

MAPLE LEAVES

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EDITORIAL

With the spring bulbs starting to flower in the garden it is that time of year again to start planning your trip to the CPSGB Convention. This years' event is being held in Edinburgh and full details can be found on page 343 of this issue or on the Society website. The booking forms are also included in this issue as part of the centre page pull out. These forms can also be downloaded from the website if you prefer. If you are thinking of coming along to all or part of the event, please make sure you get your booking forms in to Colin Lewis no later than **31st July**.

I must thank all those members who participated in the first of our web based auction sales in February either as sellers or buyers. We are currently planning to hold a second such sale in July – this one featuring mainly postal history. The deadline for sending in consignments for this auction and also for the Convention auction in October is **end May**. If you do have material to dispose of, please contact the Editor (who doubles as Auction Manager in the afternoons) to let me know what you have and to seek advice on how best to lot the material.

Hot on the heels of the web auction, our Exchange Packet Manager, Hugh Johnson, is restarting the Society packet on the Society website. Some limited packet material should be up on our website by the time you read this and is available at 'buy now' fixed prices on a first come, first served basis. Visit www.canadianpsgb.org.uk and take a look. Payments may be made by sterling cheque or by PAYPAL so the packet is open to all members regardless of location. Members who prefer to use the packet in the

traditional way can continue to ask Hugh for photocopies of the packet sheets to view. To get the packet fully functional, Hugh desperately needs more material - both stamps and covers - from all periods. If you do have surplus material to dispose of please get in touch with Hugh or myself to see if it is best placed in the packet or in an auction. The Society only charges a 10% commission rate in either case.

Turning to a stamp that is unlikely to appear in our Society packet, I am not sure how many millionaires we have in our ranks but if you are one and you missed out on the 2 cent Large Queen on laid paper in the recent Brigham sale (sold for a mind boggling \$475000 plus all the usual add ons – quite a price for a stamp with a couple of acknowledged faults), you will be pleased to hear that a second one is to be offered for sale later this year by Eastern Auctions (I know you wait 40 years for one to come up and then two come along in the same year!) Some details on this second sale will be in our July issue but the stamp being sold is the one we featured in our October 2013 issue. Just in case you were wondering, I wasn't the buyer of the one just sold. (I tell myself I am waiting for a fault free copy to turn up. Well that, and the winning lottery ticket!)

Finally, I must apologise to author Dean Mario and our Newfoundland experts for a typo on page 255 of the last issue. The cover in fig 4 was definitely not sent in 1930 as the stamp on it was not issued until 1947! The correct date was, in fact, 1948.

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ONE MAN'S WAR - THE STORY OF PRIVATE OSCAR HURLEY (1891 – 1918)

Ken Flint

This is the story of part of the war service of a member of the Manitoba Regiment, 27th City of Winnipeg Battalion, from his arrival in France in January 1917 until he was wounded at the Battle of the Scarpe and subsequently hospitalised in the UK in May 1917 as told by his covers home to his family in Canada. I obtained the covers at least 15 years ago at an auction in the UK where they were described as 'mixed condition' but they have given me hours of pleasure even though they will never win any beauty awards.

Oscar Frank Hurley was born in Bishops Waltham in Hampshire on 17th May 1891 to Francis Charles and Maud Marie Hurley. A sister, Greta Burton, was born in 1893. The 1901 UK census lists the family as living in Bishops Waltham but by the UK census of 1911 they had emigrated to Canada. Frank's occupation is listed as a farmer/miller and the family seem to have farmed close to Bishops Waltham. Modern maps do not show any cottages at the address given in the census and it is possible that they have disappeared.

The family journeyed to Canada in 1905. The immigration records show that they landed at Montreal, Quebec on 1st September 1905 having voyaged from Liverpool on board the vessel '*Canada*'. Frank's age at this point is given as 45, Maud's as 42, Oscar's as 13 and Greta's as 11. They settled in Saskatchewan. The 1906 census of Saskatchewan (Humboldt District) lists the family as farmers in New Osgoode. Presumably they had obtained the farm under the Homestead Act. A typical allocation was a quarter section (160 acres). The homesteader was required to live on his land, erect a dwelling, and get a certain fraction (at least 30 acres) under crop inside three years to receive a title to the land.

Again, looking at modern maps, we find no farms at the site given as 'Westlands'. In fact the whole town of New Osgoode seems to have vanished, swallowed up by the mega-farms in the area and the post office seems to have closed sometime in the 1950's.

Like many émigrés, Oscar joined the army when the call went out for more men to replace those lost in the slaughter on the Western Front in 1916. His attestation papers (fig 1 overleaf) show him to have been 6ft tall with, blue eyes and brown hair. He signed up at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on 4th April 1916. He listed his trade as Farmer and also stated that he was unmarried.

Tables 1 and 2 show the dates of all the letters he sent from Europe back to his mother in Canada. All the covers are only addressed to Mrs F Hurley and it is intriguing to

5
2

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 234634
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your surname?	HURLEY
1a. What are your Christian name?	OSCAR FRANK
1b. What is your present address?	NEW OSGOODE GASE
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?	BISHOP'S WALTHAM ENGLAND
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?	FRANK HURLEY
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?	NEW OSGOODE GASE
5a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?	FATHER
6. What is the date of your birth?	MAY 17th 1891
6. What is your Trade or Calling?	FARMER
7. Are you married?	NO
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?	YES
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?	NO
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state performance of service.	NO
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagements?	YES
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force?	YES

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, OSCAR FRANK HURLEY, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date, APRIL 5th 1916 *Oscar Frank Hurley* (Signature of Recruit)
J. H. ... (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, OSCAR FRANK HURLEY, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as it duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date, APRIL 5th 1916 *Oscar Frank Hurley* (Signature of Recruit)
J. H. ... (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above named was questioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence. I have taken due care to understand each question, and that his answers to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at PRINCE ALBERT this 5th day of APRIL 1916
W. D. ... (Signature of Justice)

M. P. No. 24.
1914-1916.
H. C. 1778-246.

Fig 1 Attestation papers signed by Hurley in Prince Albert when he signed up in April 1916.

wonder why he did not list his father in the address. Were they estranged because of the decision by the son to enter a war that the father considered they were no part of? He arrived in France in January 1917 which matches the six months of training he would have received prior to going overseas.

I have only illustrated a few of the covers (figs 2 to 7) as they are very similar and therefore a bit repetitive. Separate illustrations show the transit cancels on the reverse of the cover. The majority of the covers (the exception being cover number 17) had stamps applied in Winnipeg and cancelled by a Winnipeg machine slogan cancel. The majority of the stamps are 2 cent plus 1 cent tax brown coil stamps (Unitrade MR7); seven die I, and seven die 2. The three Field Service postcards and covers had 2 cent carmine coil stamps (Unitrade 127) applied.

Table 1. Covers from Private Hurley in France to Mrs F Hurley in Canada

Cover Number	Date of Posting and APO/FPO Number	Arrived in Winnipeg	Transit Cancels and Dates	Censor Number	Censor Name
1	January 8 th APO S22	Jan 24 th	Tisdale (Jan 26 th) Autoroad (Jan 26 th) New Osgoode (Jan 28 th)	3812	
2	January 12 th APO S22	Jan 30 th	Tisdale (Feb 1 st)	3812	S Richards
3	January 15 th APO S22	Jan 30 th	Tisdale (Feb 1 st)	3812	
4	February 3 rd FPO 2B	Feb 23 rd	Tisdale (Feb 26 th) Autoroad (Mar 1 st)	Indistinct Plus Tape	H Platt
5	February 8 th FPO 2B	Mar 12 th	Tisdale (Mar 14 th) New Osgoode (Mar 15 th)	2488	Henry Booth Andrews
6	February 19 th FPO 2B	Mar 13 th	Tisdale (Mar 15 th) New Osgoode (Mar 16 th)	Tape 6030	Honour Envelope
7	February 23 rd APO RP3	Mar 20 th	Autoroad (Mar 26 th)	2662 plus Tape 3905	Robert James Davidson
8	February 28 th APO RP2	Mar 20 th	Autoroad (Mar ??)	2662 plus Tape 3563	Robert James Davidson
9	March 15 th FPO T62	April 8 th	Tisdale (Apr 10 th)	2483 plus Tape ??58	AS Fleming
10	March 23 rd FPO 184	April 15 th	Tisdale (Apr 17 th)	2378 plus Tape 3677	James McClintock
11	April 7 th FPO 184	April 23 rd	Tisdale (Apr 25 th) New Osgoode (Apr 26 th)		Honour Envelope
12	April 9 th FPO 184	April 29 th	Tisdale (May 1 st)	2878 plus Tape	James McClintock
13	April 13 th FPO 184	May 10 th	Tisdale (May 12 th) New Osgoode (May 16 th)		Field Service Card
14	April 21 st FPO 184	May 10 th	Tisdale (May 12 th) New Osgoode (May 16 th)		Field Service Card
15	April 26 th FPO 184	May 20 th	Tisdale (May 22 nd)	Tape 3922	Honour Envelope
16	April 29 th FPO 184	May 18 th			Field Service Card
17	May 8 th FPO H5	Montreal (May 26 th)	Tisdale (May 31 st)	Tape 6129	Honour Envelope

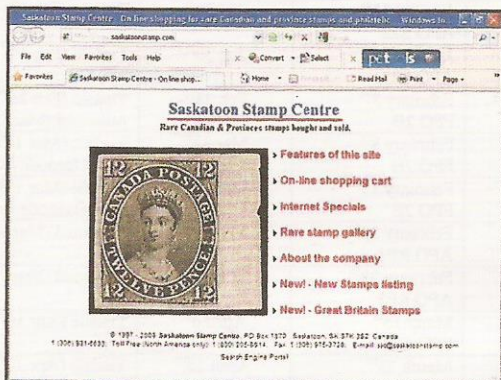
Table 2 Covers from the Military Hospital Eastleigh to Mrs F Hurley in Canada

Cover Number	Date of Posting	Arrived in Winnipeg	Transit Cancels
1	May 19 th	June 6 th	Tisdale (June 9 th) New Osgoode (June 13 th)
2	May 23 rd	June 13 th	Tisdale (June 15 th) New Osgoode (June 20 th)
3	May 27 th	June 15 th	Tisdale (June 18 th) New Osgoode (June 20 th)

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Fig 2 Cover 2 in Table 1. Y.M.C.A envelope posted in France on 12 January 1917 at APO S22. The cover has a black oval censor cancel number 3812 and the signature of S Richards. The cover was stamped in Winnipeg on 30 January 1917.



Fig 3. Reverse of cover 4 in Table 1 showing the transit cancels of Tisdale and Autoroad. The cover also shows the censor tape used to reseal the envelope.

I have listed the dates of posting as evidenced by the Field Post Office (FPO) or Army Post Office (APO) cancel but many letters also have a manuscript notation of the date of writing (usually one or two days prior to the cancel). A letter posted on January 8th (cover 1 in the table) shows that he was in the Etaples area (APO S22 used to cancel the cover). This was the major military marshalling camp in the Pas de Calais and the usual arrival camp for new recruits. The letter reached Canada on January 24th and New Osgoode, Saskatchewan on January 28th (via Winnipeg, Tisdale, and Autoroad). He remained there until between January 15th (covers 2 and 3 have the same cancels APO S22) and February 3rd when his letter home (cover 4) was cancelled by FPO 2B. This was used in the Arras area.

He now remained in the Arras area until February 19th as covers 4, 5 and 6 all received FPO 2B cancels. On February 23rd, he sent a letter home from APO RP3. This was used by the 3rd Canadian Division Railhead and was linked to a movement of his regiment to the Somme area. Cover 8, posted on February 28th, was cancelled with APO RP2, 2nd Canadian Division Railhead in the Givency/Somme area. By March 3rd, he was on the move again as his next letter (cover 9) was sent from FPO T62 the Division Train of the 4th Canadian Division.

By March 23rd (cover 10), he was back in the Arras area where troops were massing for the assault on Vimy Ridge. This is the first cover which can be positively identified as showing he belonged to the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade and was in the 27th City of Winnipeg Battalion as the censor was Lt. James McClintock of that Regiment.



Fig 4. Cover 10 in Table 1. This plain envelope was posted in France on 23 March 1917 and is cancelled FPO 184. The cover has a black oval censor mark and the signature of Lieutenant James McClintock (who was to be killed in action during the attack on Vimy Ridge). The cover is also re-sealed with censor tape numbers 3677.

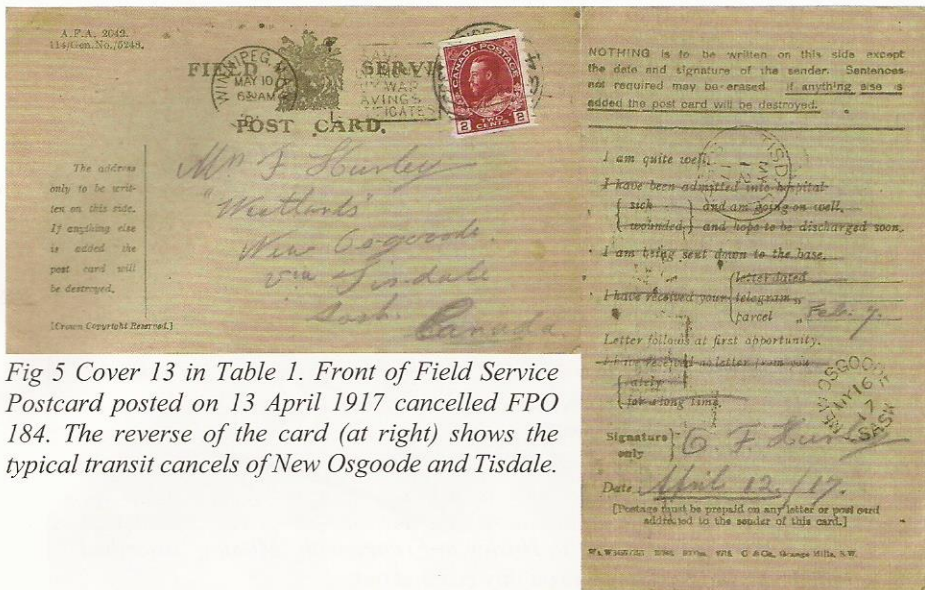


Fig 5 Cover 13 in Table 1. Front of Field Service Postcard posted on 13 April 1917 cancelled FPO 184. The reverse of the card (at right) shows the typical transit cancels of New Osgoode and Tisdale.

Covers 10 to 16 were all cancelled with FPO 184 used by the Canadian 6th Division during its stay in the Arras/Vimy Ridge area from March to May 1917. Two letters were sent home dated April 7th and 9th (covers 11 and 12) around the time of the assault on Vimy Ridge. April 9th was the date of the attack on Vimy ridge and cover 12 was censored by Lt James McClintock on the day before the attack. Sadly, this was one of the last things he did as he was killed in the attack, aged 33, and is buried in the Ecoivres Military Cemetery, near Arras.

Two Field Service cards (covers 13 and 14) show that he was actively involved in operations between April 13th and 21st in the Arras and Givency areas. A Green Honour Envelope (cover 15) shows that he was in reserve again by April 26th but on April 29th another Field Service Card (cover 16) shows that he was preparing again for action.

Perhaps the most telling cover in this collection is the only cover sent from Tisdale to Hurley whilst he was in France. Covers to First World War soldiers are not common as the troops had better things to do than keep a lot of covers from home. This is dated April 23rd 1917 and has had 'Missing' in manuscript inscribed on the front. The reverse has a cachet applied and signed by the Assistant Adjutant of 27th City of Winnipeg Battalion (Captain James Thornton?) and manuscript 'Missing after Action 3/5/17'. This was the date of the Battle of the Scarpe which his battalion was involved in. Also added in Hurley's hand is 'Was afraid you might get some of these returned unopened and marked this way'.

Cover 17 is the most damaged in the collection and was possibly roughly opened by Oscar's mother after receiving a letter via a different route to normal. The cover is from



Fig 6a. Front of cover sent to Hurley in France with 'Missing' inscribed on the front and the address roughly crossed out.

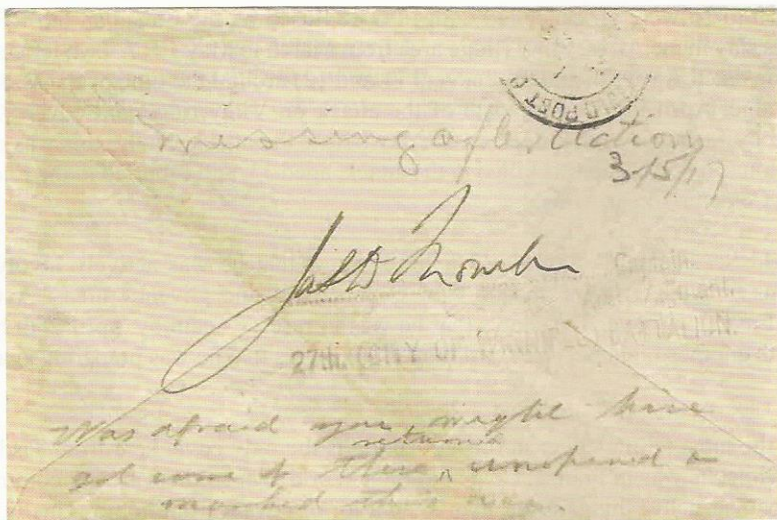


Fig 6b. Reverse of the cover sent to Hurley in France with the cachet of the Battalion and the signature of Captain James Thornton. The cover is annotated in manuscript 'Missing after Action 3/5/17'. Also added in Hurley's hand is 'Was afraid you might got some of these returned unopened and marked this way'.

an FPO (H5) which is not normally seen on Canadian military mail and had also come through Montreal rather than Winnipeg. If she had already been informed that he was missing, she would have been desperate for news especially receiving a cover which



Fig 7 One of the three covers sent from the Military Hospital in Eastleigh, Hampshire to Canada with the boxed red cachet 'POSTED BY A / WOUNDED SOLDIER / MILITARY HOSPITAL / EASTLEIGH'.

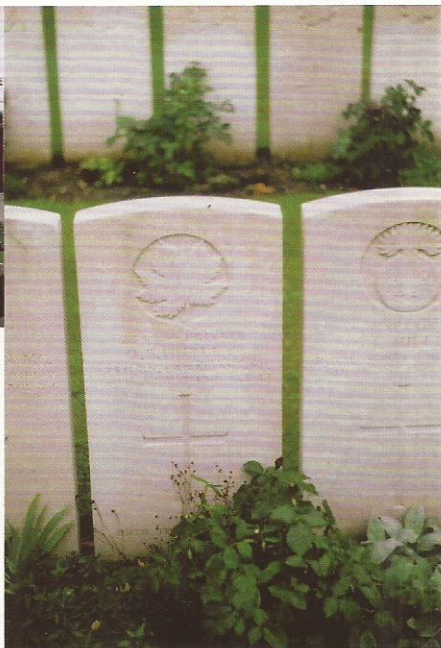
was posted five days after he had been listed missing. The operation around the Scarpe also involved British troops and it is likely that he was knocked unconscious and collected by British stretcher bearers. If he had also lost his identification tags he may have been unidentified for sometime and hence listed as missing. The last three covers are all postmarked in the UK (Eastleigh, Hampshire) and have the cachet in red 'POSTED BY A / WOUNDED SOLDIER / MILITARY HOSPITAL / EASTLEIGH', and are postmarked between May 19th and May 27th 1917.

One would have liked to think that this was the end of the story but sadly Oscar returned to his Battalion and fought on before being killed in action on August 26th 1918. The Circumstances of Death Registers, First World War states 'At the beginning of an attack from east of Beaurains to the south east of Wancourt and shortly after leaving the jumping off position he was killed by concussion caused by the explosion from a high explosive shell nearby.' He is buried in the small Achicourt Road Military Cemetery, on the edge of Arras. I visited his grave in August 2006 and the last pictures show his last resting place (see fig 8 overleaf).

The family did not remain long in Canada and returned to the UK on 1st May 1919 leaving from St John, New Brunswick on board the 'Minnedosa' bound for Liverpool. The family settled back in Hampshire at Hazelholt, Huxford,. Oscar's father, Francis Hurley, died in 1921 aged 61 and his sister, Greta, died in 1965 aged 72 in Devon.



Fig 8 Photographs of Achicourt Road Military Cemetery on the outskirts of Arras and the headstone of Hurley's last resting place there.



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NEWFOUNDLAND VIGNETTES (16)

Post-Contemporary Usage of the 1892 UPU Stationery Postcards

Dean W. Mario

Newfoundland's 1892 2 cent Deep Scarlet and 2 cent Deep Scarlet Reply Universal Postal Union postal stationery attached cards were similar to those printed for use within the U.P.U. They were first authorized by the Paris U.P.U. Congress in 1878. The Newfoundland examples were printed in two settings by the British American Bank Note Co., of Montreal.

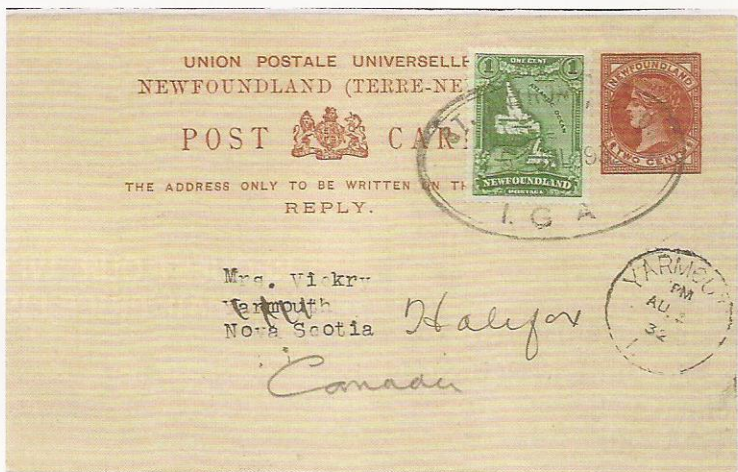
Given the remainders which presumably existed into the 1920's and 1930's, the original cards appear to have been unpopular with residents. Ever frugal, and in keeping with the poor economic situation in Newfoundland at the time, postal officials decided to "revive" and re-issue the unused cards by separating the message and reply halves and sold them as single-use pre-paid postcards.

This "recycled" commercially-printed reply card, postmarked 25th July, 1932, (shown below) is from the International Grenfell Association at St. Anthony to a quilt donor in Nova Scotia.

References:-

Boggs, W.S. The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland. Lawrence, MA: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1975, 162-163.

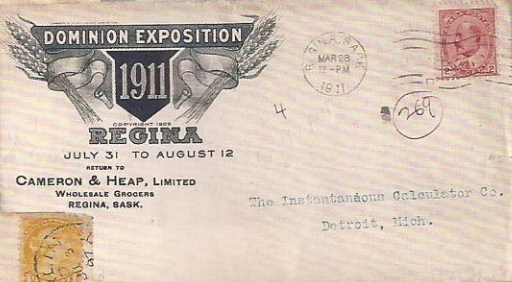
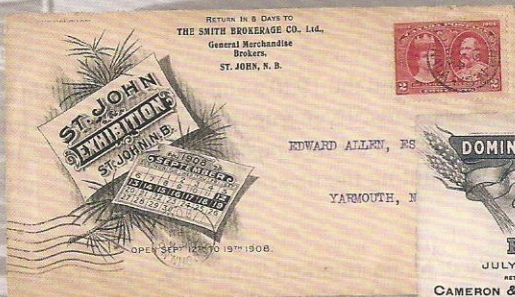
Harrison, H.W. Newfoundland Postal Stationery, 1873-1941. BNAPS Exhibits Series #18, March 2000, 69-73, 98-102.



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CANADIAN COMMEMORATIVES OF THE QEII ERA (PART 2) – SOME TRUE RARITIES

John Burnett, OTB

In the October 2013 Maple Leaves I wrote what I hope you saw as a complement to the wonderful article by John Watson on the subject of QEII postage rates.

I want to continue with one I think you will come to agree is a true rarity in Canadian Philately, but first let me set the stage.

In 1999 Canada Post issued a souvenir "Millennium Collection" book which was hard bound for the rather steep price of \$59.99, I bought two copies and show a picture of one of my books still in its shrink wrap in fig 1. It is important to note two very

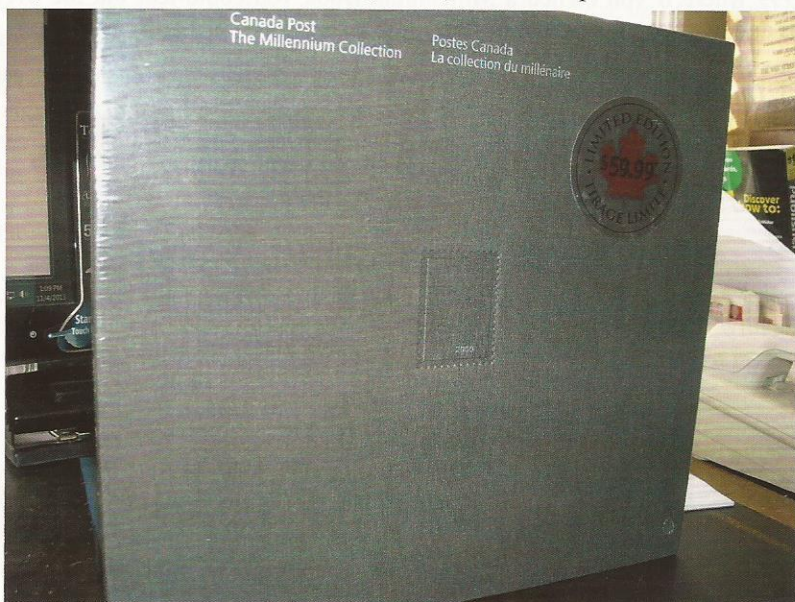


Fig 1. The Millennium Collection hardbound book as sent out by Canada Post on 15 September 1999.

important issues, (a) this book was pricey and (b) it was a limited edition. The book contained 68 stamps that were printed in sheets of two stamps especially for this book. The total face value of the stamps was just \$31.28 meaning you had to spend approximately a 90% premium for the stamps as they were only available in the book. For this reason and because the book was limited to only 200,000 copies the stamp catalogues were not going to recognise these stamps of Canada. As a result Canada Post made a hasty decision and printed the stamps as miniature sheets of four and issued them from

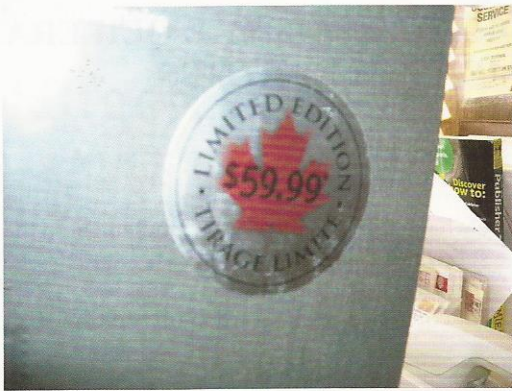


Fig 2. The label on the book clearly stating this is a limited edition release from Canada Post.

17 December 1999 until 17 March 2000 (Scott numbers 1818 - 1834) This created a window of 93 days (81 days if you remove Sundays) from 15 September to 17 December 1999 where if you owned a Millennium Book you could tear out the overpriced stamps and use one of them on a letter.

Fig 3. One of the 17 miniature sheets produced by Canada Post under threat of boycott of their Millennium Book stamps.



Now comes the fun and the description of rarity. My mother, who lived in Vancouver at the time and was very sensitive to my collecting interests, saw the value in buying a book tearing some of the stamps out and using them in her weekly letter to me, she didn't use them all as I have her partially destroyed book in my office today. My mom sent 19 letters to me in the window of opportunity 15 September 1999 – 17 December 1999. Not all the letters arrived with legible dates on the cancellation as she did not ask for any special handling. Opposite is one of her covers sent to me, clearly showing a 1 December 1999 cancellation date. This stamp was from the section on Medical Innovators and featured Sir Frederic Banting the developer of insulin. Because the letter is addressed to me in Alabama it has had the addition of a 9¢ definitive stamp to make up

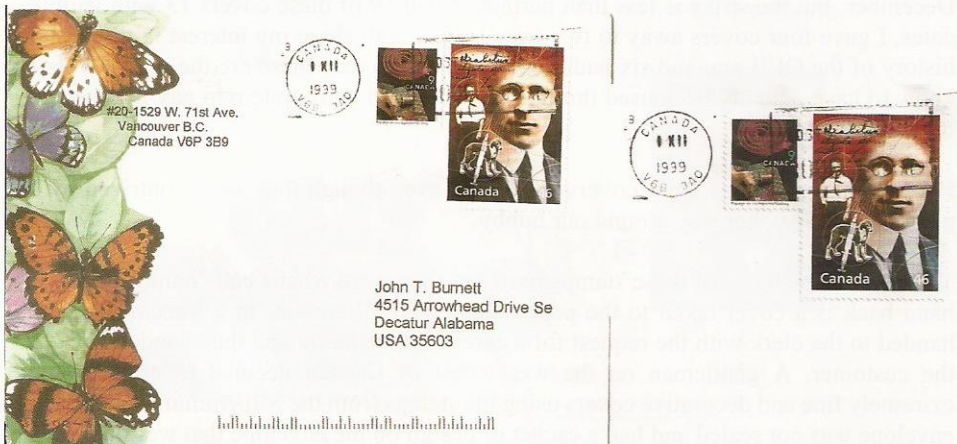


Fig 4 One of the Burnett letters mailed from Vancouver to Alabama with the necessary up rating to pay the USA postage rate and shown beside a close up of the very legible date showing it sent before the issue of the miniature panes by Canada Post.

the 55¢ rate to the USA. As I said earlier my mom was sensitive to my postal history collecting and had gone out and purchased a few very decorative envelopes to use on her mail. I had talked to her about postal history on a couple of my visits and had mentioned how an illustrated envelope enhances a postal history piece. She also sent multiple pieces on the same day, a lot of the covers I have with the legible dates in the cancellation were sent on 1 December 1999.

Another one of her covers features Vashon Company the makers of snack cakes and comes from the Enterprising Giants section of the book, this one was sent with another of her choice illustrated envelopes. The date is clearly 1999 and I believe it is also 1

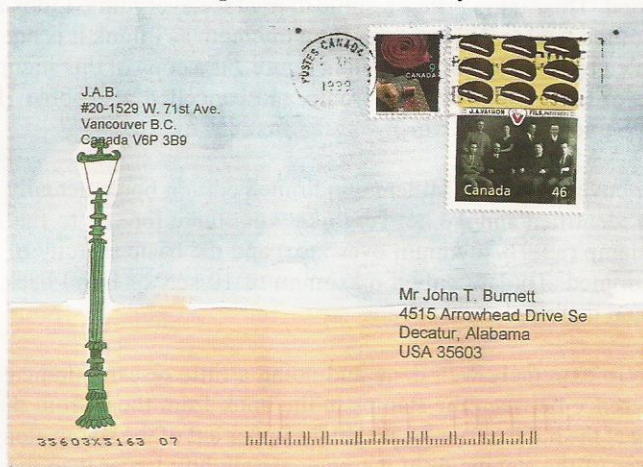


Fig 5 Another of the Jessie Burnett covers utilizing the stamps from the Millennium Book this one featuring the 46¢ J.A. Vashon commemorative stamp with a 9¢ definitive

December but the strike is less than perfect. I had 19 of these covers 13 with legible dates, I gave four covers away to two friends who both share my interest in the postal history of the QEII era, and six had illegible dates. To date these are the only covers I know to have actually been used through the Canadian mail system to pay for postage on a letter.

For this reason I judge these covers to be rare, even though they were contrived by a person who knew her way around our hobby.

There are some more of these stamps used but they were what I call "hand backs"! A hand back is a cover taken to the post office or postal counter in a franchise office, handed to the clerk with the request for a careful cancellation and then handed back to the customer. A gentleman on the west coast of Canada decided to create some extremely fine and decorative covers using the stamps from the Millennium Book. Each envelope was not sealed and had a cachet or design on the envelope that was drawn by his wife and meaningful to the stamp's subject. Each stamp was cut out of the book that left a margin around the stamp to prove it came from the book. I spoke with the creator via email and he told me he created nine or ten sets from books, he couldn't remember the exact number, he has sold a number of them on ebay. He also mentioned that a few were mailed from eastern post offices when he and his wife were on a trip to visit family I obtained a set and show a two of them here.

Shown in figure 6 is the use of the Guy Lombardo commemorative stamp and the very decorative cover is addressed to the Guy Lombardo museum in London, Ontario. This stamp comes from The Extraordinary Entertainers section of the book.

My favourite stamp from the Millennium Book is from the Food, Glorious Food, section of the book and features the commemorative for Frederick Tisdale, for his Pablum Baby Food. This stamp brings a smile to my face every time I look at it. I wish it had been one of the legible dated stamps from my mom as I think it is one of the best stamps ever created by Canada Post. Shown in figure 7 is a copy of this stamp addressed to the Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto and cancelled at Cobble Hill, British Columbia on 15 September 1999 which was the first day of issue.

To date no other covers from the Millennium limited edition book, actually used in the mails have been identified and are not very likely out there for you to find because of the cost of the stamp (a 90% premium over face) and the basic scarcity of them, only 200,000 books printed. To date only a maximum of 10 sets of Hand back covers are known to exist and that's only 680 covers.

These stamps were extremely well done and doing a little research indicates that you can tell the difference between the stamps in the book from those from the miniature panes by looking at the hidden date located in the upper left of the stamp along the frame line. The numbers of the stamps from the book are slightly larger than those from the miniature panes. I must admit these tired old eyes can barely see the date let alone measure it!

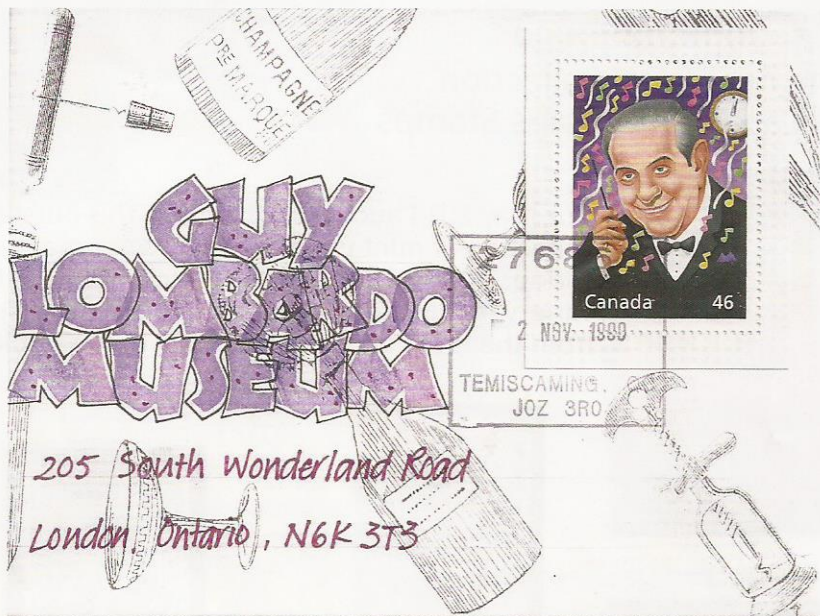


Fig 6 One of the ten known copies from the "Hand Back" set created in British Columbia, featuring Guy Lombardo, band leader mailed from Temiscaming, Quebec on 2 November 1999.

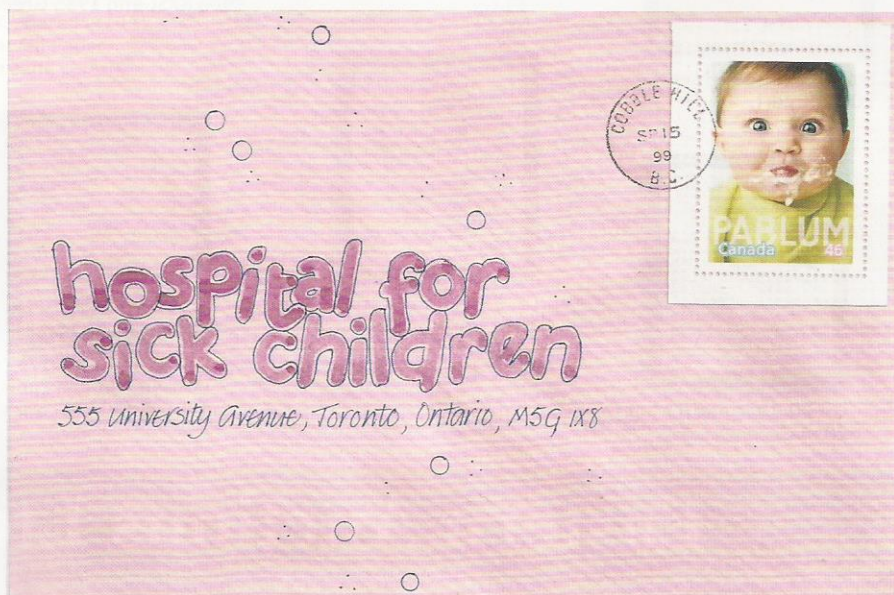
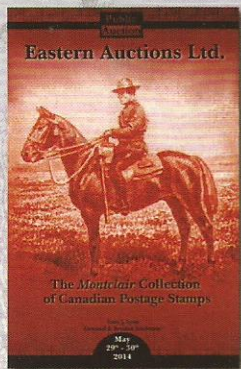


Fig 7 One very funny stamp created in the "Hand Back" set and cancelled at Cobble Hill British Columbia on the first day of issue.

May 29th - 30th, 2014
 The *Montclair* Collection
 of Canadian Postage Stamps



Our May 2014 auction will feature this outstanding collection of mint Canada. The owner made a serious attempt to acquire every Unitrade listed variety in mint condition. Rare and elusive stamps from the first pence issue to back of the book about



Lot 1: Unitrade 1 Mint OG
 2001 PF cert.



Lot 2: Unitrade 3 Unused
 1953 PF and 2001 Greene certs.



Lot 16: Unitrade 7a Mint OG
 1966 RPSL and 1985 Greene cert.



Lot 20: Unitrade 9 Mint OG
 2014 Greene cert.



Lot 23: Unitrade 10 Mint OG
 2014 Greene cert.



Lot 50: Unitrade 17v
 Unused "Double Epauettes"
 1986 & 1998 Greene certs.



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Session One: Lot 1 - 222
Thursday May 29th, 2014
1851 Pence to 1908 Québec Tercentenary



Lot 67: Unitrade 21b Unused
 Watermarked; 1998 Greene cert.



Lot 72: Unitrade 22iii Mint OG
 "Burr" variety; 2007 Greene cert.



Lot 95: Unitrade 28 var.
 Unused, Very rare
 Duckworth Paper Type 9a.



Lot 97: Unitrade 29a, v,
 Mint OG, Rare Perf 11½x12
 on Bothwell Paper
 2014 Greene cert.



Lot 104: Unitrade 30d
 Unused, Script Watermark
 2002 Greene cert.



Lot 144: Unitrade 43b + 43ii
 Imperforate pair with Major Re-entry



Lot 131: Unitrade 37iv Used
 Kiss - Double impression



Lot 212: Unitrade 88B-88C Mint OG
 Port Hood Provisionals; ex. Dale-Lichtenstein



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EARLY CANADIAN DROP LETTERS 1831 - 1859

Colin Banfield FCPS

The first mention I can find of special rates for drop letters in Canada comes, somewhat bizarrely, in "The Postal History in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick" (1) where it says: *In 1830, Thomas Stayner, the Deputy Postmaster General of Canada proposed to the Postmaster General in London that the British charge of 1 penny for drop letters be introduced into Canada. The PMG agreed and instructed Stayner to proceed with the necessary arrangements. In 1831, the 1 penny drop letter rate was established in Canada and at the post offices in New Brunswick under Canadian jurisdiction.*12* -There is a footnote here which states General Post Office, London, Packet minute books no.450G/1831 May 27, 1831.

The concept of lower rates for local letters was well established by this time in Great Britain and Ireland where parliament had authorised the establishment of local penny posts in any town or city back in 1765.

Examples of drop letters mailed prior to 1836, when the Bill for the Management and Regulation of the Post Office in Lower Canada was enacted, are uncommon but I can illustrate two (figs 1 and 2) which show different rates.

The first (fig 1 below) was headlined Montreal but taken outside the mails to Quebec by favour and placed in the post office there on 9 August 1831. The letter was rated 2



Fig 1-Drop letter mailed in Quebec in August 1831 and charged 2 pence.

(pence Currency) in black; a charge that may have included delivery by the letter carrier. There is a manuscript marking on the reverse of this letter reading 'Mill Stone Manufacturing / £60-10-' which might indicate that the letter contained money but it carries no Money Letter marks.

The second (fig 2) is headlined Niagara, Upper Canada, but was taken by favour to Toronto and placed in the mail there on 7 August 1835. This example is a Money Letter and is clearly marked as such. It contained £50-10-0d Currency being the annual rental for the Niagara Ferry for the period from 1 July 1834 to 1 July 1835. This letter was rated 1 (pence Currency) in black. It would appear that this 1d rate for drop letters applied regardless of weight or number of enclosures making for a large saving on Money Letter postal charges.

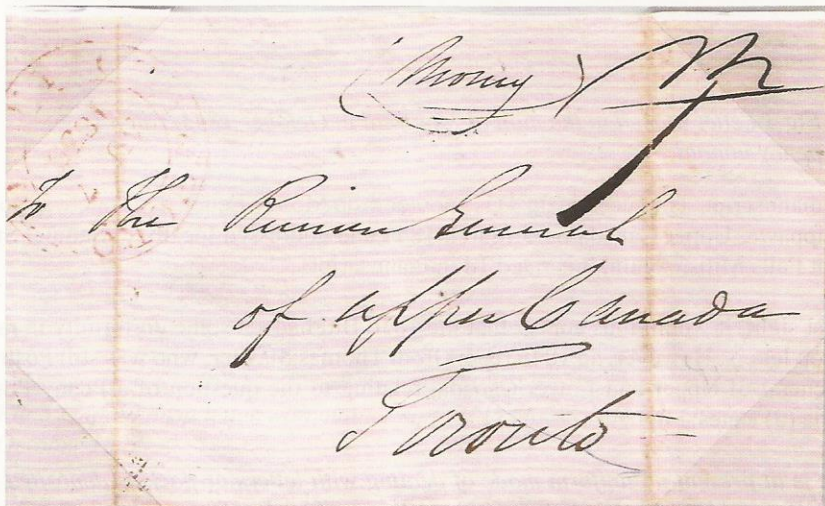


Fig 2 Drop Money Letter mailed in Toronto in August 1835 (courtesy of Graham Searle FCPS)

The aforementioned Bill for the Management and Regulation of the Post Office of 1836 reinforced the charges for drop letters, at least in Lower Canada. It stated:-

'... and be it further enacted, that it shall be lawful for His Majesty's Post Master General and his Deputy or Deputies, to demand and receive in respect of every Letter or Packet left or deposited at any Post Office not to be sent or conveyed by the Post but to be delivered at the Post Office where the same shall be so deposited; the sum of one penny, either of person by whom such Letter or Packet shall be left or deposited, or of the person to whom the same shall be delivered.'

Figures 3 and 4 (overleaf) show two examples of drop letters mailed in line with this Bill. The first of these (fig 3) is headlined Hull, Lower Canada, but was taken to Montreal by favour and placed in the Post Office there on 12 October 1843. It is rated



Fig 3 Letter placed in the mail at Montreal in October 1843, rated 1 penny unpaid.

1d in manuscript. The second (fig 4) is another drop Money Letter. This one was posted at Chippawa, Upper Canada on 5 March 1844 and addressed locally to Samuel Street Esq, at Falls Mills. Again, it is rated 1d in manuscript.

At first sight, it would thus appear that the 1836 Bill had set some uniformity in rating for drop letters. However, an 1846 report from Thomas Stayner, who was still Postmaster General of Upper and Lower Canada, relating to the question of a Penny Post in Canada (2) states:-

'there is at present no uniform mode of dealing with letters or packets deposited in a Post Office addressed to persons within delivery of such office, at the four principle offices in the Country'

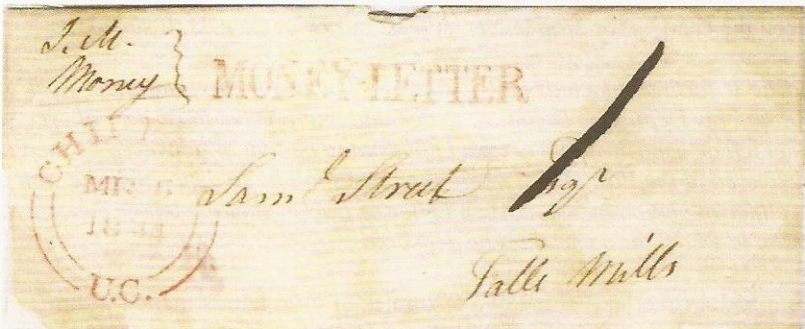


Fig 4 Drop money letter posted at Chippawa in March 1844. The manuscript 1 in black indicates one penny collect.

The four principle offices referred to here were Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Kingston.

Stayner's report went on to say:-

'... at Quebec such letters are rated at 2d each, whether delivered at the office or taken out by the Letter Carrier, - the whole goes to the credit of the General Post Office.'

An example of this practice at Quebec is shown in fig 5; an unpaid drop letter mailed there on 28 October 1847.



Fig 5 Unpaid drop letter with manuscript '2' in black posted at Quebec in October 1847.

Stayner continued as follows:-

'.... At Toronto it appears the Post Master charges a penny each on such letters as a perquisite of his own - (for the last year this produced a sum of £46-12-7d Currency) - and should the letter be taken out by the Letter Carrier he gets a penny gratuity. The Post Master however says that this gratuity is not executed by the Carrier, but that he is not directed to refuse it if offered.'

Fig 6 overleaf shows an example of this practice at Toronto. This unpaid drop letter was rated 1 (pence Currency) and was mailed on 27 December 1844.

Stayner's report continued as follows:-

'..... At Montreal all letters pay 1d to the general revenue, and if taken out by the Letter Carrier he receives another penny as a gratuity to himself.'

Fig 7 overleaf show two examples of this practice in Montreal; one unpaid from 1847 and one prepaid from 1850 but both rated at 1d Currency.



Fig 6 Unpaid drop letter with manuscript '1' in black posted in Toronto in December 1844.



Fig 7 Pair of drop letters from Montreal; the upper one sent unpaid in March 1847 and the lower sent paid in January 1850. Both are rated '1' (penny).

I will touch on the practice at the fourth 'principle' office of Kingston later.

The Post Office Department, which had hitherto been subject to Imperial Control from London, came under the total control of the Colonial Government of Canada on 6 April 1851. Just prior to this, a Notice to Postmasters had been issued from the General Post Office in Montreal dated 14 March 1851. This notice stated, in paragraph 9:-

'.... The charge on letters posted at an Office for delivery in the same City, Town, or Place, and any additional charge made on letters delivered at the residences of parties to whom they are addressed, are to remain as at present, until further instructions'.

An example of a drop letter consistent with this notice is shown in fig 8. This letter was mailed in Montreal on 17 March 1851 just three days after the notice was published.

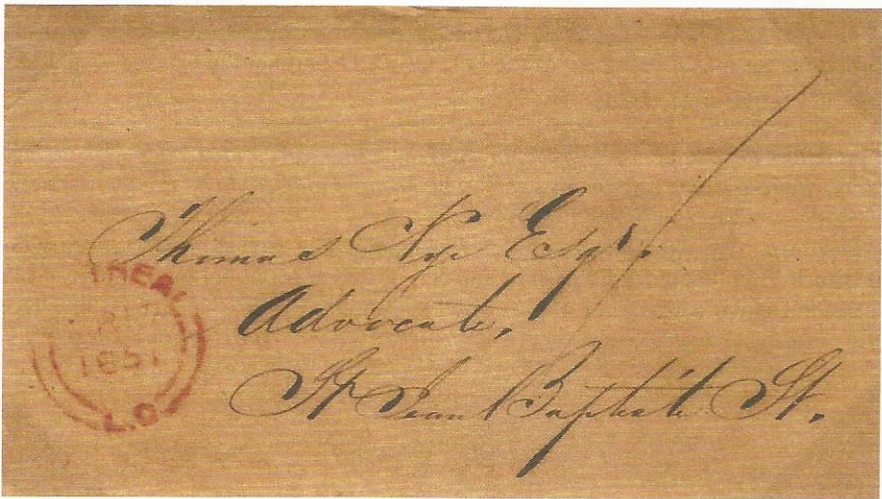


Fig 8 Drop letter with manuscript '1' in red indicating one penny paid, posted at Montreal on 17 March 1851.

However, the charge for drop letters was soon to change as the following letters from the Post Office show:-

To P.M. at Toronto, dated 17 April 1851:-

*'I am desired by the Postmaster General to instruct you that commencing tomorrow, what are termed 'Box Letters', i.e. letters posted at your Office for delivery at Toronto, are to be rated **one half penny per ½oz.**, if called for at the office, and **one penny per ½oz** if taken out by Letter Carrier. There is to be no further charge of any kind made upon the delivery of this class of letter.'*

W.H. Griffin, Sec'y.

To P.M. at Toronto, dated 12 August 1851:-

*' With reference to my letter of 17 April last on the subject of Box Letters, I have now to instruct you to charge **one half penny per letter** when delivered at your office and **1 penny per letter** when taken out by the Letter Carrier, instead of per half ounce as directed in my letter above.*

J. Morris, Postmaster General.

Similar letters were sent to the Postmasters at Montreal, Kingston, Quebec, Hamilton, Brockville, Belleville, Three Rivers, Bytown (now Ottawa), Cobourg and London.

I have never seen a heavy drop letter mailed in the period between April and August 1851 that might illustrate the apparently higher charges in effect in this short period. If any member has such a letter I would be delighted to see a scan of it.

The charges laid out in the August 1851 letter were reinforced in the Regulations and Instructions for the Government of the Post Office Department in Canada, dated 1852. These stated in part IV, paragraph 59:-

'... on letters deposited at an Office for delivery in the same place, called Drop of Box Letters, the rate is one half penny each, to be brought to account by Postmasters'.

Fig 9 shows two examples of this new $\frac{1}{2}$ d rate. The first is a drop letter with a handstruck $\frac{1}{2}$ in black, for half-penny collect, posted at Montreal on 31 August 1855. The second shows a similar example posted at London, Upper Canada on 3 July 1856.

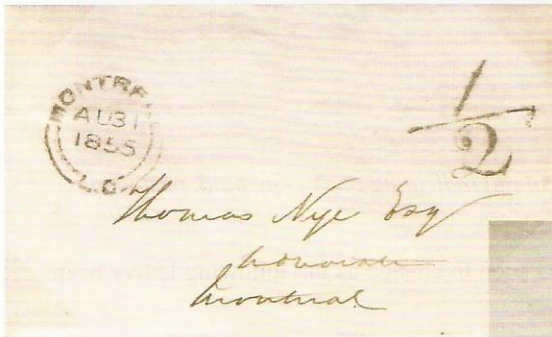


Fig 9 Two examples of drop letters from the mid 1850's showing the new $\frac{1}{2}$ penny rate.



It wasn't until 1857 that a postage stamp existed to pay the drop letter rate. Fig 10 shows an example of the ½d perforated stamp of December 1858 used on a drop letter mailed in Toronto in May 1859.

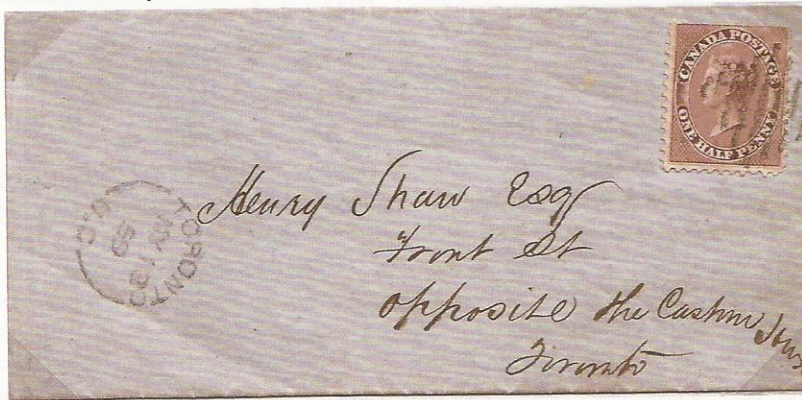


Fig 10 Drop Letter mailed in Toronto in May 1859 and franked with a perforated ½d stamp to prepay the rate (courtesy of Graham Searle FCPS).

So what of Kingston, I hear you ask? Stayner's report of 1846 had the following to say about Kingston:-

'..... at Kingston the Post Master delivers such letters at his office free of charge, and if sent out by the carrier a penny is received by the carrier, which is his fee for service.'

Fig 11 overleaf shows a Money Letter from 1842. Written by Adam Hubbs, the Inspector of Licences at Picton, this letter was carried by favour to Kingston and put in the mail there. It enclosed £22-15-0. The letter shows no rating and was doubtless not charged as Stayner's report indicates.

One would imagine that this practice at Kingston would have been ended by the very clear regulations of 1851 and 1852 noted above. However, fig 12 shows a later drop letter from Kingston. This letter is headlined Garden Island and was taken by boat to Kingston and placed in the post office there on 10 August 1855. Again no rating is shown and it appears that drop letters were still enjoying free service, although if handled in line with the regulations of 1851/2 it should have been charged ½d.

I would be very interested to hear from any member who has a copy of a drop letter from Kingston from this period which shows a rating so that we may determine when this office finally fell into line with the general Post Office regulations.

References:-

1. The Postal History of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by C.M. Jephcott, V.G. Greene and J.H.M. Young; published by Sissons, Toronto 1964.
2. Report from T.A. Stayner in Appendix F of the 1846 Sessional Papers (9 Victoria no 8) of Canada



Fig 11 Drop Money Letter dated 27 July 1842 in Kingston, Upper Canada showing no rating (courtesy of John Wright)



Fig 12 Later drop letter from Kingston, dated August 1855, also showing no rating.

Editors note:-

As an aside, this article from Colin manages to illustrate (in figures 2, 4 and 11) three examples of 'Drop Money Letters' out of only four that have been recorded. (For those interested, the fourth is shown on page 22 of Horace Harrison's book *Canada's Registered Mail 1802 – 1909* with a note saying one of only two known – proving that knowledge does grow!) Somewhat bizarrely, all three of these covers reside in collections in the UK. No doubt other examples must exist so if any of our members have other examples please let us know.

DUMB LUCK

John Hillson RPSL, FCPS

The editorial in January's issue of *Maple Leaves* suggested instances of real bargains discovered by members might be of interest so here goes

Avid followers of my occasional scribbling over the years will be aware I sold my original BNA collection in 1965 and went back to collecting penny blacks. Which is not as high-faluting as it might sound now as really nice copies could still be had for £2 or so. I had bought my first penny black at the age of 14 for 27/6d so you can see prices in those days just floated gently upwards. When I told my parents a few weeks later that someone had offered me £3 for it they thought I must know what I was doing, which as you will find out if you read further was a serious misjudgement on their part, but at least they stopped worrying about me spending my pocket money on bits of paper.

Anyway in 1965, although my BNA had gone (yes BNA not just Canada – I had tried to collect the lot!) I was a life member of this erudite Society and at that time we had a very active packet. So after much thought I decided I would collect Small Queens. The two reasons were, first, they looked simple, and second, inexpensive. Wrong on both counts but it took a while for that to sink in.

I went back to the dealer I had sold my collection to (Des Chamberlain who traded in Wimbledon) and asked if he had any of my Small Queens left. After expressing the opinion that all collectors, and in particular me, are nuts he admitted he had, and for £3.10/- I reacquired a few 2 cents, a lot of 5 cents, and about five 10 cents. He then offered me a pair of 1 cents on piece. "There you are" says he "2/6d" "What on earth for?" says I "they're off centre" (As you all know I only collect centred stamps with full original gum, particularly on cover) "RPO" says he.. "No it isn't – BC- stands for British Columbia", I replied. "H***, I read it as MC and paid 2/- for it – you can have it for 6d." was his riposte. Well I had to think about such a major outlay, but eventually I succumbed. Sometime later I borrowed our library's Small Queen file, to discover not only that one of the 10 cent I had retrieved had the major re-entry, but one of the 6d pair of 1 cent had the medium Strand of Hair. So I felt a bit happier about the centring (*figure 1*).



Fig 1. Left hand stamp of the pair shows the medium 'Strand of Hair' variety

A bit later, in 1968, when I lived in the Midlands, my job being a technical rep. as a supplier of rubber components to the Motor Industry, I relied on approval books from such firms as WE Lea and Stanley Gibbons. One book Gibbons sent me was full of 3 cent stamps, including an Indian red with a stitch watermark, which I bought. Also in it was the worst strip of three imaginable, the stamp on the left had a 'V' shaped gouge out of it and the stamp on the right a 3/8" tear. It was priced at 30 shillings for the strip as SG 80 or 81 – rose red shade. However, I thought it was Indian red, and as the stamp in the centre was sound although centred a little to the left I decided to take a gamble. I promptly removed the damaged stamps. Ten years later, after visiting the late Matthew



Fig 2

Carstairs and seeing his Small Queens, I thought it might be an idea to check the perforations of my gamble. Well, it was perf 12½. (figure 2). Left intact it would have been a unique strip of three but I don't care, though if I had known at the time what it was I might have left the torn stamp on instead of selling it to Peter Harris for £26. Yes, being a Scot, I don't throw anything away either!

It was in the mid 1980's when in 'Aba', the Glasgow stamp shop owned by the late Jimmy Gall who was an avid fan of a certain Scandinavian group, that I sat idling through a pile of remaindered sheets – for the second

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time – and noticed a pair of Small Queens on piece. Consisting of a rather disreputable imprint copy of the 3 cent and a 2 cent with a smudge of colour bottom right in the selvage. I thought to myself, ‘either that is a smudge of colour, or it is a stamp I have been looking for, for 20 years’. I asked the price. Visibly excited that he was going to sell me a Small Queen at last, Jimmy looked it up in Gibbons to find it was catalogued all of 5 pence, their minimum handling charge at the time. “Och, ye can have it”. So I did. Must be one of the nicest bottom latent entries in existence as I confirmed when I got it home. (Figure 3). I told Jimmy what it was next time I called - he was as delighted as I was, saying he would not have known what to charge for it even if he had known what it was. “Nor would I” said I, and at the time, that, believe it or not, was the gospel truth. One of nature’s gentlemen was Jimmy Gall; alas no longer with us.



Fig 3 2 cent latent entry on piece with a blow up of the variety at right.

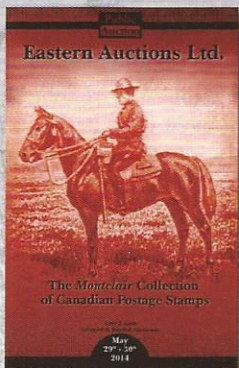
So the years roll on and the Hove CPSGB Convention is upon us; Dick Lamb was in attendance with some of his wares including a few Small Queen ‘Ghostly Head’ 6 cents on cover, very reasonably priced. Also one rather attractive early but ordinary 6 cent on cover priced at £20 which I acquired. I got it home, looked at it, and thought, what the devil do I do with this, as I had nothing to go with it on a display sheet. I looked at it again and thought, well that looks like perf 12 along the top and 11½ down the sides.....wait a wee minute!!

I got out my trusty *Instanta*. Sure enough, 11.85 along the top and bottom, 11.6 down the sides. I got out my copy of the Sir George Williamson to see what the measurements of his off cover copy was – the same. I perfed my copy again, still could not believe it. I photocopied it and checked the photocopy. After that, I sent a scan to Gibbons suggesting it be catalogued which it is.

A few years before this, I had stopped at the Colonial Stamp Company stand, probably at Stampex, and asked if they had any Small Queens. Only the 6 cent perf 12 x 11½, they said. “How much” I asked. \$3000 they said. “That is ridiculous” was my comment “I’ll come across one, one of these days.” Psychic or what?

Oh you want a picture of it, well look on page 261 of the January issue.

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Lot 248: Unitrade 108
 Mint OG Type B
 inverted lathework



Lot 288: Unitrade 118 Mint OG / NH
 Type D lathework; 2007 Greene cert.



Lot 302: Unitrade 120ii Mint OG / NH
 Unusually strong Type D lathework
 1992 Greene cert. ex. George Mar



Lot 334: Unitrade 158iv Mint NH
 Imperforate pair with "Man on the Mast"



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Session Two: Lot 223 - 492 Friday May 30th, 2014 Admirals to Back-of-Book



Lot 342: Unitrade 203ii Mint NH
Imperforate block with "Broken X" variety



Lot 378: Unitrade 1181a Mint NH
Inverted engraved inscriptions



Lot 465: Unitrade O10a Mint NH
Plate block no stop after "S" - very rare
1988 Greene cert.



Lot 362: Unitrade 341v Mint OG / NH
Imperforate vertically at left - Unique



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BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PACKET LETTER MARKINGS

Malcolm Montgomery M.B.E.

Every now and again a cover appears that is clearly in the 'wrong collection'. Unfortunately, the owner is rarely prepared to accept that it might be happier in a new home ... the example below could well have fallen into this category, insofar as I bought it for my collection of letters that passed through the Solent, and only after buying it realised that it rightfully belonged in a trans-Atlantic collection. Fortunately, I have one ... thus, two for the price of one.

The letter is quite scruffy, distinguished only by a 'PACKET LETTER / PORTSMOUTH' handstamp and the inscription '*Ship Hertfordshire Apl 9th 1847*' (that proved to be incorrect). However, it proved to have originated in Halifax, Nova Scotia at a time when the Cunard Line, operating out of Liverpool, had a virtual monopoly of British trans-Atlantic packet mail. The letter was a few days too late for '*Hibernia*' out of Halifax on 3rd April, and would have had to wait three weeks for the next sailing, '*Cambria*' out of Halifax on 3rd May (1). So the writer sent the letter to a private ship as the quickest, and cheapest, option.

That decision should have resulted in the letter being treated as a 'ship letter' on arrival in the United Kingdom, and the letter was charged eightpence in the first instance; however, this charge was changed to a shilling and the 'packet letter' handstamp applied to explain the higher charge (2). Justifying this charge has proved difficult, made more so because the writer misunderstood the ship's name. The explanation became apparent only by the discovery of entries in the London '*Daily News*' on 27th and 28th April



Figure 1: A letter from Halifax to London via Portsmouth, carried by a troop transport '*Herefordshire*' and charged a shilling as a packet letter.

1847 (3). It appears that the ship, named ‘*Herefordshire*’ not ‘*Hertfordshire*’, was for this voyage employed as a troop transport and although not on the complement of the Royal Navy, as was the general rule, was treated as a packet boat for the charging of any letters carried on board.

There remained one other question: although the actual date of departure of ‘*Herefordshire*’ is not known (any readers with access to Halifax newspapers please note) but it was on or after the 9th of April; the letter has a Portsmouth transit handstamp for 26th April, and the ‘*Daily News*’ refers to a fifteen-day passage. This was a fast crossing. The Cunard steamships of that time took twelve to fourteen days for the Halifax to Liverpool run and ‘*Herefordshire*’ was a large vessel, 1355 tons according to Lloyd’s Register (4). This turn of speed begs the question as to whether she was a steam vessel, but I have been unable to trace any record to support this ... any help would be gratefully received.

References:-

1. J.C. Arnell, ‘*Atlantic Mails*’, p. 291: ‘*Hibernia*’ out of Halifax, 3rd April for Liverpool 16th April 1847, ‘*Cambria*’ out of Halifax 3rd May for Liverpool 15th May 1847.

2. 2 & 3 Victoria, cap. 52, 17th August 1839: An Act for the further Regulation of the Duties on Postage until the Fifth Day of October One thousand eight hundred and forty. London Gazette #19808, Friday 27th December 1839, pp. 2717-2720. Treasury Warrant Reducing the Rates of Postage, effective 10th January 1840. Affirmed by 3 & 4 Victoria, cap. 96, 10th August 1840: An Act for the Regulation of the Duties of Postage.

3. Daily News, #284, London, Tuesday, 27th April 1847, p. 5: ‘*NAVAL: Portsmouth 26th April, A large transport, having troops it is said on board, arrived at Spithead this afternoon, at five p.m.*’

Daily News, #285, London, Wednesday, 28th April 1847, p.5: ‘*NAVAL: Portsmouth, 27th April, The large transport mentioned in the Daily News of yesterday, proved to be the Herefordshire, Capt. Richardson, from Halifax in fifteen days, with the 89th Regiment on board; she came into harbour this morning to land her troops, and to be paid off from her service.*’

4. Lloyd’s Register, 1847, ‘*H 298, Herefordshire, S (Ship), Richardson, 1355 tons, London.*’.

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Cavendish's London Manager

Ben Palmer, the renowned philatelic expert and author, has been appointed Manager of the Cavendish Gallery in London with effect from 1st Jan. 2014. Ben has extensive experience as a full-time philatelic describer; he has authored the definitive works on Pre-UPU Overseas Mail of Victoria (2009) and the Sydney Views on Cover (2013) along with numerous philatelic research articles. Ben has 6 International Gold Medals, and has served as a National Philatelic Judge and Commissioner for several years. His collecting interests currently include the NSW 1888/9 Commemorative Issues (from Proofs/Essays to major multiples) and NSW Postal Rates 1850-1912.



The Cavendish Gallery opened officially on 31st Jan. 2014. It is open initially on a 'by appointment only' basis.

The Cavendish Gallery is also available for small Society displays and meetings.

Please contact Ben direct on 0208 7857750 or ben@cavendish-auctions.com

Next Auction June 2014



Our September sale features fine covers from the Canadian section of The Derek Seaton Collection of Worldwide Postal History, 1750 - 1950



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Roy Ferguson

CANADA POST'S DECISION TO USE SURFACE-MAIL IN FUTURE.

For many years, I have been purchasing selective new issue stamps from the Canadian Post Office – Canada Post, and have always been happy with the level of service that I received.

From their excellent quarterly catalogue (which I think may now have ceased), I placed an order in mid September 2013. The charge for the stamps came through on my bank account on 27 September 2013. On 23 October, I wrote a letter to Canada Post stating that the consignment had not been received and that I was worried in case it had somehow been lost. Receiving no reply, I wrote again to the Canada Post Director of Stamp Services in Ottawa.

In early November, I received a letter from Canada Post stating that “our shipments are now sent surface mail and we allow 8 weeks before we replace or credit the order”. The shipment arrived on 19 November 2013, which co-incidentally was almost exactly 8 weeks after the despatch on 26 September 2013.

There was no warning from Canada Post that this method of shipment would be used, and I would have been saved a considerable amount of worry as to what had happened to the stamps if this had been done. I was particularly concerned because a small consignment of stamps had also been sent in late September and had been received in the normal short period of time.

I am now wondering whether to cease my 30 year interest in New Issue Canadian Stamps (for which Canada Post thanked me in their letter). I feel I would do better to stick to collecting the older issues.

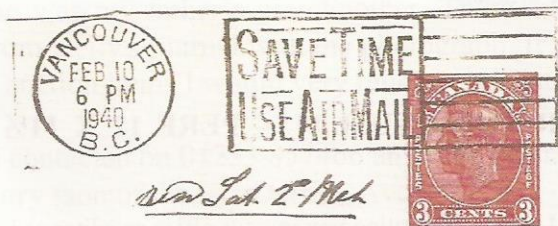


Fig 1. Canada Post Slogan cancel from an earlier age. Maybe there will be a new one reading ‘Save money - use surface mail!’

Ted Nixon

LOOK OUT FOR THE UNUSUAL – THOSE UNUSUAL LARGE QUEENS

Your excellent and very timely article in the Jan 2014 edition of Maple Leaves is highly useful and prompts a few thoughts from the expertising viewpoint. At the Greene Foundation we are dealing right now with Large Queens - ½¢ and 15¢ vertically meshed paper, perforated 11½ x 12 with a request for certification on Bothwell paper. We recently had another ½¢ with the same features. None of these stamps show a watermark.

I am quite aware of vertically meshed rather thickish paper used in the 1874-5 period for Small Queen stamps perforated 11½ x 12. We never call this Bothwell paper - just thick hard vertically meshed paper. So when I see Large Queens such as the ½¢ and 15¢ perf 11½ x 12 that happen to be on vertically meshed paper - I assume it is the same paper as used in the same period for the Small Queens - I have not called it Bothwell paper.

However your discovery poses a problem - clearly the watermarked Bothwell paper did get used in the 1875 period. I wonder if we need to do some more work on being sure there is a difference between these vertically meshed papers?

(Editor's note:- I forwarded Ted some information for the expert committee on paper comparisons of Bothwell printings from both 1868 and the rogue 1875/6 stamp, and the normal perf 11½ x 12 Large queen stamps of 1875 on vertically meshed paper. In my (inexpert) view these are clearly two quite different papers which just happen to both have vertical mesh.)

Regarding the blue gray 15¢ perf 11½ x 12, I can understand it being possible because we do see some Small Queens in 1881 perfed 11½ x 12. I wonder how far we can go in using Small Queen features including gum to help analyse Large Queens printed after 1870?

Once again a well done article.

Richard Thompson

LOOK OUT FOR THE UNUSUAL – PERF 12 X 11½ 6 CENT SMALL QUEEN

I am not sure whether I should be writing you in your office as editor or in your office as author. I have a 6¢ small Queen dated MR/28/73 of which the perforations measure 11.9 x 11.75. The shade is pale yellow-brown. I am of the opinion that this is what has been reported as 12 x 11½.

In the scan below (fig 2) I have tried to make the image the exact size of the stamp so that if you publish this, others could measure the perforations. Over the years I have found that it is very difficult to measure the perforations of stamps on cover or on piece. I am aware that other members will state that what I have is another item entirely so I propose we have a great perf-off at this years convention.



Fig 2

(Editors note: I have no illusions about the limitations of technology and suspect that the fig 2 will not allow for the kind of accuracy required to fully determine this matter. However, John Hillson has reported to me that all known copies of the perf 12 x 11½ variety show accurate perf measurements of 11.85 x 11.6 with the latter 11.6

being key to the perf 11½ designation, so it seems that Richard may have yet another perf variety!)

CLASSIFIED ADS

I have a full set of Maple Leaves from Volume 1 no 1 through to January 2012 which I would like someone to have. They are available **free** to any member or members' friend who would like them. The person needs to live locally to Blackpool or be able to collect them from there or I can arrange to meet in the Nottingham area (Kirkby in Ashfield) on my next visit.

Also I have lost a family photograph which possibly got mixed up with the stamp albums etc. which you kindly allowed me to sell at the Society Convention in 2012. It is of a very elegantly dressed older lady who was my father's grandmother. There may be two copied pages from Kelly's journal with the photograph. If anyone has found it in the auction items I would very much appreciate it's return.

I can be contacted on 01253 857466 any time or via the Editor.
Ted Avery (son of the late Derrick Avery)



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BOOK REVIEWS

The following titles have been 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/

Prices given below are the retail prices in Canadian Dollars. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. Shipping is extra. Credit card orders (Visa, MasterCard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus \$2 per order. To pay by cheque, please contact Ian Kimmerly Stamps directly for a total. For US\$ or £ cheque payments, amounts will be calculated at the current rate of exchange. Applicable taxes are payable for Canadian orders.

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.

POSTAL USAGES IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC AND LOWER CANADA UNTIL 1831, by Christiane Faucher and Jacques Poitras. 86 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound,. ISBN: 978-1-927119-28-0. Stock # B4h923.74.1, colour; \$C51.00

The year 2013 marks the 250th anniversary of the beginnings of an organized postal system in Canada. In honour of this, the husband and wife team of Jacques Poitras and Christiane Faucher created *Postal Usages in the Province of Quebec and Lower Canada until 1831* to illustrate the early development of the postal routes and means of transportation in the Province of Quebec, and later Lower Canada.

The exhibit is divided into six parts: "Letters from the French Regime" describes letters before the Treaty of Paris in 1763, the earliest shown dated 1697; "The first postal route" - along the St. Lawrence between Quebec City and Montreal; "The way to Halifax and Gaspé Peninsula" - the American War of Independence effectively cut off Quebec and points west from New Brunswick and points east, a situation that did not improve much until after the War of 1812; "Development of new routes after the Napoleonic wars" - the growing population of Quebec wanted mail service to villages and towns not along the St. Lawrence; "Populated areas left untouched by the postal system in 1831" - in that year Upper and Lower Canada both protested to Britain the lack of further development of the postal system; and "Maritime and transatlantic mail" - letters sent by steamboat on the St. Lawrence or by larger sailing ships to France and the United Kingdom.

For each item the authors describe the route, the means of transportation and the applicable rate(s), followed by "Other points of interest". Sometimes the route is simple and the means of transportation obvious, eg "Five miles by horse along the existing road." Sometimes it is not; for instance a 1789 letter sent from Quebec to Montreal, then on to Slave River in the Northwest Territories by voyageur canoe. Similarly, rates can be simple - 9d currency per sheet for a letter carried between 101 and 200 miles - or, for a letter travelling to the then fledgling United States, somewhat complex.

The notes in "Other points of interest" offer occasionally fascinating insights into the times. For example, a letter with the return address "De la grande maison" ("from the big house") was written by a prisoner in the Quebec City jail. Another, a "Way" letter delivered by hand to the postal courier on the Halifax to Quebec route, travelled the first part of its journey via a courier travelling on snow shoes! Many of the covers are "Favour letters", privately delivered because of the lack of postal services and not easy to find.

Overall, this short display provides a fascinating insight both into the postal history of the period and into life in the early years of the province. Many of the letters; some noted above and others to and from the islands in the St Lawrence are very rarely seen outside of the official archives. Highly recommended.

CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND WARTIME RATION BOOKS AND COUPONS, by Clayton Rubec. 122 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound. ISBN: 978-1-927119-29-7, Stock # 4h063.1.1 - \$C56.00

Rationing affected all citizens of Canada and Newfoundland during World Wars I and II. During WWII an extensive system of ration books with coupons or special forms for things less in demand, was developed. Food items such as milk, evaporated milk, tea, coffee, butter, dried eggs, sugar and meat were affected, as were commodities such as alcohol, gasoline, metals, rubber, timber, farm machinery and motor vehicles, and even items like electric stoves and hot-air furnaces. Temporary ration books were designed for service personnel home on leave so the amount of food available to their families would not be reduced during the visit.

Canada and Newfoundland Wartime Ration Books and Coupons examines mainly how the rationing system was administered during WWII, with extensive tables detailing its many variations and copious illustrations of the many different ration books, decals and coupons used. Ration coupons are thought of as both stamps and currency but perhaps are neither. They are an adjunct to collecting interests such as war savings stamps and bonds that were part of the war efforts of both nations. Regardless, numerous stamp and coin collectors are interested in the subject. As pricing for ration coupons, books and documents can be very robust, they are worth taking seriously. The author's objective in preparing this book is to expand knowledge of this interesting side-line to Canadian philately, and he has succeeded. With 'cinderella' subjects becoming increasingly popular in the wider world of philately this may prove to be an area of growing interest amongst BNA collectors.

FIRST DAY COVERS OF THE 1953 – 1957 CANADA WILDLIFE SERIES, by Gary Dickinson. 74 pages, 8.5 x 11, spiral bound, colour. ISBN: 978-1-927119-30-3. Stock # B4h064.1.1; \$C47.00

The Wildlife Series of stamps released between 1953 and 1957 was one of the Canada Post Office's earliest attempts to reflect the national landscape to its citizens and to those of other countries through the medium of postage stamps. The series grew out of the

National Wildlife Week Act that was passed by Parliament in 1947, largely to honour the work of pioneer conservationist Jack Miner.

A total of eleven stamps featuring animals and birds of Canada were issued, beginning with a trio of low denominations on 1 April 1953. A single 5¢ denomination concluded the series on 10 April 1957. One stamp, The 5¢ beaver of 1954, was also issued in booklet format, the first non-definitive stamp to be issued that way.

First Day Cover (FDC) cachet makers produced more than 300 different cachets, including variations, for the wildlife series. One New York maker had at least 35 different cachets, and other US makers were productive. Canadian cachet makers were also very busy during the series. About a dozen different postcards depicting animals or birds featured on the wildlife stamps were used as FDCs. A large number of hand-drawn and hand-painted cachets was produced and distributed by individuals. A few business firms and other organizations produced wildlife FDCs for promotional purposes. FDCs prepared for the Wildlife Series were a varied and diverse group. Canadian and American cachet makers produced a body of work that reflected well on their craft and served to promote the wildlife theme to a broad audience in Canada and abroad.

The book attempts to illustrate all of the known FDC's for these stamps. The first three chapters cover the 'special purpose' cachets (those specific to the subject of the stamps). These have been arranged in alphabetical order by cachet maker. These chapters are followed by two that cover the 'general purpose' cachets (those designed for any new stamps). There is then a chapter covering special topics which includes postcards created for the stamp issues, some entirely irrelevant cachets on FDC's (such as patriotic Victory Bonds cachets) and some beautiful hand drawn or painted FDC's .

Overall, FDC's have had a rather bad press in recent years with many stamp dealers and collectors consigning them to the 'junk' box. This book may serve to open a few eyes to the potential for some FDC's, at least, to provide an excellent subject for a collection.

HANDBOOKS FOR SALE

OUR STOCK CLEARING SALE CONTINUES INTO 2014!!!!

Our 2012/13 sale gave members some real bargains and the good news is that we are continuing the sale into 2014. 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*.

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LOOK OUT FOR THE UNUSUAL - SOME POSTAL HISTORY RARITIES

Graham Searle *FCPS*

My short article in the last issue on some rare early Canadian stamp varieties generated a good deal of interest so I thought that, in this issue, I would turn my attention to some postal history rarities.

Prior to the second world war, stamp collectors paid scant attention to postal history. Most, it seems, did exactly what it says on the tin and collected stamps – even going to the extremes of soaking rare stamps off of troublesome envelopes if they needed them for their collections. However, in more recent times interest has blossomed in all aspects of postal history and today the majority of our members collect stamps or postmarks on covers in addition to (sometimes instead of) the stamps themselves.

As collectors, of course, we are always drawn to the unusual or scarce. For collectors of covers, this can be unusual frankings, odd destinations, unusual dates or rare, short-lived, rates.

The first two covers I feature here both fall into this last category and both were sent to the same destination; although they were mailed some 107 years apart!

The first is shown in fig 1 below. This is a 6 cent Large Queen on cover. Not, of itself, such a rare item as the stamp was used to pay rates both to the USA and the UK during its short life. This cover, however, is addressed to neither of these destinations but

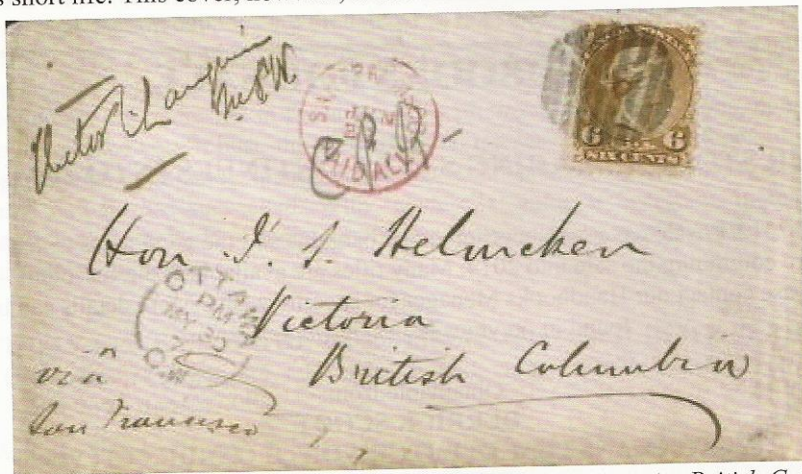


Fig 1 6 cent Large Queen used on a cover from Ottawa to Victoria, British Columbia and mailed on 30 May 1871 at the short lived 6 cents rate (courtesy of Brigham Auctions).

to British Columbia. Prior to 1 July 1870, the rate for mailing a letter from Canada to British Columbia was set at 10 cents but was reduced to 6 cents when the postal convention between the USA and British Columbia came into effect in July 1870. This 6 cent rate only lasted until 15 August 1871 after BC joined the Confederation and normal domestic rates (3 cents) became effective. (1)

The 6 cent rate, therefore, was in effect for only just over a year. Given the sparse population of British Columbia in 1870 and the relatively small volumes of mail that must have passed between the two colonies, it is not surprising that only three examples of this rare rate on cover to BC have ever been recorded.

The example shown in fig 1 was sold in the recent Brigham collection auction as lot 411 (this outstanding collection contained two of the three known examples). It sold for \$3000 plus all the usual add ons. So if you have any 6 cent Large Queen covers lurking in a drawer just double check the address on the envelope – you never know they may be worth more than you think!

Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Annual subscriptions for the 2014/15 year will fall due on 1st October 2014.

Subscription levels are:-

£22 for members resident in the UK

£25 for members resident in Europe (airmail delivery) and

£28 for members residing in the rest of the world (airmail delivery)

For members living in North America, the dollar equivalents are currently \$51 CAN or \$46 US

Payments made prior to 1st November 2014 will be eligible for a 'prompt payment' discount of **£2 or \$4** from the above amounts (these discounts automatically apply to payments made via Direct Debit arrangements).

Members may pay subscriptions by PAYPAL in any local currency via the Society website or by cheque from a UK, Canadian or US bank. If paying by PAYPAL you will have the option to pay for 3 years subscriptions at a 10% discount.

Cheques should be made payable to the Society and sent to:-

Malcolm Montgomery, Subscription Manager, Cae Glas, Llechwed, Conwy, North Wales LL32 8DX (**sterling cheques only**)

or to:-

Mike Street, 73 Hatton Drive, Ancaster, Ontario, Canada L9G 2H5 (**for cheques in CAN or US dollars**).

Members who have not paid the 2014/15 subscriptions by the end of February 2015 will be removed from the *Maple Leaves* circulation list.

My second cover is a far more modern, and apparently modest, affair. Fig 2 below shows a domestic registered letter mailed within British Columbia in March 1977. It is franked with a strip of three of the 25 cent Polar Bear stamp and a copy of the 12 cent QE2 stamp of that year, making a total rate of 87 cents.

Older members will recall that the period of the late 1970's and early 1980's was one of very high inflation in most western economies. The result was frequent and, sometimes excessive, increases in postal rates often accompanied with a good deal of political interference causing delays in implementation. All of this makes the 1977 – 1986 period an excellent (and relatively inexpensive) study topic for the postal historian.

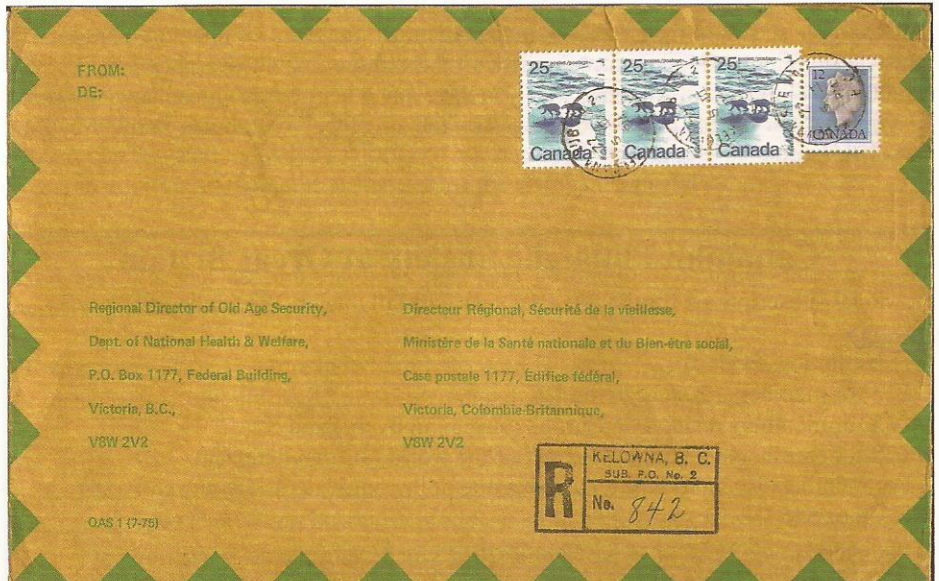


Fig 2 Domestic registered letter mailed on 5 March 1977 from Kelowna BC to Victoria BC and showing the short lived 87 cents rate in effect for only one month.

The particular 87 cents rate shown on fig 2 applied for just one month between 1 March 1977 (when the first class letter rate was increased from 10 cents to 12 cents) and 1 April 1977 (when the basic registration fee was increased from 75 cents to \$1). A similarly short-lived registered letter rate occurred between 15 January and 15 February 1983 (2) when a rate of \$2.26 for a registered letter applied. A cover showing this second rare and short lived rate is shown in fig 3 overleaf.

I have no doubt that quite a lot of registered letters were mailed during March 1977 but also that most of them ended up in the bin. The example in fig 2 was purchased recently on ebay for \$10; a lot to pay for a 1977 domestic cover but a bargain for the postal history rate collector. (For the record the cover in fig 3 was sold for \$46 - a high price indeed for a modern commercial cover and indicative of its true rarity).

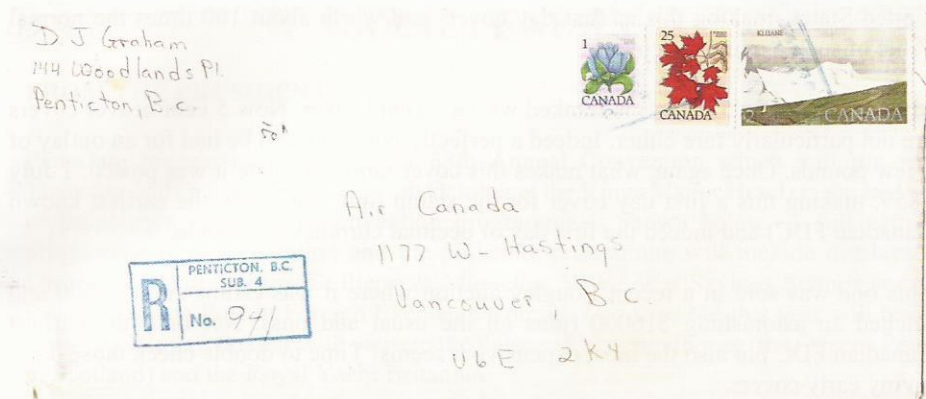


Fig 3 Domestic registered letter mailed in February 1983, also in British Columbia, showing the very short lived \$2.26 rate in effect for only one month.

It is clear which of the two BC covers shown in figs 1 and 2 is more valuable but which of them, I wonder, will prove to be the rarer in years to come? I leave you to judge.

My last two offerings show the importance of checking the dates on your covers. The letter shown in fig 4 below was franked with a 3 cent Small Queen. Now this is probably the commonest of all 19th century Canadian stamps on cover and this particular cover is decidedly tatty. What makes this cover interesting (and valuable) is the date it was mailed, 1 February 1875. This was the first day of the reduced 3 cent postage rate to the



Fig 4 3 cent Small Queen used on a letter from Elmira, Ontario to Minnesota on 1 February 1875, the first day of the reduced 3 cent postage rate to the USA.

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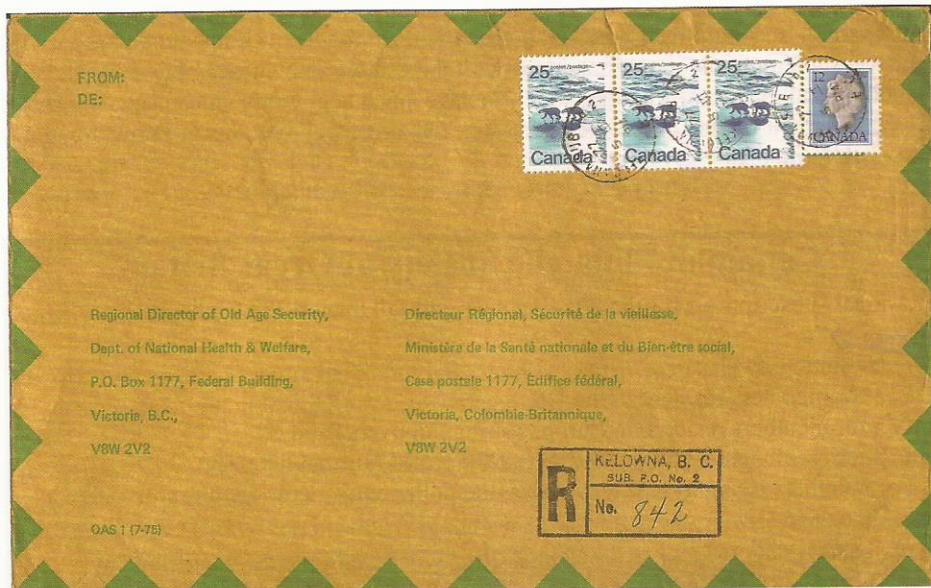


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United States, making this a 'first day cover' and worth about 100 times the normal value of such a mundane cover!

My last cover (fig 5 below) is franked with a 5 cent beaver. Now 5 cent beaver covers are not particularly rare either. Indeed a perfectly good one can be had for an outlay of a few pounds. Once again, what makes this cover rare is the date it was posted; 1 July 1859, making this a first day cover for the stamp (quite probably the earliest known Canadian FDC) and indeed the first day of decimal currency in Canada.

This one was sold in a recent Longley auction where it was estimated at \$3500 and fetched an astonishing \$16000 (plus all the usual add ons). Not only the earliest Canadian FDC but also the most expensive it seems! Time to double check those dates on my early covers.

Good hunting!



Fig 5 Domestic letter from Peterboro, Ont to Cobourg mailed on 1 July 1859, the first day of decimal currency in Canada and a first day cover for the 5 cent Beaver stamp (courtesy of Longley auctions).

**HAVE YOU TRIED TO ENROL
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Plans are progressing well for our 68th Annual Convention which will run from Thursday 2nd October to Monday 6th October at the Kings Manor Hotel on the east side of Edinburgh. The draft Convention Programme is shown below. A full partners programme is in preparation and the philatelic programme will include displays on Large and Small Queens, St Pierre & Miquelon, WW2 War Savings Stamps and the Role of Canada Post in Foreign Exchange Control. Our trips out this year will have a distinctly 'Royal' flavour with visits to the Palace of Holyroodhouse (the Queens Palace in Scotland) and the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Members should note one innovation in this year's programme; the addition of Informal Bourse sessions in the late evenings. Attendees are welcome to bring along material to Convention to sell in these sessions. A 10% commission charge will be payable to the Society on all sales. Note that members will be responsible for their own material during the event.

Please note that following feedback from last year we have devoted an entire morning to the popular Member's Display session this year. If you are attending Convention please do bring along something to share and display - even one sheet will do!

Convention Booking Forms and Competition Entry Forms can be found in the centre pull out of this issue of *Maple Leaves* or on the Society website but, please note the deadline for completion and return of these forms, to secure the preferred hotel rate is **31st July 2014**. Members who may wish to either arrive early or, extend their stay after Convention, should note that the Hotel will offer their concessionary rates subject to prior notice and booking.

The draft programme currently looks as follows:-

Thursday 2 October 2014

3.30pm	Welcome Tea/Coffee
5.00pm	Executive Committee Meeting
6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Display - New Information on the Papers of the Large and Small Queens – Richard Thompson
8.00pm	Ladies informal meeting
9.30pm	Auction Lot Viewing, Informal Bourse & Study Group Meetings

Friday 3 October 2014

7.00-9.30am	Breakfast
9.15am	Members' Displays. Up to 18 sheets, display and talk
10.30am	Coffee

We hold three major auctions per year, with an abundance of Canada, Provinces, British Commonwealth and Foreign, from classic singles and sets, to country collections and large estate lots.



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10.45am	Members' Displays continued
12.00noon	Lunch
1.30pm	Visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse
5.15pm	Arrive back at hotel
6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Display - The Stamps & Postal History of St Pierre et Miquelon to WW2 – Michael Slamo
8.00pm	Ladies meeting - t.b.a.
9.30pm	Auction Lot Viewing, Informal Bourse & Study Group Meetings

Saturday 4 October 2014

7.00-9.30am	Breakfast
8.45am	Fellows Meeting
9.00am	Committee Meeting
10.00am	Coffee
10.30am	Display - Foreign Exchange Control in Canada (1939 – 1951) – The Role of Canada Post - Eldon Godfrey
12.00noon	Lunch
1.15pm	Visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia at Leith
5.15pm	Arrive back at hotel
6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Display - The Production and Marketing of WWII War Savings Stamps – John Cooper
8.00pm	Ladies meeting - t.b.a.
9..30pm	Auction Lot Viewing, Informal Bourse & Study Group Meetings

Sunday 5 October 2014

8.00-10.00am	Breakfast
9.30am	Annual General Meeting
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Competition Entries - Judges Critique and Exhibitor Presentations
12.30pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Auction
3.30pm	Display – t..b.a.
7.00pm	President's Reception
7.30pm	Banquet and Awards Presentation

Monday 6 October 2014

7.00-9.30am	Breakfast and farewells until 2015
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Apart from our organised excursions, Edinburgh holds a wealth of cultural, historic and shopping attractions and members may well wish to take advantage of the event to plan a longer stay in the 'Athens of the North'. Regardless of the result in the Independence Referendum which takes place shortly before Convention, our Editor assures me that passports will not be required for those of us travelling from south of the border. Full

details on travel options to and from Edinburgh 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 colin.d.lewis@btinternet.com or on 01792 206518.

Colin Lewis FCPS

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 Kings Manor Hotel, Edinburgh on Sunday 5th October 2014, commencing at 0900hrs. 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 31st May 2014.

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 31st May 2014.

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 31st May 2014.

Proposed Rule change.

Our Hon. Treasurer has requested a change to rule 19 of the Constitution to change the commencement date of the Financial Year of the Society from the first day of October to the first day of July. (Note that the Subscription year would remain unchanged).

This change would allow the Treasurer to report on the current financial situation of the Society at the AGM which is normally held in late September or early October. The current arrangement only allows for a report on the financial situation some 12 months previous.

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 to remove some duplicated volumes and to add new titles and can be viewed on the Society website at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk. 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 two auctions will be:-

1. A second web based sale featuring mainly postal history items and
2. A room sale featuring all aspects of BNA philately, held as part of the programme for the Edinburgh Convention (see above).

In line with the decision taken at the last AGM, printed catalogues will not be issued to all members for either of these sales. The auction listings will be available on the Society website along with scans of as many of the lots as is practical. Any member who does not have easy access to the website and who would like to see a copy of the catalogue for either or both sales can request a paper copy from the Auction Manager. (Note that those members who requested a paper catalogue for the first web based sale will automatically be mailed one for these new sales).

We have decided to limit the number of lots in this year's Convention auction to a maximum of 500. Lots for the web based sale will be limited to around 100 – 150.

If any member has material they wish to consign to the sales please contact me as soon as possible (by e mail or phone, searle711@btinternet.com or 01330 820659) to provide details and discuss. I will close both sales for consignments by **end May latest** to give us time to prepare the sale listings.

Please watch the Society website for details of the web based sale and closing date etc. Timing for this sale is likely to be in July 2014 subject to material being available.

Graham Searle FCPS