



JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 211

Vol. 20 No. 7

January 1987



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MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

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Vol. 20 No. 7

JANUARY 1987

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EDITORIAL

Well, another Convention has come and gone and what a fine affair it was; a report appears elsewhere in this issue. As a result another illustrious name joins the select band of Fellows of our Society, that of Lew Ludlow, whose outstanding work on RPO cancellations over the years has been a model that few of us could hope to emulate. We had the pleasure of his company at Pitlochry where we found that his little sideline in Pence issues wasn't at all bad either!

Important changes were made among the Officers of the Society. Whilst they are properly detailed in the Secretary's Report perhaps I can just draw attention to the fact that, my having been confirmed as Editor of *Maple Leaves*, Brian Stalker formally took over the Secretarial reins. One other change that affects most members is that our Treasurer, John Hillson, will henceforth be responsible for collecting subscriptions. So, changes of address etc. to Brian please and subscriptions to John.

Congratulations to Dr. Dorothy Sanderson who was awarded an International Large Vermeil at Stockholmia for her fine (cross-border) display. Your Editor showed his flags etc. (what else!) in the International Class at BPE this year and was awarded a large silver. It was left to two of our newer members to maintain a CPS presence in the main competition and brave efforts they were too. Reg Lyon was awarded a silver-bronze for meter marks and permit stamps; this should encourage those who dabble with meters but didn't think they were competitive material. Ernest Dickinson

took a bronze for his booklet panes and another for his study of the Third Issue Bill Stamps of 1868, another subject not often tackled on this side of the Atlantic.

Readers will no doubt have noticed that gremlins attacked the October issue. A small section of Ron Winmill's article migrated from p152 to the top of p157, rather upsetting the tenor of Sandy Mackie's piece. Apologies to the two authors; the Editor pleads 'not guilty'.

While on the subject of gremlins, Gib Wallace's article in the August issue was lacking a paragraph on p119 which should have appeared above the photograph. The paragraph reads :—

'Hamilton started a new trend in collecting levies with the first till-roll type machine marker in 1934. This was a postage meter which must have been kept exclusively for Postage Due; otherwise the accounting system would be in a muddle. Toronto followed on from Hamilton, but I cannot find anything until July, 1941. The earlier type is shown in Fig. 8.'

Preliminary Notice

ONE DAY SEMINAR — LONDON

Following the very successful day in June 1986, the London Group are holding another one-day seminar on 13 June, 1987, at the Victory Services Club (as before). Full details will appear in the April issue. Cost is likely to be no more than £3 per person.

Make a reservation in your diary NOW. Lew Warren (82 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex, BN13 2HE. Tel: 0903 64170) will be happy to take bookings and answer queries. Members willing to give short displays, maximum 45 minutes, should contact Lew as soon as possible.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.

STOP PRESS . . .

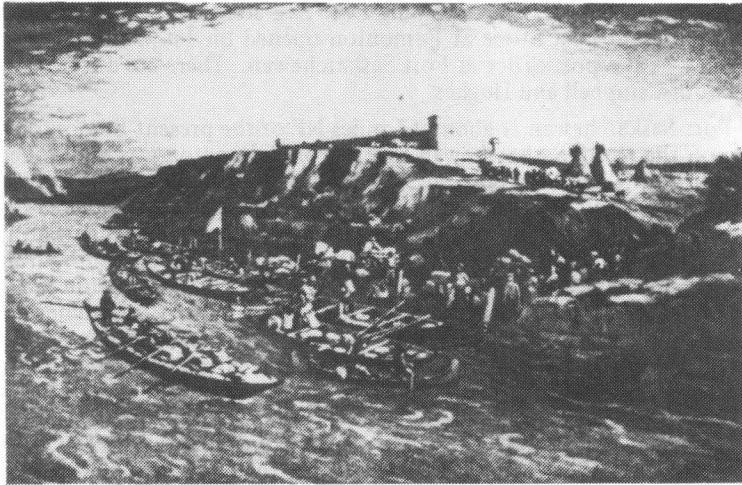
CAPEX 87, Toronto 13-21 June

Although the Society is not organising a party for this trip members planning to travel from the U.K. may be interested to know that travel agents, D. F. Long & Co., of 66 Brunswick Centre, London, WC1N 1AE, have published a brochure. Write to them if you want a copy.

THE FORTS ALONG THE SASKATCHEWAN

by Dr. Alan Salmon

The recent acquisition of some Small Queens from the District of Alberta, bearing the separate cancellations of Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, led to a search of the literature concerning the post offices in that region during the last quarter of the 19th Century. It quickly became apparent that the picture was not as clear as one might have expected, especially to a beginner in postal history such as the author. This led to a rather more extensive investigation of the history of the region and of the postal cancellations which might be expected.



FUR-TRADE TRAFFIC AT FORT EDMONTON ON THE
SASKATCHEWAN, 1825

Campbell states¹:

“Fort Edmonton, 1878 only, the present Edmonton, “Fort” discontinued the second year, when Edmonton, a few miles east, was changed to Fort Saskatchewan – in other words, as Fort was discontinued it left the present office of Edmonton.”

“Fort Saskatchewan, 1878 on, formerly Edmonton – not the present Edmonton – this early Edmonton opened as the first post office in Alberta on July 1, 1876.”

“Edmonton, 1876-1878, is Fort Saskatchewan after 1878.”

“Edmonton, 1878 on, the present city, was Fort Edmonton first it changed to the present Edmonton after the older Edmonton changed to Fort Saskatchewan.”

So far so good, especially as it is reinforced by Hughes, who states that the Fort Saskatchewan post office opened on 1st March 1878². However Hughes makes no mention of a post office named Fort Edmonton, stating – “Edmonton, post office opened on 1st August, 1876.”. This date is different from Campbell’s date for the present Edmonton and not even the same as that for Campbell’s first Edmonton.

The situation becomes somewhat more confused when one refers to Robinson³. He states the post office called Fort Edmonton opened on 1st February, 1877 – a new date entirely – and that eventually it became Edmonton. He does note that the post office at Fort Saskatchewan opened on 1st March 1878 and that it was formerly called Edmonton. He also states that a post office called Edmonton opened on 1 August, 1876 and closed on 1st March 1878, becoming Fort Saskatchewan. He goes on to say that the present post office at Edmonton opened on 1st March, 1878, ie the same day as the post office at Fort Saskatchewan. There are differences here from both Campbell and Hughes.

Fort Saskatchewan is about 17 miles NE of the present Edmonton, both being on the North Saskatchewan River. Fort Edmonton was established as a Hudson Bay Company post in 1795 but the location of the post was apparently a considerable variable with time. According to Fodor the first Fort Edmonton was established near the present Fort Saskatchewan; it was then abandoned and a new one was built within the present Edmonton city limits, it too was abandoned in 1810. A third Fort Edmonton was built “several miles” down stream, ie towards the present Fort Saskatchewan, this was abandoned in 1813. Another fort was built on the present site of Edmonton’s power station. This fort was flooded in 1830 and the traders moved to higher ground and started work on the final Fort Edmonton which was built on the site of the present Alberta Legislative Building at the centre of the present Edmonton. This fort was finally dismantled in 1915.⁴ Close to each of the HBCo’s forts, except the last, was a fort of the North West Company, usually named Fort Augustus. These two companies were in fierce competition until 1821, when the HBCo. took over the North West Company.

This chronicle of the history of the various forts is in reasonable accord with that in the latest issue of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, although the latter suggests that the fort at the present Fort Saskatchewan was abandoned in 1810.⁵ All the HBCo. forts were on the north side of the Saskatchewan because the land to the north was Cree territory, they were reasonably amiable. The land to the south of the river was Blackfoot territory, as Fodor says: “The Blackfoot were extraordinarily mean to white folks and notoriously adept at illustrating their dislike by imaginative forms of painful torture”.

Thus it seems that, although Fort Edmonton was originally some 20 miles downriver from the present Edmonton it has remained at the latter site from about 1800. This is supported by Hicks’ history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police – “During 1875, more forts were built to spread police

power over a wider area. Fort Calgary went up at the junction of the Bow and Elbow rivers. Inspector Jarvis left Edmonton and moved 20 miles down the Saskatchewan to establish Fort Saskatchewan”⁶.

It is also supported by Captain Butler’s account of his journey in 1870 from Fort Garry to Rocky Mountain House on behalf of the Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba – his report led to the formation of the RCMP and to their great trek to the old region of Saskatchewan. He makes many references to Edmonton, sometimes calling it Edmonton, sometimes Fort Edmonton and sometimes Edmonton House, such usage is common in contemporary chronicles and maps, but the important point is that it is clear from his narrative that there was obviously only one community⁷. This community must have been at the site of the present Edmonton for Butler also states that St. Albert is nine miles north of Edmonton – as it is at present. It is interesting to note that in 1869 the population of St Albert, a Catholic Mission, was about 900, it being the largest settlement in old Saskatchewan. The population of Edmonton at that time was only about 100. All authorities are agreed that the post office at St Albert opened on 1st July 1880 ^{1, 2, 3}.

A possible explanation of the confusion is that the first post office was opened in 1876 at the RCMP post at Fort Saskatchewan. It was given the name of Edmonton because that was the most important commercial centre in the region. However, by 1877, following Robinson, the importance of Fort Edmonton was recognised by the establishment of another post office there with the name Fort Edmonton. Finally, the “Fort” in “Fort Edmonton” was dropped in 1878 but the office at Fort Saskatchewan was retained with its name changed from Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan.

The dates of opening of the various post offices, with their locations, would then be :—

Post Office	Open	Closed	Location
Edmonton I	1876	1878	Fort Saskatchewan
Ford Edmonton	1877	1878	Edmonton
Fort Saskatchewan	1878	open	Fort Saskatchewan
Edmonton	1878	open	Edmonton

In order to determine the precise day and month of the opening of the post offices we may turn to another authority for further information. Scrimgeour has, with the help of several collaborators, tabulated information on broken circle hammers which includes the opening dates of the various post offices⁸. Comparison of his listing with the other references leads to the conclusions that the following were the opening dates: Edmonton PO at Fort Saskatchewan on 1st August 1876, Edmonton PO at the present Edmonton on 1st March 1878 and Fort Saskatchewan PO on the same day. Scrimgeour gives the opening date of the Fort Edmonton PO, as the 1st March 1879, which seems rather unlikely as the Edmonton PO does seem to have opened in 1878; a more likely date is 1st February 1877, as given by Robinson.



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When these post offices opened they would all be in the North-West Territories, in the area known as Saskatchewan – not to be confused with the present Saskatchewan. Eventually Edmonton, in 1905, became the provincial capital when the Province of Alberta was formed, it was then outside the drastically diminished NWT.

Thus we could expect to see the cancellations Edmonton NWT (arising from two locations), Fort Saskatchewan NWT and Fort Edmonton NWT. These cancellations are all of the broken circle type⁸.



They should have been followed in 1882, when the District of Alberta was created, by Edmonton Alta and Fort Saskatchewan Alta, when both were still in the NWT. In practice both the NWT and Alta hammers would be used after 1882 due to the necessary delay in receiving the hammers and to the convenience of using as many hammers as were in the post office. Nevertheless these NWT cancellations, on stamps or covers, will be prized possessions as they must be rare.

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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Canadian members may settle in \$CAN (\$14) via Wayne Curtis and US members in \$US (\$10.50) via John Siverts. North American members requiring airmail service should add \$5CAN or \$3.75US. Please make your cheques payable to Wayne or John respectively.

Members who have not paid the current year's subscription by 31 December will be removed from the *Maple Leaves* circulation list and reinstatement will incur an additional fee of £1 or its \$ equivalent.

STAINED WAR ISSUE BOOKLET PANES

by Bill McCann

For some years now used panes of the war issue booklets have been turning up in the most unsightly physical condition. The panes are complete with tab and no perforation separation. The problem is in their appearance. A pane can be covered with large blotches. It looks like an oil spot or the largest foxing example ever seen. Colours range from a yellow to a light brown. To the best of my knowledge this condition has never been reported for a mint pane.

The cause? No one I have contacted has been able to offer a reasonable explanation. It could originate from the paper stock used to print the panes or the type of paper the pane has adhered to for too many years; or it could be a combination of the aforementioned plus air impurities.

Some years ago, shortly after the opening of the original National Postal Museum in Ottawa, I did some research on the booklet issues. Mr. J. Kraemer was kind enough to allow me to examine many records and documents including the available material on the war issues. There is no mention of any problems with the paper supply noted in the records. Not like to-day with constant changes in the paper suppliers to confound catalogue compilers and collectors.

One thought was to check the cancels on the used panes for the points of origin of the mailings. Every item I have examined emanated from the Winnipeg district. Other copies may exist from different post offices but all I have seen came from Winnipeg. Now, that location should eliminate air pollution as a cause. After visiting the area, I would say the pollution index is almost zero, not like around Toronto and Hamilton. Winnipeg is too modern, spread out and clean to have air pollution. If this pane condition is peculiar to this area then why do the spots not appear on the 1937 panes? These were in use until at least the last week in August of 1942 when the first of the new war issue appeared.

The majority of the cancels are the large 30mm circular three ring type usually applied to oversized, overweight or registered mail. Could this condition be caused by the particular brand of manilla covers used by Mr. K. Bileski in his large mail order stamp business? Bileski was and may still be the largest individual customer of the Station B postal service in Winnipeg. He ships an unusually large number of overweight registered parcels both on approval and by order. It seems as if every issue of the philatelic press in North America contains a display advertisement from Bileski so the business he conducts must be quite active. But then, this argument can be refuted by referring to the previous paragraph. Bileski used many of the '37 issue panes and they came clean when soaked off covers.

So now we are back to square one. What did cause these unsightly panes? And they are unsightly. I tried photographing an example but the contrast was too low for reproduction. No collector would want an example in an exhibit. Their monetary value is almost nil. In other words I may be tilting at windmills but for the record does any member know the cause of these stained booklet panes?

THE S.S. LAPLAND

by Arthur Hobbs

I am indebted to David Sessions and Colin Campbell of Kelowna, B.C. for the following information which goes some way to explain the markings on the S.S. Lapland card of which I wrote earlier (see *Maple Leaves* No. 202, April 1985).

The S.S. Lapland was built by Harland and Wolf of Belfast in 1909 for the Red Star Line and was registered in Belgium. M.V. Antwerp - New York.

After the capture of the Port of Antwerp by the German army in 1914 the Lapland was transferred to the British registry and was employed throughout the war, from 1914-1919, as a troop ship.

On 29 September 1914 she was loaded and ready to sail for England in convoy carrying, in addition to her cargo, members of the 5th and 6th Battalions of the 1st Div. Canadian Expeditionary Force and some H.Q. personnel.

The convoy of 33 ships sailed on 3 October and arrived off Plymouth Sound on 14 October. Disembarkation was complete by the 20th and the troops proceeded to Bustard Camp on Salisbury Plain.

A card, posted on board the Lapland on arrival at Plymouth, received a rubber postmark, struck in purple and inscribed "Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force". It includes in the message home the remark "there are so many battleships and cruisers here that there is hardly room for anything else". The card appears to be uncensored!

Returning to the subject of my 1919 card, Colin Campbell suggests that it may have been obtained on board S.S. Lapland as a courtesy of the line and then posted on board before she sailed, franked with the 2c Admiral stamp and serviced upon arrival at Halifax N.S.

The cachet reading "Returned Soldier's Letter, S.S. Lapland" may have been applied by the line to specially produced cards as a favour to troops carried by the ship.

In January 1920 the Lapland was returned to the Red Star Line with whom she resumed service between Antwerp and New York until 1931 when she was engaged as a cruise ship. She was broken up at Osaka in 1934.



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DUPLEX POSTAGE DUE MARKINGS by Gib Wallace

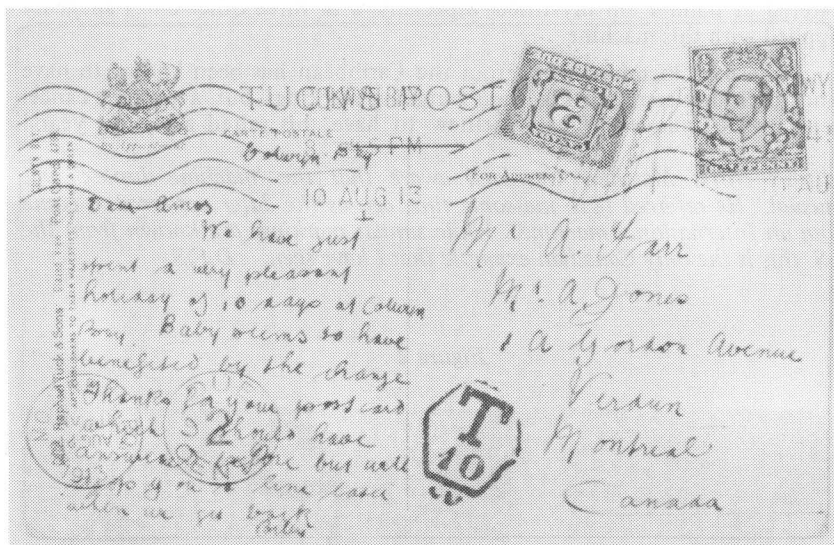


Figure 1

One of the exciting things about buying an unseen collection is the thrill of finding a few items which have either escaped the eye of the former collector (or else, which is more likely, he thought them to be of no consequence). I had the privilege of buying that of Matthew Carstairs. I initially only wanted the 2 cent 1906 issue with 'hairlines'. In fact, some years ago after showing it at convention, I gave him a blank cheque to fill in when he wanted to sell, his answer was "It's always nice to have something that someone else wants". Well, I got my 'hairlines' but at the cost of losing a colleague and friend who never hesitated to answer my most inane questions, with his constant supply of knowledge on remarkable aspects of philately. Sholem Matthew.

An item of interest, of which I gained a few, is shown in Fig. 1. Having spent some time fooling about with Postage Due handstamps and markings, this machine duplex of Montreal came as a surprise. Contacting a few colleagues by post, the result was that nobody could remember seeing one like it. The most positive answer came from Hans Reiche who said :- "The cancel was apparently ordered by the P.O. after some correspondence with Pitney Bowes and Machine Works Ltd. It was ordered for Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver. The cost of this device is given as \$19.50 each".

The date and time being inverted would indicate interchangeable figures to be used for a lengthy period. But, where are they? With the amount of material at hand I am mystified, especially with three other cities allegedly supplied with this machine.

Underpaid incoming post from the Caribbean has been known to have handstruck duplexes, see Fig. 2, as outgoing markings, but, a machine cancel seems to be unique. Trust Matthew to have this salted away for years!

Editor's Note: Matthew was well aware that the 'machine duplex' was unusual. He referred it to me some time ago as the dater appeared to come from an International machine. While similar markings are known from the U.S. this is the only Canadian example that I have seen. D.F.S.

Figure 2



SOCIETY TIES

The ties feature the Society's logo on a plain ground and can be obtained from Brian Stalker, the Secretary, at £5 each. Overseas members should add 30p for postage (sea mail) or 80p (Airmail). A choice of green or navy blue background is available.

GOOD PRICES FOR 'CLASSICS' AT AUCTION

In the October editorial it was suggested that exotic stamps had held their value well compared to more recent and run-of-the-mill material which had suffered as a result of speculation. This was amply borne out by the sale of Professor Julian Smith's material by Maresch in Toronto in October. This outstanding collection of mint stamps, generally in very fine condition, produced very good prices in the 'classic' range, i.e. Pence to Small Queens. In many cases Scott's 1987 catalogue prices were substantially exceeded with a number of realisations reaching 2x catalogue and more. As an example, Scott 1, 2 and 3, the 3d, 6d and 12d on laid paper, fetched \$9,625, \$19,250 and \$68,750 respectively.

On this side of the water, Cavendish sold part of the Cohen collection and the Mirabel collection. Again it was clear that the classic stamps, mainly used this time, provided they were in first class condition, were fetching good prices. Late Victorian and subsequent material is still well below what one might reasonably feel to be its true worth.

Catalogues of these sales, with prices realised, are an important reference for serious collectors, well worth having even if you found the material too exotic to compete for.

Maresch prices include 10% buyers premium; such premium is not charged by Cavendish.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Derrick A. Avery

For me, it is an honour to have been elected President of our Society and I only hope that I can fulfil the faith that the late Eric Killingley had when proposing me for this position.

I have just returned from our Ruby Anniversary Convention and it was a "Gem". Margaret McGregor had obviously put everything into making this a memorable occasion and, on behalf of those of us fortunate enough to attend, including 14 from overseas, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Margaret for the happy time had by all.

I know many of our members cannot attend Convention as often as they would wish, I found I could attend more often when I retired, but there are still a large number of members who have never attended and it is those members especially that I ask to consider attending the 41st Convention to be held at the **George Hotel, Lichfield, from Wednesday to Saturday, September 23rd to 26th, 1987.**



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One outing, which, we hope, will appeal to the ladies is to **Birds, The Confectioners**; this had to be booked two years in advance so, may we look forward to welcoming you in company with your 'Stamp Widows' at next year's Convention?

Lichfield is easily accessible by road, rail and air (Birmingham airport).

John Parkin has kindly offered to attend to the Convention Auction and elsewhere in this issue you will find his instructions as to where to send your material and the final date for inclusion in the catalogue.

From past experience I can assure "vendor-members" that they will not be disappointed by the results.

CONVENTION 86

Fine weather and a splendid turnout were two factors that led to a first class Convention at Pitlochry. Over 60 booked in, of whom 14 travelled over from Canada and USA bringing new depth to the displays and discussion.

The study circles and displays were up to their usual high standard. On the Wednesday evening John Hannah surprised a few of us with the depth of his collection of 'cork' cancellations – not bad at all for an 'Admiral' man! Charles Hollingsworth led us through the streets by means of their individual cancellations on the Thursday, while Colin Banfield displayed his immaculately written-up Jubilees, always a joy to see. Friday morning was a rare treat when Transatlantic visitor Lew Ludlow showed part of his superb collection of railway postmarks, undeniably the finest in existence. This act was a difficult one to follow but fortunately we had Geoffrey Whitworth to show us a meaty display of rate covers up to 1880, thus ensuring there was no anti-climax.

The competition was stiffened this year by a couple of overseas entries and was generally regarded as one of the best we've seen in recent years. The results will be found elsewhere in this journal but the mere listing does little justice to the mouth-watering material on display.

On the social side we saw some of the Scottish countryside at its best, whilst a few members sneaked off to sample one or more of the many golf courses in the area. The banquet, complete with piper, was a splendid affair. Yes we did have haggis and it was nowhere near so bad as it looks or sounds! The highspot was undoubtedly the induction of Lew Ludlow as the latest in a line of distinguished Fellows of our Society.

The outgoing Secretary went out with a whimper, having lost his voice completely by Wednesday night. It returned sufficiently for the banquet to be M.C'd in low key – some say it was the quietest Convention ever!

Our outgoing President, Margaret McGregor, had done a good job in putting the show together and I'm sure she would be the first to admit that the silky smooth arrangements owed much to staunch work behind the scenes by her two henchmen Sandy Mackie and John Hannah. Once again Scotland had done us proud.

Our thanks to PHSC Editor, Eric Manchee for the accompanying photographs.



Home grown Scottish muzak at the Banquet!



President Margaret McGregor introduces Dr. Charles Hollingsworth to an expectant audience.



*Four 'stamp widows' making the best of it.
L to R: Margaret Gatecliff, Dorothy Hollingsworth, Mary Manton and
Kay Duckworth.*



Lew Ludlow signs the Fellowship Book, watched by David Sessions and Margaret McGregor.



*Margaret McGregor backed by Society Officers:
L to R: Geoff Manton; Dorothy Sanderson; Charles Hollingsworth;
Sandy Mackie; Wayne Curtis; Brian Stalker; Roger Grigson; John Hillson;
Derrick Avery; Colin Banfield and David Sessions.*

THE STORY OF A CANADIAN STAMP COLLECTION (Part 4)

by Stanley F. Cohen, F.C.P.S.

But, as the man stood up, I could sense a general feeling of awe in the room . . . one could have heard a pin drop, but it meant nothing to me. However, I was able to see Horace Harrison gesticulating wildly to me from the back row, his face getting ruddier and ruddier, as he waved his hands to me. I thought poor Horace had gone slightly crazy and had no idea what he was trying to convey to me. The question being asked me was what did I think of the 15 cent in green . . . was it a colour changeling or a truly issued colour? Fortunately it was nothing new to me, although I only half heard the question, so concerned was I over Horace's gestures. I gave my standard answer, having been asked it many times before in England, that I believed the colour could be changed to green by placing the normal printing in strong sunlight although there was an issued colour that had a similar hue.

After the usual vote of thanks, the meeting ended happily, and Horace rushed up to me in great excitement. 'Do you know', he asked, 'who that was that you were so cheerfully answering?'. I replied that I hadn't the faintest idea. 'That', he said in a view of awe, 'was Fred Jarrett. *You* were replying to the great Fred Jarrett'.

Whilst to all Canadian collectors at that time, the name and person of Fred Jarrett (author of the famous 1929 book) was sacrosanct, and I don't suppose any Canadian collector would have had the cheek to reply to him publicly, I didn't see what alternative I had anyway, as I explained to Horace. In any event I had no idea who he was which perhaps made my task a little easier.

As it turned out, I became very friendly with the 'great man' himself and later on spent many hours chatting to Fred, who tried very hard to catch me out but I think, at the end, he realised I knew my subject pretty well.

It was at Niagara 1963 that I met, for the first time, some of Canada's great collectors. Charles de Volpi with whom I struck up a lasting friendship. Dear Doc Day who showed me his magnificent small queen Fancy Cancels, and from whose Estate, many years later, I was to acquire this superb collection. Guy des Rivieres of Quebec, with whom I was also to correspond for many years, and who came over from Canada with his dear wife for my own Convention in Birmingham in 1975, the year of my CPSGB Presidency. As also did Bill Simpson, and Dick Lamb and several others. There, too, was Lew Ludlow, whose fine collection of squared circles I was to acquire, and whose lovely home in San Francisco I was to visit and be entertained years later, to say nothing of years of correspondence to Japan, and our occasional meeting in London. Others from Toronto I was to meet for the first time included Jim Sissons, Bill Maresch, Jim Hennock and, of course, the great Vinnie Greene himself, not forgetting dear Clarence Kemp, a man with a heart of gold, and so many others. Then there was Sam Nickle and Sol Kanee . . . one could go on and on.

E.A.S.

Back home, my collecting activities increased with all these new contacts. Soon my overseas correspondence was almost a full time job. But there were new collectors ever joining the home Society and not all of these were youngsters. Among the most extraordinary characters ever to appear on the Canadian collecting scene was a man who was quite elderly and seemed to appear from nowhere. He had served for many years in India and was a great authority, I think, from memory, on Tibet. He had written books and indeed was a prolific writer. How he came to be interested suddenly in Canadian stamps I do not know, but his name was E. A. Smythies.

His first letter to me came from an address in Eire from a castle in Tralee. He asked me a great many questions about early Canadian stamps, having joined the CPSGB and there found my name. I had not known it at the time but he must also have written to every other member of the Executive in similar vein.

Naturally I replied as best I could and from then on, every day of his life, without exception he wrote me a letter! He would not wait for a reply to his last one but immediately wrote another. So that there was a continuing flow of letters always one ahead of the reply to his last. It was an extraordinary situation, which I suppose I had inadvertently encouraged by my prompt responses. Although I soon realised that this was an impossible and endless task, his quest for knowledge and information was insatiable. Later on I discovered that he was doing exactly the same with other friends of mine of the CPS, who mostly soon tired of his advances. But he was retired, elderly and spent all of his time writing for information.

I had not known it but all this was preparatory to writing not one handbook, but several. He loved to publish handbooks and, at first, with rather too scanty information, rushed into print with his first Canadian handbook. It did not meet with the entire approval of the elders of the Society and, after that, I was instructed to edit all but one of his later publications.

All his letters to me were headed 'Dear SC' and always ended abruptly with 'EAS'. We knew of no other terms but these. He would not be convinced of anything at all without concrete evidence. On one occasion he sent me two Large Queens, each of which had the most atrocious faked postmark, one in bright scarlet on a 3 cent and another in vivid green on a 2 cent green. They had been supplied to him by a dubious dealer then active on the South Coast. He requested my 'opinion' as to the genuineness of the postmarks, to which I promptly replied that they were both fakes.

By return mail, I received one of EAS's rudest letters. How dare I say they were fakes? Of course, they were genuine. How could I possibly 'prove' they were fakes? My reply was that, whilst I would not do it with anyone else's stamps, if he cared to place the two stamps in cold water overnight, he would find that all trace of postmarks would have disappeared by the morning. I knew that they had simply been painted on and that the chances were that they would simply wash off.

Again, by return mail, I received one of the nicest of EAS's letters. He had done just that. One of the two stamps had simply disintegrated into hundreds of tiny pieces and disappeared. The second stamp had become a beautiful unused example of a 2 cents green with no trace of any postmark. He sent it to me with his compliments and I still have it to this day in one of my stockbooks. The strange thing is that it was not a damaged copy in any way as usually only damaged and valueless copies are used by postmark fakers.

It was this strange episode which was to set EAS on the start of one of his later and rather more successful handbooks 'Fakes and Forgeries', the information in which was almost all gleaned from me with the use of mostly my material.

I only met EAS once. He attended a CPS Convention just once, some years ago. I was amazed to see how old and frail he was. He must have been in his nineties even then. But he continued to write me daily even after he had lost his hearing and his sight. His handwriting became less and less legible. One of his last letters to me offered me his collection of small queen Fancy Cancels. He had written a handbook on them jointly with Doc Day, whose magnificent collection I had already acquired. I replied that I would rather buy his 8 cent Registration covers, of which he had six. All these are very scarce but his Registration collection had been bequeathed to his son. However, he did allow me to buy three of his 8 cent covers which I still have, so I agreed to buy his Fancy Cancels as well. It is strange that I now own both collections of the Handbook's joint authors . . . Smythies and Day . . . to which I was later to add the fine collection formed by Miss Jones of Halifax.

EAS was a never-to-be-forgotten character. One of his better known handbooks on Canadian Registered stamps, was written extremely quickly and jointly with another dear friend of mine, Aubrey Smith of Halifax, Nova Scotia. I don't know how many years Aubrey and I have corresponded but it must be well over forty years. Once, passing through Halifax, I met him and we had a lovely evening. Somehow I don't think he ever met EAS. A few days after acquiring the EAS stamps, I received a letter from his daughter that he had passed away. By the same post she sent me the very last letter he ever wrote. It must have been only hours before he died.

The 15 cent Script watermark

So far I have talked mainly of people and not of stamps. In a lifetime's collecting, it would be easy to fill another long article on the stories behind the stamps acquired. Instead I will select just one stamp around which several stories can be told.

The longest life of any of the Large Queen series belongs to the 15 cent value which was pre-released in March 1868 and continued in many printings until 1901, never having been replaced by a similar value in the small queen design. From 1875 until 1877 this value was printed in shades of grey with a new perforation, 11½ x 12, instead of perf. 12.

Amongst these printings, a small quantity of paper was used showing the papermaker's watermark 'Alexr. Pirie & Sons' in a bold script style. This variety of SG.72 (SG.72a) is a most distinctive stamp in shade and is very scarce.

My first two used examples of this rarity were acquired over forty years ago in an unusual way. The famous London firm of Stanley Gibbons had written me that they were holding a one-day stand at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham and, learning of my interest in Canada, they invited me to attend, saying they would be bringing their Canadian stockbooks with them. I was only too happy to accept the invitation and went along to see what they had.

Their Canadian stamps were mounted in several priced booklets and, going through the many pages, I immediately saw that all the prices were 'full catalogue'; in those days, as now, collectors expected a discount from catalogue, so the prices were not attractive to me.

Turning to a page of beautiful used shades of the 15 cent Large Queen, I instinctively turned over the copies in the distinctive Lilac-Grey of the Script watermark, and to my delight, two superb used copies described and priced as normals were the rare variety. The price of the normal used SG.72 was £8 in those far off days (today's SG used is £225) and so, for £16, I extracted the two wanted stamps. I did not feel particularly guilty, since the prices asked were theirs and not mine. Turning to the next page, there was a terribly torn and mutilated 15 cent used, described as 'badly torn but the very rare Script Watermark' priced at £70 which, needless to say, remained in their stock.

Having spent the large sum of £16, the firm took me to lunch and sent me a nice letter later, thanking me for my purchase, which, they said, had made their day in Birmingham worthwhile. It was to be 25 years later that I was to repay them in some small measure for my 'steal'.

Meanwhile, over the years, I acquired several more copies of the Script watermark variety, but always used copies, with which I attempted a reconstruction of the lettering of the watermark, an almost impossible task that I do not think has ever been completed by anyone.

On his occasional visits to London, the late Jim Sissons usually tried to see me; this too was one of his favourite stamps, and I would just sometimes let him buy one of my spare copies. He always used to tell me that it was worth his trip to London, if only he could return to Canada with a single specimen of this rarity.

Then one day, I was looking through lots of a colonial sale in London, with a few Canada, the last of which was described as '15 cent, original gum, slight corner thinning, perf. 11½ x 12.'. As soon as I saw the stamp I recognised the distinctive shade of the variety and, turning it over, I saw the full gum, the slight thin spot and, then, a huge part of the Pirie lettering which stood out magnificently . . .

I had never seen a Mint copy of this stamp. Indeed at that time I had not even heard of one. I just gasped at it. The estimated price was £12 and I rushed to my auctioneer friend, David Fortnum, also a member of the CPS, who kindly told me that no-one had expressed any interest in the lot and that I should easily acquire it at around £12.

The day of the sale I sat at the back of a filled room and just waited for the lot to come up. I let all the other Canadian lots go, so excited at the prospect of acquiring this wrongly described gem. When the lot came up, the bidding opened at £10 and my bid of £12 seemed to have knocked out all the opposition except for a man in the front row, who alone kept his hand up. At £20 his hand was still up and so was mine. I was exasperated to not even know who was bidding against me but, obviously, someone else had spotted the Pirie watermark. What a shame. After the bidding between us reached £50 the room was beginning to gasp, but I kept my hand up; alas so did the man in the front. As he bid £100, I put my hand down reluctantly. The fight had gone on too long.

(to be continued)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

The Yellow Peril:

Re: Book Review "THE LARGE QUEENS OF CANADA" –
Maple Leaves August 1986

I concur wholeheartedly with this interesting review but I would like to put in my two cents. For those fortunate and enviable people who can afford to collect these big queen stamps, \$125 is not a deterrent. It would be nice if the price of the book were \$50 but such is not the case. Despite its minor short-comings and the price, it is still an excellent publication for where else can one find such comprehensive information in one convenient volume. My severe complaint (for want of a better expression) is that my academic background does not enable me to comprehend with ease this brilliant piece of work.

C. Leigh Hogg:

I refer to the 'Yellow Peril's' article in the August '86 issue of *Maple Leaves* entitled "Postal History versus First Days". The 'YP' had requested information on the final days of the half cent rate. I submit a copy of page 110 of the "Canada Stamp Sheet & Energy" Vol. II #11, July 15, 1901, which pertains to the prepayment of newspapers and periodicals mailed as second class matter. Although this does not refer to all half cent rated mail I thought your readers might be interested in this postal change.

New Post Office Regulation

Hitherto it has been the custom for publishers of newspapers and periodicals printed in Canada and enjoying the second class rate of one half cent per pound, to prepay each issue by affixing postage stamps to the amount on a printed form furnished by the Post Office Department. The following letter indicates that hereafter such payment shall be made in cash:

Quebec, 27th June, 1901.

To the Publisher of "Canada Stamp Sheet", Quebec.

Sir,

I have to inform you that postage on newspapers and periodicals mailed as second class matter must, on and after the 1st July next, be prepaid in cash instead of in postage stamps as heretofore and I therefore request you to be so good as to return to me after that date all forms Rev. 49 P.M., remaining in your possession.

*Your humble servant,
E. T. PAQUET,
Postmaster.*

J. B.C.


Dean Mario,

I am enclosing a photo-copy (Fig. 1) which may be of interest to modern-day Postage Due collectors. Canada Post has introduced a Postage Due adhesive sticker which is to be affixed over the address (to prevent delivery until the proper postage is paid). No other marks are evident except an electronic cancelling "shadow" on the reverse. Apparently the cover was discarded by the mail sorter before the cover received the postal code sorting bars.

After Sept. 1, 1985^o mail with incorrect postage was to be returned to the sender. However, Canada Post did give a "grace" period before this directive was put into effect.

The rubber stamp (Fig. 2) was impressed on a cover dated Feb. 1986.

Figure 1

DE/FROM  D W MARIO RPSC MCCC CPSGB
POST OFFICE BOX 342
SASKATOON SASK
S7K 3L3

**Return to Sender
Insufficient Postage**
Please remove label, add missing postage and re-mail
Insufficient postage for:

Weight of item.
 For destination.
 Non Standard Business Letter.

**Retour à l'envoyeur
Affranchissement insuffisant**
S.V.P. enlever l'étiquette, ajouter affranchissement manquant et poster
Affranchissement insuffisant pour:

Le poids de l'envoi.
 La destination.
 Lettre d'affaire (non-standard).

First Class Postage/Courrier de la 1^{re} classe
Within Canada (0-30g)/Au Canada (0-30g)

Standard Letter/Lettre standard	34¢
Non-Standard Business Letter/Lettre d'affaire (non-standard)	39¢
To USA/Aux États-Unis	(0-30g) 39¢
To all other countries/À tous les autres pays	(0-20g) 68¢

Standard Envelopes/Enveloppes standard
Maximum: 255 mm x 150 mm Minimum: 140 mm x 90 mm

CANADA POST CORPORATION SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES POSTES

S - 106

Figure 2

FORWARDED AS A COURTESY	ACHÉMINÉ À TITRE GRACIEUX
Mail with insufficient postage may be returned to sender in future.	Les envois insuffisamment affranchis peuvent à l'avenir être retournés à l'expéditeur.

Dave Lacelle:

With regards to Mr. C. L. Hogg's inquiry in the August 1985 issue of *Maple Leaves* (regarding a crown cancellation), and "The Yellow Peril's" reply in January, I can provide him with a bit more information.

I have also seen this marking on a wrapper from the experimental farm used about 1902. I took a quick look at the Civil Service Lists in the National Postal Library, Mr. William Bain Scarth was appointed Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture, inside service in Dec. 1. '95, his name does not appear in the 1904 lists. (As an aside: in '96, he was 58 years old, and had an annual salary of \$3,200.)

I have been researching fancy Canadian cancels for about five years now, and would be willing to help any other members with similar queries.

CONVENTION AUCTION 1987

Members are asked to note that all lots for the Convention Auction, which will be held at the George Hotel, Lichfield, Staffordshire on Saturday 26 September, 1987, should be sent to :-

Mr. John M. H. Parkin, C.P.S.
c/o Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd.
Progressive Buildings,
Sitwell Street,
DERBY, DE1 2JP.

NOT LATER THAN the 25 April, 1987. It is most important that all envelopes or packages containing material for the Convention Auction are clearly addressed EXACTLY as above in order to avoid confusion.

Only B.N.A. material is acceptable and lots must be accompanied by a brief description and estimate of value (minimum £2.00). Lots received after 25 April may not be included in the Auction catalogue but they will, however, be disposed of at the conclusion of the sale. Prospective vendors are urged in their own interests, therefore, to ensure that their material is in Mr. Parkin's hands by 25 April at the latest.

No responsibility can be accepted for material which is either loosely mounted or badly packaged. A stamped addressed postcard will ensure a prompt acknowledgement of receipt of your material.

FROM THE SECRETARY

I begin at the end, this particular 'end' being the final item taken under 'Other Business' at the 40th Annual General Meeting which was held at the Pitlochry Hydro Hotel on Saturday 4 October, 1986. That item was an impromptu vote of thanks, proposed by Colin Banfield, to David Sessions for ten years of service to the Society in the post of Secretary. Those present whole-heartedly endorsed that proposal and I am sure that all our members would wish me to echo the sentiment on their behalf Thank you David . . . we wish you well in your new post as Editor of *Maple Leaves*.

The following are the main points arising from this year's A.G.M. A copy of the minutes can be obtained from the Secretary; similarly a full statement of accounts can be obtained from the Treasurer. SAE would be appreciated.

The President, Mrs. McGregor, expressed her delight to see so many overseas members at the Convention.

The Packet Secretary, Roger Grigson, reported that once again the main contribution to the packet came from a small number of members and that it was unlikely that all of the ten circuits would receive a packet during the year.

Tom Almond, Handbooks Manager, reported another successful year with new titles accounting for almost 40% of total sales. Some over-stocked titles had been offered at reduced prices and the response had been good. A Committee decision had been taken to order 'Easibinders' for *Maple Leaves* to retail at £6 each and members were asked to place their orders with Mr. Almond.

George Bellack, Advertising Manager, thanked all our advertisers for their support throughout the year and reminded members that 'Classified Advertising' space was available free of charge.

The Treasurer, John Hillson, reported a satisfactory financial position at the end of September 1985, but forecast a significant deterioration during 1985/86, mainly due to a drop in income, with many members failing to pay their subscriptions, coupled with a general increase in expenditure. It was disappointing that so many members failed to respond to frequent reminders for subscriptions which had been published in *Maple Leaves*. Nevertheless it was agreed to retain the £7 rate for subscription with a penalty of £1 being levied on members paying after 1 January 1987, as had been agreed at the 1985 A.G.M.

Mr. Hillson agreed to take on the duties of Subscription Manager as well as continuing with the office of Treasurer.

Geoffrey Whitworth was pleased to report that the Committee had accepted the proposal of the Fellowship Sub-Committee that Lewis M. Ludlow be elected as a Fellow of the Society for his research into Canadian railway routes and history and the publication of his findings in book form.

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GROW WITH THE ROYAL

Mr. Whitworth also announced that the Fellows had decided to award the Founders' Trophy to John Hillson for his published work on the Small Queen Issue.

It was reported to the A.G.M. that the Committee had agreed to an addition to the General Rules Governing The Awards as follows :—

11. No single entry in any one year shall attract more than one trophy.

The following Officers were elected by the A.G.M. :—

President:	D. A. Avery
Vice-President:	D. G. Manton
Secretary:	B. T. Stalker
Treasurer:	N. J. A. Hillson
Committee Members:	Scotland J. Hannah, F.C.P.S.
	North England Dr. C. W. Hollingsworth, F.C.P.S.
	South England C. A. King
Auditor:	L. E. Warren

The A.G.M. was advised of the following Committee Appointments :—

Librarian:	C. G. Banfield, F.C.P.S.
Editor:	D. F. Sessions, F.C.P.S.
Packet Secretary:	R. Grigson
Handbooks Manager:	T. E. Almond
Advertising Manager:	L. G. Bellack
Publicity Officer:	M. R. Cusworth
Assistant Editor:	G. E. Taylor

Mr. Derrick Avery announced that the 1987 Convention would be held at the George Hotel, Lichfield, from the 23-26 September 1987.

Competition Awards :—

Class 1	1. G. Whitworth	First Decimal Issue
	2. H. Harrison	Registration Stamps
Class 2	1. The London Section	Newfoundland T.P.O's
Class 3(a)	1. R. Grigson	1c Small Queen Rates
	2. L. M. Ludlow	Pence Issues
Class 3(b)	1. D. F. Sessions	Royal Tour Mail
	2. F. R. Lockyer	1967 Centennial Issue

Trophies :—

Godden Trophy	G. Whitworth	First Decimal Issue
Bunny Cup	D. F. Sessions	Royal Tour Mail
Admiral Cup	J. Hannah	5c Blue Admiral
Lees-Jones Trophy	Not awarded.	
Members Trophy	L. M. Ludlow	Pence Issues
Aikins Trophy	G. Whitworth	19th Century Transatlantic Mail
Founders Trophy	N. J. A. Hillson	Small Queen Issue publications.

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2502 NIXON, J. Edward, 255 Cortleigh Blvd., Toronto, CANADA, M5N 1P8.
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2503 STURUP, Svend, c/o Georg Jensen, 95A Bloor St. W., Toronto, CANADA, M5S
1M1. CR, CL, CS.
2504 JOHNSON, Hugh R., 27 Ridgeway Ave., Gravesend, Kent DA12 5BD. B, C, PH

Deceased

- 621 HARMER, C.H.C.
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2094 STAMP DEN The, previously 78 Richmond St West, Toronto, Ont. Canada.
2450 MACHUM, H.W.E., previously PO 996, Lively, Ontario, Canada.
1789 PEACH, A.J., previously 83 Sunrise Ave., Chelmsford, Essex.

Removed from Membership – Address unknown (for more than one year)

- 902 CHAMBERS, J.E. previously 31 Fore St., Ivybridge, Devon.
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