

JOURNAL OF THE  
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN

# Maple Leaves

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**EDITORIAL**

**Volume 17**

Inset with this issue members will find the index to Volume 17 of which our last (October, 1980) issue was the final number. As with past volumes we appeal to members for suggestions as to names and addresses of likely sources where the twelve issues of this volume (and indeed previous volumes) might be bound at reasonable cost. Any help in this direction will be appreciated.

**New appointments**

As members will appreciate the task of compiling an index to act as a guide through the 336 pages which go to make up a volume is no light one, and we are indebted to Mr. Eric Killingley who kindly undertook this onerous and time-consuming work. It will be seen from the officers' panel on the inside of the back cover of this issue that Mr. Killingley is for the first time recognised in his capacity as Assistant Editor, a post which he has held in modest anonymity for two years. He has, in fact, been responsible for the issue of several of our past numbers without the acknowledgement that was rightly due to him. No one can be more grateful than we are for the welcome break from editorial chores that this help has afforded us. Frequent reference is made in these columns to the anonymous band of helpers who act behind the scenes 'unhonoured and unsung' and Eric is not the least of them, although he will not thank us for saying so. We are braving his wrath because his appointment, two years ago, was made in order to ensure that come what may, the show would go on, or to be more specific in this

instance to ensure that in the event of our incapacity (permanent or otherwise!) *MAPLE LEAVES* will continue to appear with the regularity that members have every right to expect.

Members will also note that our Past President and former Assistant Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Bryce, has kindly undertaken to assume the role of Treasurer until a new permanent appointment can be made. At a time when he might reasonably have expected to be able to sit back and take his ease with the comforting knowledge that he has 'done his bit' for the Society, he now assumes a new responsibility, and no light one at that.

Nor is this all. In our last issue Roland Greenhill announced his retirement as Librarian to the Society after nearly twenty years of devoted work. Many indeed are the members who have reason to be grateful to him for his help, not merely in sending them books on loan, but very frequently in searching through long and laborious hours among the many hundreds of cuttings, pamphlets, magazines, booklets and other source material that go to make up the Society's fund of information, in order to help members with their queries or their research into the hundreds of different facets of B.N.A. philately and postal history.

But the story does not end here! Those who know Roland personally will not be surprised to learn that he did not lay down the reins of office before he was certain of a successor in the person of Mr. C. Banfield, our former Publicity Officer. He in turn has been succeeded in the latter capacity by Dr. Dorothy Sanderson. Lastly, but by no means least, Dr. Mathew Carstairs has succeeded Stanley Cohen as our Handbooks Manager. Now it is at this point that we hesitate; we are not prone to using phrases lightly, least of all to repeating them, and something told us that however appropriate the expression 'doing his bit' might be in some instances it certainly would be out of place here. Stanley has been our Handbooks Manager since the beginning of 1961, an appointment which he undertook *together with* that of Advertising and Publicity Manager! Some 'bit' indeed!

Stanley, therefore, joins Roland Greenhill with a long record of devoted service to the Society which is rivalled only by that of our former Secretary, Dr. Charles Hollingsworth. Between them they have 'clocked up' some forty years of hard labour in the service of members that will take some beating. No words, however carefully chosen, however sincere, however apt, can do justice to them; but it falls to our lot to try. Perhaps it might best be said that if the Society can rely upon their successors to do half as well as they have done it will continue to flourish. All members will wish them well; but above all, every member will wish to be associated in this expression of gratitude for long and faithful service of which both Stanley and Roland can very rightly be extremely proud.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each year, at this time, your President sends his New Year message. This has to be similar to those of his predecessors — yet it has to be different!

In remembering predecessors my mind goes back to 'Doc' Willan, who led me from the field of collecting to the realms of 'digging'. I hope that I can keep the high standards of 'Doc' and other distinguished Presidents, and so I pledge all my effort for the coming year. During this time, I will be ever conscious of the honour bestowed upon me as President of your Society.

The President is only the titular head of the Society for twelve months. Every year our activities need a team of Fellows, Officers and 'back-room' workers to present issues of *Maple Leaves*, exchange packets, etcetera, and to finally organise Convention. This year, this team is again furthering the multifarious activities of our Society, and in remembering another memorable gathering in Edinburgh, are planning Convention 1981.

Convention 1981 will be held at the Crown & Mitre Hotel, Carlisle from Wednesday 7th to Saturday 10th October. This is a hotel of high reputation with ample car parking and all modern facilities. The tariff includes breakfast and dinner with midday food available in three different restaurants within the hotel.

Carlisle, despite the efforts of Bonnie Prince Charlie and others, is still in England and lies twixt Hadrians Wall and the brightest jewel of England — the Lakes. I hope you will take this chance to see some of this beautiful country, as well as the stamps of Canada which we look forward to each October.

Further details will be issued in the April number of *Maple Leaves* — meanwhile be ready to send your surplus material in for the Auction and this year get 18 sheets ready for the Convention Exhibition. If you have never attended Convention, why not make 1981 your first?

Until then and throughout the coming year may I wish you all happiness and prosperity — see you in Carlisle.

Jim Bacon.

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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS — Part 9**

**by D. F. Sessions**

In this issue it is proposed to deal with the Province of Saskatchewan where only three towns took delivery of an 'International' machine. Two towns, Regina and Moose Jaw, were included in the main distribution of 1907 whilst Prince Albert did not apparently commence to use one until 1913. At this stage it can only be remarked as coincidence that Moose Jaw's machine was replaced in 1913.

### **Regina**

The 1916 Provincial Exhibition closed on 29 July yet the slogan appears to have continued in use up to 6 August which is unusual.

The 1917 Provincial Exhibition was held from 23 to 28 July so it seems likely that, as in several other towns, the slogan flag (23-8) was withdrawn for a period and then re-introduced thus making it somewhat scarcer than an apparent period of use of six months would suggest. The slogan flag in question was apparently in use at Calgary up to 9 April at least, the reason for the transfer is not known.

The last two slogans listed for Regina were also reputedly used in a Universal machine, this would provide an unusual degree of overlap and further reports of the use of these two slogans are earnestly solicited.

### **Moose Jaw**

It is somewhat surprising to find one of the smaller towns, such as Moose Jaw, among the few towns to receive a Universal machine in 1913.

### **Prince Albert**

Standard obliteration type 4 rather than type 3 was used at Prince Albert; this is typical of the towns that commenced using Internationals after 1912.

The slogan flags advertising the annual Prince Albert Exhibition have provided flag collectors with something of a challenge. To the author's present knowledge only two examples of the 1917 flag have come to light and one of those is on piece. Two examples of the 1918 version are also reported whilst only one example of the 1919 flag is known. Naturally, further reports would be welcomed.

### **Chronology of Saskatchewan**

Key: Obliteration type 3 — see illustration in *Maple Leaves* No. 164, p210.

Obliteration type 4 — similar but with no indicia or space therefor.

Hub C carries town name, abbreviated Province and 'CAN'.

Hub G carries town name and abbreviated Province.

The references to Flag . . . relate to Ed. Richardson's Flag Handbook.

## **REGINA**

|   | <i>Earliest date</i>                             |             | <i>Latest date</i> |
|---|--|-------------|--------------------|
|   | Standard obliteration type 3                     |             |                    |
| 23. 9.07                                      | Hub C  |             | 24.11.07           |
| 8. 1.08                                       | Hub G  |             | 22.12.18           |
|   | Slogans  |             |                    |
| 12.   | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 12                 |
| 13  | Business Men's Convention .....                  |             | 13                 |
| 3. 6.13                                       | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 1. 8.13            |
| 16. 2.14                                      | Provincial Winter Fair .....                     |             | 14                 |
| 6. 7.14                                       | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 14                 |
| 4. 6.15                                       | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 15                 |
| 13.12.15                                      | Provincial Winter Fair .....                     |             | 10. 2.16           |
| 16  | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 6. 8.16            |
| 16. 2.17                                      | Help To Win The War .....                        | (Flag 21-2) | 11. 4.17           |
| 17. 4.17                                      | Help To Win The War .....                        | (Flag 23-8) | 2.10.17            |
| 17  | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 17                 |
| 27.11.17                                      | Winter Fair .....                                |             | 17                 |
| 22. 6.18                                      | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 8. 7.18            |
| 22.10.18                                      | Buy Victory Bonds .....                          |             |                    |
| 1. 5.19                                       | Buy War Savings Stamps .....                     | (Flag 37-7) | 14.11.18           |
| 18. 6.19                                      | Provincial Exhibition .....                      |             | 19                 |
|   | Standard obliteration used in 'slogan' period :— |             |                    |
| 13.9.12, 1.10.12, 17.3.13, 20.1.15, 22.12.18. |  |             |                    |
|   | Standard Universal noted 22.12.19.               |             |                    |

## **Moose Jaw**

|          |                              |  |          |
|----------|------------------------------|--|----------|
|          | Standard obliteration type 3 |  |          |
| 10.11.07 | Hub G                        |  | 12.12.12 |

Standard Universal reported 8.9.13.

## **Prince Albert**

|          |                                |             |          |
|----------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|
|          | Standard obliteration type 4   |             |          |
| 14. 3.13 | Hub G                          |             | 24. 1.18 |
|          | Slogans                        |             |          |
| 5. 7.17  | Prince Albert Exhibition ..... | (Flag 40-1) | 23. 7.17 |
| 1. 7.18  | Prince Albert Exhibition ..... | (Flag 40-2) | 10. 7.18 |
| 4. 6.19  | Prince Albert Exhibition ..... | (Flag 40-3) | 19       |
| 19       | Buy War Savings Stamps .....   |             | 19       |

Standard obliteration used in 'slogan' period :—  
24.1.18

Columbia machine reported in 1919.

Acknowledgements — Basic data from Ken Barlow with additional information from Mike Anderman, John Donaldson, Doug Murray, George Potts, Dorothy Sanderson, Bill Williams and Bill Robinson.

Any new data and comments please to David Sessions at 3 Langfield Close, Henbury, Bristol, BS10 7ND.

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## ADMIRALS ON HORIZONTAL WOVE PAPER

by H. Reiche, F.C.P.S.

The squat size booklet panes on horizontal wove paper are well known to all collectors. Plates for these booklet panes were bent on a vertical axis, or the short way and the sides of each stamp subject were parallel to the top and bottom of the printing plate. The paper was fed with the grain running towards the top of the plate and therefore across the stamps. This resulted in a horizontal wove paper and because the paper shrinkage occurred vertically these stamps are shorter than the normal stamps.

When the book on the Admiral stamps was written by the author in 1965 mention was made that the 10c blue existed apparently on the horizontal paper. At that time the author looked at a large number but did not find such a copy. The first report came from Mr. C. D. Blair who found copies of this stamp on a horizontal paper. It did not take long before other collectors reported these including the author who found a number of such copies not only pre-cancelled but from regular sheets. These stamps have the squat size appearance and are shorter than the normal stamps. Dated copies which were found indicated dates in 1923, the earliest reported is 15 May 1923 by Dr. J. Frank. No specific plates were identified but it is suggested that these stamps may come from Plates 15 to 18.

Some years ago the author came across another value which had been printed on a horizontal wove paper. This was the 2c green. Copies found so far are from the retouched die on a wet printing. No dated copies have been reported and no plates can be identified from which these might come.

Soon afterwards another interesting find was made by the author. The 2c red was located on the horizontal paper, again showing the typical squat size. This stamp has the appearance of coming from an early plate of the retouched die. One mint and one used copy are in the author's collection but no dated copies have been reported so far.

With three values reported on this paper it is very possible that other values exist. The most likely values are the 5c violet and the 50c, both have been claimed to exist but the author has not been able to trace these.

It is interesting that the three values mentioned are all printed on a transparent paper similar to the so called thin paper but without the grain which normally appears on the thin paper.

The reason for these stamps is not clear at all. It is impossible that the printing plate was turned or new plates were prepared which were bent similar to the booklets. The special type of paper may be the clue. This paper may have been cut at a right angle compared to the normal paper or fed into the machine differently. It is doubtful and not very likely that this paper had a grain at right angle to the normal paper because paper making systems do not lend themselves to manufacturing paper in this form. The author would be interested to hear of any other values on this paper.

**MAILED IN STREET**  
by J. Hannah, F.C.P.S.

On going through a dealer's stock at a local Stamp Fair I came across an unpretentious cover which no doubt had been passed over as of no particular value, whereas in addition to the common Toronto machine cancel, it also had a reasonably good strike of an interesting undated mark reading "MAILED IN STREET - NEWSPAPER RECEPTACLE - TORONTO". It is illustrated in Jarrett as No. 830 and is linked to the date Dec. 1902 without any comment.



In correspondence with Mr. C. R. McGuire of the National Postal Museum it appears there is no definite information to explain what was the purpose of this instructional mark. It seems there is no reference to it in official records nor is there any specimen strike in the Pritchards - Andrews proof book and so it probably was made privately.

As to use, in view of the lack of official information one can but speculate that sometimes letters were liable to be placed in error in mail boxes intended for parcels, newspapers or other non-first-class matter and as these particular boxes were not cleared as frequently as the normal mail boxes, this hand stamp would then account for any delay in transmission.

Whatever the use, Mr. McGuire advised me it had been confirmed there were two types of this circular stamp. The first type reads "MAILED IN STREET - PARCEL & NEWSPAPER RECEPTACLE - TORONTO" and strikes in purple are known dated 29 August and 16 September 1902, and a third example in black dated 22 October 1902. The second type is as the example illustrated in this case in black and dated 21 February 1903. One other strike of this type is recorded also in black dated 30 December 1902.

I was naturally pleased to rescue this cover from obscurity and I would wish to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance received from Mr. McGuire of the Postal Museum staff.

**THE MAPLE LEAF ISSUE OF CANADA  
1897–1898 (Part 1)**  
**by C. R. McGuire,**  
Acting Curator,  
National Postal Museum, Ottawa.

This article is based on a fifteen panel exhibit prepared by the staff of the Postal Museum with the assistance of several Canadian philatelists. The display was first shown at London '80, the International Philatelic Exhibition held 6-14 May, 1980. This exhibit may be seen at Stampex '80, Toronto, 4-6 July 1980. It will eventually be shown at the Museum's new quarters, scheduled to open to the public 2 July 1980, at 180 Wellington Street, Ottawa.



**NOTE:** Words in brackets within quoted portions of this article were added by the author for clarification purposes.

### INTRODUCTION

In a letter dated the 26th September 1896, W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance gave notice to the British American Bank Note Company that their contract (which required six months to terminate), would cease on 22 April 1897. Fielding's authority was an Order-in-Council dated 14 September 1896.

On 19 October 1896 tenders were invited for the manufacture and supply of postage stamps and related security items. Tenders were accepted up to noon of the 23rd November 1896. The contract was to be awarded for a five year, three month term to commence 1 July 1897.

Copies of the terms and conditions were sent to a surprisingly large number of printing firms in Canada, the United States and Great Britain — a total of forty-two. In addition, other firms learning of the call for tenders wrote requesting the specifications. Because of the various stipulations, particularly the requirement to build a plant in Ottawa, few firms could seriously consider bidding and only the following three actually submitted tenders for the contract:

- American Bank Note Co., New York (ABNC)
- British American Bank Note Co., Ottawa (BABNC)
- Barber & Ellis Company, Toronto.

A \$5,000.00 deposit was required to accompany a tender submission. The Barber and Ellis Company did not include the deposit. As a consequence their tender was not considered.

The British American Bank Note Company had printed Canada's currency and postage and revenue stamps since February 1868. The official

reason for changing contractors was given in the **Postmaster General's Report** for 1897:

"The contract with the British American Bank Note Company expired on the 22nd of April, 1897, and a contract was entered into with the American Bank Note Company for the manufacture and supply of postage stamps, etc. An estimate of the probable ordinary requirements for the next fiscal year and the comparison based thereon between the old and the present rates show that, under the new contract, stamp supplies will cost the department, say, \$10,000 per annum less than under the old contract, a reduction in outlay of about 20 per cent.

However, the 23rd January 1897 edition of the **Weekly Philatelic Era**, a well respected philatelic journal of the period, gives the following, rather pointed, explanation for the change of printers under the recently elected Reform (Liberal) government:

"The British American Bank Note Company, which for so many years have had the contract for printing Canada's paper currency and postage stamps, have been notified that their services will no longer be required. The shareholders in that company were not of the right political stripe for the new Government. The contract has now been given to the American Bank Note Company of New York. This company will have to establish a branch office at Ottawa and all the work will have to be done in Canada."

The further assessment of research conducted by the author among records in the Public Archives of Canada may reveal yet another reason for the change in printing firms. This may be the subject of a future article.

### THE PRINTING CONTRACT

The contract was offered to the American Bank Note Company on 5 January and was accepted by the firm on 9 January 1897. However, there were several points which required clarification and the contract was not actually signed and returned by the Company until 19 March 1897. The firm lost no time in printing postage stamps because it delivered its first — the sixteen value Jubilee issue, on 12 June 1897.

In the meantime, upon learning that the contract was awarded to a "foreign" firm, G. B. Burland, President of BABNC wrote the following pointed letter to Fielding on 13 January 1897:

"With reference to the tender of the British American Bank Note Company, we would ask your kind attention to the injustice that would be done to the capital invested in the country if the work of the country is given to foreigners, and we ask that new tenders be taken for the following reasons:

1st. That ample capital has been invested at the request of the government to satisfactorily prepare all the work required by the government.  
2nd. That the contract has been awarded in violation of the terms and conditions of the specification.

3rd. That no notice was given that foreign tenders would have privileges not embodied in the specification.

4th. That the terms of the specification would be violated by giving the privilege to foreign competitors for a double period without equal rights to the local company.

5th. That the greatest injustice would be done local capital by allowing free duty to such foreign competitors without any allowance, in lieu thereof, to the local company.

6th. That all persons tendering against invested capital should show their ability by having suitable premises and machinery with which to do the work, the tenders of all parties would then be on equal terms.

For the foregoing reasons and many others we respectfully ask a reconsideration of the subject."

Fielding's brief and, anything but encouraging reply on the 15th January states:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant respecting the engraving contract." and,

prompted Burland to write again, the very same day!

"We have to thank you for the time and attention you have given us with reference to the contract intended to be given to foreigners having no claims or interest whatever in our country, save a strong desire to get possession, at any price, of the bank note business of the Dominion.

The British American Bank Note Company was established to retain this work in Canada, large capital was invested by its citizens and the best of protection was afforded, and for years past I make bold to say that the Finance Department and the banks of the Dominion have had the note circulation of the country supplied them, at least thirty per cent less than the current rate for such work from New York.

Our capital now stands in great danger, not from competition with the citizens of Canada and their capital, but from one of the largest monopolies of the United States having no interests in the Dominion other than the purpose of securing its work and obtaining sole possession of the field with the ultimate result of being able to charge any prices they may think proper, as was done in former years.

In order to prevent such a calamity to the commercial interests of the country and to protect the large capital already invested we, the British American Bank Note Company, are prepared to accept the terms of the tender submitted by the American Bank Note Company, and thereby preserve, if possible, the bank note business of the Dominion which has been performed by us for the last thirty-five years in a satisfactory manner.

Asking your most serious consideration of the subject."

If readers are surprised at such prompt same day action from the Government of the day, the fact that Fielding sent out another letter in reply to Burland's second letter before the 15th was over, is even more amazing:

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date on the subject of the contract for Dominion notes, stamps, etc. The work in question was offered to open competition in accordance with a determination publicly announced some months ago. You had an ample opportunity

of tendering and you did tender. If your tender had been the lowest you would have received the contract, but unfortunately your tender was an excessively high one, the acceptance of which would have been a grave injustice to the public interests. The government deemed it to be their duty to accept the lowest tender coming from capable and responsible parties. Acting upon this view they have awarded the contract to parties whose tender was very much lower than yours. Under these circumstances it will be apparent to you that the government cannot entertain any new proposal from you for the work."

Despite the lack of a positive or even encouraging reponse from Fielding and the refund, with interest, of the BABNC deposit on the 18th January, Burland continued to pursue the matter. On the 28th January he sent Fielding a copy of his Company's petition to the Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada-in-Council. The petition used basically the same arguments as Burland outlined in his letter of the 13th and 15th January, and included comparative figures to further substantiate the appeal for intervention by the Queen's representative. Regardless of the determined effort to retain the contract they held for thirty-five years, the BABNC failed to keep it. "Insult to injury" may have occurred when the ABNC built a plant just a few doors away from the BABNC on Wellington Street, where they were to keep the contract for nearly as many years as the former holder. It was not until 1930 that the BABNC regained the contract, and then only for five years before it returned to the CBNC.

Beginning in 1968, the contract for printing Canada's postage stamps was tendered for by the two competitors. Ashton-Potter Ltd. of Toronto, a firm specializing in high quality, multi-colour lithography, began competing with the Bank Note Companies in 1971. Today the three firms share the task of producing Canada's postage stamps on a tender basis.

### THE PRINTERS

By their contract, the ABNC was required to establish a subsidiary plant in Ottawa where "work . . . shall be done and performed . . . in such building or buildings as are approved by the Minister of Finance of Canada . . . (they are) to be fire-proof and to contain all necessary fire-proof vaults to ensure the safety of work". The only other work the contractors were permitted to perform on their premises was the engraving and preparing of bank notes for Canadian chartered banks.

On 21 November 1896, Mr. T. H. Freeland, Secretary and General Manager of the ABNC submitted his firm's tender. In his covering letter Mr. Freeland expressed concern that his firm would not be permitted to import the materials required to engrave and produce rolls, plates and postage stamps from outside Canada. In his reply of 14 December 1896 Mr. Fielding made it clear that the clause did not place such restriction and confirmed:

"Our chief purpose in requiring the work of this contract be done in Ottawa is that it may be performed by workmen in an establishment coming immediately under the supervision of this Department with a view to the greatest possible security against loss or fraud."

As their contract stipulated the printers constructed a building – on Wellington Street at the north-east corner of Kent Street. Because of the urgent requirement for premises, the building was built in winter, the first in Ottawa to have concrete and brick work done at that time of year. The firm remained at 224 Wellington Street for over fifty years until a shortage of space became critical. A modern printing plant was designed and constructed at 145 Richmond Road. In August 1950 the firm first occupied the custom plant, where it continues to operate today.

The firm was known as the American Bank Note Company until being incorporated by a letter of patent as, the Canadian Bank Note Corporation, on 24 March 1916. The name was changed again to the Canadian Bank Note Company by a supplementary letter of patent on 30 November 1922.

*(to be continued)*

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## RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE CANADA 1859 DECIMAL ISSUE

It is regretted that there were some misprints in the tables of this article printed in the October 1980 issue of *Maple Leaves*. The following amendments should be made :—

1. 1c 30 June 1864 For “1,270,100” read “1,240,100”.
2. 5c 30 Sept. 1863 For “All 17(1)” read “All 14(1)”.
3. 10c 30 Sept. 1860 For “66% of 7(2) read “66% of 4(2)”.
4. 12½c Last 8 lines to read :—  
30 June 1865 66% of 12, All 13(1), Greater part (about 141,500) of 14(2).  
30 June 1866 Remainder (smaller part) of 14, All 15(1), All 16(2), Smaller part of 17(3).  
30 June 1867 Greater part of 17, 75% of 18(3).  
30 June 1868 25% of 18, 77% of 19(3)

N.B. Orders 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, as originally placed, totalled 1,100,000 but only 1,076,700 appear to have been received. It is not possible to determine in which order or orders this shortfall of 23,300 occurred.

5. 17c 30 June 1868 For “42%” read “32%”.

## CANADIAN RAILWAY POSTMARKS by L. F. Gillam, F.C.P.S.

### Part 6

In part 5 of this series we remarked on the proliferation of Type 17 railway postmarks from the turn of the century onwards, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, in contradistinction to the Western Provinces where they were comparatively rarely used. The thought naturally occurs as to why this should be so until one glances at a map of Canada and more especially at a railway map. The answer then becomes a simple one: the huge distances involved in the Western Provinces, irrespective of the volume of mail carried by railway post offices, made it virtually impossible for one clerk in the course of a normal working day (or night) to cover more than a section of the 'run' before his shift was over and he was due for a rest period. This might involve an overnight stay (or an 'overday' stay!) after which he would normally work the next railway post office back to his original base. Depending on the volume of mail carried, and to some extent the season of the year, such a practice in the larger railway post offices operating over long distances might well be shared by a team of mail clerks up to as many as eight or even ten or more a shift. Quite clearly the kind of organisation involved in such operations was very different from that involved in a shorter 'run' where one clerk might work alone shuttling backwards and forwards between two termini over a distance which might be as little as 25 miles four or six times a day. These distinctions between, for example, the Medicine Hat & Nelson R.P.O. (operating over 450 miles in some 20 hours) and the Port Colborne & Port Dalhousie R.P.O. (operating over 25 miles in something under one hour) are real ones. What are now called the 'logistics' of the two situations were very different indeed.

The complex organisational and administrative problems presented by long distance R.P.O.'s are reflected in the kinds of postmarks used. Of necessity there had to be many 'hammers' and of necessity they had to be distinguished. The distinguishing feature, characteristic of the type 17A postmark (illustrated in the heading) was a number at the base, usually but not invariably preceded by the abbreviation 'No.' or very exceptionally a capital letter alone. Briefly, then, type 17A postmarks were adaptations of type 17, the number, or letter replacing the dot or star or cross normally found at the base of type 17. In all other respects they were alike, and it is for this reason that partial strikes of the two different postmarks can be confused.

The preponderance of type 17A postmarks in the Western Provinces is emphasized by the following 'count' which does not claim to be other than accurate enough to reflect the geographical 'facts of life' with which post office administrators had to contend.



Number of different type 17A postmarks used in :

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Newfoundland       | NIL |
| Maritime Provinces | NIL |
| Quebec             | 10  |
| Ontario            | 68  |
| Western Provinces  | 194 |

One final point is worth making: the various type 17A postmarks with different numbers at their base and different forms of the wording of the termini are a study on their own. The Winnipeg & Moose Jaw R.P.O. for example is known to have used numbers from 1 to at least 15, all of which the writer has seen with the exception of 12. It almost certainly exists, however. How many different 'hammers' were used during the course of its long life of some 65 years is a matter for those who, unlike us, don't care for a simple life. The writer's 27 varieties made up of different numbers and combinations of various spellings, abbreviations and punctuation marks is probably a very modest tally indeed!

(N.B. Both Shaw and Ludlow list two 'Railway' postmarks in their 'R' sections. One, R.81 is of doubtful existence, the other, R.44B more properly belongs to the 'W' section since the postmark not only includes the name of the railway (Grand Trunk Pacific) *BUT ALSO* gives some indication of the route, i.e. West of Wainwright.)

(Note: In part 4 of this series we referred to the exceptional uses of 'AM' and 'PM' in R.P.O. postmarks. Mr. G. C. Carr and Mr. R. D. Gray have both very kindly drawn our attention to examples of the Huron & Erie RWY. M.C. postmark (R73) in which the indicium 'AM' appears above the date. Mr. Gray also refers to the existence of a G. Bay & L.E. Ry. M.C. strike (R41A) in which the indicium 'AM' sometimes appears. These are certainly the first examples that we have known to exist (as opposed to those reported in catalogues, of which we are well aware and to which we have referred). In the light of the categorical statement that such abbreviations were never incorporated in indicia, apart from the exceptions we referred to, this obviously has to be modified. It would be reasonable enough to say, however, that such usage is most exceptional.)

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## EDINBURGH 1980

The very windy afternoon of Wednesday 1st October, saw a small but faithful "Band of Pilgrims" arriving for the 1980 Convention at the Carlton Hotel.

Ian Bryce (The President) and his wife Noreen waited patiently for all to arrive, but worried that a search party would need to be mounted to seek Leslie Taylor, who had gone some hours previously to Stirling, in pursuit of the back-plates for the frames.

On Wednesday evening members had an interesting display by Dr. Matthew Carstairs and the Ladies made their usual circle of chairs in the

Lounge — but they also were concerned — Where is Jim Bacon — President Elect? He had not arrived!

Thursday dawned fine and clear and after a Study Circle in the morning by Dr. Charles Hollingsworth, we had a very interesting Coach Tour through some beautiful country to Traquair House — the oldest inhabited house in Scotland — and with a Brew House. One can guess that there were a few bottles of "Real Ale" that would eventually arrive at different destinations throughout Britain.

On Thursday evening the Ladies had a most informative talk by Mr. Ian Hobbs about the Royal Mile in the Old Town and the growth of the New Town.

After the display on Thursday evening by Eric Killingley, the Yorkshire Group, still worried about the non-appearance of Jim, were considering asking John Parkin, to call out his ex-colleagues in "The Flying Squad" — to seek out Jim. Where were you Jim? At home arranging next years Convention?

On Friday the last of the judging of the Exhibition took place, with the discovery of a very new and different Exhibition — "Phun with Philately". This display, its aptness and amusement, produced waves of laughter from an unseen audience in the Exhibition Room. It had taken about 9 months to compile by Neil Prior. Well done Neil! Perhaps you can produce another one in the future?

Eureka! Our President Elect has arrived — and has already spent part of the evening "chatting up" the two truants from the Theatre — Connie Whitworth and Betty.

Saturday's Auction brought a record number of lots and also record takings of over £6,500.

As the latter part of Saturday afternoon came, there was nearly no seating plan for the Banquet, as Betty, spent at least 10 minutes going up and down in the lift (with a different Member at each floor). What a way to meet the Boys, and unable to persuade the lift to stop at the correct floor!

Our Annual Banquet was enjoyed by all and at the presentation of awards a new and special "Cup" was presented for the first time — "the Phunny Cup", presented by Noreen Bryce for the display that had most pleased the Ladies and given the greatest pleasure. This was of course presented to a rather surprised, but we hope pleased, Neil Prior.

John Parkin proposed the health of the Ladies and was ably replied to by Jean Taylor, her first but we hope not the last time at the Convention Banquet. She obviously had first hand experience of being a philatelic widow!

Sunday morning saw us dispersing to our various homes, with the promise that "Jim'll Fix It" for us to have the 1981 Convention in Carlisle as long as we take our hiking boots! Why not join us, even if it is your first time?

## IN THE BEGINNING . . .

by J. E. Chambers

Once upon a time a boy was given a Strand Stamp Album, a packet of French Colonials and some stamp hinges. I remember noting that the donor had forgotten to erase the penciled price of the album on the back cover . . . ye gods . . . it cost seven shillings and six pence . . . a fortune when pocket money ran at two pence (old pence per week).

Over the years relatives were pestered for stamps and with this plus pocket money progressing to four old pence the album became in danger of being overloaded. Where did all those German inflation issue stamps come from? Must be valuable or rare: 1,000,000 marks and sometimes more!

I see that the Strand has several records of stamps acquired written proudly inside the front cover for all to see.

At this stage reputation and fame rested on the number of stamps in the collection. Quality was measured by the size and bright colour of the treasures.

Collecting continued for years with admitted various hiccups but there was always a return, often with added enthusiasm . . . "Do you still collect stamps", says uncle . . . "I've got these . . ." and so it went on.

All this led to an untidy hotch-potch of small collections (still including the Strand) the collections or accumulations or hoards were getting ever larger and untidier.

There were odd packets, letters from relatives, postcards, out of date catalogues, odd boxes, some sorted others contained mysteries . . . and the tattered remains of a 1930ish SG Catalogue.

I cried HALT! I could see that general collecting was doomed on a slim purse, and that some monies simply had to be spent on equipment. Also I came to several conclusions apart from this :—

1. to collect one or two countries only,
2. to have a regular stamp magazine and
3. to join a local stamp society.

Little did I know that this advice had been on offer in articles and books for years. I thought I was the inventor!

I chose but one magazine, with the knowledge that most of the rest could be found in the reading room of the local library.

Now what to collect? No hesitation on first choice — obviously Great Britain.

Second choice was more difficult. I searched through an up-to-date SG. Commonwealth catalogue, having dismissed foreign with some disdain. I wanted a country which was not too expensive (at that time remember);

where watermark and perforation varieties didn't bedevil every line, yet with enough challenge to be interesting. I chose Canada. I resolved to trade anything I had for Canada.

What a funny fellow I was. Canada simple! It can be I suppose but when you steep yourself in the information available in magazines, books etc., the narrow country lane gradually ends with highways and byways looking like Spaghetti junction.

The deviation starts with a dive into the secrets of precancels, plate blocks, postmarks and other marks on letters.

Postmarks and other marks: enough to last several lifetimes: squared circles, roller cancellations flags, R.P.O's (with or without Mr. Shaw).

Then the wicked Mr. Holmes leading to — dare I say it — FISCAWS. What heresy!

I obtained a copy of Mr. Boggs and then was nearly overwhelmed with all kinds of interests: meter mail, ornamental cancellations on small cents; circles, stars, crowns, initials, bull's eyes, circles with numbers and without.

So now we are in the middle of Canadian simplicity with wet printings, dry printings, re-entries and so it goes on.

I need hardly mention Special deliveries, registration, airmail and semi official airmail.

I can hear some readers saying, "Well I never! He hasn't mentioned . . ." voicing his own particular love. I'm sure of that.

The joy of it all is, I could have stayed on the straight and narrow, but the roaming has made for a lifetime of interest and umpteen volumes of this and that.

Well there it is, dear Editor, an article which specialises in nothing, warns about nothing except enthusiasm, and when you come down to it says one man's "everything".

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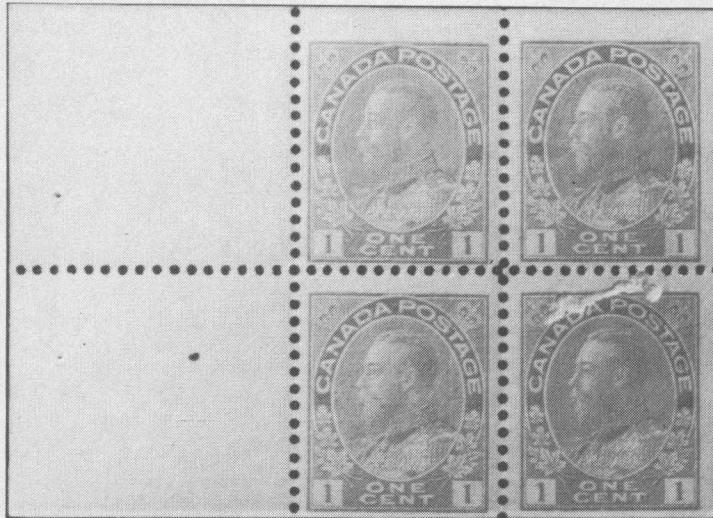
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B.N.A. BOOKLET VARIETIES  
by W. J. McCann

A Paper Flaw



The above illustrated pane of the 1 cent yellow Admiral was shown as part of a competitive exhibit at the 1979 convention at Hove. The judges in their critique removed the pane from the page to examine it and acknowledged it to be a true flaw.

It is possible for some one to remove a layer of paper from the face of the stamp creating such a variety.

It appears that a small piece of paper or foreign matter may have been on top of the paper during printing. Afterwards, when the foreign paper was removed, the resultant flaw became evident.

Another possible explanation is that the flaw occurred before printing. This is suggested by the strong embossing on the colourless area whereas if the flaw occurred after printing especially on two pieces of paper the embossing would be weak. Are there any further possible explanations?

## FROM THE SECRETARY .....

The Annual General Meeting and Committee meeting were held in Edinburgh on 4 October, 1980, and the following officers were appointed for the current year :—

|                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| President — J. L. Bacon    | Advertising Mgr. — G. L. Birch       |
| Vice-Pres. — C. A. King    | Handbooks Mgr. — Dr. M. W. Carstairs |
| J. M. Parkin               | Packet Secretary — R. Grigson        |
| Secretary — D. F. Sessions | Publicity Officer — Dr. D. Sanderson |
| Treasurer — J. H. Bryce    | Asst. Treasurer — T. Almond          |
| Librarian — C. G. Banfield | Asst. Editor — E. Killingley         |
| Editor — L. F. Gillam      | Hon. Auditor — J. P. Macaskie        |

The balance of the Committee consists of :—

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| J. Hannah         | Dr. C. W. Hollingworth |
| J. E. R. Thompson | G. Whitworth           |
| A. S. Mackie      | W. Williams            |

### Minutes

A copy of the minutes has been sent to each Committee member and a copy of the A.G.M. minutes will be on display at next Convention. Any member requiring a copy meanwhile should write to the Secretary, a SAE would be appreciated.

### New Officers

Members are asked to take note of the names of new office holders in order that correspondence can be dealt with efficiently. Whilst the appointments are effective forthwith it should be noted that the physical transfer of stocks of handbooks from Mr. Cohen to Dr. Carstairs is to be arranged at their mutual convenience. Members requiring handbooks should therefore write to Mr. Cohen until a note appears in M.L. that the transfer has taken place.

### Society Treasurer

Ideally this position should be filled by a member with some knowledge of simple accounting. Unfortunately, in a Society such as ours, the talents of the bulk of the membership are unknown to the Committee and several abortive approaches were made to members to take on the post this year. In the event, Mr. Bryce agreed to take the post on a temporary basis in the light of his previous experience as Assistant Treasurer but would be greatly pleased if a willing volunteer could be found. Any member of the Society, based in the U.K., with some knowledge of bookkeeping/accounts, who is prepared to volunteer his services, is asked to write to the Secretary.

### **The Exchange Packet**

Packet Secretary, Mr. Grigson, reports that pending negotiations over renewal of the insurance on the packet, no new packets were sent out between October and December. It is hoped that by the time this note appears the matter will have been satisfactorily resolved and normal service resumed. The consequent delay is unavoidable but, nevertheless, very much regretted.

### **Subscriptions**

We are pleased to say that a number of members actually pay their subscriptions on time, without reminders! In view of the increase this year to £5, this has resulted in a number of members forwarding an insufficient sum. To avoid uneconomic correspondence the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Almond, asks that such members forward the balance of £1 to him at their early convenience, this will apply to members who pay by bankers order. In the case of overseas members, in view of the charges involved, it is proposed to collect the balance at the next renewal date.

### **Convention 1981**

The next Convention will be held at the Crown & Mitre Hotel, Carlisle, from, 7-10 October, 1981.

### **Annual Competition**

The 1980 awards were as follows :—

|          |                    |  |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| Class 1  | Research and Study | 1st G. Whitworth F.C.P.S. –<br>12½c Value of 1859<br>2nd J. L. Bacon – ‘Admiral’ Frames. |
| Class 2  | Regional Groups    | 1st Yorkshire – Early Quebec.<br>2nd London – Province of Canada.                        |
| Class 3a | B.N.A. pre 1897    | 1st G. Whitworth F.C.P.S. —<br>Large Queens<br>2nd D. F. Sessions – ‘Imperial’ Machines. |
| Class 3b | B.N.A. post 1897   | 1st W. McCann – Newfoundland<br>Booklets   |

### *Trophies*

|               |                       |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Godden        | G. Whitworth F.C.P.S. | 12½c Value of 1859                |
| Bunny         | W. McCann             | Newfoundland Booklets             |
| Admiral       | J. L. Bacon           | ‘Admiral’ Frames                  |
| Aikens        | Lt. Col. D. Prichard  | Plating of the 12½c Value of 1859 |
| Founders      | Dr. D. Sanderson      | Research                          |
| Gibbons Award | — N. Prior            |                                   |

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. C. R. McGuire,  
Acting Curator, National Postal Museum writes :

### Montreal Registration, British & Foreign Mails

This refers to Mr. L. G. Asquith's query regarding the "Montreal Registration, British & Foreign Mails" cancellation.

I first observed a similar cancellation used on registered mail from or passing through Montreal (as a transit office) in the early 1930's.

A few years later this cancellation was replaced with another, the wording of which is not quite accurate because I have not only seen it used on mail to Great Britain, but also on letters addressed to South America and a number of European nations.

In all I have observed the four cancellations — the two described above and the two described by Mr. Asquith, used on about thirty covers. They all had two things in common — they were going abroad and they were registered. If I recall correctly, the last use I noted for the use of such a cancel was during the early 1960's. To my knowledge all these hand daters were used in the special section of the main Montreal post office through which all registered mail destined to foreign countries passed.

Mr. H. S. Ellerton writes :

### Stamp varieties and 'bits and pieces'

Your editorial was no doubt intended to liven up members such a myself — a member of the silent majority.

I am I regret personally unable to write articles on a subject about which I only have catalogues and *Maple Leaves* to refer to and my collection of Canada, modest as it may be.

Whatever is published in *Maple Leaves* is always of considerable interest to me though some of it to me is rather technical.

I would, however, appreciate a column of 'Bits & Pieces' which no doubt I and many other members could contribute from time to time.

As an example of this I have stamps as listed below which I have yet to find catalogued or mentioned in *Maple Leaves*:

1971 S.G.687 Christmas issue 6c deep blue complete offset on reverse.  
1972 S.G.707 \$1 the letters of CANADA are cracked in the printing.

I feel that a 'Bits & Pieces' column would be an interesting addition to *Maple Leaves*.

Please publish this letter if you feel it will create interest from the silent majority.

(*Mr. Ellerton's suggestion is certainly a worthwhile one. We have in the past suggested that a members' queries and answers feature would prove of interest to readers if the queries and answers were submitted. Usually, however, they are so few in number as far as queries are concerned, that we have published them in the letter form in which they originated in the hope that other members would supply the answers. This very frequently occurs as in Mr. McGuire's answer to Mr. Asquith's letter in our August issue, which is published above – Editor.*)

Mr. L. C. MacRae writes :

**Re: Unlisted New Brunswick Way Office Postmarks**

I am attempting to compile a more comprehensive listing of New Brunswick Way Office Postmarks than was included in Jephcott, Greene & Young. I would like to include the unrecorded postmarks, postmarks after confederation, and update the known dates of usage.

It would be appreciated if readers would send to the above a list showing unrecorded way office postmarks or unrecorded dates of usage. Please include the name of the way office, the type as listed by Jephcott, Greene & Young, as well as the date of usage.

Mr. D. A. Avery writes :—

**5 cents on 6 cents S.Q. Re-entry**

At the recent London (1980) Philatelic Exhibition I was surprised to see an exhibit which suggested that there are two states of the above well-known variety, both from unknown positions on the plate. The illustration of the alleged newly-discovered version, however, showed no evidence of the 5 cents entry in the band below ANA of Canada and AG of postage.

Closer inspection with the aid of a magnifier revealed that the two apparently different types were identical and as illustrated in Boggs on page 297. I think that it is worthwhile drawing readers' attention to this matter since it clearly points to the ease with which it is possible, unintentionally, to deceive oneself, and others!

***An Invitation***  
**To Members of the Canadian  
Philatelic Society of Great Britain**

If you are not already a member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and would be interested in joining the "Royal" please write to The Secretary, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Box 1054, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1G5, for membership application forms or information.

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## ALTERATIONS TO MEMBERS TO 5 NOVEMBER 1980

### New Members

- 2287 PAYNE, Prof. P. L., 14 The Chanony, Old Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland AB2 1RP. CG.  
2288 PARADELL, Michael A. F., 10 Stanley Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 9JE. CR-CG, PC, MPO.  
2289 VOSS, Rev. Jack K., 197 North Street, Jersey City, N.J., 07307, USA. C, B.  
2290 McBRIAR, David J., 4 Longworth Way, Guisborough, Cleveland, TS14 6DG, C.  
2291 MILLS, Andrew, Suite 6, 14205 - 96th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA, TSN 6C2. C, B, PE.  
2292 LAMBERT, Donald P., 30 Ridgeway, Edenbridge, Kent. C.  
2293 MARVIN, Frederick L., 16 Bloxam Gardens, Rugby. CS, PH.  
2294 HOLT, Jonathan M., 14 East Borough, Wimborne Minster, Dorset, BH21 1PL. FF, Arctic.  
2295 BROWN, Julien K., Creagmhor, Coach Road, Kilsyth, Stirlingshire, G65 0QA. C, CR, CEN, PC.  
2296 SHEFFIELD, John, PO Box 3171, Stn.A., London, Ontario, CANADA, N6A 4J4.  
2297 McCLEAVE, John G., 186 Willingdon St., Fredericton, Nr. Brunswick, CANADA, E3B 3A5. CR-CG, RLS, B.

### Reinstatement

- 1551 PALSER, David, 14 Fordfield Road, Kitts Green, Birmingham B33 9TJ. C, P.  
1878 METROPOLITAN TORONTO LIBRARY BOARD (Fine Art Dept.), 789 Yonge Street, Ontario, CANADA, M4W 2G8.

### Deceased

- 469 ROBERTSON, D. G.  
81 WHITE, W.

### Resigned

- 866 Atkins

### Resigned

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 866 Atkinson, F. G. | 2114 Skinner, V. L.   |
| 2201 Esaw, F. A.    | 1612 Taylor, C. J. O. |
| 2189 Mensforth, E.  | 1942 Taylor, M. H.    |
| 1914 Mewse, R. A.   | 663 Woods, J. E.      |
| 185 Saunders, R.    | 758 Wright, G. H.     |

### Change of Address

- 1628 BOSCH, Dr. W. L., 300 East Fifth St., Vankton, South Dakota, USA, 57078.  
1036 COLLINS, S. G., Manor Cottage, Old Quay Lane, Neston, South Wirral, L64 6QR  
1763 GRIMSEELL, P., 'Linden Lea', Norton Bavant, Nr. Warmminster, Wilts, BA12 7BB  
1496 HOPPER, R. H., 30 Hazleton Way, Cowplain, Havant, Hants, PO8 9BS.  
1110 KANEE, S., Apt. 18B, 200 Tuxedo Blvd., Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA R3P OR3.  
482 KING, C. A., 10 St. Leonards Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0SL.  
2228 LOWE, D., 2 Vicarage Close, Westonroyland, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0LG  
845 McCONNELL, L.D., 43 Old Croft Road, Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford ST17 0NJ.  
1684 SANDERSON, Dr. D., 4 Colt Close, Fernyhurst Estate, Rowhams, Southampton SO1 8JA.  
2010 SPANN, F. A., 34 Stamford Grove, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 1LZ.

### Amendment to Address

- 2279 WARREN, L. E. - amend postcode to read BN13 2HE.

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CANADIAN PRECANCELLED Postal Stationery. Also Covers and Multiples of Early Bar precancels. Offers to George Manley, 126 Ebury Street, London, SW1W 9QQ.

CANADIAN PIONEER AIR MAIL FLIGHT COVERS wanted for period 1909-1927, especially covers flown in British Columbia, 1919-1921. Also used Canadian aerogrammes and Forces Air Letter Forms to the United Kingdom 1942 to present, especially aerogrammes issued from 1970 to 1979. Please send offers to Major R. K. Malott, Ret'd, 16 Harwick Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 6R1, Canada.

WANTED CANADIAN PIONEER AIR MAIL FLIGHT COVERS 1853 to 1930. All flights and phases, Pioneer airmail mint stamps. Semi-Official airmail stamps and covers, die proofs and essays. Government Issues C1 to C9, CE1 to CE4 die proofs and essays — Ray Simrak P.O. Box 56, Maidstone, Ont., NOR 1K0.

WANTED Canadian Die Proofs and Essays, by collector. All issues prior to 1947. Please send particulars to — Ray Simrak, P.O. Box 56, Maidstone, Ont., NOR 1K0.

WANTED Canadian First Day Covers, by collector. 1930 Leaf, 1928 Scroll, 1917 Confederation, All Admiral Issues, 1908 Quebec, also any earlier issues — Ray Simrak, P.O. Box 56, Maidstone, Ont., NOR 1K0.

### FOR SALE

Modern Mint Canada sent against your want list on approval. Older issues, mint and used, also available. References please. Mattatuck Philatelics, P.O. Box 550, Barberton, Ohio 44203, USA.

*Where is there postal history reference to the Red River Manuscript datestamp?*

*Where is there information about the "Piastres 2 Dollars" Revenues?*

*Do you know anything about the Riel Rebellion?*

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