



JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Maple Leaves

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Vol. 18 No. 4

August, 1981



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MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCORPORATED 1946

Founder:

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Edited by L. F. Gillam, F.C.P.S.

66 East Bawtry Road, Rotherham, Yorkshire

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

Published five times a year by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Issued Free to Members

Additional copies £1.00 each

Vol. 18 No. 4

AUGUST, 1981

Whole No. 184

EDITORIAL

Canadian Specialised Postage Stamp Catalogue

News has reached us of the prospective publication, possibly in September, 1981, of a work on Canadian philately which is designed to be a specialised catalogue of a kind which can truly lay claim to being such. Readers will be familiar with the series of *CANADIAN SPECIALISED CATALOGUES* which have been issued annually by the Philatelic Publishing Co. of Toronto. This publication will now, apparently, cease. To our knowledge it has always been favourably reviewed. Its obvious limitations were dictated by the commendable policy of the publishers of making available to collectors as much specialised information as possible about Canadian postage stamps in handy, pocketbook form at a reasonable price.

It has always been recognised, however, that in such a highly complex field as Canadian philately a more ambitious project, embodying a synthesis, in convenient reference form, of the fruits of researchers would meet the needs of serious collectors. If there are any areas of Canadian philately which have not attracted the attentions and detailed study of acknowledged experts we cannot think of even one. From the 'Pence' issues to the modern 'Centennials', spanning more than a century, philatelists whose names are household words have devoted their labours to widening the field of knowledge of their chosen subjects, and making their studies available to their fellow collectors. Some of their work is readily available, some has been republished to meet very evident demand, some is regrettably out of print.

Some of these authors are now no longer with us; but our readers will not be surprised to learn that many of our members and those of the B.N.A.P.S. are collaborating with Mr. Michael Milos, the compiler of the new catalogue, in order to ensure that the work when it appears is as comprehensive and as authoritative as possible. When it appears, and book reviewers ransack their lists of stock phrases and reluctantly reach the conclusion that this catalogue 'fulfils a long-felt need' they may lack originality; but we shall be able to rely upon it that, in this instance, they are absolutely right.

The Honourable George C. Marler

By the time that this appears in print most of our members will have been saddened by the news of the death, on 10th April last, of one of Canada's most distinguished politicians and scholars. He will, of course, be remembered by us pre-eminently as a distinguished Canadian philatelist. His other claims to fame, and they are numerous, are not perhaps as well known to members in this country as they are in Canada. A full tribute to him will be published in our October issue.

INTELPOST – COMMUNICATIONS OF THE FUTURE – TODAY

On Monday, March 16th, Winnipeg joined an international electronic mail service connecting seven Canadian cities and Washington, New York, London (Eng.), Berne, and Amsterdam through high-speed facsimile transmission.

INTELPOST, the clever integration of space-age satellite and microwave technology with the latest high-speed facsimile equipment, has been brought about by Canada Post, Teleglobe Canada and CNCP Telecommunications. This service allows, for the first time, transmission of crisp, clean, black and white facimiles of written or illustrated material to any of the network member cities in just seconds. Hand-written material, documents, or anything that can be photocopied, are guaranteed to be as accurate as the original.

The satellite system works like this: Take your letter, document, item, etc. to the main Winnipeg Post Office; fill out a brief form giving your address and the address of intended recipient. Your letter is then inserted in a scanning machine, which photographs it in black and white and transmits it in digital form to receiving equipment. When received at INTELPOST city of destination it will either be held for the recipient to pick up, dropped into the regular mail service, or it may be delivered by special delivery. The cost is just \$4.00 per page within Canada, \$5.00 internationally.

INTELPOST (an acronym for international electronic post) is a highly sophisticated electronic mail system which offers many advantages to its customer. It is fast, inexpensive, error free, versatile, factual and secure.

(Reproduced from "The Buffalo", the journal of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society by kind permission of the Editor.)

'FREE' MARKS by John Donaldson

REFERENCES :-

Books

- British North America – Jarrett.
- Canada & B.N.A. Handbook – Holmes.
- Postage Stamps & Postal History of Canada, Vol. I – Boggs.
- B.N.A. Encyclopaedia – Robson Lowe.

Articles

- Maple Leaves, Vol. 10, No. 4, April 1964.
- Canada Philatelist Nov./Dec. 1976.
- “What is a Duplex?” – F. Stulberg.

Acknowledgements :-

Mrs. Rose Saunders, (with whom it all began); Roland Greenhill, Colin Banfield, Dick Lamb, Graham Noble, Neil Prior, Mrs. Cully, E. F. Holdeman, T. R. Morgan (Australia), and James W. Brennan, Philatelic/Postal History Research Officer, National Postal Museum, Canada. David Sessions, Tom Almond.

Upon the face of numerous Canadian covers appears the word 'FREE' in many varied forms. Correspondence relating to Post Office business was at all times handled free and still is. This privilege was also accorded to all correspondence arising from the transfer of Crown Lands.

Manuscript :- The earlier forms of 'FREE' were written on the face of the cover by the deputy post-masters, the earliest noted being dated 1820. I have three entires from the post-masters at Trafalgar, Darlington and Ancaster addressed to the postmaster at Queenston, dated 1829, 1832 and 1833. All three have "FREE" in manuscript and the latter two "MONEY" in manuscript also.

(Note – Many of the earlier "Free's" emanate from Queenston as the P.M. there was an agent for both Canada and U.S.A. Post Offices. He paid the surcharge on cross border mail to the U.S.A. and recovered the amount due quarterly from the Canadian Post Offices. Fortunately for future Postal Historians he preserved the letters he received in their entirety!)

I have also a particularly late use of a manuscript 'FREE' dated 1896. This is understandable as it was from the Supreme Court, Northwest Territories and postmarked 'Regina'.

Straight Line Types :- The manuscript form of "FREE" was superseded by handstamps which appeared in various sizes, types and colours. These were often endorsed with the sender's signature or initials. Whilst some reference books give the earliest known use as 1840 I have three entires dated 1837 from Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton all with red Straight Line "FREE's" and I have seen one from Quebec dated 1832 (one that got away!).

It is the generally held opinion that "FREE" handstamps were introduced during the administration of T. A. Stayner, who was Deputy Post Master General from 1827 to 1851.

There is no doubt that there were abuses of the franking privilege. I have two "FREE" entires from P. M. Hamilton, 1837 to the Registrar, Vittoria acknowledging a deed for his brother; the other one from P. M. West Flamboro U.C., 1842 to a Presbyterian minister London, U.C. about the collection of subscriptions due to the church. Both of these are obviously not Post Office business. Boggs however writes "The Postmasters themselves had the franking privilege on their personal mail in addition to official correspondence". I can find no support for this in other references. Later the Post Office Act 1850 stated "... unlawfully use or affix to or upon any letter or packet any stamp, signature, initials or other mark or sign purporting that such letter or packet ought to pass free of postage ... shall be a felony and punishable by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for life."!

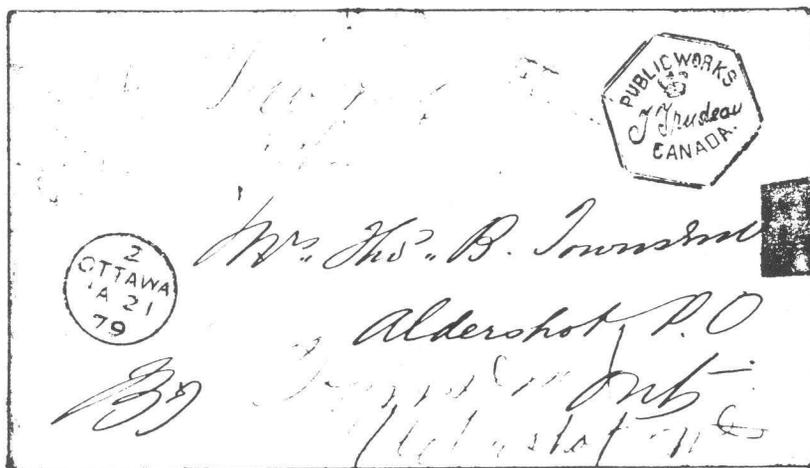


Fig. 1

From 1st July, 1855 a "FREE" franking privilege was granted to the correspondence of the Legislature and the Public Departments of the Government. This must not be confused with the original purpose of such marking. After Federation in 1867 only the Federal Departments had the franking privilege, the provincial Legislature being permitted to send documents open at the end free.

On a cover of mine of Militia Orders sent from Toronto to St. Thomas in 1856 there appears "O.H.M.S." and "PAID" with endorsement signature, (in manuscript) and a straight line handstamp "FREE". So there appears to have still been confusion twelve months after the Act.

The Legislature, Senate and House of Commons used many attractive and very collectable cancellations, some incorporated "FREE" in their design, others using a straight line handstamp "FREE" in addition to the cancellation. Many of these are illustrated in Jarrett, or for those who are fortunate to have them, in Colin Banfield's study notes of Government Cancellations given at the Cambridge Convention.

It must be remembered that the public had the Free privilege if they were writing to a member of the Senate or House of Commons provided the Chamber was in session. This type of correspondence was also often endorsed by the sender.

Only a few Public Departments incorporated "FREE" in their designs, but the majority used in the nineteenth century a straight line "FREE" in addition to their official cancellation. A surprisingly late straight line type in my possession is one from Alfred, Ont. to Department des Fleurs, Ottawa dated 27.5.1953.

A particularly interesting cancellation is that of the Public Works Department. It is a double lined hexagon with the words 'PUBLIC WORKS CANADA', the crown and a facsimile signature of T. TRUDEAU within. (Fig. 1.)

With the introduction of the Savings and Money Order Branches printed stationery was used with such words as "ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE" or 'O.H.M.S.' with 'FREE' or "Free by order of the Postmaster General" added.

Registered 'FREE' Types :- There are two handstamp types known to me.

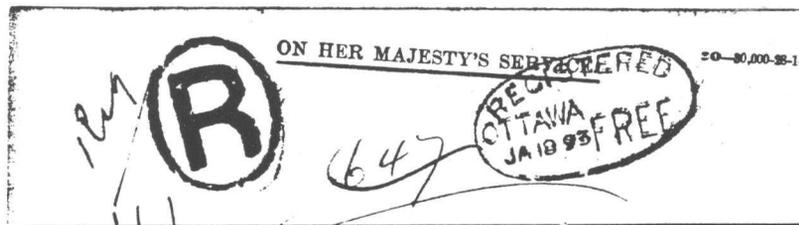


Fig. 2

- (1) Registered Ottawa 'FREE' with date in oval. (Fig. 2). Earliest known date 19.1.93, latest known date 13.11.99.
- (2) Registered Ottawa 'FREE' with date in rectangular box – only known date 6.4.89.

Keyhole Types :- Towards the end of the nineteenth century Ottawa, the seat of Government, adopted a cancellation known as a Keyhole Type. It consisted of a circular Ottawa dater and within it a straight line 'OTTAWA' and the designation 'FREE' outside at the base. (Fig. 3.) My earliest date is



Fig. 3

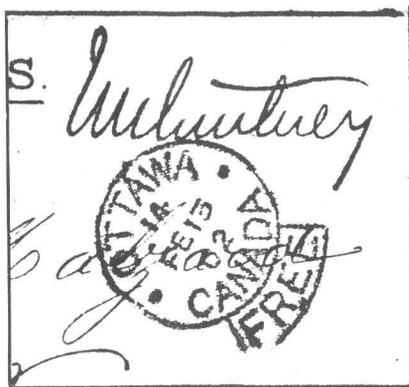


Fig. 4

18.10.98. This was superseded the following year by a similar type except that the 'FREE' was boxed with a narrower 'R'; earliest date 23.12.99. This was also superseded by a larger dater with a circular 'OTTAWA CANADA' within and 'FREE' boxed; earliest date 13.2.02. (Fig. 4.) There were further minor varieties of the keyhole type, my latest keyhole type is 20.5.43.

The House of Commons has also used at least two keyhole types of 'FREE', the first with 'HOUSE OF COMMONS CANADA' and date, the 'FREE' boxed, the other is bi-lingual.

"Duplex" Types :— Dr. Stulberg in an article in the 'Canadian Philatelist' in 1976 said that postal historians should modify the concept that stamp cancellation must be a function of a duplex device. He illustrated this by drawing attention to a double component instrument having a circular Ottawa dater with the designation 'FREE' to its right. Strikes of this mark are known from mid 1880 to early 1881. All are the same and show a 4mm. space between the two parts. The device was replaced by one of similar design that had a 7½mm. component separation. This type was used until early 1885 and then discontinued, probably giving way to the keyhole mentioned earlier.

However there were at least six other 'duplex' devices later incorporating the word 'FREE'. Details are set out below :—

Words in dater	Space mm	Base of 'FREE'	Height 'FREE'	Earliest known date	Latest known date
OTTAWA ONT.	mm 13	mm 35	mm 7	31.7.17	3.8.29
OTTAWA ONTARIO	14	35	8	21.8.32	14.8.33
OTTAWA ONT.	18 (With double wavy lines above and below 'FREE')	40	6	9.1.36	18.2.38

OTTAWA ONT.	18	50	15	22.5.45	4.6.45
OTTAWA ONT. CANADA	22	35	8	5.4.48	12.9.48
OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA	24	32	8	28.3.50	

The modern high speed machine 'FREE' types are duplexes in concept, and consist of 5, 6, or 7 horizontal lines with the words 'OFFICIAL - FREE' or 'FREE CANADA FRANCO'. (See Figs. 5 to 10 below).

At the present time the free privilege is confined to the following :-

- (a) Post Office business correspondence.
- (b) Governor-General and his secretary.
- (c) Correspondence to and from the Speaker and members of the Senate and House of Commons.
- (d) Literature etc., and writing paper specially prepared for the blind.

More information is required especially as regards earliest and latest dates. Photocopies of any particular type would be welcomed. I hope members will co-operate, it would be appreciated. Letters should be sent to me at 23, Lingen Avenue, Hereford, HR1 1BY.

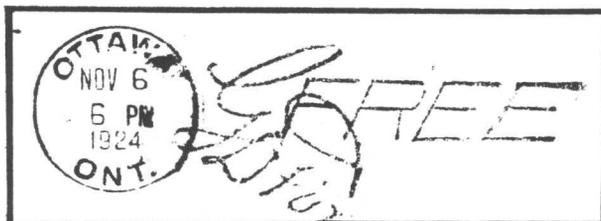


Fig. 5

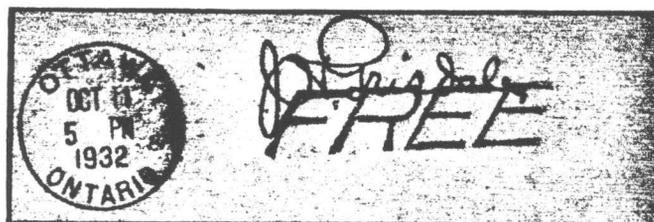


Fig. 6

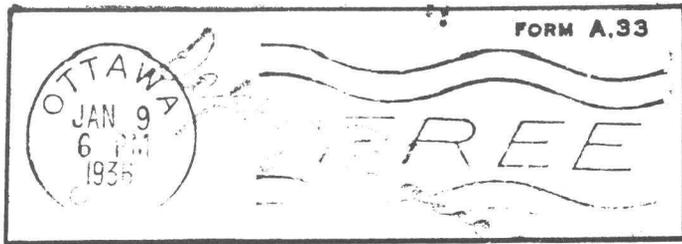


Fig. 7

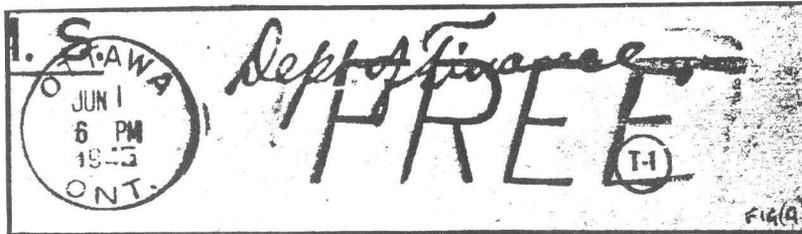


Fig. 8

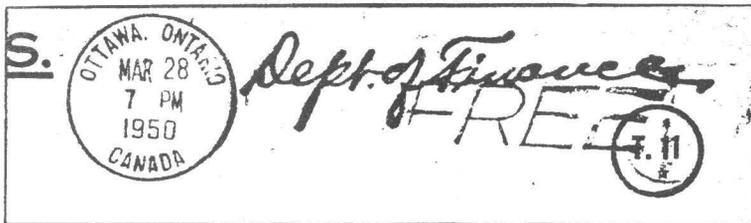


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

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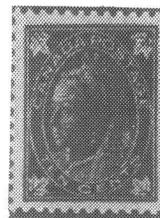
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**THE MAPLE LEAF ISSUE OF CANADA
1897–1898 (Part 4)**

by C. R. McGuire,

Acting Curator,
National Postal Museum, Ottawa.



THE DISPOSITION OF THE PLATES AND TRANSFER ROLLS

The following handwritten certificate dated 13 May 1911, exists verifying that :—

” . . . Plates, dies, rolls etc. (in eighteen boxes) from the American Bank Note Co. (were) cancelled (defaced and destroyed) at the Royal Mint between 19th April and 3rd May 1911 in presence of the undersigned (Mr. E. Daubney, of the Postage Stamp Branch, Post Office Department) and Mr. McHugh, a representative of the above-named Company” (and included):

Box 7

6 plates — three cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

4 plates — two cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Box 8

1 plate — five cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on No. 1.

1 plate — eight cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on No. 1.

1 plate — ten cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 100-on No. 1.

Box 15

1 plate — half cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on No. 1.

1 plate — six cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on No. 1.

Box 16

4 plates. — one cent postage — Queen’s Head — Maple Leaf — 200-on Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

SUMMARY

QUEEN’S HEAD, MAPLE LEAF :—	NO. OF PLATES
½ cent — 200-on — No. 1	1
1 cent — 200-on — Nos. 1 to 4	4
2 cent — 200-on — Nos. 1 to 4	4
3 cent — 200-on — Nos. 1 to 6	6

5 cent – 200-on – No. 1	...	...	1
6 cent – 200-on – No. 1	...	...	1
8 cent – 200-on – No. 1	...	...	1
10 cent – 100-on – No. 1	...	...	1
	Total	...	19 plates”

There is also a note stating :—

“The (plate) numbers marked thus * where indistinct”

(Author’s note: probably because they were worn by use) and asterisks were placed against the following plate numbers of the one and two cent denominations:

1 cent – plate No. 3
2 cent – plate No. 3

The rolls were kept for almost fourteen years to the day before they met the same fate as the plates they were used to make.

It is normal Bank Note Company practice to retain transfer rolls after the printing plates have been destroyed. Rolls take less space to store and are kept to make new plates, should this become necessary in the future.

Another certificate, types on Canadian Bank Note Company letterhead dated 15 May 1925, states:

“We have this day examined and checked the following Plates and Rolls originally prepared for the Post Office Department by the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited, and hereby certify to their cancellation.”

This document is signed by Percy J. Wood for the Bank Note Co. (later President of the Company), E. L. Taylor (Superintendent, Postage Stamp Branch) for the Post Office Department and witnessed by M. E. Hueston. It verifies that the following rolls for the Maple Leaf issues were included in this particular cancellation process:—

Roll Number	Number of Subjects	Denominations
99	4	½ cent
100	4	3 cents
106	3	1 cent
	3	5 cents
107	4	3 cents
108	2	1 cent
	2	2 cents
	1	8 cents
	1	10 cents

It is interesting to note that three rolls – 99, 100 and 107 contained 4 subjects of a single value. Number 106 consisted of three subjects each of two values while, 108 had two subjects each of two values and one each of two other values, for a total of four different denominations on the same roll.

At the time of writing, the author has been unable to locate the documents verifying the disposition of the master and secondary dies nor the transfer rolls for the 6 cent value. However, since the one cent denomination is listed as being on both 106 and 108, one listing may in fact be a typographical error. One of the two could actually have been the six cent value. Because the three cent value was printed in such a large quantity (it prepaid the domestic and United States first class postage rate) it required six plates. It would not be unusual for eight transfer roll impressions to exist in order to lay down that many plates.

The author located letters dated 28 January 1913 and 17 March 1914, which Mr. E. J. Lamoignon, Superintendent of Postage Stamp Branch, Post Office Department wrote to Mr. A. H. W. Cleave, Superintendent of Coining at The Royal Mint, Ottawa. Two cheques were enclosed with each letter made in favour of Messrs. J. B. Bourne and George Renaud "being for services rendered in destroying plates at the Royal Mint, as per accounts attached".

The first pair of cheques were for \$6.25 each, the second for \$10.00 each. Obviously, the Mint provided staff to perform the destruction of Post Office printing plates, etc. on a cost recoverable basis. The author understands that the defaced steel plates were melted down and the metal used by the Mint. However, this information requires confirmation.

The author and William E. Pawluk of Winnipeg are conducting a study of the Maple Leaf and Numeral issues. In time, it is hoped that all significant material for these stamps will be located, identified and, if appropriate, photographed. It is our intention that all aspects of the series of beautifully designed and executed postage stamps will be recorded in a comprehensive, well-illustrated publication. The assistance of all collectors with this project will be welcomed and, acknowledged in a handbook to be published in the future.

CONVENTION PROGRAMME CHANGES

The two displays on Thursday 8th October are interchanged:

10.00 a.m. Advertising Covers – J. M. H. Parkin.

8.00 p.m. 1912-18 Admiral Dies and Plate Varieties – J. Hannah.

Because of the large number of lots to be auctioned the Auction will commence at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday.

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You can also authorise us to retain custody of the collection until the sale is completed. In such case we can also offer you immediate advance payment of the major part of the sales price. Should we, unexpectedly, not have sold your collection within six months and you have found another buyer, you need only repay the advance payment you have received from us. There is no interest or other "fees" of any kind. We will be responsible for the cost of return postage as well.

If you change your mind **within** six months and no longer wish to sell, we are forced to charge U.S. \$75 for our expenses. The photograph album is, of course, still yours and is included in the charge.

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P.S. Many stamp clubs all over the world have asked us to supply them with bulk packages and selected series for their club activities. Since we wish to assist them, we are now purchasing such items at really top prices. If you have something which you can part with, send it to us at once and we will send you an offer, whole lots or small posts.

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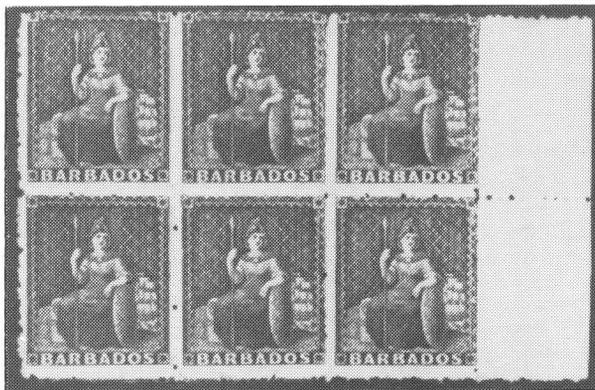
Stanley Gibbons Barbados and British West Indies Auction

10-11 September 1981

With one day devoted to an exceptionally fine collection of Barbados with strength in the "Britannia" issues including proofs, issued stamps and covers – one of the highlights being a part o.g. example of the famous 1/- blue "error of colour". The concluding item of this session is an attractive De La Rue Appendix Sheet of 1890 for an unadopted General Issue for the Windward Islands.

The second day covers Bahamas to Trinidad, featuring Cayman Islands with surcharges and manuscript provisionals, an attractive group of photographic essays for the 1919-21 pictorial series of Jamaica, classic period St Lucia, St Vincent and Trinidad on offer including (on cover) a fine example of the 1847 Lady McLeod (5c) of Trinidad.

Catalogues available from the auctioneers price £1 each.



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A PICTORIAL TOUR OF CANADA THROUGH ITS POSTAGE STAMPS (Part 5)

by J. M. H. Parkin

1946, Peace Re-conversion Issue.

Eight cents :— Ontario Farm scene, representing Ontario Province.



The catalogue description of this stamp, "Ontario Farm Scene" is, according to newspaper reports in Canada at the time of issue, hardly correct. The reason being that the design was "built-up" from a number of photographs. It is said that the farmhouse was near Arnprior, Ontario and that the other farm buildings, with the exception of the silo (which was fictional and added) were a farm just north of Toronto. The absolute outsiders were the horses and ploughman which were from the Baie St Paul district of Quebec Province.

Ten cents :— Port Radium, Great Bear Lake, representing the Yukon and N.W. Territories



This stamp shows a view of the lake at Port Radium. The nearest group of buildings are the actual harbour buildings where the ore from nearby mines was dealt with and loaded onto barges and shipped across the lake to Fort Franklin. The mine buildings are further in the background.

A geologist, J. MacIntosh Bell, explored this area in 1900 and reported the presence of pitchblende but it was not until the late 1920's that the mine was operated for pitchblende extraction. Radium was first produced from this mine in 1932. It was closed in 1940, but, in 1942, with an urgent need for uranium, the mine was re-opened and it is reported that the uranium for the first atomic bomb originated here. The uranium gave out in September 1960 and the mine was closed. It has now re-opened, this time as a silver mine.

*Fourteen cents : – LaGabelle
Hydroelectricity Plant,
representing Quebec Province.*



Situated on the St Maurice River, some 14 miles upstream from Trois Rivieres, this plant was placed in operation in 1924 with four generating units, a fifth being added in 1931. The power-house, which has an output capacity of some 123,500 kilowatts, forms part of the actual dam and occupies the river bed. In conjunction with another six similar installations, this plant is operated by the Shawinigan Water and Power Co.



*Twenty cents : –
Combined reaper and harvester,
representing the Prairie Provinces.*

This stamp really shows one of the major contributions to the allied victory, and also suggests the potential contribution to peace that had been, and was still to be made by the grain producing Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The vastness of the Canadian "cornfields" is clearly shown when one bears in mind the actual size of the stamp itself.

*Fifty cents :- Lumbering,
representing British Columbia.*



Two pictures were combined to make up the design for this stamp which depicts the timber industry in British Columbia. In one picture a Mr. Sam Stenstead of the O'Brien Logging Co., is shown cutting down a large tree in the Powell River district and in the second picture a Mr. Crocker, is about to start work on another tree for the Industrial Engineering Co. For the purposes of the stamp vignette both pictures were amalgamated.



*One dollar :- Train Ferry,
representing
the Maritime Provinces.*

The design of this stamp features the Prince Edward Island Train Ferry. Plans to build a tunnel and railway under the straits from Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick, to Prince Edward Island were proposed and investigated between 1886 and 1891. Even a causeway was suggested but nothing definite was suggested until 1913-1914. An icebreaking car ferry with an extra strong hull was brought into service in September 1915, and since then additional car ferries, and also train ferries have been acquired, giving an all-year-round service across the Straits.

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BYTOWN'S VIEWS ON POSTAL AFFAIRS

by Max Rosenthal

In 1841 a Commission of the Upper and Lower Canada Legislature investigated the running of the Post Office whose shortcomings were one of the many causes of the rebellions in those two provinces five years earlier. The previous year, 1840, they had sent out two circulars to prominent men in many communities asking their opinions on the state of the Post Office, and what might be done to improve that Department, then ultimately under British control.



One of these important citizens was James Stevenson, Crown Lands Agent, and Agent for the Commercial Bank of the Midland District, located in Bytown, which was to become Ottawa in 1854, and the capital of the new Dominion of Canada in 1867. In 1840, however, it was only a rowdy lumbering town on the Ottawa River, although growing steadily. The head office of the Canadian Post Office was situated in Quebec City then. To the second circular Stevenson replied on January 16th of that year.

"It would be very desirable in all cases where it is not attended with much convenience to the Post Master that the delivery of letters to the public should be made as early after the arrival of the Mail as is consistent with due regard to the correct assortment of the letters. In many cases this is not done; for instance at this place the Lower Canada Mail in summer arrives at six or seven o'clock p.m., but is not delivered until next morning at nine o'clock a.m. This becomes a serious inconvenience, for the Lower Canada Mail outwards is made up at ten o'clock the next morning, thus precluding the possibility of answering letters, however urgent, in course of post to Lower Canada, or communicating with Upper Canada until the following post day. This inconvenience would be remedied by a general order to all Post Masters, similarly situated, to deliver the letters to the public, in all cases when it can possibly be done, in sufficient time to allow them to reply previous to the outward Mails being made up."

Bytown had come into being at the north end of the Rideau Canal after the latter had been begun in 1827, to connect Kingston, on Lake Ontario with the Ottawa River, under the direction of Colonel John By. A post office was opened in 1829 by Matthew Connell. George W. Baker succeeded him as postmaster in 1834. He still held that post in 1841 when the Legislative Commission sent two circulars to postmasters in the two Canadas. To the second General Circular he replied on January 9th, 1841.

"I can only speak of my own locality, and think it would be a great improvement if the Mail for Montreal were carried via L'Orignal on the south bank of the Ottawa, which is high, that to Kingston, Toronto etc. via Prescott, through the townships of Gloucester and Osgoode, would shorten

the distance materially, but the roads are not yet opened out.

“During the summer season a number of letters are sent to nearly all parts of Upper Canada by the steamboats on the Rideau Canal, to save time and postage. It is calculated that the steamers reach Kingston in two days, the Mail is the same time reaching Brockville.”

Great Britain already had postage stamps, with postage charged by weight, a fact in Baker’s mind when he noted:

“I think charging letters by weight, as practised in the United Kingdom, might be advantageously substituted for the present system. Letters are so frequently folded from carelessness or ignorance, that it is impossible to rate them correctly as single or double, and also if they contain only one or two notes of hand or bank notes, the overcharges and undercharges are very troublesome accounts to the Department.

“The charge for the transmission of newspapers by the Post within the Provinces are one penny each, other periodicals one penny per sheet, both in advance. Newspapers form by far the largest bulk in the transport of the Mail, which sometimes creates a difficulty when it is carried on horseback.

“The number of newspapers from the United Kingdom has considerably increased since the Postage was withdrawn. In conclusion I beg to repeat that it is my firm belief that it would greatly benefit the public service if all letters were pre-paid upon some scale like the one I formerly suggested, or the following. Letters of $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce.

“Under 50 miles, 3d, from 50 to 100 miles 6d, 100 to 150 miles 9d, 150 to 200 miles 1s, above 200 miles 1s 3d, additional weights in proportion.

“Stamps in sheets to be furnished to each Post Master and to be accounted for quarterly, this system would obviate the necessity of the present voluminous accounts, and an occasional visit from the Surveyor to the several post offices to check the stamps in hand with the return of expenditure to the General Post Office, would be the easiest check on the Post Master.”

As far as the rate not exceeding a half ounce went, Baker’s suggestion of 3d was prophetic. When postage stamps were introduced in Canada in 1851, letters not exceeding that weight were paid for by the new 3d stamp. However, distance within the Canadas was no longer a factor in the rates. There was an exception to this rule: letters posted in a post office to a box in the same post office had a $\frac{1}{2}$ d rate.

On March 19th Baker revealed to the Commission, in reply to a second Post Master Circular: “Letters sent annually, about 360. Letters received annually, about 360. Newspapers and other printed publications received 1 quarterly, 2 monthly, 3 semi-weekly, 4 weekly, and 2 daily for six months. Franking privilege worth at least £50 per annum. In addition to the above I send and receive a great number of letters purely on Post Office business, respecting letters advertised in the Office, and enquiries about letters to persons temporarily absent, which I cannot calculate. Newspapers and other publications are also frequently sent for the purpose of pushing them into circulation.”

THE SMALL QUEENS OF CANADA

by John Hillson

This small monograph produces a valuable addition to the original work written by Winthrop Boggs in 1945. The theme of the author is that a change in the printing venue inevitably resulted in the change in appearance. As an example, the popular 3 cents rose-carmine, long considered to be an Ottawa printing is established as a Montreal printing.

The work deals with the sheet format and inscriptions which vary, re-entries and fresh entries, the papers, the watermarks, the gum and the colours. The main body is divided into the first Ottawa printings 1870-74, the Montreal printings 1873-1888 and the second Ottawa printings 1889-1897. Essays and proofs are touched on, bisects (legitimate and otherwise) carefully explained.

There are three appendices — the 1867 Contract, three plans showing the layout of the sheets and the positions of the imprints and the quantities of stamps issued. There are twelve-half-tone illustrations.

Price: £3.50, postage inland 30p, overseas 50p.

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GROW WITH THE ROYAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mr. J. T. Humphrey writes:

Empress of Ireland wreck

I have recently acquired two covers dated 26/5/1914 addressed to London U.K.

Both covers bear a handstruck RECOVERED BY DIVERS FROM THE WRECK OF THE S.S. EMPRESS OF IRELAND and were contained in an O.H.M.S. Dead letter office at Ottawa cover to the addressee. This also has the strike and a stamp purported to be one which had floated off the mail. The stamp is postmarked Campbellton RPO and is overstruck and tied by an Ottawa cancellation dated 29 Dec 1914.

The recovered covers are backstamped Branch Dead Letter Office Ottawa 25/9/14 and endorsed with a number which I presume records the items B3P201 and 202. Further endorsements on the backs are MO S2.17 and MO S4.10 respectively and MOB 1 Oct 1914 which I presume relate to money orders enclosed.

I do not understand the delay from recovery to sending unless it was for checking and replacing money orders nor can I lay my hands on information relating to the boat and its loss. I shall be most obliged if any member can assist me with information regarding the transit of this correspondence.

More to Pay 9

I have also recently acquired an 1859 5c stamp on cover postmarked Pakenham CW July 29 1865 and addressed to Ottawa with same day back-stamp.

The cover shows a handstruck serifed MORE TO PAY (as HPD1) 9 (as HS57b) I do not understand this marking. The only explanation that occurs to me is that the letter was over $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and was therefore treated as unpaid rather than short paid. The rate could then have been calculated as unpaid rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. $\times 2 = 14c$ less the 5c paid by the stamp leaving 9c to collect.

I shall be most obliged if any member can either confirm this or offer me the correct explanation.

Mr. J. V. Snell writes:

On Active Service Postcard

I enclose a copy of a postcard which I have had in my collection for some years. I have looked in all reference books for information relating to this sort of "On Active Service" card with no success.

It gives the impression of being the return portion of a postcard which was presumably enclosed with a parcel sent to Pte. Thompson. The address appears to have been put on it by the original sender.

I would be interested in knowing more about this card.

(We regret that it is not possible to reproduce an illustration of the postcard to which Mr. Snell refers. At the top, however, it bears the imprint "On active service" with the words "POST CARD" underneath. The bottom left is imprinted in block capitals with the words PLEASE MAIL THIS CARD PROMPTLY TO ADDRESS ABOVE. The address is typewritten in block capitals: H. LARMAN, c/o W. J. GAGE CO. LTD., 94 SPADINA AVE., TORONTO, ONT. Additionally at the bottom are imprinted the words PARCEL NUMBER with the latter apparently typed (F3A 54204) by the sender. The card bears an illustration in the top left corner of a young soldier in what appears to be ceremonial uniform with a sword over his right shoulder. Finally, the postcard is postmarked "F.P.O.—S.C. 11AM. AP 17" with the figure 3 at the base. Unfortunately there is **no** year date and no date in the recipients message of thanks — Editor.)

Mrs. J. A. Silvester writes :

Clarenville, Newf'd. Postmark

I am writing in the hope that members might be able to help me with a postmark on a 4 cents Newfoundland stamp (S.G.270) which reads: "Claren . . . lle. T.P. (or R) Jan 15 44 Newf'd.

There is no enclosing ring, but the letters make a circle size 24mm, nor are there any letters or stars above the date. I wonder if it is a T.P.O. or R.P.O. postmark and would be grateful for any information that may be available.

(This is almost certainly a 'Clarenville' postmark, but beyond that we are unable to help Mrs. Silvester. More knowledgeable readers may be able to do so, however — Editor.)

Dr. Z. M. Gordon writes:

3 cents Large Queen variety

I was sorting some 3 cents L.Q.'s and on a brown-red medium wove copy I noticed an unusual coloured line starting in the lower right margin, touching the 'S' of CENTS and then slightly curving into the lower bottom right margin where it ran off the edge of the stamp below the 'E' of Cents. Also at the perforation under the 'N' of CENTS there is a small additional line of colour.



The stamp is from Montreal and is dated Sept. 25, '68. This is approximately six months after the introduction of this issue. Harrison does not mention this area as a cracked plate site. I don't know if this is a cracked plate and I would be most interested to find out from your readers if any of them have seen a 3 cents L.Q. stamp in similar condition. (See illustration above.).

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A 'LONG AWAITED' REGISTERED COVER by "The Yellow Peril"

(Photo: Courtesy of William McCann)



Until recently, the 8c REGISTERED LETTER STAMP used on cover has completely eluded me. Whilst covers with 8c RLS are occasionally seen in various auctions almost all of them are either late, philatelic usage or, for one reason or another, unsatisfactory. Early in 1975 at a Toronto auction I purchased a fairly convincing cover which the British Philatelic Association Expert Committee was of the opinion that the "blue" stamp had been added to enhance an ordinary 5c Small Queen cover. Yet, despite expert opinion, it was subsequently re-sold to a very prominent Canada collector who was fully aware that the cover had failed the test. At this point in my search, I began to wonder if there is such a thing as a 8c RLS properly used on cover.

At the London '80 International, Sotheby Parke Bernet Stamp Auctions displayed an array of fine auction material amongst which was the above cover. It not only met all the specifications of the "real thing" but it was franked with a 5c LARGE Queen stamp to boot! The greatest surprise was that the BPA certified it. The task now is to mate this cover with one franked with an 8c RLS and a 5c SMALL Queen stamp!

According to John Taylor, the eminent London philatelist who first acquired this gem a couple of years ago, this item was in a batch of virtually worthless covers brought in for auction. Our readers will, no doubt, be indebted to Mr. Taylor or to the previous auctioneer if he can provide additional information on this remarkable cover.

(Note: cover illustrated above has five "G. W. R. Accomm." registered markings, two "G.W.R. Mail Line" split circle postmarks dated Aug. 15, 77, and one oval registered Hamilton postmark dated Aug. 16, 77 as backstamps – Editor.)

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