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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN



Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 261
Vol. 25 No. 1
January 1997

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MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

ESTABLISHED 1946

Founder:

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JANUARY 1997

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EDITORIAL

The 'Jubilee' issue of 'Maple Leaves' was very well received, judging by the letters and verbal comments that came in. We would like to reiterate that much of the credit must go to the contributors, without whom there would be nothing. Speaking of credit, we were pleased that the judges at Autumn STAMPEX saw fit to award 'Maple Leaves' a vermeil, this was based on a two-year run of the journal and did not include the special October issue.

Hidden in the Secretary's report of the AGM is a brief note that a new Fellow of the Society was announced. Becoming modesty obviously forbade much embellishment! We are happy here to congratulate Tom Almond on joining the distinguished band of Fellows, for his unstinting efforts on behalf of the Society over the past 17

years. In January, 1980, Tom became Assistant Treasurer, following which he assumed the mantle of Handbooks Manager and, latterly, Secretary. Along the way he has fitted in a Presidency and has helped maintain our links with our sister Society, BNAPS, by editing 'Flagpole' (journal of the BNAPS flag cancel study group) and acting as UK contact member for the group. The Society owes a great debt to members such as Tom who give so willingly of their time; without them the Society could not function.

Sadly, Tom feels it is now time to pass on the baton of office and has indicated he will not be accepting nomination for the post of Secretary at the next AGM. All UK members are urged to give consideration to the situation. The Society must have a

secretary, are you the person for the job? Tom has placed the Society's records onto computer for ease of administration and files can readily be transferred. This does not preclude the more manually inclined among us from doing the job; hard copy of up-to-date lists can be provided just as easily. If you feel you might be the one for the job, or if you would like details, please contact Tom (tel. 01734 411052). Don't just read on and hope someone else will do it – IT COULD BE YOU!

At the end of the Secretary's report will be found an amendment to the auction rules, do read it carefully. In the past we have recommended a minimum value per submitted lot in order to curb the disproportionate expense of small lots, without wishing to ban them altogether. The recommendation has been replaced by the imposition of a minimum commission of £1 per sold lot or 50p for unsold lots. For those who are less mathematically inclined than the Treasurer, the implication is that lots will need to realise at least £7 if the rate of 15% is to apply. Whilst all the work connected with the auction is carried out on an entirely voluntary basis, the catalogue costs several hundred pounds to produce and despatch to all members.

As members will probably be aware, we do not make a habit of publishing obituaries of those who pass on. However, we feel we should not let two losses to the Society go unremarked. Members who were at the Perth Convention were shocked to hear that Allan Steinhart had died suddenly, at his home in Toronto. Allan was surely the pre-eminent all-round postal historian of Canada, this was evidenced by his several books and many articles on diverse subjects, as well as his contributions to study circles and

willing assistance to other authors. As a dealer, his tremendous stock of BNA postal history helped many collectors to fill important gaps and his phenomenal knowledge unearthed many unrecognised covers from all parts of the globe. He also competed internationally at the very highest level. The gap he leaves will take some filling.

The same members who were at Perth will be even more surprised and saddened to learn that Dr Michael Russell, who joined us there after three strenuous rounds of golf at St Andrews, also died suddenly, less than three weeks later. Not so well known to members at large perhaps, but Michael had gained much respect for his knowledge and collection of postal stationery which he shared with us, both at Conventions and at local level.

The select band of Revenue collectors will no doubt be pleased to know that, at the recent FIP Congress in Istanbul, it was agreed that "The Section for Revenues at present within the Commission for Traditional Philately be made a full Commission for Revenues . . .". This means that, at International competitions in future, Revenue entries will no longer come under Traditional Philately but will be in a class of their own.

Don Wilson, Chairman of BNAPEX 97, in St John's Newfoundland, has written with details of the show, including such things as flight times. UK members seeking information are invited to contact the Editor.

CENSORSHIP OF TRANSIT MAILS – 1914-19

L. D. (Mac) McConnell

During wartime and at other times of emergency the Civil and Military Authorities usually exercise a power of censorship on mails passing out of or into their territories. Within the protocols established by the Universal Postal Union these powers may be, and often are, extended to international mails in transit when they pass through the territory of a belligerent.

The Canadian War Measures Act of 1914 was the instrument under which Canada exercised its rights. Section 6 of the Act allowed the Governor General, in Council, to impose censorship and introduce means of control of communications.

In this study we are concerned with transit (or non-terminal) mails. Most of the established international links via Canada were maintained, eg Europe to the Orient and Australasia or China to the USA. These were at various times subject to selective or extensive inspections. In addition any mails carried by Allied or neutral ships which called at a Canadian port might also be opened and censored.

Certain categories of transit mail were protected and exempt from censorship. These included official correspondence identified on the outer cover by the official seal or rubber stamp of an Allied government department, embassy, legation or consulate. Similar exemptions also applied to mail addressed to such departments etc.

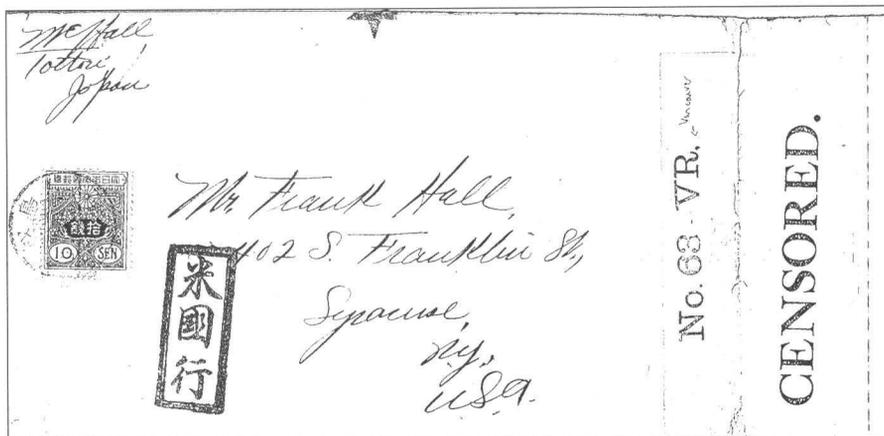
Mail passing between neutral

countries could also be inspected except where protected by Diplomatic Privilege.

When the mails contained letters addressed to enemy or enemy occupied countries, unless directed to be forwarded by an authorised intermediary, eg Thomas Cook and Son, they were liable to be treated as non-transmissible and returned to sender under UPU regulations.

In June 1916 a censorship station was set up at Vancouver to inspect US and other mails carried on Canadian Pacific ships and destined for China or Japan. The choice of Vancouver is interesting since US outgoing mails were normally directed 'via Victoria, BC'. For whatever reason Vancouver became the principal censorship station and included Japanese and Chinese translators on its staff. The prime purpose of the Vancouver censorship was an attempt to detect possible enemy correspondence passing via the US to the US Consular Post Office in Shanghai [1] and hence to German intelligence gathering sources in China.

The United States objected to the censoring of its closed mails arguing an infringement of the Canada-US Postal Convention of 1888 which had granted transit of each other's mails 'free of charge, detention or examination' [2]. It was, however, pointed out that the UPU Convention Article 4, Subsection 1, had allowed the UK Government to censor mails between neutral countries when passing through Great Britain. This precedent was cited as sufficient



From Tuttori, Japan, 6.11.17 (6 Nov., 1917) to Syracuse, NY, USA. Label with CENSORED in seriffed lettering (Steinhart, Type 2) together with the identifying No. 63 VR of Vancouver applied in purple by handstamp.

justification for the Vancouver censor's office despite the 1888 agreement.

When the first batch of US mails was opened immediately prior to the sailing of the 'Empress of Russia' from Vancouver on 10 August, 1916 the US authorities reacted and in September withdrew the Vancouver route and CP ships from their mail carrying schedules. Mails in the reverse direction were unaffected.

The US entered the war in April 1917 and instituted a cable and telegram censorship on 2 May, but did not yet impose their own postal censorship [3]. In a note to the House of Representatives dated 3 May, 1917 President Wilson stated that the US Postmaster General Albert Burleson had thought that the censorship of mails was unnecessary as it 'would be a duplication of work that is better being performed by our Allies' [4].

As a result, in June 1917, US mails

were again allowed to use the Vancouver route and submitted to selective censorship.

The Imperial Russian government requested, in August 1917, that all mails between the US and Russia be censored at Vancouver. Shortly afterwards, as a result of the President Wilson note, a joint policy statement directed that all mails to and from the US via Vancouver were to be censored there. The only exceptions were to be letters and parcels addressed to the Philippine Islands (considered to be US territorial interests) and to certain Allied postal agencies in the Far East. Despite the official directive, a substantial majority of transit mail appears to have passed through unopened.

Mails from Australia and New Zealand were also subject to censorship at Vancouver.

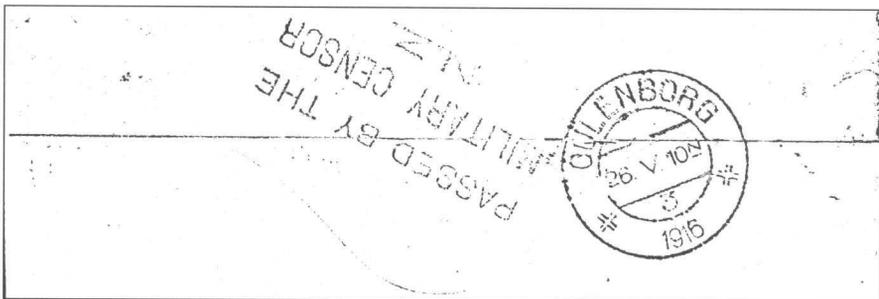
Due to the uncertainties of wartime conditions the endorsement for a

particular routing was frequently omitted so that passage through Vancouver can only be identified by the evidence of censorship markings.

It had been the practice of the Canadian authorities not to censor mails to European countries if they had already been inspected or were likely to be opened by the British authorities during further transit. As examples of this practice, letters to neutral Holland, which had previously been examined in

New Zealand, were forwarded without question and those from Japan uncensored were forwarded for checking by the British censor during further transit across the UK.

Steinhart [1] records a series of identity numbers, each prefixed by the letter C, on labels with the legend EXAMINED BY CENSOR (Steinhart Type 3a). The numbers range from 300 to 550 but most lie between 300 and 450. The C prefix (Type 3b) was later



From New Zealand to Holland. Already passed by censor in New Zealand so subject to no further censorship at Vancouver.

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4th Corps of Belgian
Volunteers,
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Oudebreij Holland.

OPENED BY
CENSOR.

P.W. 227

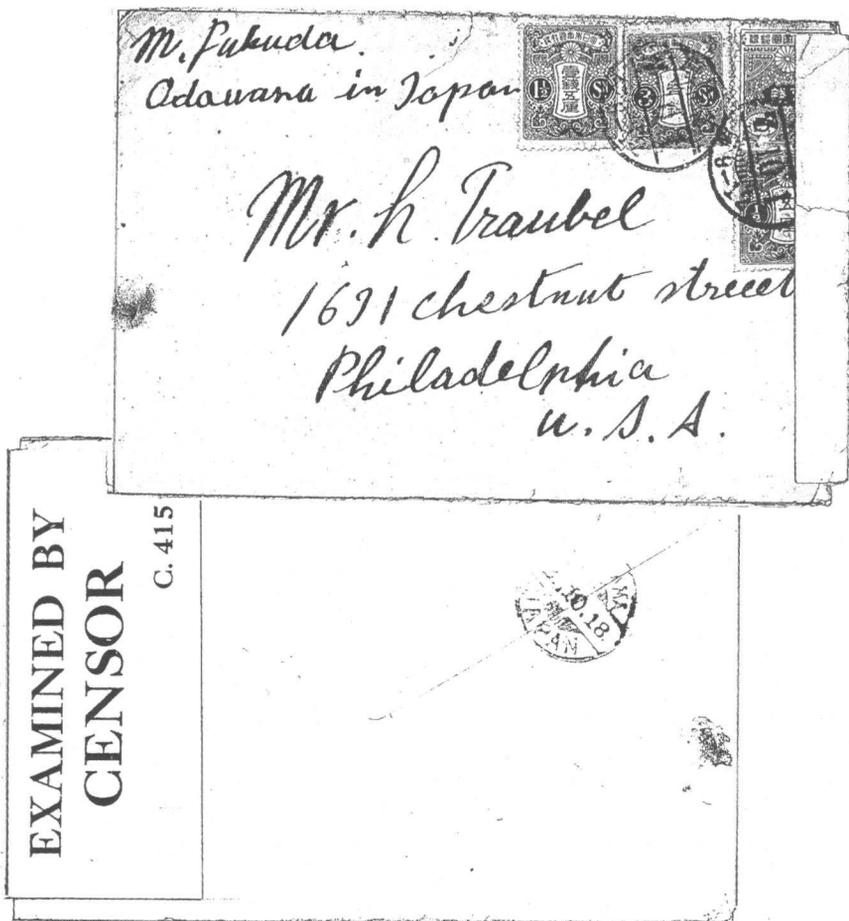


From Japan to Holland for a Belgian volunteer soldier. Passed through Vancouver unopened to Great Britain for the attention of British censors before further onward transmission.

abandoned.

On the Atlantic seaboard Halifax also dealt with some transit mails but these were mainly concerned with

checking the correspondence carried by neutral ships. Translators fluent in Scandinavian and the Dutch languages were employed. Exceptionally, the Halifax censors were British personnel



From Japan, 7.10.1 (1 Oct., 1918), passing through Yokohama, 2 Oct., 1918 to Philadelphia, Pa., USA with EXAMINED BY CENSOR C 415 label. Was it the name of the addressee which caught the censor's eye?

working for or in co-operation with the Naval Control Officers at this major naval establishment. Some UK mails to the US mid-west and beyond have been noted using British censorship labels with additional marks which may have been applied at Halifax but these have not been proven. An example shows where the original censor's identity

number has been removed and a substitute number, C 1046, inserted in manuscript, using a blue GPO crayon.

The British censors at Halifax seem to have operated until spring 1918 when they were transferred to New York.

In the reverse direction the US

accepted that their mails to European neutrals were effectively and efficiently censored by the Allies after leaving the States so it is possible that these were dealt with when passing through Montreal [3]. No sound evidence has yet been found to show how this was done.

Censorship of transit mails passing through Canada continued into the spring of 1919.

[1] Steinhart, A. L., Civil censorship in Canada during World War I:

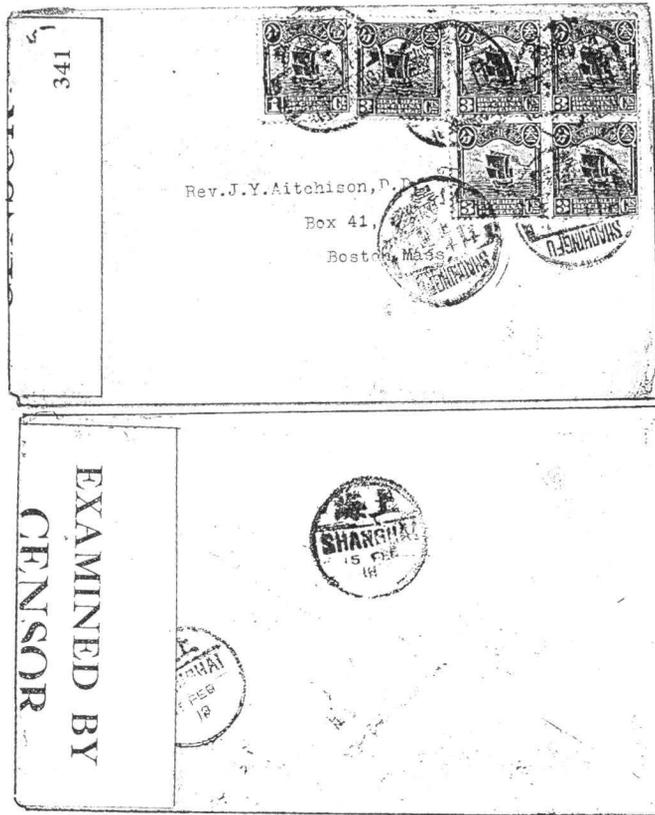
Toronto, Unitrade Press, 1986.

[2] Canada-US Postal Convention 1888, Art 6.

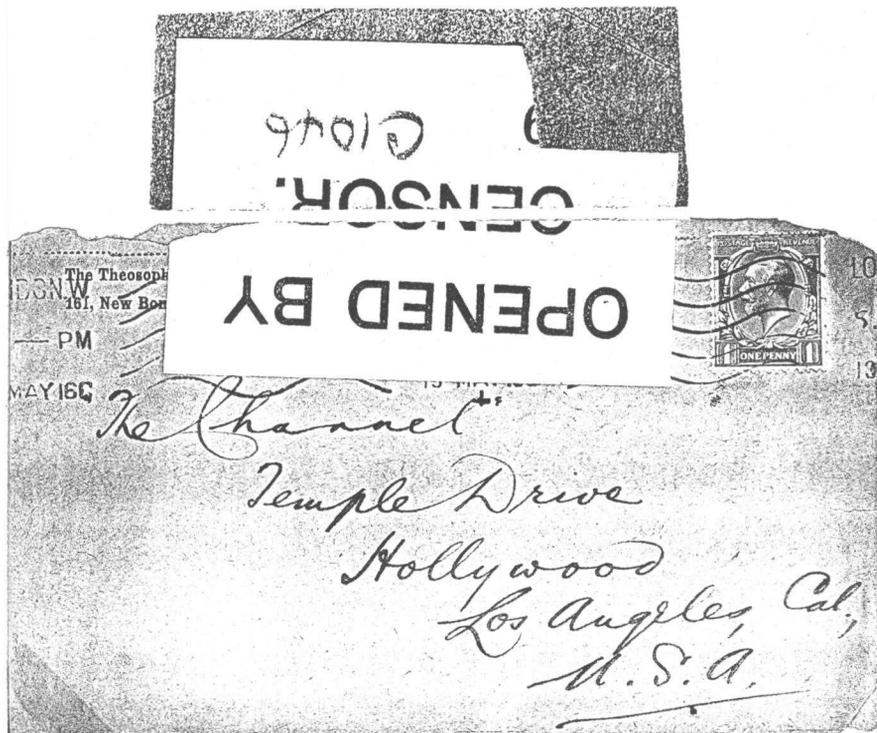
[3] Fowler, Prof. Dorothy G.; Unmailable, Congress and the Post Office: University of Georgia, 1977, p. 118.

[4] US House report 1473, 65 Congress, 3rd Session.

also Mock, J. R., Censorship 1917, pp. 62-65. Paxson (ed), America at War: Boston; Houghton Mifflin 1939.



From Shadning fu (Si ning fu), China to Boston, Mass. and examined by Censor 341.



UK to California, USA. Possibly landed at Halifax and censored there using British label with original number removed and manuscript C 1046 entered in blue crayon.

1997 CONVENTION AUCTION

The 1997 Auction will be held on Saturday, 13 September, 1997
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All lots should be sent to Brian Stalker, Glaramara, Upper Bryn Coch, Mold, Clwyd CH7 1PU to arrive not later than 31 March, 1997. Only BNA material is acceptable and lots should be accompanied by a brief description and estimate. Any reserve should be clearly stated. Single stamps and small lots should be mounted on card. No responsibility can be accepted for loosely mounted or badly packed material.

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POSTAL HISTORY PUZZLES – SOLVED & UNSOLVED (2)

Horace W. Harrison, FCPS

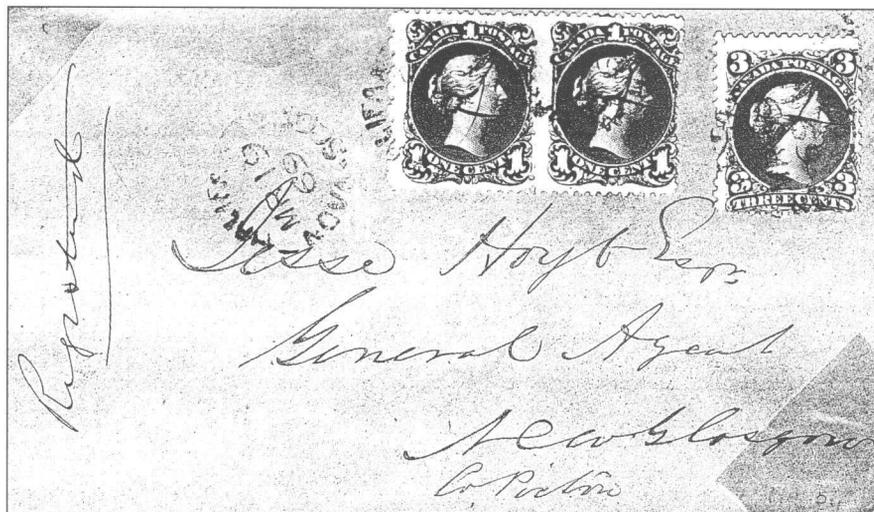


Figure 1

Rarely from Ontario or Quebec, and infrequently from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island, one comes across a registered cover with no Post Office registry marks on it at all. Its status as a registered cover is determined by the rate paid by stamps and/or by the docketing. Figure 1 illustrates such a cover from Halifax, Nova Scotia to New Glasgow. There is a manuscript 'Registered' at the far left, and postage for 3¢ plus a pair of 1¢ brown reds to pay the 2¢ registry fee. It is interesting to note that an old provincial circular date stamp was used to cancel the stamps, augmented by a pen cancel to make sure the stamps would not be re-used.

There is no handstamp 'REGISTERED/LETTER No. ___' with

a number filled in, no backstamps of any sort, either of the originating Post Office at Halifax (a PO Division Headquarters), nor any receiving backstamps at New Glasgow. How could this be a registered letter, lacking most of the postal indicators usually associated with registered mail?

The explanation is found in Figure 2, which is a typical green Registered Letter wrapper used throughout the Maritimes during the Provincial period, and occasionally after Confederation under the Dominion Post Office Act of 1867, which went into effect on 1 April, 1868. The letter shown in Figure 1 must have been forwarded to New Glasgow in such a wrapper, to which intermediate and final destination c.d.s. and registered letter numbers were applied.

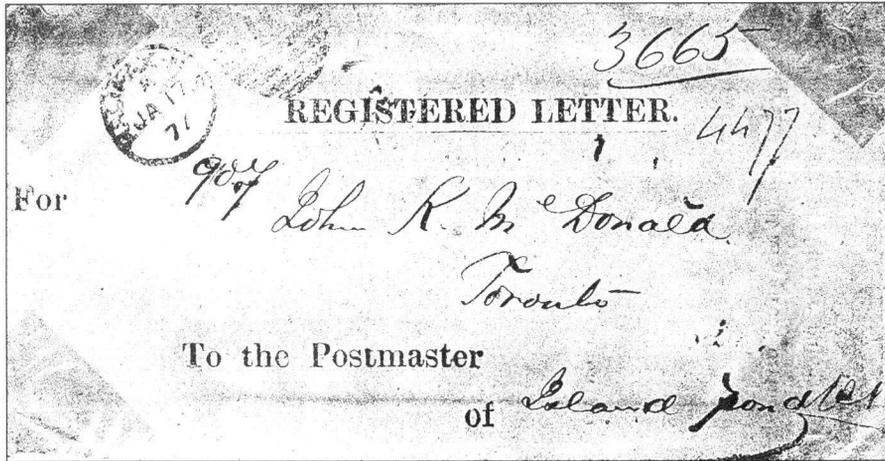


Figure 2

The green wrapper illustrated was used at Halifax, 17 January, 1871 and backstamped at Montreal on 20 January.

It has Registered Letter No. 3665 applied at Halifax and 4477 applied at Montreal.

This hobby of ours is not just a matter of careful examination of old bits of paper, it's about nostalgia too . . .

THE AIRGRAPH SERVICE – A POSTSCRIPT

Dr John Gatecliff

Airgraph Ltd was formed by Imperial Airways, together with Eastman Kodak and Pan American Airways, to develop a system using micro film. One roll of film carried 55,000 airgraphs. This was demonstrated in the UK in 1938.

Following the article in the June issue, Michael Wedgwood wrote to say that 'Sammy' Middlebrook, as he was known to the boys and staff, was the Head of the History Department at Newcastle Royal Grammar School. He was the author of 'The History of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The school was evacuated to Penrith during the War.

Then, from Vancouver, Ken Barlow

wrote to say that he too was a pupil at Penrith Grammar School in 1942.

"We had to share accommodation to some extent. We attended the school buildings in the mornings – an extra long time – while they (Newcastle G.S.) used the space in the afternoons. We, of course, could use the playing fields etc. in the afternoons. They also used facilities scattered around the town, one of which was the Wordsworth Street Methodist Church, used as the address on the airgraph. It would appear to have been written by one of the older scholars who had joined the RAF and, like myself, was shunted off to Canada to train."

THE MISSING LINK

The Yellow Peril

When a friend enthusiastically explained to me the benefits of being a member of the Capex '96 Beaver Club and proposed that we both sign up together, I declined. My plan was to spend only one afternoon at the big show to meet a few out-of-town friends. I try to avoid crowds and long line-ups. Much to my surprise there was neither. Another surprise was the half-price admission for seniors. This 50% saving enabled me to attend Capex a second time.

The highlight of the afternoon was the first-time meeting of member, Joe Smith 'Sin Shang' of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Unlike any other member, Joe speaks my lingo – Cantonese. The hello-handshake lasted for about a minute and a half.

The first time I spoke with the Sin Shang was in November 1985. He heard that I had attended the Carstairs sale and rang to ask if I had acquired anything that he could be interested in. There was nothing, of course. Since then we have exchanged five letters. I even found a few Jubilee precancels for him.

The second afternoon was spent kibitzing with Miss Alison about night life in the Big Apple and chatting with her brother, Keith Harmer. We spoke about the tremendous demand for philatelic literature and about the market for foreign stamps. The chat convinced me to sell a sideline collection which I had not looked at in twenty years. The prospects of selling the stamps and a complimentary pass were enough incentive to make one more visit to Capex.

My third and final trip was much more productive – I delivered the collection to H. R. Harmer Inc., bought a stamp for my collection and recruited a new member. After that accomplishment I headed for home.

While waiting for my ride, the Sin Shang approached me again. He wasted no time telling me about how his great uncle took a voluntary reduction in rank from sergeant to private to qualify for service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Siberia. He was there from October 1918 to August 1919 and while in Russia, he wrote home frequently. The Sin Shang had been trying for many years to round up the entire correspondence. He needed only one piece for completion and he was convinced that someone had to have it. I listened politely and after the lecture I suggested that he try some of the bigger dealers (I am 5' 2").

As I left the Convention Centre I wondered why the Sin Shang would spend ten minutes telling me about Siberian covers. After having been a career soldier the last thing I would be interested in is military postal history, I don't know anything about it other than the high prices realised at auction, and I don't have any covers (I did have a few when I first started in on the dealing game but a very seasoned dealer took advantage of my naivety!).

A few weeks after that conversation, it suddenly dawned upon me that I still have an exhibition collection that represents a cross section of my collecting interests. I had put it together for the 1990 Chesterfield Convention to

which I was unable to travel . . . It was time to refresh my memory of what I had assembled. The 120-page display consists of everything from stampless to revenues to cinderellas. Included are three pages of military covers that had completely slipped my mind – two Boer War, two impressive items that I like but know nothing about and a couple of Siberian post cards. I promptly photocopied the two Siberian jobs to Rocky Mountain House. A 30-minute telephone call resulted!

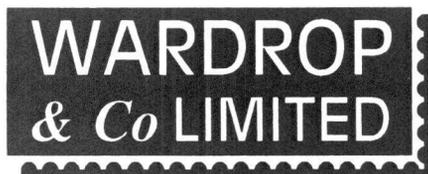
The cards are indeed the missing link and then some. How, when and where I got them, I cannot even guess. The conversation ended by my telling the Sin Shang that I would be willing to

transfer the custody of the cards to him if he would consider a slight honorarium, and promise to submit the complete story of the 'Smith' Siberian Expeditionary Force correspondence to our editor. The Sin Shang concurred but he will not be able to write the story until after his return from Tientsin in December '96.

I should have insisted that, in addition to my terms, he exhibit the covers at one of our conventions.

Editor's note:

'Sin Shang' is the equivalent to 'Monsieur' and in Chinese culture, the title follows the name.



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'R's' ABOUT FACE? David Sessions, FRPSL, FCPS

So I was idly riffling through the dealer's batch of Canadian covers, more in hope than expectation, when a fine looking strike of the PRESCOTT fancy cancellation (D&S 341; Jarrett 364) passed swiftly by. I don't collect fancy cancels but it was a nice looking cover so I flipped back and had another look. And another . . .

Something was not quite right, the letter 'R' seemed to be reversed though, as it fell on the perforations of the 3¢ SQ, it was not immediately obvious. I clearly remembered seeing the illustration in the Fancy Cancel Handbook, but could not recall any reference to a reversed 'R'. Being a man of wild impulse (well, just occasionally) I bought the cover so that I could check it out.

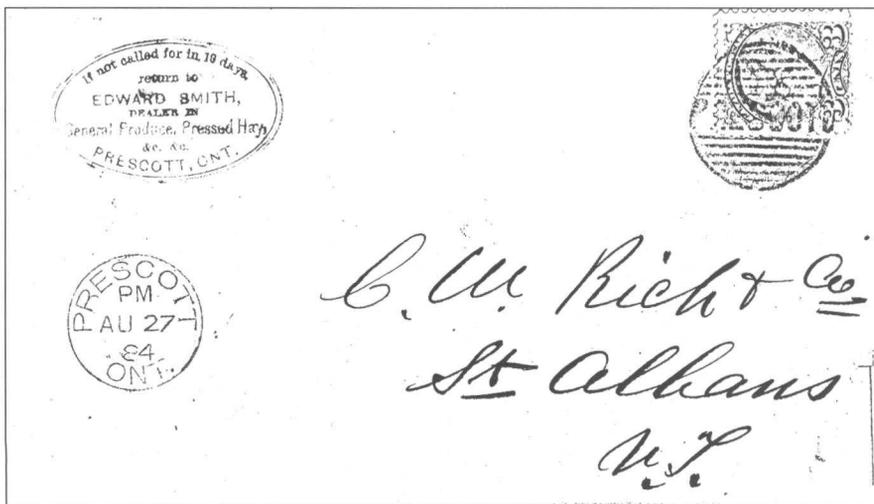
The Handbook indicates use in 1880, but makes no reference to any

varieties. It will be seen that the cover is dated 27 August, 1884. Since acquiring the cover I have seen a 'normal' example dated 10 September, 1883, but nothing closer to my cover than that.

Fancy cancel enthusiast, Dave Lacelle, was not aware of the variety; it is odd that no other copy seems to have surfaced in more than 100 years. Dave was able to confirm use of the 'normal' handstamp from November 1882 to August 1888. Clarity of later strikes suggests the handstamp was cleaned on more than one occasion.

The questions start to crowd in:

1. Were the letters removable so that the negative 'R' (which would produce a positive impression) was erroneously replaced by a 'positive' R and quickly corrected?
2. Was a new canceller created, due to wear of the existing one? Was this the



- new canceller and, the error having been spotted, was it quickly replaced?
3. Does anyone have another example?
 4. Is it just an optical illusion caused by the perforations? The cover was shown around at Convention, in Perth, a majority was of the opinion that the 'R' was indeed reversed, but there were one or two doubters.

Help needed:

1. Reports of examples of the PRESCOTT handstamp between 10 September, 1883 and 27 August, 1884.
2. Reports of examples of the PRESCOTT handstamp after 27 August, 1884.

In each case a photocopy would be welcomed as I should like to establish, if possible, whether the post 27 August markings are made by the same handstamp as the pre 27 August markings. The September 1883 example seen appeared to be in good shape and the impression of the mark under review suggests that the handstamp was of steel rather than rubber or other readily degradable material.

References:

1. (D&S) 'Canadian Fancy Cancellations of the Nineteenth Century', K. M. Day & E. A. Smythies, 1973.
2. (Jarrett) 'Stamps of British North America', F. Jarrett, 1929.



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Some years ago, Stanley Cohen's 'Story of a Canadian Stamp Collection' was published in 'Maple Leaves'. It was well received, as was an earlier series, "Not So Much a Postage Stamp . . ." Letters still arrive, from time to time, asking for more reminiscences. So, from a retirement hideaway in sunny Spain, we present . . .

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED

Stanley Cohen, FCPS

1. The Swiss Connection

It all happened at the height of my Canada collecting days, some 35 years ago. My wife and I had decided to spend a 10-day holiday in Switzerland. We flew to Geneva, then hired a car and motored slowly north towards Zurich, stopping wherever we fancied along the way, which proved enjoyable and, in May, the weather was splendid.

It is important in the context of this true story that in those days a pound sterling was worth 12 Swiss francs, whereas today, one cannot even get two francs for a pound, such is the sorry state to which British currency has fallen. We eventually reached Berne, the capital, one day shortly after lunch and, as usual, my wife decided to go shopping, whilst I would explore the possibility of stamp shops. We arranged to meet in the city's central square some two hours later.

The centre of Berne was much smaller than I had imagined, being confined to a main street surrounded by only a few side streets and, although I have never been back since, I imagine that it is much the same today. It had not taken me long to wander through all these streets and much to my disappointment there was not a single stamp shop in the whole of the place. This I found unusual because there had been several in all the other larger cities like Geneva and Lausanne, although none of them had anything at all in

Canadian or even American stamps for sale. They appeared to be exclusively selling Swiss or nearby European countries.

I wondered, if there were any local collectors of Canada, how they could possibly add anything to their collections. These were the days prior to the main auction houses and stamps were usually bought from shops and dealers.

I was wandering slowly back along the main street when I happened to notice high up and overhanging the street, a well-known logo, being the colourful sign of Zumstein, the famous catalogue people. For want of something better to do, I found the small entrance to the office block, opened the door, which led to a small wooden stairway. I climbed up and two floors higher, I saw the same Zumstein sign on the glass door of an office. I opened it and entered a small elongated room, around which I noticed glass cases with sets of modern Swiss stamps priced for sale.

Facing the door, behind a large desk sat an elderly man. He looked up at me quizzically, giving the impression that any visitor from the street was a highly unexpected event. I approached and asked him if he had any Canadian stamps for sale. He shook his head, and, in impeccable English, told me that he

had none at all. I thanked him profusely, apologising for the intrusion, and made for the door. I had opened it, and was about to descend the stairway when he called after me.

"Wait", he called, "maybe I do have something for you."

I returned to the office, waiting expectantly. I wondered what he could have found. He had gone over to the far end of the narrow office and was kneeling beside a strong steel safe, which he seemed to have trouble in opening. After finally managing to open it, he rummaged around for several minutes, clearly anxious to find something. Then with a triumphant shout he stood up, having pulled out of the safe a black card, which he handed to me.

It was one of those continental-style thick cards with a strong cellophane cover. On the card were further cellophane strips, into which had been placed four lovely pristine mint corner marginal blocks of four of a type of Canadian Revenue stamp I had never seen before. They were multi-coloured and had large central portraits of the elderly Queen Victoria, very similar in design to the familiar-to-me Widow's Weeds 1893 stamps, but larger and with the words 'Bill Stamp' instead of 'Postage' inscribed over the portrait. I recall that each block was of a different high dollar denomination, whilst one had a printer's imprint in the lower corner and another had a Plate No. 2.

In those days, I had no knowledge whatsoever of Canadian Revenue stamps, nor did I know a single person who collected them. Lovely as they looked, they were not of the slightest interest to me.

So I handed the card back to the man and explained that unfortunately these were not postage stamps but some kind of Canadian Revenue stamps, which I did not collect.

He nodded his head. "I know that they are not postage stamps", he confirmed, "because they are not in the catalogue."

Once again, I prepared to leave and had again reached the office door, when he called me back for the second time.

"Look", he said, "are these stamps not worth 10 francs to you?"

Now, as I mentioned earlier, 10 francs was then worth something a little less than £1. It was very little money indeed.

"Why, yes, of course", I told him, "I will certainly pay you 10 francs for them. They will be a souvenir of my visit to Berne."

With that I felt in my pocket and extracted the smallest note that I had. I recall that it was a small pink 10-franc note, which I handed to him. What kind of souvenir could one get anyway for less than £1?

He even wrapped up the card for me and I wandered back to the square with it, waiting for my wife. When she arrived we ordered coffee and pastries. She seemed to be delighted with her purchase of a pair of shoes for 80 francs, and asked me what I had spent. I told her 10 francs and, laughingly, she said that the coffee and cakes would cost me more than that. She was right.

Once back home in England, on unpacking, I found the card of Revenue

stamps and, with hardly a glance, I placed them in some drawer and promptly forgot all about them. They might still be lying there to this day had there not been a most extraordinary sequel to the story.

The sequel

Around this time, I was busily corresponding with many fellow collectors in Canada, exchanging and adding to my collection. I was heavily into the 1868 Large Queens and postmarks. I had long since discovered that few collectors ever wanted to sell items that I needed from their collections but they would be happy to exchange for anything in their particular field. Accordingly I kept an assortment of all kinds of items which I did not myself collect, but which others might and I could tell many a tale of how useful such oddities as military mail, Express Delivery and even Tannu Touva had been in my quest.

However, perhaps the oddest arrangement of all was the one that I had with my good friend Arnold Banfield of Oakville, Ontario. His sole collecting interest consisted of the 10 cents 1859 Prince Consort, of which stamp he could never get sufficient for his researches into the many printing orders. So he had commissioned me to scour London and Europe with orders to buy or secure every single copy of the stamp whatsoever its condition. In return, as he was a traveller, he would find Large Queens for me from all the provinces, although I was a little more fussy over what I wanted than he was. It was an extremely satisfactory arrangement. At first we would keep notes of our expenditures and offset one against the other, but no money at all actually changed hands. At the end of each year, one or other of us had either a credit or

debit balance but, by and large, these balances were very small and were carried forward indefinitely. The beauty of it was partly because at that time I had not the slightest interest in his 1859 issue and he had no interest in my 1868 issue so that we were never tempted to keep any of our discoveries ourselves.

The years passed by and one day I received a letter from Arnold in which he told me that he had discovered a doctor living nearby who had the most amazing collection of stamps, all housed in a vast assortment of packets, amongst which he had noticed large quantities of Large Queens. He had tried to buy these for me, but the man was not interested in selling nor, in fact, did he collect them. They had been handed down to him by his parents. Arnold had paid him three visits but still could not persuade the doctor to part with them. The man did, however, collect what Arnold considered to be worthless trivia such as Customs Duty Stamps, Duck Stamps and other non-philatelic oddities. Arnold had ended his letter by asking if I had any such to possibly send him in exchange for a few of his Large Queens but presumed that I had not.

When I received this letter, I pulled out my oddities stock book and did in fact find a few Customs Duty stamps, of really no value and a few Excise stamps that I had extracted from schoolboy collections over the years, but they were pitifully small fry and I would never have had the nerve to offer them in exchange for even one common 3 cents Large Queen.

Then, quite suddenly, I remembered them. What about that card of large QV Bill stamps that I had bought for a song in Switzerland? They might be worth a few Large Queens to this man. But, what

had I done with them? I searched and searched. I spent hours looking for them and could not find them, until eventually at the bottom of a little used drawer, I found them.

Casting aside the few pitiful used Customs Duty stamps, I sent the whole card off to Arnold and wrote to him to see if the man might like to have them for a few Large Queens which perhaps Arnold could negotiate for me. I told Arnold I had no idea what the stamps were or even if they were worth anything at all, but it would do no harm to try.

The post to and from Canada was always slow even by airmail, and I had not given the matter a moment's more thought when, some three weeks later, a quite large airmail parcel arrived with Arnold's name on the back as the sender. This quite surprised me as I could not imagine receiving anything much larger than a letter from him.

The letter with the package was much more surprising. It appears that on receipt of my card of Bill stamps, Arnold had gone once more round to see the doctor, mainly to find out if these stamps were of interest to him. What happened then was described in some depth by Arnold in his letter. The man had taken one look at the stamps and had almost collapsed with excitement. "I must have these! Where did you get them?" he shouted. "This is the Imprint copy that has not yet been recorded, and this is the dollar value we thought existed but had not yet been verified as existing."

He was so excited that Arnold, who was a very shrewd trader, knew that he could strike a hard bargain this time. Arnold had summed up the situation in a

flash. Now he could get his own back on this hard doctor.

"Oh, they are not for sale", Arnold told him casually.

"What do you mean, they are not for sale?" the other man screamed. "Why have you brought them to me?"

"I just wanted your opinion on them", Arnold told him, "in any case when I wanted to buy your Large Queens you would not sell them to me."

"Large Queens! Large Queens! What do you mean, Large Queens?" The man had stormed across to his bureau, and suddenly produced packet upon packet of stamps . . . all Large Queens . . . far more than Arnold had seen on his previous visits. Still piling them up, he handed the whole lot over to Arnold. "Here, take all my Large Queens . . . I want that card for them!"

Arnold could not believe his good luck and hurried away with his haul. Excitedly he had parcelled the whole lot and sent them to me. Not a bad exchange, eh? he queried to me in his letter.

In wonderment I began opening up the dozens of packages . . . there were literally hundreds of each value . . . including more 1 cent Orange and Yellows than I had ever seen and, even in mixed condition, the sheer quantities were unbelievable. I paused for a moment, and anyone present might have seen my broad grin, as I contemplated that the whole lot had cost me less than a pound.

* * *

BOOK REVIEW

YUKON AIRWAYS AND EXPLORATION CO. LTD. Bill Topping, FRPSL; Topping Books, 1996. 80pp (8.25" x 11") soft bound; \$25CAN from the author.

Yukon Airways, incorporated in May, 1927, took to the air in October 1927 and folded two years later, when both its aircraft crashed in November, 1929. In those two years the company made its mark among airlines authorised to carry mail and issue their own 'semi-official' airmail stamps.

Bearing in mind the company's area of operation, the Yukon, and the fragile state of aeronautics at that time, it is hardly surprising that the mail flights were irregular and relatively few in number. Despite this, the author put together a fine display at CAPEX 96, which earned a vermeil medal; no mean achievement in the light of the relative paucity of material.

Careful reading of the book will show how it was done. Based on the pioneering work of Lloyd Banner in the 1950s and early 60s, Bill has pieced together the story of those two turbulent years. In doing so he has added much new information. All the flights are detailed and we meet the intrepid characters who actually flew the planes; where possible the amount of mail carried on the various flights is also logged. Almost as important are the flights that were not made; students of the era will need to refer to this book to 'prove' their covers, as a number were prepared and never flown. Some apparently commercial mail also did not take to the skies, despite a cover's prima facie evidence that it did.

The single 25¢ stamp that was issued by the company is examined in detail and the so-called 'colour trials' are firmly put in their place as fraudulent items. Your reviewer is not at one with the author on the subject of the reversed die proofs on medium sized card (99mm x 76mm) which are not mentioned in the records. Ten such proofs on card, either 53mm x 27mm or 164mm x 103mm, are mentioned. Bill is of the opinion that all are genuine, my feeling is that the proofs on medium sized card have too much in common with the 'colour trials', despite the constant dot under the 'R' of 'EXPLORATION' (not the 'O' as stated).

This slight difference of opinion in no way detracts from a most thorough and detailed examination of the brief existence of a pioneer air mail company, augmented by a number of clear illustrations of both covers and stamps.

DFS

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Wanted: Canadian Special Delivery covers dated before 22 August, 1907, to the following cities: Ottawa, Kingston, Victoria, Vancouver, Brantford and Fredericton. Covers should be clean and the stamps sound. Details and price please to Bob Bayes, Pemberton Plaza, PO Box 34512, N. Vancouver, B.C. Canada.

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THE JUBILEE CONVENTION

John Hillson, FCPS

In mid-September, 50 or so members, many accompanied by their spouses, converged on the Station Hotel, Perth where, at the first meeting of the Society after the War, its current name was adopted. Overseas members included South African John Wannerton FCPS, Horace Harrison, FCPS from the States, and from Canada, Wayne Curtis and Ivy, Professor Harry Duckworth, FCPS and Shirley, Past President of BNAPS, Ed. Harris with Kay, current President Mike Street and Carol, Bill Topping and Marion, Jack Wallace and Bev and, on their own, Leigh Hogg, the Yellow Peril, Stan Lum, FCPS, and last but certainly not least, David Whiteley.

The occasion is not only a philatelic one; just as important, particularly for the 'non-believers', are the social events laid on. Those who took the trip to Stirling Castle, overlooking the site of the battle of Bannockburn where the Scots won their independence from those folk with funny accents who live south of the border, or to St Andrews, birthplace of one of Scotland's drier exports, golf, enjoyed warm sunshine; indeed the weather was kind throughout. In the evenings, those who did not want to attend the meetings could listen to a talk on nearby Scone (pronounced 'SKOON')* Palace, and the following evening our block booking of theatre tickets was fully taken up.

Displays included an evening of T.P.Os given by John Hannah, FCPS, a philatelic history of Canada presented by Alan Salmon, followed by Neil Prior's 'The Yukon-Klondike Gold Rush'. Another evening saw the 1967

'Centennials' by Arthur Jones. With Bob Bayes instructed by his doctor not to travel, Bill Topping stepped into the breach on Friday night with 'British Columbia Coastal Mail'. John Gatecliff chose the theme originally to be shown by Bob Bayes for the final display, namely 'Special Delivery', and he expressed the hope, shared by all, that Bob will soon be fit again, and that his show to us is only postponed.

The final event was the Annual Banquet and presentation of awards, details of which are contained in the Secretary's report on the 'Society News' pages.

The final distinction at the banquet was the formal elevation of Tom Almond to Fellow for services to the Society over the past 17 years, during which period he has held several posts.

Once again Convention proved to be a great success. This was due in some part to the large overseas contingent but, as always, it is the work done behind the scenes that puts the show on the road and keeps it there. President Betty Stephenson and her small band did us proud and earned the thanks of all who attended.

Our new President Frank Laycock was duly installed at the end of the evening when he announced the next convention would be at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate, Yorkshire from 10-13 September, 1997 and he hoped that we would all be able to be there.

**Editor's note:* What was all that about funny accents?



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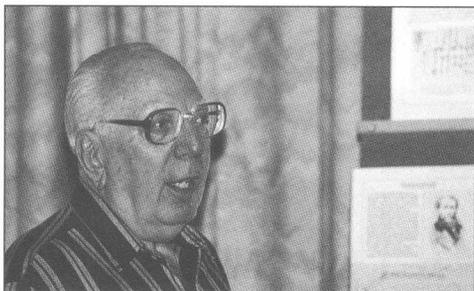
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ALBERTA POSTAL HISTORY
BOOKLETS & BOOKLET PANES
BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY
CENTENNIAL (1967) ISSUE
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DEAD LETTER OFFICE
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EDWARD VII ISSUE
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1859 FIRST CENTS ISSUE
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FOREIGN COVERS
FORGERIES
INTERNATIONAL MACHINE CANCELLATIONS
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NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS
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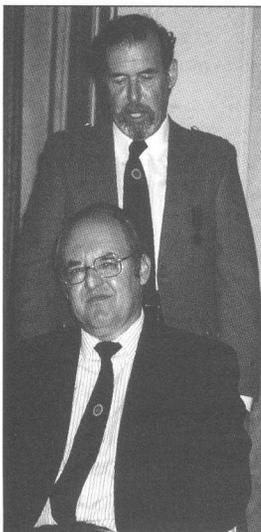
(B)



(C)



(D)



(E)

A. **Ed Harris** from Calgary, won Class 1 and took the Members' Trophy.

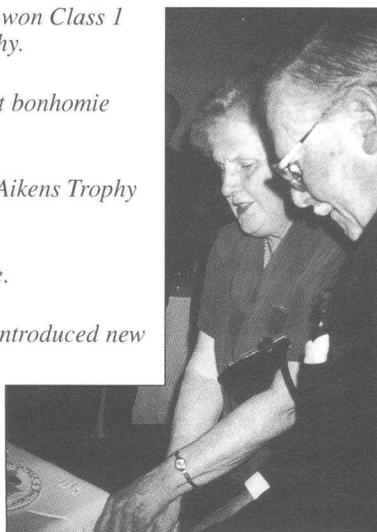
B. **Horace Harrison** brought bonhomie from the US of A.

C. **David Whiteley** with the Aikens Trophy and the President.

D. The splendid Jubilee cake.

E. **John Hillson** (standing) introduced new Fellow, **Tom Almond**.

F. **President Betty Stephenson** gets a helping hand from Fellow **Geoff Manton** for the cake-cutting ceremony.



(F)



An opportunity to see what some of the shadowy committee looks like: L to R. At rear – John Gatecliff, Frank Laycock, Colin Banfield, Tom Almond, Arthur Jones, Jim McLaren, Ged Taylor, Derrick Scoot, John Hillson. Front – David Sessions, Dorothy Sanderson, Betty Stephenson and Neil Prior. Photo courtesy of John Gatecliff, as is 'D' on the previous page. Photo 'C' comes courtesy of Lynda Schutt.

Postscript to the Letters Page:

THE 12d BLACK 'ESSAYS'

In reference to the article in the October issue, members Salter and Reiche both wrote to supply a copy of the relevant pages of the Shanahan auction of February 1959 (ref. p331). This was apparently entitled 'Sale of the famous Bertram Collection'. It contained a number of proofs of the 12d, as well as an issued stamp, but did not contain any of the 'artist's impressions'. It does appear however that Dr Singer did

handle at least some of the Burrus collection.

Harry Sutherland wrote to point out that five of the drawings, one of each Pence stamp except the 6d, are currently (October 1996) on offer via private treaty. Amusingly, one of the 1/2d drawings, which incorporates 'VRI' in the design in the Editor's photo file, explains the initials 'Victoria Regina 1st'!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John Milks

'KIEPEGUN' REVEALED

Referring to Lynda Schutt's letter in the April issue, the following information is given in the 'Dominion of Canada, Official Postal Guide, 1899'.

Name of Post Office: Kipiegun
Township or Parish: Sec 16, Tp 15, R 4, E 1st M

Electoral District: Selkirk, M(anitoba)
Name of Postmaster: G. T. Sutherland.
The abbreviations for 'Township' were not enlarged upon in the postal guide.

I imagine the post office no longer exists, at least under the name 'Kipiegun'. The reason for saying this is that obscure southern Ontario post offices listed at that time have been erased from any map that I have seen.

Kinsmore, a post office in the electoral district of Brandon, Man.

must not be too far away from Kipiegun as it is listed:
Township or parish: Sec 16, Tp12, R 24, W of 1st M
Electoral district: Brandon M
Name of postmaster: John McLaren.

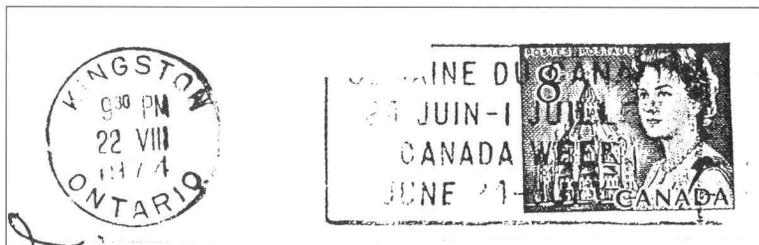
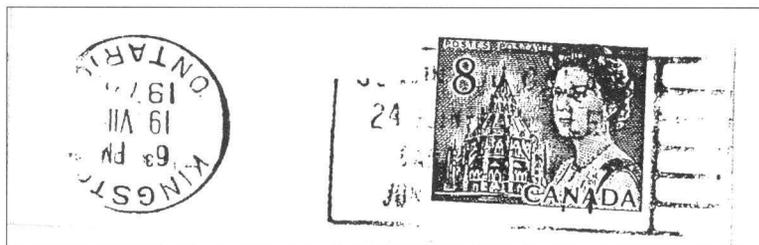
Leigh Hogg

STAMPS THAT WEREN'T

With regard to the references to Lady Minto's Fete in ML 257/8/9, I enclose an illustration of a unique? sheet of the engraved die proofs of the stamps which were actually printed by lithography. The first two columns are progressive die proofs of the portrait and frame of the 4 Annas, columns 3 and 4 the completed designs and column 5 the complete design of the 1 Rupee Map, each in green, black and brown.



Die proofs of the stamps that weren't. Illustration courtesy of Stanley Gibbons Ltd.



Arthur Jones

KINGSTON SLOGANS

In Perth I was given various bits of information concerning my Centennial display – particularly where I had got it wrong! However, there was nothing forthcoming on the Kingston slogans. I am an innocent on the subject, but it does seem strange that there appears to be the same size piece missing from the top left corner of the slogan panel in each of the slogans illustrated above. One is 1972 and the other two are the same slogan in 1974* except that one has an inverted dater. Does somebody,

somewhere have an explanation?

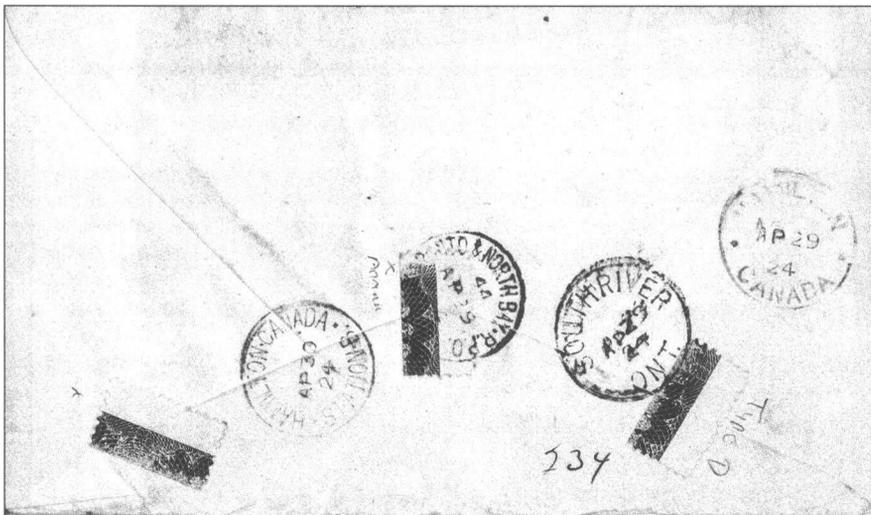
**Editor's note:*

Although the 1974 slogans have the same text, they appear, from the illustrations, to be different dies according to the relative sizes of the slogan box.

Doug Riendeau

ADMIRAL LATHEWORK

Illustrated is the reverse of an Admiral registered cover which was offered as a 'lathework cover'. A bit disappointing



Getting in a lather over lathework.

to find that the lathework was used to seal the envelope and didn't even belong to the stamps on the front! This raises the question: is this a lathework cover or a cover with lathework? I thought Admiral enthusiasts might like to brood on the subject after bewailing this unorthodox use of marginal lathework, now so keenly sought.

Stanley Cohen

NUMERAL OBLITERATORS

Congratulations on a very fine anniversary issue of *Maple Leaves*. The article by the Duckworths, 'Numeral Obliterators on the Large Queens', was of particular interest to me as the compiler of the original listing, together with Horace Harrison, some 35 years ago.

However I was unable to find anything at all new in this particular

study, all of which we had then recorded. Our findings were blindly copied later by E. A. Smythies who, with Dr Day, simply gave their own Type numbers to our originals in their book 'Fancy Cancellations'.

My own collection had cover examples in it of Duckworth's unidentified (still?) 2-ring numerals 17 and 20 also 8 and 42. All these were acquired, I believe, by Jim Hennok in Toronto, who undoubtedly will have kept records (photos) showing their post office sources.

Of all the 'fancy' numeral types, my own most treasured were the ones emanating from Paris with exquisite '57' designs which, somewhat to my amazement, are now referred to as being 'crudely carved', which is just not so, *for all of them*. My collection also housed several covers of the rare 2-ring 4 of Watson's Corner, which formed no part of the official 2-ring series.



The intaglio '57'.

The main point I wish to make, though, is that in my view it is wrong to associate these numeral types with the Large Queens. Apart from the official 2-ring series, which happened by chance to commence a year after the issue of these stamps, they belonged mainly to earlier or later periods. The 4-ring series, being introduced much earlier, is found on the Pence issues and more easily on the 1859 issue. Indeed these are best collected on the 3d or 5¢ Beavers because the earlier impressions give much clearer strikes, whereas on the Large Queens the obliterators tend to be ink clogged. (See Duckworths' Fig. 3 for 4-Ring 29).

My collection of the 10¢ 1859 Consort had the complete set of 4-rings with many on covers identifying the issuing offices, whilst it was a carry over of these that occurred on both the Large Queens and, occasionally, the Small Queens.

The 2-ring cancels are all to be found on the Small Queens. My collection was complete for all offices on both Large and Small Queens but it was indeed covers in the Small Queen period that enabled several of the more elusive numbers to be correctly assigned to their offices of issue.

Similarly, many of the Toronto 'fancy' 2's and other designs continued into the Small Queen era, where they are just as readily collectable and often much easier to find.

I think that collectors should be made more aware of this and not to try to associate these fascinating postmarks with a particular series of stamps that happened to be in use in the short period of 1868-1872, during which time only some of the numeral postmark types were introduced.

For those who do decide to limit their numeral postmarks to the Large Queens, it may be worth their noting that any covers with the fancy types '8' of Ottawa are all extremely rare, unlike the Toronto fancy 2's or even the Kingston 9's.

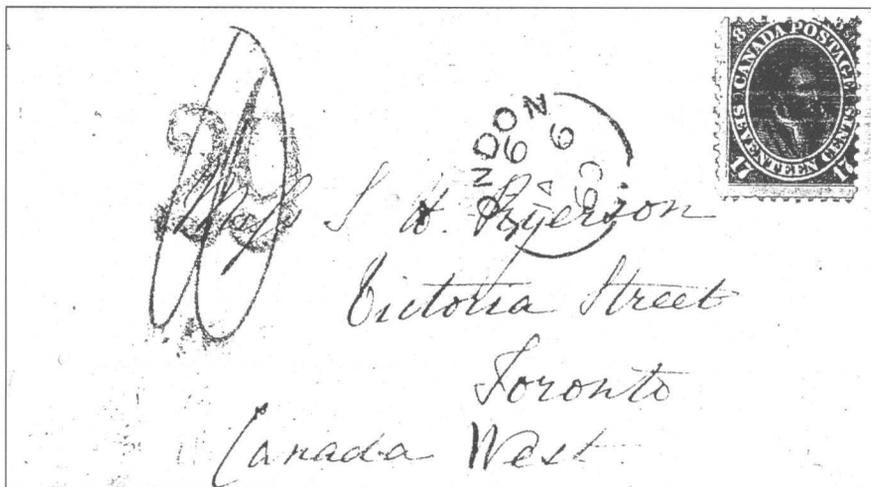
T. H. Salter

LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

Mr Hillson's article, 'Treasure Trove', prompted me to look at my one and only 6¢ SQ on cover and, as near as I can see, it seems to be 11.8 x 11.7 or just under. Hope this is of interest.

Editor's note:

The photostat accompanying Mr Salter's letter shows an 18 July, 1873, postmark which looked extremely promising, so we passed the matter on to the expert. John Hillson, disappointingly, reports that the 6¢ stamp in question is the perf 11.75 version, common to first Ottawa printings in 1872. John points out that the rare version measures just under 11.6 down the side, rather than 11.7, so we must all be very precise with our measurements.



17¢ Cartier – used as 'postage due'?

Godfrey Townsend

VALUE ADDED

An auction lot purchased years ago included the rather tatty cover illustrated. It is from London to Toronto in 1860 and the only postal markings are a London 'W' departure mark (A & H type 1239) and an American charge mark '29', which is deleted in manuscript.

A pristine 17¢ Cartier has been applied on arrival in Canada but not cancelled. Could this have been used as a postage due to pay the rate for a Transatlantic letter, via Cunard? Why was the 29¢ charge applied, should it not have been for a lower amount? There are no backstamps and no evidence of another stamp or mark having been removed; it is a complete envelope. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Bob Bayes

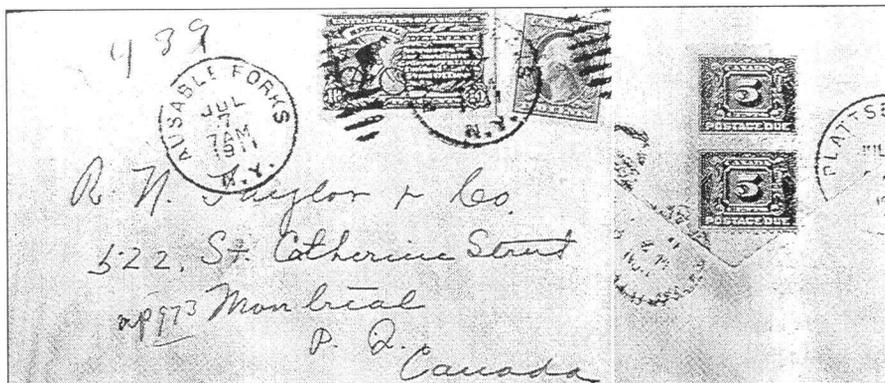
TEN AND TEN

The Yellow Peril sought members' comments on his article in the October issue; the following may be of assistance.

Prior to 1 January, 1923 special delivery mail originating in Canada and addressed to points outside the country, e.g. USA, was not accepted for special delivery service upon arrival.

Likewise *special delivery stamps used from other countries arriving in Canada were not honoured.*

As the illustration⁽¹⁾ shows, the covers were subject to a ten cents postage due charge which corresponds to the covers in Yellow Peril's article. As the regulations quoted in this article says, regarding *registered mail*, "... it



US Special Delivery not accepted in Canada; 10¢ postage due charged (7 July 1911).⁽¹⁾

may, if prepaid one rate be sent on to its destination, *subject to the collection on delivery of the total deficiency as regards postage and registration charges*. These covers were not short paid per se so the regulations allowed them to go forward. Upon arrival special delivery letters were sent out with a messenger and the number recorded in a book kept for that purpose. In this case he probably contacted the addressee with regards to payment of the special delivery fee. The Canadian special delivery stamp was probably used to draw the attention of the delivery messenger to the fact that the fee had not been paid. Should the addressee refuse to pay this fee the letter would still go forward but only as first class mail matter. The manuscript serial numbers would seem to indicate that they did in fact receive special delivery treatment. They should also be backstamped as regulations of this period required.

The regulations as they affected short paid mail at this time were: foreign post (*including British and Colonial*).

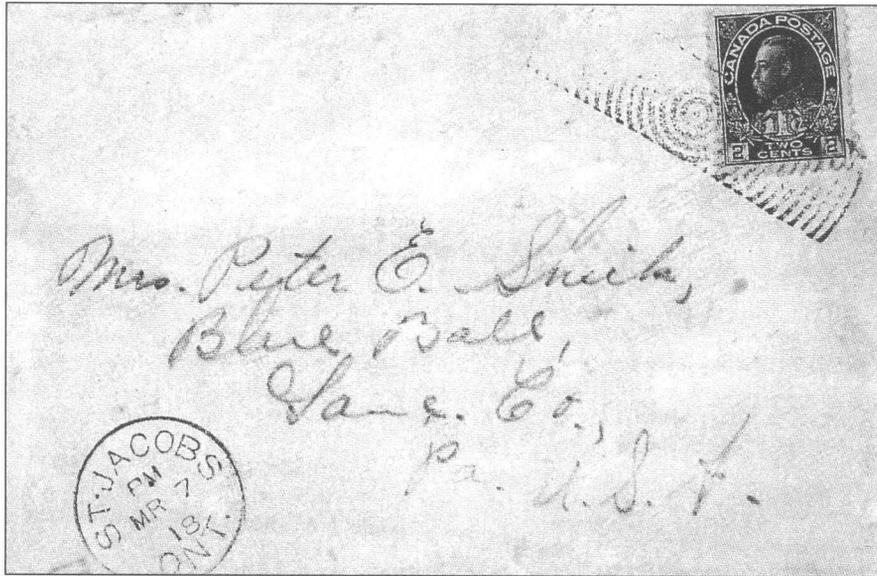
2. Prepayment on letters addressed to the UPU countries is *not compulsory*, but in case of non-prepayment or insufficient prepayment, the letters are stamped 'T' (representing the word 'tax') at the despatching exchange office, and go forward subject to a charge of double the amount of the deficient postage. This would, to my mind, explain the difference in these covers and the one illustrated in Steinhart's book.

⁽¹⁾The illustration is figure 97 in the 'CANADA SPECIAL DELIVERY' handbook by G H Davis (Published by the Unitrade Press, Toronto, 1991).

Neil Prior

ST. JACOBS

The cover illustrated, addressed to America, carries a most unusual 'target' type cancellation. The St. Jacobs, Ont., CDS, dated 7 March, 1918, may or may not be a transit mark. There are no marks at all on the reverse of the cover.



I have not seen this mark before and would appreciate any information members may be able to supply. Was it used in St. Jacobs?

R. A. Johnson

POSTAL HISTORY PUZZLES (1)

The India cover presented and discussed by Horace Harrison in June and the response by Malcolm Montgomery in October 'Maple Leaves' drove me to look up what evidence there was, corroborating or otherwise, from the India end.

A prime reference for this is Martin and Blair, 'Overseas Letter Postage From India 1854-1876' published by Robson Lowe Ltd. in 1975. Perhaps the most useful entry that I found there was:

"W. G. Stitt Dibden's 'Postage Rates of HM Forces 1795-1899' was written from the UK aspect whereas Colonel Martin (the original author) deals with the subject from the Indian angle, hence both works are complementary . . ."

I don't have access to this; but perhaps some readers might.

As to the relevant Indian regulations, there are the following extracts:

"**1789** Both Bengal and Madras exempted all Privates or NCOs, Navy or Army, King's or Company's from ship letter payments *and from internal postage* (my emphasis). The earliest order yet found from Bombay is 1820: 'Free' handstamps were used in India from 1820 or earlier."

"**1800** Madras extended the privilege

of free inland postage, under the COs signature, to all Native Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates in the Hon. Coy's. Marine and Military service."

1837 These were confirmed by an Act.

"11 October, 1854 Act XVII of 1854 did not mention Soldiers' Letters and repealed the Act of 1837. Hence all Soldiers and Seamen, both British and Indian, lost free transit in India. The Indians did not regain this right until 1883."

"8 November, 1854 The Governor General in Council ordered the refund of any Indian postage levied on European Soldiers Letters after 1 October on account of letters to and from England and the Colonies."

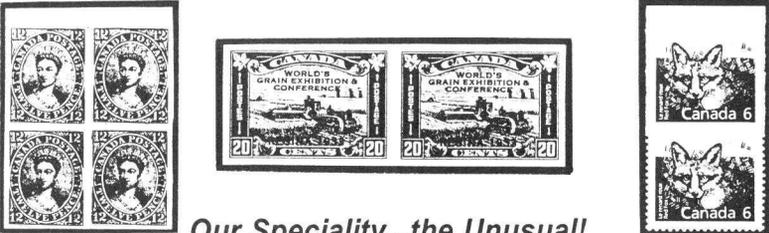
"16 December, 1854. The Director general of the Post Office clarified the position. (Bombay Gazette 1855, p19).

"Soldiers' and Sailors' letters must always be franked by the Commanding Officers. For transmission to England they cannot be prepaid; for the Colonies or Foreign Countries they must be prepaid one penny or nine pies. Such letters (under ½ oz weight) are not liable to Indian Postage. Soldiers' and Sailors' letters between Indian Stations are liable to Indian Postage."

"16 August, 1855. Postage to the United Kingdom could be prepaid One Penny (9 pies) in cash." (There were no 9 pies stamps.)

"Officers' Letters: 1857-1869
The various rates given by S.D.

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applied to Naval, Army or Royal Marines Officers on board HM Ships; foreign transit increased the postage. The bags were made up on board and no stamps other than British could be used for prepayment. They are therefore NOT Indian, even if from an Indian port."

"The Mutiny 1857-58

Letters from Soldiers or Seamen to their families in India were freed from payment of Indian postage after 4 December, 1857, if not earlier.

Officers of the Army were also exempt from 'forward postage', i.e., the redirection charge at Indian Inland rates. In February 1859 they were still exempt 'for the time being'.

At various times during the mutiny, letters of Punjab, Bombay and Madras native soldiers, when serving outside their Province or Presidencies, sent to and from their families were free of Indian postage."

Conclusion 1: Unless Stitt Dibden indicates a lack of reciprocity in charges, I think that we can safely conclude from the above that the rate charged on the cover in question did not include any inland India charges.

From Mazundar's *The Imperial Post Offices of British India (1837-1914)* Volume I, published by Phila Publications, Calcutta in 1990, I found the following respecting registration:

"The Registration Post was first introduced in Bombay Presidency on

1 November, 1849 by a postal notice issued on 16 October, 1849 by PMG Bombay. In Bengal it was established at Calcutta GPO on 1 January, 1851 and, subsequently, Madras GPO followed Bengal. The fee in all cases was eight annas for each letter registered. The Act XVII of 1854 introduced the present system of registration of letters and parcels for two separate posts, viz., the Imperial Post and District Posts of Provincial Governments."

"The registration fee of eight annas per letter introduced from 1 January, 1851 was reduced on postal reform of 1854 to the uniform rate of four annas."

"The payment of registration fee by means of postage stamps of four annas was, however, introduced under the Post Office Act, 1866." (Since the earlier form of payment was mandated before there were any postage stamps and since the four anna stamp was first issued as early as October 1854, it is likely that this was the practice long before this.)

Conclusion 2: Again, unless Stitt Dibden indicates a lack of reciprocity, I think that we are safe in assuming that registration was possible for letters from Canada going beyond London to India without foreign transit.

Postscript: There were 12 pies to the anna and 16 annas to the rupee; one rupee was the equivalent of two shillings sterling. Thus, until the late 1850s, 8 pies was equivalent to 1d and 4 annas to 6d.

THE EXCHANGE PACKET AND COVERMART MANAGERS ARE ALWAYS SEEKING NEW MATERIAL. HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED YET?

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been attending CPS Conventions almost without fail for the last 30 years and every year I am impressed by the hard work and dedication of all the officers of the Society. I have never known a Convention which was not a great success and certainly our 50th Anniversary in Perth was no exception and we are all indebted to Betty Stephenson for her wonderful organisation.

It was particularly gratifying to see so many of our friends from North America and other far flung outposts, who travel to the CPS of GB in ever increasing numbers.

After Perth, Pat and I decided to extend our holiday and went to Portree in the Isle of Skye where we visited the award-winning Aros Heritage Centre. Amongst the story of the history of Skye there was a marvellous mock-up of the ship which took so many islanders from Portree to Portland in 1854. How brave they were when most knew they would never see their loved ones again.

It has been my good fortune to recently 'write up' a number of covers from these early settlers who had then made their way to Oshawa and wrote home to Skye to tell of their exploits. This brought home to me most forcibly the importance of the posts and the need to communicate. Our hobby is a constant testimony to the skills, hard work and endeavours of our ancestors.

The provisional programme for the Harrogate Convention in September includes: 'The First Decimal Issue' – L. Warren; 'Money Letters' – H. Harrison;

'Newfoundland – The Decimal Issue' – W. Lea; 'Fakes & Forgeries II' – D. Sessions; 'Street Cancellations' – C. Hollingsworth; '1897 Jubilee Issue' – C. Banfield. On the social side, visits to Harewood House and the National Armoury Museum are planned. A more detailed programme will appear in the April issue along with booking forms. Meanwhile please enter the dates 10-13 September in your brand new 1997 diaries.

During the coming year I do hope that I shall have the opportunity of meeting many of you again. By the time you read this I shall have given my first display to the London section, on 16 December.

FROM THE SECRETARY

The following is a summary of the main points from the 1996 AGM at Perth. Copies of the minutes and the accounts are available from the Secretary.

President Betty Stephenson welcomed those present and she thanked those who had helped to run the Convention. Members observed a minute's silence in memory of G W Frampton, R P Hedley, C A Parker and A L Steinhart who had died during the previous year.

Summaries of the Officers' reports are as follows:

Chief Executive Arthur Jones – The Society's Jubilee year appeared to find it in good heart, but having difficulty in maintaining its membership like so many similar organisations.

Secretary Tom Almond – Membership as at 14 August, 1996 had dropped by 5

to 455. The number of new members recruited was the largest since 1991. Stan Lum of Toronto won the Recruitment Award. Members Handbook stocks are low and a new version will be produced next year. The Society Rules will be included in the new Handbook.

Subscription Manager John Gatecliff – 107 members had not paid their subscriptions at the end of 1995. Reminder letters were sent out in January and February and 11 members were eventually removed from the rolls. Sales of Maple Leaves realised over £70. Wayne Curtis was thanked for collecting BNA subscriptions so efficiently.

Librarian Colin Banfield – Only seven books were borrowed during the year, reflecting the fact that members are buying their own reference books.

Editor David Sessions – Maple Leaves received a Small Silver Gilt award at Stampex 1996. The regular contributors have continued to serve the Society well. Contributions of articles and short pieces are always welcome. Members were reminded that they can place two classified advertisements each year without charge.

Packet Secretary Hugh Johnson – The past year has been very successful with seven circuits operating; 16 packets have been circulated and sales have been good. There are plans to start a Precancel Circuit shortly.

Covermart Secretary Malcolm Jones – This has been another successful year with sales up 150%. Better items sell well but the amount of work involved in listing poor quality material is disproportionate to the sales when

vendors' prices are unreasonable.

Handbooks Manager Derrick Scoot – Book sales by post continue to decline, but sales of binders continue at a steady rate. Discussions are being held with BNAPS to obtain a better, cheaper service from their Book Department.

Advertising Manager Brian Hargreaves – Income from display advertisements has remained steady over the year, but some regulars have reduced their frequency. There has been a slight increase in use of the classified section.

Publicity Manager John Hillson – All reports of local group activities that were submitted were circulated to Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Stamp Magazine and ABPS News. Reports of regional activities stimulate activity in that area, therefore it is important that local contact members submit reports of their activities to the Publicity Manager.

Treasurer John Hillson – The Treasurer presented his report and the following proposals were approved by the AGM:

- £14 subscription for 1997/98 with a £2 discount for payment before 1 January;
- Life Membership to be increased immediately to 20 times the annual subscription with a concession of 50% for members over 65;
- Unlimited Corporate Membership not to be offered in the future.

The following nominations were proposed, seconded and approved by the meeting:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Mr F. Laycock |
| Vice-President – 1997/98 | Mr G. N. Prior |
| Vice-President – 1998/99 | Mr L. Taylor |
| Secretary | Mr T. E. Almond |

Treasurer Mr N. J. A. Hillson
Committee Member – Scotland
Miss A E Stephenson
Committee Member – North
Mr L D McConnell
Committee Member – South
Dr D Sanderson
Auditor Mr L Taylor

The officers appointed by the Committee are listed inside the back cover of Maple Leaves.

Colin Banfield announced the election of Tom Almond as a Fellow of the Society. George Arfken was awarded the Founders Trophy for his research and articles on Postal History.

Mr Banfield reported that the London Section has 13 members and that it meets from October to May on the third Monday of the month in his London office.

Dorothy Sanderson reported that the Wessex Group had met twice in the year and that an attempt will be made to reinvigorate it in the coming year.

Neil Prior reported that the South West Group would continue its annual meetings at the Bristol Federation Convention in Portishead. These are normally held on the second Sunday in August.

Derrick Avery reported that the Notts. and Derby Group was still active but that the membership was widely spread. New members of the Society do not seem to want to be involved and several have resigned from the Society.

John Hillson reported that the Central and South West Scotland Group had held two meetings at Crawford and that a new member from Glasgow had

recently joined the group.

The changes to the Rules and the Competition Rules which had been published in Maple Leaves were accepted unanimously by the meeting. (See Maple Leaves volume 24, pages 250 and 285 respectively for details of the changes).

Frank Laycock, the incoming President, reported that the 1997 Convention will take place at the Crown Hotel, Harrogate, from 10 to 13 September.

The Secretary announced the competition and trophy winners as follows:

Class 1

1st E A Harris
Pioneer Post Offices of the Prairies.
Awarded the Members Trophy.

Class 2

1st London Section
First Canadian Decimal Value Stamps
on a Range of Covers.

Class 3A

1st C. G. Banfield
2¢ Registration Stamp. Awarded the Stanley Godden Trophy.
2nd D. F. Sessions
Bogus Stamps of BNA.

Class 3B Certificate of Participation

J. W. T. Wannerton. Postmarks on Admirals.
D. A. Avery. Canada's Most Unpopular Stamp Issue.

Best Research Article in Maple Leaves

D. H. Whiteley. Hudson's Bay Company Ciphers. Awarded the Aikens Trophy.

The Treasurer reported that the Executive and the Committee had discussed the financial effect of accepting auction lots with low estimates and they had concluded that the Society should not bear the financial loss from low value items in the Auction. The following administrative arrangements were agreed by the AGM:

The commission on sold lots will be £1, or 15% of the hammer price if this is greater;

A fee of 50p per unsold lot will be collected from each vendor's total realisation after commission has been deducted.

LOCAL GROUPS

Both the London and South/Central Scottish groups held their first meetings of the new season recently. Londoners were treated to displays, by seven members, of new acquisitions ranging from pre-stamp money letters, bulk mail receipts, 1859s through to censored mail and Centennials.

The Scots – and the Cumbrian present – were treated to no fewer than eight mini-displays of up to 32 sheets, from QEII high value plate blocks to 1851 pence issues, and from revenues to modern used. Much information was exchanged and all present agreed the afternoon had been highly successful.

Have you been in touch with your local contact member yet – or with other members living in your area – if you haven't you are missing out?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1997

Jan 20 London Group – Post Cards
Jan 22-26 STAMPEX, Business Design Centre, Islington, 52 Upper Street, London
Feb 17 London Group – Western

Canada

Mar 17 London Group – George V
Apr 21 London Group – Beaver Cup
Apr 24-27 STAMP '97, Wembley
May 19 London Group – AGM and subjects, G, H, I & J
Aug 28-30 BNAPEX '97, St John's, Newfoundland
Sep 10-13 CPS of GB Convention, Crown Hotel, Harrogate
Sep 17-21 STAMPEX, London, as above
Sep 19-21 Royal Caltapex, Calgary, Canada

International Exhibitions

1997

Apr 16-21 NORWEX '97, Oslo, Norway
May 29-Jun 8 PACIFIC '97, San Francisco, USA
Oct 17-26 MOSCOW '97, Moscow, Russia
Dec 5-14 INDIA '97, New Delhi, India

1998

May 12-21 ISRAEL '98, Tel Aviv
Jul 27-Aug 2 PORTUGAL '98, Lisbon
Sep 18-27 ITALY '98, Milan
Oct 20-25 ILSAPEX '98, Johannesburg, S. Africa

1999

Apr 27-May 4 IBRA '99, Nurnberg, Germany
Jun 26-Jul 4 PHILEXFRANCE '99, PARIS

2000

May 22-28 STAMP SHOW 2000, Earl's Court, London

Details of London Group from Colin Banfield 0181 281 0442 (home) or 0171 407 3693 (office); Wessex Group details from Dr Dorothy Sanderson 01794 523 924; S & C Scotland from John Hillson 01461 205656. Contact for West of Scotland is Bill McVey 0141 637 6853.

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP to 25 November, 1996

New Members

2740 Scott, David V., 64 Ipswich Street, Swindon, Wilts., SN2 1DB	N, A
2741 Davis, John L. N., Apartado 74, Gata De Gorgos, Alicante 03740, Spain	C, UO
2742 Coates, W., Box 63064, University Plaza, Dundas, ON, Canada, L9H 4H0	CR-CGC
2743 Robertson, I., 101 Hay Avenue, Toronto, ON, Canada, M8Z 1G3	C, F
2744 Moss, Richard H., 27 Greenfields, Holbeach, Spalding, Lincs., PE12 7BJ	C
2745 Clark, Dr Alexander M., PO Box 44, Pubnico, N.S., Canada, B0W 2W0	NS
2746 Münchner Stadtbibliothek, Am Gasteig, Philatelistsche Bibliothek, Rosenheimer Str. 5, 81667 Muenchen, Germany	
2747 Rossiter, John R., 5 Susan Place, Barne, ON, Canada, L4N 5P3	RM
2748 Shadbolt, Brian, 30 Ruislip Road, Greenford, Middx., UB6 9ON	C

Reinstated

1049 Horne, Brian, Suite 106, The Renoir, 9229 16th St-SW, Calgary, AB, Canada, T2V 5H3

Resigned

2170 Cooper, D. 1873 Gray, Ross D. 2362 Round, A. 2191 Stillions, C. A.

Deceased

2022 Russell, W. M. 1439 Steinhart, A. L.

Change of Address

2262 Bogie, Niall H. R., change postcode to 'EH16 6LY'
 2252 Covert, Earle L., 349 Schooner Cove N.W., Calgary, AB, Canada, T3L 1Z3
 2307 Hughes, John W., 'The Lee', 56 Oak Street, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 9DY
 1562 Kennedy, amend name to Ms Dee Kennedy
 2486 Lacelle, D., delete initial 'F'
 1846 Lazenby, N. B., insert Ashford between High Halden and Kent
 2572 Lee, A. T., substitute 'ACT 2903' for 'ACT 1903'
 2656 Library Of Congress, insert '101 Independence Avenue, S.E.' before 'Washington'
 2125 Malefant, M. G., add '706 Main Street'
 1453 Peatman, A. N., delete 'Saint John'
 2022 Russell, change title to 'Mrs M. W.'
 2517 Sheffield, John, PO Box 81, Lambeth Station, London, ON, Canada, N6P 1P9
 2511 Switt, J., 106, Smythe, Bowie, Texas, 76230, USA
 1616 Taplin, J. H., change to West Sussex, RH19 1PW
 1482 Taylor, Dr I. W., change '60090' to '60090-6201'
 2680 Ure, Donald A., add '48098' after 'USA'
 2539 Wallace, John M., #802-670 Dallas Road, Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8V 1B7
 2540 Wallace, Beverly J., #802-670 Dallas Road, Victoria, B.C., Canada, V8V 1B7
 1809 Wheatley, C. W. R., add post code PO9 1RL

Revised Total 461

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Slogan Postal Markings 1931-1940			£8.50
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Slogan Postal Markings 1912-1953			£9.50
Mail by Rail		Gillam	£11.00
Postage Rates of North Atlantic Mails 1635-1867		Montgomery	£19.00
The Canadian Postage Due Stamp		Chung-Reiche	£6.50
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