heyden's name in the Crocker case, this charge was never proceeded with. These actions were abandoned because the charges, upon conviction, would yield no additional prison time.<sup>(22)</sup> The McConnell case was eventually totally abandoned.

### Guilty

As each successive charge was read, Mr Boggs pleaded guilty. Rather than promptly sentence the accused on all charges, ". . . the (Police) Magistrate, said he would remand the accused until today, as he desired to give the case consideration".<sup>(23)</sup> The total sum involved in all cases proceeded with was only \$231.35.<sup>(24)</sup> "The Police Magistrate White has a very painful duty to perform today in sentencing the young man more especially so from the fact that the family has resided side by side with his own . . . for upwards of a quarter of a century and the duty of the Inspector in arresting the prisoner was also a painful one".<sup>(25)</sup>

While both the Magistrate's family and the Boggs family were neighbours, the Boggs family had resided in St. Thomas for about 50 years, with Mr Boggs having lived all his 32 years in that place.<sup>(26)</sup> He had always been of

good character and was well respected in the community. With a salary of \$900 per annum, a hefty sum, especially in a smaller community where an entry level employee in most concerns could anticipate \$300 per annum, and a simple cottage could be built for \$1,000 or so, what reason could Boggs have had to steal those relatively small sums? His only debt was \$112 he was responsible for as the consequence of co-signing a note.<sup>(27)</sup> He obviously possessed some assets. For example, the 'Advertiser' reported, ". . . George W. Boggs, the defaulting deputy postmaster at St. Thomas, has an insurance of \$11,000 on his life".<sup>(28)</sup>

### The Sentence

On the morning of 20 March, 1886, Boggs was hauled before the Magistrate who, despite repeated violations of the law, handed down the usual sentence in such cases: Boggs received a mere five years on each conviction, all running concurrently.<sup>(29)</sup> Was this because most postal crime at this time attracted minimal sentences?<sup>(30)</sup> However, one must ponder the family relationships and question possible motives for such a lenient sentence, given the seriousness and frequency of the felonies.

There are other peculiar elements to the case. For example, it was reported that ". . . there are numerous cases of losses of letters reported, a score or so being made known yesterday".<sup>(31)</sup> Yet none of these 20 alleged cases of disappearing letters ever appeared in the Postmaster General's Report. Why?<sup>(32)</sup> Moreover, the McConnell case, to which Boggs confessed his guilt to Mr Barker, never appears, as it should.<sup>(33)</sup> Indeed the Postmaster General's Report sloughs off the entire series of criminal acts thus: "Stolen by G. W. Boggs, an assistant in the St. Thomas Post Office who was

brought to trial and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. The loss in this case, as well as others noted below (see references to case no. 31) was made good by the Postmaster of St. Thomas."<sup>(34)</sup>

Presumably the other 20 or more victims, including young Mr McConnell, were not reimbursed. At this time, postmasters were held financially responsible for the misdeeds of their subordinates. Yet in this instance, Mr Boggs had assets. Why were they not attached? No evidence can be located to show that the Postmaster undertook legal action to recover damages from the convicted felon.

The case demonstrates the intricacies of a reasonably representative instance of postal dishonesty. Such problems plagued the St. Thomas post office from its earliest days, with suspensions, accusations and the like. In most cases the guilty party was never apprehended.

### References:

1. Canada, Post Office, 'Report of the Postmaster General for the Year Ended 30 June, 1885', Ottawa: MacLean, Roger & Co., 1886, Report Number 5, p.37, Cases 186/7.
2. Loc cit.
3. Loc cit.
4. Great Western Railway.
5. Canada Southern Railway.
6. P.M.G. report, op cit, p.49, case 233.
7. Canada, Post Office, 'Report of the Postmaster General for the Year ended 30 June, 1886', Ottawa: MacLean, Roger & Co., 1887, report number 5, p.29, case 31.
8. Ibid, p.31, case 68.
9. Ibid, p.37, case 166.

10. 'Last Minute Brevities' in the 'London Advertiser', 26 January, 1886, p.8, c3. It would have been better to tap a St. Thomas newspaper for a local point of view, however, there are no available files for papers of this era. Similarly, it would have been preferable to employ court records, but law libraries were unable to locate them.
11. 'A Dishonest P.O. Clerk' in the 'London Free Press', 18 March, 1886, p.3, c2.
12. 'A Lost Letter', op cit 9 March, 1886, p.8, c3.
13. 'Those Stolen Letters', op cit, 19 March, 1886, p.5, c5/6.
14. See 'A Lost Letter' and 'Those Stolen Letters', op cit.
15. 'Those Stolen letters', op cit.
16. 'Local' in the 'London Advertiser', 18 March, 1886, p.1, c5.
17. 'Those Stolen letters', op cit.
18. Loc cit.
19. 'Boggs' Bad Business' in the 'London Advertiser', 19 March, 1886, p.4, c5.
20. Loc cit.
21. Canada, Post Office Department, 'An Act Respecting the Postal Service', the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1886, Ottawa: Brown, Chamberlain, 1887.
22. 'Boggs' Bad Business' op cit.
23. Loc cit. See also 'Local and District' in the 'London Free Press', 19 March, 1886, p.3, c1.
24. 'Boggs' Bad Business', op cit.
25. 'Those Stolen Letters', op cit.
26. Loc cit.
27. Loc cit.
28. 'London and Precincts' in the 'London Advertiser', 20 March, 1886, p.4, c4.
29. 'From Post Office to Prison' in the 'London Advertiser', 20 March, 1886, p.5, c3. See also 'Boggs Sentence' in the 'London Free Press', 20 March, 1886, p.3, c2.
30. An examination of the PMG's Reports of this era reveal this to be the case.
31. 'Those Stolen Letters', op cit.
32. It was a local requirement that all cases of missing letters, registered or otherwise, containing valuables, be enumerated in this report, together with the disposition of each case.
33. See PMG Report 1886, report number 5, pp.44/5.
34. Ibid, p.29.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**SLOGAN POSTMARKS OF CANADA**, Cecil C. Coutts. Published by Cecil C. Coutts. ISBN 0-9680225-0-2, 1996. Post-paid CAN \$33.95, USA \$29.50, UK £20.50 from the author.

Cecil Coutts has produced an excellent successor to David Proulx's **SLOGAN POSTAL CANCELS OF CANADA**. He has based his catalogue on the work carried out by the BNAPS Slogan Study Group over the previous seven years and has also referred to proof impressions, slogan die distribution lists and post office records.

The catalogue comprises 284 pages of 8½" x 11" in landscape format. The sturdy spiral binding produces an excellent working document which should be a pleasure to use and easy to update.

Proulx's work has been extended by the addition of more than 410 new slogans. In addition, the full text is spelt out for each slogan, Newfoundland pre-confederation slogans are listed separately, related slogans are cross-referenced in a thematic index, slogan dies are identified by machine type and Richardson's Flag numbers are used where appropriate. Unfortunately slogan dies are not illustrated and there is no detailed information on dates of use.

An attempt has been made to update prices in line with the current market. Flag and Newfoundland slogans have been priced according to the list produced by the BNAPS Flag Study Group and the BNAPS Newfoundland Study Group respectively. In general only one basic price is given for multi-office slogans which does not enable the

reader to determine valuations for individual towns.

The slogans are listed alphabetically throughout the catalogue. Whilst Proulx numbers are included, a new 'Coutts number' has also been assigned to each slogan. This key has no sub-numbers and it reflects the true alphabetical order of the slogans. It is the author's stated intention to dispense with Proulx numbers in subsequent editions of the catalogue.

The transition from Proulx numbers to Coutts numbers will be difficult for those who rely on Proulx to cross-reference their collections. Much of the existing research includes Proulx numbers and auction catalogues will no doubt refer to Proulx for some years to come. The impact of this would be reduced by the inclusion of a table showing each Proulx number and its Coutts equivalent in the next edition of the catalogue.

This new book is a must for keen slogan collectors. However they will need to refer to newsletters and other publications to obtain detailed information about the individual slogan dies.

Tom Almond

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

We learn of Bill Topping's new publication, due for release this month and entitled 'YUKON AIRWAYS & EXPLORATION CO. LTD - A Pioneer Air Mail Company'. The book contains over 60 pages and covers the 30-month history of the company from 1927 to 1929, its major flights and details of the semi-official air stamps. Based on Bill's CAPEX exhibit the book was listed at

*Continued on p. 396*

## PHILATELIC PHABLES (4)

### Anonymous!

In Baltimore, one of the premier collectors of Canada, and a real student of the stamps, was the late Henri Reinhard. He had a good friend whose name was Horace Harrison. One day, Horace was sitting in his stamp den and came across a damaged copy of the 2¢ thin paper with a dated cancel of Hamilton, August 1868. The stamp had a very small tear. Now Horace had seen the two known copies of the Canada Scott 32, at that time one was owned by Sol Kanee of Winnipeg and the other by Gerald Firth of Pittsburgh, and both had been used in Hamilton. He had some old blank notepaper from his grandmother's correspondence, found in an attic trunk. It was exactly the same type of paper used to print the Canada Laid Paper stamps in 1868. He spent quite a lot of time getting the paper to the right thickness, so that when it was used to back the thin paper stamp, it would have the right feel. Since there were only two known copies of the laid paper 2¢ and Henri had never seen either one of them, shade would not be a problem, but thickness would be since Henri owned a used copy of the 3¢ laid paper (Scott 33). Steel wool was used to thin the notepaper to a proper thickness, so that, when combined with an adhesive to the actual stamp, it would have the right 'feel'. Development of the proper adhesive was another problem. Most commercial paste was completely unsuitable for this nefarious task, so Horace eventually ended up developing a combination of flour and water combined with egg white which produced the proper 'feel' when sandwiched between the reduced laid notepaper and the thin paper stamp. The

experimental process took about a month, because he wasn't able to devote more than his usual recreational time to the project.

Having obtained the proper backing material and the adhesive to affix it, he proceeded to glue the two papers together, using two metal electrical box covers and three 'C' clamps to hold the pieces in place until the adhesive was firmly set. He left the two pieces clamped together for about a week. He then went to the local hobby store, where he bought a short piece of brass gas line for a model airplane engine. With a Swiss Pattern file, he filed down the end of the tube into a sharp 'o' and ended up with a satisfactory one stroke perforator. He then proceeded to remove the stamp from between the steel plates and go around the stamp with the one stroke perforator, and then tore the backed stamp from the laid paper sheet, so that the ends of the perforations looked perfectly natural. It was a magnificent job! It felt just like his 3¢ laid paper as far as the consistency of the paper was concerned. It was not too stiff, held to the light, it looked fine, and compared favourably with his 3¢ laid in watermark fluid. The stamp was ready for the test.

He took the stamp down into Baltimore to Rudy Martin, a new dealer in town, who specialised in the German area and said "Rudy, I want to play a trick on Henri Reinhard. Get out your note paper and take down this letter: *Dear Henri, A cabin boy off a Canadian freighter in port came into my shop last week with his grandfather's collection*

and wanted to get enough money to go visit the 'Block' where all the girlie shows are. He needed some money, and wanted to sell the collection. I bought it, and in going over the Canada, I saw this stamp and I wonder if it has any special value? It seems to be different in some way from most of the others". After writing this note and signing it, Rudy placed the 2¢ stamp in a stock card, and placed the card and the note in an envelope and addressed it to Henri Reinhard at his home on Calloway Avenue in Baltimore. Horace supplied the 4¢ postage stamp to mail the letter, took it out on Charles Street and dropped it in the corner mailbox; no special attention, registration or certification, just an ordinary letter in the regular mail.

The next day, in those days – circa 1961 – you get next day delivery in Baltimore, Horace stopped by Henri's house at about half past five. He knew Henri got home about five fifteen, and that gave him time to open the mail. Maybe he got there about quarter to six, anyhow he rang the bell and Sylvia, Henri's wife, came to the door and she said "Oh, Horace I'm so glad you're here, Henri's upstairs in his stamp den and he's very excited about something. Go right on up". So Horace went up and Henri said "Look at this, a third copy of the 2¢ laid paper!!!" And Horace said "Awh, Henri, it's got to be a fake". And he said "No it's not, I've dipped it, it's used in Hamilton like the other two, it feels right, it looks like my laid paper 3¢, everything about it is good". And Horace said "Awh Henri, it's got to be bad, have you soaked it!" and he said "No, why should I soak it?" and Horace said "Cause it gotta be backed"; and he said "No, it feels just right and look at the ends of the perfs, they only reback the early imperfs on account of the perf

problem. Besides, look at this letter from Rudy Martin. This is just how the next copy of 32 is going to be found and it's happened right here in Baltimore. This is the genuine *third known copy of the 2¢ laid*". And Horace said "Let's soak it"; so they went into this little bathroom and Horace put the stopper on a chain loosely into the drain and ran a very little water into the basin and Henri dropped the stamp into the water. They were talking while they were waiting, but Horace was watching the stamp like a hawk. When he saw that there was some indication of separation, he pointed out the window and said "What kind of bird is that, Henri?" catching his sleeve on the chain as he pointed out the window. This pulled the stopper out and the stamp went *whoosh*, down the drain!!! Henri was considerably exercised, as anyone can well imagine. Regrettably, Horace carried it a little too far. He let Henri go down in his basement and get his plumbing tools. Henri took the trap apart, getting water all over the floor, and retrieved two pieces of paper. Unfortunately, at that point Horace lost control and laughed. Henri didn't speak to Horace for over eleven months.

**PUBLICATIONS** *contd. from p. 394*  
\$25 CAN, pre-publication, we have no note of the post publication price.

Making its bow at CAPEX was 'THE CANADIAN POSTED LETTER GUIDE 1851-1902', edited by Charles Firby and Vic Willson. This 136-page publication claims to be the first priced postal history catalogue for any major collecting area, it also serves as a reference for rates and frankings of the period. The book is listed at \$27.50 CAN, post paid, but we assume this to relate to purchase within Canada and USA.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Allan Steinhart**

### TEIGNMOUTH TO QUEBEC

In response to Mr Lazenby's letter in the June issue regarding the transatlantic cover, the L MY26 H handstamp was used at the Liverpool Packet Office. The cover travelled by Cunard steamer CAMBRIA, leaving Liverpool 5 June, 1847, arriving Boston 17 June, 1847. The cover travelled by closed bag from Liverpool via Boston to Quebec. The rate at the time was 1/2 STG = 1/4 CY collect or prepaid, in this case collect. It was rated in Britain, probably at Liverpool, 1/2 STG collect.

As STG was not used in Canada the cover was re-rated 1/4 CY in Canada with the 1/4 CY handstamp Arnell A-4. The '2' would represent the 2d STG Colonial portion of the 1/2 STG postage if the cover was prepaid the 1/- STG British internal and ocean postage, but it was fully collect so that the '2' was crossed out.

I hope this helps, the references are taken from Jack Arnell's book 'ATLANTIC MAILS'.

**Malcolm Montgomery**

### TEIGNMOUTH TO QUEBEC

Mr Lazenby's illustration on page 279 of 'Maple Leaves' is a particularly nice example of an unpaid single (1/2 ounce) letter from England to Canada in 1847: taking each point in turn:

The '2' (deleted) is almost certainly a British rate for an inland unpaid letter,

incorrectly applied in this case, and deleted.

The oval 'L MY 26 H' is the Liverpool transit mark.

The letter was carried on the Cunard Line 'Cambria', out of Liverpool on 4 June, 1847, making Boston on 17 June, 1847.

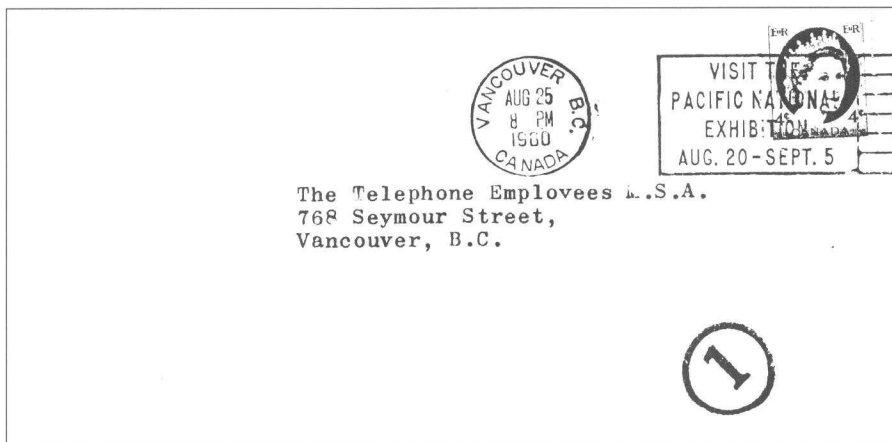
The rate was one shilling and twopence Sterling, of which one shilling was the Packet rate to North America; mail was carried in closed bags through the United States. The United States' transit was taken from this, and twopence was added for Colonial postage (except for Halifax, Nova Scotia); accountancy marks were not introduced until 1849, so the '2' was just an erroneous UK charge.

One shilling and twopence Sterling equated to one shilling and fourpence Currency. The charge mark was probably used at Quebec (there is a similar mark attributed by Jack Arnell to Montreal).

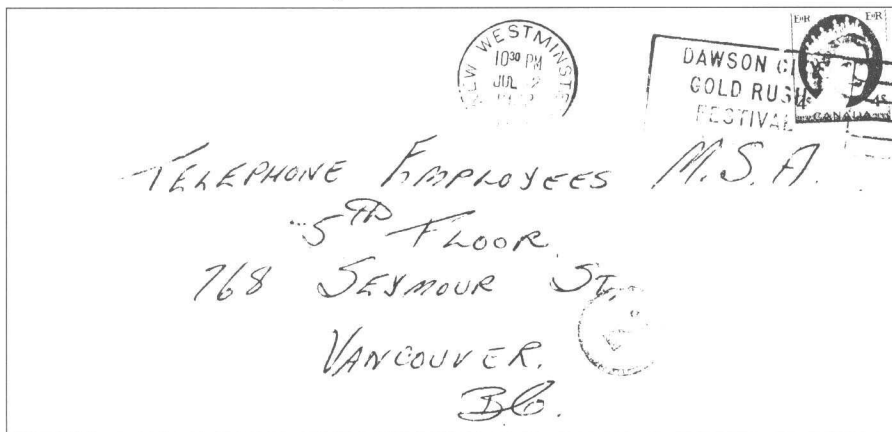
**Tom Almond**

### A MODERN CARRIER'S MARK

Each of the envelopes illustrated is cancelled with an attractive slogan. However their interest to me is that each is also cancelled (?) with a blue number in a circle. I wonder what purpose these have and who applied them. Two possibilities spring to mind: could they be carrier marks, were they applied by the company to which they were addressed or is there another explanation?



*The new one, two – what are they!*



Perhaps one of our West Coast Canadian cousins could supply the answer.

**Malcolm Montgomery**

**POSTAL HISTORY PUZZLES (1)**

With reference to Horace Harrison's 'Postal History Puzzle' (ML June '96, pp.277/8), may I offer a belated response? I had hoped to spend some time in the Archives, but have not been

able to do so; as a result, my contribution is based largely upon the information in the British Postal Guide, 1857 (which, of course, means that it is incomplete, and may have been subject to supplementary information in Post Office Instructions), and on the Mowbrays' book 'British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations', supplemented by Colin Tabear's work.

First, there seems no reason to become confused about officers' rates,

since the rate to India, via Southampton, was only sixpence per half ounce from 1 February, 1856 (Treasury Warrant of that date). It could have been treated as a soldier's letter in the UK; but, if so, why not in Canada?

Second, I shall accept the assumption that the letter did travel by Canadian Packet, and was not re-routed. Same-day sailing for a registered letter could have been chancey. If it did not, there's an interesting twopence for United States transit to consider. Likewise, the voyage to India, although French transit offers some options.

Next, the '3' . . . I am unable to explain it immediately as an accountancy mark, unless it is for French transit (but this would not apply if the letter travelled via Southampton. If it had travelled via Marseilles it would have been a further fivepence, later threepence (or some combination thereof) so I have discounted that.

A 'D' in the tables indicates that there were no further charges in India. Pity!

UK registration was sixpence . . . while not applicable to all overseas destinations, I would not rule it out, for the Guide states '*by prepayment of the British registration fee*) a Letter addressed to any other place can be registered to the port of despatch, and entered separately in the Letter Bill; it being in these cases left to the postal authorities of the Colony or foreign Country to carry on the registration, or not, as they may choose . . .'. Given the fixation of the British Post Office for protecting its employees from temptation, I would guess that the letter was treated as registered, but raising a charge amounted to compulsory

registration, which had yet to be introduced, when the Guide was written. Jane and Michael Mowbray (page 380) show the registration fee to Aden and India to be sixpence from 1 July, 1857, although unfortunately they don't give a specific reference for this.

This leaves twopence outstanding, for which I have no convincing explanation. However, for a really bizarre conjecture: on page 93 of the Guide, directly under 'Agra, India', is 'Agra, Spain' – for which the rate was eightpence . . . eightpence plus sixpence = one shilling and twopence. But one's sense of humour may not stretch that far! The only other alternative is private ship, for which the rate would have been eightpence, but presumably the dates and route have been satisfactorily established.

Alternatively, there is the '3': presumably a penny would have been credited to India for 'Colonial' postage – but with India there was a rather more complex situation with the East India Company. Taking into account that the date of the letter coincides almost exactly with the mutiny of the Bengal Army (one of three armies maintained by the East India Company), and the consequent reinforcement of the British Army in India, there may be some consideration of extra postage within India (a bit like the 2d US transit for BNA mails); however, the Mowbrays state that this was not the case with India. It is also notable that the Indian share of the sixpence registration fee (half) was credited to India – perhaps that's the '3'?

Last shot: 1/2 oz. transit through France, plus 2d soldier's concessionary (unpaid), plus 6d registration = 1s 2d; 3d credited to India . . .?

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 Aug 28-30 BNAPEX '97, St John's,  
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 Sep 17-21 STAMPEX, London as above

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