

MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

FOUNDED 1938

INCORPORATED 1946

Edited by JAMES E. WOODS

2 Hengrave Road, Honor Oak Park, London, S.E.23.

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

Published Every Second Month by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Issued Free to Members.

Additional copies, 3/- each.

Vol. 9 No. 10

APRIL 1963

Whole No. 82

NOTES AND COMMENTS

February Issue

Firstly a word of apology for the lateness of the February issue. Most of our U.K. membership will not need a reminder of the shocking winter conditions that has been our lot since December last year. Along with the rest of you I suffered much damage, culminating in the falling of guttering through the glass roof of my office.

It has been a tedious task sorting out the remnants and has also caused a delay in my correspondence.

Personalities

A warm word of welcome to Leo Baresch who has now joined the ranks of the professional dealers.

Leo, one of the "elder statesmen" of the Society, was President of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain in 1954 and many of us remember with pleasure seeing his outstanding collections of varieties and postmarks on the early Canadians.

For many years he co-operated with the late Stanley Godden, whose death left such a great void in our circle of friendly Canadian dealers. Leo's understanding of the collector's point of view will help to fill the gap.

Scottish Congress

I understand that plans for the Scottish Congress are now very much completed and the opening will be performed by our immediate Past President, Sir George Williamson. The emphasis will be on British North America and many of our members have given their full support in sending material for display.

John Farthing of Stanley Gibbons will be representing his firm at Congress and will eventually be visiting various Scottish Societies. He has promised that he will be taking a good representative stock with him and that he looks forward to meeting many friends old and new.

Handbooks

Our own 2nd edition of Duplex Postmarks is now in a very advanced state of preparation and I hope to be able to announce publication in the next issue of "Maple Leaves."

Bob Woolley writes to say that the long awaited new edition of Shaw's R.P.O. handbook is now published. Again an announcement will be made in the next issue of the journal and I hope that all our copies will go quickly. It is expected that the price will be between 30/- to 40/- and members can if they wish send me tentative orders.

Forgeries

I should like to draw your attention to the article on Ottawa Crown forgeries from the pen of Mr. E. A. Smythies.

It has been known for some time that forgeries, some very dangerous, have existed amongst the multiplex varieties to be found on Canadian issues. Much has been said but very little has been published. It was therefore decided to publish this article in full. Many of you may not agree with the findings explained but if you have to criticise please let it be constructive.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May I put in a brief reminder to all members to look out now Lots for the Convention Auction and send them to Mr. J. H. E. Gilbert, Mermaid House, 34, New St., Plymouth, Devon. Please make the minimum valuation £1, and mark the envelope or parcel CPS of GB in the bottom left hand corner. Fuller details appeared in the February issue.

The preliminary announcement of the Convention competition also appeared in the February issue and members are asked to start planning their exhibits now. The Hotel Booking form and Competition entry form will appear with the June and August issues.

DR. CHARLES HOLLINGSWORTH

Why not advertise in
"MAPLE LEAVES"

DETAILS OF RATES FROM
THE ADVERTISING MANAGER

The Ottawa Crown Cancellation and its Forgeries

by E. A. Smythies, C.I.E., F.R.P.S.L., F.C.P.S.

Part I. Introductory Remarks

In April 1880 Messrs. Pritchard and Andrews, the official suppliers of cancelling instruments to the Canadian Postal Dept., registered in their Proof Book the impression of a new hammer showing in outline the Imperial Crown, which was destined for the Senate P.O. in Ottawa. This hammer, rather surprisingly, continued in use until about 1900 and possibly later, i.e. for 20 years or more. (1)

For this reason it is a comparatively common cancellation by Canadian "Fancy Cancels" standards, a fact which no one would ever guess from the fantastic prices which clear and complete strikes realise at auctions. The origin of these high prices, can, I think, be traced to Jarrett's 1929 catalogue, in which the Ottawa Crown was priced at \$1.50 to \$5.00. By comparison, in the same catalogue the earlier "solid" Ottawa Crown (February 1880) and the Tudor Crown, which are at least a hundred times as rare, were also priced the same; the Toronto 1880 duplex, in use less than a month, was 25 cents., and the 1881 duplex with numeral 1 or 2 in diamond, of which no copies are now known (except in the Proof Book) at 10 to 25 cents! I would gladly trade an Ottawa Crown for one of these, but there is no accounting for tastes.

One unfortunate result of the high value that popular fashion has placed on the Ottawa Crown is that it has been more extensively forged than probably any other Canadian cancellation. During my researches and examination of hundreds of these cancels from a score or more different collections, I have been astonished at the profusion and variety of these forgeries. If I paraphrase Kipling:—

"Never was lot so little, never were Crowns so lone,
but into the collection a forgery has flown."

The object of this article is not only to say something about the Ottawa Crown, but also to try and help other collectors (and dealers) to recognise some of the existing forgeries for what they are. Although this matter has undoubtedly been investigated from time to time by cancel specialists, I have failed to find any published results, so that the ordinary collector has nothing to help or guide him in their recognition, it is surely time something was done about it.

Before we can recognise forgeries, we must know in considerable detail what a genuine strike looks like. At the present time as far as I know, no completely accurate illustration of a genuine Ottawa Crown exists in any of the handbooks. Jarrett's sketch (fig. 853), while adequate for recognising it—the object for which it was made—differs from the genuine in several particulars which are detailed later. Boggs reproduced Jarrett's illustration, while the new handbook (Day and Smythies fig. 226) copied it, and so these show the same mistakes. Robson Lowe had an illustration in the Bowman auction catalogue, which also showed mistakes noted later. If there are any other illustrations, I have not seen them. This has simplified matters for the fakers, as there was no accurate illustration available for checking. It has also, no doubt, contributed to the very varied designs of existing forgeries as illustrated in this article.

Undoubtedly the best possible illustration of the Ottawa Crown would be the original impression in the Proof Book of the makers, Pritchard and Andrews, which is now in the archives of the Philatelic Foundation, New York. So I wrote to Miss Ethel Harper asking for her help and co-operation, and she very kindly sent me an excellent photograph, for which all collectors of Canadian cancellations will share my gratitude and thanks, to her and to the Philatelic Foundation. From this we are enabled to get an accurate picture and comprehensive description of the various details of the genuine crown. These are given below.

Miss Harper has confirmed that there is only one "Crown" of this type in the Proof Book, and thus there is no evidence that a second hammer of this type was made later.

However this is not conclusive proof that one or more supplementary hammers were not made later, since Pritchard and Andrews did not always record these in the Proof Book when they were very similar to the original. It would not be surprising if a supplementary hammer was made in view of the long and extensive use of this Ottawa cancel. (2) But if Pritchard and Andrews made more than one hammer, we can be quite sure, judging by their usual practice (as exemplified by supplementary duplex hammers) that any later hammer would in appearance be very similar to the original, requiring careful examination to distinguish, and quite unlike the crude forgeries illustrated in this article, which were certainly not the work of Pritchard and Andrews.

Part II. The Genuine Crown.

The illustration below shows the photograph of the original impression in the Proof Book in the Philatelic Foundation, New York, and the following is a detailed description of it.

The Ottawa Crown consists of four main sections:—

- (A) The diadem on top.
- (B) The frame or upper Crown.
- (C) The base or lower Crown.
- (D) The outer circle.



These will be considered separately.

(A) The diadem

- (1) Consists of four small triangles which together form a Maltese Cross approx 4 m.m. square.
- (2) The square between the triangles makes a neat intaglio Cross.
- (3) The diadem is in contact with, i.e. rests on, the top of the frame.

This is important.

(B) The Frame

- (4) Consists of 5 sectors, one central, two intermediate and two intermediate and two outer. The central sector is a rectangle measuring internally approx. $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. x $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.m., **with thick border lines.** It is closed at the top by the lower triangle of the diadem. **This is important.**
- (5) Each of the intermediate sectors has a small curved arch, the top of which is $4\frac{1}{4}$ or $4\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. from the base. These two sectors are similar in size and shape, and the top lines are **thick** and the vertical intermediate lines are **thin.**
- (6) The outer sectors are narrower than the intermediate sectors. The lines that define them are thin and the outer lines curve slightly outwards. **The variations in the thickness of the frame lines is important** (points 4, 5, 6).
- (7) The vertical lines meet the top and bottom of the frame and measure approx. as follows:—Outer lines 6 m.m., intermediate lines, $7\frac{1}{2}$ m.m., central lines $6\frac{1}{2}$ m.m.
- (8) The outer frame line at sides and top is unbroken and continuous. Measurements of the frame are approx. as follows:—Maximum width 15 m.m. Maximum height 8 m.m.
All the above points are important.

(C) The Base

- (9) Two rather thick horizontal lines, upper 14 m.m., lower $13\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. in length, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. space between. In this space is a short central horizontal bar and two small triangles pointing inwards, blocking the ends. The bases of these small triangles are in line with the outer framelines.

(D) The Outer Circle

- (10) Diameter nearly 21 m.m., regular, unbroken.

Genuine strikes must conform to all these points, although a tolerance (within reason) can be allowed for incomplete strikes, over and under-inking, wear, smudging, etc. For example, genuine strikes sometimes show:—

(B) (4) the width of central sector nearly 3 m.m.

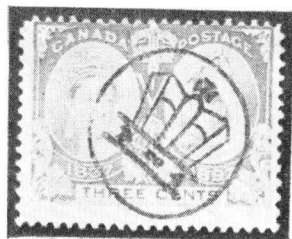
(C) (9) the width of base 3 m.m. and the small triangles not altogether blocking the ends.

Such small variations are probably due to wear or incomplete strikes. Forgeries are recognisable by failure to conform to several of these points beyond tolerance. Strikes that are incomplete, smudgy, double, faint, etc., are often impossible to check, and so of little value either for research or trade.

Part III. Mistakes and Forgeries of the Ottawa Crown

(A) Mistakes

I mentioned that the illustration in Jarrett (No. 853 of his 1929 catalogue) shows certain mistakes, which are repeated in the illustration given by Boggs (although his illustration on a stamp is O.K.) and by Day and Smythies handbook (No. 226), both of which were derived from Jarrett. There is also a **forgery (No. 1)** which is a fairly accurate reproduction of the Jarrett/Boggs illustration, and so repeats the mistakes. These are as follows:—



A (1) and (2). The four triangles are too small and too close together, making a square of 3 m.m. and there is no clear intaglio cross. Also in Jarrett/Boggs and the forgery, the bottom of the lower triangle is missing, making a \wedge

B (4). The central sector is too tall and too narrow, 7 x 2 m.m.

B (5). The arches in the intermediate sectors are too high, 5 m.m.

B (6). All lines in the frames are equally thin.

B (7). The maximum width of frame is $13\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. instead of 15 m.m., partly because the outer lines are straight and not curved.

D (10). The outer circle is a little small, 20 m.m. instead of 21 m.m.

I have seen this forgery No. 1 on Large Queen 6c, $12\frac{1}{2}$ c, 15c, on Small Queen's 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, on Widow 20c, Jubilee 2c, 3c, the Map Stamp and others. It appears to be the commonest of all the forgeries, and I believe supplies are usually available at a famous—or infamous—distribution centre for fake Canadian cancels in the U.S. (**not** New York).

The illustration in Robson Low's Bowman catalogue does not seem to have been used for forgeries. This and the Day/Smythies illustration are shown below.



Robson Lowe



Day/Smythies

(B) Forgeries

Forgeries can be recognised in two ways: —

(a) Mistakes in the use of ink. One expert noted—"Invariably the ink is wrong, a modern ink being used instead of the old type of ink which contained linseed oil." Unfortunately, to distinguish between the two types of ink requires long and expert experience of a complicated spectroscopic examination with expensive apparatus, neither of which is available to the ordinary collector, but only Expert Committees can command.

There are, however, two pointers, which I have found helpful and will explain for the benefit of others.

(1) Have you seen a very clear, perfectly centred, and immaculate

strike of this Crown? I have, quite a number of them, and **the majority were forgeries!** The impression in the Proof Book is immaculate, but a busy postal clerk cancelling mail will very seldom produce such a strike, and after some years of hard use of the hammer it would be almost impossible. So when we find an immaculate strike on a Quebec centenary stamp of 1908, it is very suspicious! Forgers, on the other hand, aim at immaculate strikes, in fact in several types of forgeries, the copies seen were practically all immaculate. So beware of strikes which are too perfect!

(2) I have seen a number of crown strikes overlapping and partly obliterating earlier cancellations—C.D.S., Corks, Circles, etc. in a different ink. These again are suspicious, especially when the ink of the Crown has soaked through to the back of the stamp, or shows traces of overflow on the under side, suggesting the stamp has been removed from its original cover before the Crown cancel was made. There was no need to use the Senate Crown on a postmarked stamp, and in many of these double cancels the later Crown proved to be the forgery.

(3) The Lamp is also useful to distinguish modern inks.

(b) Mistakes in the design and details of the Crown. It is not an easy matter to make an absolutely precise drawing of this Crown, as Jarrett and Robson Lowe (and I also) discovered, and the forgers—several of them—have evidently experienced the same difficulty. I give below some more examples of forgeries which differ in detail and/or measurements from the impression in the Proof Book, and fail to conform to several of the 10 features which all genuine strikes should show.

I have occasionally been asked by disappointed owners of strikes I regarded as forgeries:—"How do you know there was only one hammer? Could not these be the product of a supplementary hammer?" To which I have replied, "I don't know, but if you claim these are from a supplementary hammer, it is up to you, not me to prove such a supplementary hammer was made and used, and that you will find difficult!"

Forgery No. 2. An easy forgery to recognise.



A.(2) and (3). The diadem does not touch the frame, is irregular and too much to the left.

B.(4). The central sector is open at the top.

B.(7). The vertical lines on the right slope incorrectly, are too short, and do not meet the frame.

B.(8). The outer frame is broken on the right below the diadem.

D.(10). Outer circle irregular and blotchy.

Examples seen on Small Queens 1c, 2c, 3c, Q.V. numeral 2c red, King Edward 7c, Quebec 1908 issue ½c. (The Ottawa Crown was, I believe, not

in use in 1908). The impressions of this forgery vary somewhat and look crude.

Forgery No. 3. Another obvious forgery.



A.(3). The diadem does not touch the top of the frame.

B.(4). The central sector open at the top.

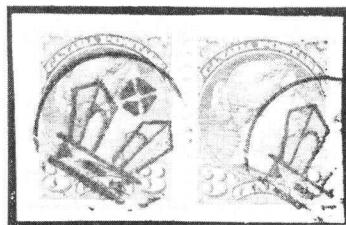
B.(6). All the lines of the frame are equally thin.

C.(9). No bar or triangles in the base, but there is an additional base to the lower crown, non-existent in the genuine, which makes recognition easy. The base is $2 + 2 = 4$ m.m.

All strikes seen of this forgery were very clear, on Large Queen $12\frac{1}{2}$ c. thin paper of 1868 (12 years before the Crown hammer was made!) and varieties of 15c. (including perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$). It is believed to come from somewhere in Western Europe.

Forgery No. 4. Easy to spot.

A.(3) and B.(4). Diadem clear of frame, and central sector open at the top.



B.(5). Arches in intermediate sector too high, 5 m.m. from base.

B.(6). The outer sector on right is broader than the intermediate sector adjoining it. This is characteristic of this particular forgery. All lines of the frame are equally thick.

Examples seen on Small Queens 2c, 3c, 6c and 10c magenta. All very clear and immaculate. The proud owner often marks it "superb!" I might mention that at one time or another I have seen all these forgeries Nos. 1 to 4 mounted up as genuine in various collections, including—I must confess—my own (at an early stage)! There was some excuse for this since no one knew exactly what a genuine strike of the original hammer looked like. This excuse will not be valid in future.

Forgery No. 5. A very crude forgery.



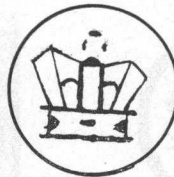
A.(1) and (2). The diadem is small and separate from top of frame.

B.(4) to (8). The whole frame is entirely wrong, and scarcely needs description.

C.(9). The two triangles at the ends arc. Width of base $11\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. only.

Only one strike has been seen, on 20c. carmine (S.G. 273) of 1927—an impossible stamp issued about 25 years after the use of this Crown cancel had been discontinued! Some of the mistakes noted above may be due to faulty impression. This absurdity was probably difficult to dispose of, hence only one strike seen.

Forgery No. 6. A dangerous forgery that could be mistaken for genuine, but the following mistakes have been noted.



A.(1) to (3). No proper triangles in diadem and no neat intaglio cross.

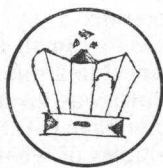
B.(5) to (7). Frame flattened on top, especially on right. The width is too large, 16 m.m. Central and top lines are not thick, and outer lines straight.

D.(10). The outer circle is too large, 22 m.m., and traces of the ink appear under the perforations.

Forgeries Nos. 7a.b.c.d.



7a



7b



7c



7d

A partial strike seen, a clear impression showing no signs of wear of hammer, on Quebec Centenary 1908, 15c., an improbable if not impossible stamp. Two strikes seen on a 5c. green Registered stamp, confirming the above mistakes. This forgery was made a few years ago in Vancouver B.C. Production now is believed to have ceased.

I have seen a number of strikes in other collections of what appear to be forgeries, but as these are not in my possession, I can only show tracings.

Note the following points:—

(a) Projection of base well beyond the outer frame lines and all lines equally thin, besides other mistakes.

(b) Curved top of frame on left, diadem wrong, all lines equally thin.

(c) Outer line left too curved, base too broad, no diadem.

(d) Shape of Crown wrong, and base much too broad.

I must also record that I have seen a number of incomplete and rather smudgy Crown cancels on 1898–1902 Q.V. low values Numerals, in heavy and apparently modern ink, overlying and partly obliterating earlier C.D.S. in a different ink. The Crown has usually soaked through to the back of the stamp where it shows brown. These “double” cancels in my opinion are very suspicious, as there was no need for a Senate P.O. cancel to be applied to a stamp used and already cancelled at another P.O. With a fake crown, material that is practically valueless becomes of value, if accepted as genuine.

Forgery No. 8.



Genuine



Forgery

This appears to be a forgery of the earlier (and rarer) “solid” crown of February, 1880 (Jarrett 852, Day and Smythies 225). If so, it shows several conspicuous mistakes, the more obvious being:—

B.(4). The central sector is too broad and too short.

B.(8). The outer frame is broken on the right.

C.(9). The upper horizontal line is too long, and both horizontal lines are too thin.

D.(10). The outer circle is much too thin.

In the only example seen to date, on a Small Queen 3c. orange, the crown is stamped over a prior C.D.S. cancel in a different ink, which shows 85. It is believed that this use of this crown was given up before 1885 Ont. and that the Senate P.O. at Ottawa did not have C.D.S. with ONT.

I have now given a number of examples of what I regard as forgeries, presumably made by a number of different fakers. But I believe there are still others, and one object of this article is to encourage anyone who has, or thinks he may have, other Ottawa Crown forgeries, to co-operate and

bring them to notice: I shall be glad to correspond with anyone on the subject.

Admittedly this article may help forgers to produce something better in future, that is a risk that must be faced. However it will, I hope, help eradicate some of the existing ones that at present may—and do—pass unrecognised by the ordinary collector.

Acknowledgments. When preparing this article during the past year, I consulted many leading specialists on both sides of the Atlantic, who very kindly placed their material at my disposal, and without whose welcome co-operation and advice this article could not have been written. Grateful acknowledgment to Miss Harper and the Philatelic Foundation New York, has already been recorded.

Summary.

To summarise the chief points of this article.

(a) For the first time, so far as I know, an accurate illustration and detailed description of the Ottawa Crown of April 1880 is given, based on the original impression in Pritchard & Andrews's Proof Book. It is hoped this will help collectors and dealers alike.

(b) There is no evidence available in this book of any similar supplementary hammers being made later, but it is possible.

(c) From this it follows that genuine strikes of the original hammer must conform approximately with the illustration and detailed description and measurements given. Strikes which vary appreciably from these must be suspected as forgeries.

(d) A number of what I regard as forgeries are described and illustrated. These will possibly be added to with the co-operation of cancel enthusiasts generally.

I will also summarise some unanswered questions, and points on which further information is required.

(a) When was the use of this cancel finally given up?

(b) Did Pritchard and Andrews later make any supplementary hammers? If so, how can they be recognised?

(c) Are there any skilful forgeries not yet recognised? If so, how can they be recognised?

(d) How can old and new inks be readily distinguished?

This brief summary shows there are still some difficult problems to be solved.

I might mention again that although this Ottawa Crown cancel was in use for about 20 years, the foolishness of some fakers has extended its use considerably, with strikes on a Large Queen 12½c. thin paper of 1868 and on a stamp (S.G.273) issued in 1927—a stretch of nearly 60 years!

Footnotes.

(1) The date when this cancellation was finally given up is not known. Jarrett recorded strikes on the 1897 Jubilee issue, the 1898 Leaf issue, the 1898 Map Stamp, the 1898/1902 Numeral issue, and an odd K. Edward VII of 1903. All examples I have seen on stamps issued after that date were forgeries. Anyone who claims to have a **genuine** strike on a later stamp should, I suggest, obtain expert opinion on it.

(2) Another Ottawa hammer, the duplex with No. 1 in a circle of 19 rays, made by Pritchard and Andrews about the same time, continued in use even longer—until 1904—without, so far as I know, any supplementary hammer being made.

PRECANCEL NOTES

General Bar Type J

by GEORGE E. L. MANLEY (327)

Like other early Types of precancels shown in the Official Catalog (1959 Edtn.), Type J is really a Group of similar cancels. These were printed by hand-rollers, one cancel wide, but with different bars. It is possible to identify at least some of them, but only if all measurements are accurately made. In the following notes millimeters have been used throughout, and even then the measurements are only accurate to plus or minus $\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. It will therefore be appreciated that the current Catalog description "Narrow bars 11 to 1-inch" is not definite enough, and that the earlier catalogs (starting in 1923) were nearer the mark when they listed the number of Bars (per roller).

After studying the material in his collection, it appears to the writer that this group can be sub-divided into three Sections:—

1. Cancelling device of 7 Bars, each of a width of $\frac{5}{8}$ m.m. and set 2 m.m. apart. The only value so far seen is the 1c. S.Q. and this is always of a slightly more orange shade than those in Sections 2 and 3 below.
2. Four cancelling rollers of 5, 6, 7 and 8 Bars respectively have so far been identified. The width of the Bars is 1 m.m. with a space of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. between them. Some stamps are found with faint or partial bars, but the number can generally be decided under a strong lens.



TYPE J3

3. Roller of 10 Bars. The width of the Bars is normally 1 m.m. with a space of $1\frac{1}{3}$ m.m. between them. It is interesting to note, however, that this cancel has a distinctive characteristic of having one outside bar of $\frac{3}{4}$ m.m. width: this is quite apparent to the naked eye (see illustration). This precancel is now identified by a Cover in the writer's collection as having been used at London, Ont. The sender was L. M. STAEBLER, Stamp Dealer and Publisher. The cover bears two $\frac{1}{2}$ c. S.Q. stamps and on the back is date-stamped 6 July 1896.

Stamps of the various categories that have so far been inspected are summarised as follows:—

| Section | Number of Bars per cancel. | Width in millimeters of: | | Actual overall measurement in m.m. | N.B. All measurements are $\frac{1}{2}$ m.m. Values seen by writer |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | Bars | Spaces | | |
| 1. | 7 | $\frac{5}{8}$ | 2 | $16\frac{1}{4}$ | 1c. S.Q. (Orange shade) |
| 2. | (a) 5 | 1 | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $11\frac{1}{4}$ | 1c. S.Q. 20c, W.W. |
| | (b) 6 | 1 | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | 14 | 1c. S.Q. |
| | (c) 7 | 1 | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | $16\frac{1}{4}$ | 1c. S.Q. |
| | (d) 8 | 1 | $1\frac{1}{2}$ | 19 | 15c. L.Q. (Double only). |
| 3. | 10 | 1 | $1\frac{1}{3}$ | $21\frac{3}{4}$ * | $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 1c, 2c, 3c, 6c, 10c S.Q. (Scott Nos. 22 & 23) 20c W.W., 8c. |

*The overall measurements of the London 10-Bar cancel are—5 Bars 11 m.m., 6 Bars 13 m.m., 7 Bars $15\frac{1}{2}$ m.m., 8 Bars $17\frac{1}{4}$ m.m., 9 Bars $19\frac{1}{4}$ m.m. and 10 Bars (one narrow) $21\frac{3}{4}$ m.m. It will be seen that these are all slightly less than those in Sections 1 and 2.

Very much more research remains to be done and it is hoped that other collectors will carefully inspect all the stamps of this Type that they possess and report their findings. It is especially requested that any covers of these early Bar precancels be reported, with a view to discovering the town of origin.

GROUP REPORT London Section

1963 has got away to a good start in London with two "out of the ordinary" talks for a Canadian Philatelic Society.

January was Chairman's evening and Jack Harvey talked of days from the 1890's onwards when the Newfoundland Railway System was being actively developed. He can fairly claim to be a pioneer as he made his initial yell on the site, of which his father was Chief Engineer. The talk was illustrated by original photographs from those early days and brought home to us the hardships which then had to be endured.

In February we welcomed Mr. Alan W.

Robertson, now happily in circulation again after long periods in hospital.

Mr. Robertson spoke to us on the subject of which he is the master—Maritime Postal History. The talk was accompanied by a colour projection of the covers under discussion. This method of presentation is particularly valuable as it enables everyone to follow the speaker in his description of the various covers. The colours were most beautifully reproduced and the fact that the actual covers were not handled mattered hardly at all.

R.S.B.G.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF CANADA

By J. J. Bonar, F.C.P.S. (341)

Transport of Mail — Water

As Canada's numerous rivers and lakes provided much of the early transport, private conveyance of letters by steamboat was an early development. Steamboats operated on the St. Lawrence by 1810 and on Lake Ontario by 1817. Handstruck markings are known from 1820. In the late 1840s mail was carried by contract and a fresh set of circular markings came into use.

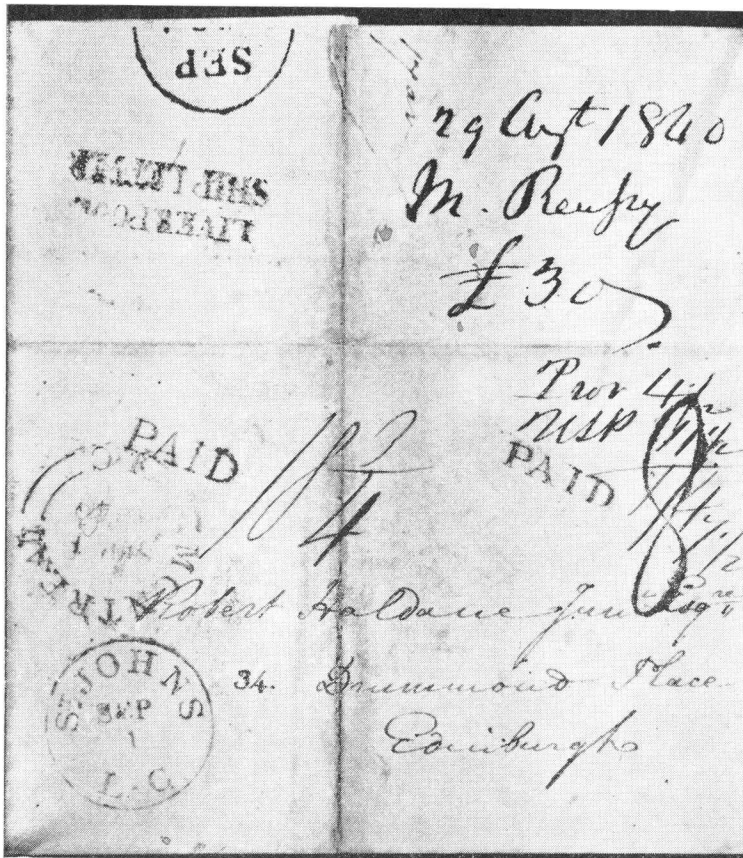


Fig. 4. 1839 Letter by U.S. Sailing Packet. The last charge $7\frac{1}{2}$ is the Packet Charge of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents converted into Canadian Currency.

Transport of Mail — Rail

The development of railways came relatively late in the Canadian story. The earliest lines were those linking Canada with the U.S.A. It was in 1853 that the first R.P.O. handstamp appears. The large cartwheel design is characteristic of the early types. Within the next four years new

lines were built giving connections from Quebec to Windsor 700 miles away and the time for the journey between them was reduced from ten and a half days to forty nine hours. The subsequent history of travelling post offices is one of continuous growth until it spread right across the Dominion.

Local Delivery

So far as is known there was no Penny Post in Canada. This probably stems from the scattered location of post offices. There was, however, under Imperial control an arrangement in some larger towns for delivery of letters at an additional charge of 1d. In 1852 the Postmaster General



Fig. 3 U.S. Exchange Marks Marks, 1858. Note the U.S. rate 10 cents incorporated in the date stamp and 6 the Canadian rating in currency duplicating the charge to be collected. J. G. Leacy Collection

was authorised by an Act of the Provincial Legislature to provide local delivery at a fee of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In the case of letters posted for delivery in the same town, known as "drop letters," this was the only charge. On the introduction of decimal currency the charge became one cent.

Ship Letters

No explanation of the use of Ship Letter markings is called for here. It may suffice to say that manuscript markings are recorded from Quebec

in 1775 and a handstruck "SHIP" on a letter from London to Montreal of 1779. The double oval named type with a crown in the centre appeared at the beginning of the 19th century and is the one most commonly seen. Many varieties have been recorded in subsequent years. It appears to have been normal practice to strike these marks on outgoing as well as incoming mail.

Miscellaneous

Instructional marks "Too late," "Advertised," "Not called for" among others speak for themselves. Mention may however be made of "Forwarded" which appears on letters which bear no sign of redirection. It may relate to an accountancy process by which charges on letters originating in Nova Scotia or Quebec were transferred to the accounting branches of the Post Office in Quebec or Ontario but this requires further study.

Mail to U.S.A.

Ever since the conclusion of the Postal Convention of 1792 relations between the Post Offices in Canada and U.S.A. have been most harmonious. The only interruption to the regular exchange of mail arose from the War of 1812-14. Under the Convention each country received its own internal rate for the distance covered in that country. There was no change in the Canadian rates until 1851 but the U.S.A. rates were altered repeatedly.

There was one curious anomaly. On letters from Canada postage had to be prepaid "to the lines," i.e., to the frontier, but prepayment of U.S.A. postage was optional. In the reverse direction prepayment of U.S.A. postage was optional but Canadian postage could not be prepaid. The Canadian Post Office received a discount of 20 per cent. on U.S.A. postage collected. The U.S.A. Post Office declined to act as agent for the collection of Canadian postage. This procedure continued until the introduction of adhesives in U.S.A. in 1847. For the next two years U.S.A. postage could only be prepaid in stamps.

In May 1849 a tripartite Convention between U.S.A., the United Kingdom and the B.N.A. Colonies fixed the postage at the rates for inland letters in each country combined into one rate of which prepayment was optional. The respective internal rates of 3d. and 5 cents. became a combined rate expressed as 6d. or 10 cents. in the different currencies.

The earliest and most common markings were an ms. noting of the charges with "PAID" in ms. or handstruck. Some offices in Western Canada used more elaborate handstamps to distinguish the separate rates. After the Convention of 1849 new types appeared in considerable variety in red on prepaid letters and in black on unpaid.

The first points for the exchange of mail were on the Montreal-New York route. By the end of the 18th century letters seem to have passed at one or other of the offices on the Niagara River and in 1810 an exchange point at Swanton dealt with mail from Quebec to Boston. The number of exchange points increased considerably in later years. At some, at least, the Canadian postmaster seems also to have been a postmaster of the U.S.A. administration. Letters from Canada can be found which paid no Canadian postage.

(To be continued)

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP TO MARCH 10th, 1963

New Members.

- 1424 SHORT, J. H., 115 Peppard Road, Caversham, Reading.
 1425 WATERMAN, J. J., 97 Stewart Terrace, Aberdeen. C, RPO
CS
 1426 SIMMONDS, W. E., 2646 Penobscot Building, Detroit 26, Mich., U.S.A.
 1427 SMITH, R. F., 35 Purcell Cole, Writtle, Essex.
 1428 JEFFRIES, T. D., 84 The Kingsway, Toronto 18, Ont., Canada.
 1429 GRENIER, Major G., 404 East Laurier, Apt. 405, Ottawa 2, Ont., Canada.
 1430 GORDON, R. J. C., "Rathgael", 74 Stirling Ave., Cregagh, Belfast 6.
 1431 HINDLE, J., Moorlands, Huby, Nr. Leeds.
 1432 DEBNEY, P. L., 10123 Clifton Place, Edmonton, Alta, Canada.
 1433 WILSON, R. S., 78 Richmond St., W., Toronto 1., Canada.

Resignation.

- 352 Mrs. C. Ashworth.
 435 J. Chambers.
 757 J. O'D. Fenning.
 509 H. S. Parsonage.
 731 T. C. Smith.
 1094 P. D. van Oudenol.
 998 P. T. Wakeham.

Deaths.

- 264 R. A. Knight.
 515 H. Munro
 268 H. Sanders.
 391 A. M. Smeaton.
 129 Dr. V. M. M. Watson.

Change of Address.

- 575 BARBOUR, J. G., "Quanton," 25 Pines Rd., Chelmsford, Essex.
 104 BETTS, F. E. M., Perham House, The Triangle, Ludgershall, Andover, Hants.
 361 CALDER, S. C., The White Cottage, 188 Longhurst Lane, Mellor, Cheshire.
 1023 CARTER, F. C., Lower Sackville, R.R.1., Halifax County, N.S., Canada.
 1052 BACON, G. L., 50 Mersey Rd., Sale, Cheshire.
 427 COLTMAN, J., 248 Heston Rd., Newcastle on Tyne 6.
 661 CHILDS, Miss M., 59 Lightbridge Rd., Fixby, Huddersfield.
 1337 DEVLIN, M., Ste 18, 1030-12 Ave., S.W., Calgary, Alta, Canada.
 1356 FORDRED, E. J., 54 Northbrook St., Newbury, Berks.
 1328 GAYLORD, S. B., 18889 Timber Lane, Fairview Park 26, Ohio, U.S.A.
 1292 HARE, H. J., 22 Hawth Hill Park Rd., East Blatchington, Seaford, Sussex.
 562 LANCE, Dr. G. N., c/o The Computer Laboratory, P.O. Box 109, Canberra City, A.C.T., Australia.
 1143 OKIN, A., 129 Fleetwood Rd., London, N.W.10.
 1123 POLLITZ, W. T., 40 Court St., Boston 8, Mass., U.S.A.
 1315 ROSENBLAT, D. G., 660 West Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, Calif., U.S.A.
 392 MARSDEN, P., The Laurels, Station Rd., Sutton Weaver, Warrington.
 1018 SHORT, C. J., 14½ McIntyre St., St. Thomas, Ont., Canada.
 856 WILSDON, J. F., 135 Hyde Park Ave., Hamilton, Ont., Canada.

Reinstate.

- 768 HINCHLIFFE J., 9 Broadgate Cresc., Almondbury, Huddersfield. C, BL

Amendments to Year Book Listing.

- 5562 Dr. G. N. Lance should read 562.
 1221 Miss D. H. Yarrow add 'C' to collecting interests.
 350 J. A. Lea address should be 359 Cressington Rd., Stretford.
 910 W. Hirsch address should be P.O. Box 918 Prescott, Ont.
 1268 T. Kamcke, address should be 388 Talbot St.
 1386 G. D. Breach should be 1386 not 1383.
 649 B. Scott address should be 6151 Pepperell St., Halifax.
 Delete—1387 J. Winfield, 61 Twatling Rd., Rednal.
 Insert—1388 J. R. L. Allott, 61, Twatling Rd., Rednal, Nr. Birmingham.
 1387 J. Winfield, 579 Dawson Ave., Mount Royal 16, Que., Canada. MO, PE

Information required of new address (last known address given).

- 901 Miss Ann Dorian, 14 St. Andrews Rd., Ilford, Essex.
 947 F. Hornby, 8120 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit 14, Mich., U.S.A.
 945 G. Showers, 377 Nelson St., Sarnia, Ont., Canada.
 600 R. S. Maccallum, 6 Douglas Lane, Richmond, N.Y., U.S.A.
 245 F. Jackson, 27 Weston Ave., Rochdale, Lancs.

Net Change: — 1.

New Total 808.

FOR SALE

| | |
|---|----------|
| Scott No. 12. 3d. Perf. on cover. Tied Bar Cancel to Sheriff's Office, Stratford CW. Hamilton, dated My-7th-1859, clear strike lower left corner front. B/S Stratford My-9-1859 ... | £28. 0.0 |
| Scott No. 35. Orange. Fine used. Clear Masonic cancel; inverted strike | £10. 0.0 |
| Scott No. 208A. Variety Wide Gutter Mint Blk. 2 x 2 ... | £8.15.0 |
| Mint Vert. Block 6 Scotts 211 Variety "Weeping Princess" ... | £7.15.0 |
| Ditto Block of 50. Upper portion sheet with Plate Imprint ... | £10. 0.0 |
| Scott MR4A. War Tax. Single Mint. Very fine | £6. 5.0 |
| Scotts No. 07. 1946 Peace issue LL Mint, Plate Block Variety. Missing period | £13. 0.0 |
| Holmes PA-I-A Tete Beche Mint Pair Aero Club of Canada Burning Zepp. | £28. 0.0 |

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| PERFINS Handbook | 11/- |
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| BOGGS, Volume I | 11 gns. |
| MARLER'S 1911-1925 ADMIRALS | 50/- |
| WAR TAX STAMPS Handbook, completes Marler | 14/6 |
| CANADA PRECANCELS Catalogue | 12/- |
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