



JOURNAL OF THE
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN

Maple Leaves

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Whole No. 216

Vol. 20 No. 12

January 1988



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MAPLE LEAVES

Journal of

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

INCORPORATED 1946

Founder:

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Vol. 20 No. 12

JANUARY 1988

Whole No. 216

EDITORIAL

Another Convention has come and gone and those who were in attendance have cause to thank Derrick Avery and his team for a most friendly and enjoyable event, a report appears elsewhere in this issue.

In these days of specialisation it is likely that many of our members no longer purchase Stanley Gibbons Part 1 (Commonwealth) catalogue every year. For those who rely on last year's, or an earlier, edition we mention that a certain amount of renumbering has taken place in respect of Canada. The 1852–57 imperf issues have been re-written, this affects old numbers 6–24a; 28a has been deleted. The Large and Small Queens sections have been completely re-written and this affects old numbers 46 to 114. The revisions have largely been made with the assistance of our Small Queens man, John Hillson, who takes well earned credit in the introduction. Our congratulations to John, it's not often that the monolithic Gibbons is persuaded to change its listing. Another welcome addition to the catalogue is the listing of specialist societies with addresses of the relative secretaries.

For members in Scotland we have an early notice that the Society will have a table at Scottish Congress on Collectors' Day, Sunday 1 May, 1988, from 10am to 4pm. This is thanks to the efforts of Jim McLaren and members in the area are urged to call in at Falkirk Town Hall.

Good hunting in 1988.

ONE DAY SEMINAR LONDON – Preliminary notice

The London Group will be holding their third one day seminar at the Victory Services Club, London, on Saturday 28 May, 1988. The previous events have been most enjoyable and informative and you are urged to make a note NOW in your diary if there's the slightest possibility that you can make it. Further details will appear in the April issue.

ARCHIVAL THEFTS

Over the last ten years or so there has been evidence of considerable theft from various archives in Canada, particularly in the Maritimes and Ontario. One or two of the offenders have been caught over the years, one in fact a few months ago at CAPEX in Toronto, but very little of the material has been recovered. At Convention your Editor made available some photostat examples of the type of material lost by the Ontario Archives. The material is stampless and covers a period from the end of the eighteenth century to mid-nineteenth. The various family correspondences include such names as Baird, Macaulay, Merritt, Russell and Strachan among many others. The Ontario Archivist is making efforts to trace the whereabouts of the missing material. Members who collect pre-stamp material are invited to write to the Editor if they have any doubts about items they either have or have handled. A few sets of the photostats are available for interested parties.

Postal historians need access to archives if they are to pursue their studies and persistent theft is likely to make such access much more difficult. Theft is reprehensible at any time but we do have a vested interest in trying to assist the authorities in tracing both culprits and missing material.

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Annual Subscription £7, payable to Treasurer John Hillson.

Canadian members may settle in \$CAN (\$15) via Wayne Curtis and US members in \$US (\$11.50) 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.

CANADIAN RAILWAY POSTMARK ERRORS **By L.F. Gillam, FCPS**

Collectors of Canadian railway postmarks will not need to be reminded of the many different areas of specialisation that are open to them. A total of 2,960 verified "strikes" of different postmarks listed in Lewis Ludlow's CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN RAILWAY CANCELLATIONS AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION POSTMARKS (1982) indicates the vastness of a field of collecting that is so daunting that, sooner or later, most collectors decide to confine their interests to one aspect alone, or at the most two or three. Some restrict themselves to postmarks on cover, others find that concentration upon postmarks emanating from one particular province, or used during a certain period, or confined to the period of usage of a particular issue of definitive stamps provides an all-consuming interest. These are obvious choices; but there are many others. There is no single pearl in the Canadian railway postmark oyster. Of the many others that could be named must be included cross-border postmarks used in those railway post offices which operated between Canadian and United States points, clerks' handstamps, "transit" postmarks (usually backstamps on registered covers), postmarks used during a period determined by the length of a monarch's reign, postmarks with "ornaments" (confined to railway postmarks used in British Columbia), pre-Confederation postmarks, or even more exotically, postmarks used on Newfoundland stamps in Canada after the Confederation of that Province in 1949. These are perhaps obvious pearls to experienced collectors, and one other that will spring readily to their minds as a glaring omission from this list is railway postmark "errors".

Until recently it was generally believed that the first of these occurred in, or about, 1874 when a postmark reading INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY ST. JOHN & AMERST (for AMHERST) was introduced for use. About five years ago, however, a startling discovery was made when a cross-border cover emanating from Gowanda, New York and addressed to Pelham, Canada West was submitted to Lewis Ludlow for his examination.

This cover bore on the reverse, along with other transit postmarks, a large, 33mm diameter, single-ring railway postmark bearing the lettering B. & L.E.R.P.O. (See enlarged illustration). This was obviously intended as an abbreviation for BUFFALO & LAKE ERIE RAILWAY POST OFFICE which, in the realms of absurdity, would

rival for honours a British railway post-office postmark reading LONDON & RIVER THAMES R.P.O!

Ludlow Smells a Rat

It just so happens that Buffalo is the principal city and port on Lake Erie and, not to put too fine a point on the matter, Lewis Ludlow smelt a rat! The postmark should, beyond peradventure of a doubt, have read B. & L.H.R.P.O., the abbreviation for Buffalo & Lake Huron Railway Post Office. Was this a question of a little learning being a dangerous thing? Was it an imperfect impression of the letter “H” that someone, in his unwisdom had most skillfully “improved” into an “E”? Was there another strike of this postmark in existence with which the dubious one could be compared? There was indeed another cover with the same backstamp in the collection of Lewis Ludlow himself. Unfortunately, in this instance, only the left vertical stroke of the letter “H” or “E” is visible. By a strange coincidence both postmarks are dated FEB. 17, 1857 and by a cruel blow of fate it is, therefore, impossible to determine the exact nature of the letter in question.



Earliest railway postmark error?

Thus it came about that Lewis Ludlow decided to list this postmark in the form of lettering that it ought to have been, and not what it appeared to be on the cover submitted to him for examination. How the

writer came into the possession of this cover is of no concern here. Let it suffice that I was sufficiently intrigued by this mystery to go to some extraordinary lengths in order to obtain it. At this point, therefore, I must declare an interest in the matter, and some would say, a "vested" interest in the authenticity of this postmark error. Lewis Ludlow had already submitted the postmark to close examination without being able to determine one way or the other whether it was "genuine" or not. "Vested" interest or not I am certain that this is a genuine instance of an error that arose either at the manufacturing stage of the hammer through negligence in reading the requisition, or because the requisition itself was incorrectly written. Of these explanations the latter appears to be more improbable. In 1857 and for many years afterwards all correspondence would of course have been hand-written, and not the least of a clerk's qualifications, whether he worked in the smallest business concern or a large government department, was the ability to write in immaculate "copperplate" which for legibility rivalled that of the printed word. The conclusion must be, therefore, that the handstamp was wrongly lettered through negligence on the part of the manufacturers, instances of which occur in later years, and indeed in comparatively recent times. Human error is most certainly not peculiar to this day and age as many modern critics, or cynics, would have us believe.

Guilty Party Revealed

Just who the "guilty parties" were as far as this handstamp is concerned remained a mystery until the researches of our member Ron Winmill disclosed that they were the Boston Hand Stamp Company. In MAPLE LEAVES whole no. 210, page 152, Mr. Winmill quotes a letter written by Gilbert Griffin (Post Office Inspector for Canada West) to the Canadian Deputy Postmaster General, in which he requests authority to order "Stamps" for the use of the Post Offices on the Great Western and Buffalo and Lake Huron Railways. That this request was granted there can be no doubt since similar abbreviated post-marks with the same style of seriffed lettering (G.W.R.P.O. for the Great Western Railway) are known to have been used. In this case, however, there was less scope for error!

It may be significant that future orders for handstamping equipment were placed with D.G. Berri of London, England, the official contractors. All of their work, to the writer's knowledge, was, with one exception, meticulously correct. Not until the advent of Pritchard & Andrews in later years do we encounter once more evidence of human fallibility. But the numerous examples of this must await another day.



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A BRIEF NOTE ON MISDIRECTED MAIL

By J.E. & R.B. Winmill

Over the past ten or fifteen years, dozens of misdirected stampless covers have been observed. While in many instances, it was not possible to determine or speculate what created the situation which led to a letter being misdirected, in other cases it was obviously identical names; for example 'Aylmer', two of which existed, one in Upper Canada and one in Lower Canada. Names which were similar also created problems both in the minds of the public and, frequently, postal clerks.

In south-western Ontario, one group of three such towns, Strathbain, Strathroy and Stratford were the bane of the Post Office and the public alike — several examples of confusion relating to these three locales are known to exist. Moreover, a curious letter exists which confirms the confusion:

Hon. R. Spence

10th December 1856

Sir:

In answer to your letter no. 341 of 20th ulto. I beg to say that the Registered letter for "G. Saxton Strathroy" was misdirected by the writer to "Stratford" and I have recovered it after much correspondence and sent it to its proper destination this day.

I am etc

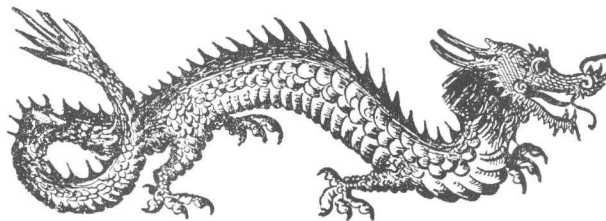
G.G. P.O.I.¹

Such errors are the product of human imperfection: however the propensity for imperfection is advanced by potentially confusing choices of names. The general public and the postal service both erred and numerous letters were found to have gone astray.

1. See Gilbert Griffin – R. Spence, Letter no. 651 (Griffin Letter Book) Weldon Library, U.W.O.

BPF/SG Affiliated Societies Discount Scheme

Stanley Gibbons are offering a discount of 10% off normal retail prices for purchases of most publications and accessories by mail order to members of societies affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation. Details of this discount scheme, which applies to mail order business only, are available from the Secretary on receipt of a SAE.



WANTED! CANADA FIRST DAY COVERS

Up till now I have done very little advertising. The results from previous attempts were just too discouraging. Either the covers I want are non-existent or collectors would not part with them. The response to an unplanned advertisement for cinderellas in the April 1987 Maple Leaves, however, was such a surprise that it has encouraged me to launch this all-out effort!

Twenty-two years ago I began a reference collection of first day covers. This project is now 75% complete and I am anxious to put the finishing touches to it. FDC's of the following issues – especially higher values – are urgently needed:

Queen Victoria *Jubilees*, Leaves and Numerals
1898 Maps
Edwards
Quebecs
Admirals

Covers should be in good condition but not necessarily with cachets just as long as the postmarks are clear and authentic.

If any lucky readers have any of the above and will swap them for money, please do not hesitate to take advantage of me. Even if your treasures are not for sale, you can still contribute to the project by letting me record them. If, in the unlikely event, someone has a substantial holding to sell, please provide me with the ablibi to travel (stopping over in gaie Paree)!

STANLEY LUM, 19 BAMBER COURT,

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CANADA. M3A 2N5

Continuing our series of articles for newer members . . .

THE LARGE QUEENS ISSUE (Part 1) **By Dr Dorothy Sanderson, FRPSL**

Confederation of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia brought Dominion status to Canada on 1 July 1867. Each of the provinces had had their own postage stamps before federation. The new Dominion needed new postal regulations and new stamps. The new Dominion needed new postal regulations and new stamps. The Post Office Act was passed on 21 December 1867 authorising the regulation of the postal service on and from 1 April 1868. All the regulations can be found in Department Order No. 2. issued by the Post Office Department in Ottawa on 1 March 1868, reproduced in Boggs and the Duckworths books.



The most important change was that of postal rates. The principal rates of postage were:

- 1/2c – periodicals weighing less than one ounce
- 1c – drop letters and domestic circulars
- 2c – domestic registration fee, transient newspapers, circulars to the U.K. and soldiers' letters
- 3c – single letter rate within Canada (per 1/2oz)
- 6c – single letter rate to the United States (per 1/2oz)
- 12 1/2c – single letter rate to the U.K. via Canadian Packet (per 1/2oz) and domestic parcel post per 8 ounces
- 15c – single letter rate to the U.K. via New York (per 1/2oz)

Printing

Two separate groups of printers made plans to obtain the contracts to print the new stamps. In Ottawa was the firm organised by W.C. Smillie in association with the engravers Alfred Jones and Henry Earle, while the other printers, led by G.B. Burland, a lithographer, were based in Montreal. With encouragement from the government the two groups merged on 7 August 1866, and formed the British American Bank Note Company. Offices of the company were maintained in both Ottawa and Montreal. In October 1867 the Company signed a ten year contract with the Canadian Government for the printing of postage stamps, one stipulation being that the work should be done in Ottawa. This company printed Canadian stamps for over a century.

The head of Queen Victoria used in the design of the stamps was copied from an engraving made originally by the English engraver, Charles H. Jeens, which was re-engraved by Alfred Jones. Henry Earle engraved the lettering and scroll work. The stamps were printed from line engraved dies by the recess method in plates of 100 stamps. Plate dots and guide lines can be found on some of the stamps giving indication of how the stamps were laid out on the plates, particularly on the 6c and 2c stamps. Plates of stamps of all the denominations required for the postal rates were prepared, as was the die of a 5c stamp, which was not printed until 1875, when the postal rate to the U.K. changed to 5c. Die proofs and plate proofs are known of all these eight values. Imprints (naming the printers) of two types are known on the margins of the stamps and counters showing the value of the stamp in words are also found on the top margin for every denomination except the 15c.



Varieties

Many varieties of paper, both laid and wove, were used to print these stamps. Experiments with different papers and difficulties of supply were the reasons why so many types are found. The Duckworths list ten paper types used between 1868 and 1872.

This variety of papers is one of the reasons for the great interest these stamps have for a philatelist. From 1872, the Small Queen stamp superseded the Large Queen, but the 15c was in issue until 1900, the longest period of use of any Canadian Stamp. Also, different coloured inks and shades were used for the 15c issue, adding to the interest in collecting this one stamp alone. Reverting to the papers used, two of the varieties of paper bore watermarks so that the Large Queen stamps are the only Canadian stamps known with lettered watermarks on some of the stamps, though stitch watermarks are found on this and earlier and later stamp issues. The 'Bothwell' watermark is a two-line capital letter mark which covers between 13 and 20 of the 100 stamps in one sheet, with the words 'E. & G. BOTHWELL' on the top line and 'CLUTHA MILLS' on the bottom line. The letters are 11.5mm tall and the two lines are 12mm apart. Much rarer is the 'Pirie' watermark, found only on the 15c issue between 1876 and January 1879 with the words in script 'Alexr. Pirie & Sons'.



The gum used on these stamps also varied over the period of use from smooth clear white gum of the earliest issued, becoming thicker and yellowish later, dull and streaky by 1875 and eventually sticky looking and brownish in the 1880s and later. The stamps were line perforated, being perf. 12x12 for the first issues but when the printing was later done in Montreal (from the end of 1874 to 1879) the perforation was 11.5x12. From the end of 1879 or early 1880 the perforation reverted to 12x12.

Printing varieties, constant plate varieties and flaws are uncommon on these stamps. The short period of use of the issue, 1868–1872 for denominations other than ½c, 5c and 15c, plus the excellence of the printing, meant that re-entries and flaws were few. Quite a large number have been described but it should be realised that nearly all are comparatively scarce.

Individual Values

HALF CENT

Issued 1 April 1868 and used up to 1882.
6,700,000 stamps issued.

Papers

Thin, hard, semi-transparent; medium thick; medium thick with 'Bothwell' watermark (very rare) and medium thick 'Bothwell' paper, are all known.

Perforations:

12x12

From 1874-1878: 11½x12

Shades:

Black plus grey-black shade

Varieties:

'Spur' variety, progressive flaw in the left spandrel ornament.

A second progressive flaw is seen as a line in the top frame above the 'P' of POSTAGE. Unshaded chignon variety, where the 'bun' of hair at the back of the Queen's head is almost devoid of shading, is seen in six stamps of each pane, most apparent at number 43.

ONE CENT

a) *Red-brown* Issued 1 April 1868 and used to end of 1869. At least one copy dated in March 1868 is known. About 4,600,000 issued.

Papers:

Laid paper (scarce)

Very thin, hard, semi-transparent paper

Medium thick, watermarked and unwatermarked 'Bothwell' paper.

Medium thick paper or thick soft medium paper

Perforations:

12x12

Shades:

Red-brown to orange-brown

Varieties:

Virtually unknown

b) *Yellow* Confusion between the 1c red-brown and the 3c red led to a change of colour of the 1c in January 1869. These stamps were printed to the end of 1869 for in June 1870 the 1c Small Queens were printed.

Just less than 5,000,000 were issued.

Papers:

Thick, soft, medium paper

A few copies known as very thin, hard, semi-transparent paper

Perforations:

12x12

Shades:

Orange; dark to light; yellow and lemon

Varieties:

Virtually unknown (to be continued)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel very honoured to be your president for 1987-88 and somewhat overawed by the precedent set by previous holders of this office. I hope to serve the Society as well as they have done.

I had a thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating time at Lichfield thanks to the excellent preparations and work during the convention by my predecessor, Derrick Avery. Congratulations to him and his wife for their efforts to make the convention the success it was.

I am now planning the convention for 1988 and trust as many of you as possible will include a visit to Southampton in your plans for next year. It will be held at The Post House Hotel, Southampton, from Wednesday 5 October to Saturday 8 October inclusive. I am endeavouring to provide a varied and interesting programme of philatelic and social events and trust there will be something for everyone.

Do try and come!

Dorothy Sanderson

An Invitation

To Members of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

If you are not already a member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and you would be interested in joining the "Royal", please write to The National Secretary, Department C, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, National Office, P.O. Box 5320, Station "F", Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3J1, Canada, for membership application forms or information.

Members receive The Canadian Philatelist, published bi-monthly, and other benefits.

Annual Dues:	Canadian Members	\$18.00
	U.S. Members	\$20.00
	British Overseas Members	\$20.00
Admission Fee:		\$ 5.00



GROW WITH THE ROYAL

CONVENTION 87

The small cathedral city of Lichfield was host to our 41st annual Convention. President Derrick Avery welcomed over 50 members and guests over the four days and had obviously done everything possible to ensure that the attending members acquired more knowledge and material in the most pleasantly possible way.

The philatelic programme got off to a very strong start on the Wednesday evening when Neville Clifford-Jones showed 'Newfoundland to 1922'. It need only be said that some three months earlier Neville had some of his material on show in the Court of Honour at the International show in Toronto to give some idea of the quality. Our President, as if he didn't have enough on his plate, gave a display of Canadian postal stationery on the following morning. Stationery still seems to be neglected in this country and we don't see it too often; Derrick's show contained a number of items and aspects which were new to many of us.

Offbeat Material

Derrick had obviously gone to some trouble to obtain displays of material which were a bit off the beaten track. This thread brought us 'Prince Edward Island' on the Thursday evening, a subject probably not seen since the days of Sir George Williamson. Martyn Cusworth still regards himself as something of a novice at this level but the depth and quality of material on show gave the lie to his modesty. P.E.I. postal history is not readily available and Martyn has done extremely well in a relatively short period.

The Friday morning period gave us the opportunity to inspect the competition entries. The judges had done their job and we were able to see how our own judgement compared with that of the experts. Two full rounds of displays gave a very wide variety of material, surely everyone found something of interest among this impressive showing. After the coffee break David Sessions managed to spread the Royal Tour of 1939 over a hundred sheets; no mean feat when only three stamps and a couple of Canadian postmarks are involved.

Friday evening kept us on the off-beat with John Parkin showing Canadian Revenues and Arthur Jones his 1967 Centennials. John's wide ranging collection contains many items of interest and, again, it is certain that most of the audience saw a number of items they had not previously encountered. Modern philately is difficult to show, relying as it does on variations of paper and tagging for much of its interest. Arthur Jones overcame the problem with a large hand-held U.V. light which gave us a new slant on the Centennials. So the Crimean War had

its Lady With the Lamp, now surely Arthur will be known in the C.P.S. as The Laddie With the Lamp!

Saturday's auction gave members the opportunity to dispose of material and acquire something new; some £6,300 changed hands to prove that acquisitive instincts are still sharp.

Social

As always, a successful social programme ran alongside the philately with trips to Birds Bakery and Shugborough, while the ladies were entertained by Edward Avery with slides of Canada and a visit to the theatre.

The only hitch in the smooth-running arrangements came with a double booking on the Saturday when we were competing with a wedding reception. This involved a re-arranged venue and seating for the Banquet but this did little to dampen the diners' spirits. We were delighted to welcome overseas visitors Dr Norman Boyd and Abe Charkow with their respective ladies, together with 'regular' Stan Lum, who all helped to make the Lichfield Convention a delightful occasion.



The President's Lady, Esther Avery, presents the Godden Trophy to Geoffrey Whitworth.



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EDWARD VII ISSUE
EXHIBITION & FAIR COVERS
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1859 FIRST CENTS ISSUE
FIRST DAY COVERS
FLAG CANCELLATIONS
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FROM THE SECRETARY

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. A SAE would be appreciated.

The President, Derrick Avery, thanked all Officers and Members for the support he had received during his year of Office.

The Secretary reported that although the net membership over the year showed a reduction of fourteen this resulted from the removal of all members who had not paid subscriptions, some being unpaid for two or more years. The level of recruitment had been the highest for many years, particularly due to the efforts of Stan Lum and Lewis Ludlow.

An increasing number of new members had used the library during the year and the Librarian, Colin Banfield, circulated an updated Library List which is to be distributed to UK members with 'Maple Leaves'.

David Sessions, Editor of 'Maple Leaves' was pleased to report a good response to his plea for articles but stressed the need for a continued inflow of material to ensure a balanced journal. Two issues of 'Maple Leaves' had included an additional four pages and it is hoped that more enlarged issues will be published during the coming year.

The Packet Secretary, Roger Grigson, reported another disappointing year for the packet with the major contributions coming from a small number of stalwarts.

Handbook sales of £950 were reported by Tom Almond, with the sale of Easibinders accounting for £300. More than sixty members had purchased books from the Society.

In a written report, the Treasurer, John Hillson, outlined the revised procedure being adopted for the notification of subscriptions which remained at £7.00 for 1987/88 despite significant increases in printing costs. An increase for 1988/89 was inevitable and a rate of up to £9.00 had been approved by the Committee, Life Membership remaining at £140.00.

Guidance for newer members on the contents and availability of 'Maple Leaves' was discussed under Any Other Business. The subject is to be addressed in a future issue of the journal. The question of purchases of books for the Library was referred for consideration by the Committee.

The following Officers were elected at the A.G.M.:-

President:	Dr. D. Sanderson	
Vice President:	L.E. Warren	
Secretary:	B.T. Stalker	
Treasurer:	N.J.A. Hillson	
Committee Members:	Scotland	A.S. Mackie F.C.P.S.
	North England	J.E. Bielby F.C.P.S.
	South England	A.E. Jones
Auditor:	L.E. Warren	

The A.G.M. was advised that other offices had been filled by the incumbent officers.

These are listed inside the back cover.

Competition Awards:-

Class 1	1.	J. Bacon	Admiral Design Size
	2.	D.F. Sessions	'Enlist Now' Slogans
Class 2	1.	London Group	Postal Use of First Cents Issue
Class 3a	1.	G. Whitworth	Early Canada East Mail Routes
	2.	F.L. Marvin	Transatlantic Mail
Class 3b	1.	J.E. Pilkington	1967 Centennial Issue
	2.	G.A. Wallace	Vimy Ridge Covers

Trophies:-

Godden Trophy	G. Whitworth	Early Canada East Mail Routes
Admiral Cup	J. Bacon	Admiral Design Size
Lees-Jones Trophy	J.E. Pilkington	1967 Centennial Issue
Members Trophy	F.L. Marvin	Transatlantic Mail

1988 SOUTHAMPTON CONVENTION AUCTION

The auction will be held at the Post House Hotel, Southampton, on Saturday 8 October 1988. Members wishing to submit material for the auction should forward it to C.P.S. c/o 82 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex. BN13 2HE to arrive on or before 31 March 1988. Only B.N.A. material is acceptable and it should be mounted, include a brief description and estimate of the auction valuation. A stamped addressed postcard will ensure a prompt acknowledgment of receipt.

No responsibility can be accepted for material which is either loosely mounted or badly packaged.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Yellow Peril



Photo by Doc McIntyre

The 5c grey Small Queen stamp in the above photograph is from the common Ottawa printing. What is uncommon, however, is the doubling of the complete bottom frame as well as the vertical hatching lines. The extreme lower portion of the right "5" also appears in the doubling. Two fine horizontal creases in the bottom margin suggest that immediately after the stamp was printed, the lower margin somehow got folded over and took on the stamp's bottom design. An entire row of stamps could thus be spectacularly affected.

Any other explanation?

J.E. Pilkington

I enclose photocopy of the \$8.50 booklet issued by B.A.B.N.C. in July 1985, containing 25x34c 'Houses of Parliament' definitive stamps.

The booklets were evidently printed from large plates, at least three panes deep with gutters between the panes and, depending on the position of the pane in the original printing sheet, three tagging layouts occur.



- (A) From the top of the plate: no tag on upper selvedge but tagged on lower.
- (B) From the middle of the plate: tagged on upper selvedge and tagged on lower.
- (C) From the bottom of the plate: tagged on upper selvedge but no tag on lower.

I have two examples of the 'C' format booklet and, in both cases, on the lower right hand stamp there is a clear dark coloured spot just opposite the upper right hand window line of the large clock tower.

This may only be a temporary flaw caused by a dirt spot on the plate which did not last long. I would however be interested in hearing if other similar examples have turned up—or indeed if a 'C' type booklet exists without the flaw. For the purposes of illustration the dot has been enlarged.

Dr Zane Gordon

I read with interest the article by Y.P. concerning the ½c L.Q. on cover (M.L. 214, Aug. 1987, p. 259). If, as the tone of his report suggests, most of the ½c L.Q. covers he saw “. . . can deceive the unsuspecting.” I was wondering if the Y.P. can give any indication as to how many genuine ½c L.Q. rate covers exist.

Hans Reiche

In his book “The Admiral Issue of Canada”, G.C. Marler lists the handstruck printing order numbers, denominations and plate numbers. The following additions can now be reported from the writer's collection:

- 1c plate 6 with order number 100
- 1c plate 23 with order number 128
- 1c plate 60 with order number 177
- 1c plate 69 with order number 194
- 1c plate 112 with order number 365
- 2c plate 19 with order number 119
- 7c plate 1 or 2 with order number 185
- 10c plate 5 and 6 with order number 236
- 20c plate 1 with order number 117

Anyone having additional data should report this to update the list.

AUTUMN STAMPEX

Two of our members received medal awards for Canadian entries.

Dr Dorothy Sanderson won a small silver gilt in the International Class for her Transatlantic Mail 1763–1875 and Reg Lyon a bronze silver in the Traditional Class for his Canadian Meter Markings of the 20's and 30's.

Congratulations to you both.



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BOOK REVIEWS

CATALOGUE OF CANADIAN DUPLEX CANCELLATIONS

By Robert A. Lee

Evelyn Smythies produced his first duplex handbook in 1959, it consisted of 27 pages and eight plates; the second edition in 1963 ran to 55 pages. Smythies covered the period 1860–1902.

Bob Lee has covered the whole range of duplexes from 1860 to date and, in doing so, has produced a catalogue running to more than 150 pages (8½"x11"). I stress the word 'catalogue'. Descriptive text is confined to explaining the layout of the catalogue so we have an absolute feast of information very clearly laid out and very easy to follow.

The dater types and killers are all illustrated and of particular interest is the illustrated listing of all the 'unofficial' duplexes which Bob considers 'proved'. In addition he has illustrated a number of unofficial duplexes where proving strikes are still to be found. One hopes that this section also will cause collectors to check their collections very carefully.

This first edition does not contain prices or rarity factors. The market is not yet strong enough to warrant the former, the latter will be considered at some later stage depending upon response. Duplexes cover a wide timespan and have been largely neglected; publication of this catalogue, which lists over 6,000 items, may well bring yet another aspect of Canadian philately 'up front'. It is available in a deluxe library edition at \$25.95CAN, in loose-leaf form with a gold stamped 3-ring binder at \$24.95 and without binder at \$15.95. Canadian and US members will probably wish to purchase direct from Bob at PO Box 937, Vernon, B.C., Canada, V1T 6M8.

I understand our Handbooks Manager will be stocking a limited number of the hardback version and sets of the pages without binders. The listing is computer based and Bob plans to issue annual updates of the various sections where new information warrants it; there is provision for each purchaser to register interest in receiving updates at a modest cost.

Bob has kindly donated a hardback copy of the book to the CPS library so any UK member in doubt can borrow it. It is a catalogue, however, and will need to rest upon your shelf if you are at all interested.

DFS.

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NEWFOUNDLAND, TRAVELLING POST OFFICE CANCELLATIONS **By Cyril Kidd & Philip Cockrill**

It is not often that a truly original work on an aspect of postal history is presented to students; but when this handbook was received it was immediately recognised as such. The joint authors, Cyril Kidd and Philip Cockrill, have obviously, in the interests of brevity, chosen a title which might appear to contradict the epithet "original". The briefest glance through the 52 pages of this work quickly dispelled the illusion that this is just another listing, revised and updated, of previous works by Shaw and Ludlow. Neither of these two compilers of Canadian railway postmarks needs any introduction to railway postmark collectors, and the latter, particularly in his 1982 catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations, will always stand supreme in his command of the vast field which the title of his work suggests.

Cyril Kidd and Philip Cockrill, however, have chosen to combine a listing and illustration of Newfoundland railway and travelling postmarks with a detailed history of the Newfoundland Railway. By so doing they have added "the story behind the postmarks", transmuting what would otherwise be a checklist for postmark collectors into a unique contribution to the neglected field of Newfoundland postal history.

The 163 illustrations of railway and travelling postmarks, the latter term being properly used to distinguish the many water-borne post offices which served Labrador, the hundreds of isolated settlements around the shores of Newfoundland and many islands that fringe its rugged north east coast, alone would entitle the work to be called unique. Add to this the earliest and latest dates of known usage of the postmarks, the differentiation of the various "hammers" used, 19 illustrations of early and later locomotives, trains, baggage and mail cars, steamships, a comprehensive railway map, timetables and 14 covers and the use of the description "exceptional" to embrace them all would commit this reviewer to a record-breaking understatement of the year. Add the final ingredient: a detailed history of the Newfoundland Railway from its inception until its recent decline (if not demise!) and "original" is not the word. But it is the best one in the writer's vocabulary, a superlative in every sense.

Published by and obtainable only from Philip Cockrill at Hampstead Norreys, Newbury, Berks. RG16 OTT, England, price £6.25 postpaid, this is Booklet No. 48 in the Cockrill Series. Clearly and painstakingly printed by Fox & Son, Wokingham, Berks. this work is definitely one in which R.P.O. enthusiasts and postal historians will surely find much delight.

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5E7 P
2549 GOUL, Tom, E., 724 Sunnypoint Drive, Newmarket, ON, Canada L3Y 2Z8
C, PH
2550 HEMBROW, E.J., DRG Packaging Bags, Argus Rd., Bedminster, Bristol BS3
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WANTED: Topics to Vol. 31, #340, Have many Maple Leaves from Vol. 6 to Vol. 19. Harry Dingenthal, P.O. Box 472777 Garland, Texas 75047-2777, USA.

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