



Maple Leaves

**JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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MAPLE LEAVES

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EDITORIAL

I must start this Editorial with a personal apology to member Maurice Bursey. The article entitled 'How I Began Collecting BNA Stamps (2)' on page 243 of the January 2010 issue was incorrectly credited to David Piercey when it was, in fact, contributed by Maurice. I could offer all sorts of technical reasons for the error but I suspect it was actually a case of simple editorial incompetence. Hopefully the first and last time I manage to get an author wrong!

On a happier note, we extend our congratulations to Peter Motson who was the recipient of the 2009 Pratt Award given by the Chicago Collectors Club for his book on Newfoundland Airmail Stamps and Air Mail Flights 1918 – 1949. Members who are interested in seeing this prize winning book can find a copy in the Society library.

The Society website is currently being updated with a revised Library List, Officers List and Handbooks listing. Members should also note that over the coming months we will be uploading to the website all past issues of *Maple Leaves* from Volume 1 no 1 to the end of Volume 28. This significant research resource will become available to all who have web access. (Note also that the Cumulative Index covering all of these issues can be obtained from our Handbooks Manager – see page 352). More recent issues from Volume 29 onward will remain available to members only. Members who are interested should visit the website at www.canadianpsgb.co.uk and click on the 'Maple Leaves' tab.

Our 2010 Convention in Eastbourne has come and gone and was judged a huge success by all present. A full report can be found on page 323. It is a long wait to our next Convention but well worth it as we will be meeting 'overseas' for the first time, in Jersey



in September 2011. Convention was closely followed by the 2010 London Festival of Stamps. The International Class competition here drew the cream of world philately. I am delighted to report that the following CPSGB members won awards for their exhibits:-

Jill Hare – Silver for her ‘Admirals and Old Lace – Lathework’

Colin Lewis – Large Vermeil for his ‘Newfoundland Postal History 1857 – 1893’

David Hobden – Gold for his ‘In Defence of the Border – Canadian Military Mails 1667 – 1885’

Malcolm Montgomery – Gold for his ‘Transatlantic Mail between the United Kingdom and British North America 1759 – 1851’

Peter Motson – Large Gold and Best in the Aerophilately Class for his ‘Newfoundland Airmail Stamps and Airmail Flights 1919 – 1948’

Members **Ted Nixon** and **John Hillson** also won a Large Vermeil award for their new book on the Small Queens.

The month of May also saw the ORAPEX 2010 National Exhibition in Ottawa and the following CPSGB members were successful:-

David Handelman – 2 Golds for ‘International Avis de Reception in the British Empire to 1950’ and ‘US Return receipt and Avis de Reception to 1945’ (also won OPS – best Overall Postal History)

Dan Hunka – Vermeil with Felicitations for Canadian Machine Cancels Then to Now (also won the PHSC – Best BNA Postal History and AAPE – Best Novice)

Dave Bartlett – Vermeil for his one frame exhibit on Christmas Stick ‘n’ Tick Labels of 1983 and 1984 (also won APS – Medal of Excellence for post 1980 material, John Hillmer Award and BNAPS Elizabethan II Study Group Award)

Member **John Jamieson** also showed his Newfoundland Tercentenary Issue display in the Court of Honour.

Our congratulations to one and all and, as usual, my apologies to anyone I have missed out.

This issue of *Maple Leaves* contains the Subscription reminder for season 2010/2011. I am pleased to report that the long awaited PAYPAL option for Subscriptions is now up and running on the Society website. Full details of this and other changes in Subscriptions for the 2010/11 season can be found on page 354.

Colin Lewis has asked me to report that the next Society auction will be a mail auction in November 2010. Catalogues will be circulated with the October 2010 issue of *Maple Leaves*. Thinking further ahead, the Society is looking for someone to take on the role of Assistant Auction Manager with a view to taking on the Auction Manager role in due course when Colin finally retires. Any member who is interested in taking on this role or would even like more information should please contact either Colin Lewis or John Wright (contact details are on the inside back cover).

CONTINUED on page 320

BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN SHIP LETTER MARKINGS

PART ONE: MANUSCRIPT MARKS AND A PRELIMINARY TABLE OF HANDSTAMPS

Malcolm Montgomery M.B.E.

‘Ship letters’ are those carried by private ships rather than Post-Office and Admiralty packets, or other contract vessels. From 1711, the Act of Queen Anne (1), a small charge was raised against addressees of letters landed from private ships to cover post office handling expenses (occasionally to increase the revenue, but not in Canada); at times gratuities were paid to ships’ masters to encourage them to deliver letters to the post office at the port of arrival, failure to do so could result in fines, even the confiscation of the ship. To explain the extra charges, ship letters were marked as such; the purpose of this series of articles is to collate and examine the marks used in British North America.

Early marks consisted only of a manuscript ‘Ship’ or the abbreviation ‘Sh.’ From the 1770s handstamps were used at the larger ports (earlier in the British Isles, but the earliest recorded ship handstamp in British North America is dated 1781); the smaller ports were obliged to continue marking ship letters in manuscript.



Figure 1: A letter from London, England to Quebec dated 10th December 1763. It was carried by private ship to New York (backstamp). From there it was charged Sh(ip) 7dwt 16gr collect (comprising 7 pennyweight postage + 16 grains ship letter fee). This rate applied only from 1763 to October 1765 (3) when it was reduced to 5dwt 8gr. The Montreal post office had only opened in August 1763.

THE "ST. AYLOTT" COLLECTION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AUGUST 14, 2010 AUCTION

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In 1763 Canada was ceded by the French to Great Britain under the Treaty of Paris. It was not at first treated as a distinct colony, but as an extension of the existing British Colonies in America. In August that year Benjamin Franklin opened post offices at Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal, under the charge of Hugh Finlay. The earliest manuscript ship letter mark and charge yet recorded on a letter to Canada is shown in fig 1. This letter is datelined in London, U.K. on 10th December 1763 and was sent by private ship to New York and then overland to Quebec. A second letter of this type is shown in fig 2. It is dated September 1764 on a letter addressed to the first Governor General (2); it was landed at New York (2-line, reverse) and passed through Albany to Quebec.

Two further examples of these early manuscript marks are shown in Figures 3 and 4 overleaf.

A brief expansion of the explanation of the rates charged on ship letters, in-bound and out-bound, is necessary. In theory this is a simple matter for British North America, but in practice and application it is often confusing and it will be necessary to discuss the rates, and their interpretation in North American currency later, hopefully with input from

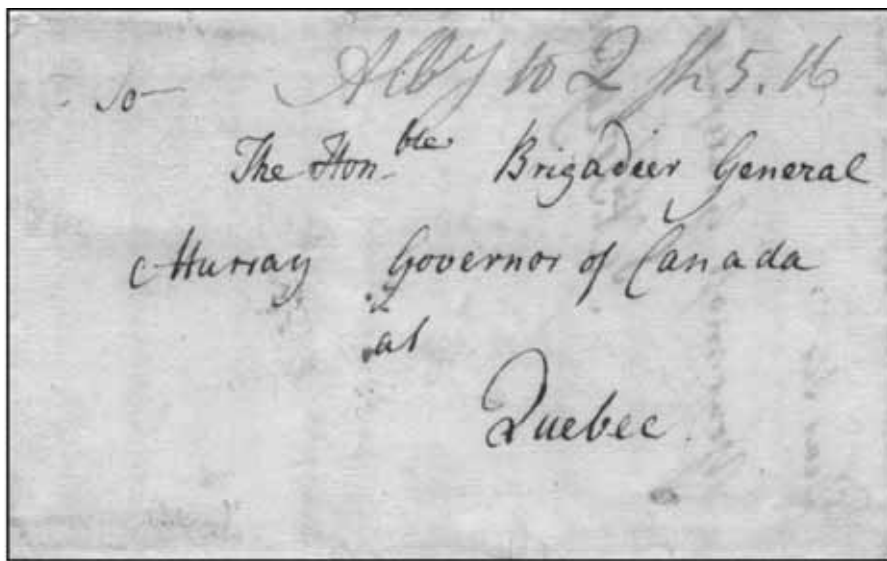


Figure 2: A letter from Edinburgh, Scotland to Quebec, dated 24th September 1764, carried privately and handed to the post office at New York, where it was treated as a ship letter. There is no indication of the charge from New York to Albany, but the notation 'Alby to Q Sh 5.16' is consistent with a table published in 1763 as an augmentation to the rates established under 9 Anne, Cap. 10: specifically, ship fee 16 grains and Albany to Quebec 5 pennyweight. (3) This rate for inbound ship letters in British North America remained at twopence Sterling (sixteen grains silverweight), twopence halfpenny Currency until the middle of the nineteenth century. Outbound ship letters rarely show any ship fee.

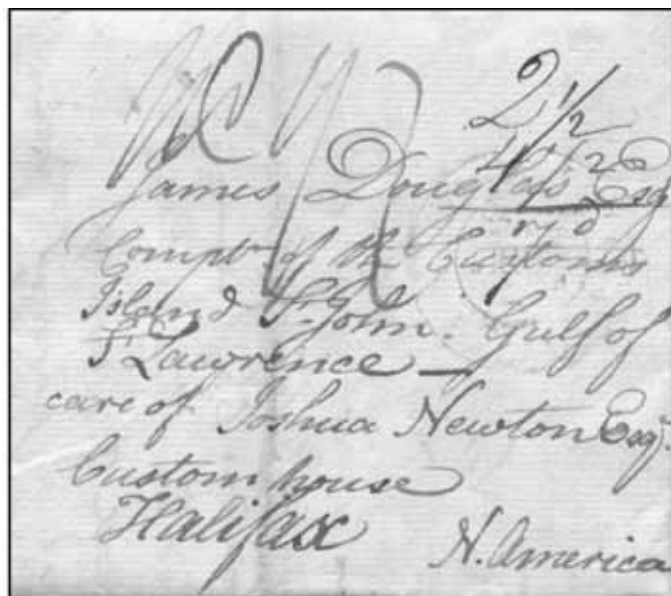


Figure 3: A letter from Edinburgh, Scotland to Charlottetown, St. John's Island, 19th September 1796, paid one shilling and seven pence Sterling (4) for the Falmouth Packet 'Swallow' to Halifax.(5) The letter took a further four months to reach Charlottetown. The letter has been charged four-pence halfpenny Currency for inland postage in Nova Scotia and a further two pence halfpenny Currency, probably for a private ship passage from Pictou to the Island.(6)

readers and more examples. As stated earlier, the first mention of ship letter rates in a North American context was in the Post Office Act of Queen Anne (7): 'And for the Port of all and every the Letters and Packets of Letters directed on board or brought from on board any Ship or Vessel, riding or stopping in any Port within Her Majesty's Dominions, the Sum of One Penny, over and above the Rates Granted in and by this Act.'

This rate was reiterated in the 1765 Act of King George III (8): 'And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Deputy or



Figure 4: A letter from St. John's, Newfoundland to Miramichi, New Brunswick, 4th August 1830. An account for cargo carried by the schooner 'Grasshopper', charged twopence halfpenny Currency at the post office in Miramichi, New Brunswick.

Deputies to demand, have, receive, and take, for every such Letter and Packet so delivered from any Ship or Vessel, other than Packet Boats, to such Deputy or Deputies at the Posts in his Majesty's Dominions, as shall be directed to any Place within the Town belonging to such Post, or within the Limits of the Delivery of Letters and Packets by such Deputy and Deputies, the Rate or Sum of One Penny, over and above what may now be received for the same.'

The same Act published penalties for anyone failing to deliver inbound ship letters to the post offices at the first port of call and added a rate for inter-colonial postage by sea in North America: *'For all Letters and Packets conveyed by Sea from any Port in the British Dominions in America, to any Port within the said Dominions, for every Single Letter Four Pence; for every Double Letter Eight Pence; for every Treble Letter One Shilling; and for every Ounce One Shilling and Four Pence; and so in Proportion for every Packet of Deeds, Writs, or other Things.'*

A difficulty arises from two broadsides by Benjamin Franklin and John Foxcroft, Deputy Postmasters General. The first (9) was dated 1763, and included: *'II. All Ship-Letters and Packets must be charged, over and above the Rates set down in these Tables, with 16 Grains Weight of Silver, for such as are received from on Board; and with 8 Grains Weight, for such as are directed on Board any Ship or Vessel. And the whole Postage of these last Sort, must be paid down at the Post-Office where such Letters and Packets are delivered in.'*

An amended broadside (10) was published in late 1765 or early 1766, purporting to be authorised by the 1765 Act. The ship letter rates remained unchanged from the earlier broadside. For a reason that remains to be explained, at sixteen grains of silver, the rate for inbound ship letters in both broadsides was higher than that in the Acts, increased from a penny to twopence Sterling, approximately twopence halfpenny in local currencies, and a charge of eight grains of silver, a penny Sterling, had been introduced for letters directed to private ships. There is no mention of the fourpence Sterling inter-colonial sea rate introduced in the second Act. It is hoped that this anomaly may be resolved in a later article ... your views would be helpful.

The final section of this part is a first draft listing of the known Ship Letter handstamps. The table has been assembled from a number of sources, including several collections, and is intended to provide a draft information base for a number of subsequent articles explaining the use of these British North American ship letter markings. The illustrations have been taken from examples (and some published works), and are less than perfect; it is hoped that readers will submit details of similar markings in their own collections to enable the detail of the table to be improved. With the Editor's agreement, the listing has also been made available to societies in North America in the hope that it may provoke corrections and illustrations of examples - the latter appear to be in short supply.

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










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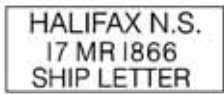


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Members who have not paid the 2010/11 subscription by the end of February 2011 will be removed from the *Maple Leaves* circulation list.

Ref. #	Illustration	Dates	Size mm.	Notes
CANADA – Quebec				
CA01		1781	8 x 4	Quebec. Recorded in black. Only two reported, one in Ottawa Archives. (11)
CA02a		1782-(?)	14 x 14.5	Quebec. Recorded in black. Robson Lowe suggests this handstamp may have originated in London. (12)
CA02b		1790	17 x 5	Quebec (25 th July 1790 & 24 th October 1791). Recorded in black. CA02b-d are similar handstamps of slightly varying sizes, which may be the effect of loose type.
CA02c		1796	17 x 5	Quebec (20 th and 25 th April 1796). Recorded in black. See above.
CA02d		1796		Quebec. Recorded in black. See above.
CA02e		1804		Quebec. Recorded in black. Only recorded example in Steinhart sale dated 1804. (13)
CA03		1801-1815 (?)	39 x 29	Recorded in black. Similar to handstamps used in UK, e.g. Bristol (1803), Chatham (1803), Deal (1800), Dover 1800), Greenock, 1800, Harwich (1804), Hastings (1800), London (1799) and others.
CA04		1815 – 1818	33 x 23	Recorded in black
CA05		1829 - 1831	31 x 24	Recorded in red.
CA06		1835 - 1843	31 x 24	Recorded in red. Similar handstamps used in UK, e.g. Gravesend (1814), Portsmouth (1815), Rochester (1812), Ramsgate (1847).
CA07		1839 – (?)	30	G.P.O. Proof Books (4/23) 11 th July 1843. Similar handstamps known used in UK, e.g. Liverpool (1838), London (1839).

CANADA - Montreal				
Ref. #	Illustration	Dates	Size mm.	Notes
CA08		1803-1828	39 x 29	Recorded in black and red. Four examples recorded. Similar handstamps used in the UK, e.g. Barnstaple (1802), Plymouth Dock (1800), Eastbourne (1801), Falmouth (1802), Greenock (1808), Plymouth (1800).
CA09		1827	39 x 29 (approx)	Recorded in red. Size is approximate only. One example recorded. Used in conjunction with MONTREAL straight-line 'SHIP', type CA11. (14)
CA10		1819 - 1824	34 x 24	Recorded in black.
CA11	SHIP	1827 - 1838	24 x 6	Recorded in red. Montreal. Four examples recorded.
CA12		1839 - 1848	30	Recorded in red. Only one example seen, without date, ex Steinhart (15). G.P.O. Proof Books (4/23) 11 th July 1839. Similar handstamps used in UK, e.g. London (1839-1846) and Liverpool (1838-1855).
CA13	SHIP PAID	1840	35 x 4	Recorded in red. Sherbrooke (?) Three examples recorded. Not strictly a ship-letter handstamp, used to indicate freight money paid for sailing packets out of United States.
NEW BRUNSWICK - St. John				
NB01	Ship-letter.	1804	41 x 6.5	St. John. Recorded in black.
NB02	Ship-letter.	1803-1810	42 x 7	St. John. Recorded in black.
NB03	ShipLETT	1820	50 x 7	St. John. Recorded in black. One example recorded. (16)
NB04		1840-1841	36 x 28	Recorded in black.
NB05	ST JOHN N.B SHIP LETTER	1841 - 1867 (17)	40 x 13	Recorded in black. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NB06	SHIP-LETTER	1849	34.5 x 4.5	St. John. Recorded as proofed in G.P.O. Proof Books. (18)

NEW BRUNSWICK - Others				
Ref. #	Illustration	Dates	Size mm.	Notes
NB07	BATHURST-N-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	Not seen. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841. Not recorded.
NB08	DALHOUSIE-N-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	Not seen. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
N/A	<i>Ship 2 1/2d</i>	1830		Manuscript.
NB09	MIRAMICHI-N-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/45-6) 17 th November 1841.
NB10	NEWCASTLE-N-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NB11	S^tANDREWS N-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NB12	S^tSTEPHENS-N-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NEWFOUNDLAND – St. John's				
NF01		1815 - (?)	40 x 32	Recorded in black. Only one example recorded. (19) Similar to Aberdeen (1815), Colchester (1815), Cromarty (1815), Greenock (1814), Leith (1819), Port Glasgow (1815), Weymouth (1815)
NF02	SHIP-LETTER NEWFOUNDLAND	1841 – 1881	39 x 12	Recorded in black. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/11) 19 th July 1841. Pratt III. P.95, p.243, 'to 1881'. (20)
NEWFOUNDLAND - Others				
NF03	BAY-BULLS SHIP-LETTER	1851- (?)	38 x 12 (?)	Recorded in black. Pratt p.258, 'G.P.O. 1851'. (21)
NF04	HARBOR-BRITAIN SHIP-LETTER	1851- (?)	40 x 12 (?)	Recorded in black Two examples recorded. Pratt p.248 (Ill.) & 258 'G.P.O. 1851'. (22)
NOVA SCOTIA - Halifax				
NS01		1786-1830	50 x 10	Halifax. Recorded in black. (23)
NS02	HALIFAX SHIP LRE.	1792-1799	42 x 13	Recorded in black and red. (24)

Ref. #	Illustration	Dates	Size mm.	Notes
NS03		1800-1837	40 x 29	Recorded in black. Similar handstamps in use in a number of ports in the United Kingdom, see CA03 above.
NS04		1841-1848	29 mm	Recorded in black and red. (25)
NS05	SHIP-LETTER	1843-(?)	46 x 5.5	Halifax. Recorded in red. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/162) to Halifax, N.S. 3 rd June 1843. (26). Recorded as used at Barrington, N.S. (27)
NS06		1844-1854	24 x 20	Recorded in black. (28)
NS07		1864-1870	41 x 16	Recorded in black. (29)
NOVA SCOTIA - Others				
NS08		1841	40 x 32	Recorded in black. One example recorded - no accurate illustration available. (30)
NS09	ANNAPOLIS-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	One example recorded. (31) G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS10	SHIP	1801	13 x 5	Digby. Recorded in black. One example recorded, however, also described only as 'rare'. (32)
NS11	DIGBY-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	Not seen. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS12		1824	30 x 21 (?)	Recorded in black. Size uncertain. One example recorded. (33)
NS13	LIVERPOOL-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	Recorded in red. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.

Ref. #	Illustration	Dates	Size mm.	Notes
NS14	LUNENBURG-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	Not seen. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS15	PARRSBOROUGH SHIP LETTER	1848 - (?)	39 x 13	Not seen. (34)
NS16	PICTOU-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	One example recorded. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/45-6) 17 th November 1841.
NS17	SHIP LETTER S ^T MARGARETS BAY-N-S	1845 - (?)	43 x 9	Not seen. (35)
NS18	SHELBURNE-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS19	WINDSOR-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS20	YARMOUTH-N-S SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	Recorded in red. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS21	ARICHAT-C-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	One example recorded. G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
NS22	SYDNEY-C-B SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	40 x 13	G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - Charlottetown				
PE101	Prince Edward Island SHIP LETTER	1841 - (?)	13 x 40	Recorded in black. Four examples recorded. (36). G.P.O. Proof Books (5/43) 12 th November 1841.

It would be most helpful if readers would provide the author with supplementary information, ideally with photocopies or scans of covers in their possession; the table will then be amended and re-published in the last article of this series.

TO BE CONTINUED

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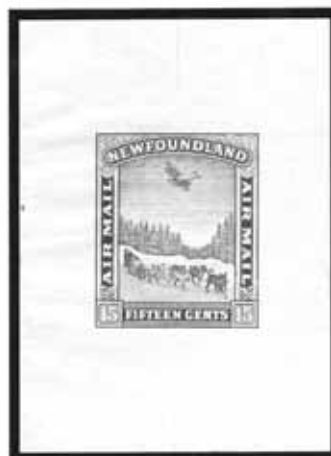
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Specific references:-

- (1) 9 Anne, Cap. 10, 1st June 1711 (sometimes shown as Cap. 11).
- (2) Brig. Gen. Murray, served under Wolfe at Louisbourg and Quebec and with Amherst at the capitulation of Montreal.
- (3) Table (with inset for New York to Quebec) published by D.P.M.G.s Franklin and Foxcroft.
- (4) 24 George III, Cap. 37, 31st August 1784, Edinburgh to London, 7d Sterling; 5 George III, Cap. 25, 10th October 1765, London to North America, 1s Sterling.
- (5) J.C. Arnell (Ed.), *'Transatlantic Handbook'*, p.22: out of Falmouth 15th October for Halifax 11th November.
- (6) 5 George III, Cap. 25, 10th October 1765: inland postage 0-61 miles, 4d Stg, ship fee should be 1d Stg, but appears to have been amended by Franklin & Foxcroft.
- (7) 9 Anne, Cap. 10, 1st June 1711.
- (8) 5 George III, Cap. 25, 10th October 1765.
- (9) Tables of the Port of all Single Letters, carried by Post in North-America, as establish'd by Act of Parliament, in the Ninth Year of Her late Majesty Queen ANNE, Entitled, An Act of Establishing a General Post-Office, for all her Majesty's Dominions': Rates were given '...in Penny-Weights and Grains of Silver, at Three-Pence Sterling for each Penny-weight'.
- (10) Tables of the Port of all Single Letters, carried by Post in the Northern District of North-America, as establish'd by Act of Parliament, pass'd in the Fifth Year of His Majesty King GEORGE the Third, entitled, An Act to alter certain Rates of Postage, and to amend, explain, and enlarge several Provisions in an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Queen ANNE, and in other Acts relating to the Revenue of the Post-Office.
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- (12) R. Lowe, *Encyclopaedia, Vol. V*, Lowe, London, 1973, p.118, HS23.
- (13) Matthew Bennett, Inc. Auction Catalogue, 28th May 2005, *Allan L. Steinhart Collection*, Zurich, 2005, Lot 1115.
- (14) Matthew Bennett, Inc. Auction Catalogue, 28th May 2005, *Allan L. Steinhart Collection*, Zurich, 2005, Lot #1047.
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- (19) R.H. Pratt, *19th Century Postal History of Newfoundland*, Steinway Fund Collector's Club, U.S.A., 1985, p.89, illustration p.90.
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- (23) C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene, J.H.M. Young, *The Postal History of Nova Scotia & New Brunswick*, Sissons, Toronto, 1964, p.171.

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(24) C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene, J.H.M. Young, *The Postal History of Nova Scotia & New Brunswick*, Sissons, Toronto, 1964, p.171.

(25) C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene, J.H.M. Young, *The Postal History of Nova Scotia & New Brunswick*, Sissons, Toronto, 1964, p.187.

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(29) C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene, J.H.M. Young, *The Postal History of Nova Scotia & New Brunswick*, Sissons, Toronto, 1964, p.187.

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(35) J.J. MacDonald, *The Nova Scotia Post, 1700-1867*, Unitrade, Toronto, 1985: p.186/190: proofed (in Nova Scotia?) on 30th April 1845.

(36) Matthew Bennett, Inc. Auction Catalogue, 28th May 2005, *Allan L. Steinhart Collection*, Zurich, 2005, Lot #1381.

EDITORIAL – continued from page 306

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I close with one of my pleas for material for future editions but in this case it is a rather specific request. 2011 will mark the centenary of two popular stamp issues, the Admiral issue of Canada and the Royal Family issue of Newfoundland. To mark the centenary, I would like to publish a series of articles on the stamps or postal history of these two issues. These can be articles for beginners or experts or both. Any contributions gratefully received and, of course, I am always happy to receive and publish material on other subjects as well!

OFFICIALLY SEALED TOO BUT ALASNO STAMPS!

Dean Mario

Having greatly enjoyed two previous articles related to the usage of Canada's Officially Sealed stamps on cover (ML, October 2008 and January 2009), and subsequent comments by members, I hope that the cover shown below in figs 1 and 2 may also be of some interest.

Regrettably, in this instance, postal officials failed to use the more attractive Officially Sealed adhesives and perhaps thought it more prudent to simply use paper tape (or stamp sheet selvage) to re-seal the damaged cover.

The cover was posted from the coastal city of Oamaru on New Zealand's South Island,

and despatched on 10th April 1901. It was addressed to the well known Charlottetown, P.E.I. stamp dealer firm of 'Bartlett & King'.

It was sent short-paid and assessed due 10 centimes, which was subsequently converted to four cents when it arrived in Canada. This may have occurred when it arrived in transit in Ontario (as shown by the indistinguishable backstamp). A manuscript notation 'Found open/ closed by' at the left was initialled by a postal official. The Charlottetown 9th June 1901 duplex was struck on the repair tape one day after the receiver CDS on the reverse.



Fig 1. 1901 letter from New Zealand to Charlottetown, short paid and opened and resealed apparently after arrival in P.E.I.

I wonder if this was an example of someone's 'sticky fingers' in the post office? Did the cover contain stamps for sale or payment for the same? We will

never know. One is still left regretting the fact that an 'inconsiderate' postal clerk failed to use an O.S. adhesive for the enjoyment of future postal historians!

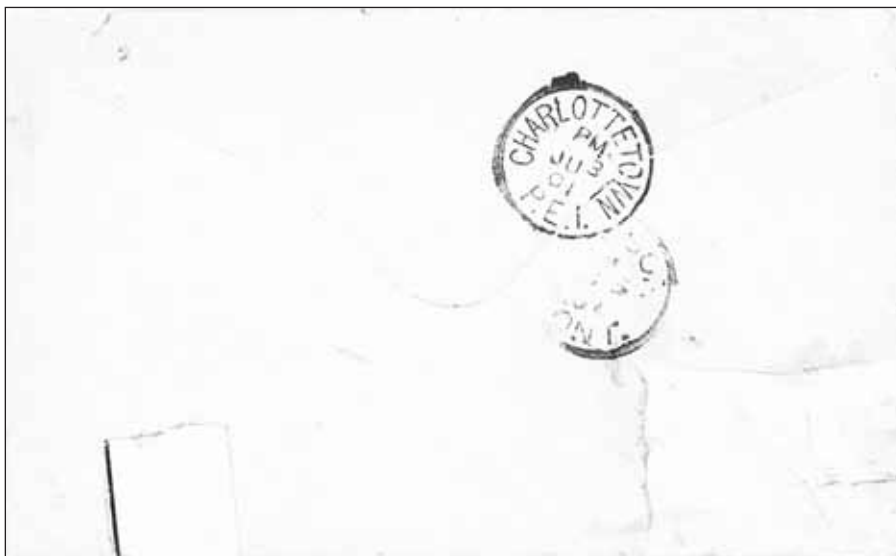


Fig 2. Reverse of the letter in fig 1 with the tell tale arrival date stamp of 8th June.

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CONVENTION 2010 – EASTBOURNE

With the change in our annual timetables to fit in with the London 2010 International exhibition, it seemed that we had barely unpacked our cases from the last Convention and it was time to set off again; this time to the seaside and Eastbourne where Mike and Sue Slamo were our hosts.

As is now usual, the CPSGB Convention was blessed with good weather – the heavens opened on the Sunday as we departed! The hotel proved to be very good – right beside the sea and the food was excellent. The Philaholic study group were caught infringing a hotel bylaw on the first evening by imbibing our own liquor. However, such trifles did not deter and thanks to the hospitality of our President we were able to study long into the night in his suite. Colin Banfield's collection of empty malt containers must now be reaching Gold Medal standard – we only await the introduction of an 'Open' class in the Society competition and we will see them in all their glory!

In between the philatelic sessions, members enjoyed a trip to Battle where most of us took a tour of the Abbey and the famous battleground of 1066. Battle is a charming village. Your author was last there 40 years ago and it hardly seems to have changed in that time, apart from the traffic jams that is!

We also enjoyed an outing to Sheffield Park where the group split, some partaking of a ride on the famous Bluebell Railway while others went round the Sheffield Park gardens. Bluebells were much in evidence in both places!

On the philatelic front, our Secretary John Wright got us off to a great start on the

Wednesday evening with a display of Money Letters and Registered Mail to 1910. The display included a bewildering array of rates and postal markings including some very rare items. Your editor was overjoyed to find a Peter Street roller cancel on a registered cover.

Thursday morning saw our President stepping forward to display his St Pierre and Miquelon stamps and postal history. Whilst strictly speaking not BNA, this material proved very popular and is, I believe, the first time we have seen St Pierre and Miquelon featured at the CPSGB Convention. The display included many very rare covers and lots of overprints from the many occasions when the islands ran out of stamps (which were all printed in France). In 1926, they actually managed to run out altogether for a few weeks and used some provisional handstamps, some types being in use for only one day or less.

With the ladies occupied making flower arrangements in the shape of small handbags, Colin Banfield took the floor on Thursday evening with a display of rates and cancellations on the 1897 Jubilee issue. The first part of the display featured squared circle cancels on the 1 cent and 3 cent values for all the provinces apart from Ontario. We were treated here to several very rare strikes plus some interesting indicia varieties. The second part of the display featured postal rates on Jubilee covers and once again included some real gems. Once again your Editor was delighted to find a couple of Street Cancel covers including what must be one of the best of its kind, a 6 cent Jubilee on a registered drop letter from Parkdale, Toronto.

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Colin also treated us to a bonus display; a part of his 'Use of 1 cent rates in Canada 1859 to 1900'. There were, of course, some drop letters and printed matter but so much else besides that seemingly qualified for the reduced rate.

Friday morning brought the ever popular Members displays of up to 16 sheets. Once again we were treated to an amazing diversity of material, including; Acknowledgement of Receipt sheets and cards, the 6 cents Small Queen value, World War 2 Canada, Post Office handstamps used when the stamps are missing from a letter, Newfoundland Bonavista Bay Coastal mail services and routes 1899 – 1931, Canadian RPO's, Prince Edward Island, Eastern Arctic Mail and some early Canadian Military Mails from the War of 1812 from David Hobden's London 2010 Exhibit. A great display which was enjoyed by all participants.

Friday evening saw the ladies being entertained by Dawn Johnson who gave a tour of Eastbourne in postcards. For the philatelists, it was husband Hugh Johnson who took the floor to give us four displays; Transatlantic Mail from 1815 – 1840, Cross Border mails 1817 – 1860, Canadian Airlines and Maritime Mails. Hugh's pre-stamp material contained several interesting family letters which provided a marvellous insight into life and conditions in early Canada.

Saturday morning saw the AGM completed and then a review by the judges of the Competition entries. It also gave us all an opportunity to view the material and some very fine material indeed was on show. Our congratulations go to Colin Banfield, Dave Armitage, John Wright, Brian Stalker and Colin Lewis who between them took away the prizes. Saturday also brought the

traditional society auction. Colin Lewis our auctioneer raced through the usual 1700 lots by mid afternoon with a break for lunch and managed to keep a lot of buyers and sellers happy in the process. Overall sales topped £17000 with some very high prices paid for some quality material providing a much appreciated boost to Society funds.

Around 40 members and guests sat down for the closing Banquet on the Saturday evening with Colin Lewis, President of the Sussex Philatelic Societies giving a most entertaining speech. (Yes, there really are two Colin Lewis's, amazing!) In addition to the competition awards, Graham Searle was a recipient of Fellowship of the Society and Malcolm Montgomery was awarded the Founders Trophy for his research on the Cross Border Mails and Freight Letters. The Presidential badge was handed over to Malcolm Newton who gets to wear it for 17 months and he extended a warm welcome to everyone to meet again in Jersey, in the Channel Islands, in September 2011 – our first ever 'overseas' trip!

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.

Finally our thanks go to Mike and Sue Slamo who were excellent hosts and had clearly put a lot of effort and organisation into making it such an enjoyable time for us all.

GS



President Mike Slamo addresses the banquet



A moment of panic as we discover there are really two Colin Lewis's



Malcolm Newton takes over the Presidential reins for 2010/11



Our New Fellow, Graham Searle, signs the book under the watchful eye of Colin Banfield.



Our Hon. Secretary, John Wright, President, Mike Slamo and Hon. Treasurer, Karen Searle prepare for the AGM. Hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil?



The Members 16 sheets displays drew the usual large crowd for viewing



Colin Banfield explains to a sceptical Bill Longley the value of those Jubilee covers

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STREET CANCELS 1886 - 1918 (PART 8)

Graham Searle F.C.P.S.

Introduction

This is the eighth in a series of articles that will attempt to list and illustrate the "Street" cancels used in Canada between 1886 and 1918. This part completes the story of the Street cancels from Montreal.

Victoria Avenue:-

This post office opened in December 1898 and was one of Montreal longest lived Street offices not closing until March 1956. It was initially located in the town of Westmount at 4826 Sherbrooke Street West on the corner of Victoria Avenue but the street location seems to have changed

several times after 1918. Westmount itself was a small settlement on Montreal island that was gradually subsumed by the larger adjacent City of Montreal but in recent years has 'fought back' and is now a city in its own right. Sherbrooke Street was the main arterial thoroughfare running into Westmount from Montreal. The first postmaster here was E.H. Lawson who lasted only 15 months in office before resigning. He was replaced by Charles Scarff who held the post for five years until late 1905. He, in turn, was succeeded by Stafford Fry who remained in office from 1909 to 1931. Interestingly, the office does not seem to have had a postmaster from late 1905 until August 1909 so it may possibly



Fig 217. 1901 cover from St. Lawrence Street Centre to France showing use of the split ring c.d.s. and roller cancels in tandem.

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*Fig 218. St. Lawrence Street Centre;
1913 style c.d.s.cancel*



*Fig 220. Victoria Avenue full circle
c.d.s.cancel*

have been closed during this period.

I have seen only two cancels from this office in our time period and they leave a huge time gap. The first is a split ring c.d.s. cancel proofed in 1909. This has a 20mm dater with blank indicia and is shown in fig 219. The second is a full circle c.d.s. cancel with a 23mm dater proofed in 1913 which

presumably replaced the first type. This second type has a blank indicia and is shown in fig 220. This second cancel was in use up to the end of our time period. The cover in fig 221 which also shows this cancel is dated 1922.

Quite what this office used by way of cancels in the 11 years from 1898 to 1909 is something of a mystery. If any member has examples of cancels from this time period I would be delighted to hear of them.

Visitation Street:-

The Visitation Street (fig 222) branch office was opened in May 1898 and remained in operation only until 1908. It was located at 784 Mount Royal Street in the tobacconist shop of Paul Couture. Couture himself was postmaster until 1904. He was replaced by John Rousseau who remained in office until 1908. The resignation of Rousseau appears to have sounded the death knell for this office.



*Fig 219. Victoria Avenue split ring c.d.s.
cancel*

The first postmark found from Visitation Street is a split ring c.d.s. cancel with 21mm



Fig 221. Use of the Victoria Avenue full circle cancel on a 1922 registered letter.

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Fig 222. Visitation Street, Montreal

dater and blank indicia. (fig 223). I have only seen records of this used in 1898 – 1899 but I suspect it remained in use much longer as the other main cancels I have seen for this office were not proofed until 1907. Visitation Street was also issued with a roller cancel which is shown in fig 224.

In 1907 the office was issued with a further two cancels, both of which must be very rare. The first is a full circle c.d.s. type with 24mm dater and AM or PM indicia. This type is shown in fig 225. The second type is a duplex cancel shown in fig 226. The duplex appears to use exactly the same dater as that in fig 225 and has a 9 bar circular killer. As the office closed only 6 months after these two cancels were proofed it has to be questionable if they



Fig 223. Visitation Street split ring c.d.s. cancel (courtesy of Saskatoon Stamp Company).



Fig 224. Visitation Street roller cancel



Fig 225. Visitation Street; 1907 style
c.d.s.cancel



Fig 226. Visitation Street; 1907 style
duplex cancel

were ever used. I would be interested to hear if any member has seen a copy of either of these cancels used in anger

City Councillor Street:-

This office was opened in September 1899 and remained under this name until July 1916 when it became Montreal Sub no 99. It was originally located at 941 Ste Catherine Street West on the corner of City Councillor Street inside a grocers shop but by 1906 it had moved to 283 Bleury Street. The first postmaster was called Achille (it is unclear if this was also the name of the

grocers) and he remained in post until 1905.

I have only ever seen one cancel from this office. This is a split ring c.d.s cancel with 20mm dater and blank indicia shown in fig 227. Apart from this copy which is dated 1908, I have seen only one other example of this cancel dated in November 1907 so it is possible that an earlier type exists although the scarcity of strikes suggests that this was an office that handled very little mail.

FURTHER GROWTH 1900 – 1910:-

The first decade of the 20th century saw a period of further growth in the Montreal postal system. A large number of branch and sub-post offices opened in these years of which a further 12 had Street names in addition to the two remainings mentioned above.

Montreal Street offices from this period are the most difficult of all to research and find cancels from. Most, if not all, of these offices franked very little mail in this period (probably only registered mail) so examples of cancels from these offices are very scarce at best. To make matters worse almost none of these offices have postmarks in the proof books (3) so in many cases there are no records of any cancels and we are left to guess at what might exist.

Amherst Street:-

This branch office opened in July 1900 in the drug store of R. McNichols at the corner of Amherst Street and Ste. Catherine Street East (the street address was 542 Ste. Catherine East). It remained in operation for a relatively short time, closing in May 1905. McNichols was postmaster for a little under two years and was succeeded by three other



Fig 227. City Councillor Street c.d.s.cancel

incumbents before the office finally closed.

That, as they say, is about all we know of this office. There must have been at least one cancel used from Amherst Street but I have never seen one and apparently, neither have any of the other researchers into Street cancels. There is no cancel in the proof books (3) from this office. As usual, if any member has a copy of a cancel from this office a scan would be very welcome.

Bleury Street:-

This office opened in June 1903 in a builders and grocery store at 120 Bleury Street. It was another relatively short lived office closing in November 1908. The first postmaster was a John Weinfeld who lasted only two years.

I have seen only one cancel from this office but a second must exist. The one is

a full circle c.d.s. cancel with 23mm dater proofed in May 1908 and shown in fig 228. This must be a very rare cancel indeed given its short period of use. Logic suggests an earlier cancel (most likely a split ring c.d.s.) must exist but I have seen no record of it.



Fig 228. Bleury Street c.d.s. cancel

Boulevard St. Paul:-

This office opened in December 1902 and remained in operation until April 1914. I can find no record of the exact street address of this office but the first postmistress was Mrs T. Poirier who lasted a mere three months in the job before being replaced by Amediee Daoust.

As with Bleury Street, I have seen only one cancel from this office but others must exist. The one I am aware of is shown in fig 229. It is a full circle c.d.s. cancel with 23mm dater proofed in 1910. At least one earlier type must exist; again most likely a split ring c.d.s. cancel.

Commissioners Street:-

This office opened in July 1901 and closed just 8 months later in March 1902. It was

located a little southeast of Place Royale but I have not been able to locate the exact street address. The one and only postmaster was S. Paxton.

Any cancel from this office must be exceedingly rare given the very short life and it is perhaps no surprise that no examples have been reported to date. There is also no example of a cancel from this office in the proof books (3). As ever, if you own one, a scan would be much appreciated.

Fairmount Avenue:-

This is another relatively short lived sub-office. It was opened in July 1901 in Ville St. Louis and had closed permanently by May 1905. I have not been able to trace the exact street address. Despite the short life, it still managed to get through three

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Fig 229. Boulevard St. Paul c.d.s. cancel

postmasters. J.Laurier was the first postmaster but he lasted only until 1902. He was replaced by a Dr. Ouimet who also lasted less than a year before the final incumbent Jos Michaud took office.

Fairmount Avenue is another office for which there is no record of any cancels, either in the proof books or in the literature and I have never seen an example. Logic suggests that a split ring c.d.s., at least, should exist.

Fullum Street:-

This office opened in May 1900 and remained in operation until February 1910. It was located at 1243 Ontario Street East at the corner of Fullum Street.

I have records of two cancels from this office. The first, reported by Hollingsworth (8), is a split ring c.d.s. cancel with 21mm dater. Hollingsworth reported a copy with a date of 6th October 1900 so we can assume that this cancel was the first issued to the office. I suspect that this cancel was in use throughout the life of the office. I have no picture of this cancel to show you, so if any member



Fig 230. Fullum Street roller cancel

owns a copy I would welcome a scan to include in a future issue. The second cancel I am aware of is a roller cancel shown in fig 230.

McGill Street:-

This office holds the record for the shortest life of any Street post office. Opened in February 1901, it had closed permanently by August of the same year. There is no record of the exact street address but the first and only postmaster was Emil Hart. I have never seen a cancel from this office but I did once come across the postcard in fig 231. If the picture therein is any indication of the weather in 1901 it may explain why the post office didn't last long!

It is reasonable to assume that at least one postmark device was issued to this office



Fig 231. McGill Street, Montreal

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so if anyone has a copy let me know – you are the proud owner of what is one of the rarest of all Street cancels.

Ontario Street Centre:-

This long lived office was opened in April 1900 and remained in operation until 1949 albeit with a brief closure between 1946 and 1948. I can find no record its exact street location when it was first opened but in the 1940's it was located at 803 Ontario Street East. The first postmaster was a T. Barbeau who was in office for only a year before he died. He was replaced by Dr. C. Loiseau who held the post until 1908 and thereafter by Achille Roy who held the post until 1932.

I have not been able to locate any cancels from this office in the period prior to 1918 although, no doubt, at least one must exist. The earliest example I have seen is on a cover dated 1926 and is a cancel proofed in 1925 (3). If any member has a cancel from this office earlier than this I would welcome a scan.

Rachel Street:-

This is another relatively short lived office which opened in June 1900 and closed in June 1908. It was located in a drug store at 394 Rachel Street. The first postmaster was L. Verner who held the post until late 1904.

Charles Hollingsworth (8) reported a split ring c.d.s. cancel with 21mm dater and blank indicia. I have seen reports of this cancel dated as early as October 1900 so we can assume it was in use from the opening of the office and I believe it may be the only cancel used from Rachel Street. Unfortunately, I don't have a picture to show you so if anyone has a copy a scan would be welcomed.

Roy Street:-

This office was also opened in the summer of 1900, It was located at 662 St. Denis Street, on the corner of Roy Street, and remained in service until March 1918. The first postmaster was J. Prevost who remained in office until 1914.

I have seen record of only one cancel from Roy Street. This is a split ring c.d.s. cancel with 21mm dater and blank indicia. The example recorded (8) had a date of July 1916 but I suspect this type was in use throughout the life of this office. Again, I don't have a picture of this cancel to show so if anyone has a copy a scan would be welcome.

Ste. Catherine Street East

This is another of the enigmatic Montreal Street offices. It is variously shown in the records as both Ste. Catherine Street and Ste. Catherine Street East. I choose to use the latter name here as the only cancel I have ever seen from this office carries this name.

The office opened in April 1900 and finally closed in April 1913. I say finally as it seems to have been closed more often than open in the intervening years. No fewer than six postmasters served in the 13 year period and it would seem that the post office had more than a little difficulty in staffing this office. It was closed for a period in 1901 and again from 1904 to 1907. It seems to have effectively closed in late 1912 as no postmaster served after this date.

I have seen no postal cancellations from this office in the 1900 to 1913 period but presumably at least one must exist so I issue my usual plea for a scan if anyone has a copy. There is a bag seal in the proof books from this office (see fig 237) but

even this is a little bizarre as it was proofed in March 1913 only a few days before the office was formally closed and several weeks after it must have closed its doors for business.

Wellington Street:-

This post office is yet another Montreal enigma. Records (1) show that an office of this name was opened in November 1900 located in a stationary store at 591 Wellington Street. It remained in operation only until January 1904. The first postmaster was a Hanson Borrie who lasted only about a year and was replaced by Thomas Wilson who held the post until shortly before the office closed.

The enigma is that I can find no record of any cancels from the period this office was open. There is, however, a Wellington Street cancel from 1907; after the office itself closed. This is a L.C.D. (Letter Carrier Depot) cancel shown in fig 232. This is a full circle c.d.s. cancel with 23.5mm dater. Whether the depot was located at the same site as the closed post office is unclear.

Presumably, at least one cancel from the Wellington Street post office itself must exist. If anyone has a copy please let me know.

Beaudoin Street:-

This office opened in December 1905 at 2097 Notre Dame Street West on the corner of Beaudoin Avenue. It operated under the Beaudoin Street name until 1937 when it became Montreal Sub no 132. The first postmaster was Dr. Oswald Letourneau who held office from the opening date until 1926.

I have seen two cancels from this office in



Fig 232. Wellington Street L.C.D. full circle c.d.s. cancel



Fig 233. Beaudoin Street full circle c.d.s. cancel

the pre-1918 period. The first is a full circle c.d.s. cancel proofed in 1908 and shown in fig 233. This has a 23mm dater and is found with AM or PM indicia. The fact that this type was not proofed until 1908 suggests that an earlier type should exist; most likely a split ring c.d.s. cancel. The office also used a roller cancel shown in fig 234.



Fig 234. Beaudoin Street roller cancel



Fig 235. Park Avenue; 1912 style c.d.s. cancel



Fig 236. Park Avenue; 1913 style c.d.s. cancel

Park Avenue:-

Although some sources show this office opening in 1902 (16, 18), the official records (1) confirm that this office was opened in October 1910 and was fairly long lived, not closing until April 1931. It was located at 271 Park Avenue. The first postmaster was Mrs M. Trottier who held the post until 1912. She was succeeded by W. A. Parnell who held the post through to 1918.

I am aware of two cancels from this office

in the period prior to 1918. The first type actually shows the office name as 'Park Avenue Extension' which I have always assumed is the same office as Park Avenue (maybe one of our members can correct me?). This full circle c.d.s. cancel, shown in fig 235 has a 22.5mm dater and AM or PM indicia. It was proofed in 1912, so again an earlier type should exist. It is also, in all probability, rare, as a second type showing the office name as simply 'Park Avenue' was proofed a year later in 1913.

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This second type has a slightly smaller, 22mm, dater and also AM or PM indicia. It is shown in fig 236. This type was in use up to and beyond 1918 although at least one post 1918 type also exists.

BAG SEALS

Many of the Montreal branch and sub offices were issued with bag seals. As with the other bag seal cancels these were not intended for cancelling stamps but it is possible that some were used in this way. Bag seals exist for several of the Street offices and a selection of those issued are shown in fig 237.

MORE MONTREAL STREET CANCELS

It is likely that several more Montreal street cancels exist and remain unrecorded. Apart from the specific ones alluded to in the text above, it is highly probable that a number of other roller cancels exist from branch offices that were operating in the 1898 – 1900 period.

OTHER MONTREAL SUB OFFICES OF THE PERIOD

Montreal had a large number of other sub offices in this period which did not have 'Street' names. Amongst these are:- Bellerive, Mile End, Cote St. Louis, De Lorimer, Notre Dame de Grace, St. Henri de Montreal, St. Gabriel de Montreal, St. Cunegonde, Hochelaga Branch, St. Jean Baptiste de Montreal, St. Jean de la Croix, St. Paul, Verdun, Parc Lafontaine and Pointe St. Charles. There are also a couple of interesting sub-offices which were named after their postmasters; Drysdale and Leduc.

20TH CENTURY MONTREAL 'STREET' OFFICES

For completeness, it is worth mentioning a number of other Montreal 'Street' offices that did not open until after 1918. Four of these; St. Catherine Street East (re-opened), Pine Avenue West, University Street and Centre Street, all feature in a series of 'letter' duplex cancels used in the 1920's and 1930's. An example is shown in fig 238. Another 20th century Street office to look out for is Place D'Armes.

TO BE CONTINUED

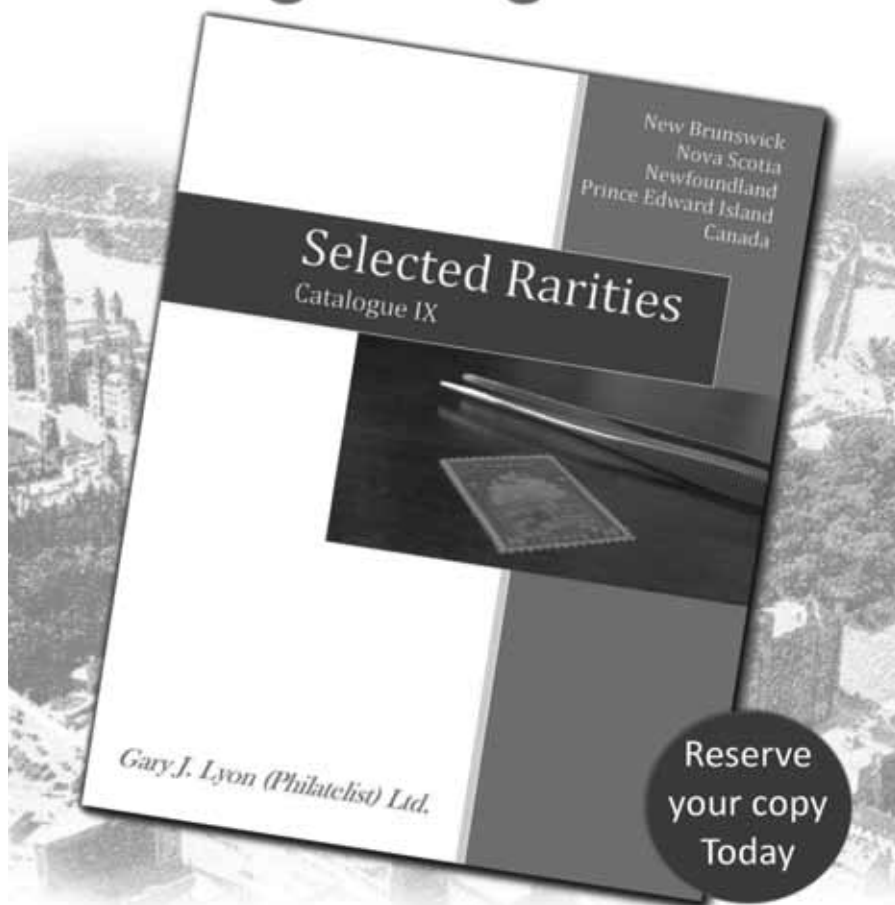
References:-

- (1) National Library of Canada and National Archives of Canada; available online at: <http://data4.collectionscanada.ca>
- (3) Series of books entitled 'Proof Strikes of Canada' edited by J. Paul Hughes and published by Robert Lee 1990 – 1994. The relevant volumes for this article are:-

Volume 3 – Split Circle Proof Strikes of Quebec
 Volume 7 - Duplex Proof Strikes of Quebec and the Maritimes
 Volume 10 – Full Circle Proof Strikes of Quebec
 Volume 24 – Bag Seal Proof Strikes of Canada
 Volume 29 – Roller Proof Strikes of Quebec and the Maritimes
 Volume 36 – Supplementary Proof Strikes
 Volume 38 – Supplementary Proof Strikes

- (4) Canadian Post Office, Postal Guides for October 1886, January 1887 and January of subsequent years up to 1900. Library and Archives Canada.

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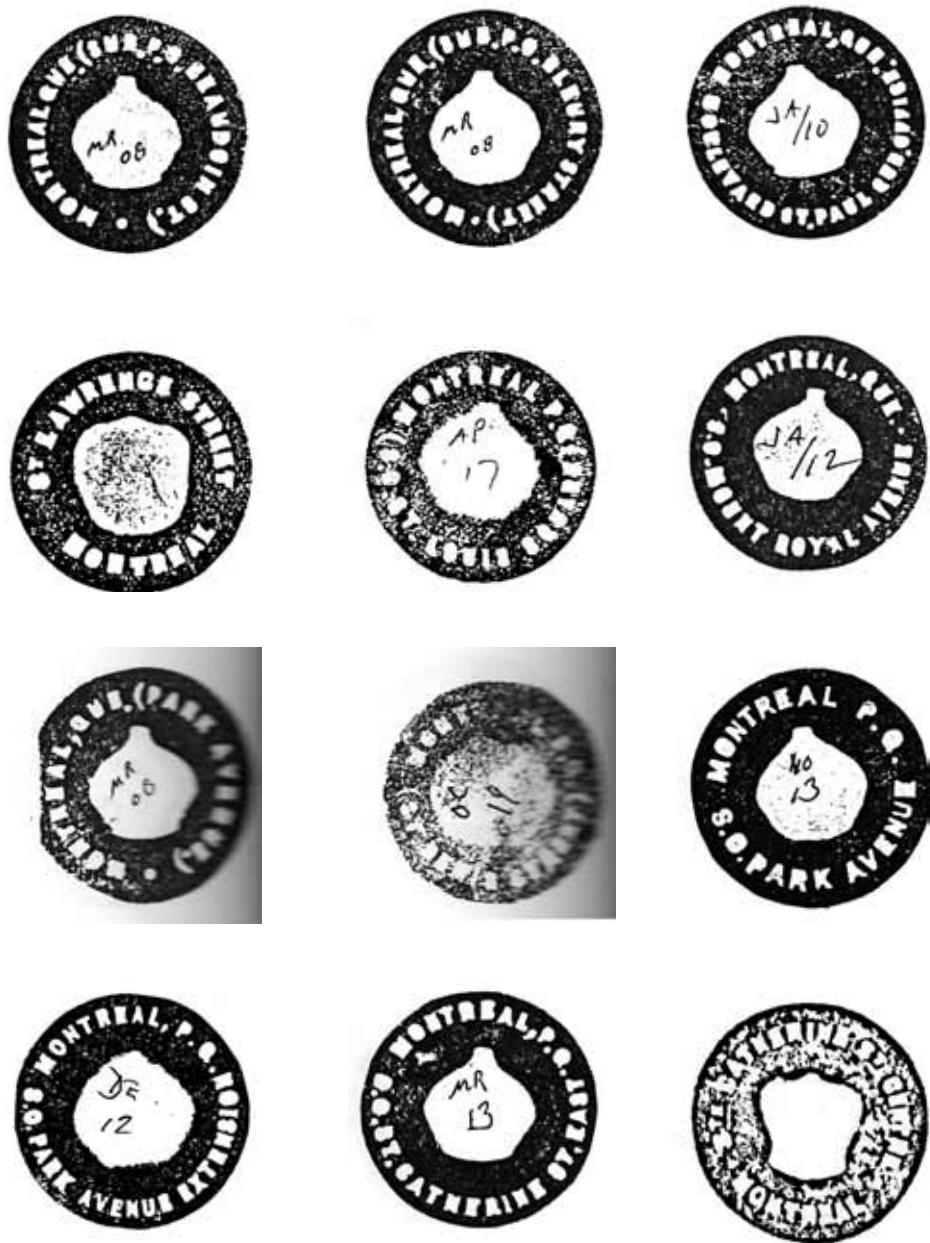


Fig 237. Montreal Street Office bag seals



Fig 238. Letter 'D' duplex cancel from Montreal Centre Street; one of a group used in the 1920's and 1930's

- (6) Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancellations , Robert Lee, 1987 plus updated information obtained from the present editor Stephane Cloutier in December 2007.
- (8) Notes on Street Cancellations compiled by the late Dr. Charles Hollingsworth
- (11) Street Cancellations – A Check List; Frank Waite BNA Topics July-August 1992 page 18
- (12) Early Street and District Cancellations, Max Rosenthal BNA Topics, Vol 14. September 1957, pp 207 – 211.
- (16) Branch, Sub and Suburban Post Offices of Montreal, Max Rosenthal, PHSC Journal no 25, March 1981, pages 4 - 10
- (17) Boulevard St. Denis, Quebec; a Little Mystery, Joseph M. Smith, PHSC Journal no 110, June 2002, page 37.
- (18) Notes on the Street Cancellations of Canada compiled by Jim Carr – provided courtesy of Bow City Philatelics.
- (22) Street Cancellations of Canada – Additions by C.F. Waite, BNA Topics September 1957, page 207.
- (23) Fancy Cancels on Canadian Stamps 1855 to 1950 by D.M. Lacelle published by BNAPS, April 2000.
- (25) Listing of Street Cancellations During the Jubilee Era compiled by Frank White (Waite?) (provided to the author by Joe Smith in private correspondence).

SHORT PAID COVER TO THE UK IN 1871

John Hillson F.C.P.S.

When working my way through the Society's latest auction catalogue, in the description of lot 611, I noticed the town name 'Girvan'. That word immediately arouses my interest as I spent a good number of my earliest years there, from being Christened, to learning to read and write, and naturally contracting practically every childhood disease that I was not inoculated against - the exception was mumps - I got that down south.

Anyway I thought I had better have a go at what turned out to be a very interesting cover indeed (see fig 1). Addressed "To the Executors of the late Martha Annet, Wife of Hugh Annet Deceased/ Colmonell, Ayrshire/ Scotland" the cover is franked with a 3c. pale rose Small Queen and was posted at Sandy Point U.C. on 16th January

1871. The rate to the United Kingdom at that time was of course six cents per half ounce so the letter was short paid; short paid letters to this country from Canada at that time are by no means common.

On arrival at Glasgow the cover was stamped "GLASGOW PACKET /UNPAID/FE 2/1871". Not seen very often. The postal clerks then stamped the cover further "SHORT PAID" and "HALF FINE" against both of which were handwritten in ink "1½" that is 3d. in all. This was the British method of calculating the amount levied on short paid letters, double the deficiency.

Then somebody had second thoughts and scrubbed the "1½'s" and wrote in "4½d" in their place.



Fig 1.

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The previous owner assumed this was because the cover was redirected from Colmonell to Girvan, but since the usual redirection charge was one penny - the same charge as universal postage in the U.K. - this was clearly wrong and in any case I do not believe the letter ever reached Colmonell, which was a sub office of Girvan; it is only a few miles to the south, and there is no local handstamp marking; Colmonell sub post office certainly had a handstamp.

As far as the increased charge from 3d to 4½d is concerned it will be remembered that until 1875 prepayment of postage was not compulsory in Canada - though it had long been so in Britain. Underpaid letters in Canada were treated as totally unpaid by the Dominion post office and then given credit for whatever had been paid. The amount that should have been paid was 6c. Double that to 12c and then deduct the 3c evidenced by the stamp (printed incidentally on very white paper). That gives one 9c - equals 4½d. Somebody in Girvan had clearly had second thoughts about incoming as opposed to domestic mail and had looked up the regulations.

Why in Girvan and not in Glasgow? The ink of the 4½d is the same as the strong line with which 'Colmonell' was crossed out.

As to why I do not believe it ever went to Colmonell, the only receiving stamp on the reverse is that of the Girvan P.O. where it was received the same day it had arrived in Glasgow - 2nd February 1871. It is possible the postal officials knew who the 'Executors' of the late lady were - Colmonell is still, today, pretty tiny, and in those days much of what happened there of any moment would be known in Girvan, but as doing so was strictly against the rules it may not be so. Nevertheless the ink of the re-address is different from any other on the front. And as stated above the canny Girvan postmaster was wise to the correct method of charging short paid Canadian letters. From this it seems unlikely that whoever posted the letter altered the destination to W & D. Andrews at the Union Bank*, Girvan, him/herself. Whatever the truth, luckily for us he or she was short of another 3 cent stamp.

*The Union Bank was absorbed by the Bank of Scotland in the early 1950's

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2010

July 16 – 17 York Stamp Fair – York Racecourse

July 22 – 25 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, Kenilworth

August 15 CPSGB South West and Wales Group meeting, Portishead

Sept 2 – 5 BNAPEX 2010, Victoria, B.C.

Sept 10 Nephilex 2010, Newcastle upon Tyne

Sept 15 – 18 Stampex, Islington, London

Oct 1 – 10 Portugal 2010, Lisbon

Oct 18 CPSGB London Group meeting, Bishops Stortford

Oct 27 – 31 Jo'burg 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa

Nov 4 – 6 Philatex, London

Nov 6 CPSGB Scotland and North of England Group meeting, Moffat

Nov 15 CPSGB London Group meeting, Bishop's Stortford

Dec 20 CPSGB London Group meeting, Bishop's Stortford

2011

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May 6 – 7 ABPS National Exhibition, Sheffield

Sept 28 – Oct 1 CPSGB Convention, Hotel Ambassadeur, Jersey

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John Jamieson

A POSSIBLE EXAMPLE OF USC69i

I refer to David Buttimore's letter in the January 2010 issue, page 230.

I was responsible for the Unitrade C.S. catalogue listing many years ago based on an example bought from a fellow in Texas in April 1987. We sold it to a prominent Canadian collector in 1988 and I expect it is still in his collection. Comparing our file photo of the lot and David's picture in Maple Leaves, it is definitely not the same piece that David describes.

I do recall there being another example sold in a Toronto auction some time between

1995 and 2003 whether this is the same as David's or the earlier piece I don't know.

Regardless of this they are very rare and the most there would be is 10 as noted in the catalogue. I will have Robin Harris change the note in the USC to state that the editors have now recorded '2 copies'.

Gerry Byrne

MONTREAL DUPLEX CANCEL

I wonder if you or one of your members can help with the meaning of the large 'E' in the duplex cancel on the cover in fig 1. I also have examples showing the letters 'A' and 'H'.

Editors note:-

I have replied to Gerry with the following information but maybe our members can add further details or correct my listing.

'The large letter duplex cancel you enclosed from Montreal is one of three types of duplex used by Montreal post offices in the 20th Century. These were:-

a) 11 bar duplex cancels showing numbers in the killer. Used in the 1915 – 1918 period, numbers 1 to 13 are known.

b) 11 bar duplex cancels showing letters in the killer (the type you illustrate). This type was used in the 1920 – 1930 period. Letters A to J are known.

c) 7 bar duplex cancels with wavy lines showing letters in the killer. These date from about 1935 onward into the 1950's. Letters D,E,G,H and S are known.

The different letters refer to different post offices in Montreal. For the type you illustrate, the letters relate to:-

A – Public service department at the Main Post Office 571 St James Street

B – Post office at the corner of University Street and St Catherine St. West

C – Post office at St. Catherine Street East

D – Post office at 317 Centre Street

E – Post office at the corner of St. Lawrence Street and Main Street

F – Post office at Pine Street West

G – location unknown to me

H – Post office at 688 St. Catherine Street West

I – Main Post Office (as A) but only appears to have been used 1920 – 1922

J – Main Post Office (as A)

Some of these types are quite rare. 'H' is the commonest and 'I' the hardest to find. All three groups make for an interesting collection as they are all quite hard to complete in my experience.'



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FOUNDERS TROPHY

Many thanks to John Wright for his kind letter informing me that I had been awarded the Founder's Trophy by the Fellow's Committee at it's meeting in Eastbourne. I was surprised (having been unaware that I was even being considered) and delighted that the Fellows considered the research justified an award.

I wish that Dorothy Sanderson had lived long enough to see her book published, and I am always mindful that it was her desire to encourage other collectors that provided the initial spark, and her collection of Canadian cross-border mail that formed the baseline for the early work and provided many of the illustrations. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by many other collectors, the British North American Philatelic Society, and several auctioneers, who provided illustrations and information without which I could not have completed the book. In particular I should mention Mike Street, who encouraged me to broaden the scope of the work beyond Dorothy's original intention, embracing all of the BNA provinces that now form the Dominion, and who then wielded the whip to make sure that I completed the task! He also organised the publication of the book.

I have asked the Editor to include this letter as I would like other Members of the Society to understand how grateful and flattered I am to receive the award but also that there were a great many others involved in the work.

Hugh Johnson

JUDGING COMMENTS

Following the recent exchange of letters on

the subject of competition judging, I thought the following notes may be helpful to any member who is entering local or National competitions.

Both Dawn and I are nationally accredited Judges and did our training some years ago under the tutorage of Francis Kiddle.

Here are some comments which give an unbiased view re competition entries:-

1 Initially a Competition Secretary on receiving an entry should check it and consult the entrant if they think an entry does not easily fit its entered Class requirements, and if necessary advise on which Class it should be entered. I have had this advice a few years ago in a competition and changed the Class of the entry

2 Ideally an entry of 16 pages should have an introductory page, even if it is taken from a larger display. I just use a paragraph to introduce the exhibit and I regularly redo my first pages for competitions, to match the following pages, and especially when newly purchased items are being included.

3 If a main title is used for the display it should ideally appear on either just the first page or all the pages, not just some. If an introductory page has headings for what follows then the relevant heading can be used on its relevant section. What does not work are headings which are not relevant and merely show that items come from more than one display.

4 Judges should in the first instance judge a competition entry by the Club's Competition Class rules, using their discretion and experience for the items that may not easily fit the class criteria.

CONTINUED on page 356

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER

The annual subscriptions reminder for the coming season October 2010 – September 2011 is contained with this issue of Maple Leaves.

There are a number of important changes to subscriptions this year.

The first is a small increase in annual subscriptions, our first for 7 years, as approved by the 2009 AGM. From 1st October 2010, subscription levels will be:-
£18 per annum for members living in the UK
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Members who pay by direct debit will automatically qualify for the discount as payments are taken on 1st October. The 20p direct debit charge levied in past years has now been removed.

Members now have three options for paying their subscriptions:-

- a) Members with Sterling bank accounts may pay by direct debit. If you wish to pay this way and don't currently have a direct debit arrangement with the Society please contact me for a direct debit form.
- b) Members can pay by cheque in either £ (to Graham Searle) or in \$CAN or \$US (to Mike Street). Contact details are on the Subscriptions Reminder form. Members may pay for 3 years subscriptions by cheque and may take a 10% discount on the full subscription rates if doing this.
- c) Members can pay on line using PAYPAL. Visit the Society website at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk and follow the links from the Membership page. PAYPAL payments are set in Sterling but your credit or debit card will be charged in local currency at the banks prevailing rates on the day of the transaction. PAYPAL gives you the option to pay either one years subscription or three years subscriptions. The latter option gives a 10% discount on the normal rate. The PAYPAL option also allows members to make a donation to the Society. Any donations made will be acknowledged in my report to the AGM. If paying via PAYPAL it will be a great help to me if members can give their membership number in the comments field.

Finally, each year I get a small number of 'double' payments from members who send their subscriptions in twice. These are always credited against future years. If your mailing slip with this issue shows a large **PD** in the lower right corner you have already paid for the 2010/11 season and no action is required. If any member would like to know their Subscriptions status please e mail me giving your membership number and I will let you know. This option is also available via the Society website.

Graham Searle

LONDON GROUP

Meetings of the group are held on the third Monday of each month from October through to May. The venue in all cases is 31 Barley Hills, Bishop's Stortford, Essex CM23 4DS and meetings commence at 6.30PM.

For confirmation of meetings or for any further information contact Dave Armitage on 01279 503625 or 07985 96144.

Dave Armitage.

SCOTLAND AND NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP

Our April meeting drew a full room with 10 members and one partner present. It was a particular pleasure to welcome a new attendee, Gordon Moir. As usual we were treated to a great variety of material with something to suit all interests. Displays included 19th Century duplex cancels, the rose carmine and late Ottawa printings of the 3 cents Small Queens, Large Queen covers, stamps from the 2003 and 2004 issues, the 1859 10 cents stamp including some rare rate covers, a wide range of revenue stamps, the Millennium issues of 2000, Hidden Dates on Canadian stamps, the first postage due issue of 1906-28 and proofs of the Pence issue.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday 6th November at 1400hrs at the Buccleuch Arms Hotel in Moffat. All members are welcome, please bring along a few sheets to display.

John Hillson

SOUTH WEST AND WALES GROUP

There will be a meeting of the group at the Portishead 2010 Annual Convention to be held at Gordano School on Sunday 15th August at 2pm. Over 25 dealers will be present at the Convention and there is an auction taking place on the Sunday as well. If any member would like to bring along some material to show or just attend to meet other collectors they would be most welcome. The venue is close by Junction 19 on the M5. Further details can be obtained from John Croker.

John Croker

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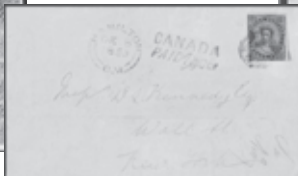
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