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OF GREAT BRITAIN



Maple Leaves

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MAPLE LEAVES

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EDITORIAL

Another Convention has come and gone and all those who attended will wish to join me in thanking John and Margaret Gatecliff and their small team for putting on such a splendid show. In place of our usual report we have the impressions of a 'new boy'; perhaps it will encourage a few others to 'get their feet wet'. We hasten to add that Jim Smith volunteered to write the piece, absolutely no Editorial pressure was applied!

In the absence of a formal report we take the opportunity to record our pleasure at the diverse philatelic fare offered by Mike Perry (Newfoundland), Geoffrey Whitworth (Large & Small Queens), Martyn Cusworth (PEI), Leigh Hogg (Maple Leaf), Dorothy

Sanderson (TransAtlantic Mail), Bill Topping (Japanese Relocation Mail 1942-6) and a goodly number of competition entries. We have been attending Convention for many years and yet we saw material at York that was completely new to us.

This year two stalwart members of the Society were elected to the Roll of Fellows; George Manley and John Wannerton. George has been a serious student of precancels for many years and his fine collection of precancelled postal stationery now rests in the Canadian Postal Archives, with a copy in the CPS library. John represents 50% of our South African membership and has been a welcome visitor to Convention in recent years, showing

portions of his Boer War collection. Welcome, gentlemen, to the select band of Fellows.

In the August issue, a review of 'Proof Strikes of Canada' indicated that Bob Lee's fine series had reached its conclusion - not so! Two more books were still to come, namely 'P.O.Names' and 'P.O.Numbers'. Then, as Bob and editor Paul Hughes were about to breathe a sigh of relief, a new archival find by Cimon Morin produced sufficient for four more books. Keep saving!

We mentioned in the October issue our landmark 250th issue of 'Maple Leaves'. The very first issue, back in September 1946, was edited by A. Bruce Auckland. In more recent years Bruce has concentrated on Scottish postal

history but we felt members would like to know that he celebrates his 100th birthday on 28 March - Happy Centenary Bruce.

Just before we went to press we learned of the death of Geoff Harper, who was awarded his Fellowship in 1957. Geoff was heavily involved in the Society in its pioneering days and was Secretary from 1949 to 1952.

This issue starts a new volume, an index to volume 23 should be enclosed with it. Our thanks to Ged Taylor for its production. Also accompanying this issue should be a new Members Handbook, the result of many hours of sweated labour by Secretary Tom Almond and patient calling-over by his wife, Jean - thanks team.



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Fig 1. Overall blue illustrated cover advertising British Consols Cigarettes. Address side is franked with 1935 2c Geo V stamp tied by Toronto April 1937 machine.

In today's society where there is so much action against the evils of smoking: banning of cigarette advertising; by-laws prohibiting smoking and designating smoking areas in government buildings, dining establishments, public conveyances; and 'Thank You For Not Smoking' signs galore, it is difficult to describe the titillating sensation when a batch of illustrated cigarette advertising covers was found. While these covers promote various brands of cigarettes (Fig 1) one cover advocates smoking for health reasons (Fig 2).

British Consols were manufactured by the Macdonald Tobacco Company, a Canadian firm until it was taken over by R.J.Reynolds

of the U.S. in 1973. In 1983 plain tip British Consols came off the market followed by filter tips two years later.

The second cover recommends Dr. Blosser's medical cigarettes for use in CATARRH, that is, congestion type problems. The cigarettes probably contained atropine which, when inhaled, dilates the air passages. Because of the many undesirable side effects, the manufacture and sale of these medical cigarettes was discontinued. Although the name 'The Blosser Company,' (193-195 Spadina Avenue, Toronto) is shown on the front of the cover, its correct name was The Blosser Cigarette Company. It was originally incorporated in Florida, U.S., and was licensed in Ontario on



DR. BLOSSER'S REMEDY CIGARETTE FORM

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of the Head, Nose and Throat, Catarrhal Deafness
and Head Noises, Colds, Common Sore
Throat and many conditions of Hay
Fever and Asthma.

THE BLOSSER COMPANY
TORONTO, CANADA

Fig 2. A green and red advertising cover depicts a young lady about to light up a medical cigarette. "Inhaling the warm medical smoke of Dr. Blosser's Medical Cigarettes makes breathing easier." Address side is franked by two 1c Medallion stamps, tied by a Toronto November 1930 machine cancel.

7 January, 1902. The last listing of this company in the Toronto Mercantile Directory was in 1948.

About four years ago a new drug containing the same active ingredients as those used in Dr. Blosser's cigarettes was developed for treatment of asthma and related diseases. The drug is also inhaled but by the use of the atrovent inhaler.

It is common knowledge that the smoking of marijuana cigarettes can

alleviate pressure in the eyeball of glaucoma patients. Up till now, however, no marijuana cigarette advertising cover has come to light, despite a cross-country search!

Acknowledgements:

The time consuming search of the Ontario Archives to verify the Blosser Cigarette Company by North York librarian, Miss Ann Allan; and the background information on the British Consols cigarettes, provided by the Marketing Department of R.J.R. Macdonald Inc., Toronto, is greatly appreciated.

CONVENTION 95

**Your Material for the annual auction is wanted
by 31 March - see notice on page 29. ACT NOW**

It is not the Editor's usual practice to re-print articles from other sources, but the following monograph was written one hundred years ago "in answer to a letter asking for information about the early postal history of British Columbia by someone interested in 'philatelics'". Its centenary seems a suitable occasion to lay before today's readers such an account, written by an 'eye witness'.

AN EARLY POSTAL HISTORIAN

David H Whiteley

I discovered the enclosed monograph in the Victoria, British Columbia, Daily Colonist. The monograph appeared as two articles published on 9 March, 1895 and 31 March 1895. They give a contemporary account of the evolution of the postal and telegraph services within the colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia from 1844 to 1895. Hopefully readers will find the monograph as interesting as I did, after a hundred years of further development, both of the Colony and of the study of postal history. The monograph has been transcribed un-edited, with just the addition of Scott numbers for the postage stamps described.

POSTAL EVOLUTION

History of the British Columbia Postal Service From 1844 to 1895

Letters received in Victoria in the Fifties Few and Far Between

To The Editor:- Victoria existed as a Hudson's Bay post in 1844, then called Fort Camosun. In 1849 a lease of Vancouver Island was granted to the Hudson's Bay Company for colonization purposes, the company to bear the expense attendant thereon. The Mainland had been leased to the company previously for trading purposes.

In compliance with the charter the *Norman Morrison* (my italics), arrived

at Esquimalt in March, 1850, having eighty immigrants on board. Although called immigrants, they were really under engagement to serve the Hudson's Bay Company for five years, receiving £25 per annum with food and lodging. Many are now the agriculturists of Vancouver Island.

The *Morrison* consumed five months and a half (the usual time) on the journey, but she brought the mail, not a bulky article, there being at this time only the Hudson's Bay people in the country, save perhaps the Muirs and coal miners at Fort Rupert and Captain Grant and his servants at Sooke— These having come out a few months previous. The *Morrison* after a few months sojourn took the homeward mail. This has given rise to the idea that there was but one mail per annum, and such indeed was the case for a year or two; but after this the colony no longer depended entirely on the Hudson Bay's ships.

It must be borne in mind that in 1849 the Californian gold fever raged; a mule train existed across the Isthmus of Panama and within a year steamers were running from Panama to San Francisco, carrying hundreds of passengers going or returning - the hopeful and the disappointed.

At this time Oregon had settlers on the banks of Columbia and Willamette,



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these settlers had in many instances come overland. Of course the Hudson's Bay Company and servants were long previous to this at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia river.

Again, after the Oregon treaty in 1846 Washington Territory was established, 640 acres of land at this time being given by pre-emption to any and every actual settler, so a few went from Vancouver Island. Olympia at the head of Puget Sound became the seat of Government, and Port Townsend (Angeles being defeated) the port of entry for Washington Territory.

As usual the United States government made haste to have a mail route to San Francisco via Panama, and subsequently to Oregon and later to Puget Sound. Mail arrangements of course existed between the British government and the United States, so it will be apparent that Victoria had facilities for communicating other than the annual Hudson's Bay ship. Governor Blanchard came across Panama, but was brought here on *H.M.S. Dover* in March 1850. J.D. Pemberton came soon after but found his way to Vancouver and Victoria without the aid of H.M. ships – but with considerable rough travelling. It may as well be stated now that British Columbia depended almost entirely on the postal service of the United States for letters (but at the same time postal agreements existed between the United States and British governments) until confederation, in 1870, and the construction of the C.P.R.R.

It is unnecessary to take into account the Hudson's Bay brigade that annually crossed the continent from Hudson's Bay to Fort Vancouver on

the Columbia. True, it carried dispatches and letters, but most of these referred to the company's business or private communications between friends in the service.

Of course Camosun (now Victoria) held communication with headquarters, viz. Vancouver. After 1850 these Communications naturally became more and more frequent, J.W. McKay having charge of this service. A canoe would leave Victoria, with or without a Hudson's Bay officer in charge of the Indians, carrying dispatches for Nesqually, where Dr. Tolmie had charge. Tolmie sent the dispatch box or bag on horseback to the Hudson's Bay post at Cowlitz river: the gentleman in charge there would forward it to Fort Vancouver, and thence the letters were sent by any suitable conveyance occurring to their destination. Now, bearing in mind what has been written above, it will be seen that no long time elapsed before the United States steamers were running to the Columbia from San Francisco and vice versa; from San Francisco the route existed to New York and so to Europe. My earliest letters from England bear the dates of 1853 and 1854, marked "via New York and Panama." Probably the government and others long preceded mine. On the one are two one shilling stamps and two penny ones, on the other a one shilling stamp and two penny ones. The letters are written on very thin paper, and the writing beautiful and small, the lines close together to save postage. Such writing one does not see often in these days. These letters were about six weeks or two months on the journey. Here then we have a through mail. Of course later on Victoria became connected with the mail route on Puget Sound. In early days English letters either were post

paid or stamped. Post office stamps came into existence in England about 1845 (sic).

The above system went on for some time. In April, 1657 (sic), the house of assembly on report of a committee, say to the governor, "that the general post office conducted within a public building and letters exposed under conditions which the committee do not deem safe," "They also desire to learn how it is supported." (The letters were kept in Mr. Finlayson's, the Hudson Bay Company's accountant's office until called for) Governor Douglas replied in April 21, 1857, "that means should be provided for initiating a postal service, viz £500 :- £100 for postmaster £100 for post office and £300 for carrying mails."

As usual the legislative assembly returned the stereotyped answer, "no funds," and "further that the letters were so few that they would not pay one-tenth part of the contemplated outlay." At this period the colony consisted of say five or six hundred people, few of whom corresponded. The answer goes on to state, "that the assembly acknowledge the colony to be under great obligations to the Hudson Bay company for the kind and liberal manner in which they have carried gratuitously the letters from the American shores to this Island."

Notwithstanding this reply Governor Douglas appointed the first postmaster, namely Captain Sangster, very soon after. The office, a small house in the fort yard built by Mr. Yates and which is now my surgery, having the same identical folding window panes through which the letters were delivered to the applicants, often with a very shaky hand. At this time the canoe

service had been supplemented by a schooner or more, anyhow Jimmy Jones' *Wild Pigeon*, and subsequently the American steamer *Major Tomkins*, who soon came to grief and left her bones at the entrance of the harbor. The Fraser River gold excitement occurred in 1858. Steamers brought passengers, thousands from San Francisco and the Sound. Many acres of ground were occupied by the tents of the miners. After this there was no trouble about mail communication. It must, however, be remembered that from the very foundation of the colony sloops, ships and what not went to Puget Sound for piles and spars to build Wharves in San Francisco. Such vessels often called at Victoria and would pleasantly carry letters. H.M. ships would do likewise. It will be seen then, that the exaggerated report of one mail per annum did not long apply to the colony, although previous to its existence it did so more or less. In all these matters letters had to pay the American postage generally in money. At the time of the Fraser River excitement Wells, Fargo & Co. established an express - virtually in part a post office. They sent or carried letters to all parts of the United States. Envelopes were sold with the company's title on them, but the price is not remembered; anyhow this service was monstrously convenient, and at this time they did most of the post office business. Postage stamps of the colony had no existence, but soon after a supply came, and then Wells Fargo's envelopes had to bear a local stamp. I think, of five cents. American stamps could be obtained at their office. When a steamer arrived, Wells Fargo were the first to deliver and their office was crowded. The name on the letter was called out, and anyone responding, the letter was pretty accurately hurled at him. Of course most men were known.

The 'Pony Express' must not be forgotten. Letters weighing a quarter of an ounce were carried by this extraordinary and wonderful express from California to St. Louis across the continent for one dollar, saving considerable time.

Colonial postage stamps came into existence in Vancouver Island about the year 1861, (1860), a two pence half penny one [Scott #2]. Who ordered them seems obscure, but they were made in England - so perhaps an examination of the governor's correspondence would shed light on the matter.

In 1862 Attorney-General Cary had a stamp act passed through and by the Vancouver Island legislative, but this had reference to stamps of various value, to be put on deeds, conveyances, etc. Apparently this had nothing to do with postage, although probably the five cents Vancouver Island postage stamp [Scott #3 or #5] may have been used for this purpose.



Scott 5, Gibbons 13

The first postage stamp, a Queen's profile, super and subscribed 'British Columbia and Vancouver Island. Two

pence half-penny [Scott # 2]'. Sir James Douglas was at this time governor of the mainland and Vancouver Island colonies; so this stamp seems to have been current in both, for local purposes, and issued about 1861.

In 1865 there are two stamps, viz: of five cents [Scott # 3] and ten cents [Scott #4], superscribed 'Vancouver Island' only. Until 1862 the accounts of the colony were kept in pounds, shillings and pence, but in 1862 Attorney-General Cary had an act passed by the legislative assembly of Vancouver Island allowing or ordering the public accounts to be kept in decimal currency-dollars and cents. Hence the change in the stamps in 1865 to cents instead of pence.

In 1865 British Columbia, that is to say the Mainland colony, had stamps superscribed 'British Columbia' (only) the value marked in pence [Scott # 7]. When the currency law was altered there I do not know, but subsequently these stamps had printed on them in large type their value in cents to obviate and avoid the cost of new engraving plates. The British Columbia stamp had a central V surmounted by a crown, i.e., Victoria Regina.[Scott #s 7-18]. The Vancouver Island stamps had the Queen's profile [Scott #s 3-6].

Each colony now had its own separate stamps, those of the Mainland being more numerous in number and value. This continued until the union of the colonies occurred in 1866, after which only British Columbia postage stamps were used. Those of Vancouver Island being burned according to order, many thousands went up in smoke. The British Columbia stamps continued in use until she entered confederation and

became part of Canada, after which of course, Canadian stamps were used and the postal arrangements those of Canada. To-day the Vancouver Island stamps of 1861 are rare and valuable.

After 1860:- The United States mail steamer came to Victoria once and subsequently twice a week. The San Francisco boat every month or oftener, but by this time she received a subsidy from the colonial government. Of so great importance was this that the continuance of the service became one of the terms of confederation, which terms still exist and will continue. These boats were considered of more importance because they brought passengers and merchandise, in fact immigration boats. I may here allude to the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer *Labouchere*, but she being wrecked on her first voyage, 1866, was of no effect.

In conclusion, Mr. Wootten

became postmaster and harbor master in 1861, with Mr. Sparrow as his assistant. In 1863, amongst the accounts the 'postage dues' are put down at four hundred and sixty pounds sterling. It may surprise some to learn that the cost of postage from Victoria to Cariboo in 1863 was four shillings, say a dollar, and up to 1867 to England twenty - five cents.

Fifty years ago, California, British Columbia and the land on the Pacific Coast generally were wildernesses. Now they contain a new world. What will happen during the ensuing fifty years? Verily, there is much history contained in postal evolution and postage stamps, but they only speak to those acquainted with their language. Much of the above has been written from memory.

J.S. Helmcken, M.D.

The second article which appeared on 31 March 1895, will appear in the next issue of 'Maple Leaves'.

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'OHMS' - WHEN WAS IT FIRST USED AND WHY?

Bill Pekonen

The phrase 'On Her Majesty's Service' and the abbreviation 'OHMS' on government mail has been a familiar sight throughout the British Commonwealth for more than 155 years. Additionally, other UPU countries have adopted similar phrases in their own language or terminology to denote the official nature of mail.

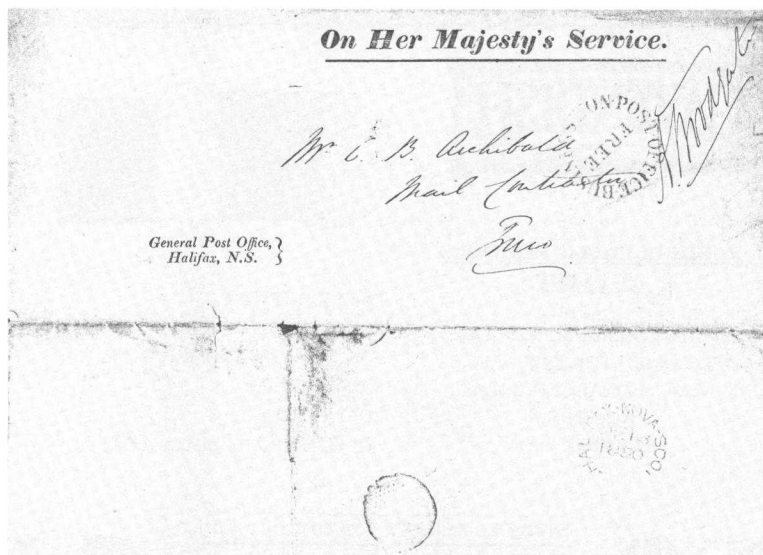
Research into the subject was undertaken about 20 years ago when the phrase was eliminated from Canadian government mail. It has taken many years of digging to find the answers which follow.

The search began with Canadian government covers and then expanded

to cover virtually the whole world.

At first, it was thought that the phrase was eliminated because Canada became constitutionally independent. As time evolved, it appeared that new regulations by the UPU in 1972 prompted various changes throughout the world. It is now thought that the emphasis has been placed upon the 'postage paid' indicia on official mail rather than emphasizing the governmental nature of the mail. There are several exceptions which are not important for the purposes of this article.

The 'OHMS' phrase is so familiar that the obvious question of its' origin is



Post office printed OHMS stationery, sent from GPO, Halifax, NS, in Dec. 1850. Note additional 'Free' handstamp 'ON POST OFFICE BUSINESS'.

seldom asked. When was the phrase (or the equivalent 'On His Majesty's Service') first used? Under what authority was the phrase used?

The answer to the first question is speculative. The earliest appears to be 1817 as it appears on a reproduction of an actual cover. 'OHMS' is used to describe a cover dated 1804 in a 1945 auction catalogue issued by Robson Lowe. It cannot be ascertained whether the initials were used as a classification or if the letters were actually used on the British cover.

The answer to the second question, as nearly as can be determined to date, is the legislation passed by the British Parliament on 24 March, 1832 CAP XV. But the origins of the phrase can be traced back to 1205. The phrase 'in the King's Service' was common at that


time for what was then the equivalent of today's military service.

The earliest official record is the proclamation, issued on 14 January 1583, by Queen Elizabeth I, in which the phrase 'for Her Majesties' Affaires' is used to describe letters of official nature.


Until 22 January 1583, private mail was not acknowledged as being acceptable by 'post-boys' delivering official letters. And even then, letters marked with the phrase 'for Her Majesties Affaires' had to be delivered first before private mail could be processed.

During 1603, James I declared the post office monopoly in the name of the Crown.

Continued on page 18



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THE SIX CENTS SMALL QUEEN REJECTED PLATE

John Hillson FCPS

In the June 1993 issue of 'Maple Leaves' I wrote of the existence of a fourth plate, where before it had been believed that only three Small Queen 6c plates existed, including the twin pane 'Montreal' plate made in 1887. Hans Reiche kindly wrote to me following this article contradicting this finding, but I believe he thought I had assumed that the 'B' and 'C' letters stamped above the top imprints on the '87 plate meant that two separate 'Montreal' plates existed. That this is not so can be seen from further perusal of the article, although it must be said that it is a trap some writers do seem to fall into.

Quite recently the discovery of what is indisputably a fourth 6c plate was made, and the Society is indebted to Bill Simpson who brought it to our attention when he showed a mint block from this plate in the wonderful display he gave us at the Ayr Convention.

Examples from this plate are scarce - it was so poorly made that one might doubt that there was only a need for it to be used because of some short term emergency arising some time in 1873. As individual stamps from it can be easily identified it is well worth looking out for.

The whole plate is characterised by weak impressions, so weak that it seems to have been christened - perhaps over dramatically - the 'Ghostly Head' plate. The weakness is particularly noticeable in the Queen's chignon which lacks much of the normal shading and therefore appears largely uncoloured.

Secondly, the plate itself was not 'cleaned', that is there appears to have been no attempt to burnish off guidelines and extraneous marks which inevitably occur in the making of a printing plate of this type. That is why I believe the plate was rejected, the printers did not expect to have to use it and only circumstances obliged them to do so for a short time. Thirdly, stamps from it are perforated 11 1/2 x 12. And fourthly, the position dot as shown, is located directly under the left numeral and not in the more usual place under the tip of the left corner.



Position dot is directly under the left numeral.

This last feature, the one to look for first, is particularly interesting as I think it gives us a clear indication that it was the second 6c. plate to be

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manufactured in the series. I do not believe as some enthusiasts seem to think, that it represents a sort of signature of the siderographer who made the plate - in fact it is not improbable the same man made all the early Large and Small Queen plates.

To refer to the Large Queen series for a moment; only for two values were more than one plate made. The 3c. and the 6c. were both printed from two plates. The only way to distinguish the 3c. plates is from the imprints; one was Type III, the other Type IV. They were made within two or three months of each other. The plates of the 6c. are similarly distinguished by this imprint difference, but there was a considerably longer gap between the dates of their manufacture, and it may have been felt advantageous to distinguish printed stamps from either plate even after separation from the selvedge, and therefore the imprints. This is the real reason the position dot, I believe, on the second Large Queen plate was placed under the left numeral- only a slight adjustment of the sidepoint bringing it closer to the transfer roll would have been necessary to do this, and when the second Small Queen 6c. was made the gimmick was repeated.

Subsequently plates and panes were identified by the addition of a check letter, or occasionally a number, over the top imprint and there was no further requirement to identify plates other than by that method. It follows that the 'A' plate would have been the third plate to be made, and not the second as supposed before.

As to the period of use; when I saw Bill Simpson's block I suggested to him that the appearance was that of stamps printed in 1873; the perforation in part

confirms this, but so does an example on cover in my possession dated Feb 1874.

There is a theory, held by some, that because the second 6c. Large Queen plate had its position dot under the 'S' of 'SIX', as does this, that both plates were made about the same time. An invoice for a 6c plate *was* dated 30 June 1869, and another about a week later, which does supply superficial evidence for this theory. However it was at this time that the 4 millionth 6c. had been delivered and as we know, the printers were entitled under their contract to charge for a new plate at this point, whether they actually made one or not. There is no rational explanation as to why they should go to the trouble of actually making a Small Queen plate three years before it would be needed or, having made one in 1869, why it was not immediately brought into use, so that there never would have been a need for a second Large Queen plate. As for the evidence of the placing of the position dot.... look at the place it occupies on the first 5c. Small Queen plate. It is in the identical place relative to the lower left corner as on this 6c. plate. It is indisputable that work did not start on that Small Queen until the end of 1875. I see no reason to believe other than the first 6c. Small Queen to be made was that invoiced June 23, 1871, and this rejected plate was not made until the latter half of 1872 at the earliest.

Footnote: Readers may be interested to know that John Hillson's fine article on Recess Printing (ML April 1994, pp229-234) was reproduced in Campbell Paterson's (New Zealand) Newsletter with suitable illustrations of New Zealand stamps.



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BOOKLETS & BOOKLET PANES	PATRIOTIC COVERS & POSTCARDS
BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY	PENCE ISSUES
CENTENNIAL (1967) ISSUE	PERFINs (PRIVATE)
CINDERELLA MATERIAL	PLATE BLOCKS
DEAD LETTER OFFICE	POSTAGE DUE ISSUES
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1859 FIRST CENTS ISSUE	QUEBEC POSTAL HISTORY
FIRST DAY COVERS	QUEBEC TERCENTENARY
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
MANITOBA POSTAL HISTORY	SHIP CANCELLATIONS, MARKINGS & VIEWCARDS
MAP (1898) ISSUE	SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS
MAPLE LEAF ISSUE	SMALL QUEEN ISSUE
MILITARY POSTAL HISTORY	SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS
MOON, MOTO & POCON CANCELLATIONS	SPECIMEN OVERPRINTS
NASCOPIE POSTAL HISTORY	SQUARED CIRCLES
NEW BRUNSWICK POSTAL HISTORY	STAMP COLLECTIONS & LARGE LOTS
NEW BRUNSWICK STAMPS	STAMPLESS COVERS
NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL HISTORY	VARIETIES
NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS	VIEWCARDS
N.W.T. POSTAL HISTORY	WAR TAX STAMPS
NOVA SCOTIA POSTAL HISTORY	YUKON POSTAL HISTORY

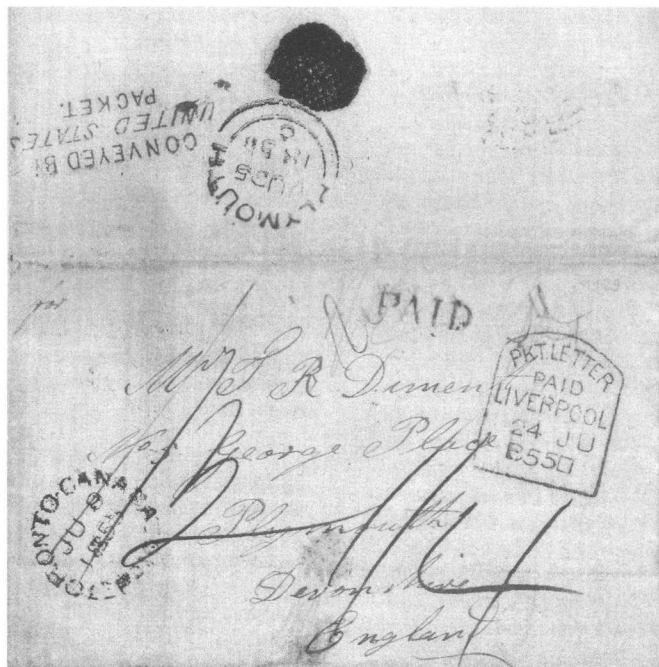
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Readers will appreciate that the following quoted text has not received the benefit of the Editor's hand, hence the somewhat unusual spellings and the longest sentence likely to be found in 'Maple Leaves'.

A UNITED STATES PACKET LETTER, 1855 Dorothy Sanderson FRPSL,FCPS and Malcolm Montgomery MBE



Letter carried by the United States Packet 'Pacific' during the Crimean War - it bears the distinctive handstamp 'Conveyed by United States Packet'.

The letter illustrated was written at Toronto on 9 June 1855. At that time Cunard Line sailings were still affected by the Crimean War commitment. Some Canadian mail, if so directed, was sent by the more expensive (one shilling and twopence Sterling/one shilling and fourpence Currency rather than eightpence Sterling/tenpence Currency) Collins Line sailings. Such

letters were occasionally marked, at Liverpool, 'CONVEYED BY UNITED STATES PACKET', presumably to explain to the addressee the reason for the higher charges. Not all United States Packet letters were so marked, however, but the reason for the scarcity remains unexplained. The letter illustrated was carried by the Collins Line 'Pacific', sailing from New York

on 13 June and arriving Liverpool on the 24 June, 1855.

*Victoria street, Toronto
June 9th 1855*

*Dear Cousin Thomas R Diment
I received you letter this day containing the painfull intelligence of the lost of my dear father the stroke is not so hard as I was prepared as it ware to here of the sad news for this day three week twelve months since my mother died and the news of the lost ship was received at toronto I did not know that father was coming in the John but when I read of the lost of the John something told as much that he was on board and I though he would have no chance of being saved and I was troubled a good deal for two weeks waiteing for more particaler and when I received the news paper with the account of the wreck and stating that father was saved I weep for joy but I was still doubtful of his safety I haste to answer your letter, (and it is as much as I can do) as the mail leaves here on monday morning and as I wish for you to leave nothing undone, as it is a long way from toronto to the wreck as it would be useless for me to come and I am confident that you will attend to it and I hope his body as been picked up before now, and will be intered but I should like if he was buried in beer* church yard by the side of my sister Mary Elizabeth and if you get his money I should be very glad if you would do it and have a common stone to mark the spot and if you dont get the money that he had on him I think the owners of the ship can be make to pay his passage money back and with it mark the spot where he is buried but I should think that the owners can be made to pay all loss I do request that you will do as much as lay in your power and go as far as the law will carry it to accomply the same and if you required any money to do it write directly and I will send you forty*

*pounds if it is required and I heartily wish that the Captain will get what he deserved for his negligence I hope this will find you all in perfect health my health is good thank God for it give my kind to your mother and sister and Mr Harvey also Aaron and wife and family, and accept with kind love and well wishes and I shall be ever thankful to you and still remain your affectionate cousin
Henry Hornbrook*

PS I shall expect a letter soon.

**A town in Devon.*

'OHMS' - Continued from p.12

During 1665, the use of the phrase 'for his Matis Service' is mentioned as being used on a letter. ('Matis' is an abbreviation for 'Majesty's').

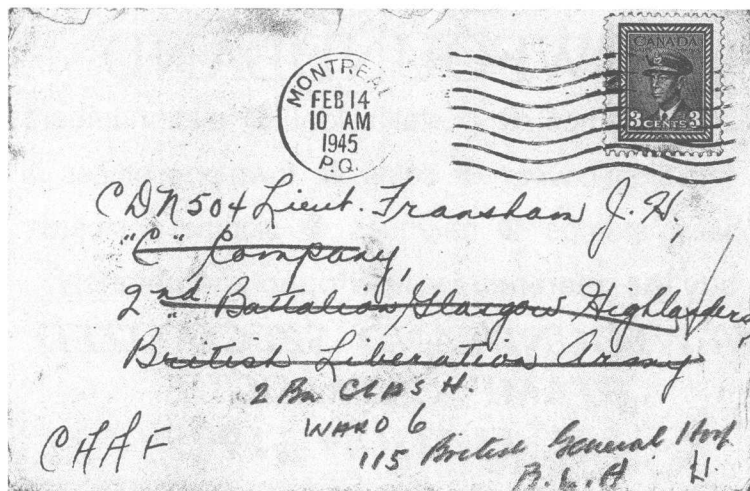
The phrase 'in His Majesty's Service' is noted on a new map of the Province of Quebec drawn by a military officer during 1763.

On 1 May, 1764, the phrase 'Upon His Majesty's Service' was introduced in 'An Act for the Preventing Frauds and Abuses in relation to sending and Receiving of Letters and Packets free from the Duty of Postage'. The same phrase is repeated in 1802 legislation.

It appears that at some time between 1802 and 1832, the word 'On' replaced the word 'Upon' in actual use. Because research material is not readily available, it has not been determined if the word 'On' in the phrase was used in practice before or after it appeared in permitting legislation. Someone, somewhere, may be able to provide clues which can be used to solve this puzzle. It is hoped that some reader in Britain can help to solve the date gap or provide photocopies of covers using OHMS between the above dates or earlier if such exist.

FIFTY YEARS AGO - JANUARY 1945.

Kim Dodwell



By early 1944 Britain had been at war for over four years and was running short of junior infantry officers who, in battle, bear a disproportionate share of casualties. Fighting in Norway, France, the Far East, North Africa, Italy and elsewhere had taken its toll; also Britain had provided thousands of young officers for the rapidly expanding Indian and African armies. The reserve supply position was unsatisfactory for the months of grim struggle certain to come after the landing in N.E. Europe.

In Canada the situation was the opposite. Apart from Hong Kong, Sicily and Italy, the army had suffered no casualties, and its officer reserve was intact. Their infantry battalions waiting impatiently in England were at full complement, as were the numerous Reinforcement Units. For officers still further back in the system, it was even more irksome, and when the two governments brought out a scheme to alleviate the situation, there was no lack of volunteers.

Under the 'CANLOAN' Scheme, 622 Canadian junior officers were posted from Canada to British infantry battalions then waiting in England for the invasion of Europe. A few went as Captains but most were Lieutenants (some even voluntarily dropped rank to gain inclusion). Many British battalions ended up with two or three Canucks commanding platoons. The scheme was a great success. Nearly all who were transferred acquitted themselves very well; many earned decorations in battle - sadly, many became casualties. There was reciprocated rapport with the British soldiers, who appreciated their lack of formality and easy leadership; many British Army regimental histories pay willing tribute to their qualities.

The cover shown is to a lieutenant with the 2nd Glasgow Highlanders, a territorial battalion then in the 15th Scottish Division. From the date of posting it is most probable that he had

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been wounded on 15/16 February, when his battalion suffered heavy casualties in the clearing of Moyland Wood, during the muddy, bloody struggle that was the battle of the Reichswald. Appropriately, the 15th Scottish were temporarily part of Gen. Crerar's First Canadian Army for this battle, and both the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions were to be involved in the clearance of Moyland Wood before it could be completed.

For the postal historian, mail to and from 'CANLOAN' officers is easily

distinguished by the letters CDN preceding a number that is never more than three figures, but in spite of this, it is rare. The late Bob Wyse of Ontario published a study of the subject, based on a single family correspondence, but apart from this the only covers I have seen are that illustrated here and its sibling (which went to Bob). I found them at a very small stamp fair some ten years ago, priced at £1 each! It would be interesting to know if other members have more CANLOAN material in their collections.

THREE CENTS CARMINE ADMIRAL Hans Reiche FCPS

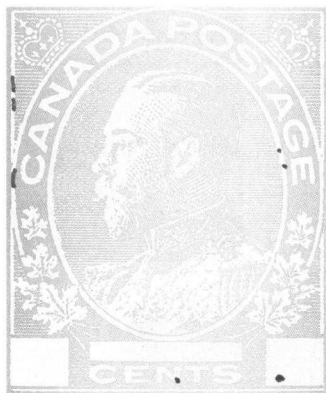


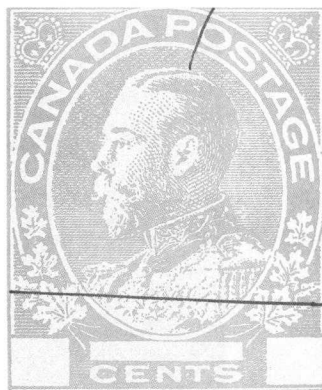
Fig.1

Amongst a lot of 3 cents carmine Admirals a few constant but minor varieties have been noted. From Die I the left side shows some minor re-entry opposite C and N of Canada. A dot is located in the 'N' of 'Cents' on another one and a third shows a large dot in the right box (Fig 1). The two scratches in the 'S' of 'Postage', already recorded by Marler, can be seen in (Fig 2). Die II



Fig.2

Fig.3



FIFTEEN CENT LARGE QUEEN: CONSTANT VARIETIES.

Fred Fawn

PLATE SCRATCH.

A remarkable horizontal flaw in the upper margin above 'CANADA' can be observed on 15c Large Queen stamps of various printings and shades (Figs. 1 & 2). Its position was quite readily identifiable, it is the stamp to the left of the 'Pawnbroker', i.e. Position 9. It is a constant flaw, as seen on a complete sheet of 100, as well as on a number of blocks from different groups (Fig3).

Fig. 2



Fig. 1

Fig. 4



Fig. 3



PLATE CRACK Position 65.

A distinctive line, almost horizontal, can be observed at the left frame (Fig.4). The length of the line is approximately 1 1/2mm and it cuts right across the frame lines. This variety has been described in an auction catalogue as a

constant plate crack. I have seen examples from different printings, however, and wonder whether all printings contain this variety? Members are asked to report on similar findings.

A TORONTO No 1 OVAL CANCEL Geoffrey Whitworth FRPSL, FCPS.

The note on this cancel found on page 315 of the August 'Maple Leaves' brought two members to Convention at York with items from their collections to explain this mark. John Reynolds has a similar folder and Fred Marvin has a number of strikes on 1 cent and other stamps.



Like the one described, John's folder is of the same texture with the seal at the back still intact. The Massey-Harris address is in the same purple ink but the strike is not as smudged. 'Toronto', '1' and '-NT' could be identified. The oval measures 35 mm or 1 3/8 inches in width and appears to have been made in rubber. We concluded that it is the mark recorded by Jarrett as No. 193. The 1882 half cent stamp is well printed in deep black ink suggesting an early use, say 1883 to 1885.

What could have been the use of these frail folders? Half cent, for under

1 oz. in weight, cancelled in Toronto and addressed to CITY. It must have been for local delivery. One suggestion is that Massey-Harris, an agricultural machinery maker, sent out catalogues to known customers including an order form and self-addressed, prestamped and precancelled folder for the return of the order. Would the simple 'Massey Harris Co, City' address suffice for the post office staff? Massey Harris must have nursed its suppliers if it sent out cheques to clear a statement and also included this folder to return the receipted statement.

Whatever the original use, could it be that they are prestamped, precancelled folders that became a surplus in the Massey-Harris office? Perhaps the items we find on the philatelic market today are remainders and have never been through the postal circuit. Other items bearing this cancel were all addressed CITY and rated at 1 cent and dated up to 1897 when the impression was very blind. All indicated bulk cancelling with a hammer that was wearing away and would soon require replacement.

Editor's Note: Stan Lum has also confirmed he has a Massey-Harris wrapper with 1/2 SQ cancelled by the 'Toronto 1' parcel oval.

HELLO . . . I'M THE NEW BOY!

Jim Smith

My membership number is 2700, so the ink on it is hardly dry; but I decided to go to the York Convention, even though I knew I could only stay until the Friday morning.

Not knowing a single soul, it was naturally with some trepidation that I entered the Swallow Hotel and looked for a group which might be mine. I needn't have worried! I was shortly chatting over tea and biscuits with a South African member, others introduced themselves and I soon felt as if I had known them all for years. We were each given a large envelope as we checked in, containing amongst other things a name card in admirably large print (they all wore theirs as well throughout the whole conference) a comprehensive programme of events for philatelists and for non-philatelists and a list of all those attending, so I could sort out who was who from my Membership List.

My specialized collection has been moribund for many, many years - about 400 copies of one stamp - but these people have got me going again, just as I had hoped. They told me the dealers and auction houses best suited to my needs and their massive learning and knowledge was entirely outweighed by their friendliness and helpfulness: they were all just full of shining enthusiasm and some of it has rubbed off on me!

The three displays I saw were all top flight, they all contained things useful to me in my own specialisation and gave me thoughts on new angles - did you know there is a powder that cleans up covers and checks foxing? But

as one member said to me, "You know more about your specialization than I do, so I can learn from you." That was the spirit of the whole convention.

On the Thursday afternoon philatelists and non-philatelists went together to Castle Howard for a most enjoyable outing. As I left on the Friday morning they were all piling into a minibus to go to a local Stamp Fair, looking as excited as I did when I got my first XLCR packet. I also missed out on further displays, the Auction and the Banquet, though I did ascertain for future occasions that dinner jackets or suits are equally acceptable for the Banquet - it's about 50/50 - so I pass this on to you.

I feel that I have made a hatful of friends who will enrich the rest of my life. I got home so aglow on the Friday that my wife Julie is coming with me to Bournemouth next year - why don't you pencil it in now?

See you there!



Happy winner Bill Topping, with Secretary Tom Almond.

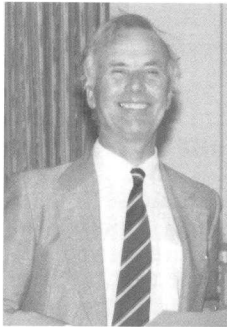


1



2

CONVENTION CAVALCADE



3

1. *New Fellow, John Wannerton, signs the Roll.*

2. *Dr John Gatecliff shows it's fun being president!*

3. *Another happy winner - Frank Laycock.*

4. *Special agent from Toronto - Wayne Curtis.*

5. *Collectors great and small - Leigh Hogg and Stan Lum (The Yellow Peril)*

6. *Sandy and Marjorie Mackie.*



4

5



Maple Leaves



6

January 1995

25

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 1995 Convention will be held in Bournemouth at the Suncliff Hotel, from Wednesday 20 September to Saturday 23 September. The hotel, situated on East Overcliff Drive, overlooks the sea; has very good facilities, with indoor swimming pool and convention centre. The rates are very attractive and I hope the Convention programme and general facilities of Bournemouth for the non-philatelists will attract not only regular attenders, but encourage others to come and see what Convention is all about.

Booking forms will be included with the April 'Maple Leaves', and I hope a number of our overseas members will consider attending. There is a coach service from London (Victoria) to Bournemouth that calls at Heathrow and a daily coach service from Manchester that would be suitable for overnight trans-Atlantic passengers into Manchester Airport.

John Wright has kindly agreed to act as Auction Manager. He already has over 100 lots and I am sure he would welcome others. John's 'advert' concerning the auction appears elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, a number of matters raised at the last A.G.M. in York were left for the Executive to consider before the 1995 A.G.M. Please read the Secretary's notes on the ordering of the Society's finances; we do wish to have your views available for the next A.G.M.

WESSEX GROUP

Members brought along 'new

acquisitions' and they produced a wide and most interesting variety of material, which gave rise to lively discussion. Perhaps the most dramatic was Judith Edwards' variety of Newfoundland SG294 (450th Anniversary of Cabot discovery). Despite having been reported several years ago, it is still believed to be the only copy known. Perhaps Judith can be persuaded to report on it in due course. Apart from this, it can safely be said that all members saw some items of BNA philately which they had not previously encountered.

FROM THE SECRETARY

The Packet and Covermart

Please contact Hugh Johnson or Malcolm Jones respectively if you wish to receive the Packet or the Covermart List. Their addresses are to be found inside the back cover of Maple Leaves. If you thought that you were on their lists, but you have not heard from them for some time, please send them a reminder of your interests. Without your support they cannot succeed so please send them your spare material to help increase their sales .

Review of the Society's Finances

The Executive is to review the financial policy of the society and report back at the Bournemouth convention. Topics to be considered include the level of society reserves, investment policy, funding Conventions and subscriptions. Please send your comments upon these, or any other financial issues, to the Secretary as soon as possible.

The Annual General Meeting

The following is a summary of the main points from the 1994 AGM which took place at the York Convention. Copies of the minutes and the latest accounts are available from the Secretary.

Secretary Tom Almond reported that, although the membership continues to fall, new members appear to be staying with the Society. He thanked John Gatecliff and Wayne Curtis for their sterling efforts in collecting subscriptions.

Subscription Manager John Gatecliff reported that collection procedures are working well and that sales of back copies of Maple Leaves continue to bring in money for Society funds.

Librarian Colin Banfield reported that borrowing increased over the previous year, that the library continued to grow and that a new library list will be required in 1995.

Editor David Sessions expressed concern about the cost of producing Maple Leaves. The answer probably is to move to Desk Top Publishing, with which he is not conversant. This would cause a fall in quality and raise problems when a new editor has to be found.

The new Packet Secretary Hugh Johnson and the new Covermart Manager Malcolm Jones each gave an encouraging report. Sales so far have been good, but a consistent supply of material is needed to sustain the operation.

Handbook Manager Derrick Scoot reported that he had sold 35 books and 5 binders.

The outgoing Advertising Manager, Ged Taylor, reported that as no volunteer came forward at the last convention he remained in office. Income from trade advertisers and members' classified advertisements fell significantly. Contact has been made with the Advertising Manager Designate and handover will take place soon after Convention.

Treasurer Alan Salmon reported as follows. The society made a small surplus in 1992/93 and a reasonable surplus is forecast for 1993/94. A Members Handbook and an anniversary edition of Maple Leaves will be produced in 1994/95 and 1995/96 respectively, causing extra expenditure. It is hoped that the revival of the Packet and a vigorous effort on advertising will produce an addition to Society income.

The Treasurer also reported that the Committee recommended that the Full Member Rate should be increased to £12, with a £1 reduction on subscriptions received before 1/1/96. In addition the Committee recommended that the Life Membership rate should be based on 15 years' subscriptions rather than 18.

Much discussion ensued on the rates, the policies to be followed when setting them and the Society's investment policies. The proposed rates were not voted on. Therefore the 1994/95 rate of £11 will continue for 1995/96.

The Executive was asked to review the Society's financial policy and report back at the next Convention.

President-elect Arthur Jones announced that the 1995 convention will be held at the Suncliff Hotel, Bournemouth between 20 and 23

September and that the half-board rate will be £45.

The Secretary reported that several members had expressed misgivings about the current practice whereby charges for meeting rooms were passed on to those who were staying in the convention hotel. In essence there are two choices, either the costs could be met by attendees or they could be met from Society funds. After much discussion an informal poll indicated that the members present were 2:1 in favour of costs being met by the Society. This is not representative of the views of the membership at large. The Executive was asked to investigate this matter and to report back at the Bournemouth Convention.

Mr Stalker produced a revised version of the Competition Rules which would be published in Maple Leaves to enable members to make comments.

In response to a question, the Secretary reported that, under rule 27 (as amended) "The Executive shall have the right to expel any member without cause assigned"

The Secretary reported that Mr Jack Henderson of Perth had offered a silver trophy, to be called "The Henderson Quaich", to the Society. Discussions were being held with Mr Henderson and Mr McLaren to determine how the trophy should be used.

The following Officers were elected at the AGM:

President - South 1994/95

Mr A E Jones

Vice President - South 1997/98

Vacant

Chief Executive

Mr A E Jones

Secretary

Mr T E Almond

Treasurer

Dr A Salmon

Committee Member - Scotland

Mr J C McLaren

Committee Member - North

Mr N G Prior

Committee Member - South

Dr D Sanderson

Officers elected by the Committee are listed in the 'Maple Leaves' officers panel.

The re-appointment of Mr J C McLaren as Auditor was unanimously approved by the meeting.

On behalf of the Fellows, John Hannah reported that the recommendations of the Fellows committee that Mr G E L Manley and Mr J Wannerton should be elected Fellows of the Society had been accepted by the Committee.

The Secretary announced that the competition and trophy winners were as follows:

Class 1

1st W E Topping

Japanese Relocation Mail 1941-45

2nd M B Montgomery

Fined Mail from BNA

Class 2

1st London Section

2c Rates of Canada 1871-98

Class 3A

1st B T Stalker - Postmarks of the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad

2nd F Laycock - Used varieties and rates of the 5 cent Beaver

CONVENTION AUCTION 1995

The Annual Auction will be held on Saturday 23 September, at the Suncliff Hotel, Bournemouth.

All lots should be sent to John Wright, 20 Parkside Crescent, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 9HT, to arrive not later than 31 March, 1995. This date must be adhered to in order that the catalogue may be prepared for despatch in good time, especially to overseas members. Only BNA material is acceptable and lots should be accompanied by a brief description and estimate (preferably £5 and upwards). Any reserve should clearly be stated at this stage. The Society charges 15% commission; there is no buyer's premium.

Single stamps and small lots should be suitably mounted on small cards. No responsibility can be accepted for loosely mounted or badly packaged material.

Class 3B

1st R Bayes - Booklets and panes of the Admiral issue
2nd A E Jones - Centennial 6c orange definitives 1967-73

Stanley Godden Trophy
M B Montgomery

Bunny Cup
W E Topping

Admiral Cup
R Bayes

Lees-Jones Trophy
A E Jones

Members Trophy
G A Wallace

Aikens Trophy
H W Harrison - Article on Octagonal Registered markings

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Annual subscription, due on 1 October, 1994, £11.00, payable to the Society, to Dr John Gatecliff, Subscription Manager

The dollar equivalents are \$22 CAN (+ \$5.00 if airmail delivery required) and \$18 US (+ \$4.00 if airmail delivery required)

It would help the Society considerably if Canadian members pay in SCAN via Wayne Curtis as we are liable to a bank handling charge of £6. Please make your cheque payable to Wayne, his address is PO Box 74 Stn A, Toronto, Canada M5W 1A2

Members who have not paid the current year's subscription by 31 December will be removed from the *Maple Leaves* circulation list.

CHARLES KING

Colin Banfield has sent us this appreciation.

Our friend Charles King passed away on 16 August, shortly before our Annual Convention at York. He was one of our longest serving members, being no 482; he joined the Society in 1950 when resident in Glasgow.

Charles was a keen and active member and brought the organisational skills he acquired in his business life to the benefit of the Society.

He served as President in 1981 and during the time he was Publicity Officer, 1990-93, he organised a large display of members' material at the October 1990 STAMPEX and a trip to the British North America Philatelic Society Convention in Vancouver in 1991.

In 1993 he was elected a Fellow in recognition of his services to the Society.

We in the London Section will especially miss him; he very rarely missed a meeting and always supported the subject of the day with material from his collection.

Besides his love of BNA philately Charles was a keen golfer and at the time of his death he was Chairman of his club's Centenary Year Celebrations at Purley Downs in Surrey. Despite his illness Charles travelled to Poland in 1994 for a re-union with those who had been fellow prisoners of war some 50 years ago.

Our Society is poorer for his passing and we all extend our sympathy to Betty and their family.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1995

Jan 16 - London Group - Pre-stamp covers

Feb 2 - Wessex Group

Feb 20 - London Group - invited display Royal Tour 1939

- David Sessions

Feb 28 - Mar 5 - Spring STAMPEX

Mar 20 - London Group - Slogans

Apr 10 - London Group - Beaver Cup Competition

May 15 - London Group - AGM

- Subjects A,B & C.

May 25 - Wessex Group

Sept 8-10 BNAPS Convention, Edmonton.

Sept 20-23 CPS of GB Convention, Bournemouth

1996

Aug 30-Sep 1 BNAPS Convention, Fort Worth, Texas.

Sep 11-14 CPS of GB Convention, Station Hotel, Perth

International Exhibitions

1995

May 10-15 FINLANDIA 95, Helsinki

Sep 1-10 SINGAPORE 95 Singapore

1996

Jun 8-16 CAPEX 96, Toronto

Sep 27-Oct 6 ISTANBUL 96, Istanbul

Nov 1-15 GREECE 96, Athens

1997

Apr 11-20 NORWEX 97, Oslo

May 29-Jun 8 PACIFIC 97, San Francisco

September - MOSCOW '97, Russia

Details of London Group meetings can be obtained from Colin Banfield: 081 500 5615 (Home) or 071 407 3693 (Office). Wessex Group details from Dorothy Sanderson: 0794 523 924.

REVIEW OF RULES FOR COMPETITIVE DISPLAY

When reviewing the Constitution and Rules of the Society in 1991 it was recognised that a review should be undertaken of the format, rules and awards of the Convention competitive display. Three years later, after several informal soundings, some draft proposals were circulated for comment at York.

It is proposed to replace the present four classes (Research/Study, Group entry, pre 1911 display, post 1911 display) by two classes, one covering the issue, production and particular use of stamps, the other covering the postal system and postal stationery as follows:-

Class 1

Stamps and Rate Covers of specific stamp issues including blocks, plates, booklets, essays and proofs, perfins, precancels, fakes and forgeries.

Class 2

Postal History, Stationery and Post Cards; including postal routes, postmarks, cancellations, registered covers.

Each exhibit should not exceed 16 sheets and there should be no distinction between individual and group exhibits.

Diplomas should be awarded to the best two (and exceptionally three) exhibits in each class.

Trophies should be awarded, at the Judges' discretion, as follows:-

Godden Trophy -

best exhibit in the 'Classics' period (prestamp and Victoria).

Bunny Cup -

best exhibit in the 'Kings' period.

Lees-Jones Trophy -

best exhibit in the 'Elizabethan' period.

Admiral Cup -

best exhibit from the 'Admiral' period (1912 - 1927).

Members Trophy -

best exhibit by a member not previously awarded any other trophy or cup.

Henderson Quaich -

best exhibit of original research.

Note: The Founders Trophy will continue to be awarded for original or intensive research, not necessarily a competitive exhibit, by a Judging Committee comprising the President, immediate Past President and the Fellows. Similarly, the Aikins Trophy will continue to be awarded for the best article of research into BNA philately printed in 'Maple Leaves' during the period since the previous Convention.

Marking scheme for all classes:-

Originality of work or study 30%

Completeness of exhibit 25%

Presentation and notes 20%

Condition (with regard to rarity) 20%

Judges' discretion 5%

Secondly, some other issues:-

- (i) At present, only amateur collector members of the Society are eligible to compete in the Convention Competitive Display. Is this restriction appropriate in today's circumstances? Several of the

Society's most ardent supporters would probably fail to qualify against a strict definition of 'amateur'. Rather than attempt to distinguish between various shades of grey, it may be better to delete this rule.

- (ii) Should photographs or photocopies of exhibits be eligible for competitive display? This issue is creating some interest in North America and one of our American members tested the water by submitting a colour photocopy exhibit at York. There are wholly legitimate reasons, in terms of security and avoidance of Customs & Excise problems, for overseas members to explore that approach to exhibiting. From the domestic members' viewpoint there is an opportunity to see exhibits which otherwise would not be presented. The fundamental issue is whether or not photographic or photocopied exhibits can be judged on an equitable and comparable basis to original material, particularly with respect to condition. On that basis alone, the 'pioneering' exhibit at York was displayed as a non-competitive entry. Other aspects of this issue could include:-

Is the exhibitor the owner of the original material?

To what extent have the reproductions been enhanced?

Do you judge the quality of the reproduction and/or the perceived quality of the original?

Should black and white reproductions or only colour be permitted?

Finally, would there be sufficient

interest and sufficient entries to justify introducing a 'Reproductions Only' class to the competitive displays? If so, why restrict it to overseas members?

Comments on the proposals for changing the competitive classes and on the other issues are welcome. Please address specific comments to Brian Stalker, Glamara, Upper Bryn Coch, Mold, Clwyd CH7 1PU. In addition, members may wish to air their views via 'Letters to the Editor'. All comments received before the end of May will be consolidated into a feedback article for publication in the August 1995 issue of 'Maple Leaves' and passed on for consideration by the Committee.

Please note, the competitive displays at this year's Convention will be conducted according to the current Rules.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Now available - Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland, 6th Edition. Recent discoveries; revised prices. New sections include regular and private order Special Lettermail and Priority Courier Envelopes, Canada Post Special Event Envelopes and postcards with private perforations or roulettes. £9.50 from the Handbooks Manager (see back cover).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Horace Harrison

REGISTERED R.P.O. MARKS

A typo crept into my R.P.O. listing, which appeared in the August 1993 'ML' (p125). RG-33 should read: 'St Clair Branch of the Canada Southern Railway'. The slip was caught by member Gerry Carr.



Here is a new discovery, which becomes an addendum to page 127 of the same article: Southern extension of the Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway. RG33A; 500*; 1876.

Bob Bayes

ADMIRAL SHADES

In reply to Mr Rosen's letter in the October issue, differences of opinion are to be expected from articles such as this. I'm sure there are as many opinions as there are collectors but I would argue that shade had nothing to do with the price realised, rather the fact that the block was unhinged, well centred and had complete lathework. Colours are not perceived identically by the human eye, each person sees colours in a slightly different shade and in extreme cases only in shades of grey.

Regarding the price realised, I can only say that philately is a hobby where one buys retail and sells wholesale.* I

can only hope Mr Rosen is still of the same mind when I choose to sell my Admirals!

I have enclosed laser copies of twelve pieces of lathe design on the five cents violet and would be most happy if a consensus could be reached as to the shades present.

**Editor's note: one must assume Bob is speaking here of collectors and not dealers, otherwise there would be no dealers! The colour laser copies are splendid but we do not run to colour reproduction so I am not tempted (fortunately) to hold a referendum!*

J. Colin Campbell

MYSTERY RAILWAY MARKING

I should like to ask readers if they have seen this 'postal marking', or similar, from another railway station in Canada.



The marking appears to read:
TRANSFER AGENT
RICHMOND jc't
AM

*OC 12
97

*The 'OC' indicia are reversed and inverted.

Quite possibly, at the foot of the circle, is the abbreviation P.Q. or QUE, I cannot be sure. Enough is shown, however, to enable readers to determine whether they have seen it, or something similar, before.

Dean Mario

SHOW STOPPER

I was most interested to read Y.P.'s examination of the 'show-stopping' fake D.L.O. cover (October 1994) and thought that a few comments on it worth sharing with the membership.

The cover in question was sold at auction in March 1994, through a Montreal auction house. It caught my attention immediately, the back page colour illustration was very appealing. It was estimated at Cdn \$1200! I was

unconvinced as to its authenticity initially because of the rather odd straight line 'D.L.O.' marking. A quick check with both Jarrett and Boggs confirmed my suspicions - the strange marking was unlisted and probably a forgery. Y.P.'s further examination of the Officially Sealed stamp certainly condemns it to where it belongs: a wonderful fake!

I placed a ridiculously low bid, along with comments concerning my suspicions. Obviously these were not contemplated by the auctioneers (along with thoughts, perhaps, of "who is this upstart, anyway?"). The cover sold for \$275 + 11% buyer's premium. I salute Y.P. for bringing this cover to the membership's, and the public's, attention. It's a nice fake, but that's all it is. I echo Y.P.'s proverbial reminder 'caveat emptor'.



THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF CANADA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Ron Winmill

CANADIAN STAMPS IN THE BOER WAR

I read with great interest the article by Dr Frank (June '94, pp279/80). In it he says, "Stamps of Canada, New South Wales and India have been noted so used". While I concur with all his comments, I should like to mention that I have recently been offered an example of the 'Penny Universal' of New Zealand, on a small piece, duly tied by a civilian postmark. Perhaps this stamp was cancelled on arrival in South Africa, having been missed in New Zealand; who knows?

While I cannot be dogmatic, I would suppose that the use of any Canadian stamps by the army in South Africa was tolerated (possibly philatelic) but not authorised. Over the years, I have perused thousands of pages of PMG Reports, newspapers, O.I.Cs and other documents of the era. I have never seen a reference to the practice of employing Canadian adhesives abroad, by the army, being acceptable. However, I stand to be corrected on this point.

Phil Grey

H.M.H.S. LLANDOVERY CASTLE

Colin Campbell's interesting article in the October issue prompted me to look up my Union Castle postcards and records; there I found a postscript to the story.

In 1921 the two U-boat officers who shot at the lifeboats and killed

most of the occupants, after sinking the Llandovery Castle, were sentenced to four years' imprisonment; the submarine commander, Patzig, had disappeared before the trial.

The Yellow Peril

REVERSED YUKON AIRWAYS PROOF

Now that it is established that some of those reversed proofs are forgeries, and until there is evidence or an acceptable explanation that the reversed genuine proofs are legitimate, I shall continue to sell them all as forgeries. Whether forgeries or otherwise they trade for the same amount of money. Moreover, it is far better that a buyer subsequently discovers that the forgery he or she has acquired turns out to be the real thing.

The unanswered question, however, is, "why should a proof be made in reverse?" Another intriguing point is, "when will proofs in the obverse be appearing?" They may be neither 'not illegal' nor difficult to produce.

Editor's note: Lloyd Banner spoke at length to W.H.Jordon, designer of the Yukon Airways stamp, and presumably Jordon did not find the existence of the reversed proofs extraordinary. Banner states that five impressions of the die were taken on transfer paper, then transferred to the litho plate. This was repeated ten times until 50 impressions were on the plate. The original dies would therefore have been 'positive' and produce a negative image on the transfer paper, proofs pulled direct from the dies would therefore presumably be 'negative' i.e. reversed.

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP to 18 November 1994

New Members

2704 Walker A M, 27 Chertsey Road, Windlesham, Surrey, GU20 6EW.

CR2-CGG, PC, PS and SOA.

2705 Mouser D C J, Boscombe Collectors Centre, 726a Christchurch Road, Boscombe, BH7 6BZ.

Reinstated

2698 Edwards P, 243TutburyRoad, Burton-on-Trent, DE13ONZ.

2611 Warr K J, Westmere, Upware Rd, Upware, Nr.Ely, Cambs. CB7 5YQ,

Resigned

1594 Asbury L Col. W B.

2678 Ireland D A

2545 Bowen, D

2534 McGregor, C

Deceased

2626 Noble, Brian (removed unpaid in October ML) 190 Smith George W 253 Harper, GB

Removed from Membership - Unpaid Subscription

2481 Nicholson Arthur G (gone away, address unknown)

Change of Address

2304 Bartlett, David W, 76 Burnham Parkway, Morristown, 07960-5003

2369 Bayley, Richard C, change postcode to 'SO16 6RY'.

2648 Brown, L J, 85 Fir Park, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, FK13 6PJ.

2606 Cartwright B M, 26 Borkum Close, Knights Enham, Andover, Hants, SP10 4LE.

1840 Firby, CG, Replace 'Suite 200' by '# 107'

2655 Glover DS,33 Lytcott Drive, West Molesley, KT8 2TJ

2088 Griffin R D, Correct Post Code to 'BS12 2YJ'

2656 Library of Congress, Order Division, Serials Receiving, Washington, D.C. USA 20540-4140

2313 Moffat Christopher A, 6 McCallum Grove, Kittoch Glen, East Kilbride,

Glasgow, G74 4SJ,

2467 National Archives of Canada, Canadian Postal Archives Section, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, KIA ON3.

1897 National Library, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, KIA ON4.

1552 Paterson W R, PO Box 5555, Auckland 1036, New Zealand.

2700 Smith J H, Delete third initial 'D'

2674 Thompson, R, amend 'Gauchetier' to 'Gauchetiere' postcode is H2Z 1Y2

1373 Wannerton J W T, Add 'F.R.P.S.L. F.C.P.S.'

2480 Warr, B C J, 230 Frecker Drive, St Johns, Newfoundland, A1E 5L4

1676 Woodland P E, Delete 'F.C.P.S.'add 'F.R.P.S.L.'

Change of Interest

1810 Almond T E, Add 'F'

1040 Charron J J, Add 'LC, PA'

806 Hillson N J A, Replace existing by 'CL, CS and CGC'

1823 Prior G N, Delete 'C.P' add 'NWT,YUK'

1599 Reilly N A, Add 'CG-CGG, A, BS, FDC, FF, PBL and PPC'

1870 Salmon Dr A, Delete 'Numerals'

1373 Wannerton J W T, Replace existing by 'C, NWO and N'

Revised Total 474

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