



Maple Leaves

*JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN*

ISSN
0951-5283

July 2006

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MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCORPORATED 1946

Founder:

A. E. Stephenson, FCPS

Edited by: **Graham Searle**

Ryvoan, 11 Riverside, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6PS

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

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

Annual Subscription £16.00 – Due 1 October

Vol. 29 No. 7

July 2006

Whole No. 301

EDITORIAL

Well it is back to black and white for this issue after our celebration of issue 300. I would like to thank all those members who commented favourably on the colour experiment. Without exception, they all wanted to know why we will not publish every issue in colour! The answer is two-fold. First economics. Printing and circulating Maple Leaves in colour costs about £6 a copy. With annual subs currently at £16, you don't have to be a maths graduate to work out that routine colour printing would require a massive increase in annual subscriptions (or an equally massive increase in our membership roll as a large portion of printing costs are fixed). Equally important, however, is that to benefit from colour printing you need the right kind of content material. Much of the content for issue 300 had been in my file for up to a year as I knew it would look good in colour. However, if you look back over the last few

issues of Maple Leaves and also at this issue you will see that much of what we publish, albeit highly informative and interesting (I trust), would benefit little from colour printing. No doubt the subject will come up at our AGM in Llandrindod Wells in September so if you have strong views on the subject one way or the other, let me know.

I continue to receive a number of comments (mostly complaints!) from members based in Canada regarding the time it takes for Maple Leaves to reach them via surface mail. This is not a new problem and we have been tracking performance over the last year with the help of a number of members. The "normal" delivery time from the UK to North America seems to be 1 to 2 weeks for airmail (very consistent) and around 6 weeks for surface mail. However, on occasions, the latter is taking in excess of 10 weeks to reach some members.

Unfortunately, the performance appears to be fairly random. The January 2006 issue reached some North American members by surface mail in less than 4 weeks. For others it took nearly 3 months! Our mailing house assures me that all copies are sent out on the same day so the variable performance appears to be a post office problem.

Last year, the committee did discuss the option of sending all overseas copies out by airmail (European members receive via this route by default as it is the only available option). However, we decided that members have a clear choice of mailing options and costs and that it would be unfair to impose the higher costs of airmail on all members – some of whom may be content with the current service.

As noted in the last issue, we have started to post the Society auction catalogues on our website

(www.canadianpsgb.org.uk) so that all members have a second option to view this time sensitive information. I would, however, urge overseas members to review their mailing preferences when renewing their annual membership this year to make sure you get the service you want for 2007.

On this point, please note that this issue contains the annual subscriptions reminder. Please note that subscriptions should be sent to Les Taylor in the UK or alternatively to Leigh Hogg in Canada. Address details for both can be found in the notice on page 318. May I also remind members who are planning to attend Convention in Llandrindod Wells that their booking forms should be back with Neil Prior by 25th July in order to qualify for the special rates.

Continued on page 317

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SMALL QUEENS - THE SIX CENTS 'A' PLATE CONTROVERSY

John Hillson F.C.P.S.

In 1871 the British American Bank Note Co. invoiced the P.O.D. for a new Six Cents plate. To many students this plate, which had no check letter above the top imprint, subsequently had the letter 'A' added. At the same time it acquired an extra position dot - and later, during a subsequent repair, a third, all in the lower left corner. To others, such as myself, the evidence is overwhelming that the 'A' plate was not a repaired state of the 1871 plate but is a different beast altogether. This article will attempt to put both sides of the argument together; at the same time making it clear what I believe are the flaws in the 'one plate' theory.

Before entering into the realms of theory, which is so often the case with Small Queens, it is first necessary to establish the factual background. During the years 1868 to 1875 there was a rapidly increasing demand for six cents stamps - almost 1,700,000 in the first full year of the Large Queens to June 30 1869. The next year saw over 2,600,000 issued, over 3,100,000, the following year, and by June 1874, nearly 4,200,000. A second salient point is that the number of Small Queen Six Cents issued in yellow brown, i.e. before the final move to Ottawa in 1889, was well over 25 million.

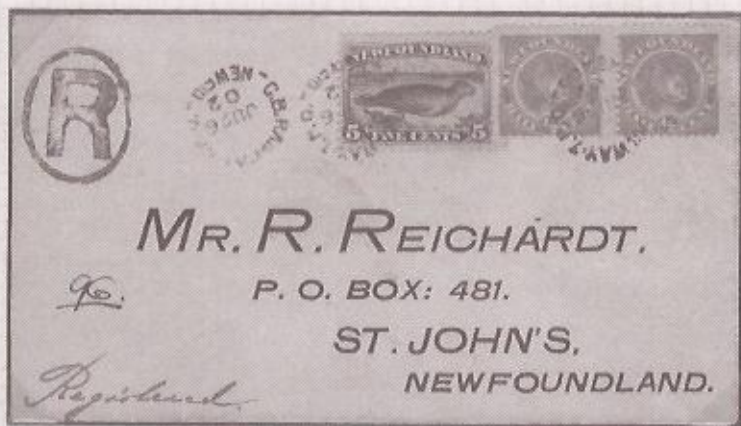
Next, two Large Queen six cents



Imprint block from the 'A' plate

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plates were made, distinguished one from the other by the placing of the lower left guide dot - on the first plate it is near the corner, on the second, it is directly below the first 'S' of 'SIX CENTS'.

Virtually contemporaneously with the appearance of the Small Queen Six Cents was the Small Queen Two Cents. Use of the Two Cents between then and June 1875 was very close to that of the Six Cents. Two Two Cents plates were made, both of 100 subjects; as was the 1871 Six Cents plate. At first neither of these two plates had check letters, but subsequently to distinguish one from the other the letters 'A' & 'B' were added close to their respective counters - probably the only time any alteration was made to the peripheral markings of any Small Queen plate, and we know that these were not two new plates because one of them sports a top imprint that was entered at a slight angle to the postage stamps and imprint/counter pieces have survived in both states (The 2 Cents Plate 'A').

Now perhaps one can begin to see some difficulties with the 'one six cents plate' theory. Two Large Queen plates made, two Two Cents Small Queen plates made, and the volume of cross border and U.K. mail for which the six cents was primarily required, was increasing. Why only one Six Cents plate?

Well actually two were made, and it is a reasonable assumption that the same siderographer who made the two Large Queen plates, also made the first two Small Queen Six Cents plates, because the gimmick to distinguish the Large Queens, one from the other, was repeated. The 1871 plate has its guide dot close to the bottom left corner, the second plate has it directly below the left numeral '6', in other words in relatively the same position as on the second Large Queen plate. Only something went wrong. The plate was never finished properly. Many of the impressions are so poor that the term

'Ghostly Head' plate has been coined for it. The usual burnishing to clean a finished plate of extraneous bits of metal and remove the guide lines never took place. The plate in fact was abandoned and it is clear it was never intended to use it. Use it, however, the printers did - for a very short time towards the end of 1873, as extant covers are generally dated early in 1874 (see covers illustrated overleaf).

So there we have it. Two plates made, one abandoned, so what next? According to the one plate theory the letter 'A' was added to the satisfactory plate - to distinguish it from what? Why would a check letter be added if there were only one usable plate (as far as the printers were concerned) in existence? And this time, not by the counter, but above the centre of the imprint. Whimsy perhaps.

Or is it more likely, that still needing a second usable plate, a third was made, to which, to distinguish it from the original 1871 plate, the check letter 'A' was added?

The evidence used to support the one plate theory comes under three main headings. First, as noted in a collection of 'plated' Six Cents in the process of being broken up, both the 1871 plate and the 'A' plate show the 'Dot in P' variety, 'proving' it is the same plate as alleged in that collection. Second, the position dots lower left are in identical positions - allegedly. Third, the major re-entry from the 1871 plate is jumped, it has been identified as position 67 - or as I prefer Row 7/7, and a large positional block from a late Ottawa



The Major Re-entry

printing shows an identical jump at Row 7/7. Finally one could add that it is not unknown for a single 100 subject unhardened plate to produce in excess of 25 million stamps.

Let us examine each one of these 'proofs'. First the 'Dot in P' - which incidentally is the guide dot for the counter - which is found both on the 1871 plate and the 'A' plate quite correctly as stated, Row 1/2. The late Bill Simpson produced a series of photographs of various examples of stamps showing the variety:-



The stamp at the rear is from the 1871 plate; that at the front is from the 'A' plate. Two things are clear. The variety is below the centre of the "P's" loop on the 1871 plate and above it on the 'A' plate. Also note the guide dots - the heavy one in the case of the 'A' plate. Not exactly in the same position, are they? The one plate theorists might counter that re-entering could account for the difference, but this is to ignore the fact that the vast majority of re-entered impressions are co-incidental, that is they are exactly on top of the original impression so no doubling is

visible; in any case the 'A' plate stamp shows little sign of ever being repaired. So how about the fact that the major re-entry from Row 7/7 has the identical jump as is found on the identical position on the 'A' plate. The fact is no positional piece with the re-entry exists today. The largest block I am aware of is a used block of eighteen which was in the collection referred to above and which at one time was in the Jephcott collection. Three rows of six, the variety is found on the fifth stamp in the middle row. So it cannot come from either the top or bottom horizontal rows, nor the first four or the tenth vertical rows. Which leaves quite a large amount of plate from which it could come. So how was it identified, in common parlance, as 'Position 67'? Not too difficult to work out. The students who identified it believed they were dealing with just one plate, found the jump on the 'A' plate and, EUREKA, put two and two together and made five. The plain fact is we don't know the true position of the re-entry.

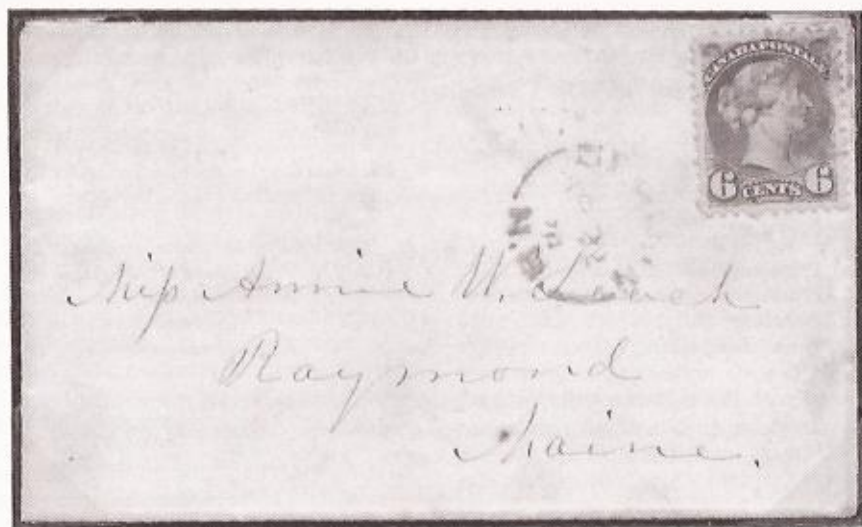
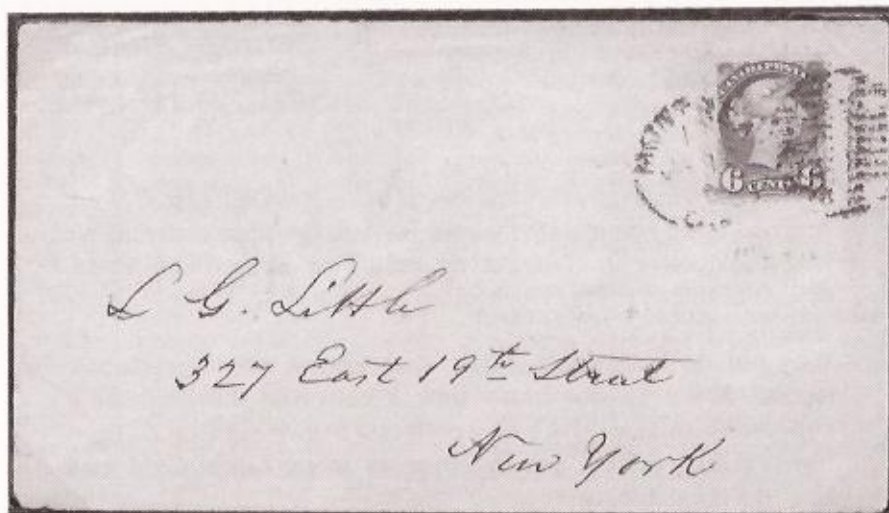
Finally, the enormous number the one plate is supposed to have produced. The 1859 Five Cents Beaver plate printed some 30 million stamps, but it was repaired nine times. Assuming we are truly dealing with just one plate in a one dot, two dot and three dot stage, each extra dot following a repair, this plate not only produced a prodigious amount of stamps with only two repairs, but was still in a fit state to be put into service in the second Ottawa period before undergoing its final repair sometime in 1892. Is that credible?

What evidence exists then to support my contention that the 'A' plate not only is a separate plate to the 1871 plate, but was in use at the same time in 1872? In other words it must have been made either at the end of 1871 or the beginning of 1872 to replace the rejected 'Ghostly Head' plate. As far as use goes, although the study of Small Queen perforations is quite complex, one fact shines through. One

perforation measurement is unique to first Ottawa printings and is found in no other Small Queen period - 11.85 all round. On the Kiusalas gauge this is almost but not quite 66. Bisecting the first dot on the left

of the Kiusalas gauge with an accurate 'Instanta', the last line on that touches the outside edge of the right hand dot on the metal gauge midway between 11.8 & 11.9 (i.e. 11.85).

Examples on cover of the rejected 'Ghostly head' plate





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'A' plate dated JY 8 75 at Hamilton partly imperforate between left pair

The above strip is from the first three vertical rows. In spite of its rather late date instead of being the compound $11 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ normally found from mid 1873, it has the classic 11.85 perforations of first Ottawa. I have other two-dot copies, unfortunately not dated, with the same perforation and they are not that difficult to find. The colour of the strip is quite brilliant indicating it is a very early printing from a new plate; further none of my first Ottawa copies show any sign of re-entering.

Now the plate itself. I have pointed out elsewhere that the relationship of counter to imprint to printed impressions on the two plates is subtly different. If one takes the top serif of the 'S' of 'CENTS' as the reference point, a line drawn vertically from it cuts the 'S' of 'POSTAGE' on the 1871 plate, but the 'T' on the 'A' Plate. The top imprint is 1 mm further away from the counter on the 'A' Plate than on the 1871 plate so that the tip of its right hand end is directly above the second 'A' of 'CANADA' (Row 1/7) on the 1871 plate but a vertical line on the 'A' Plate slides along the right leg of the 'N'. Some might allege this is due to wear, particularly as on the 'A' plate the original shading which surrounded the counter had worn off by 1890. Careful measurement with draughtsman's dividers however proves that the counter's lettering, though worn, still has the same length and breadth as it did when fresh minted. "The imprint could have been burnished off and re-entered" it has been alleged. No sign of it; in any case the nonsense that is glibly

talked about 'burnishing off' will be dealt with a little later in this article.

Finally, there is the evidence of the stamp at Row 2/10. On the 1871 plate it is positioned directly below Row 1/10. On the 'A' Plate it is clearly positioned to its right, with a substantial gap between it and its neighbour to the left. "Ah - must have been burnished off and re-entered" say the 'one plate' aficionados.

About 'burnishing off'. Yes, using a hand tool to burnish, or clean, a new plate of extraneous metal pushed up during the process of manufacture did happen; but burnishing off an imprint or an impression is quite a different matter. To start with, one would need a grinding machine, and probably a milling machine as well as one is dealing with small areas - not normal machine tools for printing firms. Secondly the process of grinding off part of the plate would leave it lower than the rest, even if it were feasible to do such a thing to one impression without affecting other impressions at the same time (grinding machines have a circular motion). So when the fresh impression is entered it will be lower than the rest of the plate; so it won't print very well, thus the plate has effectively been ruined. Expensively so. Why on earth would printers do such a thing - sending the work out to an engineering firm, when the normal practise was to cure defects by re-entering, or occasionally, retouching. In my view, burnishing off of impressions, counters, or imprints DID NOT HAPPEN. Not with reputable printers.

The first thing about the 'A' Plate is to understand that in its original state it sported two position dots. The extra dot was not due to re-entering but due to the sidepoint on the transfer being loosened for some unknown reason. One might surmise that in making the 'Ghostly Head' plate with its guide dot in an unusual position that extra strain was put on the side point causing it to loosen, but this is just an educated guess. What is true, and

this is a point that seems to have been missed up until now, is that after the removal to Montreal in 1873, the 1871 plate was re-entered using this transfer tool with its loose side point. Note the illustration below, the rear example being the same as shown above, the front example with two dots, the heavy guide one being in exactly the same position as on the first state, and the example is clearly dated 1875.



The case that in the early Montreal period there were two plates with twin dots has obviously caused much confusion as the fact had not been recognised.

One of the intriguing questions to my mind is 'what happened to the major re-entry?' Comparatively common from the 1st Ottawa days, the only copy that seems to have been reported Perf 11 1/2 x 12, i.e. a Montreal printing, is in a South African collection. It can be argued that re-entering would completely obliterate it, but this is not necessarily so. Apart from triple re-entries existing on the 5c Beaver referred to above, perhaps one could cite the first plate of postage stamps ever to be re-entered - Plate One of the G.B

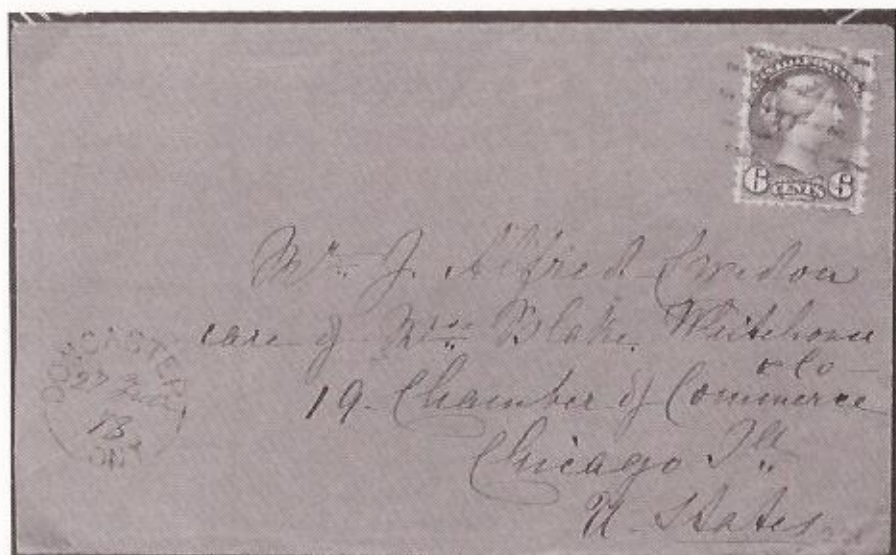
Penny Black. Put to press in an unhardened condition it wore so rapidly that the whole plate had to be re-entered and then hardened. The original state known as Plate 1a had four substantial re-entries - positions HB, HD, OA, and PB. All four are still clearly visible in the second state of the plate, 1b. The 6c. major re-entry position may well have been re-entered so that the fresh impression was back in line with its neighbours, but that would leave doubling at the top. None such has been recorded as far as I know.

The fact that the 1871 plate had two dots after re-entering also raises the question regarding the 'neck' flaw. A strip of three on cover in the same collection shows the two right hand stamps of the strip to have two dots which lead on to the assumption it must be from the 'A' Plate. But is it? The stamp has no position dot as it comes from the right hand vertical row, hence the importance of the South African cover.



The 'Neck' Flaw.

Now we come to a further intriguing mystery. Opposite are illustrated a single and a cover. Both dated, both full Perf 12, both mid late Montreal, and both with single position dots. Where the heck did that plate come from? Is it the 1871 plate which must therefore only have been partially re-entered, or are the examples from a completely new plate, the existence of which has been suspected as a possibility, but for which there is absolutely no proof?



pmk of 22.6.78 Postmarked at Doncaster, Ontario 27 July 78



Very thin wove paper
'CANADIAN PKT E'

As if that were not intriguing enough,
how about this beauty?



Strip of four showing re-entry signs of
which stamps 1, 3 & 4 have two lower
left dots, but stamp 2, only one.

What that strip proves is that originally the plate it was printed from was a single dot plate. The 'A' Plate was originally a two dot plate - until it in turn was re-entered probably c. 1880 after which it sported three, and occasionally in some positions, four dots. The state it was in when it was transferred, in 1889, to Ottawa.

The suggestion that 25 million stamps were printed from just one plate - excepting a few thousand from the 'Ghostly Head' plate in late 1873, just does not hold water. Nor does the contention that the 'A' plate was simply a revamped 1871 plate, instead of being given its proper recognition as a distinct and separate plate in its own right. One final word. The study of this stamp should come with a health warning; it can drive one dotty.



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FREE FRANKED MAIL - A SUBSIDISED RATE

By Bill Pekonen

This article is a summary of a lengthier version published in the Postal History Society of Canada Journal # 120, pages 34-47. Portions have been omitted, and other information added. The following information was obtained from the sources listed in the bibliography.

Free Franking along with drop letters, printed matter, bulk mail, book-post, Christmas cards, newspapers, post cards, ship mail, and soldier's / seamen's privileges are all examples of SUBSIDISED (reduced) postal rates. If we assume that the actual cost of handling a piece of mail from A to B is broadly constant, regardless of the rate charged, we can see that these special rates have been subsidised by other postal users and/or general taxation revenues. The differences in the respective subsidy amounts are simply a matter of degree.

Other general public reduced rates exist, and even though subsidised, have not usually been considered as such. This group includes missent letters, letters redirected on delivery, redirection of military personnel letters, letters redirected at post office, undeliverable mail, return for postage, "too late", letters forwarded without payment, and routes closed because of war. All of these involved additional handling within the post office, often without any fee being received for the extra service.

Other *reduced rate* categories (read as *subsidised*) have existed over the years within the postal system. One less well known rate is the reduced letter rate which applied to news reports addressed to the Editor of a newspaper. This rate was usually the same as the drop letter rate.

Another example is this quote from The Wartime Mails & Stamps of Canada 1939-46 by H. E. Guertin: "When the domestic letter rate became 4 cents in April 1941, the 3 cent rate remained as a concession to men overseas.....The 3 cent rate remained throughout the war on ordinary letters..." Free mailing privileges were also granted for political or social reasons (i.e. Parliamentary franking privileges).

FREE Franked government mail is a subsidised rate which was used by certain government officials and the general public under specified conditions. Within Canada, Free Franking mailing costs have also been subsidised by payments made by other government departments on behalf of the post office department (see below).

A number of other FREE franked mail categories other than government mail are listed in various editions of the Postal Guide. Actually, the word "FREE" is a misnomer and misunderstood by many philatelists. In life, as well as in the Post Office, there is no such thing as a "free lunch". Further confusion results from the many different meanings of the word "free". The Oxford English Dictionary lists 79 different definitions. The use of the word "FREE", when used on an envelope or postcard, is specific. It means that postage due is NOT to be collected from the recipient by the mail delivery person when there is no postage stamp signifying that postage was paid by the sender.

FREE, as used on Canadian mail, is actually an abbreviation of the term "free of postage", the term used in the Post Office Act. Although the word "exempt" has been used on a few isolated occasions

in Post Office communications (instead of "free of postage"), those mistakes were quickly (and quietly) corrected. "Pass free of postage" is another phrase encountered in a few post office documents, but this is also only a misinterpretation. The word "pass" has not been consistently observed in either Post Office acts or postal guides.

In turn, "free of postage" is an abbreviation of the original term which was "free of the duty of postage". This full term confirms that, the postage stamp is actually a revenue stamp representing a duty or a tax. That fact goes back to 1685 to The Rights and Powers of the King of England, Edward IV.

In principle, within the British Commonwealth, the mail service monopoly is the property of the Crown. Parliament leases that monopoly through the Civil List payments made annually by the British Parliament. The post office monopoly within Canada rests on the same foundation.

Charles I, in England, organised a public mail system in 1635 to raise money. He allowed the mail system to be used by the public for two important reasons. The first was to generate income to pay his expenses and to raise money for his extravagances. (One quarter of his wealth was reportedly lost when being carried by a ship which sunk in the Firth of Forth during a storm. As far as is known, that treasure has never been recovered. *Ed. If the Scots had found it, don't think for a minute that they would have told anyone!*) The second reason was to control the delivery of mail so that he could spy on his enemies both within the country and outside the boundaries. Thus was born the idea of the duty of postage - a tax currently represented by a receipt in the form of a postage stamp. Those same two reasons are still valid today. Having said that, however, there are still valid reasons for collecting postage stamps.

The explanation as to why the word

"FREE" was used can be traced back to 1763 in the early postal history of Canada. Two choices existed. The postage was paid either by the sender or the receiver. Either the amount or the word "PAID" was evidence of prepaid postage. Before 1831, the word "paid" was normally in black ink and the rate was written with red ink. After 1831, an unpaid letter must be marked in black. If 'paid', then the amount was marked in red preceded by the word "paid". If the word paid was not on the envelope, then it was understood that the amount of postage was to be paid by the receiver.

Official mail was then marked with the FREE abbreviation to indicate that payment was not required from the receiver. According to Robson Lowe, the earliest use was 1820 in a manuscript form. However, a FREE use in 1792 on an OHMS cover has been reported since Lowe's comments. Most of the FREE mail before 1855 was on either military or Post Office Business (see fig 1). Post Office Business mail is allowed to pass anywhere in the world without postage payment according to the rules established by the UPU. Other examples of FREE mail included official Government correspondence (see fig 2) and the mail of Members of Parliament sent within Canada.

How much does it really cost to operate a postal system? It would take a small army of forensic accountants to come up with a reasonable answer. The functions of each ministry or department changed from time to time to meet both ministerial and policy changes. Consequently, the budgets of each department also changed to reflect those functions. To add further confusion, payments out of contingency funds did not necessarily follow the main purpose of the ministry. In Canada, since even before Confederation, the federal government budget categories have not



Fig 1 ON POST OFFICE BUSINESS - FREE DEC 4, 1848 - no postage required, but marked FREE to permit delivery without attracting postage due.

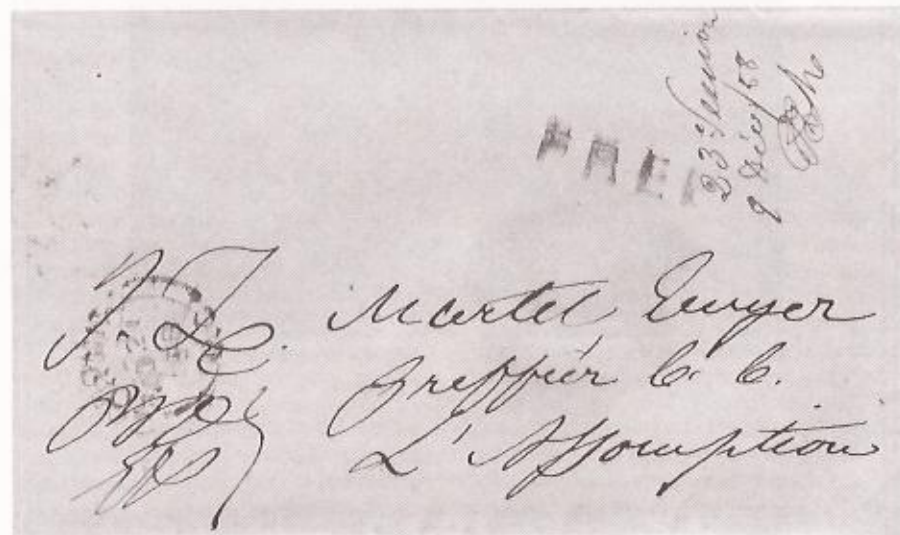


Fig 2 Example of a Pre-Confederation cover on general Government business. Sent from Toronto in December 1858 it carries the seal of the Provincial Secretary of Canada on the reverse. (From the Editor's collection)

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necessarily followed a logic which permits clear functional expense accountability for each department. Bureaucrats have found inventive ways to share surplus funds between departments before the end of each fiscal year, adding further confusion to a convoluted accounting system. Mail rates within the post office were often juggled for political reasons. Those realities create a headache for postal historians. Relying only upon Post Office Acts, postal guides, and other records produces misleading results when conducting philatelic research.

The following examples of funds paid from other department budgets have subsidised the Post Office:

- Department of Trade and Commerce paid mail subsidies to shipping lines in amounts which exceeded the annual deficits incurred by the Post Office;
- Department of Public Works paid for the cost of acquiring land, designing and constructing Post Office buildings.
- Department of Public Works paid for annual maintenance costs for each post office building;
- Department of Transport paid railway subsidies which helped to offset the cost of railway post offices. In one case, the Department paid for the entire cost of the building the railway between Quebec and Riviere du Loop in 1860.
- Department of Indian Affairs and RCMP budgets subsidised mail delivery in NWT.

The Post Office budgets included costs which were unrelated to mail purposes. Here are a few examples of how the Post Office subsidised other department budgets.

- For many years the annual post office revenues included money collected and then transferred to the Savings Bank, thereby subsidising the Department of Finance. (see figs 3 and 4)
- Post Office sold unemployment insurance

- stamps for the Department of Labour
- Collected money on behalf of the Government Annuities Branch
- Displayed government posters for various departments
- Sold Money Orders and Postal orders (see below)
- Distributed Income Tax Returns for the Minister of National Revenue
- Sold coins for the Royal Mint
- Subsidised the formation of Trans Canada Airlines by almost one-half of airline revenues.

No reimbursement for the labour and other costs associated with the above functions was received by the Post Office from the other departments. Fees were collected when selling the money orders, but it is unclear how these amounts showed up in the revenues.

The numbers in the table overleaf indicate the growth of the money order and savings bank business which was conducted by the post office. Inflation was not a major factor during this time period, consequently the growth was real.

The history of free franking within Canada, both before and after confederation, is complicated by "abuses" (mainly by government employees); conflicting interpretations and constantly changing regulations (see fig 5). Government free franking and other subsidised rates need to be better understood in relation to other post office revenues. Instead of looking only at the post office department, one must also consider the role played by and the expenditures paid out of other government department pockets to deliver the mail. Only then can we clearly appreciate the nature of free franking rates. The criteria is simple. Did the envelope travel through the mail system? If so, was the postal use in accordance with the applicable postal regulations?

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FREE.



Albert A. Perry

Chatham

WILLIAM WHITE,
DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL.

S.B. 62.—50,000, 16-10-96.

Ont.

Fig 3 Properly franked FREE at Ottawa on Savings Bank Business. Keyhole hammer DE 7/96



O. H. M. S.

FREE.



Sena Todd

Henrieville

D. M. COLLIER

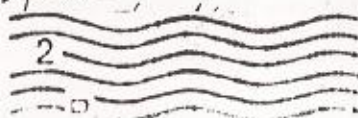


Fig 4 Pre-printed FREE on Savings Bank Business. Cancelled May 6/ 1911 using a normal International Machine Cancel. This cover would not normally have received this type of machine cancel.

Fiscal Year ended 31st March	1936-37	1950-51
Number of Post Offices	12,272	12,390
Gross Revenue - postage stamps, postal meters, etc.	\$37,932,678	\$105,545,456
Number of Money Order Post Offices	6,737	11,387
Number of Money Orders Issued	13,746,743	40,415,207
Value of Money Orders Sold	\$133,155,222	\$511,915,621
Savings Bank Deposits	\$2,830,193	\$37,661,921
Savings Bank Withdrawals	\$3,424,422	\$12,194,872
<i>Source: Canada Year Books</i>		

One conclusion, however, can be made with certainty from this confusing mangle. After all is said and done, as far as the general taxpayer is concerned, "FREE" is just another postal rate marking. For all intents and purposes, there is no dispute that the cost

of delivering mail marked as FREE has been paid, even if it is not evident. Also there remain a host of different FREE franking postal marks – many, like the example in fig 6 requiring further research and study. This remains a fertile area for the postal historian.

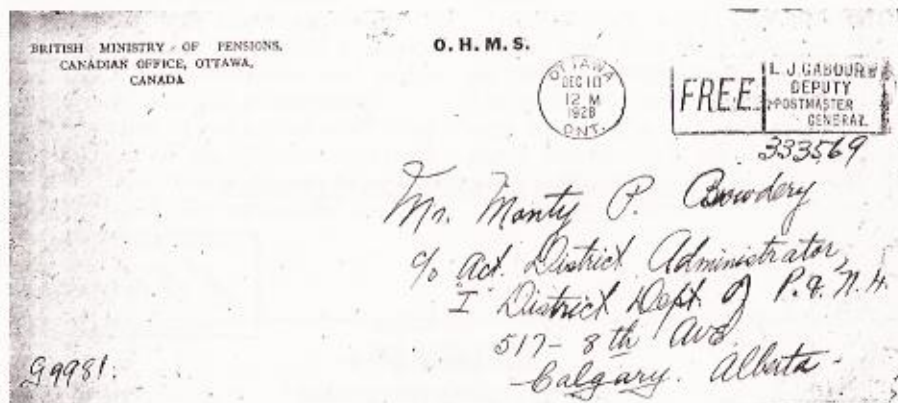


Fig 5 Registered cover on Post Office Business. Machine cancel with slogan type imprint (Coutts SSM - 70) Dec 10/ 1928. This controversial use was later discontinued after complaints from deputy ministers in other government departments.

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Fig 6 Royal Canadian Mint cover receiving the traditional machine cancel (Coumts 65a) on OCT 29/ 1968. An unusual pre-printed imprint "Official Postal Frank". The phrase is unauthorised. This appears to be the only department which used this controversial imprint and this is the only copy seen by the author with this wording.

NEW STAMP TRENDS

The Editor

Readers may be interested in the following press report from the 18th April edition of the Toronto Star which reached my desk courtesy of the Yellow Peril. It seems that the latest marketing fad of post offices around the world (allowing customers to produce their own stamp designs with personal photos) has some unintended side effects. I can already see certain BNA dealers hunting down the remainder stocks of this withdrawn stamp issue! Watch out for another "unissued" variety.

CALGARY..... Canada Post has returned sultry personal postage stamp images to an Alberta photographer who claims his work is being censored.

Frederick Potter said he was excited to learn that Canada Post offers a service that lets people customise and order stamps using their own photographs.

Potter said he was baffled when some artistic shots of his Ukrainian-born wife Oleanna were rejected as inappropriate. One shot shows her topless and another

with Maple leaf flags covering her breasts.

"It is arbitrary censorship," the photographer said. "Would a picture of a baby on a bearskin rug be considered child pornography?" "Where does it end? Having Oleanna on a postage stamp is kind of a celebration of her becoming a Canadian."

In an e mail to the Potters, an employee with the Canadian Bank Note Co., which partners with Canada Post to offer the customised service, said; "We would want to see a ruling by the Department of Heritage that, in this case, the flag is deemed to be displayed in a manner befitting this important national symbol."

Mr Potter's wife, who moved to Canada more than three years ago, said she takes the rebuff personally. "I feel like I'm in a very conservative country. We were just going to send it on letters to my family and friends in Ukraine. My family has a nude picture of me on their wall. In Ukraine that is normal."

REMINDER

60th Convention of the

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Wednesday 6 September to Saturday 9 September 2006

at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindad Wells.

Registration forms should be returned to Neil Prior by 25 July to qualify for the package rates.

CPSGB MAKES A 'ROYAL' VISIT

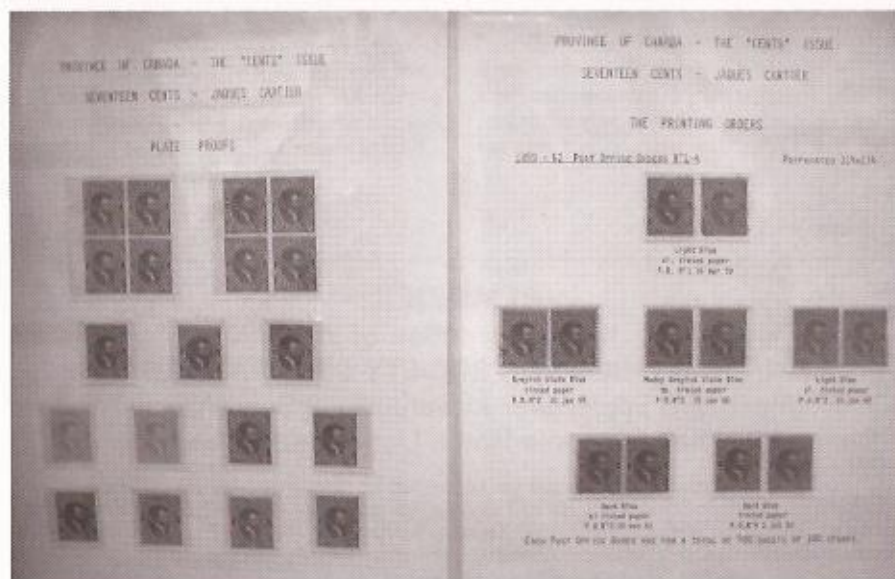
Report and photos by the Editor

On 27th April the Royal Philatelic Society of London opened its doors to the CPSGB for the day. The occasion was a display by CPSGB to mark our 60th Anniversary. Some 30 members of our society plus a few partners made the journey up to London and we were made very welcome for the day. The hospitality extended by the 'Royal' was seemingly never ending and the displays ensured attendance of some 70 RPSL members making for a very crowded house!

David Sessions and his team had done us proud and guests and CPSGB members alike were treated to one of the best and most comprehensive displays of BNA material seen in the UK for some time. The displays covered 52 frames in total

with half devoted to various Canadian stamp issues, 8 frames of Provincial History and 4 frames of Provincial Postal History. The display aimed to show only the material that would have been available to the CPSGB founding fathers in 1946 so the only omissions were the modern issues. A total of 22 members contributed to the displays and the interest was enhanced by the differing approaches the contributors had made to their various subjects.

There were outstanding items everywhere one looked but for your editor, the highlight was probably an opportunity to view both the earliest recorded letter from Canada in private hands – one dating



Part of Lew Warrens' display of the 1859 Cents issue of Canada

from 1684 (sold by Cavendish in June 2006 for a staggering £48300) and also the earliest recorded incoming letter to Newfoundland in private hands – dating from 1705.

The RPSL President, Chris Harman made a small presentation to the CPSGB at the end of the day in thanking us for a splendid display. Neil Prior, in reply, noted that 2006 was also the 100th anniversary of the RPSL having 'Royal' status and hoped that all present would be able to attend the CPSGB 100th anniversary party in 2046!

Our thanks go to the following members who contributed material to the show:-

Lew Warren, John Hillson, Dave Armitage, Sandy Mackie, David Sessions, Tom Almond, Derrick Scoot, Nick Lazenby, Jane Moubray, Iain Stevenson, Colin Lewis, Judith Edwards, Mike Slamo, Alan Griffiths, Malcolm Montgomery, John Wright, Brian Stalker, Ged Taylor, Neil Prior, Colin Banfield, Rodney Baker and the late Dorothy Sanderson.

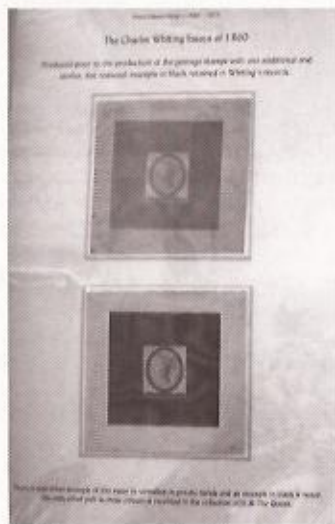
Some additional photos appear on page 312.



RPSL and CPSGB members mingle in the Royal's impressive library.



RPSL President Chris Harman making a presentation to Neil Prior to mark the event.



One of the sheets from Alan Griffiths' Prince Edward Island display showing a pair of Charles Whiting essays for the first postage stamps of the province. The only other pair is in the collection of H.M. The Queen.

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SAME STAMP, SAME SELLER, SAME BUYER!

The Yellow Peril

Photo by Susan So

On Saturday 15th October 2005, I visited the local show in Guelph, Ontario. Club shows are not new to me but the circumstances that day were. The show was not crowded; a 'major' was being held in Toronto that same Saturday and there were only three dealers with BNA stock present. Consequently, I had more time (and patience) to screen dealers stocks. It was during that unhurried afternoon that I unearthed this 3 cent Small Queen with the "13" postmark. As the strike was clearer than one I already owned, I splurged and let the seller take advantage of me.

Over the Christmas weekend (a quiet time for me) I decided to look at my Guelph purchases. When I removed the card on which the stamp was mounted, this note (hidden behind the card) tumbled out.....

MAIL CLERK # 13

There are many valuable Railway Postmarks that can be found on stamps. In particular however, there are two that are outstanding. One is the Quebec and Campbellton Express Railway Duplex with the intaglio '8' amongst the crowded lines of the killer. The other is the "Mail Clerk No 13". Both are very scarce and both are sought after. Surprisingly, many collectors are unaware of their existence nor do they recognise them.

According to the famous Dr. Whitehead, the story goes something like this....

The city of Quebec and its sister town across the St. Lawrence are squarely on the east-west line of Canadian railway communications and are therefore busy points. Many RPO mail clerks live in one city or the other,



*3 cent Small Queen with
QUE & CAMPBELLTON DE 13 97
EXPRESS '13' R.P.O.*

their runs taking them almost daily out or in. they are obscure men, little known outside their immediate circles doing an obscure job. Say we follow one of these men whose name we do not know. Sixty years ago there were no records which could lead to his identification. However '13' must have been his number on the local RPO poster – so let us call him Mail Clerk 13!

Because of his distinctive use of his number we can follow him on three jobs he held from 1895 to 1902. The first was a cross-country run of minor importance – Quebec to Richmond. Later he was transferred to Quebec/Levis and Campbellton. On this run he first served an express train (1896 – 1899), later going to a 'local' train. In the latter capacity he used the most famous of all squared circle hammers QUE & CAMP

MC LOCAL NO 20. this was from 1899 to 1902. For each of these jobs he was assigned a specific hammer, each listed in its normal state by Shaw as Q 230, Q188 and Q197 respectively. But for some reason he affixed his No. 13 to each of these hammers in turn.

Each carries the number 13 in large digits and each is 'soldered' to the base. In the case of the squared circle, the centre of the bottom line was cut away to allow the number to be attached. Squared circle collectors know this, with '13' attached, as the fourth state of the QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL and they know that, just previously, '20' had been partially erased. It is possible that this had been done by still another clerk whose number was not '20' but to whom this hammer had been assigned. This defacement of '20' was in evidence throughout the hammer's later use.

Not many RPO collectors may hope to secure all three types produced by Mail Clerk 13 as a prominent feature. (The examples which Dr. Whitehead has are all on the 2 cent Numeral issue).

1. QUE & RICHMOND MC with 13 (10th June to 19th December 1895)

2. QUE & CAMPBELLTON EXPRESS with 13 (9th December 1896 to 23rd October 1899)

3. QUE & CAMP MC LOCAL no 20 with 13 attached to the base.

It was the same note that I had written myself some 35 years ago! I could pin-point the time period because I was still living at RCAF Station Downsview (renamed Canadian Forces Base Toronto). I wrote the story to help sell the stamp to a nearby dealer who, in turn, sold it to a collector. Subsequently, I met the second buyer but unknown to me at the time, the dealer and his customer both lived within a stones throw of the base. Approximately 15 years ago his collection was sold and the stamp somehow found its way back to the same dealer who sold it to me the first time in 1970.

It is such a pleasant and remarkable coincidence – same stamp, same seller, same buyer – that I would like to share it with our members.

Whether my note on postmark '13' is fact or just plain salesman bullshit....that is another story!

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THE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT EARLY PERFORATIONS

Richard A. Johnson

John Hillson in an article and two letters on early perforations¹²³ makes a number of statements that need careful examination. Further research by this author has added some additional facts to the subject which are provided herein. Direct quotations of the original Hillson statements are gathered (in italics) in the following four themes along with the facts relating to each.

1. *"All Canadian stamps of 'normal' size, from 1851 to the Admiral plates of 1912, are spaced horizontally at 2 cm centres..... quite soon [after the penny blacks, etc.]...they [i.e. British stamps] were at what was to become the standard, horizontally they were at the aforesaid 2 cm centres, perforation gauges measure so many holes to a metric, not imperial, length because Bemrose too [i.e. after Perkins and Archer] had used metric, this time 15 pins to what by now was the standard 2 cm".*

Facts: 1.1 The 2 cm span commonly found on most gauges in use was instituted by Dr. Legrand⁴ in 1867 because he observed that most stamps existing at the time had at least one side of length 2 cm or greater. There were no gauges as such in the 1850's.

1.2 Whether Perkins or Archer had 2 cm in mind when they developed their comb perforating machines is not known; the Bemrose patent for a rotary perforating machine makes no mention whatsoever of dimensions or scales used. All their figures were provided on one sheet and carried no scale markings. Only the female 'counterpart' wheel is identified in the text as being to full scale;

the male pin wheel was not so identified and, from the depiction of its pins, was clearly not to scale. Notwithstanding this identification of full scale, there is no indication on the extant British Patent Office copy as to just what the scale was for their reproduction. All other illustrations of this patent seen by this author seem to have been taken from this one source as they all exhibit common distortions.

1.3 A linear scale would not have been used to control the machines used to manufacture the pin/hole placements at the time in question. Rather, a difference wheel would have been used to set the actual angles on the peripheries of the pin and hole wheels⁵. The general direction as to what 'fineness' of perforation was desired might well have been described in perforations per inch or (2) cm but no reference has yet been found that would clarify this. Consequently, the debate on metric and imperial measures is irrelevant to the question and, without further documentary evidence, there is no way of telling what the thinking was.

1.4 Note that, at the time, many Imperial measurements were specified in 1/8s, 1/16s, 1/32s, etc. and 25/32 of an inch differs from 2 cm by about 1 part in 130 (or 13/16 which differs by about 3%). Early Canadian stamps might just as well be described as being spaced horizontally at twenty-five thirty-secondths of an inch.

2. *"Toppin Carpenter [of Philadelphia to whom Bemrose had sold a machine] being canny men of business,*

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did not buy any more machines from Bemrose; in spite of the patent they acquired the ideas. Is it really believed that a Victorian British engineering company, knowing its patent was being used, would not have sued the socks off a Canadian company, in a fledgling British Dominion, whatever the embarrassment to the end player?"

Facts: 2.1 Bemrose did sell one (large) rotary machine to Toppan, Carpenter and Co. of Philadelphia in 1855/56 complete with rouletting wheels. (They also sold a small and a large one to Perkins, Bacon and one to Goddard & Lancaster of Hull. So there were four in all.) A summary of the chronology of the use of the first of these machines was provided by Wilson Hulme now Curator of Philately, Smithsonian Institution National Postal Museum as part of his research into the so-called Chicago perforations⁶; with one up-date to the second entry it is as shown on page 308.

2.2 As noted in the table, the original Bemrose arrangement for rouletting did not work very well. Neither had the pin and hole arrangement for perforating in England. That is why the British Post Office rejected that concept in favour of comb arrangements. Apparently a significant problem there was that the discs of paper clogged the holes.

2.3 On May 21, 1861, George C. Howard of Philadelphia was awarded United States Patent No. 32,370 for a 'Machine for Punching and Perforating', which was a patent for an improved rotary perforator based on the Bemrose design'. Contrary to 'acquiring' the use of the Bemrose invention illegally, the Howard Patent starts with the following statements:

I,..., have invented certain new and useful improvements for Perforating, ... and I wish it to be understood, that I do not desire to claim broadly, revolving

rollers for punching and perforating sheets of paper and other material, inasmuch as such rollers are illustrated and described in English patent N. 2607, granted to W. and H. H. Bemrose, December 11, 1854.

And, at several places later in the document, the application makes it clear that it recognised the Bemrose patent and what was being claimed were only a number of (listed) improvements, including arrangements for 'squaring' up the sheets and feeding them into the perforating wheels and, more importantly for this discussion, an improved design for the wheel carrying the holes so as to reduce or eliminate the clogging.

The details are illustrated overleaf in a figure from the Howard Patent. The pin and hole illustration on the left shows how little the pins penetrated the holes and that they actually were holes and not a continuous groove as used in rouletting. The right half of the illustration shows how a very thin hole-carrying surface on the counterpart (hole) wheel was stiffened by collars (at 'r') inserted into the wheel which did not impede the passage of the paper discs. (Note the fine, tapered shaping of the pins themselves. They were inserted (see 'q'.) and held in place by the annular plate 'p' so that they could be removed and replaced.)

2.4 But there was a law suit. The American Bank Note Company had been formed in 1858 by the merger of seven competing American companies (not including Toppan, Carpenter which carried on business in Philadelphia and retained all perforating machinery, etc.⁷). However, Charles Toppan was the President of ABNCo.

In the early 1850s Howard had developed modifications to the machine and permitted TC&Co (and, later, the ABNCo) to use such a machine (or machines) to perforate stamps (e.g. the U.S.

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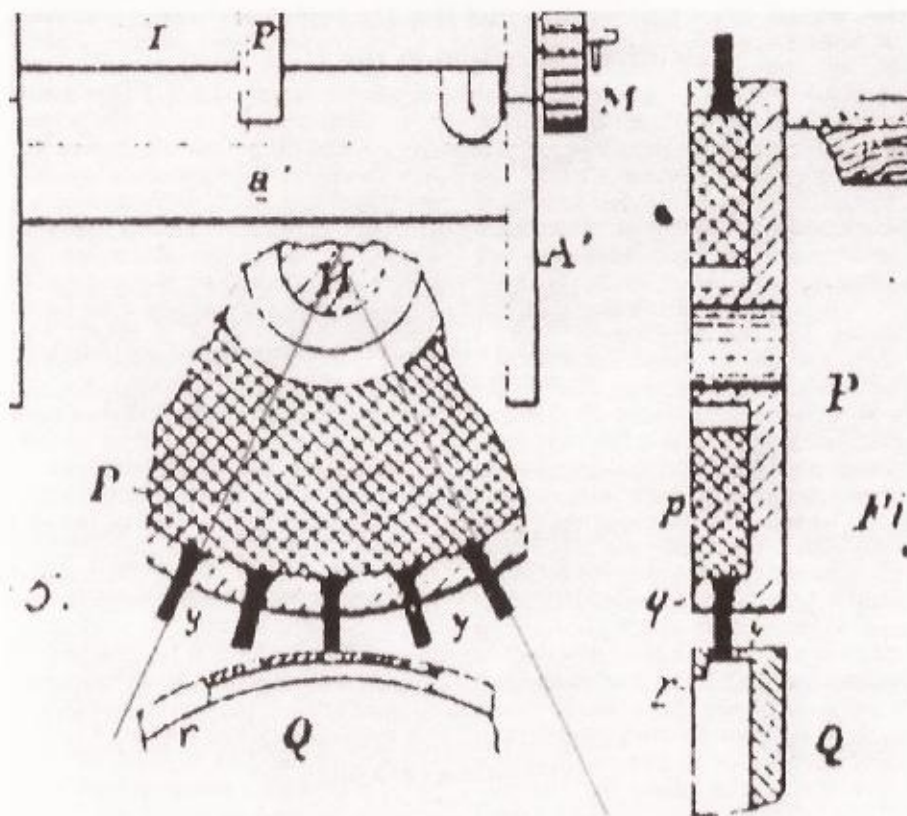
INTEGRITY

THERE IS ALWAYS A PUBLIC AUCTION WITH STRENGTH IN CANADA AND PROVINCES, AS WELL AS A GOOD SHOWING OF GREAT BRITAIN, BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN EITHER IN PREPARATION OR TAKING PLACE SOON. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEND YOU A FULLY ILLUSTRATED COLOUR CATALOGUE, OR DISCUSS SELLING YOUR TREASURES IN ONE OF OUR SALES.

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stamp issue of 1857) but delayed applying for a patent until April 23, 1861, obtaining it on May 21, 1861. (Patent No. 32,370) Before July, 1861, the National Bank Note Company asserted their right to use the machine. In order to keep NBNC Co from getting the 1861 contract for U. S. stamps (they wouldn't be able to perforate them.), Toppan, et al. applied for a provisional injunction against their use of the patent.

The application was heard on September 10, 1861 and hinged on the fact that the patent had been used for a time before the patent was applied for, and that use had to have been either secret or public.

A summary of the judge's (District Judge Shipman) findings are as follows:

a) The patent was not abandoned or forfeited. The motion before the court was for a 'provisional injunction'.

Chronology of the Use of the Bemrose Machine in the U. S. A.

Date	Event
March 24, 1855	First Enquiry by Toppan, Carpenter to Perkins Bacon.
September 21, 1855	Letter from Toppan, Carpenter to Bemrose and Sons ordering a machine with two sets of wheels, one set for rouletting and the other for perforating (if available) and requesting final cost and timing of delivery.
October 12, 1855	Order received by Bemrose.
March 22, 1856	Toppan, Carpenter's machine arrives in New York City. Subsequent testing shows rouletting will not work. The machine is eventually converted into a perforator.
February 24, 1857	First perforated stamps ready for delivery.
February 28, 1857	Earliest known use of an officially perforated stamp in the United States of America

b) The plaintiff was Toppan, Carpenter and patentee George C. Howard.

c) Shipman notes that, if the use (before 1861) had been public, then, since that had lasted more than the two years allowed by statute, the patent would have been "wrecked".

d) To continue with his decision, therefore, he assumes that the use was secret.

e) Under such an assumption, a

"provisional injunction" would require an "exclusive possession" [i.e. by the patentee] for some period of time. But Shipman notes that following the award of the patent (May 21, 1861), it could not have been in sole possession of the patentee for more than one month and ten days, or two months at the most, because the NBNC had asserted their rights to the use of the machine before July, 1861.

f) He concludes: "To hold that it was

a secret use, away from the eye of the public, sweeps away the ground of exclusive possession and acquiescence by the public, and leaves no foundation upon which the motion can stand". For that reason, he denied the motion (i.e. without declaring that the use was public and, by so doing, destroying the patent).

Any action respecting an alleged abandonment or forfeiture of the patent would have had to have gone before a jury. There is no evidence that any further action on the matter was pursued; indeed because of this ruling there would have been no need to pursue the case further.

Note that NBNC Co was able to carry on with perforating the issue because by then they had in their employ Charles F. Seele, formerly Superintendent or Manager of Production at TC&Co. They had similarly-constructed machines and they worked¹.

3A. "The plain fact is that [Bemrose] patent was never infringed. It was broken by a clever piece of lateral thinking.....It is clear to anyone who actually examines these perforations that the male wheel could have no female counterpart..... a bit of the Bemrose patented roulette cutter; the female part (which consists basically of a hollow groove) was adapted.....[This] explains the phenomena of blind perfs and adhering confetti in pre 1897 Canada, impossible where pins in an upper collar are fully engaging with corresponding holes in a lower one."

Facts: 3.1 Indeed, the Bemrose patent was not infringed upon. See 2.3 and 2.4 above. Nor was it broken by clever lateral thinking (i.e. by using pins and roulette slots). See below.

3.2 Expanded detail in the Howard Patent shows how the pins and holes worked together. There was minimal

penetration of the pin into the hole (not 'fully engaging') - just enough to sheer the paper disc. The adjustment was a fine one and, through use or damage, could be disturbed thereby causing an imperfect sheering of the paper and the blind perfs and confetti (hanging circular chads!) so familiar on early issues. As noted, because the Howard design accommodated very thin cylindrical strips which carried the holes, the discs passed through easily; 'clogging' was avoided.

3.3 Physically, a pin and groove combination simply would not have removed the paper discs as claimed. That required the paper to be sheared (in a circle) and that in turn required matching (again circular) edges of the pin and hole. A pin entering a groove might shear the paper at the edges of the groove; but the rest would simply be a punching of the paper away from the pin much as might be produced by a blunt needle without any backing. Inspection of the result of such a 'sewing machine perforation' will reveal a folding back of the disturbed paper thereby forming a sort of paper rosette around the back of whatever sort of hole had been created. Typically, no paper would have been removed.

On the other hand, in rouletting, the male wheel carries a set of short knives arranged around the circumference and matching the aforementioned groove. The result is a set of slits with no paper removal. Subsequent separation then amounts to tearing the 'bridges' between the ends of the slits.

3B. Spacing between adjacent perforating wheels could have been determined by inserting collars of length appropriate to the size of the stamps being perforated. The statement is made that this was not done "because it was not necessary" if a pin and groove arrangement were used. The use of a

female groove "would give considerable latitude to minor variations in the pin arrangements, and even to the somewhat slapdash spacing of the collars".

Facts: 3.4 The latitude needed along the row of pins was clearly not achieved by a semi-rouletting arrangement.

3.5 The allowable degree of latitude in a lateral direction (i.e. across the line of perforations) would not be improved much in substituting a groove for a set of holes. A rouletting groove is narrow to begin with and any irregular shift of the pins would not be easily accommodated. Should the typical groove for rouletting be widened to increase this tolerance, fewer edges (of pins and groove) would match and less paper actually sheared. The result would have made the occurrence of blind and irregular perforations or 'hanging chads' even

more frequent than it was.

4. "... the pins were not evenly spaced. Wheels were drilled to tool-room standards as it were, rather than to instrument maker standards. It is easy to find thick and thin perforations, not only along a row in a large block, but on individual stamps, which proves this." Reference is made to an example (lot 1240) from the June 1999 Maresch auctions.

Facts: 4.1 By the time stamp perforating was introduced, precision machining was well established in major part because of the need for greater accuracy in clocks and watches. For example, Sir Joseph Whitworth in England in the 1850s had a machine that could detect a difference as small as a millionth of an inch -not measure it, mind you, but certainly detect it. Soon after that

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the centre of precision machining shifted to New England.

4.2 Whatever, the 'standards' used, the irregularity of the spacing of perforations could result from the use of milling machines controlled by difference wheels. Each hole for a pin and its corresponding hole could have been drilled together - albeit with variations of spacings from one pair to another - thereby accommodating (matched) minor variations causing the thick and thin spacings.

4.3 Lot 1240 is a 3 cent Small Queen with somewhat irregular perforations, especially on the bottom and right sides, but is, overall, not atypical for this time. (For comparison, the reader may examine the nearby illustration of lot 1243.)¹⁰ The shape of the individual holes and bridges are irregularly shaped - most likely caused by the tearing of the paper in separation. Mr. Hillson draws particular attention to two elements on the bottom row of perforations of lot 1240:

"The hole immediately above the '4' of the lot number is out of place although perfectly cut."

Examination of the illustration shows that, while that hole does indeed seem to be raised relative to its companions, it is in fact not "perfectly cut" but, rather appears to have a spur torn out of the paper at its top which tear seems to run down its right side thereby creating a narrower 'bridge'.

"On the other hand, that above the '1' is a thick perforation tooth, and the one to its left is thin."

While as the latter horizontal variation (i.e. along the line of perforations) is more typical of inaccuracies in the drilling of the pin and hole pair, vertical offsets (across the line, as claimed above the '4') may also occur in that process. Both are attributable to the variability in the control

of the drilling process. Recall that each pair is drilled using an independent setting on the difference wheel and so there need be no pattern to the resulting variations along a given side.

The material provided by, and the discussions with Wilson Hulme have been invaluable in determining many of the facts and identifying primary sources used herein. Those and the discussions with Henry E. Duckworth, Donald Fraser and David Whiteley on the material described herein are gratefully acknowledged.

1. Hillson, John, *A Few Words on Early Perforations*, Maple Leaves, vol. 27, no. 7, 2002, pp.289-290.

2. Hillson, John, *Readers Speak*, BNATopics, vol. 60, no. 3, 2003, pp. 63-64.

3. Hillson, John, *Readers Speak*, BNATopics, vol. 61, no. 4, 2004, p. 73.

4. See the translation of the significant parts of Dr. Legrand's articles in Johnson, R. A., *The Origin of the Standard Perforation Gauge*, BNA Topics, vol. 61, no. 1, 2004, pp. 18 - 22.

5. Johnson, R. A., *Question: 'Kiusalas or Standard Gauge?' Answer: Either 'Neither' or 'Both'*, BNA Topics, vol.42, no. 2, 2003, pp. 55-58..

6. Hulme, W. Wilson, 1997, *The Chicago Perforations*, The Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues, vol. 49, no. 2, pp. 95 - 120 and vol. 49, no. 3, pp. 157 - 175; (see first part p.99).

7. Johnson, R. A., *Early American Perforating Machines 1857-1867 by Winthrop S. Boggs - Unitrade and The Collectors Club A Comparison*, BNA Topics, vol. 56 no. 3, 1999, pp. 16-28.

8. *Articles of Association of the American Bank Note Company*, New York, 1858, Article 1:

Nothing in these articles contained shall prevent Toppan, Carpenter & Company from executing their contract

for furnishing U. S. Postage Stamps, and reserving from this conveyance the machinery, materials and appliances specially provided for, and appropriated to that branch of their present business ...

9. Seele went on to work for ABNCO and later invented the grill used on US stamps to prevent their re-use. Howard later sold manufacturing machinery and other equipment to banknote companies and the U.S. Bureau of Printing and Engraving.

10. The auction listings make no

reference to anything unusual about the perforations. They read:

Lot 1240 37a: Rose, full rich colour, fresh and fine.

and

Lot 1243 37ii: Dull Red, Perf 11½ x 12, slightly disturbed streaky o.g., and light hint of oxidization at left, otherwise superb.

ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM THE 'ROYAL' SHOW



One of the sheets from late Dorothy Sandersons' display showing the rare 1798 Quebec Bishop Mark



RPSL medallion presented to the CPSGB to mark the occasion



RPSL members enjoying the displays

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Derrick Avery

HELP REQUIRED WITH IDENTIFYING A POST OFFICE

Shown below (fig 1) is a photocopy of a post card with a broken circle cancel. The cancel appears to be a misspelling of MARYVILLE, ALBERTA, although I can find no reference to such a place in any of my books, including Baedeker and the Readers Digest world map.

I am hoping one of our members can confirm the location and the misspelling.

The Yellow Peril

SPLIT POSTAGE DUE MARKINGS

I can illustrate two additional items showing these marks. Each are short-paid 2 cents and rated '4' double deficiency (see figs 2 and 3 overleaf).

The first, a 2+1 red Admiral War Tax stamp on a double weight cover dated 1st March 1916 shows a double horizontal split '4'. The second, an illegal use of a 2 cent Excise stamp on a 1930 Toronto cover to Idaho, USA shows a single vertical split on the '4'.



Figure 1



Figure 2

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Figure 3

George Arfken

MORE ON THE OVERSIZE P13

The P13 violated the UPU size regulations and was not eligible for the UPU 2¢ post card rate. Several copies,

uprated with a 1¢ Small Queen, are known that did go to foreign destinations without penalty. One P13, shown here in fig 4, was caught by the alert Japanese and charged as a letter: 15 ctm deficiency, doubled to a 6 sen postage due. Photo is courtesy of Robert A. Lee.



Figure 4

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Small Queens Re-Appraised	J. Hillson	£6.50
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NEWFOUNDLAND VIGNETTES (9) WWII WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION Dean Mario

Members may recall Judith Edwards' previous letter related to these interesting fund-raising charity stamps issued in Newfoundland during the Second World War (ML, Vol 25(6), #266, Jan. 98, p.218) and my follow-up reply (ML, Vol.25(7), #267, Apr.'98, pp. 254-255).

I've recently found an enlightening entry within the 25 January, 1940 Newfoundland Post Office Circular:

'Women's Patriotic Association Labels'



In order to raise funds the Women's Patriotic Association has put on sale adhesive labels approximately the same size as postage stamps. It is possible that

some members of the public are of the opinion that these labels may be used for the prepayment of postage and may post letters bearing these adhesive labels only.

If a Postmaster receives letters for despatch bearing these labels only, he should inform the poster that postage stamps only are acceptable for the prepayment of postage.

It should also be pointed out that no labels of any kind, other than labels authorised by the Post Office, and postage stamps may be placed on the address side of an envelope or card tendered for postage.

Postmasters are advised that all correspondence posted by or addressed to W.P.A. organisations must carry the appropriate postage in stamps'. (P.681)

Obviously rules were made to be broken, and my illustrated cover from the Church of England Orphanage to Rev. Kirby, Harbour Grace (dated July 13, 1940) in the aforementioned issue, was allowed passage through the mails undetected

EDITORIAL Cont. from page 278

Also included in this mailing pack is the Auction Catalogue for the Convention Auction. Our thanks as usual go to Colin Lewis for the hard work that goes into this. With well over 1000 lots it is another bumper sale which should include something of interest for all of us.

I should also extend our collective thanks to David Sessions for the hard work involved in putting together the Society display to the Royal in April. A report of

the day will be found elsewhere in this issue. Suffice to say it was an outstanding display of BNA material, thoroughly enjoyed by the 100 or so present.

Finally I would draw your attention to a small but important typographical error in the last issue. On page 247 of the Admirals article there is a misprint relating to the starting date for the 20 cent registered rate to UPU countries. It should read 1st October 1921 (not 14th). My apologies to the Yellow Peril.

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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 \$ equivalent) if payment is made before 1 January following.

It would help the Society considerably if Canadian and US members pay in \$CAN / 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.

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the end of April it was both an honour and a privilege to be amongst our members who were representing the Society at our display to the Royal Philatelic Society of London. I am pleased to report that our display was extremely well received and a full report appears on pages 298/299.

I would remind members that the final date for the return of the booking forms for our 60th Convention in Llandrindod Wells is **25th July**. Forms received after that date cannot guarantee to secure the accommodation and Convention package, although every effort will be made to confirm the arrangements with the hotel. So, if you have not already done so, send your booking forms in to me **now** to avoid any possible disappointment.

It is hoped to arrange a theatre visit for partners on the Thursday evening. The local theatre company provide a Victorian/Edwardian Music Hall entertainment every Thursday evening up to the end of September. Discussions are ongoing regarding the Friday evening alternative programme.

Neil Prior FWPS.

A RIGHT ROYAL SHOW

I should like to take this advantage to offer a big 'Thank you' to those members who so kindly contributed material for our Anniversary show to the Royal PS London in April.

There were contributions from 22 members (see page 299) who supplied some 600 sheets of diverse and interesting BNA material, some of it extremely scarce. Denizens of the 'Royal' expressed themselves most impressed and CPS members who attended were treated to a once in a lifetime display, capped by a fine reception afterwards in the 'Royal's'

large library.

I do have a few spare handouts, which acted as a guide to the show on the day, if anyone would like a souvenir.

David Sessions, FRPSL, FCPS, FRPSC.

SCOTTISH MEMBERS GROUP

Members from the North of England and Scotland met in Moffat on April 8 for their bi-annual get-together. Displays of the 1st Ottawa and Montreal printings of the 3c. Small Queen and of the 1972 Commemorative issue commenced the proceedings; to be followed by interesting background material to the 1976 Inland Ships issue. The current definitive High Values to the \$8 were on display including the lately issued \$1 & \$2 values with their miniature sheets. The follow up was a comprehensive array of Nineteenth Century Money and Registration letters, the earliest being a money letter of 1833, and the last a 7c rated cover of 1899 with some very fine classics on covers included, both Pence and Cents. The afternoon was rounded off with a display of the 1972 definitive high values. A varied programme which seemed to appeal to all present.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, same venue, The Annandale Arms, Moffat when it is hoped there will be another good turnout.

John Hillson, FCPS

SOUTH WEST AND WALES MEMBERS GROUP

The next meeting will take place at the Somerset Hall, Portishead on Sunday 13th August at 2pm. Members are cordially invited to attend and to bring along a few sheets for display or material they need information on.

John Croker