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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 214

Vol. 20 No. 10

August 1987



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MAPLE LEAVES

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Vol. 20 No. 10

AUGUST 1987

Whole No. 214

EDITORIAL

Capex has come and gone and what a fine show it was. The new Convention Centre in Toronto proved an ideal venue, light and air-conditioned with plenty of space to accommodate both dealers and frames on the same floor. Your President and Editor were both in attendance, along with a small band of UK members. The wealth of material on the frames and in the dealers' booths was only matched by the pleasure at meeting so many of our fellow members from Canada and the USA. In many cases it was a question of renewing acquaintances made at the previous show in 1978 and in London in 1980, although some faces were even more familiar from welcome visits to our Conventions over here.

Society members collected at least 27 medals in the Canadian National and Postal History sections, including a large gold, four small golds, seven large vermeils, three small vermeils, four large silvers, three small silvers and five bronze silvers. The International judging panel made a conscious decision to reduce the number of large gold medals awarded, following the upsurge at the last two Internationals. This decision resulted in some very harsh marking, with a number of exhibits being marked down on previous awards or not scoring so highly as one might expect. The results, which became public on the Thursday of the show, gave rise to considerable discussion.

The crowds seemed substantially less than in 1978, there was a marked absence of long queues for souvenir sheets and special exhibits. This did make things much more comfortable for the serious collectors and a straw poll suggested that dealers were well satisfied. It seems that a much higher proportion of the visitors were serious collectors/buyers. One suspects that the main sufferers were the postal administrations, in particular Canada Post who were major sponsors of the Exhibition.

CONVENTION 1987 – The President's Message

An addition to the social programme is a talk with slides on Canada to be given by our son Edward to the ladies on Thursday evening. We have made arrangements with one local course secretary for our golfing enthusiasts so, come prepared to indulge in your second (?) love.

This message is being written in May which possibly accounts for the very few competition entry forms received so far. With a limit of 18 sheets per entry, every reader of this message must be able to extract a sufficient number of sheets from his/her collection and arrange them to illustrate one of the innumerable features of Canadian philately. I did it once with 15 pages of the UPU postal stationery card and was awarded a first in the research class; now it is up to you.

Our block booking ceases on 1 August but do not let that deter you from sending in your booking form. I am sure the hotel will do their best to accommodate you.

Derrick Avery

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.

A ½¢ LARGE QUEEN ON-COVER? by The Yellow Peril

Fotos by Favourite

Viewing Geoffrey Whitworth's Large Queen cover exhibit at the 1984 Buxton Convention and my ensuing discussion with Geoffrey about a single half cent Large Queen stamp on cover has prompted me to draft these notes. Since Buxton I have looked for a ½¢ LQ on-cover and all I saw was, in fact, just that – a ½¢ LQ “on-cover”! (Fig. 1)

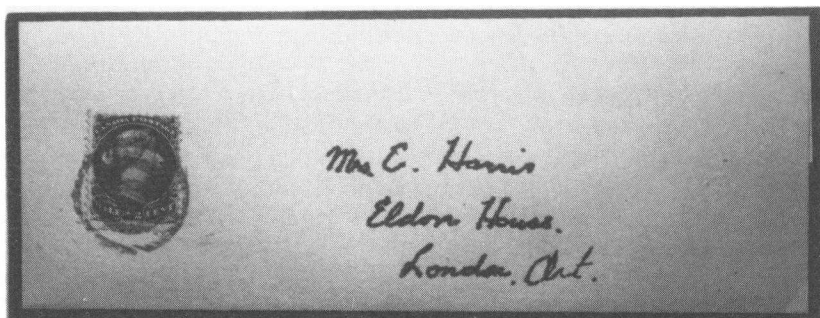


Fig. 1. A ½¢ LQ “on-cover” that can deceive the unsuspecting!

The covers I saw have disturbing features. Most of them were in the form of wrappers with the ½¢ LQ tied by a target or bull's-eye postmark. The ½¢ LQ on one of the wrappers examined is not even the original stamp. The original stamp had either fallen off or it was removed and replaced by a ½¢ LQ. A portion of the original stamp's tying target is under the stamp. Of the two other more interesting items noted; one was a Statique Judiciares with the ½¢ LQ tied by an unusually large cork. The rate for these statistical returns was 1¢. The other item was a Montreal 1871 “Weekly Prices Current” addressed to Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. The rate for prices current was also 1¢. The stamp on this item has two different postmarks: one already on the stamp and the other tying it to the price list.

These observations coupled with a ½¢ LQ newspaper wrapper, a ½¢ LQ unsealed envelope circular, and a ½¢ LQ “favour rate city delivery” unsealed envelope seen in recent Large Queen displays have motivated me to probe into the usages of the ½¢ LQ stamp. The source of information is volume II of Boggs.

Paragraph 25 of THE DOMINION POST OFFICE ACT OF 1867 reads:

“The rate of postage upon periodical publications, other than newspapers, shall be one cent per four ounces, or half a cent per number, when such periodicals weigh less than one ounce and are posted singly, and when such periodical publications are posted in Canada, these rates shall in all cases be prepaid by postage stamps affixed to the same.”

Paragraph 18 of the “REGULATIONS ISSUED UNDER THE DOMINION POST OFFICE ACT reads:

“Periodicals weighing less than one ounce per number, when posted in Canada for any place within the Dominion, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland or the United States may, when put up singly, pass for one-half cent per number, to be prepaid by Postage Stamp.”

My interpretation of these regulations is that the ½¢ LQ stamp was a “periodical” stamp used on periodical publications¹ weighing less than one ounce and posted singly to any place within the Dominion, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland or to the United States. The stamp shall be affixed to the periodical (Fig. 2). “SHALL” – the magic word – is interpreted to mean “imperative.”



Fig. 2. ½¢ LQ tied to a “British Messenger” periodical mast-head dated August 1878.

The British Messenger was published monthly by the Trustees of the late Peter Drummond, at the Tract Depot, Stirling, N.B. If there is such a thing as a single half-cent cover, this mast-head has got to be the real McCoy! There are so many good things going for it.

Paragraph 23 of THE POST OFFICE ACT OF 1875 reads:

“Newspapers and periodicals weighing less than one ounce each may be posted singly at a postage rate of half a cent each, which must be in all cases prepaid by postage stamp affixed to each.”

My understanding of this titillating paragraph is that effective 1 October 1875, both newspapers and periodicals could be posted singly for a lousy ½¢ provided they weigh less than one ounce. And as stipulated in THE DOMINION ACT, the stamp MUST be affixed to the newspaper or periodical.

Paragraph 24 of this 1875 ACT is worth quoting because it has fascinating implications.

“On all newspapers and periodicals posted in Canada, except in the cases hereinbefore expressly provided for, and on books, etc., etc., (repeats Sec. 26 of Act of 1867), the rate of postage shall be one cent for each four ounces or fraction of four ounces, . . . and this postage rate shall be prepaid by postage stamps or stamped post bands or wrappers. . . .”

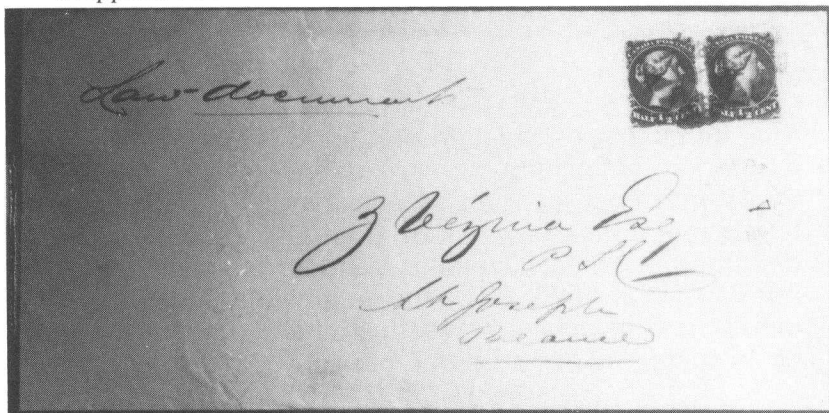


Fig. 3. Pair of ½¢ LQ's cork-tied to an improvised wrapper pmk'd "AUBERT-CALETON SP 7 77 QUE." This wrapper was probably used to wrap a four-ounce judicial periodical. Note upside down "3" in cds corrected by manuscript "7".

Paragraph 24 stipulates that 'stamped post bands, or wrappers shall be used to mail newspapers or periodicals weighing up to four ounces'. Newspapers or periodicals weighing less than an ounce, however, could still be sent for a ½¢. Paragraph 24 implies and provides leeway for the use of home-made wrappers should stationery wrappers or post bands not be available. The postage would be a one-cent stamp or a couple of



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half-cent stamps affixed to the home-made wrapper (Fig. 3). If neither stationery nor home-made wrapper were used, the stamps could then be affixed to the newspaper or periodical.

According to Webb, wrappers are larger than post bands and were sold to publishers only. In addition to the stamp, wrappers have an imprint which reads, "Wrappers to be used only by publishers and for the sole purpose of mailing second class matter to the United States." Post bands were sold to the public.

Based on the above excerpts from the Post Office Acts, my concept of a single ½¢ LQ in-period cover is that the ½¢ LQ can only be on a periodical; or on a newspaper after 1 October 1875. Readers who have other views are requested to express them in "Maple Leaves".

References

1. A periodical is a publication published at least once a month but a newspaper, once a week.
2. Buyers of single ½¢ LQ covers would do well to practice 'caveat emptor' to its fullest!
3. An argument presented to me by a dealer was "How can it be a forgery when the cover is real and the stamp is genuine?" Mr. Whitworth, is this pathetic claim worthy of your comment?

LONDON SECTION – ONE DAY SEMINAR

On 13 June the London Section put together another packed day with six varied displays on Canadian Philately.

At 10.30 a.m. sharp the "Great Western Railway" display by Brian Stalker set the pace of the show and placed it firmly on the right lines for the rest of the day.

There followed the "Money Letters" of Len Belle and the "Flags After Queen Victoria" from Tom Almond.

This gave plenty to discuss over lunch, whether taken in the cafeteria or the bar, and all members were back in their seats by 1.15 p.m. to see George Bellack's display of "Small Queens and Covers".

Down the M1 from Yorkshire came Eric Quinn with an in depth study of "North Atlantic Seaway Rates and The Age of Steam".

Fifteen minutes for tea and biscuits prior to the prime display of the day! With bags already packed for CAPEX, Dorothy Sanderson found time to bring along a great show of "Large Queens".

A really good, worthwhile, day and two displays booked already for 4 June next year, so make a note of this date in your diary!

CANADIAN LETTER RATES TO THE U.K., THE U.S. TRANSIT FEE AND THE CUNARD SURTAX (Part 1)

by George B. Arfken

Canadian letter rates to the United Kingdom had been constant during the pre Confederation Decimal era: 12½¢ per half oz. by Canadian packet and 17¢ per half oz. for letters going via New York. As the Decimal era ended, a series of changes began resulting in dramatic reductions in the postal rates. Most of these changes involved the U.K. and the U.S. with Canada having little or no control. This is a study of these changes with emphasis on the role of the United States transit fee.

In 1867 the U.K. and the U.S. negotiated a new postal convention. Signed in London on June 18 and in Washington on July 8, it became effective January 1, 1868.¹ Article 10 of this convention specified

The rates of postage to be mutually paid for territorial transit (including the passage of the English channel) of all letters sent from one country to the other for transmission to places beyond, in closed mails, shall be one-half the ordinary inland rates now charged in the two countries respectively, viz: for transit through the United States one-half of three cents per single letter, and for transit through the United Kingdom one-half of a penny per single letter.

This was closed mail and the number of letters would be given by the letter bill.

Canada responded to this U.K. – U.S. postal convention by issuing Department Circular No. 1.² From Section 1. of this circular

Under a recent Postal Convention between the British and United States Post Offices – the United States transit charge on letters passing, via the United States, between Canada and the United Kingdom, in the Mails sent and received by Steamships plying between New York and Liverpool and Southampton, has been reduced, and the Postage Rate on such letters will, hereafter be 15 cents per ½ oz. instead of 17 cents, if prepaid – with a fine additional of 12 cents on each letter when posted unpaid, or not fully prepaid at the 15 cent Rate.

The letter rate for letters through the United States (usually via New York and usually carried on the Cunard Line) had been 17¢ per half oz. So there was a reduction of 2¢ per half oz. for letters going to the U.K. via New York.

Canadian Department Circular No. 1 further provided that *Postage Stamps representing the new 15 cent Packet Rate will be issued as soon as they can be prepared.*



Fig. 1. 15¢ Cunard rate to England. From London, Ont., NO 19 69.

These new stamps were the 15¢ Large Queens. They were issued and used well before the April 1, 1868 date of issue for most of the Large Queens.³ Figure 1. shows a cover from London, Ont., dated NO 19 69 with the 15¢ Cunard rate paid with a 15¢ Large Queen.

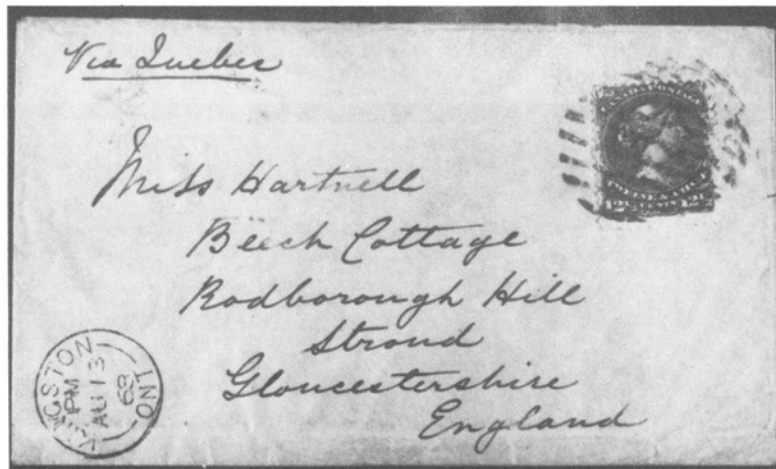


Fig. 2. 12½¢ Canadian packet rate to England. From Kingston, Ont., AU 13 68.

The pre-Confederation, Decimal era Canadian packet rate of 12½¢ per half oz. remained unchanged. Figure 2. shows a cover from Kingston, Ont., dated AU 13 68 with the Canadian packet rate paid with a 12½¢ Large Queen. It might be noted here that the Canadian packets used Portland, Maine as a winter port. The Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railway (in Maine) and the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway (in Quebec), both a part of the Grand Trunk Railway, connected Montreal and Portland. This arrangement continued until the completion of the railway to Halifax in June 1876. There was nothing in the 1868 postal convention to exempt Canadian mail, going via Portland, from the U.S. transit fees. It is presumed that the transit fees were levied on Canadian packet winter mail and that the fees were simply absorbed by the Canadian Post Office.

Canadian documents refer to the 'via New York' letter rates as the 'Cunard rates'. So the 2½¢ difference between the Cunard rate of 15¢ and the Canadian packet rate of 12½¢ will be called the 'Cunard surtax'. It should be noted carefully that this Cunard surtax was 1¢ higher than the U.S. transit fee. While the U.S. transit fee was a major element, other political and economic factors were involved.

Canadian postal policy was to send a letter addressed to the U.K. by the route specified (Canadian packet or via New York). In the absence of a route specification the letter might be sent by the fastest route, i.e. on the next ship to sail. Figure 3. shows a mourning cover from Kingston. Ont., dated AU 2 69 prepaid by the Canadian packet 12½¢ rate but sent via New York. The British Post Office rated the cover due 1 penny. This was ½¢ less than the Cunard surtax but still ½¢ above the U.S. transit fee.



Fig. 3. Paid Canadian packet rate, sent via NY. Due 1 penny. From Kingston, Ont., AU 7 69.

The primary concern of the 1868 U.K. – U.S. postal convention was mail between these two countries. So we might note that the convention reduced the U.S. – U.K. letter rate to 12¢ per half oz. from the earlier 24¢ per half oz. The portion of the postal charge allocated to sea postage was “eight cents per single letter rate”. It is interesting to note that this 1868 U.K. – U.S. postal convention referred to letters from the U.S. in grams and to letters from the U.K. in ounces.

On January 1, 1869 a new postal convention between the U.K. and the U.S. came into effect. Article XI included the statement.⁴

The British Post Office shall account to the Post Office of the United States for three and three-quarters cents an ounce for the conveyance of such letters through the United States; and the Post Office of the United States shall account to the British Post Office for 1¼d (one penny, one farthing) per ounce for conveyance of such letters through the United Kingdom.

The transit fee changed from a per letter basis to a bulk weight basis. The new 3¾¢ transit fee was 2½ times the old 1½¢ per (half oz.) letter. At first glance this appears to be an increase. It seems more likely that experience had shown that the weight per single rate letter (not over 0.5 oz.) actually averaged 0.4 oz. or 2½ single rate letters per oz. bulk weight. If this were the case, the U.S. transit fee per closed sack of mail stayed constant. (In view of the penalty for a letter being overweight, staying a bit below the 0.5 oz. limit would have been a prudent policy for Canadian letter writers.)

The U.S. – U.K. letter rate was maintained at 12¢ per half oz. The sea postage was changed to a bulk weight basis. Article VII contained the statement (for accounting purposes) “*the charge for the sea conveyance of letters in closed mails across the Atlantic shall be computed at twenty cents per ounce. . .*”

On December 3, 1869 in Washington and on December 14 in London postal officials signed additional articles to the postal convention that had come into effect the preceding January.⁵ The U.K. and the U.S. agreed on a drastic reduction in the sea transit postage. Article 4. stated:

The charge for the sea conveyance across the Atlantic of letters sent in closed mails through the United Kingdom, shall be computed at six cents per ounce or per 30 grammes.

Effective January 1, 1870 the rate on letters from the U.S. to the U.K. was set at 6¢ per half oz. with 2¢ of the 6¢ designated as sea postage.

As a consequence of this reduction in the sea postage and in the U.S. – U.K. rate, the Canada – U.K. rate (via New York) would

become 8¢ per half oz. Canada had been informed of the U.K., U.S. negotiations but still was left with very little choice. To remain competitive with an 8¢ Cunard rate, the Canadian packet rate was slashed from 12½¢ to 6¢ per half oz. The Canadian Post Office announced these new rates in a NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC dated 30 December 1869:⁶

On and from the 1st of January, 1870, the Postage Rate on Letters passing between Canada and the United Kingdom will be as follows:

If sent, prepaid, by Canadian Mail Packet, via Quebec, (Portland in Winter) or Halifax, 6 cents per ½ oz weight.

If sent, prepaid, via New York, 8 cents per ½ oz. weight.

Figure 4. shows a cover from Hamilton, (Ont.), dated JY 24 71 with the 8¢ Cunard rate paid with 2¢ and 6¢ Large Queens. The 2¢ and 6¢ Small Queens had not yet been issued. While this is the Cunard rate, the cover is actually endorsed “per Guion Line”.



Fig. 4. 8¢ Cunard rate to England. From Hamilton, Ont., JY 24 71.

(to be continued)

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 postage (sea mail) or 80p (Airmail). A choice of green or navy blue background is available.

THOSE HALF CENT POSTCARDS by C. Leigh Hogg

It is with great interest that I read the writings of 'The Yellow Peril', particularly "Postal History versus First Days".¹ This 'Yellow Peril' has started a tempest in a tea pot for, lo and behold in my 'Other File', in which mystery after mystery lies gathering dust and eagerly waiting to be solved, are two items which may add to the story.

Figures 1 and 2 show both sides of a postcard from Mme. D. Bedard (oval in purple), franked with a half cent Numeral. The card is addressed to Emile Hurliuson – Le Mans, France and the reverse carries handstamps 'Timbre Cote-Vue' and 'Imprimes'.

Figures 3 and 4 show both sides of a postcard from Mme Lahaise (box in blue), franked with a half cent Numeral. This card is addressed to Mr August Mozard, Oran, Algeria and carries the same handstamps as the first card. It can be seen that the two senders lived in the same building in Ottawa.

In view of the fact that there are now three different destinations; Algiers, France and Mexico; no due markings; no dating receivers, and considering the large volume of postcards mailed during these glory years of deltiology, I propose to 'The Yellow Peril', and indeed all readers, that postal authorities accepted postcards with the prepayment of half cent postage, providing no messages were transmitted on the card.

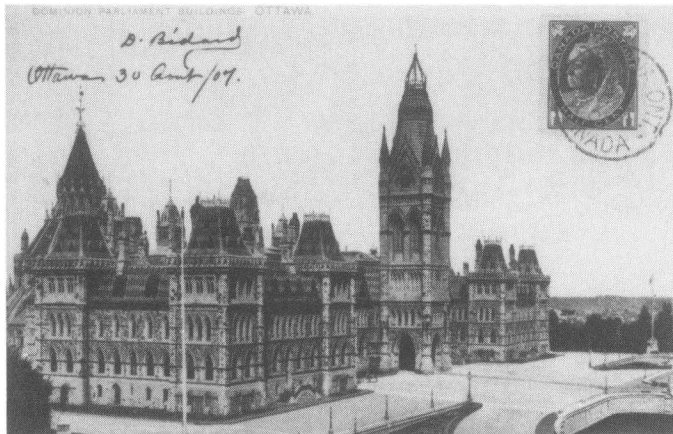


Fig. 1.

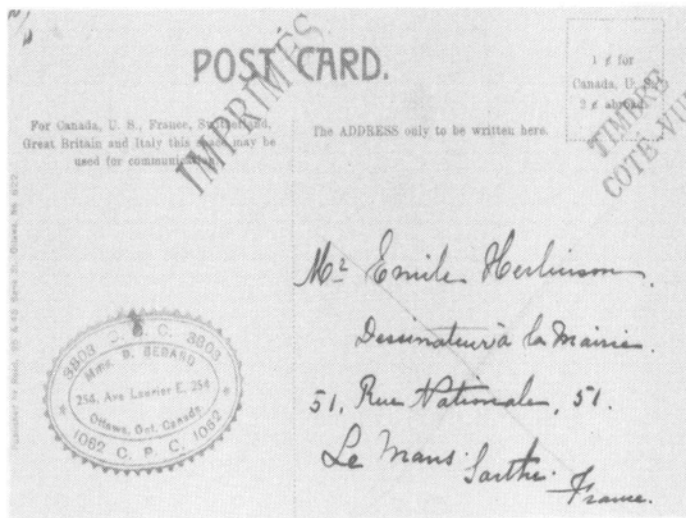


Fig. 2.

Is there postal documentation to support my conjecture? Do other members have similar cards to other destinations? Was postage due applied by some postal administrations? Your correspondence, via the Editor, would be appreciated.

1. See 'Maple Leaves' August 1986, pp. 123-127.



Fig. 3.

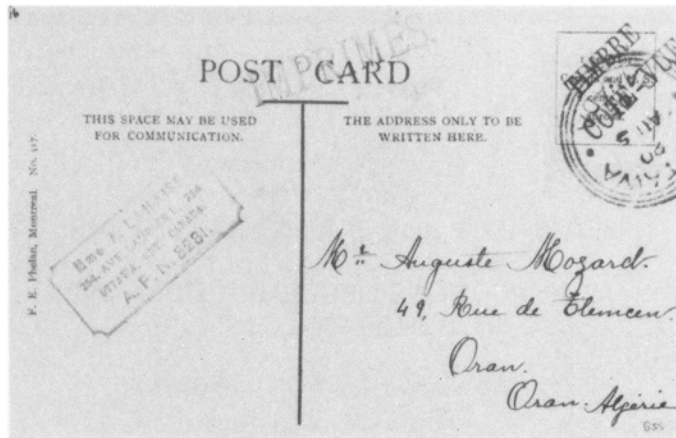


Fig. 4.

Review of the Post Office Dept. (RG3)

In the April issue (p. 222/3) we reviewed the above publication and lamented the lack of an address. Members Raymond Skrepnek and Dean Mario both leapt to our assistance with the appropriate information, the address is:-

Public Archives of Canada, Archives Branch, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0N3.

We reiterate that a request to Thomas Hillman for a free copy is well worth the effort.

Newfoundland Perfin Survey

The Perfin Study Group of BNAPS, in conjunction with the Newfoundland and Revenue Study Groups, is conducting a major survey of Newfoundland perfins. The purpose of the survey is to collect and collate all known perfins, words and designs that appear on Newfoundland stamps, to determine on which stamps they appeared and the dates of their use as well as relative scarcity. Any CPS of GB member with Newfoundland perfins, however few, is asked to contact Jim Catterick, Editor - BNA Perforator, 210 Steeles Ave. W., Apt. 2102, Brampton, ON, Canada, L6Y 2K3. Jim will supply a copy of the survey form.



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1859 FIRST CENTS ISSUE	QUEBEC POSTAL HISTORY
FIRST DAY COVERS	QUEBEC TRICENTENARY
FLAG CANCELLATIONS	RAILROAD POST OFFICES
FOREIGN COVERS	RATE COVERS
FORGERIES	REGISTERED COVERS
INTERNATIONAL MACHINE CANCELLATIONS	REGISTRATION STAMPS
JUBILEE ISSUE	REVENUES
LARGE QUEEN ISSUE	ROYAL TRAINS COVERS
LEGISLATIVE MARKINGS	SASKATCHEWAN POSTAL HISTORY
LITERATURE	SEMI-OFFICIAL AIRMAILS
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Continuing our series of articles for newer members . . .

THE FIRST DECIMAL ISSUE OF CANADA 1859 to 1868 (Part 1)

by Geoffrey Whitworth FRPSL, FCPS



Between 1851 and 1859 the growth of trade was increasing rapidly, both internally and with America and Europe. The monetary system then in use was constantly being blamed for difficulties with transactions. America had its own dollars, England used Sterling which was not at parity with the Canadian Currency. A change was demanded and the result was an Act through the Legislature on 1 July 1858 committing Canada to change to decimal coinage on 1 July 1859. The Maritime Provinces followed the year after.

The exchange rates were declared to be:- £1-4-4d Canadian Currency to equal £1 sterling to equal 4.86½ American dollars, the new Canadian dollar would be at parity with America. An Act of 4 May 1859 legalized the change of postal rates to the new coinage. New postage stamps were prepared and were ready for issue to the public on 1 July. Stocks of pence stamps were recalled from post offices but were still accepted on correspondence after this date.

By this time the New York stamp printers had amalgamated with other firms and now traded as 'The American Bank Note Co.' and it was to them that the new stamp printing contract was given. The instructions were to use the same designs and colours but to change the values from:— ½d. to 1 cent; 3d. to 5 cents; 6d. to 10 cents; 7½d. (6d Stg.) to 12½ cents (6d. Stg.); 10d. (8d. Stg.) to 17 cents (8d. Stg.). A 2 cents value was added on 1 August 1864. The issue remained in use until replaced on 1 April 1868 by the 'Large Queen' stamps.

The new stamps were printed in sheets of 100, set out 10 × 10, and all were perforated by the existing rotary machine giving an approximate gauge of 11.6 to 11.75. During 1862 two new machines were installed with a gauge of 12 thus making it possible for a combination of gauges to be found on stamps after this date. By checking dated material it has been found that the issue can be classified into three groups:—

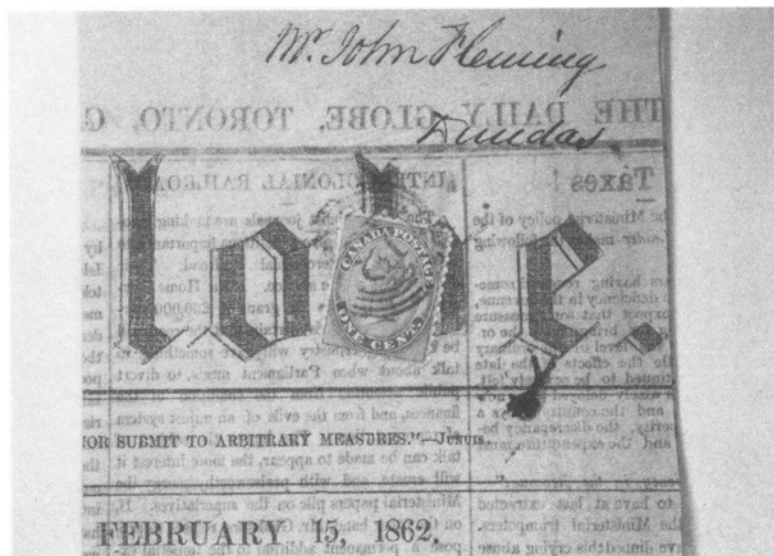
Group I	1859 to April 1863	Perf. 11¾
Group II	May 1863 to May 1865	Perf. 12 × 11¾ or 11¾ × 12
Group III	April 1865 to 1868	Perf. 12

The 5 cents Beaver, being a horizontal design, has the perforations 11¾ × 12.

The earlier printings carried plain margins around the edges of the sheet but, in November 1864, all values were re-ordered and the opportunity was taken to add an imprint 'American Bank Note Co. New-York.' twice on each margin to all values except the 17 cents. The first dated stamp found showing this imprint is a 1 cent dated MR 13 1865.

All paper was now machine made and the quality standard was much improved. No watermark was added to the paper but the stitching of the papermakers felt to form an endless belt left the impression of a watermark at very long spaced intervals. The papers were of a hard wove nature and the printers appeared to use them as they came to hand. Some stamps are found on a thinner and whiter than average paper, whilst others show a thicker and sometimes yellower paper. No particular paper can be associated with a particular colour although, in August 1867, many 5 cents stamps are found showing an ink that seems to have run, giving the paper an oily look.

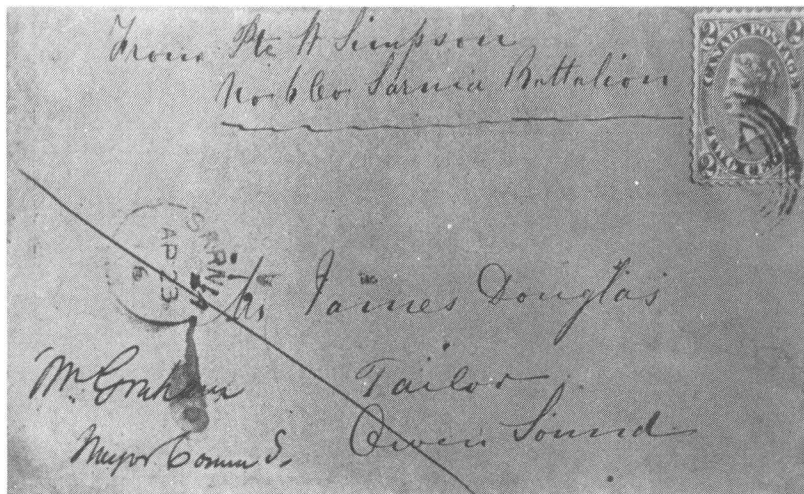
Proofs are not an essential to introduce an issue but they do add a few very clean and clearly printed stamps. First plate proofs are in black followed by some in the colour of issue. In 1863 proofs were pulled in yellow and at an early date the 12½ cents value was proofed in blue.



A one cent stamp used on a Toronto Globe newspaper dated February 15 1862. Stamp cancelled by the 4-ring 13 of Galt.

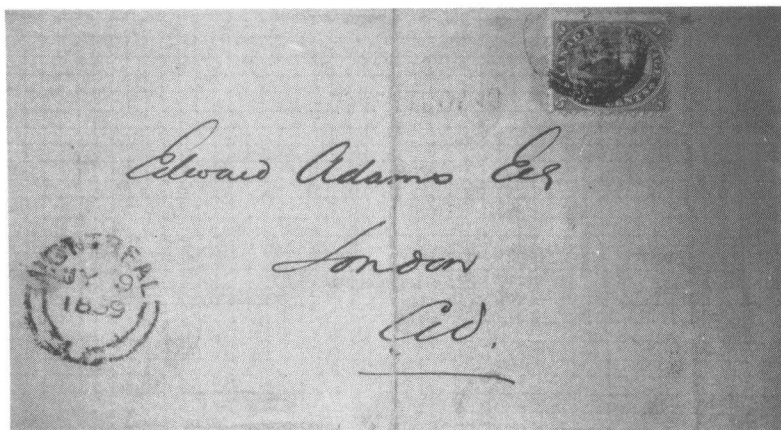
- One cent. Issued 1 July 1859
- Design:— Profile head of Queen Victoria reproduced from the ½d. stamp.
- Colours:— Group I
- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1859 | Very rich crimson. |
| 1860–62 | Deep brownish crimson turning to deep and pale carmine. |
- Group II
- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1862–65 | Deep to pale carmine reds,
Deep to pale rose reds. |
|---------|---|
- Group III with imprint added to the plate.
- | | |
|---------|----------------------|
| 1865 | Deep carmine reds. |
| 1866 | Pale red (shades). |
| 1867–68 | Rose red to carmine. |
- Varieties:— There are three prominent re-entries only, showing in the group III printings.
There are 15 positions where stamps show flaws on the plate.
They are mainly in the group II and III printings and are constant for a period of time and show as obvious splashes of colour which should not be there.

- Uses:- Newspapers per copy to all B.N.A., U.K. by Canadian Packet and to the eastern parts of America.
 Drop letters per ½ oz.
 Printed matter per item to all B.N.A. and eastern America.
 Periodicals per 3 oz. to all B.N.A. and eastern America.
 Two stamps to prepay the domestic registration fee.
 Multiple uses to make up higher postage rates.



A two cents stamp used on a letter from a Private to a tailor at Owen Sound. Posted at Sarnia Ap 23 1866 and countersigned by a Major. Stamp cancelled by the 4-ring 34 of Sarnia.

- Two cents. Issued 1 August 1864
 Design:- Profile of head of Queen Victoria as used on the 1 cent value.
 Colours:- Group II
 1864 Carmine red.
 Group III with imprint.
 1865-66 Carmine to deep rose.
 1866 (late) Paler shades.
 1867 Browner shades of rose.
 Varieties:- There are only a few minor plate flaws.
 Uses:- The domestic registration fee.
 Soldiers' or seamen's letters to the empire subject to certain conditions, they must not exceed ½ oz.
 Printed matter per copy to U.K. via Canadian Packet.
 In combination with other values to make up higher rates.



A five cents stamp used on a folded letter from Montreal to London dated July 9 1859. Stamp cancelled by the 4-ring 21 hammer of Montreal.

Five cents. Issued 1 July 1859

Design:- A repeat of the Beaver emblem from the 3d. stamp.

Colours:- All stamps are of an orange red or vermillion type of colour and variations are difficult to describe. By constant use the plate did wear down and printings became weaker. After a plate repair the impressions were once again deep and clear and this changing feature can be described in relation to colour within the perforation groups.

Group I

- 1859 Brick red shades.
- 1860 (August) Deep printings in light orange red shades.
- 1861-62 Bright orange red. Very worn by June 1862.
- 1862 (July) Deep printings, dull orange red. Weak by May 1863.

Group II

- 1863 (July) Very deep printings in a brown red shade.
- 1864-65 Pale orange red - average to weak printings.

Group III with imprint.

- 1865 (July) Deep impressions - reddish orange.
- 1866-67 Bright to dull vermillion - clear printings.
- 1868 Deep vermillion - good impressions.

(to be continued)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

J. E. Pilkington

I refer to the Maple Leaves issue of October 1986 (No. 210); in particular to an article by Mr. Stuart Clarke which concerns some stamp paper changes etc. (p. 142). May I offer the following comments?

1. Plate no. 2 of the Fishing Spear definitive was printed by CBNC and not BABNC.
2. Stamps from plate 2 are found only on Harrison (UK) paper – as distinguished by its greenish gum – and not on Rolland paper.
3. The first printings by Ashton Potter, which are on Abitibi paper, did not curl badly.
4. The second printing was carried out by CBNC – not BABNC.

To sum up therefore, and to update the situation on this definitive, with dates of the most recent printings:-

- 19.10.82. First printing: by Ashton Potter on Abitibi paper – did not curl. Perf $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
10. 2.84. Second printing: by CBNC on Clark (USA) paper which curled badly. Perf $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
23. 1.86. Third printing: by CBNC on Harrison (UK) paper which can be distinguished by its greenish gum. This printing saw the emergence of plate 2. The paper does curl somewhat although it did not give anything like the trouble that the Clark paper did. Perf $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
4. 7.86. Fourth printing: by Ashton Potter on Rolland paper. No plate number yet recorded. This paper does not curl. Perf $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

As far as I am aware, there have not been any printings of the 2c Spear by BABNC. The article mentions a printing date 10.1.85 but may I add that this date relates to the printings of the 1c Decoy and 3c Lantern in the same definitive series, not to the 2c Spear.

A New Look at Canada

The Canadiana Study Unit is an organization of Canadiana philately, that is, world-wide stamps and other philatelic materials which have a connection with Canada. A quarterly journal is published for members. Dues are \$5 CAN or US members, \$12 CAN for members outside North America (£6 Sterling). Dues/enquiries to John G Peebles, Box 3262, Station A, London, ON, Canada, N6A 4K3.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Bickerdike Machine Papers by Geoff Newman & Ray McLean

In an effort to establish whether or not the 'mystery' cancelling machine(s) used at Montreal in 1902 was really a Geary as has been propounded, Ray McLean began digging in the Public Archives at Ottawa. No confirmatory correspondence could be traced but new correspondence concerning the Bickerdike machines, used from 1897 to 1902 in Canada, was unearthed. A trip to Europe by Geoff Newman plus more patient digging by Ray, not to mention a touch of serendipity, resulted in more information, the tracing of the descendents of John Brooks Young, chief proponent of the Bickerdike machine, and the acquisition of his personal notebook. The new information is brought together in this 144 page soft-bound book which has been eagerly awaited by the small band of flag and machine cancel collectors who were aware of its preparation.

The book throws new light on Brooks Young's activities and the use of the Bickerdike machines, not only in Canada but throughout the world. As a bonus there is indeed a chapter on the 'mystery' cancellations of 1902 with a suggested (and surprising) alternative to the 'Geary' suggestion. Unfortunately, whilst there is evidence to support the new contention, it is no more substantial than that put forward to support the 'Geary' theory. If only a little confirmatory correspondence could be traced we could all rest easily in our beds.

Naturally the Canadian Bickerdike markings are thoroughly covered and the opportunity is taken to update the periods of use of the flags and bars listed by Richardson (1) and Sessions (2). Collectors of flag and early machine cancellations will, of course, have to secure a copy though I fear the cover price of \$24.95 CAN will limit the sales to collectors without specific interests in this field. Nevertheless the book should be more widely read as an object lesson in what can be achieved in the field of postal history with the aid of sheer dogged determination. 'The Bickerdike Machine Papers' is a BNAPS handbook and is published by Unitrade Press of Toronto.

References

1. The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973 – Ed. Richardson.
2. The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada – David Sessions.

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