



Maple Leaves

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

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EDITORIAL

Mailed out with this issue, members will find an Index for Volume 32 of Maple Leaves which covers the issues from 2011 and 2012. Our thanks go to Charles Livermore for compiling this index.

In the centre of this issue, members will find a handy four page 'pull out' containing the booking form and competition entry form for this years Convention in Plymouth. More details of this event can be found on page 109 or on the Society website but I would urge those of you planning to attend to get your booking forms back to Peter Motson as soon as possible and certainly before 31st July, to avoid disappointment. These forms can also be downloaded from the website, or you can simply e mail the relevant details to Peter.

We have also included in this 'pull out' a copy of the Society Membership Application Form. At first sight this may appear an odd thing to include in Maple Leaves but members will have noticed that our membership roll is steadily declining as we all get older. I know that many of you are also members of local philatelic societies and groups where there may well be others with an interest in BNA. If so, why not try to sign up a new member or two? The form is there to act as a reminder and, of course, for folk to fill in. A similar form is available 'on line' at the website.

Members may be interested to learn that Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly magazine will shortly have a regular 'Canada and BNA' column courtesy of our Secretary, John Hillson. The first of these will feature the recent \$10 'whale' stamp.

My thanks to all the members who commented favourably on our switch to colour printing in January. As there were no messages of dissent, we have decided to continue in colour! Contributors of articles and advertisers please note and make your copy as colourful as possible!

Members who are already missing our regular auctions will be pleased to hear that we shall be having a room auction at the Plymouth Convention. Catalogues for the sale will be issued with the July *Maple Leaves*. More details can be found on page 111 and online.

We are also looking for a volunteer amongst the membership who is prepared to help in running small auction sales (max 200 lots each) during the year. These would be run on the Society website and would bridge the gap between a once a year room auction at Convention and the Exchange Packet. If you are prepared to help administer such auctions or would simply like more information on what is required, please contact the Secretary. Note that no IT skills are required as the webmaster would load the relevant data and scans onto the Society website.

Finally, I would draw your attention to a new section on our website featuring displays. Malcolm Montgomery has kindly furnished the first two displays to be shown on the site including an enlarged version of his award winning display on Samuel Cunard from last year's Convention. If you have a display, large or small, that you would like to share with other members, please e mail it in to the Editor (preferably as a *pdf* file) and I will be happy to post it on the website. If you prefer, displays can be left anonymous.



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CANADIAN UNDERCOVER MAIL SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR 2

A Mail Service that Circumvented Enemy Lines - the “Thomas Cook Scheme”
for mail between Canada and Nazi Europe

Ed Fraser

What was the undercover mail service?

It was about 10 years after the end of WWII when philatelic articles began mentioning some of the unusual wartime routing of mail able to travel between Nazi Europe and the Allied Countries. This included especially a British mail scheme offered through Thomas Cook & Son. Only in the 1970's did there begin serious focus on pulling together and writing about the detail of that World War II civilian wartime mail service between England and German controlled Europe. Detail about such mail involving the British Colonies and Dominions has proved even more elusive to find, because it was less publicly documented, and probably much less used, than the London based Thomas Cook undercover mail service that was so widely used and openly advertised in the British press. Here we can now identify and show some examples involving the service from Canada.

London's Thomas Cook scheme service initially used Amsterdam, Holland, as the neutral place for sending mail into Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, and for receiving any replies, but in May 1940 Holland fell and London then, in the summer of 1940, changed the service to instead use neutral Portugal. That service, principally using Box 506, Lisbon, handled a large volume of mail for the first few years of the war while the Axis tolerated allowing such mail, or didn't yet enforce harsh laws they had against anyone sending letters to an enemy country using undercover mail schemes.

Canada followed a slightly different procedure, using Thomas Cook & Son in Toronto. At the outbreak of World War II, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939, and Canada did so a week later on the 10th September. In a much lower profile way, though, Canada took steps to initiate an undercover mail service through the neutral United States almost immediately, and by 24th November 1939 had finalized an agreement with Thomas Cook & Son in Toronto to do the job. This can be confirmed by the newspaper article from the Montreal Gazette of 25th November 1939 shown in figure 1 overleaf.

The text of this 25th November 1939 “Montreal Gazette” article reads:

Ottawa, November 24 – CP[?] – Justice Minister Lapointe, in his capacity as Acting Secretary of State, and Postmaster General announced tonight that Thomas Cook and Son, Limited, Toronto, have been appointed licensed intermediary for the forwarding of harmless social messages to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory. Private

Montreal Gazette Nov. 25 1939

Thomas Cook Handles All Letters to Reich

Ottawa, November 24.—(C)—Justice Minister Lapointe, in his capacity as Acting Secretary of State, and Postmaster General Power announced tonight that Thomas Cook and Son, Limited, Toronto, have been appointed licensed intermediary for the forwarding of harmless social messages to persons in enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

Private letters to enemy or enemy-occupied territory sent through a neutral country are now allowed to be forwarded at the sender's risk as to delivery in the country of destination, subject to the usual conditions of censorship when sent through the intermediary of Thomas Cook and Son.

Letters cannot, however, be forwarded direct to enemy or enemy-occupied territory.

British subjects and others in Canada, wishing to communicate with relatives or friends in enemy or enemy occupied countries should forward such letters to Thomas Cook and Son, accompanied by a remittance of 50 cents to cover the expense of transmitting the letter to a neutral country, the transmission from there to the enemy territory, and the transmission of the reply to the sender in Canada.

Letters intended for transmission to enemy or enemy-occupied countries should be as brief as possible, and should in all cases have the inner cover left open in accordance with the enemy censorship regulations, and should be confined entirely to private and family notes, without any reference whatever to military or naval movements, or to political and economic conditions.

Fig 1.

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The author would greatly appreciate knowing of other concurrent public announcements or newspaper articles about this Canadian service, which were probably made in both French and English.

Information about this service was apparently available through post offices and by writing to Thomas Cook in Toronto, but copies of such information apparently eluded the philatelic community. One official reference has been found stating that "Box 252 in New York City" was the address Thomas Cook used. While technically it was the Grand Central Annex post office located near Grand Central Station – one of many large branch post offices in New York City – I think it is fair to say this is confirmation of the address. Without that confirmation, we only have all the information collectors have deduced from the bulk of covers, and an enclosed slip from Thomas Cook in Toronto requesting an additional payment found in a surviving cover that circumstantially ties "Box 252" to Thomas Cook in Toronto. The number of surviving covers I would guess to be less than 1,000 that have been identified, and they are all basically addressed to "Care of Post Box 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, U.S.A." They typically have Axis censorship, are addressed to different names at that P.O. Box, and also have Canadian censorship indicating they somehow went from New York to Canada – as it would not make sense to have so many come *from* occupied Europe to Canada, and then onward to neutral New York. Unfortunately neither Canada nor the United States routinely postmarked any of this mail on arrival or in transit,

which would have been a nice plus. A helpful exception found in recent years is shown in figure 4 showing a New York cancel under a Canadian censor tape. Additionally, most known covers are without contents, and I believe those envelopes were probably retained by the Thomas Cook people and only the contents were passed along. At some point Thomas Cook's empty covers then wound up in the philatelic community.

Here in figures 2 and 3 are shown two Box 252 covers: one from Poland, and the other from Algeria. The Polish one is unusual because it was sent by registered mail. Registered mail to Box 252 is unusual - and nice because it can show arrival and transit cancels. Wartime registered mail from Poland otherwise does not seem unusual, but from a few of the Nazi occupied countries, like Denmark and Norway, registered mail was much less used.

The 20th Sept 1940 Oran, Algeria cover is unusual for a few reasons. Mail with Vichy administered France was often uncensored by the French and sometimes was uncensored by the British as well. Algeria may have been more complicated. The British Navy attacked the Vichy fleet in Oran in July 1940, to preclude its use by the Germans, but was unsuccessful in getting a Vichy surrender. The result was the loss of several French ships with significant loss of life, and that apparently was a factor in a breakdown of relations or tolerance between Vichy-Algeria and Britain up until then. Algeria - and Oran - stayed under Vichy control until surrendering to the American and British forces in "Operation Torch" in November 1942. While initially this service would have

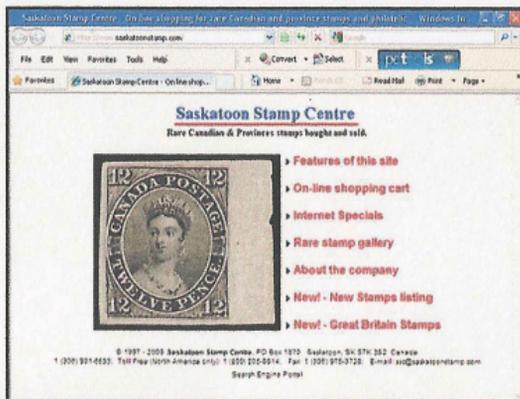


Figure 2: Mailed in Poland 19 Oct 1941 as Registered Air Mail. Backstamped in New York on 7 Nov 1941, and at Grand Central Annex Post Office on 8 Nov 1941. The 8 Nov 1941 handstamp on front was perhaps done on receipt by the addressee company, Thomas Cook. Sender annotated "Via Lissabon", but did not get British censorship. (Another similar Polish cover got British "PC 90" censorship, but no Canadian censorship.) It was censored by Canadian censor C.57 (Ottawa). Note unusual trimming of censor tape around stamps and return address. I have found this on other examples of C.57 censor's tapes - apparently this censor's personal practice. Note, even though registered, there is no Canadian postal transit or arrival cancels - only censorship. The "e" in the German re-sealing tape indicates the Frankfurt ABP (Frankfurt Foreign Letter Censorship Station).

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only been intended for people in Canada to be able to write to Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, subsequent official announcements certainly would have added other countries as they fell under Nazi control and mail service to them only became possible from neutral countries. Records have not been located showing when countries were added or removed from a list of countries that the Thomas Cook service could be used for - but at some point Algeria was almost certainly added.



Figure 3: Postmarked 20 Sept 1940 in Oran, Algeria. Backstamped 27 Oct 1940 in NYC. Vichy censorship and British PC 90 censorship – no “Canadian” clues at all!

The Oran cover is also interesting as an example where there is no Canadian censorship – only British PC 90 censorship. Although most Box 252 covers have the Canadian censorship, British PC 90 censorship is seen often enough. Lastly, very few covers are known getting a U.S. arrival or transit cancel – always a nice plus. Again, it is not clear why it received a New York cancel.

Do these Box 252 covers ever have Canadian postal markings? No - I don't believe there are any known Box 252 covers with Canadian postal markings – only Canadian censorship. That seems completely consistent with these covers always being inside a package of covers sent onward from New York to Toronto, and then held by Thomas Cook, or forwarded by Thomas Cook inside an “ambulance cover” [a “carrying cover”] to the final Canadian recipient.

Figure 4 overleaf shows a similar letter from Norway to Canada. To review the Danish and Norwegian history of the time, Germany attacked Denmark and Norway in a well organised way on 9th April 1940, forcing Denmark to surrender almost immediately. The Germans suffered delays in Norway and were unable to seize the Norwegian Government, which then fought on. By early May, German control covered most of Norway, but fighting continued into June in northern areas while the Norwegian Government then fled to England. There was also an effort by the Norwegian merchant fleet to get to sea or stay at sea to avoid the Germans, and many subsequently succeeded in helping the Allied war effort. Norway's huge merchant fleet was a big factor in the war. At the time, the United States was supplying Great Britain from Canada even

though the U.S. was neutral, and Halifax was an important seaport in that effort. In Norway, there never was an official surrender to Germany, and Norwegian units continued fighting on a small scale through the rest of the war until Germany's surrender in May 1945. Norway remained under Nazi control until announcing their surrender on 7th May to be effective late on 8th May (V-E Day).

While much of the functioning of this service is discussed in official correspondence that can be found in official Canadian microfilm records in scattered places - and more needs to be found - one such letter involving Dutch and Norwegian seamen does show us the costs to the user of this service. That is shown here as figure 5 opposite, and is an



Figure 4: Back of a cover from Norway, postmarked Fredrikstad, 19 August 1940, to Box 252., showing it was backstamped (no obvious reason) in New York, and showing that happened prior to getting Canadian censorship (Tape C.64). Non-registered mail at that time was ordinarily not date stamped in the U.S. Probably seaman's mail, and shows only Canadian censorship.

interesting complaint. It's a wonderful thing that such a letter was written, as it winds up telling some aspects of a wartime story somehow easily lost in history!

This letter describes the situation quite well, but it does not appear that any accommodation was ever made for these seamen – or any other group, for that matter. The related official correspondence replies that followed I found took a typical bureaucratic approach, offering nothing.

The Actual Start of the Service:

Although the Service was announced in November 1939 in the newspaper piece shown in figure 1, and reads as though the service started immediately, the earliest reported usage is a cover coming out of Germany cancelled 19th March 1940. This was first

reported by Ken Rowe in the 1970's, and shown here as figure 6. It would suggest that the service did not actually begin operation until February or March of 1940, but that is still an open question. However, the best example suggesting an actual, official start date that I have come across was in the Canadian Archives microfilm, and is shown in figure 7. It is a Winnipeg, Manitoba, District Director's notice of 20th December 1939. While it is not known if this was the final form these instructions took for the public – and it does not have information about the reply address (Box 252) to be used, etc. – it looks quite specific and could indicate the service was to start very shortly after 20th December 1939! Can any reader report earlier examples than that in fig 6?

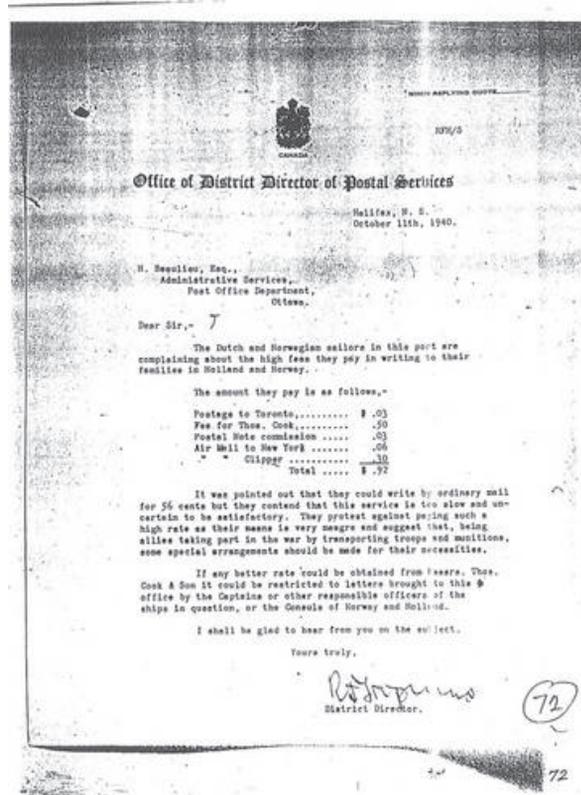


Figure 5: Letter re Canada's Thomas Cook mail service costs

It is of course not known where in Canada any of these addressees getting mail from Occupied Europe actually were. One of my hopes is to find Canada-location information for all Box 252 covers whenever possible. I have identified a few. Having an unusual name, and even having a sender's name and address all might help. The situation here with Box 252 mail is very unusual. Usually "letters home" during wartime survive better, but here no "letters home"- back to the family in Europe – are known or identified, and we only have these envelopes without letters "from home in Europe" to work with. Hopefully a little publicity – like this article – might result in some of the "letters home" turning up, even after all these years. Even some of the letters originally contained in these envelopes would be interesting to know about.

Why Thomas Cook & Son?

When WWII started, fulfilling a humanitarian purpose and supposedly as a modest revenue generation effort to offset lost travel agency business, Thomas Cook & Son proposed to the British Government to be allowed to offer a forwarding service for civilian mail between England and Germany, using Holland as they had also done in

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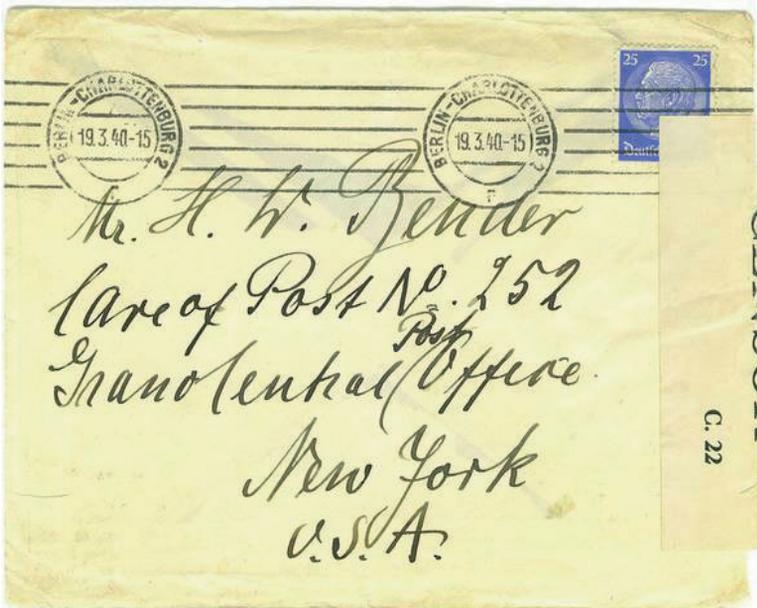


Figure 6: Earliest reported usage of Box 252 service – 19 March 1940.

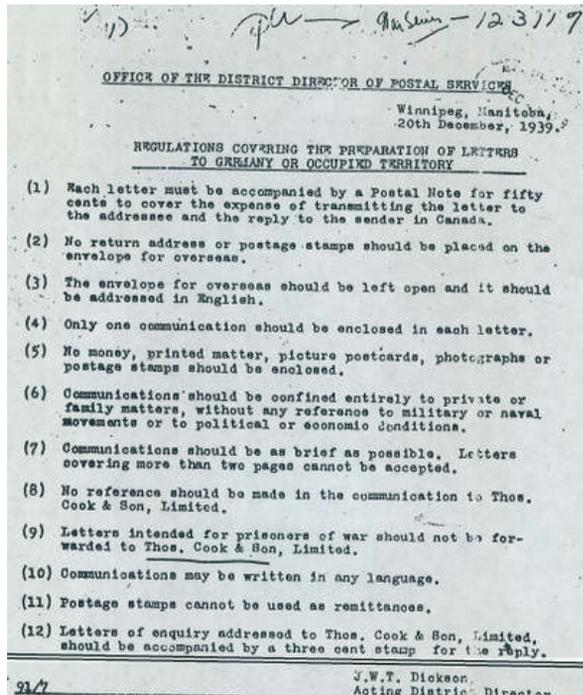


Figure 7: “Regulations covering the preparation of letters to Germany or occupied territory” from the Canadian Archives, dated 20 December 1939. The last part re soldier’s parcel mail does not logically apply to Box 252.

WWI. I would guess the same reason applied to Thomas Cook & Son in Canada, except using the neutral United States was more convenient than Holland.

The evidence from known covers suggests that Thomas Cook maintained books with the names and addresses of the Canadian senders, and the names and possibly the addresses the mail was sent to in occupied Europe. The 50¢ fee covered receiving one reply. Of course the addressee in occupied Europe would have no way to know that, so surely additional replies were sent, sometimes from other family members and friends as well, who would normally figure the person really was in New York City. (How would they really know they were writing to an official “undercover address” unless told in the letter [which Canadian censors forbid], and the Ottawa censor missed blocking the letter?) Any additional replies from Europe I believe usually may have been held or sent onward by Thomas Cook while requesting payment from the Canadian addressee of an additional 25¢ fee. They may have been held when the addressee still owed 25¢ from a prior “extra delivery.” A nice example showing this 25¢ fee is shown by the pencil annotation added to the 19th August 1940 seaman cover shown in figure 8. That annotation apparently reads “Sent to Halifax Sept 26 – 25¢ to collect.” (I read this as meaning the contents were sent to Halifax with a note to return payment to Thomas Cook, and only this envelope was held at Thomas Cook.) It is especially interesting as it uniquely indicates the addressee’s address was in Canada, and in fact in Halifax. This also agrees with Halifax being a likely wartime location for Norwegian seamen, and it was apparently the location at that time of the Norwegian ship *Sir James Clark Ross* mentioned in the address. Other Box 252 addressed covers annotated with notes are known, but some handwritten names of addressees are a challenge to read! Notations like this and examples of a known slip requesting such 25¢ payments to

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Thomas Cook in Toronto all help piece this Thomas Cook scheme mail service together. Thomas Cook has always advised that almost all information, and any books or records, did not survive the war, and is unknown. Recently contacting some researchers in Canada, I found reference to Canadian official records that may suggest a reason for this – in August 1945 an official Government directive was issued to destroy all WWII records for many Government departments, and to confirm doing this. Apparently only a few departments refused. Might Thomas Cook have also been so directed?



Figure 8: Cover of 19 August 1940 with added pencil annotation “Sent to Halifax Sept 26 – 25¢ to collect.” Shows only Canadian censorship. A lack of German censorship is something often seen on Norwegian seamen’s mail, and reason is unknown.

The “New York” Address

I believe that instructions given by Thomas Cook were very likely in some cases printed on a slip of paper or handstamped, in English, and enclosed in the letter into occupied Europe – unless the writer in Canada copied those instructions into the letter. These printed instructions apparently said “Your reply to this letter should be addressed to me care of post box No. 252, Grand Central Annex Post Office, New York, U.S.A.” This is an easy conclusion based on a known cover from Europe with this entire text written as the address! (see figure 9 on page 71). It is sad that Thomas Cook didn’t consider that the recipient, or here, perhaps even the sender in Canada, might not read English. It is also odd that they didn’t have the proper American form for the address, which would have been to “Post Office Box 252” or “P.O. Box 252”, Grand Central Annex, and to the city and state “New York, N.Y.”, and not just the city and “U.S.A.” I have

seen only a few covers addressed to “New York, N.Y.” or specifying “New York City.” All the rest have the same poorly constructed address format.

As a real speculation, I wonder if the address might originally have been proposed as Box ---, Buffalo, New York, U.S.A., which would have been more convenient for Thomas Cook in Toronto, but on checking further, the handling would not have been reduced as everything had to first be packaged and sent to the censors in Ottawa anyway. The late change in the address might cause the sloppy address correction? Additionally, it is not certain that the mail to Box 252 at the Grand Central Annex post office was picked up by the local Thomas Cook office people in NYC, but bundled within the U.S. post office there and sent on to Canadian censorship. This is based on some personal conversations years ago with Thomas Cook’s office in the area that used the Grand Central Annex post office for their mail, and with conversations with their then retired mail clerk who picked up their mail daily from that post office during the War. He was quite certain he never saw a quantity of mail that was then passed on to Canada, and didn’t even remember any such mail, although specific Box number information was not remembered. (Business mail would likely always be picked up from a postal clerk anyway rather than out of the lobby post office box itself. Of course, how the mail to Occupied Europe, including Norway, was handled is still unknown – and different ways may have been used.)

In 2009 I received interesting additional information about Thomas Cook from C.J. van der Horst in Holland. He got copies of some notes that are related to the Thomas Cook scheme from the Thomas Cook Archives in England. They consist of three plain typewritten pages that were heavily annotated in handwritten comments at Thomas Cook in England. They seem to be exactly the sort of thing that would be easily overlooked – or lost. However, while the notations sometimes are hard to figure out exactly, they give interesting insight into Thomas Cook’s considerations in London about the mail service. Unfortunately, so far we have not found finalized letters or directives on much of this, but they may exist somewhere.

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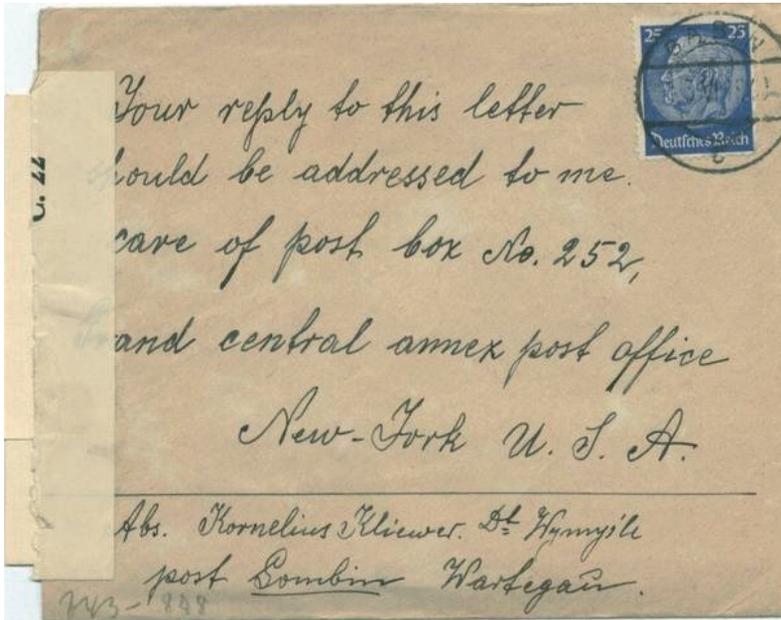


Figure 9: Cover showing the complete instructions apparently written out as the address. Mailed from Gabin (Gombin) in German annexed Poland just west of Warsaw.

The most significant parts of these notes refer to the Thomas Cook - London wartime mail scheme being usable by not only Great Britain, but also the Colonies and Dominions. (This helps explain why pieces of information have turned up in some different British Colonies, for example.) Specifically referencing Canada, there is a manuscript notation reading: "Canada - All letters from residents in Canada to be sent to Toronto Office, which forwards them in bulk to Dominion Censor at Ottawa, as already arranged. ? Ottawa to post them in bulk to T.C. & S., New York." [Apparently writer awaiting confirmation of this, so has added the question mark mid-text. - Ed F.] Also, it adds "If so, New York to post them to Postbox. Genoa for reposting to Germany."

Three steps forward and one back? The handwritten word looks to me to be "Genoa" but maybe it is not. The best I can figure is that at that time a good mail route into Germany may have been through Italy, and Thomas Cook planned to send the mail from New York to their office in Genoa for that reason? That seems a mistake because it would involve extra handling and possibly extra postage costs. My guess is that this step was eliminated from the plan. However, I do find that some covers do show Italian directives for routing when coming from Europe, as apparently the best mail routing was often through Italy. (See figure 10 overleaf).

In looking at known "reply" mail out of Axis controlled areas that involved use of the Thomas Cook scheme, various articles have already discussed how they might have been forwarded onward by Thomas Cook to the Canadian addressee. After British or



Figure 10: Air Mail Cover from Copenhagen 14 Sept 1940 “Luftpost Via Italien” and “Hurtigst Muligt” (as fast as possible)

Canadian censorship, this processing was done by the Thomas Cook people, and usually three choices are proposed. The mail was either forwarded by re-addressing and adding franking to the envelope out of Europe, by putting the envelope and contents into another envelope and addressing and franking that envelope (a so called “ambulance cover”), or by simply removing the letter, and forwarding just the letter in an addressed and franked envelope. For Canada, two choices are the likely suggestions because it is not known that Thomas Cook in Canada ever used the first option: “re-addressing and adding postage” as was done by Thomas Cook in England using yellow re-addressed labels. Using the remaining two choices, this would seem to account for some covers being found in addressee’s possessions, and others apparently being found in small bulk as if disposed that way by a Thomas Cook connection at some unknown later date.

The handling of the Thomas Cook mail, however, could involve an additional choice. It is also possible that the public was able to both send and pick up mail directly at the Thomas Cook offices themselves, or perhaps in particular at the main office in Toronto. This was in fact the case for the Box 506, Lisbon mail handled by Thomas Cook in London. This method is generally overlooked in the philatelic literature, although the Thomas Cook Archives in England shows this happened by reference to the Thomas Cook staff magazine (*I*) of August 1985, page 19, titled *By appointment to the British Government, YOU will handle enemy mail*. The introduction says “Several months ago

we asked if any present or retired staff could write an article on how the company handled enemy mail during the last war. Here David Kitt, assistant manager, Central Information Services in Peterborough, gives an account.” The article also says he joined the company in August 1940. He relates that in London the Thomas Cook office on Berkeley Street was an active place for the public, where the staff helped people put together letters for occupied Europe that met all the censor restrictions. Letters with problems had to be re-written, because no erasures were allowed. There were six writing desks there for customer use. Also, fees were collected, and replies from Europe picked up by people who had arranged to have any replies held there where they could come in for them. This, he relates, included many soldiers, especially many from Poland who were with the Polish Air Force units that were nearby. Very unfortunately, there is no comment in the article about stamp collecting or the envelopes.

Perhaps empty envelopes, “request for additional payment” slips, etc., were collected or accumulated in the Thomas Cook office – and someone thought to save them? There is also no comment about the official restrictions on “enemy stamps” that even if only irregularly enforced, may have been an issue to Thomas Cook. (2) Might Thomas Cook have looked to reduce the circulation of the replying envelopes? So far, my best guess (completely unproven) is that if the envelope had return address or other information on it that was clearly not in the enclosed letter out of Axis Europe, Thomas Cook would forward the envelope with the letter. Alternatively, if there seemed to be no additional information on the envelope – perhaps no return address, for example – Thomas Cook might have opted to save on the mailing weight and only sent the contents onward.

Censorship:

The censorship of Box 252 addressed mail is often somewhat distinctive, because they usually have both Axis and Canadian censor tapes. In a quick review of 100 non-Norwegian covers addressed to Box 252, the following were noted:

Three-quarters were from Germany, and all but one from Germany had Nazi censorship, and all had Allied Censorship, almost always being Canadian censorship. Two of the three from France, and two of the ones from Italy only had Canadian censorship. Ones from a neutral place had only Canadian censorship (e.g. Sweden, Russia). Overall a few had PC 90 censorship (e.g. 2 from Denmark, 1 from France), but otherwise all the rest had Canadian censorship. None had PC 90 and Canadian censorship together. In total, only 3 covers were without Axis censorship where it might have been expected – or perhaps this suggests 3%.

This makes it noteworthy that the mail from Norway (and Vichy France) is often distinctively without Nazi censorship. Looking at the sample here of the Norwegian covers, it seems only about one in six or ~16% show Nazi censorship. It is known that the Nazis appealed to the merchant seamen to return home to Norway, and perhaps took minimal action against them when they were captured on a ship seized by the Germans. Could it be that they wanted it to appear that there was no real repression and censorship

in Norway? Or were letters to seamen required to be mailed unsealed at Norwegian post offices so they did not have to be cut open and show censorship? In any event, it seems curious how few show Nazi censorship.

Also, very few covers addressed to Box 252, regardless of origin, have the usual Allied censorship done using British “P.C. 90” censorship. (This could be done in Great Britain, Bermuda, or perhaps elsewhere – but not Canada). The first suggestion here is that the British censors specifically knew about Box 252 being for Canada, and that it would receive Canadian censorship down-the-line, and therefore they did not bother to censor this mail before it was delivered to New York. The Canadian censorship for this time period is shown by the “C” letter on the censor tapes – and the known numbers actually ALL correspond to censor numbers at just the Ottawa censorship office! (Some typical Canadian censor tapes found on other Box 252 covers include C.18, 22, 24, 42, 50, 53, 54, 57, 64 & 73. Other censorship on late usage covers was sometimes American, done in NYC after Pearl Harbor (but curiously not on the cover in figure 11), and for those with the P.C. 90 censorship tapes, it is more complicated to know if this were done in Bermuda or perhaps elsewhere before getting to New York.)

What we know about Box 252 Mail and German Censorship:

Questions about German censorship can also only be partly answered. I have gotten some additional back-ground information about the German censor’s handling of undercover mail from three sources. The first source involves the recent discovery of an example of a cover addressed to Box 252 that was rejected by the German censors. This is shown here in figure 11. I have found no references to rejections of covers addressed to this Box 252, Grand Central Annex address, but its rejection is not unique. This cover was posted in Vienna, cancelled 16th June 1941, and has the German censor tape and markings, but no additional dating. Additionally, although no contents or surviving letters are known, I have another cover from 27th May 1940 that successfully



Figure 11: Cover from Vienna, 16 June 1941, to Box 252, Grand Central Annex, New York that was returned to the sender by the German censors in Frankfurt. Since it did not leave Germany, there is only German censorship on the back. There are also no transit or arrival cancellations.

reached Box 252 that is from the same sender in Vienna (and likely to the same addressee, although the name was not put in this 1940 addressing). It is now also known that the sender survived the war, and the addressee, her son, also was from Vienna, but was working in Toronto during that time. To further complicate the “return to sender” procedure the German censorship followed, I do have other covers addressed to the Box 252 address that are also from Vienna that were not stopped. They were also handled by the Frankfurt censor office, and mailed even later by other people. All are post-marked in 1941 - one in August, three in November, and two in the first few days of December. Whether because they were apparently handled by different censors, or regulation instructions changed a little over the months, both could be explanations. As far as is known, enforced or not, German regulations were specific about forbidding anyone from sending mail to a neutral country address where that mail would be forwarded onward to a person in a country at war with Germany.

The two handstamps the censor applied to the front of the cover in figure 11 are listed and pictured in the extremely comprehensive Horst Landsmann WWII German civil censorship book (3) under the Frankfurt ABP (Frankfurt Foreign Letter Censorship Station) section. Frankfurt censoring is also indicated by the letter “e” in the censor handstamp and on the censor re-sealing tape.

The German text of the one handstamp reads: “Return to sender! Mail to enemy countries - even via a neutral country - is forbidden. This is according to an order re: information transmission, dated 2nd April 1940. In the event of a repetition, a report will be made regarding this violation. The censorship office.” With that warning, one could be afraid to try sending to Box 252 a second time! The German text of the second handstamp reads “Mailings permitted only via the German Red Cross, Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2.”

A small number of examples are known of German censor rejected covers addressed to Box 506, Lisbon – the address, as mentioned previously, that was used for the Thomas Cook undercover mail scheme that operated out of England. They are hard to find, though, and in asking Horst Landsmann about it, his thought was that it seems almost as if the German censors didn’t always want to stop the mail, because it could be some source of information for them. Hence, his suggestion was that they were perhaps more likely to simply destroy a letter that they would not pass, rather than return it. However, Horst Landsmann adds that so far they have not found any information with instructions about that.

More recently some articles about German censor confiscated mail have appeared. There is information in Horst Landsmann’s book showing a Danish cover addressed to Box 506, Lisbon, that appears to have been held by German censors, and in the *Posthorn* of February 2012, pages 6 to 10, there is an article I wrote about several Norwegian and Danish covers addressed to Box 506, Lisbon that had apparently been retained by German censors without being marked or without being returned. Several appeared to simply be philatelic covers, and may not have had contents. Others did not

appear philatelic. Subsequently, I understand a number of Norwegian covers appeared in the market in Germany around 1980, all addressed to Box 506, Lisbon, and all apparently held by German censorship. No further information about them, or any other examples of other countries, has surfaced since; so, of course, it is a still an open topic! Additionally, there is a *Posthorn* article on pages 10 to 12 by Bruce Fisher showing a German censor's report to the Gestapo concerning a non-Box 506 Danish cover which shows a cover also only partially marked by the German censor – and of course retained and submitted with the report and enclosure to the Gestapo in Berlin for follow-up. Other examples have not been reported.

A further observation might be offered. At the start of WWII, the British censoring process started immediately, even using some censor sealing tapes on hand from WWI. However, it appears that the Germans had overlooked such preparation, and for months had neither handstamps nor proper re-sealing tapes to use. They also seem to not have had very specific rules, and neutral country mail routing was probably not considered. Note that the Thomas Cook schemes only apparently came into serious use beginning around March 1940, and per the German censor's handstamp shown in figure 11, regulations forbidding this routing may well only have come into effect on the quoted "2 April 1940" – perhaps in reaction to this new "Thomas Cook" mail influx that someone in charge noticed. I do wonder if perhaps many German censors missed knowing of this rule, as some of the mail allowed to pass was so blatantly in violation of this 2 April 1940 rule. See, for example, figure 12 opposite, where the Canadian address is openly included.

Incoming Box 252 Mail and Canadian Censorship:

The references I have seen all refer to this mail for Thomas Cook being censored in Ottawa, and this seems correct. John Tyacke, the co-author of the book about WWII mail between Canada and Switzerland (4), including especially Red Cross mail but also discussing the Thomas Cook scheme, has written articles through the years about Canadian censorship. On pages 78 and 79 of the book is a summary table listing the physical locations of these censors, and of special note is that the tape designations C.1 through C.99 were those used in Ottawa. Also the numbers 201 through 250 were designated for Ottawa. All of the examples I note had numbers in these ranges and with the letter "C", except for those apparently censored after 1st January 1942. After that date, he advises that per British requests, Canada changed their "Censor" designation from the letter "C" to the letters "D.B.". [However, the D.B. is not shown on figure 11, which may have been censored after 1st Jan 1942.] The designation "D.A." was used by New Zealand and "D.C." was used by Newfoundland, as examples of this partially adopted system.

The list of cities where Canadian censorship was done doesn't include Toronto (where the main Thomas Cook office was), but includes several other Canadian cities like Halifax, Moncton, St. John, N.B., Quebec City, and Vancouver, and the place of censorship didn't change with the change from "C." to "D.B." Also, it is understood



Figure 12: Addressed to British Columbia, Canada care of Post Box 252 from Hamburg 21 May 1940. A small number of such openly addressed covers are known. The back shows German censorship in ABP Frankfurt (“e”).

that generally a number stayed with the person who was the censor, even if the person were relocated. Still, there are no clues for Box 252 mail being censored anywhere but Ottawa. There is a case for doing more detailed research about the censors. In years past these records at the Canadian Archives were still sealed – so it is an area for further research.

Thomas Cook in London and the use of its Box 506, Lisbon, Portugal routing – and a Canadian Comparison:

Figure 13 shows a typical British instruction sheet detailing the Thomas Cook scheme. This example is dated August 1940. Such instructions can come from the censor on a censor form, or from Thomas Cook, or perhaps from the Post Office – but, again, only planned instructions can be found on Canadian Archive microfilm. To date, no examples of the actual Canadian printed instructions have been reported by philatelists.

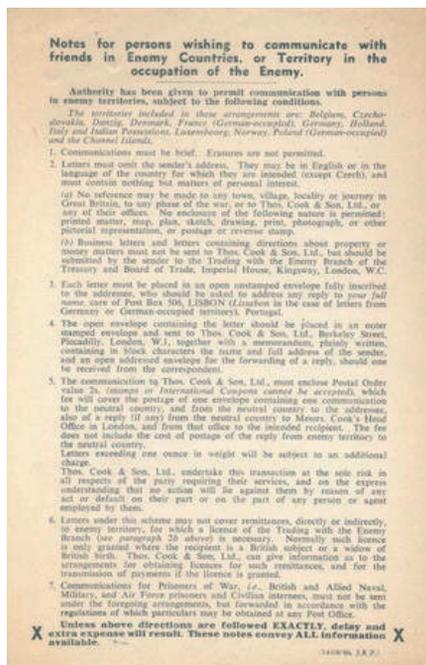


Figure 13: An August 1940 British instruction sheet in English detailing the Thomas Cook scheme.



Figure 14: A candidate for the latest reported usage out of Nazi Europe to Box 252. Postmarked 8 Dec 1941, routed through Berlin censors. Initially apparently stopped, but then allowed to go through (Germany declared war on the U.S. first – on 11 Dec 1941.)

The use of Box 252 by some Internees in Canada:

Erich Kohn, the Internee in Canada who is the addressee of the cover shown in figure 15 obviously knew about the Thomas Cook scheme used in England, and used it before being interned in England, and transferred to Canada. [Upon release, he returned to England.] Whether anyone in Canada used the Thomas Cook scheme in London is unknown, or whether they might have been redirected to use the Canadian Thomas Cook scheme in Toronto, is also unknown. How Internees even found out about the Canadian Thomas Cook scheme is also unknown.

What is unusual about this Canadian Thomas Cook service was the apparent access to it by some of the Internees. These Internees in Canada in general had been living in England with German passports. When they were initially interned in England, many were shortly thereafter sent onward to Canada or Australia. Neither those interned in England or in Australia are known to have ever used the Thomas Cook mail schemes available in those countries. The few former Internees that I have spoken with did not know about this Thomas Cook scheme, and likely never had used it. It is even unclear if everyone whose mail went via Box 252 knew their mail was routed that way. This is based on good personal conversations with the late Hans Reiche, a serious and well known philatelist who had been an Internee. He explained that letters he wanted to send



Figure 15: A Box 506, Lisbon addressed cover from Vienna, 22 Oct 1940. Forwarded from England to an Internee in Canada. Unfortunately, German stamp missing. The Lisbon address is under the Thomas Cook yellow re-addressing label applied in London. Backstamped 23 Jan 1941 in Canada by Base Operations.

out were collected from him, and he never saw how they were finally franked and mailed, and most significantly, he never saw the envelopes his replies came in. He was only given the contents – which he was frustrated about. Many years later he saw one envelope addressed to him on exhibit at a stamp show in Toronto (ex Toop) – which he had never seen before!

However, other Internees, like Eric Koch, for example, did get mail with the envelopes. Speaking with Eric Koch, who wrote the well-known book “Deemed Suspect – A Wartime Blunder” (Methuen Publications, c. 1980) about the whole internment story, he knew nothing about the Thomas Cook mail scheme – but spoke of other mail issues Internees had. Mainly, being generally very anti-Nazi, they were upset about using anything that looked like or indicated “P.O.W.” Otherwise, Eric Koch very graciously said philately and postal history were not anything of interest to him. I also got to speak with the friendly and open authors Peter and Leni Gilman in England, who also wrote about this internment story from information they collected (“Collar the Lot – How Britain Expelled Its Wartime Refugees” – Quartet Books Ltd, c. 1980). They had not

come across anything about the Thomas Cook scheme, or special mail routings. I might mention that both of these books were recommended to me by Hans Reiche.

While certainly scarce, supposedly there is some quantity of these Box 252 Internee addressed covers around, so maybe one day further information may be found. Further examples are shown here as figures 16 and 17.



Figure 16: A typical cover to an Internee in Canada. Postmarked 4 Nov 1941 in Liepzig, and handstamped by Canadian Internment Operations



Figure 17: Inbound example from Box 506, Lisbon, to German annexed area of Poland, cancelled in Lisbon, 7 January 1941. It is believed most inbound covers into Nazi Europe probably did not have a return address on the envelope. This practice almost certainly includes the covers from the Thomas Cook Canada service from New York as well.

Looking further at the cover shown in figure 2, which is addressed to a Mr. Walter Blumenfeld, there may be additional information to yet be found. This cover from late 1941 fits the time period for Internee Box 252 mail, and it happens that there was an Internee named Walter Blumenfeld in Canada who was officially released on 16th December 1942, and elected to be released in Canada. (Many elected to be returned to England.) However, the other covers I have seen have a circular handstamp showing they were censored by Canadian Internment Operations – which this cover does not show.

The need for the Internees using Thomas Cook is unclear - there does not seem to have been any reason for Internees to use the service. Under Geneva Convention rules, POW's and Internees were allowed free franking of letters back home to friends and family, and such mail was routinely routed to and from Nazi Europe. The Internees used this method for mail, and both covers and contents involving Canadian Internees are well known. However, the Internees – many being Jewish, but including others as well, who were essentially refugees fleeing from the Nazis - sought release from their imprisonment. Of the various options, one was to be reclassified as Refugees. However, refugees, once released, lost any way to write back to Nazi Europe. Perhaps the Internees upon the decision of the Canadian Government to reclassify them as Refugees, were advised to use the Thomas Cook mail scheme, or the Canadian Government used the mail scheme for them, or some of the Internees used it as a protest against using the "Internee Mail" designation, even though it was a relatively expensive way to send mail. Even after the reclassification as Refugees apparently became official, and the camp became known as a Refugee camp, it appears that these Internees-Refugees still used the "Internee" designation to send and receive mail from Nazi Europe under the Geneva procedures. Where are any directives about this? I have heard that a memo or directive exists, perhaps from an earlier point, that while the Canadian Internees were told to not route mail 'around the system', they apparently at some point may have been specifically told not to use the Thomas Cook scheme. Hopefully the correct information has not been totally lost to time.

The author collects Thomas Cook scheme undercover mail, and also information related to the service. Comments, additions, and questions welcome. Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735, USA. edfraser@gmail.com

References:-

1. The staff magazine in which David Kitt's article appeared was known as *Internationally Speaking with Thomas Cook*. It ran for a total of 22 issues, from August 1985 to June/July 1989.
2. The only reference I find for this topic is an article *Confiscated World War II Mail Addressed to the Faroes* in the *Posthorn* by Peter Sondheim. There he describes finding official records about the British seizure of mail, and its apparent subsequent sale in the

philatelic community. He advises that this practice was not confined to mail for the Faroes. Unfortunately, he has only been partially successful in finding these detailed records, but he has enthusiasm that he will locate more. See: Peter Sondheim, *Post-horn*, November 2006, pages 7 through 10.

3. Horst Landsmann, *Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland im 2. Weltkrieg*, [in German], available since 2008 in book or CD form. As a large format, nicely printed 464 page paperback book published in January 2009, it is now available from U.S. booksellers. I'll estimate that in many areas it may almost double the information previously available. The key reference has been the Karl-Heinz Riemer book on German WWII civil censorship which was last updated in 1979 [also in German]. Even so, there are still some footnotes in the 1979 Riemer book which are not copied in this large new book. The Landsmann CD has handstamp and cover illustrations in color, and the text is searchable and can be "cut and pasted" into Google Translate, for example. The book's illustrations are in black and white. It is a wonderful reference.
4. This well written book, *The Postal History of World War II Mail between Canada and Switzerland*, with many black and white illustrations, was published in June 2008 by The American Helvetia Philatelic Society, P.O.Box 15053, Asheville, NC 28813. It is also available from the authors for about \$30.

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NEWFOUNDLAND VIGNETTES (12)

A Tragic Prime Minister's 1928 Seasons' Greetings

Dean W. Mario

The Right Honourable Sir Richard Anderson Squires, PC, KCMG, KC, LLB, Prime Minister of Newfoundland from 1919-1923 and 1928-1932, was a very controversial figure in Newfoundland's political history. Born at Harbour Grace on 18th January, 1880, Squires obtained a law degree and later entered politics and the Assembly in 1909 and sat until he was defeated in 1913.

Squires was subsequently appointed to the Assembly's Executive Council and the cabinet by the Right Hon. Sir Edward P. Morris, where he served in various portfolios including Colonial Secretary, Clerk to the Council, and Minister of Justice. He lost his cabinet position when Sir William Lloyd formed the Second National Government in 1918.

In the fall of 1919 Squires founded the Liberal Reform Party and, supported by an alliance with the Fishermen's Protective Union, formed government. A few weeks after the 23rd July 1923 victory, however, Prime Minister Squires was forced to resign by his cabinet colleagues amid serious allegations of misconduct and corruption in office.

Charges were eventually laid and on 22nd April 1924 Squires was arrested. He was quickly released on bail. Squires was committed to stand trial on 3rd October (given evidence emanating from the Walker Enquiry proceedings), but six days later a Grand Jury found a "no Bill" (although charges were later substantiated). All of these controversial events forced him to retire from public life.



Fig 1

The social, political, and economic climate in Newfoundland during the early to mid-1920's was chaotic. Great War losses suffered by the small Dominion virtually wiped out an entire generation of productive, young lives. The post-war crisis in the fishing industry led to a period of economic uncertainty. In the 1928 general election, a re-worked alignment with Sir William F. Coaker and the Fishermen's Union Party allowed a "re-incarnated" Squires to re-enter politics and gain political victory. Squires became Prime Minister but the challenging circumstances of an especially-deepening economic abyss would prove too overwhelming and disastrous. Despite his rather dismal performance he was appointed a Privy Councillor on 20th October 1930.

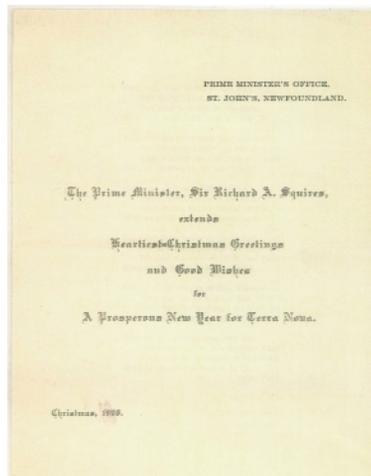


Fig 2

Controversy still continued to plague Squires. In 1932 corruption charges were once again levelled against him and on 8th March writs were issued. A riot related to these allegations broke out in the capital of St. John's in April. In the June election his party was decimated at the polls.

Given the collapse of world trade, the devastating effect faced by Newfoundland with declining exports of fish and forest products, several years of budget deficits, increased foreign borrowing, and years of political corruption and instability, Newfoundland's responsible government was replaced with an Imperial "Commission of Government" in February 1934. One might wonder if Squires' questionable actions, in some small way, were partly responsible and contributed to this humiliating period in Newfoundland's history. Sir Richard Squires died at age sixty on 26th March 1940.

This 21st December 1928 1 cent unsealed circular letter rate cover with Squires' "autopen" signature contains a letter-sheet with his seasons' greetings and selections from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "In Memoriam A.H.H.". Presumably it was sent to the Warr's of St. John's in much happier times: Squires had just been re-elected and "rescued" from political obscurity; the 1c value used from the 1928 Publicity Issue triumphed the Dominion's historic claim and acquisition of Labrador; and the devastating Stock Market crash of 29th October 1929 and the following Great Depression were several months away.

References:-

Bercuson, D.J. and J.L. Granatstein. Collins Dictionary of Canadian History. Toronto: Collins Publishers, 1988, 195.

Canadian Encyclopedia, Second Ed. Vol. III. Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1988, 2065.

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A SPECIAL STAMPLESS COVER?

Graham Searle F.C.P.S.

For the most part, the internet auction site, e-bay, operates as any other auction. Sometimes you get a bargain (those ones you remember), sometimes you pay too much for something (quickly forgotten), and every now and then you see something sell for a price way beyond its obvious worth. The latter category always interests me as they provide a source of new philatelic information (or sometimes just highlight the stupidity of others!). The cover shown below was one such lot. What is so special about the cover you may ask?

Well someone (or more correctly two folk) thought it was rather special as this cover sold recently on e-bay for \$570 after opening at just \$10! (and no, I was not one of the two bidders or the seller – my own bid of \$20 proving to be somewhat inadequate!!)



Certainly it is a nice clean and colourful cover with some nice postal markings – including a fair strike of the scarce Legislative Council date stamp (Jarrett type 1515). However, none of that makes for a cover worth over \$500. What I suspect makes this cover unusual is its destination; the United States.

Many Government and Post Office officials enjoyed free franking privileges on outgoing mail including members of the Legislative Council when it was sitting (note the cover is countersigned by the member at lower left) but in general these privileges only applied to mail sent within Canada. Normally, mail sent by such officials to overseas destinations required the normal postage to be prepaid. This is the only example I can recall seeing of a cross border letter being allowed to pass free of postage in this way.

Maybe one of our members can enlighten us on the official rules governing free franking privileges back in 1863 and why this letter was allowed to pass free of postage? Or maybe there is another, completely different, reason for the \$570 price tag?

ANY QUESTIONS

A MODERN SLOGAN

Our first question this time comes from member **Andrew Lothian**.

'I have a cover from Calgary dated 28 VIII 1961 in a C.D.S. then in a square box there are four compass points, NW;NE;SE and SW and a further box in which it says "COMPASS DIRECTION NECESSARY ON MAIL FOR CALGARY". It has been sent from Calgary to Scotland. Why were compass directions needed and did this apply anywhere else in Canada? Does anyone know when this was started and for how long this was necessary?'

Part of the answer has come from the boys at Bow City in Calgary who confirmed that... 'Calgary is divided into four segments, SW SE NE NW so the correct compass point is needed to deliver the mail. Many avenues and streets are also numbered so you can have, for example, a 75th Avenue NW and a 75th Avenue SW etc. The slogan is still used and despite the widespread use of zip codes in modern times, the compass designation is necessary for proper mail delivery.'

A number of other western towns and cities have similar street naming systems but I have never seen similar slogans from elsewhere. Maybe one of our other members can let us know if they exist from other towns. I have also been unable to confirm when the use of these slogans started so if anyone knows this please let Andrew know.

IMPERFORATES AND PART PERFORATES

Our second question comes from member **Sandy Parker** and concerns the plethora of imperforate and part perforate issues from the early 20th century.

'I am hoping that someone more knowledgeable than me can advise why Canada has issued so many imperforate pair and part perforate varieties. Analysis of Stanley Gibbons seems to show that these varieties occur in the Victorian years and particularly in the period of 1920/1940. In some cases these copies are listed in only some values of a particular set i.e. there is no uniformity. Other sets particularly in Newfoundland have varieties with only horizontal or vertical perforation. I have to say I am at a complete loss as to why so many were issued. Can anyone advise?'

Part of the answer to this question comes from the memoirs of the late **Fred Jarrett**. Let us deal first with the Canadian issues. The very early imperforate varieties (such as those from the 1859 issue) were most probably produced by the printers as record copies (similar to proofs) and later found their way into the philatelic market. This may also be true of the imperforate varieties from the 1890 – 1910 period although there is some evidence that by this time the Post Office had been persuaded to produce these imperforate varieties to give out as favours to selected collectors in exchange for 19th

century stamps for the post office archives. This practice definitely degenerated further in the key 1920 – 1940 period which Sandy mentions. Jarrett reports that... 'Frederick T. Norris was possibly the first to cash in. In return for generous entertainment at the Chateau Laurier, the boys at the Post Office Department let him have sheets of imperforates. He put the top two rows of a sheet in his collection, and divided the balance among his friends, there being many collectors who had the money to pay his price. Then Allard Brophy got into the act. He was going to bank on a change of government, and some changes in the Department. He therefore cultivated the right people. The change took place eventually and Brophy controlled the market instead of Norris.'

Many years ago, most Canadian collectors would not touch these varieties; partly because they had never been officially issued but also because of their rather shady origins. However, the passage of time has allowed them to gain some respectability and the catalogue prices certainly reflect their scarcity.

It is worth noting that the 1 cent, 2 cent and 3 cent Admiral stamps are the exception to this story. These were actually issued to the public as 'philatelic novelties' following some complaints about the favour issues. The 1930 10 cent postage due stamp imperforate horizontally is also an exception. This comes from a genuine error sheet.

Member, **Judith Edwards** has confirmed that the story behind the Newfoundland imperf and part perf issues is broadly similar to the Canadian ones in that most if not all of these were issued as favours; although the individuals involved were probably different.

A CENTENNIAL QUESTION

Our third question comes from member **John Cranmer**.

'My question comes from reading Harris about the Centennial issues. For the BABNC printings he says that the philatelic stock and field stock of the 6c, 7c and 8c were printed side by side on the same cylinder. This would appear to produce a vast excess of the philatelic stock. I had originally assumed that the PO just trimmed of the margins from the excess philatelic panes and used them as field stock. However the gap between the edge of the perforation holes and the printed stamp is only about 1.2 mm even at the edge of the philatelic stock items I have. Also from what I have the straight edge margins of the field stock are about 2 mm wide with no trace of perforations. Of course I may have only seen "genuine" field stock examples. If the PO had trimmed philatelic stock down I would have expected that there would be examples of these with some partial perforations reported or field stock items with only 1mm margins. I have not seen these or any reference to them but I may have missed them in my searches.

Basically was there a large excess of philatelic stock produced and if so what happened to them. Could the BABNC have modified the press to produce only field stock? Has this topic been covered to your knowledge?'

To try and find an answer to this rather technical question we turned to the 'oracle' and asked **Robin Harris** who wrote the definitive book on the Centennial issue if he could explain. Robin replied that.....

The philatelic and field stock of BABN stamps were printed side by side (or rather above and below, as illustrated in fig 1 for the 7 cent value...). Only the 'bottom' row of panes had inscriptions on the original 'plate'.

Once printed the stamps were perforated on a drum perforator and then guillotined by slitters in a continuous process. When switching from the production of philatelic to post office or field stock, BABN removed the top and bottom rows of pins on the panes with the inscriptions from the drum perforator and moved the slitters closer to the stamps. The top and bottom margins on straight edge stamps from post office panes usually includes part of the area that the removed pins would have perforated. See figs 2 and 3.

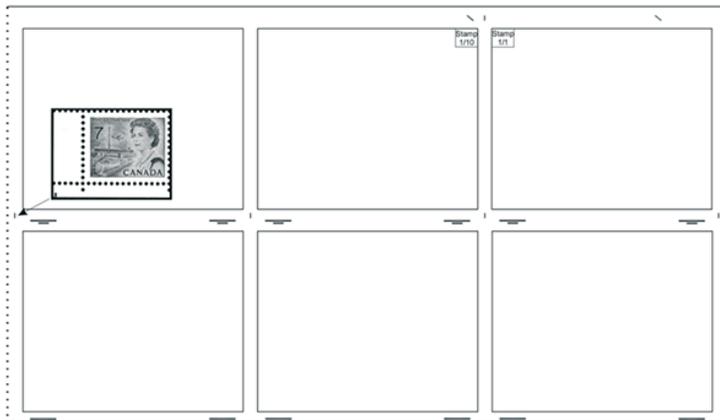


Fig 1 Diagram of the six panes of the 7 cent stamp from cylinder 1 showing inscriptions on the bottom three panes.



Fig 2. Straight edge corner block from post office or field stock. The bottom margin is sufficiently large that it would show the bottom row of perforations that occurs on philatelic stock had the pins not been removed.



Fig 3 Block from philatelic stock.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Our fourth question is really a related group of questions from member **Jim Bisset** and concerns the Special Delivery service. Jim writes:-

'Special Delivery Mail

The Post Office Department circulated all postmasters on 7th June 1898 with regulations establishing the Special Delivery system. This announcement stated inter alia:-

- *that the special delivery stamp was in addition to the ordinary postage to which the letter was due.*
- *that the special delivery system only applied within the limits of certain cities, namely, - Halifax, St. John, N.B., Fredericton, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, Victoria and Vancouver*

I have several questions relating to this system:-

- 1 *Was the requirement to have the ordinary postage in addition to the special delivery stamp ever relaxed to allow mail with only the special delivery stamp?*

Fig. 4 shows that the requirement to pay ordinary postage was adhered to. This cover dated 4th June 1931 from Toronto to London, Ontario, has 4 cent postage due charged to the recipient (double the deficiency) whereas, fig. 5 dated 1st June 1935 (first date of issue of special delivery stamp E6) from Ottawa to Toledo, Ohio, does not have any ordinary postage and appears to have gone through the mails unscathed.



Fig 4

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Fig 5

2. When were the original list of Canadian cities expanded to other towns and, in particular, when was the Special Delivery service extended to the United States?

Fig 6, dated 3rd September 1931 is addressed to Buffalo, New Jersey. The back, fig 7, has a "BUFFALO N.Y. SPECIAL DELIVERY" cancellation, so the service obviously extended to USA at that time. Fig. 8 is a domestic cover, dated 19th May 1936, addressed to the hamlet of Rama, Sask. Fig. 9, dated 2nd February 1931, addressed to California has a handstamp "SPECIAL" in red so it was obviously accepted for Special Delivery.

3. Was the Special Delivery system ever extended to the UK?

Fig. 10 is a registered, special delivery first day cover, of the first Transatlantic Air service. Did the special delivery stamp achieve anything, or was it merely an unnecessary addition to this cover?



Figs 6 and 7



Fig 8



Fig 9

4. The Regulations of 7th June 1898 stipulated that where a registered letter bore a special delivery stamp as well, the postmaster should write prominently across the envelope "for special delivery", but no similar requirement is mentioned for unregistered mail. Was the addition of a "SPECIAL DELIVERY" handstamp ever required to ensure special delivery service? If so when was it introduced and



Fig 10

thereafter is the lack of a handstamp an indication that the cover did not enjoy special delivery status and that the stamp was an unnecessary adornment?

Figs. 4 and 9 do have a special delivery handstamp applied. Fig. 11, a relatively early usage, dated 22nd September 1909, does not (the stamps are tied to the cover, but faintly). Neither does fig. 12, a drop letter dated 9th January 1933 although it does have a registration type record number.

I would be grateful for any explanations or comments on the above.'



Fig 11



Fig 12

Some answers for Jim from a variety of sources including myself, the late **Allan Steinhart** and **Mike Street** armed with the G.D. Davis book on the Special Delivery service....

Q1. The simple answer to this is no. The cover you show in fig 5 is clearly a philatelic first day cover and was probably allowed to pass on that basis though probably not with Special Delivery service.

Q2. Care is required with the interpretation of covers such as that in fig 8. Special Delivery service was available only at post offices with letter carrier delivery, so the service did expand greatly as letter carrier delivery was made available in smaller towns and, especially, suburbs of larger cities. The greatest expansion came after World War 2. It was never available at all post offices in Canada. Although the Special Delivery service was gradually expanded it is doubtful if it ever reached the likes of Rama. The SD stamps could be purchased from any money order post office and the sender could affix them asking for 'Special Delivery'. However, if the destination didn't have such a service it wouldn't happen and the 20 cents would have been wasted!

The SD service was available on a reciprocal basis to and from the USA from 1912. Initially such cross border SD letters required to have the SD stamp of the receiving country put on and to this end US SD stamps were on sale at some Canadian post offices (and vice versa). From 1923, this rule was relaxed to allow the sender to affix a Canadian SD stamp on a letter going to the USA or a US stamp on incoming mail. The same comments as above apply here though. If the final address did not have a Special Delivery service the fee would effectively be wasted.

Q3. The simple answer here is yes. That said, the SD stamp on the 1939 cover in fig 10 is a nice addition but did not have any postal significance. The reason for this can be found in the following....

Prior to 1947 the Canada Official Postal Guide instruction read:

"The Post Office of Great Britain has made arrangements under which, by the payment of an additional fee, letters and parcels, the delivery of which is urgent, may be delivered by special messenger immediately after arrival at the office of destination. This extra fee cannot in the case of letters be prepaid. It will be collected from the addressees at the rate of 6d., or 12 cents, for each mile the letter has to be conveyed from the office of address. In the case of parcels the fee, which is 6d. or 12 cents, must be prepaid in the country of origin, but in cases where the addressee resides at a distance from the office of delivery, a special charge may be made on delivery not exceeding the fee for inland transportation less the 6d. prepaid. Express letters and parcels should be plainly marked with the word 'Express'. Express letters received from abroad are not delivered in Great Britain on Sundays."

After 1 April 1947 the Postal Guide instruction read:

"Special Delivery letters for the United Kingdom prepaid with Canadian postage may be accepted for onward transmission. Such correspondence must bear a Canadian Special Delivery stamp or be prepaid 10¢ in Canadian postage in addition to the surface or air mail postage rate applicable. The adhesive Special Delivery sticker No. SD 8 obtainable at all post offices should be affixed in the upper left hand corner of the address side. If stickers are not obtainable, the words 'Special Delivery' should be legibly written in the same position."

It should be noted that, except for the brief Bahamas experiment in the post World War 1 era, as late as 1961 Special Delivery service from Canada was only available to the United States and Great Britain. Because Special Delivery letters were bound in wrappers intended to mark them clearly for special handling, mail for countries other than the USA or Great Britain marked and paid for Special Delivery may have received accelerated handling as it travelled between Canadian post offices.

Q4. We can find no such 'original rule' relating to handstamps. As far as we can determine, from the start of the service the requirement was that the words "Special Delivery" or, later, a Special Delivery etiquette, were to be placed at the upper left hand corner of such a letter or package. Even here, adherence to this 'rule' was far from complete and one can find examples of SD mail with and without such labels or writing.

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NELSON'S MYSTERY SLOGAN

Malcolm Newton

Nelson is on the Kootenay Lake in southern British Columbia where precious metals were found around 1876. Silver was found at nearby Toad Mountain in 1886 when the local population boomed quickly with the town being incorporated in 1897. Today, it is a thriving area of some 11,000 plus inhabitants.

John Ayton Gibson, who was born on the 29th September 1859 at Teeswater, Ontario, had arrived in Nelson some time prior to 1898 as according to the voters list of that year, he was trading as a druggist. He eventually became post master for Nelson in 1902 and remained as such until his death on the 21st February 1931 at the age of 71. With such a long period as post master, he was obviously very experienced which makes it all the more strange as to why he inserted a specially prepared slogan die into his franking machine, inverted – see fig 1 below. This die, specially prepared by its sponsors, was to commemorate the '26th ANNUAL/NELSON FAIR/NELSON, B.C./SEPT.19-20-21-22/1928'. Surely someone in the town would have noticed the error as, having spent money on commissioning the die, they would have liked their advert to be easily read!

By 1928, John Gibson would have been 68 years old, so was age a contributing factor for the wrong insertion? Interestingly, his wife Gretchen Hatt, nee Phair who was born in Fredericton, N.B. on the 1st March 1882 was 22 years younger than him, and one would have thought that she could have assisted him in his post master's duties. She went on to reach the age of 90 years, passing away on the 11th September 1972. Whatever the reason, it has provided us with an interesting slogan. Copies have been reported for the 26th and 27th August, and the 2nd, 10th and 22nd September 1928 with the copy shown below being the last date day of the fair as well as the last recorded impression.



Fig 1 The inverted slogan in Nelson's Columbia machine.

WRONG SPECIAL DELIVERY

John Watson

On looking back through old copies of *Maple Leaves* I came across the following cover in the winter 2001 edition (see figure 1 below). It was described in the article by the *Yellow Peril* as being short paid 10 cents; rated and taxed 10 cents - the amount deficient. On the reverse it has ten 1 cent postage due stamps (partially illustrated in the article). Stan guessed that the letter weighed about 7 ounces and that the total postage should have been $7 \times 1c + 1c \text{ War Tax} + 20c \text{ Special Delivery}$ making a total of 28 cents, and should therefore have been taxed at 20 cents; double deficiency. At the time of first reading this article I thought nothing was wrong with this assessment and accepted that it was a Post Office error. However, I have since acquired this cover and looked at it anew.

The first thing that is apparent is that is not a drop letter, having travelled on the Vic & Van R.P.O. from Vancouver, and therefore cannot possibly be rated at 1 cent per ounce. Secondly, I agree (nearly) with Stan's assessment of the weight of the letter and so it should be rated at 2 cents per ounce if it were a first class letter, making a total charge of around 35 cents. This makes a total nonsense of the assessment of Postage Due, so there must be some other explanation. There is, and it is to be found in the circled typed annotation "Copy, Rush".

In the *Canada Official Postal Guide* of January 1912 in the section dealing with third class mail, amongst items subject to a rate of 2 cents per ounce was "the manuscript of books or newspapers (whether hand-written or type-written)". In order to check that my interpretation of this statement included *Printer's Copy* I looked through my covers and found the following cover (see figures 2 and 3 overleaf). As can be seen, the instruction is to leave the envelope unsealed, consistent with the practice of sending



Fig 1

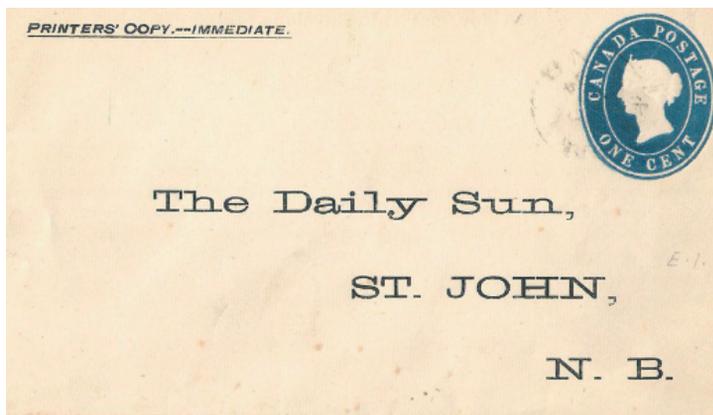


Fig 2

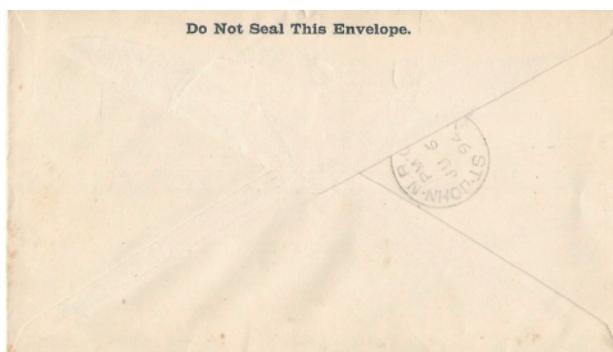


Fig 3 The reverse of the cover in fig 2 above

third class mail. To confirm this, I found a totally unrelated article in BNA Topics (2006 second quarter) in which Ross Grey illustrates a Victorian R.P.O. cover which has printed on the front of it "PRINTER'S COPY don't seal up. One cent for 2 oz."

So, it would appear that the cover The Yellow Peril showed was in fact a third class letter weighing up to 6 ounces, giving a total rate of $3 \times 1c + 20c$ Special Delivery = 23 cents, short paid 5 cents and charged Postage Due at double deficiency.

The purpose of this article, however, is not to point out that somebody got a rate wrong (who doesn't), but to highlight an anomaly. The 1912 Postal Guide repeatedly states that Special Delivery was available for letters only. This was emphasized in the April 1920 Postal Guide:

"Special Delivery in Canada is for letters only. - Particular attention is drawn to the fact that the arrangements for the delivery by special messenger Do not apply to any class of mail matter except letters or packets prepaid at letter rates of postage, which may therefore be regarded as letters."

The cover illustrated clearly does not meet this condition, but was still given Special Delivery in 1922. Nor was this an isolated case as can be seen from the following cover (see figure 4) of 1910, also Printer's Copy and sent Special Delivery. Both these covers have a special messenger number so presumably they did actually receive Special Delivery.

I suspect that Special Delivery third class covers were accepted from the Press unofficially as a special favour, and it would be interesting to hear of any others in member's collections. It would be equally interesting if somebody knows of any regulation which sanctioned this practice.



Fig 4.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ron McGuire

THE OFFICIAL PITFALLS

I found John Hillson's article, 'Canada - The Official Pitfalls', of interest in the October 2012 edition. Readers may like to see my cover in figure 1 below because, to my knowledge it is the only example of Unitrade O26a [John's figure 10], the missing "G", on cover. It is a particularly nice example, in the middle of two normal pairs in a strip of five, paying a correct 50 cent rate --- the 20 cent registration fee and 14 times domestic letter rate at 4 cents the 1st ounce plus 2 cents for each additional ounce [$2c \times 13oz = 26c + 4c + 20c = 50$ cents]. Posted in Sackville, New Brunswick on 22nd November 1952 addressed to a veteran in Moncton, the envelope undoubtedly contained bulky documents relating to the Veterans' Land Act.

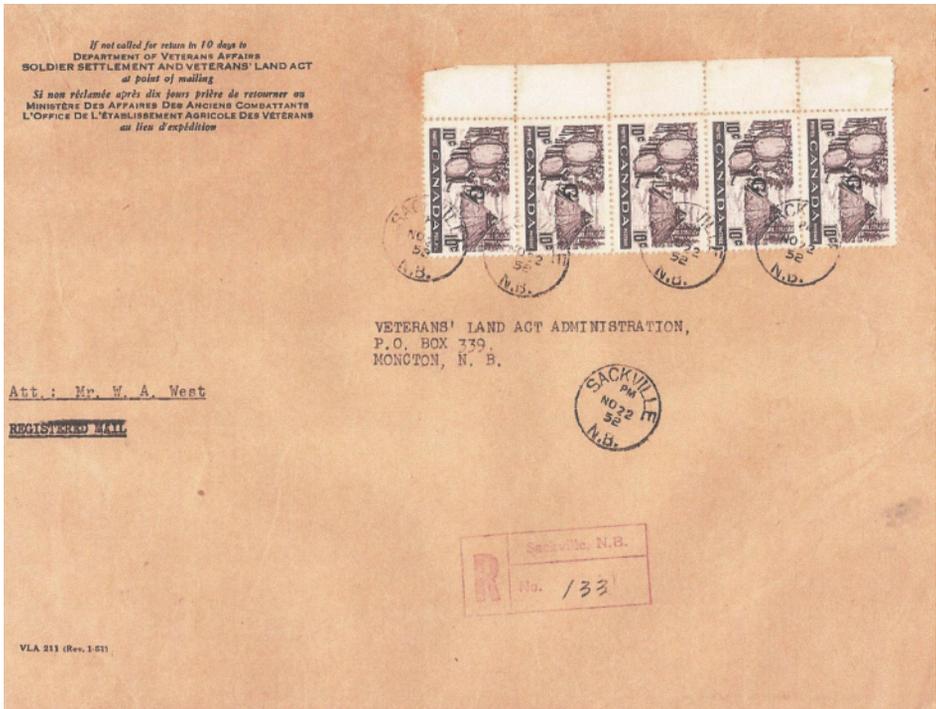


Fig 1

Ron McGuire

SOUVENIR CARDS

In your recent article on 'Souvenir Cards' (*ML October 2012, pages 435 – 438*), you refer to the 1963 card with 'SPECIMEN' hand stamps on each stamp. Figure 2 below is only one of three examples I have seen in several decades of looking for them. I have superimposed the 5 cent Education stamp that has been cut out of a fourth souvenir card. It would make a nice addition to a collection of that stamp or an Education thematic collection.

Figure 3, opposite, is a photocopy of the Canada Post Office Department [CPO] letter concerning these cards, the quantity that were done and their purpose. I understand the cards were accompanied by a request that they be returned to the Public Relations Division by the postmasters to whom they were sent after a certain date. The reason they are so scarce may be because only a few postmasters failed to comply with the request to return them. Those returned should have been destroyed in one of the CPO's regular destruction of withdrawn postal items.



Fig 2

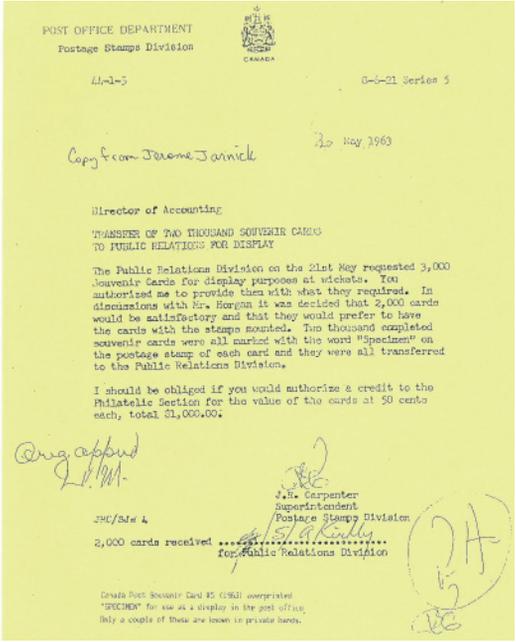


Fig 3

Sandy Finnie

YOKOHAMA CANCELS ON CANADIAN STAMPS

I have just read the article on the 2 cent Edward with the Yokohama C.D.S. (*ML January 2013 page 46*)

I have a couple of 2 cent Edwards with foreign cancellations. Both come from destinations with large ports so I have always assumed that they had been soaked off Paquebot mail. I have some Paquebot covers cancelled in Yokohama which if the stamps had been removed would have been very similar to the 2 cent Edward (shown in fig 5 on page 46 of the previous article) and this may well be the source of such items.

Bill Topping *FRPSC, FRPSL*

YOKOHAMA

The discussion on Frank Henry’s question re Yokohama post marks on Canadian stamps (*ML Jan 2013, page 46*) misses the key source of information - namely the Universal Postal Union regulations. Gray Scrimgeour in his book on trans-Pacific mail discusses the use of *paquebot* marking on mail posted on ships at sea. At the UPU convention of 1891 the rules regarding the handling of mail posted on ships was first discussed but it was not until the 1894 UPU convention that the word *paquebot* was officially adopted. The 1891 rules read as follows:-

‘Correspondence mailed on the high seas in the letter-box or by being handed to the captain of a vessel may be prepaid by means of the postage stamps and according to the postage rates of the country to which said vessel belongs or on which it is dependent. If the mailing on board takes place during the stay of the vessel at one of the two terminal points of the voyage or at one of the intermediate ports of call, payment of postage is not valid unless it is effected by means of the postage stamps and according to the postage rates of the country whose waters the vessel happens to be in’.

Now to the two Yokohama cancellations on Canadian stamps shown in the earlier article. The Canadian Pacific Steamships trans-Pacific service between Vancouver and

Yokohama began in mid June 1886 with regular Empress service beginning in 1890. The C.P.R. held the mail contract between Vancouver and Yokohama and at the same time accepted letters posted onboard for mailing at Yokohama or Vancouver. As a result it is possible to find Canadian stamps postmarked Yokohama and Japanese stamps postmarked Vancouver starting in the 1880's. The Two Canadian stamps illustrated were probably mailed in a C.P.R. ship operating between Vancouver and Yokohama and were cancelled Yokohama by a Japanese postmaster who failed to follow UPU regulations.

To complete the story, in 1936 the following change was introduced in the *Canadian Official Postal Guide*:- 'Letters etc. mailed on a vessel at sea may be prepaid by means of postage stamps of the country whose flag the ship carries: but letters mailed on a vessel in port must be prepaid by the stamps of the country to which the port belongs' (PG 1936, p64, #322). At about the same time, *PAQUEBOT* date stamps were introduced at many Canadian ports.

I should add that I have a similar Yokohama marking with Canadian postage dated 1938 and addressed to Vancouver.

Mike Street

MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OFFICE

The cover illustrated in fig 4 opposite carries four cancellations, a square FEB 27/1900 'London M.O.O.', an oval MAR 8 1900 'Montreal Int. Exch. Off.', a MR8/00 'Montreal/Canada' circle date stamp and, on the reverse, an 8/MR9/00 Toronto/ONT split ring.

The first cancel was applied at the London Money Order Office (LMOO). Since there are no other UK cancels ,it appears that the letter was then sent in a closed bag to the LMOO's counterpart in Canada, the Montreal International Exchange Office (MIEO), for onward transmission to the addressee in Toronto. Apparently the MIEO was still in business as late as 2010. The only other MIEO strike I could find on-line was a slightly different 1882 version that sold for £100 a few years ago. Can any reader provide more information on the operation of either or both the LMOO and MIEO, and/or other MIEO cancellations?

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Fig 4

PALMARES

Brian Stalker (right) and John Wright (left) in the picture are both former Secretaries of CPSGB and are also members of the Eastbourne and South Downs P.S. They combined on 13th October last to represent Eastbourne in the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Convention Inter-Society Postal History Competition; Brian showing 'A Postal History of Canada's St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, 1853 – 1861' and John showing 'Canada – 1st Period Money Letters with very high rates'.

I am delighted to report that they were winners, by a large margin, of this event and are shown here holding the trophy.

I must also correct an omission from the Palmares from the CPSGB Convention in Bridge of Allan reported in the last issue. The prestigious Founders Trophy was awarded jointly to John Hillson and Ted Nixon for their recent book on the Small Queens issue entitled *Canada's Postage Stamps of the Small Queen Era, 1870 -1897*.



BOOK REVIEWS

Shortage of space in this issue limits us to just one new book review on a volume published by BNAPS. All BNAPS books are available from: Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5A8, Canada. Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed at www.iankimmerly.com/books/

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As usual, review copies of these books, in colour, can be found in the Society Library so if you wish to sample before you buy, please contact Mike Slamo.

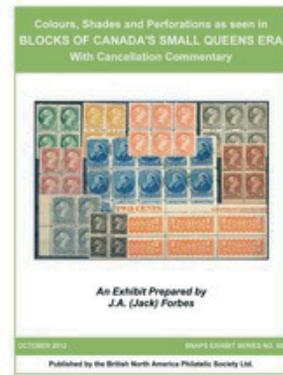
COLOURS, SHADES AND PERFORATIONS AS SEEN IN BLOCKS OF CANADA'S SMALL QUEENS ERA WITH CANCELLATION COMMENTARY, 2012, by Jack Forbes, BNAPS Exhibit Series no 68, 170 pages, 8.5×11, Spiral bound,

colour, 2012. ISBN: 978-1-927119-14-3. BNAPS Exhibit Series #68. Published by BNAPS. Stock # B4h923.68.1.1 \$C109.00

This is not a standard stamp exhibit. It contains only used and mint blocks of the stamps in use between 1870 and 1897. The result of over 30 years of accumulation, it contains an astonishing array of such blocks. In addition to the Small Queen stamps it also contains blocks of many of the other stamps in use in the period; the 12½ and 15 cent Large Queens, the Widow Weeds values, the Registered Letter stamps and the first Officially Sealed stamp. Indeed the only rather odd omission is the ½ cent Large Queen.

Whilst used blocks of this stamp would be hard to find, mint blocks are surely no harder to obtain than some of the other material on show.

It is also not an exhibit for the faint hearted. The opening 28 sheets (almost two frames) contain blocks of the ½ cent Small Queen – a value that shows little if any variation in perforations and, to this reviewer's eye, not so much variation in shade. Whilst much of the material on show here is spectacular, quite why it was necessary to show some 150 blocks of this value is debatable. Things do improve with the higher values where there is far more variation in shade but the tendency to exhibit quantity rather than just quality remains throughout and the exhibit could probably have been improved further by some judicious pruning.



The treatment of perforations is also one that will only appeal to the expert collector. By trying to measure perforations to the nearest 0.05 in both directions, the exhibitor has managed to display a staggering 43 perforation varieties on the 3 cent Small Queen (and this excludes the catalogued perf 12½ variety). I suspect that only the most die-hard of Small Queen specialists will be seeking out the 41 varieties shown here that are not currently catalogued!

Despite the above criticisms, the exhibit does contain some amazing material and is worth a look if only to see items that you may never see again; like used blocks of 15 of both Widow Weeds values, a block of 6 of the 8 cent RLS, a block of 4 of the 12½ cent Large Queen used on cover along with several blocks off cover, two blocks of 10 of the 5 cent Small Queen used together on a registered cover, a used block of 40 of the 2 cent Small Queen..... the list could go on and on.

Specialists in this period will want a copy of the book to study the work that has gone into the exhibit. The rest of us will want to at least borrow a copy from the Library to marvel at stamps we will probably never get to own.

Members should note that because the exhibit is all about colour, the pages in this volume were printed in a one-off production process. Scans of each page were made and adjusted until the colours were as true as possible, then 50 copies were printed. Once dry the paper was turned over and the process repeated for the next page in sequence. The process has inevitably made the cost of this book higher than books printed the normal way. While the quantity printed was expected to meet the demand, the book sold out very quickly.

In response to requests for additional copies, BNAPS and Jack Forbes will reprint the book, but under different procedures. The reprint will be created from the colour photocopies produced for the first edition, not from original exhibit pages. As for the first edition, individual pages will be colour matched before printing, but there will be differences between editions.

The member price for the reprint will only be a few dollars less than the original because of the labour intensive printing method needed to ensure that colours are as close to the original as possible. The quantity of the reprint ordered will depend on demand. Please contact Mike Street if you are interested in acquiring a copy.

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SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Plans are progressing well for our 67th Annual Convention, Wednesday 25th to Sunday 29th September. All members are assured of a warm welcome at the New Continental Hotel, Plymouth, with lots to see and do in and around this historic West Country city. Members will also find the usual full Convention programme to whet their philatelic appetites. The draft Convention Programme is shown below. A full partners programme is in preparation and the philatelic programme will include displays on Postage Dues, Steamer Mails and Drop Letters amongst others.

Convention Booking Forms and Competition Entry Forms can be found in the centre pull out of this issue of *Maple Leaves* but, please note the deadline for completion and return of these Forms, to secure the Preferred Hotel Rate is : **31st July 2013**. Members who may wish to either arrive early or, extend their stay after Convention, should note that the Hotel will offer their concessionary B&B rate subject to, prior notice and booking.

A walk along the “Hoe” is very popular with tourists, as is “The Barbican” area and the *Mayflower* Steps. Other places of interest in Plymouth that have been excluded from CPS Organised Excursions and worth investigating are : the Elizabethan House, Merchants House, Buckland Abbey, and last but certainly not least ; Smeaton’s Tower. The latter is an old Lighthouse that stood on the Eddystone rocks from 1759 until the early 1880’s and it is the history of the tower that is the most remarkable. As the tower is now situated on the Hoe, one can see across the Sound to the 1913 Seaplane Base at Cattewater where, in May 1919, Lt.Cdr. A C Read, USN, landed his NC4 flying boat, thus completing, via the Azores and Lisbon, the very first air crossing of the North Atlantic Ocean.

Wednesday 25th September

1530 - 1700	Devon Cream Tea Welcome and Registration
1630 hrs	Executive Committee Meeting
1800 hrs	Dinner
2000 hrs	Display Presentation
2000 hrs	Partners Meeting – informal get together in bar
2200 hrs	Auction Lot viewing / Study groups

Thursday 26th September

0700 – 0900	Breakfast
0900 hrs	Display Presentation
1015 hrs	Coffee
1030 hrs	Display Presentation
1230 hrs	Lunch

1330 hrs	Bus Tour of the City plus, Tour of <i>Plymouth Gin</i> Distillery
1800 hrs	Dinner
2000 hrs	Display Presentation
2000 hrs	Partners Meeting
2200 hrs	Auction Lot viewing / Study group

Friday 27th September

0700 – 0900	Breakfast
0845 hrs	Fellows Meeting
0900 hrs	Committee Meeting
1015 hrs	Coffee
1030 hrs	Members 16 Sheet Displays
1230 hrs	Lunch
1330 hrs	Visit to the Royal Navy Heritage Centre
1800 hrs	Dinner
2000 hrs	Display Presentation
2000 hrs	Partners Meeting
2200 hrs	Auction Lot viewing / Study group

Saturday 28th September

0700 – 0900	Breakfast
0900 hrs	AGM
1015 hrs	Coffee
1030 hrs	Competition Critique and viewing
1230 hrs	Lunch
1330 hrs	Auction
1530 hrs	Boat Trip around Plymouth Sound
1845 hrs	Drinks Reception
1930 hrs	Awards Dinner

Sunday 29th September

0800 – 1000	Breakfast
1000 hrs	Fond Farewells and checkout

Full details on travel options to and from Plymouth can be found on the Society website but anyone requiring information on this or any other aspect of the Convention is welcome to contact me at p.motson@btopenworld.com or on 01297 20392.

Peter Motson

FROM THE SECRETARY

Annual General Meeting

In accordance with Rule 20, notice is hereby given of the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held at the New Continental Hotel, Plymouth on Saturday 28th September 2013, commencing at 0900 hrs. In accordance with Rule 18, nominations are sought for the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations and any proposed amendments to the Rules, should be sent to the Secretary before 24th May 2013.

Fellowship

Members of the Society are eligible for election as Fellows for:-

- outstanding research in the Postal History and/or Philately of British North America or:
- outstanding service in the advancement of the interests of the Society.

Nominations are sought for submission to the Fellowship sub-committee in accordance with Fellowship Rule 2. Such nominations must be on a prescribed form, which is available from the Secretary, and must be submitted to the Secretary by 24th May 2013.

Founders Trophy

This trophy, awarded only to members of the Society, is awarded by the Judging Committee for work considered by them to be the best subject of ORIGINAL or INTENSIVE RESEARCH in any branch of British North American Philately.

A nomination for the award, which must be proposed and seconded, may be submitted in writing to the Secretary by 24th May 2013.

Proposed Rule change.

It has been pointed out that the caveat re the positioning of double sheets in our competitions no longer makes sense in view of the design of our display boards. It is therefore proposed to change Competition Rule 2 by deleting the last clause so that it will in future read *'Each competitive entry must be 16 pages of approximately 297 mm (11.7") high by 245 mm (9.65") wide, inclusive of a title page, if any. Double width pages, of approximate size 297 mm high by 490 mm (19¼ ") wide, are acceptable, each to count as two standard pages'*.

The above change will be put to the AGM for approval. If any member has comments on the proposal they are asked to contact me well in advance of the meeting.

John Hillson FCPS

FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Members should be aware that the full Library List has recently been updated and can be viewed on the Society website at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk. In the past we have re-printed this list and circulated it to all members every two years or so. Now that the vast majority of members have internet access we have decided not to reprint the list in hard copy format on such a regular basis. However, if any member who does not have easy access to the website would like a hard copy of the list, please contact me and I will provide one by post. Please note that for practical mailing purposes the borrowing of books from the Library is only available to members based in the UK. However, if overseas members would like to consult specific pages or sections of volumes in the Library I will do my best to provide these either as scans or e mail attachments.

Mike Slamo

FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER

Our next auction will be a room sale held as part of the programme for the Plymouth Convention. Catalogues will be issued along with the July issue of *Maple Leaves* and the catalogue will also be on our website from early July along with scans of many of the lots.

We have decided to limit the number of lots in this years auction to around 500. I already have a large number of lots to hand but if any member has material they wish to consign to the sale please contact me as soon as possible (by e mail or phone, m.slamo171@btinternet.com or 01273 732956) to provide details and discuss. I will close the sale for consignments by **end May latest** to give us time to prepare and print the catalogue and note that lots should ideally have a sale value of £20 or more each (cheaper material can always be routed to the Exchange Packet Manager).

Mike Slamo

HANDBOOKS FOR SALE

OUR STOCK CLEARING SALE CONTINUES INTO 2013!!!!

Our 2012 sale gave members some real bargains and the good news is that we are continuing the sale into 2013. Many titles are available at big discounts – please contact our Handbooks Manager for specific wants. More details can be found in previous issues of *Maple Leaves*.

Obtainable from:-

DERRICK SCOOT
62 JACKMANS PLACE* LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY*
HERTS*SG6 1RQ
Telephone: 01462 622449

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP

to 15th MARCH 2013

New Members:-

- 3011 KEMP, Larry, A. 1358 Osprey Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950-7690 USA, e mail: kemp.sally@gmail.com, **BS, Mo**
- 3012 McGUINNESS, Robert M. 1170 Kings Avenue, West Vancouver, BC V7T 2C3, Canada, e mail: mrmacis@shaw.ca **PH (1953 on), Ba, PD (1 cent)**
- 3013 TOOMBS, Robert 1914 148th Street, Surrey, BC V4A 6R3, Canada, e mail a1a92784@telus.net **M**
- 3014 THOMPSON, Dr. Anthony Brian Nordmannav 16, 132 37 Salstjö – Boo, Sweden, e mail: tony.thompson@swipnet.se **N**

Change of Address:-

- 2332 ROCHELEAU, Michel; 6275 6eme Avenue, Apt 107, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H1Y 3E9
- 2935 HIRST, Richard; new e mail address rhirstmag@btinternet.com
- 2956 PARKER, Sandy; new e mail address newneighbours@talktalk.net
- 2987 TURMINE, Yan; new e mail address yturmine@belisle.net
- 2996 MAGNAN, Francine; e mail address fanfanm@cbqi.qc.ca

Updated Address Details Required:-

- 2932 GREEN, Keith

Resigned:-

- 1747 HAWKINS, Rev Roger (due to failing eyesight)

Deceased:-

- 0857 LAMB, Dick

Revised Total:- 320

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2013

- April 6** CPSGB Scotland and North of England Group Meeting, Moffat
- April 15** CPSGB London Group Meeting, Bishops Stortford
- April 19-20 Scottish Philatelic Congress, Perth
- May 4 – 5 ORAPEX 2013, National Show, Ottawa
- May 10 – 15 Australia 2013, International Exhibition, Melbourne
- May 20** CPSGB London Group Meeting, Bishops Stortford
- June 27 - 30 Philatelic Congress of GB, Gloucester
- July 6** MIDPEX, Leamington Spa, CPSGB Midlands Group Meeting
- July 19 - 20 York Stamp Fair
- Aug 2 – 13 Thailand 2013, International Exhibition, Bangkok
- Aug 30 – Sep 2 BNAPEX, Charlottetown, P.E.I.
- Sep 18 – 21 Autumn Stampex, Islington London
- Sep 25 – 29** CPSGB Convention, Plymouth
- Oct 18 - 19 Scotex, Perth
- Oct 26** CPSGB Scotland and North of England Group Meeting, Moffat
- Nov 19 – 25 Brasiliana 2013, International Exhibition, Rio de Janeiro

2014

- Feb 19 - 22 Spring Stampex, Islington, London
- Aug 29 – 31 BNAPEX, Baltimore, Maryland
- Sep 17 - 20 Autumn Stampex, Islington, London

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN 2012/13

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For a membership application form please visit our website or contact the Secretary:
Scott Traquair, P.O. Box 25061, RPO Hiway, Kitchener, ON N2A 4A5 Canada
EMAIL: secretary@postalhistorycanada.net

June 2013 Auction



The "Phillips" Collection of
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