



Maple Leaves

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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN*

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EDITORIAL

This issue of *Maple Leaves* marks the start of a special year for our Society – our Diamond Jubilee. I wonder how many of our “founding fathers” expected us to still be around 60 years on? Well we are, and, dare I say it, thriving if our recent Convention in Renfrew is anything to go by. Those of you who missed out on the event will find the usual report in this issue along with a second piece by debutant conventioneer John Cooper who opens the door on the social side of these annual get-togethers. Those of you who always imagined a rather stuffy meeting devoted solely to stamps and postal history – read on – or better still come along to Llandrindod Wells in September 2006 and sample the fun yourselves. You will find the relevant details in the *Society News* column.

In addition to Convention 2006, please make a note in your diaries of the

CPSGB Display to the Royal Philatelic Society of London. This has been arranged to coincide with our 60th Anniversary and will take place at the “Royal” in London on Thursday 27th April. Full details are available from David Sessions. For those who are unable to attend, your editor will be attempting to capture the displays on film (no promises as I have only had the digital camera a few months and new technology and me do not always see eye to eye!). In this way, we hope to make copies of the material available to members via CD for a small charge. More details later in the year.

The Diamond Jubilee coming on top of the recent “long service” medals seems to have brought on a burst of nostalgia from some of our longest serving members. You will find a couple of such articles in this issue and I hope to

publish more over the course of 2006.

Our congratulations are extended, somewhat belatedly, to member Hank Narbonne who was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada in 2005. In similar vein, we extend our congratulations to member Dick Malott who was awarded the President's Medal of the RPSC in 2005.

I am also pleased to report that Maple Leaves has been amongst the awards again. The 2004/5 issues won a Vermeil Award in the 7th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition held in Toronto in October 2005. My thanks to all our contributors without whom these awards would not be possible.

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noted that the next issue (April 2006) of Maple Leaves will be our 300th edition. I am pleased to report that a special tercentenary set of stamps will **not** be issued to accompany the event but

that we are hoping to go into colour for this special one-off edition. I already have a good selection of material to hand for the issue but if anyone has material that would benefit from the "colour" treatment please get it to me as soon as possible.

TO THE LADIES FROM RENFREW

What a wonderful surprise to receive your beautiful arrangement of flowers. They have lasted well and have filled our living room with perfume. Thank you all for your kind thoughts and messages. I was disappointed that I could not be with you all in Renfrew, but we both look forward to being with you in Wales next year.

Marion and Bill Topping.

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Philatelic health warning: the following notes involve hard core philately which may damage your patience.

THE ARCH ISSUE 1930 – MARGINALIA

David F. Sessions, FRPSL, FRPSC, FCPS.

The seed from which these notes grew was planted when several 2c green plate blocks were acquired with imprints of plates 5 and 6. The problem was that none had any upper or lower selvage. These plates, of 400 subjects divided into four panes of 100, had imprints at each corner in the vertical margins and at the marginal centre of each pane. The implication, of course, was that the blocks featured centre imprints, but were they from the upper or lower panes? It was also possible that some tidy-minded Philistine had removed the upper or lower selvage in the name of uniformity and that the blocks were, in fact, corner blocks. Was it possible to identify the position of each of the imprints from a particular plate? After much careful, eye-watering measurement and examination under a suitable glass, the conclusion is that identification is possible in many cases. Along the way, one or two interesting points were observed. It must be stressed that not all imprints have been examined, I should live so long! However, markers have been identified and a summary of the results to date is now offered.

New printers

The British American Bank Note Company (BABNC) won the stamp printing contract in 1929 for a period of five years, having previously printed stamps for the Canadian Post Office during the period 1867-1897. During the new five year contract period they

produced the Arch issue and the Medallion issue, which was really just a replacement for the low value Arches, together with postage dues, special delivery and airmail stamps plus a few commemoratives. As 'new' printers BABNC were innovative; they introduced the Stickney rotary press and a new approach to plate markings. The latter was subject to experimentation which has led to the complexities of classifying the various imprints according to position.

Hitherto, plate markings had been largely confined to the top margin of the plate, but BABNC made their marks in the vertical margins. Ultimately the markings appeared in all four corners of the plate, which allowed keen collectors to acquire blocks from each corner to form a 'miniature sheet' on the album page. This could be regarded as a triumph for the marketing men! It is believed that this was the first time in the world that such a layout was used and it certainly led to an upsurge of interest in plate block collecting among collectors of Canadian stamps. As already implied, nirvana was not achieved overnight.

Unfortunately, BABNC records are not available to provide details of printing orders. Dates of issue of the various values do not help much either as the Post Office issued the new low value definitives as required; the days of grand pre-release advertising and specially designed FDCs were not yet upon us, hence the rarity of Arch FDCs. Much of the story of the



Fig 1 'Miniature sheet' showing the regular positions of the plate imprints.

marginal markings has had to be deduced by observation and head scratching. The enforced colour changes among the low values does provide a little assistance here and there, but not much.

Before we delve into deep analysis of the various values, let's have a look at a few general points that will help us on our way and avoid repetition.

General features

Distinguishing centre imprints from corner imprints is not too difficult. Generally speaking the full corner imprint is sited about 5mm, or slightly less, from the adjacent stamps. The full central imprint tends to be just over 6mm from the stamps. Of course, there has to be an exception! Corner imprints on the 50c plate are indeed about 5mm from the adjacent stamps but the centre imprints are only c2.5mm away.

The length of imprint varies from plate to plate as one might expect in view of the different numerals involved. However, sometimes the distance between 'NO' and the numeral varies on the same

plate. This is particularly so when a plate carries both corner and centre imprints. Fortunately, in a number of cases, the length of the imprint itself also varies as between the different positions on the same plate. It seems reasonable to assume that the centre and corner imprints were not impressed at the same time, what would be the point?

In several cases the dot between 'NO' and the numeral is missing, this is a useful aid to identifying an imprint's location – sometimes!

The position of the dot is not constant. Usually it is nearer to the 'NO', as any good grammarian might expect, but sometimes it is centred between 'NO' and the numeral and, just occasionally, it is shifted towards the numeral.

While on the subject of the dots, they are not all of a uniform appearance. Under a good glass, one or two of the early plates are seen to have round dots but the majority carry horizontal oblong dots. In a few cases the dots are of indeterminate shape, either due to their original configuration or to poor inking. In most cases the dots are similar for the various positions on a specific plate so are of little use in the quest for identification, though we did notice a vertical oblong dot on plate 6 of the 2c value.

Several of the low values had single reversed numerals as imprints on early plates. These were centred on the UL pane in place of full imprints. In most cases full corner imprints were added though not in the case of plates 1 and 2 of the 2c green which were apparently withdrawn before the additions took place. This leads to the possibility that other plate pieces with reversed numbers may exist without added corner imprints.

It may seem odd that, after more than 70 years, there is still speculation regarding the existence or otherwise of imprints from certain positions. This comes about, presumably, from the

practice of adding imprints during the printing life of a plate, the BABNC's inconsistency in allocating imprints to every corner and, hitherto, the lack of a ready means of identification as between centre and corner imprints. A corner block with no imprint cannot be ascribed to a specific plate, one would need a full pane or, at least, a decent strip showing a centre imprint and a blank corner to prove a point. Some such pieces do exist but not in profusion.

In the examination of the individual values that follows, only the useful recognition points are highlighted in order to avoid unnecessary duplication. The values are dealt with in ascending order, except that the 2c value has been left until last as this value is the most complex of the series. The reason for this complexity is that the 2c was almost certainly the Post Office's most urgent need, it covered the domestic letter rate, drop letters, letters to other parts of the Empire and to the USA, domestic postcards and cards to the USA, the Empire and France. Far more 2c stamps were printed than any other value so plates were replaced more quickly, giving more scope for experiment. The 2c green was indeed the first stamp in the series to be issued.

One cent

Eight plates in standard format were apparently made but plates 3 and 4 were not used. Plates 1 and 2 derived from die 1 and were used for both the 1c orange and its successor the 1c green. Plates 5 to 8, from the re-engraved die (die 2), were used for the 1c green only. Both the Plate Block catalogue, 7th edition (PBC) and the Unirate Specialised Catalogue, 2005 edition (USC) seem to agree that imprints can be found in all four corners, but the USC makes no reference to the reversed numerals '1' and '2' that appear in the centre of the UL pane's margin. It is quite possible that corner blocks of the 1c

orange, from plates 1 and 2, exist also without imprints. As corner imprints are found on plates 1 and 2 of the 1c orange they must have been present ab initio in respect of the 1c green printings.

A slight problem arises over a lot (286) sold by Maresch on 16 June 1987 at CAPEX. It is described as "The unique plate block" (imperf) of the 1c green though no reference is made to the plate number. The illustration shows no plate number and appears to be from the LL corner with a fairly large margin at the bottom, apparently an impossibility. However, it just might be from the LL corner of the UL pane as the bottom margin is slightly less wide than the gap between the upper and lower panes on the plate.

Another oddity with regard to the 1c value is the appearance of 'ghost' imprints. In the author's collection are two strips of 20 of the 1c green from the LL pane of plates 1 and 2 respectively, plus a second strip of 16 of the former. The imprint is repeated very feintly alongside rows 5 and 6, while alongside rows 3 and 4 is found a feint version of the complementary imprint, i.e. 'PLATE NO. 2' on the Plate 1 strip and vice versa. Dr Lawrence Whiting (LW) reports a similar phenomenon on plate strips of the 2c green involving imprints of plates 5 and 6. He also reports a 'ghost' imprint of plate 8 alongside rows 7 and 8 of an UL pane of the 1c green. A credible explanation for this phenomenon has not yet been forthcoming. It is also noted in the Medallion issue.

Plate 1: Reversed '1' appears alongside row 5 on the UL pane (per LW)

The UL corner imprint measures 26mm; the LL 25.5mm; gap is just under 3mm in each case.

The UR corner imprint measures 25.5mm, gap 3mm; the LR 25mm, gap 2.5mm.

Plate 2: Reversed '2' appears



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alongside row 6 on UL pane (per LW).

Corner imprints all measure 27mm, though the UR is nearer 27.5; gap is c2.5mm in each case. The dots are all round and fairly well centred. Differentiation is not therefore a realistic proposition.



Fig 2 Reversed '2' at UL centre on plate 2 of the 1 cent green.

Plate 5: UR imprint 30mm with a 5mm gap; LR imprint 28.5mm with a 4mm gap.

Left imprints were not available for comparison.

Plate 6: Both a L & R imprint were available but with no upper or lower selvage. They are believed to be from upper panes. An available block from UR matched the R block in terms of measurement.

UL? Imprint 28.5mm with 3.5mm gap; UR 31mm, 6mm gap.

Plate 7: UL imprint 28.5mm with 3.5mm gap; LL 30.5mm, 6mm gap.

UR imprint 30.5mm with 6mm gap; LR 28mm, 3mm gap.

Plate 8: Only the UL position was available, it measures 29mm with a gap of nearly 4mm.

Three cents

The 3c value was late on the scene, released on 13 July 1931 as a result of the increase in the domestic rate to 3c. Apparently a second die was made (or the original die was re-engraved) and the original die was never used. One assumes that the second die was created somewhat later than the original and by this time the experimentation had subsided. The five plates utilised all conformed to the standard format of one imprint at each corner. It is reported that plates 6 and 7 were laid down but not used. Unfortunately there was low availability of plate material for this value.

Plate 1: UR imprint 29mm, gap 6mm.

Plate 2: UL imprint 28.5mm, gap 3.5mm; LL 29mm, gap 4mm

Plate 3: UL imprint 29mm, gap 4mm.

Plate 4: UL imprint 30mm, gap 5mm
UR imprint 33.5mm, gap 7.5mm

Plate 5: UR imprint 30mm, gap 5.5mm; LR 29mm, gap 4mm LL imprint 30mm, gap 5mm.

Four cents

Two plates were used and imprints can be found at all four corners on each plate; LW has reported that all four centres exist as well. The USC indicates centre markings L and R for plate 1 but not plate 2, while the PBC lists both plates with centre markings. In neither case is it specified whether they exist on both upper and lower panes. A heavy, inverted, reversed '1' appears alongside the full central imprint at UL on plate 1, this is not mentioned in the USC but is covered in the PBC. No evidence has yet come to hand to show that the plate was put into use before the full imprint was engraved thereon. A photocopy of a LH centre imprint without the adjacent '1' has been seen so this can readily be identified as from the LL pane. The centre imprints are all at least 6mm from the adjacent stamps whilst the corner imprints are all about

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Fig 3 Centre imprint from the UL pane of plate 1 of the 4 cents showing a reversed 'I' – not listed in USC.

5mm distant.

A RH centre imprint from plate 1 in the author's collection has not yet been identified as between upper and lower, measurements are given below. Reports of identifiable blocks would be welcome. With regard to plate 2, an UL centre imprint has been measured at just under 27mm with a 2mm gap. A left centre block in the author's collection measures 28mm with a 3mm gap so this has been taken to be a LL centre block. Two right centre blocks in the author's collection exhibit identical measurements so identifiable RH centres are still sought.

Plate 1: UR corner imprint 28.5mm, 5.5mm gap; LR corner 28.5mm, 5.5mm gap

LL corner imprint 28mm, 5mm gap

UL centre (with numeral '1') imprint 26.5mm, 4mm gap

A right centre imprint 26.5mm, 4mm gap.

Plate 2: All four corner imprints measure 28.5mm with a 3.5mm gap

UL centre imprint measures c27mm, 2mm gap; LL? centre c28mm, 3mm gap
A right centre imprint measures 27.5mm with a 2.5mm gap.



Fig 4 Centre imprint from UR pane of plate 2 of the 4 cents value. No centre imprints are listed for plate 2 in USC.

Five cents

Three plates were used and the violet stamp was printed from all three; the blue stamp derives only from plate 3. Careful examination of the four corner positions of plate 1 showed no recordable differences, the UL pane carries a reversed '1' in the centre of the margin opposite row 6. The USC makes no specific reference to a reversed numeral but indicates an imprint at 'centre left'. The PBC refers to numerals though it fails to specify UL pane only.



Fig 5 Reversed '2' at centre of UL pane from plate 2 of the 5 cents violet. Not listed in USC.

A similar situation is found on plate 2 but some assistance is rendered by the dots. The UR imprint was not available. A reversed '2' features in the margin of the UL pane, opposite row 6. In terms of catalogue treatment of the reversed '2', the same remarks apply as to the reversed '1'. There are no centre imprints other than the aforementioned numerals and there are no reversed numerals on plate 3.

Plate 1: Reversed '1' appears alongside row 6 on UL pane.

All four corner imprints measure just over 24mm with a 2mm gap.

Plate 2: Reversed '2' appears

alongside row 6 on UL pane.

UL, LL and LR corner imprints all measure 26mm with a 2mm gap. The UL imprint has a vertical oblong dot, whilst the LL and LR imprints have round dots. Examination of an UR imprint may enable full identification of plate 2 to be made.

Plate 3: UL imprint measures 28.5mm with a 3mm gap, the LL measures >28mm with a 3mm gap.

UR imprint measures 28.5mm with a 3mm gap; LR measures 27.5mm with a 2.5mm gap.

Eight cents

Plate 1 consisted of a single pane of 100, with imprints at UL and UR corners only, so identification is not a problem; this is fortunate as the measurements are very similar! Plate 1 was used to print the 8c blue and the 8c orange; plates 2 and 3 for the orange stamp only.

Plate 2 is even better, a single pane with imprint at UR only.

Plate 3 carried the normal four panes with a full complement of imprints, one at each corner. Unfortunately the four imprints are almost identical. Apart from the imprints, plate 3 exhibits feint but noticeable hairlines in the upper margins of both the UL and UR panes, they are slightly more prominent on the UL pane.

Plate 3: UL imprint measures 28.5mm with a 3.5mm gap, LL 28.5mm with a 3mm gap.

Both UR and LR imprints measure 28mm with a 3mm gap.

Ten cents 'Library'

Only the one plate of 400 subjects was used to print the 10c Library and it had the standard imprint at each corner. Unfortunately there are no appreciable differences in the measurements. The imprints are slightly nearer to the stamps (4.5mm) than on the other values but all are similar. However, the LR imprint is nearer to 5mm distant, which may be of

some help if identification is sought.

There is one quirk on the plate, which is covered by the PBC but not the USC. A heavy numeral '1' (not reversed) appears in the LH margin, between the UL and LL panes. Inter-panneau guillotining usually leaves it on a block from the LL corner of the UL pane.



Fig 6 The numeral '1' appears in the LH margin of plate 1 of the 10 cents value, between the upper and lower panes.

Plate 1: All four imprints are 25mm long with a 2.5mm gap, all have square dots.

Twelve cents

Again just the one plate was used. Along with the other high values the plate consisted of 200 subjects but they were still divided into four panes so the format of four corner imprints is retained. Sadly they are very close in terms of measurement. The only variation noted is that the UL imprint appears to be slightly less than 27mm, the other three slightly more.

While on the subject of marginalia, the 12c value often exhibits a second line

of perforation in the vertical margin. The PBC makes reference of this and cites both L and R margins. Only right margin examples have been noted by the author to date but this is nothing to go by! Oddly the same phenomenon has been noted on the 20c and 50c values but no reference thereto is made in the PBC.

Plate 1: UL imprint measures <27mm with 4mm gap

UR, LL and LR imprints all measure >27mm with a >4mm gap.

Twenty cents

Another single plate with imprints at each corner and precious little difference between the respective measurements. The only measurable difference comes in the LR imprint which measures a full 27.5mm, whereas the other three imprints come in at a shade over 27mm. As indicated above, a second vertical line of perforation is occasionally seen in the margin, though no mention is made in the PBC. The author's example is at UL.

Plate 1: UL,UR & LL imprints all measure >27mm with a gap of 4.5mm.

LR imprint measures 27.5mm with a gap of 4.5mm.

Fifty cents

Alone among the higher values (12c and above), the single 50c plate carries centre imprints as well as the four corner imprints. Both the PBC and the USC list the centre imprints but play safe by referring only to 'left or right centre'. Strips have been noted proving the presence and position of both UL and UR centres; careful measurement shows a slightly different position for the lower imprints.

The corner imprints throw up their own little mystery. They have been noted at all four corners but auction catalogue illustrations have also been seen showing the LR corner without an imprint. This leads to the assumption that some or all of

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the corner imprints were added after printing commenced. No other 'nude' corners have been noted to date. It will be appreciated that, with catalogue values approaching \$2,000 for mounted mint plate blocks, material for examination is somewhat thin on the ground. The upside of this situation, however, is that auction catalogues tend to illustrate such pieces when they are offered for sale.

As mentioned in the introductory paragraphs, the recognition of a centre

imprint, as opposed to a corner imprint, is not difficult. In the latter case the imprint is the standard 5mm from the adjacent stamps, whilst the centre imprints are only 3mm away. Despite similar measurements, the left corner imprints can be segregated, the LL imprint has no dot, the upper one does.

The 50c value shares with the 12c and 20c the occasional appearance of an extra line of perforation in the vertical margins. Again there is no reference thereto in the USC and neither does one appear in the PBC. This is a little odd because the phenomenon is listed in respect of the 12c and there is an illustration (p40) of an UR plate strip of the 50c in the PBC showing the extra line of perforation. The example in the author's collection stems from the LR; examples have been noted in the LH margin also.

Plate 1: UL, UR & LR corner imprints all measure 25mm with a 2.5mm gap.

LL imprint is similar but has no dot.

There is a slight difference in position between the UR and LR imprints in that the 'P' of 'PLATE' lines up with the base of the 'A' of 'POSTAGE' on the adjacent stamp on the UR block. On the LR block it lines up with the cross bar of the 'A'.

UR & LR centre imprints both measure 25.5mm with a 3mm gap.

However, on an UR block the '1' of the imprint lines up just below the centre of the 'O' of 'POSTAGE'; on the LR block the '1' lines up with the base of the 'O'.

The UL centre imprint matches the right imprints for size. The 'P' of the imprint lines up just below the top bar of the 'E' of 'POSTES'; the '1' lines up just above the centre of the second 'S' in 'POSTES'. A LL imprint was not available for measurement.

One dollar

With imprints only at UL and UR this value should present no positional problems.



Fig 7 UL and centre left imprints from plate 1 of the 50 cents value, showing the latter to be closer to the stamps.

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Ten cents 'Cartier'

Although sometimes regarded as a commemorative, the 10c Cartier replaced the 10c Library in the definitive series. Three plates were used. Plate 1 carried imprints at all four corners, plates 2 and 3 carried imprints only at UR and LR. The UL and LL imprints on plate 1 cannot be measurably separated but the LR imprint is longer thanks to a considerably wider gap. An UR imprint was not available but an illustration suggests that the measurements would be close to those for UL and LL, thus making the RH imprints identifiable at least.

With the two imprints falling on the RH side on both plates 2 and 3, some point of identification is needed and, unfortunately, only a LR block was available in each case. The gap in the imprint at LR on plate 2 is 4.5mm, the same as three out of four imprints on plate 1 so we can only wait for an UR block to show itself. Plate 3 is more hopeful in that the gap at LR is 6mm, longer than average for this value.

As we are dealing with margins it might be of interest to record that a miscut block, sold by Maresch (14.6.95) showed the vertical gutter between panes to be three times the normal space between stamps, making it c9mm wide.

Plate 1: UL & LL imprints both measure 27mm with a 4.5mm gap.

LR imprint measures 30mm with a gap of 7.5mm, which appears longer than the imprint at UR (illustration seen) though an example was not available for measurement.

Plate 2: The LR imprint measures 29.5mm with a gap of 4.5mm, no UR block was available for comparison.

Plate 3: The LR imprint measures 31mm with a gap of 6mm, again no UR block was available.

Two cents

With over 1100 million stamps printed from ten plates, the 2c stamp is by far the most plentiful value. Not surprisingly, it causes the most headaches or provides the most interest, depending upon one's point of view. The colour changes mean that the 2c comes in three colours, the chronological sequence being green, red and brown. Where the plates overlap we are afforded some help in plotting the sequence of events. Plates 1 to 6 produced the green stamps, 3 to 8 the red stamps and 5 to 10 the brown stamps. It can be seen that plates 5 and 6 were used in the production of all three colours, so are likely to be the most informative. It seems that experimentation with imprint positions peaked with plates 5 and 6, from plate 7 onwards we just have the four corner imprints.

The overall sequence seems to be: no full imprints on plates 1 and 2; corner imprints on plates 3 and 4, possibly added during the printing period; plates 5 and 6 had centre imprints only, early on, with corner imprints being added during the printing period; plates 7 to 10 had imprints in just the four corners. The UCS indicates full imprints at centre UL for plates 1 and 2, as well as reversed numerals, the PBC lists only the reversed numerals. Observation so far favours the PBC listing. The same applies to plates 3 and 4.

The incidence of both corner and centre imprints on plates 5 and 6 gives rise to more problems of positional identification though, as we have already seen, the centres can be differentiated from the corner imprints by virtue of their distance from the adjacent stamps: centres 6-6.5mm, corners c5mm.

Plate 1: UL, reversed '1' at centre, opposite row 6 of the pane.

The only other plate marking noted is what appears to be a reversed 'C', which appears at UL on plate 1 opposite the base



Fig 8 Part of a full pane from plate 6 of the 2 cents value showing the UR and right centre imprints. Note that the latter is positioned further away from the stamps.

of row 7 of the pane. It has not been confirmed whether this 'one off' marking was on the plate ab initio. If anyone has a plate strip from the UL pane of plate 1 without the said marking, please advise.

Plate 2: UL, reversed '2' at centre, opposite row 6 of the pane.

Plate 3: UL imprint measures 27.5mm with a 2.5mm gap; LL imprint measures 27mm with a 2mm gap.

LL imprint has no dot.

UR imprint measures 27mm with 2mm gap, LR imprint the same.

The dot is close to the '3' in the UR imprint, it is roughly central at LR and slightly raised.

The UL pane carries a reversed '3' at centre, alongside row 6 of the pane.



Fig 9 Reversed '3' at UL centre of plate 3 of the 2 cents red.

Plate 4: UL imprint measures 27.5mm with a 2mm gap; no LL imprint was available.

UR imprint measures 27.5mm with a 2.5mm gap; LR 27mm with a 2mm gap.

The dot is roughly centred in the UR imprint, in the LR imprint it is nearer to the '4'. Alternatively, if the sloping line of the '4' is extended down beyond the dot then in the UR imprint the dot will fall above the line whilst at LR it will fall below.

The UL pane carries a reversed '4' at centre, alongside row 6 of the adjacent stamps.

Plates 5 and 6 are the only ones to be used for all three colours of the 2c. They are also unique in that the centre UL imprint has a mysterious symbol

alongside, illustrated in both the USC and PBC. No rational explanation for the symbols has been offered, though the suggestion has been made that someone involved in the plate-making process decided to make his mark on the lines of 'Kilroy was here'! Such things are not unknown in the printing industry though it must be considered unlikely at a security printer. This UL centre combination is common to both plates in all three colours. Both catalogues agree that the 2c green plates 5 and 6 also carry full imprints at the LL corner and centre right, without specifying whether upper pane, lower pane of both. The other three corner positions are duly filled when it comes to the red and the brown versions. The relatively high catalogue value of the LL corner plate blocks in the USC for plates 5 and 6 in green suggests that the addition was made in the very late stages of the green printing. With regard to the centre right imprint, both UR and LR have been reported, in green, on both plates.

An example of the LL corner for plate 6 (green) has not yet been noted but, despite a lack of catalogue listing, LW reports a strip from the LR pane of plate 5 with a corner imprint. The implication is that plates 5 and 6 of the 2c green carried centre imprints in respect of each pane and that corner imprints were added to the lower panes of plate 5 late on in its period of use. The jury is still out in respect of plate 6.

The red and the brown versions exhibit plate imprints at all four corners and centre positions but it has not been proved that imprints 'missing' on the green version were engraved onto the plates prior to the commencement of the red printing.

Plate 5: UL corner imprint measures 26mm, gap is 2mm; LL similar measurements though it appears fractionally longer.

UR corner imprint measures 26mm,

gap is 2mm; LR similar measurements though appears fractionally shorter.

UL centre imprint measures 29mm, gap is 4mm; LL measures 29.5mm, gap is 4.5mm.

UL centre imprint has symbol alongside.

UR centre imprint measures 29mm, gap is 3.5mm; LR centre 29mm, gap 4mm.

All the corner imprints have no dots, all the centres do. As before, the corners are c5mm from the adjacent stamps, the centres are over 6mm away.

Plate 6: UL corner imprint measures 26mm, gap 2mm; LL corner 26mm, gap 2.5mm.

UR corner imprint measures 26mm, gap 2mm; LR corner 26mm, gap 2.5mm.

The comparative measurements are very close but we are in luck here as both the upper corner imprints have a dot, while the lower corners do not.

UL centre imprint measures 28mm with a 3mm gap, LL centre 27.5mm with a 2.5mm gap.

The UL centre imprint has the symbol alongside.

UR centre imprint measures 29mm with a 3.5mm gap; LR centre measures 28.5mm with a 3.5mm gap.

The right centres are also very close in comparison with each other though, as in most other cases, they are over 6mm from the adjacent stamps as opposed to c5mm for the corner imprints

On the final four plates, 7 to 10, the printers reverted to the pattern of a single corner imprint for each pane.

Plate 7: UL corner imprint measures 32 mm with a 7mm gap; LL corner 31mm with a 6.5mm gap.

UR corner imprint measures 30 mm with a 5mm gap; LR corner the same.

Plate 8: UL imprint measures 28mm with a 3mm gap; LL measures 30mm with a 5mm gap.

UR imprint measures 30mm with a

4.5mm gap, LR measures 29.5mm with a 4.5mm gap.

The RH imprints are very close in terms of comparative measurement, however a keen eye and rule shows that a line touching the fattest part of the '8' runs along the top of the 'E' of 'POSTAGE' at UR, whilst at LR the line bisects the 'G' of 'POSTAGE'.

Plate 9: UR imprint measures 31mm with a gap of 5.5mm; LR 30.5mm with a 5mm gap.

Again the measurements are close, a line brushing the back of the '9' on the UR imprint runs just above the lower bar of 'E' of 'POSTAGE'; at LR it runs just below the top bar.

UL imprint measures 28mm with a gap of <3mm; LL imprint not available.

Plate 10: UL imprint measures 31mm with a 4mm gap; LL measures 31.5mm with a 4mm gap.

UR imprint measures 32.5mm with a 5.5mm gap; LR measures 31.5mm with a >4mm gap.

Apparently plates 11 and 12 were laid down but not brought into use.

Readers who have travelled this far deserve a round of applause and it is

hoped that the information contained herein will prove of some help to those keen to put their plate blocks in order.

In a lame paraphrasing of Sir Winston Churchill's immortal words, it might be said that "Never in the field of philately has so much been written about so little".

Acknowledgements

Dr Lawrence Whiting provided details of his extensive plate block collection.

Auction catalogue illustrations proved helpful; in particular, runs of catalogues produced by Maresch, Firby and Lee.

Editors Note: I must apologise to both the author and the editor of the Canada Specialised Catalogue for the fact that I have been holding this article for some time awaiting a suitably large slot to publish it. Readers should note that in the meantime the 2006 edition of the USC has listed all of the additional items noted in the article.

**We wish all our
members a peaceful
and prosperous
New Year**

If there is room at the bottom of your list of New Year resolutions then please resolve to send some material to either or both of our Exchange Packet Managers.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS

The Yellow Peril

Photo by Susan So

In the summer of 2001, I read an interesting report about the Newfoundland "235" cancel in the second quarter (2001) issue of BNA Topics. After reading the story of this intriguing postmark I couldn't help but reminisce about the good old Jim Sissons days of the seventies. For yours truly and everyone who had a passion for buying stamps at auction, these were indeed the best of the good old days. prices were sane; the dollar had buying power, and best of all the gavel price was it! There was no 15% buyer's premium, no 8% OST (Ontario sales tax) and no 7% GST (Get Stuffed Tax). Furthermore, the subtle and real frosting on the cake was the frequent opportunity to compete for large, uncreamed, or virtually uncreamed, collections. Mr. Sissons had the confidence and ability to describe and sell large lots for as much as, if not more, than had he broken down the collections. His rationale was that it would save him time and energy and for the consignor, commission. In the matter of commission, Jim would always allow a discount on his commission to the trade.

This rather amusing incident is an indication of Mr. Sissons' ability to sell stamps. I had bought a rare cover for a client and instead of having the auctioneer ship the lot, I sent it because I wanted to enclose a note. The addressee's post office, for some reason, stapled a notice to the registered letter. The staple punched two neat holes right through the stamp on the enclosed cover. The new owner was horrified but he did not have any recourse. I discussed the matter with

the auctioneer and Jim agreed to re-offer the lot in a subsequent sale. The now defective cover realised considerably more than it did the first time around!

It was during these wonderful, gone forever, stamp-buying, Jim Sissons, days twenty six years ago that I bought a seven volume collection of BNA covers. In the Newfoundland section was this cover with a 5 cent seal stamp tied by a 235 numeral cancel (see over). In the past I had had several stamps with this cancel but never a cover. The following is the original caption that accompanied the cover:-

"It is known that this obliterator was first issued to the post office at Staindrop, England and was used by that office between 1844 and 1857. It was not seen again until about 1865, when it appeared on the issues of Newfoundland, and was seen on various occasions through 1896."

The stamps with this cancel, I consigned to one of our convention auctions. The cover, however, was so appealing that, despite the possibility of selling it for a hefty price, I withdrew it from my "To Sell at Shows" binder and added it to the research pile.

Over time, more important matters captured my attention and the cover and its whereabouts were forgotten. It was five months after becoming aware of the 235 story that I stumbled across the cover in a downtown bank while looking for another item. Although I do not collect Newfoundland, I think this 235 cover is a nice one to keep even if it is for no other reason than to remind me of those "good old days".

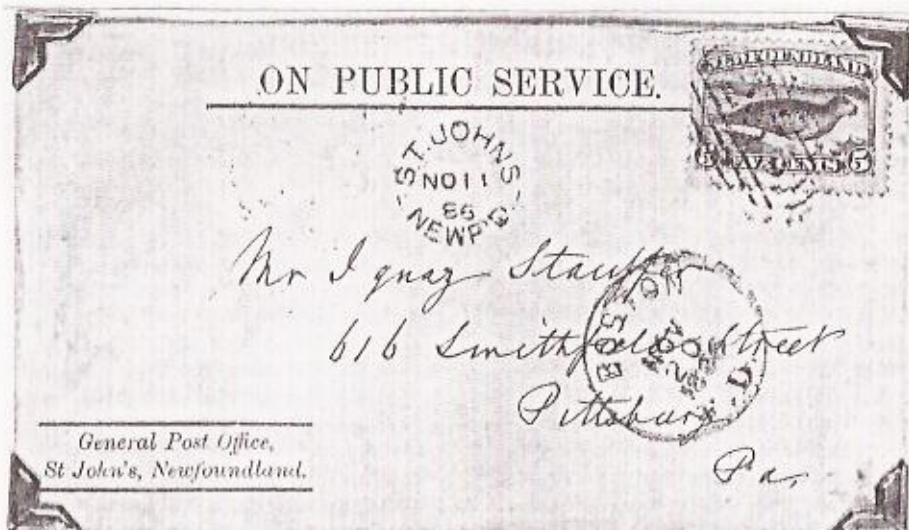


Fig 1 1880 Newfoundland 5 cent 'Harp Seal' tied with a "235" cancel to an 11 November 1886 "ON PUBLIC SERVICE" cover to the USA. Note the Boston 20 Nov 1886 transit mark.



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A COLLECTOR'S LIFE

David Back

I started collecting stamps in 1937 with my first album as a Christmas present. My father was always bringing stamps from his office as they came from all over the world. Some of the ones I remember were from Venezuela, Mozambique and Liberia – with its picture of the Ford 'Tin Goose' aeroplane starting the first airmail service AND being triangular. It was enough to excite any youngster.

The early 40's saw my friends and me starting to narrow the area of our collections and each of our 'gang' chose the British Empire and a Dominion – for me it was Canada. We spent hours comparing, swapping, buying from approvals and learning. I know far more about the world from my collections than through the geography we were taught at school. We had a Welsh geography mistress who tried, nearly every lesson, to teach us 11 – 13 year old grammar school boys some Welsh! She was on a loser though we did learn what 'heddlu' meant! I wonder how many children today aged 7 to 14 know where Venezuela, Mozambique, Liberia or Samoa are? The EU does not even recognise Wales! Mind you, it is not surprising,.....!!

Then came the Second World War. Around 1946, my next door neighbour showed me his BNA collection. This fired my enthusiasm to start again as he had the Jubilee sets – both mint and used. I decided this was the set I wanted. I finally succeeded in this quest last year with the purchase of the umm \$5...with the help of a very jolly Welsh auction

manager (yes, I have learnt where Cymru is as well!)

1947 saw me starting and running a stamp club at my grammar school. This taught me two things: PROFIT MARGIN and CONDITION.

Our local department store was progressive and allowed space to a young man of 16 to sell stamps, postcards and accessories. This young man was Peter White who helped me develop the school club. He became a lifelong friend though he only ran the department for two years until his National Service called.

The next three years saw me at the Bolt Court School of Photography in Fleet Street. During my time there I was sent out on two outings of philatelic interest. The first was to the Post Office Museum where I was able to see what unmounted sheets of penny blacks and twopenny blues looked like. The second was to a private collection to try and photograph some of the items; a difficult job with poor light and only black and white film.

Not wanting to do National Service, I signed on with the Royal Air Force for 22 years. After just 4 days of exhaustive tests and a medical, I was discharged as they had found I had TB. For the next two years I was not allowed to work or kiss – until I was finally clear. At this time I sold all but my Canadian collections to my father to raise some money; knowing that they would return sometime in the future.

1953 saw me working for a season at Butlins holiday camp at Clacton with Golden Memories Ltd. We did the

processing of all the camper's photographs. I am glad to say that kissing was back on the menu!

The following year I was living and working in Frinton –on-Sea in Essex, where Arthur Blair persuaded me to join the local philatelic society, of which he was secretary. He encouraged me to give displays and talks to other societies. When I was finally allowed to work in London, providing it was not photography or processing work, Arthur introduced me to Mr A.L. Michael (Mick) of H.E. Wingfield, stamp dealers, of 392 The Strand, who offered me a job. Here I joined Norman C, Sid R, 'The Twins', Brian C, Marianne, Bobby L, Pat C, Peter Bailey and others.

One of my early tasks was to soak the stamps from our incoming mail. Following this they would have to be mounted into our counter sales stock books and priced. Later, customers' new issues would have to be compiled, invoiced and despatched. Sheets came in from Crown Agents, Dominion, foreign postal services and dealers. Tearing up sheets and chatting is a great pastime until someone points out that the 1955 South Africa Voortrekker stamps come in pairs! Whoops...good thing I had not finished the sheet.

The 1950's were difficult due to the strict currency controls on money, and goods, coming in and going out of the country. Fortunately stamps are an international currency and one can happily carry many £000's in a wallet.

During my time at Wingfield's, where we met people from all walks of life and from all over the world, four stand out in my mind – but for very different reasons.

The first was The Keeper of Her Majesty the Queen's Stamp Collections, Sir John Wilson; a striking gentleman, so polite and knowledgeable. One of his areas of expertise was Russia and he was

happy to chat with us minions until going into Mick's office.

The second came in wearing an old raincoat and carrying a battered briefcase. He was an American who had just flown in and wanted to clear his account and look for more material. I asked if he wanted his invoice made out for sterling or dollars? Our account came to \$642, which was quite a lot in those days. He opened his case and counted out the dollars. His case was full of dollars – probably several thousand more! I put my eyes back in and, trying to keep a straight face and an even voice, shunted him very quickly into Mick's office.

The third was the most trying because at that time there was much publicity about antisocial sexual behaviour – deviants and sex change operations etc. A customer came into the shop and I was called upstairs to serve them. I saw a person of medium height, age 30 -35, fresh-faced, light makeup, short hair, open necked shirt, boyish figure, wearing slacks and with a deepish voice. I could only say "Good Morning" as I could not tell whether they were Sir, Madam, Mr, Mrs or Miss (Ms had not been invented in those days). The only way to tell was to ask their name – for the record. They replied (for example) Robin Smith. I was still none the wiser as I had two friends called Robin – one boy and one girl. I would still have been in trouble had it been Lesley/Leslie! I looked across the shop and realised I had been truly set up, as I was the only one not sniggering!! I gave up and fled back downstairs.

The fourth was a military gentleman, and regular customer, called Philip Marsden. He found I was interested in BNA material and, as was the fashion, he proposed me for membership of the CPSGB. On 14 November 1954, as No. 750, I took my place in our Society.

Working for a leading stamp dealer

you get used to handling items of great rarity and beauty but, as a member, to see parts of the great collectors' specialisations was, and is, a real honour. I admire the research, time, dedication and long pockets that are needed to put these collections together. It made me decide to look, listen, shut up and keep a very low profile, which was not difficult as the deep leather armchairs in the Commercial Counsellor's office in Canada House – where our meetings were held – were very comfortable and after being on ones feet all day.....

Around this time, I became assistant to Pat Crome, editor of the Strand Stamp Journal, and ended up ghosting articles, giving a précis of incoming items and collecting and collating the blocks to be used for the next edition.

Another of my jobs was to collect from St Martins le Grand Post Office the monthly issues of booklet stamps, as they were all dated; a nightmare for collectors and very expensive.

Opposite us, on the first floor, was another stamp dealer called Bridger and Kay and some of us handsome young men used to flirt with two of the girls who worked there. Finally we met up with them and one – Vera T – a Hungarian whose family had escaped the uprising became my girl friend. She later emigrated to Canada, married and had a family. She had become friendly and kept in contact with the wife of my friend Peter White, whom I had met in 1945 – a small world!

A dealer who had the stamp concession in Selfridges, the famous West End store in Oxford Street, poached me from H.E. Wingfield. Mick Michael tried to get me to stay but could not match the £10 per week I was going to get! Mick went on a few years later to buy out Stanley Gibbons. The Selfridges concession was a counter on the ground floor near the book department. While

here I found we had a very distinguished list of clients from the world of music, films, stage, government and civil service.

One person stands out above all others in teaching me about life. We had a dapper client who was an avid collector and a good spender. One day he said would I like to bring some stock books and have dinner with him one evening? Living on my own, I quickly said, yes! I loaded several albums and my briefcase on to my Lambretta scooter and drove down to Whitehall to a large block of flats. I was escorted to the lift and then met and entered a very plush, well-furnished and large apartment. The evening started with drinks and a selection of some stock. A waiter came in with a trolley holding the three-course meal and bottles of expensive wines. We ate and drank very well. When dinner had been cleared he joined me for coffee on the sofa and further selections were made and paid for. When the stock was put away, out came the brandy and he came and sat very close.

It suddenly dawned on me that he now expected gratitude to be shown! I was not consenting and made as quick a getaway as possible. Luckily the streets were empty and I got back to my Chelsea flat somehow. It coloured my view of top government mandarins from that day to this. The things one suffered to make a sale!

Among other incidents was the time I went to work by bus and I had a lot of stock I had been valuing and pricing. I used the No's 14 and 73 and having made a late start arrived at the counter a couple of minutes after the 9 o'clock opening. What a rush. It was, until I realised I had left the stock on the bus. After frantic phone calls it was safely located and cost £5 to recover. It took most of the following day to re-price everything.

Knowing Kenneth Rapkin was of

great benefit as I was invited to the works in London to see the design and making of stamp albums. I left with 6 'Evenleaf' albums which are still in use today.

Half of my Chelsea flat was a stock and workroom for the Selfridges operation and my friend Peter White and another chap would come in the evenings to help make up packets etc. Our helper, who I will call John, came in one evening in hysterics. He was an ambulance driver and the previous evening had been called to a tragic scene. A lady was trapped in her flat and could they help. John and his mate drove round and found this lady in bed with a gentleman who had had a heart attack due to over-exertion! She had just been able to reach the bedside phone but could not move him off her. Then due to a fit of the giggles, they had compounded the misery by sliding the poor man off the stretcher going down the stairs!

(My wife says this story is apocryphal and cannot be true – but it is!!)

The job ended when my employee had local problems with the tax office and insurance payments.

The 1960's and 1970's saw Mr Sanders (senior) of Southampton supplying me with new issues and some nice Admiral plate blocks etc. In those days, I used to buy in auction occasionally but stopped as I strongly object to Auction Houses adding 15% plus, buyers' premium. It is pure daylight robbery.

The 1990's saw me retiring from mainstream work and setting up my own consultancy. This gave me a few extra coppers to spend. I am now fully retired and work to a budget – sort of.

The receipt of the Society long service medal, for which I am very appreciative, caused all of the aforementioned scribble.

So endeth the Collector's Tale.....and for friends of the 'Prisoner' TV show, remember I am not a person, I am #750!!

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CONVENTION 2005 RENFREW

A seasonally (for Western Scotland!) overcast day greeted members assembling for the 59th Society Convention in Renfrew. However, the sun did break through later in the week and those who partook of the coach outings to the Burrell Collection and to the Glengoyne Distillery all enjoyed a splendid time.

Leigh Hogg kicked off the philatelic displays on the Wednesday evening with a display of the 1917 Anniversary of Confederation stamp. Leigh made light work of filling several frames with just one stamp. I seem to recall being told that very fine copies of this stamp were quite scarce. Now I know why – Leigh has them all! The display included original paintings of the design, die proofs, imperfs, plate pieces, perfin, postmarks, a calendar collection including FDC, postal history and uses including special delivery, postage due and overseas mailings.

Thursday morning saw David Sessions standing up to present his display on the Lady Boats which had formed the basis of his recent Maple Leaves articles. Apart from the covers and postmarks, David had assembled an amazing array of collateral material – even including photos of the U boat captains who had sunk the ships! Not to disappoint those who prefer stamps, David also included a second half display of the Medallion Issue of Canada including the coils, booklets, postage dues and special delivery stamps that accompanied the issue.

Joe Smith took the floor on the Thursday evening with a slide show on the Toronto Litho Company and their post

cards produced in the 1890 – 1910 era. These early post cards were a riot of colour and clearly used by the various communities of Canada to promote local tourism. Joe showed us examples from Niagara Falls, St John NB, Kingston, Halifax, Brantford, Gananoque, Winnipeg, Quebec, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Muskoka – even some used in the UK. The display also included some Patriotic cards and some showing local sports – not all of which appeared to have modern equivalents!

Friday morning brought the ever popular Members displays of up to 16 sheets. One year I am sure we will all bring along the same subject matter but not this time! We were treated to an excellent mix of material, including: Early Postal History of Canada, 1 cent PSC's uprated to Overseas, Federal Wildlife Reserve Stamps, Wilson Patriotics, The Empress of Ireland Wreck, Arch and Medallion Postal History, Newfoundland Mail to Oporto, the TPO service Newfoundland to Sydney NS 1898 – 1949, Ephemera, The Yukon/ Klondyke Gold Rush, Newfoundland Overprints, Cancellations on the Small Queens and the Royal Visit of 1939.

Friday evening saw the Yellow Peril and a display of Admiral covers. Some of you will recall that Stan had displayed his Admiral stamps a few years ago in Convention and the covers were no less impressive. Aided by Susan So, Stan showed us first the various postal uses of the individual stamp values including the war tax stamps and the surcharges. The

second half of the display showed the various postmarks used on Admiral stamps and also combination uses with postage dues, special deliveries, airmail stamps etc. Overall, a most colourful display including some very rare pieces. For those who missed it, some future Maple Leaves articles will include the main parts of the display.

Saturday morning saw our final display which again featured just one stamp. This time it was Rob Lunn and the Map Stamp of 1898. Only one stamp it may have been but there seemed to be something for everyone in the 100+ sheets on show. Not only did we see the essays and proofs and the stamp itself with the various plates used etc but we also had some precancels, some perfin, some re-entries, some cinderellas and forgeries plus a large showing of cancels used on the stamp including; squared circles, RPO's, flags, duplex, rollers and carrier marks. The display also included a wide range of covers showing the rates and usages. These included illustrated covers, some Patriotics and even a Klondyke cover and use as a revenue stamp.

Saturday also brought the traditional society auction. Colin Lewis our auctioneer had kept the number of lots down to a mere 1300 this time and so finished by mid afternoon! As usual, there appeared to be a lot of satisfied buyers (and sellers) and a serious boost to society funds was reported by the end of the day.

Over 50 members and guests sat down for the closing Banquet on the Saturday evening. Graham Childs of Bonhams gave a most entertaining speech on the state of the stamp market (but I fear did little to convince our better halves that it is "really just an investment"). I should also make note of Freda Stalker's speech on behalf of the ladies – if only for testing our treasurers'

sense of humour to the very limit!

Overall, it was a most enjoyable four days. It was good to see some new members and also to see a strong contingent from North America once again. We hope to see you all again next year in Llandrindod Wells.

Finally our thanks go to John and Christine Hillson who stood in at short notice for Bill and Marion Topping. Not only were John and Christine marvellous hosts but they had clearly put a lot of effort and organisation into making it such an enjoyable time for us all.

GS

Photographs are courtesy of John Gatecliff, David Sessions and the Editor.



Visit to the Glengoyne Distillery – Peter Payne, Mac McConnell, Mike Slamo, Majorie Mackie and June Banfield are in shot.



John Hillson hands over the Presidential Badge of Office to Neil Prior



Susan So receiving the Aitkens Trophy from the Editor for her article on the Prisoner of War Franks (ML 294)



John Parkin showing more of his "Ephemera"



East meets West again (see ML 296) – The Yellow Peril and his guest Shuling at the banquet.



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combination of stamps. Single usages of any values other than 1c & 2c and these are still of interest if they carry nice clear postmarks of smaller Newfoundland towns. On this issue I'm a collector, not a dealer, so you don't have to be kind on pricing - Kind is you offering me the opportunity to acquire some neat items that will enhance the collection. Contact John Jamieson at Saskatoon Stamp Centre (see phone/fax numbers below) or email directly at ssc.john@saskatoonstamp.com

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CONVENTION 2005... PHORMING A PHILAHOLIC STUDY GROUP

Those of you who imagine CPSGB conventions are rather stuffy affairs full of displays, postal history and study; should be aware of the more social side to these events. John Cooper has provided the following account from Renfrew (pictures are courtesy of the Editor who for a small bribe is prepared to destroy all the remaining negatives.)

The evening of Friday at the CPSGB Convention in Renfrew's finest hotel saw the start of what one hopes will become an annual tradition. Led by the Co-Vices; Sandy Mackie and Colin Banfield a small group retired to our meeting room under the watchful eye of treasurer, John Hillson to discuss matters philatelic when, lo and behold, a bottle of fine single malt appeared. Much discussion followed, more malt followed and the meeting ended just before sunrise as vows of eternal friendship were exchanged.

After the Annual Banquet on the Saturday evening, this group, co-erced some additional members to join in a second meeting. This writer struggled mightily to avoid being involved but succumbed. By now, the presence of Rob Lunn, Peter Edwards, Leigh Hogg, Graham Searle, Malcolm Newton, Joe Smith, Peter Payne and new President Neil Prior gave this new study group the legitimacy they sought. Supplies of potables were obtained from various sources which shall remain unnamed and a rousing time was had by all!. About 1 AM, some of the wives arrived, keen to participate in this new philatelic venture (and I fear to locate their husbands!). By 2 AM supplies of sandwiches, nuts and chocolates had magically appeared and so it went.

As this is the CPSGB's newest attempt to start a study group and seeing how successful it was, I foresee funding in next year's budget.

John Cooper.



The "twin vices", Sandy Mackie and Colin Banfield discuss the various colours and dies to be found on Glengoyne whisky containers.



Leigh Hogg displaying early Mennonite headgear (I hope,..... if not your guess!)



The new study group in session. From L to R Marjorie and Sandy Mackie, Colin Banfield, Neil Prior, Peter Edwards, June Banfield, Dinah and Leigh Hogg, Karen Searle, the author (hiding!) and Peter Payne.

Forthcoming Events

2006

Feb 22-26 Spring Stampex, Islington, London

Feb 23-25 Philatex, London

Apr 7 - 9 AMERISTAMPEXPO, Toronto

Apr 27 CPSGB display to Royal PS of London

May 27-Jun 3 Washington 2006

July 6 - 9 Philatelic Congress of GB, Renfrew

Sept 6 - 9 CPSGB Convention - Llandrindod Wells

Sept 15 - 17 NOVAPEX, Dartmouth N.S.

Sep 20 - 24 Stampex, Islington, London

Oct 26 - 28 Philatex, London

Nov 16 - 20 Belgica 2006, Brussels

Nov 24 - 25 ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition, Torquay

2007

Feb 28 - Mar 4 Spring Stampex, Islington, London

Sept 19 - 23 Autumn Stampex, Islington, London

Oct 3 - 6 CPSGB Convention, Beach Hotel, Worthing

2008

May 14 - 22 Israel 2008, Tel Aviv

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mike Street

POSTAGE DUE QUERY

Derrick Avery's 7-cent Peace issue (C9) cover with a 138 centime Taxe rating (ML, October 2005) is quite interesting because there are actually three rates involved.

Derrick is correct that the letter was mailed when the proper rate to the UK was 15 cents per quarter ounce, but he is not quite right when he says "...it would appear that the letter had been rated at the previous all up rate of 30 cents..." In fact, prior to 1 November 1946 the first airmail rate to the UK was 30 cents per half ounce. The change that took place on that date was to make it cheaper to send a light letter, i.e. one weighing up to one quarter ounce.

So why is Bill Pekonen's favourite stamp, the 7-cent C9 airmail, on this cover? When the Peace Issue set was released on 16 September 1946 it was possible to mail a letter to the UK at 'a partial airmail rate'. This rate was the normal 7 cents per ounce for a domestic airmail letter; the difference was that the letter would only go as far as Halifax by air, after which it would travel by sea. Following the rate reduction of 1 November 1946 the Canada Post Office realized that there was confusion over this practice and on 1 March 1947 partial airmail rates were abolished.

For a period letters were forwarded but taxed for insufficient payment of the airmail rate. In the case of Derrick's letter the weight was between one quarter and half an ounce, so the rate should have been 30 cents. As Derrick calculated, twice the deficiency of 23 cents multiplied by the conversion to Swiss

Centimes of 3 centimes per Canadian cent made for a tax of 138 centimes.

On 10 April 1948 the Post Office ordered that from then on letters prepaid at the partial airmail rates were to be forwarded by surface mail only. I have several examples of letters with the 7-cent Peace Issue either taxed or stamped to indicate surface transmission only. In one case the 'Airmail' sticker was removed before the letter was forwarded by surface mail. Letters correctly mailed with only a 7-cent Peace Issue stamp between 16 September 1946 and 1 March 1947 are few and far between.

Alan J. Griffiths FRPSL FBSAP

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PENCE LETTERS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

I take this opportunity to add to the article by George Arfken and Charles Firby in the October 2005 issue.

When the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. cy. (= 3d. stg.) rate was introduced in June 1870, representing the new rate for mail carried by the Allen Line from Halifax, it was possible to send mail by the Cunard contract via New York. Prior to 1861 the rate for such closed mail from the U.K. had attracted an extra 2d. stg. to cover the postage through the U.S. but I cannot confirm whether a rate was established for this route through the 1860s for mail from the Province to the U.K.

From the U.K. this route was still available for an extra cost of 1d. stg. giving rise to covers rated at 7d. stg. up to June 1870 and 4d. stg. after this date. Neither of these rates are common.

Certainly from June 1870 there is

evidence that this reciprocal route was available for the payment of an equivalent extra payment of 1¹/₂d. cy. making a total of 6d. cy. and it appears that there are very few examples of this rate and route that have survived.

One such item is illustrated below. (fig 2)

Sandy Finnie

POSTMARK QUERY

I have recently purchased a copy of the 1893 20 cents vermilion (see fig 1 below). It appears to have two cork cancellations. One is clearly an anchor, the other is more difficult to identify. I know from my own research that the post office at Waterloo had two anchor

cancellations. However, neither resembled the one on this stamp.



Fig 1

I wonder if any of our Society members with an interest in fancy cork cancellations could shed any light on the double cancellation on this stamp?



Fig 2

Richard Thompson

WHEN WERE THE ONE CENT SMALL QUEENS FIRST PRINTED?

It was with interest that I read the Duckworth's and John Hillson's articles in the July issue of *Maple Leaves*. There appear to be three typos, in Table 1 of the Duckworth's article, in the stamps received by PMG from Printers. By my reckoning the following took place using the data in table 10 of *The Large Queens* page 76.

Fiscal Year	Date	Stamps received by PMG from Printers	Total for year
JY/01/67 – JU/30/68	before AP/21/68	1,800,000	1,800,000
JY/01/68 – JU/30/69	before JY/31/68	1,520,000	
	AU/01/68 – JA/31/69	2,030,000	
	before AP/30/69	3,650,000	
	before JU/30/69	3,000,000	10,200,000
JY/01/69 – JU/30/70	NO/30/69	300,000	300,000
JY/01/70 – JU/30/71	before JY/31/70	2,000,000	
	before DE/31/70	900,000	
	before JU/23/71	5,400,000	8,300,000

From this Table 1 of the Duckworth's article in the July 2005 issue of *Maple Leaves* may be re-written as follows.

	Stamps received by PMG from Printers	Stamps distributed by PMG to Postmasters
July 1/67 - June 30/68	1,800,000	2,344,693
July 1/68 - June 30/69	10,200,000	4,198,100
July 1/69 - June 30/70	300,000	4,603,500

The total of stamps received prior to July 1, 1870 is thus 12,300,000 and the total distributed before July 1, 1870 is 11,146,293. Consequently at least 1,153,707 (12,300,000 – 11,146,293) must be Small Queens. If we subtract the 300,000 received November 30, 1869 (which both Hillson and the Duckworths agree must have been Small Queens) then 853,707 Small Queens must have been received before July 1, 1869, the same number the Duckworths obtained.

But now, how do we distribute the shades of the one cent yellow Large Queen. One possibility is as follows:

Using the Duckworth new estimate of 9,900,000 one cent Large Queens and the Duckworth estimate that 48% are red-brown and 52% yellow we get 4,544,000 (9,900,000 X 0.48) red-brown Large Queens.

Delivery date	Quantity	Colour	Papers
Before AP/21/68	1,800,000	Red-brown	1 & 3
JY/31/68	1,520,000	Red-brown	3, 4 & 6
AU/ 1/68 – JA/31/69	1,224,000	Red-Brown	5, 7, 8 & 9a
	806,000	Deep orange	10
Total for year	2,030,000		

AP/30/69	3,650,000	Yellow-orange	9b & 10
JU/30/69	900,000	Yellow	10
		Pale yellow	10
	2,100,000	Deep orange	10 (Small Queens, Shoemaker's paper A)
Total for year 3,000,000			

In your Editors Footnote to the Duckworth/Hillson debate you wonder about the paucity of dated 1c SQ before the middle of 1870. I have 23 from FE/10/70 to JU/30/70. My latest dated 1c LQ however is NO/29/69.

John Milks

WHEN WERE THE ONE CENT SMALL QUEENS FIRST PRINTED?

The recent debate reported in *Maple Leaves* between John Hillson and H. E. and H.W. Duckworth as to when the one cent Small Queens were first printed is of considerable interest to those of us who are interested in the postal history of the Large and Small Queens.

The first evidence that Small Queens were printed before June 30, 1869 came from the Duckworths' book on "The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and their Use, 1868-1872."

The debate between the two sides began in the July 2005 issue of *Maple Leaves*. The data used by the Duckworths to support their position came from calculations using government records on dates and numbers of stamps received from the printers and issued later to postmasters. John centered his arguments on the assertion that a December 17, 1869 order for 300,000 stamps led to the first delivery of the new stamp early in 1870.

What is puzzling about the content of the arguments by both parties is that neither gave any importance to the very large number of stamps (8,000,000) which had been ordered in the July 1, 1868-June 30, 1869 fiscal year. Also, of the 9,250,000 stamps sent to the Post Office Department by the printers only 4,198,100 stamps were subsequently issued to postmasters, leaving an increase in inventory from 405,307 at the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868 to 5,455,200 as of June 30, 1869.

It is noteworthy that only 2,300,000 stamps were ordered from the printers in fiscal year July 1, 1869-June 30, 1870. This relatively low number demanded a transfer of about an equal number from the inventory to supply the 4,603,500 issued to postmasters by July 31, 1870.

The records show that no additional amounts were needed from inventory until 1872 when 2,528,600 were transferred to make up the 5,528,600 issued to postmasters in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872. The remaining inventory going into the July 1, 1872-June 30, 1873 fiscal year was 1,291,700 one cent stamps.

Thus, if the entire inventory on June 30, 1869 had been Large Queens, then both Large and Small Queens were sold to the public from early 1870 to sometime into 1873. No evidence has been found, at least to my knowledge, to support this scenario in any way. If they were not Large Queens, then it is obvious that the majority were Small Queens having been printed in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1869.

It has long been believed that 300,000 one cent stamps received by the Post Office Department on November 30, 1869 but not officially ordered until two weeks later on December 17, must have been the first printing of the Small Queens. However, with millions of one cent Small Queens already in the hands of the Post Office Department it is difficult to understand the need to print an additional quantity.

It should be remembered that the Post Office Department never recorded them as Small Queens. The assignment of the 300,000 stamps to this category was an invention of stamp collectors. Accordingly, it is more likely that these stamps were Large Queens. These stamps were combined with other Large Queens in inventory, and were sold to the public in the interim because of a decision to release the three cent Small Queen issue prior to the one cent value.

Doug Mason

THE GRADING PROBLEM – LET US START AT HOME

I read with interest your comments on the grading problem (Oct 2005 ML), so many of us agree but is it not a sign of the times; every advertisement, publicity etc. is "better than better", "bigger than bigger". I even noticed with amusement that in the description of the Riel forgery the word "jumbo" is used!

Now to my little moan. I recently purchased two items in the Society auction which I have returned to Colin Lewis. One item was described as centred left but had perforations touching the frame. The second item, a strip of four, described as centred low had the 'cut' touching the lower frame of the left stamp.

In most cases I find the vendor gives a fair description but these two were

clearly exceptions.

Referring back to your excellent article may I suggest that we start at home, within the Society, by asking vendors to use V.F., F. and V.G. and when describing centring to state if there is not clear space between perforations and frame.

This is in no way a criticism of our auctioneer, Colin Lewis, who does an onerous task so well and who is always most helpful.

Alan J. Griffiths FRPSL FBSAP

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL TO B.N.A. - AN UNRECORDED 'PAID' HANDSTAMP?

My interest in this subject is essentially confined to my collection of mail to and from Prince Edward Island and it is from this source that I have now discovered two examples of a hand-stamp, struck in red, of which I can find no record.

I have several examples of the 6d. stg. rate from U.K. to P.E.I. in the period 1860 to 1869, most of which are addressed to one Robert Holman of Summerside. There is little of exceptional philatelic interest in these items - the route being Liverpool to Halifax and Boston - initially carried by the Cunard contract and after 1 January 1868 by ships of the Inman Line calling at Cork (the port of Queenstown) en route to New York. It is on two covers carried by the latter arrangement during 1869 that an additional hand-stamp is to be found.

The first discovery was on the cover illustrated at Fig. 3 (Overleaf).

At first I had not recognised this indistinct mark as anything unusual, there being an offset of a Charlotte Town arrival mark from another item taking my attention. My initial reaction was that it was struck by a non official source simply



Fig 3

to affirm that it had been prepaid and need not be accounted for by the recipient. I still do not dismiss this as a possibility unless I can be directed to a more specific source. Now I have not been able to trace this as a 'postal' endorsement but then I may not have looked in the right place and I am happy to be so corrected.

What has prompted this article is the fact that I have now acquired a second example illustrated at Fig. 4.

The similarity between the two items is remarkable in that this hand-stamp is applied in a similar position on apparently identical covers, the main difference being that one is dated 3 July 1869 and the other 11 September 1869, both out of Liverpool.

My analysis is as follows.

I have similar correspondence at the 6d. rate in 1860 and other dates up to 1869 and at the 3d. rate from 1871 - as well as examples at the 7d. and 4d. Rates - none of which bear this mark. The period of use

appears, therefore, to be confined to the latter part of the year 1869. Did anything significant happen at this time?

My proposition that it was some form of "private" application is made less attractive by the inclusion of the sterling 'D' which would not have been necessary for any internal accounting purpose but would have been relevant if there was any doubt as to the currency applicable. At this date P.E.I. was still operating with currency based upon the Halifax Shilling discounted against Sterling at the rate of 1 : 1.5 and the letter 'D' would have applied to both so this mitigates against it being applied at Charlotte Town.

On the basis of the 'convention' that a mark in Red applies to paid items and those in Black to unpaid items this is a clear indication that it was to advise a receiving postal officer that the mail had been paid at source (or in transit).

The fact that the design of the mark



Fig 4

precludes any space for the inclusion of a figure indicating the denomination paid would suggest that it was some kind of basic indication that the stamp affixed was paying the correct rate for the route.

My conclusion, therefore, is that it was intended to advise those operating in a decimal currency that the sterling stamp used was sufficient payment. There was a hand-stamp used elsewhere - in Australia for example - which read "PAID ALL" for mail entering the U.S. and prepaid to its destination. Does this have an equivalent purpose? Could it be that it was applied on board the mail ship where the postal staff would be aware that it may, at some stage be handled by American postal staff, who may be unfamiliar with the U.K. stamp employed? But was any mail sorting done on these ships? - I would have thought not but is it a hand-stamp dedicated for use on the Inman Line?

Is it possible that this mail actually

went through the U.S. - New York or Boston - so could this have been applied as a U.S. transit mark? This is a subject on which I am lamentably, so far, ignorant.

Have any members seen this mark on other Canadian mail or, as an alternative, can they direct me to information as to the use of this mark?

John Wright

A.R. CARDS AND LETTERS

Lot 463 from the Renfrew convention Auction described an A.R. cover (and still attached A.R. card) sent from Vancouver to Abbotsford in 1971. Marked "Not at this address" it was returned to sender.

A.R. covers seem quite scarce, and with their card are even nicer so I placed a successful bid with the excellent Colin Lewis and received the lot a few days later.

Not only was the A.R. card, issue 39B (1-67) still attached to the cover, but the cover was unopened. It was perhaps unsurprising that the sender had not opened the envelope as he knew the contents, but later owner(s) were obviously less curious than me as I carefully slit to reveal a Canada Post "Change of Address Announcement" reply paid card.

On September 24th 1971, sender H.K. Warren (knowing F.D. Baxter had

moved) sent this card (issue no. 86B 7-67), partially completed, to Baxter for the addition of his new address and return to him. Marked "Not at this address", then "Unknown" and finally "Return", the entire was back in Vancouver on September 27th with a rubber-stamped, boxed, "CARD SENT" with "SEP 28 1971" added.

Are these blue and white cards common? Certainly this one, and its two companions, make a nice trio.



Fig 5

HAVE YOU TRIED TO ENROL A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?

BOOK REVIEWS

Two new titles in the BNAPS Exhibit series and one in the BNAPS handbook series have reached us for review in the last few months. Additionally, we include a brief review of the latest edition of the Unitrade Specialised Catalogue of Canadian Stamps (2006 Edition).

PRETTY IN PINK: THE PLATES AND STATES OF THE CANADA 1898 TWO CENT NUMERAL ISSUE

Peter Spencer, 2005. Spiral Bound, 106 pages, 8.5 x 11, colour. ISBN: 0-919854-58-3. Published by the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS). Stock # B4h017.1; SC74.00. Shipping is extra - Credit card orders (Visa, Mastercard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus \$2 per order; for payment by cheque or money order add 10% in Canada, 15% to the US, 20% overseas (overpayment of postage greater than 25 cents will be refunded in mint stamps). GST is payable for Canadian orders. No PST applies. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. BNAPS books are also available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B6, Canada; Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed via <http://www.iankimmerly.com/books/>

In addition, all of the books reviewed in this issue can be obtained from our Handbooks Manager, Derrick Scoot – see the advert on page 220.

Peter Spencer's *Pretty in Pink: The Plates and States of the Canada 1898 Two Cent Numeral Issue*, is the latest BNAPS handbook. The Canada 1898 two cent numeral stamp has been a source of puzzlement and controversy for a century. Two apparent dies, at least two colours, twenty-two plates, most plates with several states, two paper meshes, at least

two paper colours, and many hundreds of re-entries and retouches. The situation is somewhat like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle with a base of about 4000 pieces (22 plates with 200 subjects each) and one, two, three or four layers, depending on where in the puzzle one looks. And to a beginner, all the pieces look identical! Using today's technology to great advantage, CPSGB member, Peter, has closely examined the Two-cent value of the Queen Victoria Numeral Issue to advise readers how to determine the plate of individual copies of this popular stamp.

The book starts with a description of the 10 different "ghost" dots to be found on this stamp. This is not philately for the faint hearted! A 15 x magnifier is the minimum required to see all but one of these dots (the latter can, mercifully, be seen with the naked eye). Some require a 25-30x monocular microscope with the attendant very good light sources. The book includes excellent, highly magnified, pictures of all of them to aid identification. It then goes on to detail each plate and the various states of the plates, showing how the "ghost" dots can aid plate identification.

Also included are details of the two different paper meshes to be found on the stamp (and how to tell them apart) along with a census of plates and paper types by month and year.

Essential reading for the specialist collector of the 1897-98 issues and a good general read for anyone who admires a detailed study of a stamp that is still fairly plentiful and cheap to obtain.

The review copy is now in the Society Library.

GS

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THE LAW STAMPS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THEIR USES 1879-1984

Ian McTaggart-Cowan, 2005, Spiral Bound, 170 pages, 8.5 x 11 - BNAPS Exhibit Series #36. ISBN: 0-919854-65-6 (Colour), 0-919854-66-4 (B&W). Published by the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS). Stock # B4h923.361 (Colour Version) - \$C104.50; B4h923.36 (Black & White Version) - \$C37.95. Other details as above.

The Law Stamps Of British Columbia And Their Uses 1879-1984 exhibit contains proofs, bisects and some quite rare imperforate examples of the 13 issues of British Columbia Law stamps. Among the many documents are two presented to the Privy Council in London, and another pair processed by courts in France or Egypt before entering the Canadian judicial system. The collection was assembled by Ian McTaggart-Cowan during a period that coincided with the decision of the government of BC to do away with Provincial Registries. These had been maintained in the administrative and judicial centres of the province, most of which maintained County and Supreme Court records locally. Realization grew that little or no reference was being made to the majority of documents in the registries.

At the same time facilities in Victoria, Vancouver and New Westminster were growing rapidly and required constant and growing attention. A few of the smaller registries, maintained in courthouse basements, had accidental floods that called for a realistic view of need and demand.

Unfortunately the registries were mostly a local responsibility and there was little guiding philosophy from the provincial government in the matter. Bit

by bit the larger registries were examined to identify the categories of records likely to serve a long-term legal purpose. The remaining documents were marked for destruction. It appeared that the provincial archives did not see these collections as a source of interesting historical documents; little or no attention was given to identifying papers of unusual historical interest. There seems to be no official record of what happened to the various local registries.

Vancouver documents were incinerated under supervision, though some papers were made available to a local collector. A few people with an interest in identifying documents of special historical significance managed to have some documents preserved.

The exhibit includes many examples of the earlier Law stamps used on these court documents which provide an additional dimension to the display.

There are a few typographical errors in the dates which can initially be misleading but are fairly obvious. Also the order of the pages from the 9th series of stamps onward is very hard to follow. These are, however, minor criticisms of a splendid display of material that is rarely, if ever, seen outside North America. A must for revenue collectors. These stamps have little in the way of shade variations, so the general collector who is interested in the subject may save some £'s by purchasing the cheaper B&W option. For those who wish to try before they buy, the review copy (in colour) is in the Society Library.

GS

**BRITISH COLUMBIA &
VANCOUVER ISLAND POSTAL
HISTORY, COLONIAL PERIOD
1858-1871**

Warren S. Wilkinson, 2005, Spiral Bound, 160 pages, 8.5 x 11 - BNAPS Exhibit Series #37. ISBN: 0-919854-67-2 (Colour), 0-919854-68-0 (B&W). Published by the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS). Stock # B4h923.371 (Colour Version) - \$C102.00; B4h923.37 (Black & White Version) - \$C36.95. Other details as above.

Warren Wilkinson's British Columbia & Vancouver Island Postal History, Colonial Period 1858-1871 exhibit is a treat for the eye. The focus is on mail carried by the express and transportation companies - Wells Fargo, Barnard's British Colombia Express, the Upper Columbia Company and others - that contracted with the Colonial Government to carry mail to and from the island, the mainland and points beyond. Many of the unusual postal markings of the period are shown cancelling stamps of British Columbia & Vancouver Island, often on letters going overseas from the colony. A final section shows stamps of Canada used on mail after Confederation in 1871 along with post-Confederation uses of the Express Companies.

After selling other collections, at CAPEX '96 Warren Wilkinson extended a previous interest in the philately of Canada and British North America with the purchase of the Charles Firby collection of Canadian Pence covers. Developing the Pence collection caused him to expand into other BNA areas, including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, as well as British Columbia & Vancouver Island. He proceeded to win an unprecedented three consecutive Grand awards at the

annual British North America Philatelic Society BNAPEX exhibition. His 'Postal Rates of Canada 1851-1859' won at Ottawa in 2001, while 'Postal Rates of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia' received the honours at Spokane in 2002. In 2003 Warren won again at London, Ontario with the exhibit that is the subject of this book, 'British Columbia and Vancouver Island Postal History: 1850-1871'. In the same years these exhibits also won the Grand award at the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada exhibition.

The exhibit is built upon the Robert Carr British Columbia Express Mail collection which was purchased by the author. To it, he has added material from many other prominent collections, most notably the Wellburn collection. The result is, indeed, outstanding and well worthy of the many Gold medals and Grand awards it has received.

The book is highly recommended for any collector of BNA material and collectors of British Columbia and Vancouver Island will find it a "must have". Whilst the huge price differences between black and white and colour versions in this series make me tend toward the cheaper option, this is one occasion when I would recommend the colour version. The material is that good it seems a shame to miss the colours! If you want a sneak preview, the review copy (in colour) is once again in the Society Library.

GS

UNITRADE SPECIALISED CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN STAMPS – 2006 EDITION

Editor : Robin Harris FRPSC. Spiral Bound 8.5 x 11 inches, 576 pages. Available from most major dealers/ outlets. UK price circa £21 plus p&p (from Vera Trinder Ltd), Available widely in North America, price CS 42.95, circa US\$ 36 plus p&p.

The Unitrade catalogue will need little introduction to most members as it remains the most comprehensive, one volume priced catalogue covering all the stamps of BNA including postal stationery and a range of “back of the book” items.

Robin Harris and his team have completed the most significant “make-over” of the book in many years in the 2006 edition.

There are a wide range of cosmetic improvements, including, index tabs on the side margins for each decade or series, title bars for each year, series tables to help identify varieties, cross referencing of related issues and references to other important philatelic books for certain series. However, the change most users will notice is the major improvement in the quality of the illustrations. Around 90% of the images have been rescanned and the improvement in colour reproduction is notable.

Also included now are illustrations (most in colour) of the majority of major re-entries and varieties. These vary in quality but at worst serve to illustrate the part of the stamp design affected and are a big aid to identification. At best they are simply superb.

The 2006 edition includes a huge number of new stamp varieties (I counted 30 new ones in the Queen Victoria stamps of Canada alone!). Bad news for collectors of these varieties who thought they were nearing completion but a

genuine effort to include many items (such as the “Feather in Hair” variety on the 5 cent Small Queen) that were well known to specialists and notable by their omission in earlier editions. The biggest increase in these varieties comes in the stamps of the Elizabethan era where the newly listed types are too numerous to count and include all the known missing tag errors for the first time.

Collectors of booklets and booklet panes will also find this new edition helpful as it illustrates sample booklet covers and now illustrates all booklet panes in colour and shows the full pane. Numerous booklet pane varieties are also listed for the first time along with dozens of previously unlisted (but known) booklets.

There remain a few minor problems with the book. The few illustrations that have not been rescanned now look even worse than before (Canada 1851 Laid Paper Pence Issue being a case in point). Also the mostly positive efforts to provide full cross-referencing of related issues have given rise to the odd problem – the Lathework types on the first postage due issue of Canada are now listed twice in separate parts of the book with completely different pricing. However, these are minor quibbles over what is a hugely improved catalogue that deserves a place on all members’ library shelves.

Indeed, if a BNA collector was to have only one volume in their library, this would probably be it. Few of us buy every edition update of the Unitrade but for those who have not bought one in a few years, this would be a good year to get an update, given the major changes made.

Oh, and by the way, there are a host of price increases as well!

GS

HANDBOOKS FOR SALE

January 2006

Postage & packing is extra

Imperial Penny Postage 1898	F. Fawn	£37.50
Prince Edward Island Philately	M. Cusworth	£32.60
Plating the Canadian Xmas Map Stamp of 1898	K. Kershaw	£25.00
Philatelic Fantasies of BNA	D. Sessions	£10.00
The Law Stamps of Yukon	I. McTaggart Cowan	£22.50
Strike, Courier & Local Post of the Elizabethan Era	E. Covert	£7.50
Slogan Postal Markings, 1912 - 1953 Period	D. Rosenblat	£6.00
Post Offices of New Brunswick 1783 - 1930	G. MacManus	£16.00
Small Queens Re-Appraised	J. Hillson	£6.50
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Canadian Military Postal History Vol. 1	C. McGuire & R. Narbonne	£20.50
The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue	E.S.J. Van Dam	£11.00
Canadian Revenues:-	E. Zaluski	
Vol. 1 Federal Bill and Law Stamps		£9.50
Vol. 2 Federal Inspection, Unemployment		£9.50
Vol. 3 Federal War and Excise, Customs		£9.50
Vol. 4 The Prairie Provinces		£9.50
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SOCIETY NEWS

FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT

As many of you know my wife, Marion, was diagnosed with cancer shortly after I was elected President of the Society and as a result I found it impossible to continue my full duties, particularly those involving the arranging of the Renfrew Convention. I would like to thank the members of the executive and others for taking over my duties at this stressful time. In particular, I would like to thank John Hillson for assuming the responsibility for organizing the outstanding convention in Renfrew in my absence.

Marion is now nearing full recovery and we have already started making plans to attend next year's Convention in Wales. In the meantime I would like to thank all of those who have contacted us since her illness was diagnosed.

Bill Topping

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I passed on the President's Badge of office to Les Taylor in Carmarthen in 1998, little did I expect to become your President again, and certainly not so soon! However, John Wright's arm twisting pressure at the Crawley Convention last year means that I have the honour again, only the fourth member to serve two years as President of this wonderful society. I join Colin Banfield, Betty Stephenson and John Hillson as another of the "Retreads", as someone termed it a few years ago.

I have the pleasure of inviting you to attend the **Diamond Jubilee Convention** of the Society at the **Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells** from **Wednesday**

6th to Saturday 10th September 2006.

The Conference 24 hour rate will be **£60.00 per person, per night.** For anyone arriving early or departing later, a special rate of £69.00 (dinner, bed and breakfast) or £50.00 (bed and breakfast) has been agreed. All rates are VAT inclusive and they also include use of the hotel's indoor leisure complex.

Llandrindod Wells is a small spa town set in the heart of some glorious Welsh countryside, and the town is on the "Heart of Wales" railway line between Shrewsbury and Swansea. The Metropole Hotel is situated in the centre of the town. Provisional thoughts regarding the Thursday and Friday afternoon visits are to the Cathedral town of Brecon, to include a visit to the Museum of the Welsh Regiment, and to "The Town of Books", Hay on Wye.

Most of the displays are in hand, and details of the full programme will appear in the April issue along with the booking forms. I look forward, therefore, to welcoming you to Llandrindod Wells next September and to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Neil Prior

FROM THE SECRETARY

I was sorry to miss the Renfrew Convention, which I understand was a most successful event. My thanks (once again!) to Brian Stalker for taking the Minutes of various meetings (and giving them to me in a form ready for photocopying). The AGM saw Neil Prior installed as President (a position he previously held in 1997-8) and Derrick Scott becoming Third Vice-President.

Competition entries were down in

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Newfoundland: 1932 "Do-X", \$1.50 on \$1 deep blue, surcharge inverted, a complete "sheet" of four, u.m. and very fine. Sold at our recent auction for £35,288

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Our experts make daily valuations at our London offices, so take the opportunity to drop into the address below and find out how much your stamp collection could be worth. There's no need to make an appointment, as one of our experts is always available Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm. We also carry out regional valuation days.

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number but not in quality. In Class 1A, **John Parkin** was placed 1st with *The 1897 Excise Tax Paid Stamps* and was also awarded the Godden Trophy; **John Hillson** was 2nd with *A Short Study of the Half Cent Postage Stamp of 1882* (awarded the Henderson Quaich). Class 1B was won by **Peter Payne** with *Admiral Issue – Two Cents Carmine* which was awarded the Admiral Cup. **Brian Stalker** won Class 2 with *Hall's Bay Railway* (awarded the Bunny Cup) and **Graham Searle** was placed 2nd with *Postal Rates between Canada and the UK 1851 – 1896* (awarded the Members Trophy).

One of the "long membership" medallions, posted by me on February 15th, managed to reach its Johannesburg destination on October 24th. All right, it was sent sea mail, but I had not realised it was to be taken by a very old man in a rowing boat with only one oar! Whilst moaning about the Post Office, I was disappointed to receive a auction lot from a well known dealer in Canada on which I was charged £4.99 VAT on material over 100 years old – plus a £4 "Royal Mail Clearance Fee"! To make matters worse, this auction house used AR, and the card was still on the envelope (i.e. not signed by me and returned to sender) but more than half covered by a self adhesive label and also the \$2 and 3 x \$5 stamps were mutilated. At least the contents were undamaged – for which, I suppose, I should be grateful!

A new edition of the Members Handbook part I is planned to go out with the April 2006 issue of Maple Leaves. Please let me have any amendments and/or additions.

John Wright

LONDON SECTION – PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2006

Meetings will be held for the foreseeable future at 8 Trinity Street, London SE1 1DB. The nearest tube station is BOROUGH on the Northern Line. Meetings commence at 6.30 PM.

Meeting dates for 2006 are as follows:-

- January 16 - subject to be arranged
- February 20 - Chairman's evening
- March 20 - subject to be arranged
- April 24 - Beaver Cup Competition
- May 22 - AGM and subjects 'G', 'H', & 'I'

All members are requested to bring a few sheets to each meeting.

Contact Colin Banfield on 020 7407 3693 (office) or 020 8281 0442 (home) for any further information or for confirmation of meetings if in doubt due to weather conditions, rail strikes etc.

SCOTTISH LOCAL GROUP

Somewhat depleted in numbers due to illness, personal and otherwise, six members foregathered at the Annandale Arms in Moffat on Saturday 12th November last. One had doubts, that with so few attending, the afternoon would be filled up but with contributions from all present, 5pm arrived with some members still having material in reserve.

Everyone agreed it had been a highly enjoyable afternoon with a wide variety of topics covered, both ancient and modern. Hopefully more members will be able to make it to the next meeting which has been scheduled for Saturday April 8th, same venue. All members are most welcome.

John Hillson.

Palmares

The following members, showing BNA material, were successful in recent exhibitions. We extend our congratulations to all those listed. The awards from the CPSGB convention are included in the Secretary's report in Society News. My thanks, as usual, to Richard Thompson for providing much of the information.

EDMONTON SPRING NATIONAL 2005

Silver

Earle Covert - Not All Mail Gets Through Uneventfully

Earle Covert - Tobacco Duty Paid - The Last 30 years

Bradley Harris - Canada's Bill Stamps - A Documentary History

Silver Bronze

Joe Smith - Jubilee Junque Jewels

OPAPEX 2005 - OTTAWA

Gold

Bob Anderson - Brant County Postmarks and Cancellations to 1950

Vermeil

John Hillmer - Caricature Definitive Series - EFO's

Jill Hare - Admirals and Old Lace

Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Annual subscription, due on 1 October 2005, £16.00[‡], payable to the Society, to: Les Taylor, Subscription Manager, 18 Granby Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5NL.

The dollar equivalents are \$37 CAN (+ \$7.50 if airmail delivery required) and \$27.00 US (+\$6.50 if airmail delivery required).

[‡]Members may claim a subscription discount of £3.00 (or S equivalent) if payment is made before 1 January following.

It would help the Society considerably if Canadian and US members pay in SCAN / US via Leigh Hogg as we are liable to a bank handling charge of £6. Please make your cheque payable to the Society, his address is PO Box 1000, Waterloo, Ont, Canada N2J 4S1.

Members who have not paid the current year's subscription by 30 April will be removed from the *Maple Leaves* circulation list.

ROYAL 2005 ROYALE - May 2005

Gold

John Sheffield – Two Ring Numeral Cancels (also won Best BNA 2'N'4 Exhibit)

Vermeil

Richard Thompson – The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859 – 1868

Garfield Portch – The Half Cent Small Queen

Silver

John Powell – Squared Circle Cancellations – London Branch Offices

PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005 (Sydney, Australia)

Large Gold

Ron Brigham – The Dominion of Canada: The Small Queens 1870 – 1897

Gold

Fred Fawn – Canada's Large Queens 1868 – 1896

Large Silver

Andrew Chung – Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era in Canada (Vol 1)

Alexander Clark – Early Postmarks of Nova Scotia

BNAPEX 2005

Gold

Warren Wilkinson – Prince Edward Island Postal Rates 1851 – 1873

David Piercey – Newfoundland: The Postal Issues 1865 - 1908

Vermeil

Marc Eisenberg – Study of Canadian Victorian 2 Cents Post Card Rates

Steven Luciuk – Remembering the Korean War: 1950 - 1955

Dean Mario – Selected Newfoundland "Paid All" and "Postage Paid" Markings: 1897 – 1947

Brian Stalker – Mail by Rail in 19th Century Newfoundland

Silver

Barry Brown – What the Canadian Public Saw as Revenue Promotion/ Collection for WW1

Earle Covert – Not all the Mail Gets Through Uneventfully

David Sessions – The Arch Issue – 1930

Joe Smith – Golden Prairie Diamonds

Silver- Bronze

Earle Covert – Tobacco Duty Paid – The Last 30 Years

Steven Luciuk – Military Conflict and Saskatchewan: North West Uprising to the Cold War, 1885-1966

VANPEX – November 2005

Vermeil

William Robinson – Canada – Prisoners of War and Internees 1914 - 1920

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2005**Income**

Subscriptions for year (Sterling)	£ 3272.53	
Maple Leaves Advertising Revenue	1623.27	£4895.80
Bank Interest	644.86	
Stock dividends	68.50	713.36
Handbooks Surplus	66.86	
C.P.S. Publication surplus	7.58	74.44
Tie sales surplus		2.33
Exchange Packet Surplus	27.00	
Governart Surplus	140.00	167.00
Auction Surplus - Crawley Convention auction surplus	1330.28	
2005 postal auction surplus	1477.32	2807.60
Donations		2.38
Investment maturity proceeds		99.85
		£8762.76

Expenditure

Maple Leaves Printing and Distribution	6538.42
Administration Expenses	384.79
ABPS Fee	126.00
Insurance	105.00
Printing & Stationery	37.11
Miscellaneous inc Bank (Direct debit) charges	95.96
Members' Handbook	91.00
Publicity	60.00
Website running costs	107.58
A.E. Smythies badges	329.07
Crawley Convention deficit	538.23
Surplus for the year	349.60
	£8762.76

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2005**Assets**

Cash Balances: Cater Allen Bank	£18,383.51	
Royal Bank of Scotland	5,835.19	£24,218.70
Investments at cost:		
General Fund New Star Fixed Interest Unit Trust	1000.00	
General Fund New Star High Yield Bond Unit Trust	2000.00	£ 3,000.00
Handbooks Stock: General	591.83	
Small Queens Re-appraised	381.21	£ 773.04
Stock of Society Ties		87.89
Library Books as valued		4,380.69
		£32,460.32

Liabilities

General Fund Balance at 30 September 2004	£23,035.43	
Sterling Surplus for 2004/2005	<u>349.60</u>	£23,385.03
Library Fund		4,497.89
Subscriptions prepaid in sterling		297.00
Sundry Creditors (1 auction vendor's unrepresented cheques)		88.63
Suspense Account (2005 Convention Auction)		3,869.26
-do- (2005 Convention Expenses)		<u>322.51</u>
		<u>£32,460.32</u>

Canadian Funds as at September 30 2005

Income

Royal Bank of Canada Balance @ 1.10.04	\$3148.68
Subscriptions received net of Bank Charges	<u>2934.03</u>
	<u>\$6082.71</u>

Expenditure

One year interest bearing Bond	\$4000.00
Royal Bank of Canada balance at 30.09.05 (Surplus for year)	<u>2082.71</u>
	<u>\$6082.71</u>

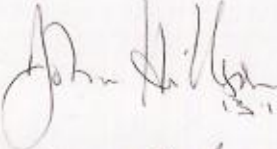
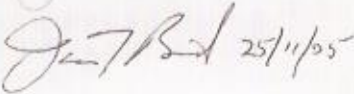
Balance Sheet at 30 September 2005

Assets

Cash at bank	\$2082.71
Interest bearing one year bond	<u>4000.00</u>
	<u>\$6082.71</u>

Liabilities

Dollar general Fund	<u>\$6082.71</u>
	<u>\$6082.71</u>

 Hon. Treasurer
13/10/05.
 25/11/05 Auditor