



# Maple Leaves

**JOURNAL OF THE  
CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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# MAPLE LEAVES

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## EDITORIAL

As 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, we have given this issue a bit of a Confederation theme with articles on the 1917 and 1927 Confederation issues, the use of the 4 ring cancels after 1868 and an article on the significant improvements in global stamp printing pioneered by the Canadian stamp printers in the 1920's and 1930's. We hope you enjoy them and wish our many Canadian members a very happy 150th birthday (Country not individually you understand!)

Over the coming weeks I will be lotting up our next Society auction. The catalogue should be online by early to mid August. If you have an e mail address lodged with the Society you will get a message to tell you when it is online. This sale will contain a feast of Edward VII and Admiral material from the collections of the late Peter Payne along with some nice stamp bisects and a host of other material to suit all pockets. Remember there is no buyers premium so bid with confidence and hopefully you can add some nice items to your collection.

I am reminded that the deadline is fast approaching for getting in your Convention booking information. Please make sure Karen has the information by 31 July latest to take advantage of the Convention rates and reserve your accommodation. You can either mail or e mail in the booking form (you can download this from the Society website if you have lost it) or you can simply e mail in the relevant information. Further details on the programme, travel options etc can be found on page 177 and, of course, on the Society website. If you have any questions on travel options or anything else Convention related please contact our President (contact details on inside back cover).

If any members collect Admiral stamps I would draw their attention to the advert on page 167. Over half a million Admiral stamps (almost all in original bundles of 100) are available for purchase. These were originally gathered up by John Hannah and Sandy Mackie in the 1940's and 1950's when Admiral stamps could still be purchased in large bulk quantities and the vast majority appear to have never been touched since. A veritable treasure trove for the variety hunter, they are available on a first come- first served basis so if you are interested get in quick!

A couple of members have enquired recently about options to bind volumes of Maple Leaves. I always used to get my own copies professionally bound but when our local book binder closed down (they seem to be a dying breed) I had to cast around for an alternative. One option I can recommend are Cordex Binders produced by Modern Bookbinders Ltd of Blackburn (website is [www.modernbookbinders.com](http://www.modernbookbinders.com)). These can be made in A5 size to suit Maple Leaves and cost a little over £7 per volume. You can even order gold foil blocked labels customised to suit for a little extra.

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*The article in our last issue on the Halls Bay Railway contained a rather important typographical error on page 112 where your Editor showed his ignorance of chordal analysis of postmarks by getting the diagrams wrong! Fortunately for me, and for any other members who may lack knowledge in this area, the author of that article, Brian Stalker, has provided us with this short paper on the subject which also includes the corrected diagrams.*

## **AN INTRODUCTION TO CHORDAL ANALYSIS OF POSTMARKS**

**Brian T Stalker *FCPS, OTB***

An error in reproducing chords ‘a’ and ‘b’ shown on page 112 of ‘*Maple Leaves*’ #344 of Part 1 of my article on Newfoundland’s Hall’s Bay Railway indicated that I had made the mistake of presuming prior knowledge of chordal analysis by many readers. This introduction to postmark chordal analysis seeks to remedy that situation.

It was not unusual for postal authorities to order more than one date-stamping device (usually referred to as a hammer) with identical lettering, and in many cases it is possible to differentiate between the hammers by looking for minor variations in the shapes and widths of the individual letters and by the spacing between them. Such a method can also be used on partial strikes of postmarks, particularly where key identifiers such as No 1, No 2 etc. are missing.

Modern technology makes it relatively easy to scan postmarks and to overlay similar postmarks on top of each other to identify differences in spacing, particularly if the images are magnified to 200% or 400%. If differences in spacing are observed it is then necessary to have a readily reproducible method of measuring and describing them. Taking angular measurements from a datum line is one method but chordal measurement has been used very successfully by the Railway Post Office Study Group of BNAPS. Lewis Ludlow used chordal measurement working to an accuracy of ¼ mm over forty years ago and it continues to be the preferred method for RPO postmark analysis – however there is no reason why it should not be adopted more widely for other types of postmarks and date-stamps.

The key to chordal analysis is consistency of measurement, preferably to an accuracy of 0.1 mm. The use of a scale loupe (American lupe) such as that shown which has seven times magnification, a 24 mm field of view and a linear scale graduated in 0.1 mm intervals facilitates that level of accuracy. An internet search for ‘scale loupe’ will take you to various suppliers (cost around £60) and other options such as 10x magnification with







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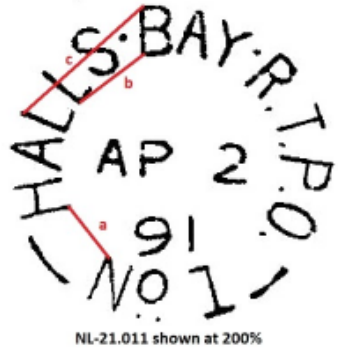
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battery powered illumination might be preferred, but it is essential that you obtain an instrument with a **linear** scale.

Whenever possible, chords are measured from ‘point to point’ either within the inner circumference of the lettering (an internal chord) or on the outer circumference of the lettering (an external chord). The ‘point’ may be the top or bottom of a vertical, the corner of a letter or a punctuation mark. Tangential measurement from rounded letters might also be appropriate in some circumstances. Accurate measurement of good, clean strikes is not a problem but over-inked or fuzzy strikes from badly worn hammers may be more challenging – however close examination of less than ideal strikes often reveals the impression of the steel type within the ink. Mastering the art of chordal measurement is no more demanding than other philatelic techniques such as measuring paper thickness or measuring perforations, and with the right equipment and good lighting an acceptable level of proficiency can quickly be gained. However, it is essential to check that strikes are not distorted before taking measurements because a relatively small distortion might introduce errors considerably greater than 0.1 mm.

Turning now to the HALLS BAY RTPO date-stamps featured in Part 1 of my article; for illustrative purposes this image of hammer 1 (NL-21.011) has been increased to 200% full size and shows chords ‘a’ and ‘b’ (both internal chords), also an additional external chord ‘c’.



It would be possible to illustrate the selected chords on each postmark as shown, but it is easier and more readily reproducible to describe the chords in a linear fashion as follows:-



This follows Ludlow’s custom and practice of showing the upper lettering followed by a ‘/’ and then the lower lettering, if any (often a dot), but it has the disadvantage of making chord ‘a’ look complicated and disproportionately long by the need for an extended wrap-around. This can be simplified by the inclusion of an additional but inverted ‘No’ at the left of the line which results in a more proportionate representation with all internal chords below-the-line and external chords above-the-line, as follows:-



Whichever representation is used, the chordal measurements (in millimetres) along with other useful data, such as how the punctuation changed over time, can be tabulated thus:-

Hammer	N°	a	b	Punctuation
NL-21.011	N° 1	4.4	5.5	S · BAY · R.T.P.O.
NL-21.012	N° 1	4.7	4.8	S · BAY · R.T.P.O. → S BAY R.T.P.O.
NL-21.021	N° 2	4.0	5.3	S · BAY · R T.P.O. → S · BAY · R T.P.O
NL-21.022	N° 2	5.8	4.4	S · BAY. R.T.P.O. → S · BAY. R.T.P.O

As mentioned earlier, this technique of chordal measurement can be applied to the study of postmarks in general, supplementing the more general measurements such as external and internal diameters and observation of different fonts. Detailed analysis such as this may be a minority interest but, in my view, it is no less a valid area of study than plating of stamps or measuring paper thickness and perforations to fine tolerances. In terms of Railway Post Offices, studying the range and number of hammers used at different periods of time can be a useful indicator of the frequency of service provided and the volume of mail handled. A single hammer would have sufficed on a lightly used once a day branch service but main line routes between major centres of population would have seen several mail clerks employed sorting and date-stamping the mail on a several times a day service and many more hammers would have been necessary.

*Part 2 of Brian's article on the Halls Bay Railway will appear in the next issue of Maple Leaves.*

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# CANADA'S CONFEDERATION AND HISTORICAL ISSUES : A POSTAL HISTORY POT-POURRI

**John Watson**

The Confederation commemorative issue of 1917, and the Confederation and Historical commemoratives of 1927 coming, as they do, in amongst the Admiral Issue, are often overlooked as a collecting area, or are subsumed into the collective area “the Admiral era”. However, a point could be made for collecting them in their own right, and this little article illustrates some of the postal usages they were put to. On the whole, the covers shown here are legitimate commercial or private correspondence, although at least one philatelic usage has been included.

The 3 cents Confederation commemorative of 1917 has a few single franking usages, such as the Empire rate up until October 1921, multiple second and third class mailings and, as shown in figure 1 below, the domestic first class rate. This rate is illustrated here



*Fig 1*

with the stamp cancelled with the “Camp Borden, Ontario” Field Post Office marking. (Throughout this article I include mail to the USA as domestic, since it was very rarely different to Canadian rates – except in a few special circumstances which will be commented upon as we get to them.)

Figures 2 and 3 overleaf illustrate the use of the same 3 cents Confederation stamp as part of a higher fee. Figure 2 illustrates the 3 cents Empire rate alluded to above, but with the addition of a 5 cents blue Admiral stamp to pay the registration fee on a letter



Fig 2

of 1917 to British Guiana. Figure 3 shows it used with 2 x 1 cents green Admiral stamps to pay the 5 cents Acknowledgement of Receipt fee payable in 1918.

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 (comme lettre recommandée) (surajoutée sous le N<sup>o</sup>) (et adressé à)

M<sup>rs</sup> J. Buksh  
 178 St. Peter Street  
 Montreal

on the 17th of September 1917

(Post Office address)

The undersigned acknowledges that a Registered letter article addressed as above  
 Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé a l'adresse sus-mentionnée

Stamp of the office of destination, date stamped and then transmitted, by the first mail to the office of posting of the article to which it relates.  
 Timbre du bureau distributeur, de destination, date stampée et transmis, par le premier courrier, au bureau d'origine de l'objet qu'il concerne.

Signature (\*)

39 B.—100,000-10-1-14

Fig 3

This 3 cents brown was the only stamp issued in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Confederation, but in 1927 a set of five stamps plus one Special Delivery stamp were issued to commemorate the 60th anniversary, and at the same time a set of three stamps were issued to commemorate political figures from Canada's history – these are known as the Historical Issue. By this time, a number of changes had been made to the postal rates, for example war tax on domestic first class forward mail had ended and the Special Delivery fee had been doubled to 20 cents.

The lowest denomination issued was the 1 cent orange. It had a few

single franking usages such as second class newspaper rate and, as shown in figure 4 below, the third class (printed matter) domestic rate. It could also be used in multiples or with other stamps to pay various rates. Figures 5 to 10 illustrate some of these.



Fig 4

Figures 5 and 6 below show the front and back of a 1927 UPU rate third class post card to Czechoslovakia, where two of the 1 cent stamps were used to pay the 2 cents per 2 oz rate for printed matter set by the UPU on 1st October 1925. Note that a typed address



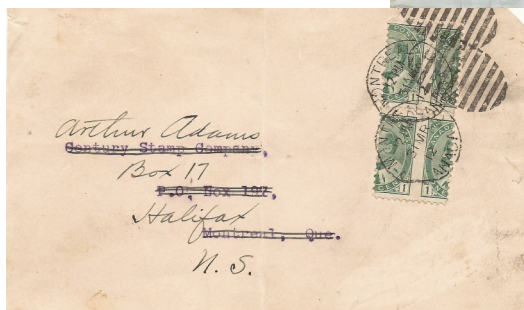
Fig 5 (left) and Fig 6 (above)

was included in the message portion of the card, but this was allowable and still qualified as printed matter.

In figure 7 overleaf we have an example of redirected mail. Three of the 1 cent stamps are used to pay the Empire rate to England, but on arrival it was redirected to France and a 1 penny

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British stamp was added to make up to the equivalent of 5 cents. In fact, this was an under-payment as the UPU rate from Canada in 1927 was 8 cents per ounce but it was accepted and not charged postage due.



Fig 7

Figure 8 below is an example of the Registered Empire rate of 3 cents first class postage plus 10 cents registration fee (which was increased from 5 cents on 15th July 1920). Here the 1 cent stamp is used with the 12 cents Historical Stamp to make the combined fee of 13 cents. Another registered cover is shown in figure 9 overleaf, but here the 1 cent stamp is combined with the 5 cent Confederation stamp on a 10 cents postal stationery envelope to make a triple weight registered domestic payment of 16 cents (3x2 cents first class + 10 cents registration).



Fig 8



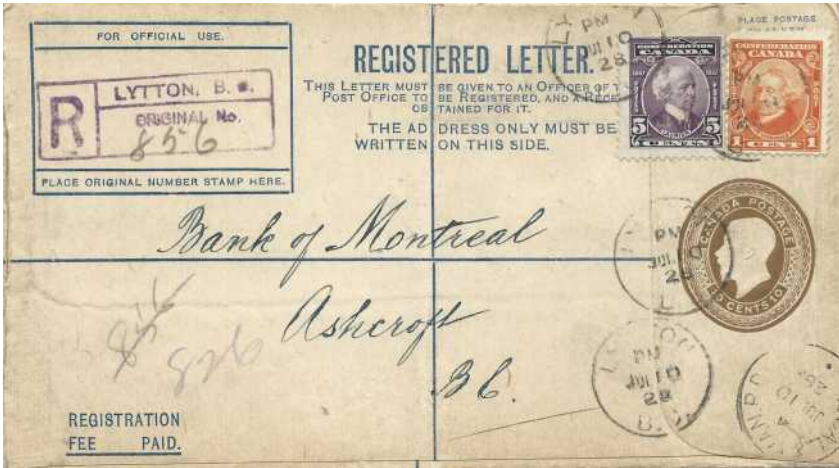


Fig 9

Figure 10 shows a very interesting use of the 1 cent stamp. It is used in combination with a 2 cents Admiral and a 10 cents USA airmail stamp on a letter to Tanganyika. The 3 cents Canadian postage paid the 3 cent Empire rate and the USA stamp paid for air mail in America as the cover is endorsed "via Seattle USA". At this time US airmail routes were fairly well established so it wasn't unusual for Canadians to send cross-continental letters via USA airmail as this could save considerable time. However, on 1st August 1928 Canada and America agreed a reciprocal air mail rate of 5 cents first ounce, 10 cents each additional ounce, so that an airmail letter posted in Canada, and using all air mail services available in each country, could be sent using a 5 cent Canadian stamp. The cover in fig 10 was posted in Boston Bar, BC on 28th August



Fig 10

1928. As George B Arfken and Walter R Plomish point out in their book “Airmails of Canada 1925 – 1939”, the Canada Post Office did not issue any bulletins or inform Postmasters or the public of this fact at the time because they were waiting for final approval for Canada’s first airmail stamp, which was not issued until 21st September 1928. Therefore, I think it is quite possibly a genuine (unnecessary) payment rather than a philatelic payment. The Canadian stamps were cancelled at Boston Bar and the airmail stamp was cancelled in the USA, which is quite consistent with the old practice. There is a Dar es Salaam receiving cancel of 3rd October 1928 on the reverse.

Figure 11 below, on the other hand, is definitely philatelic. It illustrates one of the official Government air mail services introduced prior to the 5 cents airmail rate which began on 24th August 1928. A 2 cents Confederation stamp was used in January 1928 to pay the first class forward rate as there was no extra airmail fee to pay on these official flights. I have never seen one which has not been addressed to a well known airmail collector, though they possibly exist.



*Fig 11*

Figure 12 overleaf shows the 2 cents Confederation stamp being used for non – philatelic reasons on an Empire rate post card to British East Africa (Tanganyika). Figure 13 features a very scarce and interesting use of the 2 cents Confederation stamp. Posted in April 1928, two Confederation stamps, together with two 20 cents Admirals pay the double weight domestic rate plus 40 cents registration. In 1924 a new registration scheme was introduced, whereby mail could be registered for more than the basic \$25 indemnity. This was paid for on a sliding scale, and the cover in figure 13 pays for the maximum indemnity of up to \$100.

There were a few single franking usages for the 3 cents Confederation stamp – the single weight Empire rate, for example – but I am going to illustrate it as a make-up stamp on an all Confederation cover of 1927 to Holland. Since the first Confederation

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Fig 12



Fig 13

issue of 1917, the UPU rate had been raised to 10 cents and then lowered to 8 cents. The cover in figure 14 overleaf pays this latter rate. The stamp will be shown again later, again being used as a make-up payment.

Apart from multiple weight packages of certain third class matter, there was no single usage that I can think of for the 5 cents Confederation stamp. Figure 15 overleaf illustrates a pair of them being used to pay the basic registration fee, together with a 3 cents Admiral on an Empire rate cover of 1928. Figure 16 offers a slightly more exotic rate. Here, a pair of 5 cents Confederation stamps are used with the 12 cents Confederation





Fig 14

ation stamp to pay the registration fee plus 8 cents first ounce and 4 cents second ounce UPU rate to Belgium.

As has been mentioned earlier, the Special Delivery fee had been increased to 20 cents, and a 20 cents Special Delivery stamp was issued as part of the Confederation set. Here we see it in figure 17 opposite used with a 2 cents Confederation stamp on a revalued 2



Fig 15





Fig 16



Fig 17

cents postal stationery envelope paying for Special Delivery of a double weight domestic letter in 1927.

Moving on to the Historical Issue, the same comments as regards single usage apply to the 5 cents Historical stamp as outlined for the Confederation stamp, so the next two examples show it being used in mixed frankings. Figure 18 overleaf illustrates a pair of 5 cents Historical stamps on a 2 cents postal stationery envelope on a domestic registered cover, while figure 19 shows it in combination with Confederation stamps and a postal stationery envelope to pay the registered UPU rate.

The 12 cents Historical stamp is shown in figure 20 paying for the 2 cents domestic rate plus the 10 cents registration fee. In fact, this is a local or drop letter but, since the war



Fig 18



Fig 19

tax was never lifted from the drop letter rate, it effectively did not exist at this time as it was identical to the first class forward rate.

The 20 cents Historical stamp had the same use as the 20 cents Confederation stamp, that is to say, chiefly to pay the 20 cents Special Delivery fee. It is shown incorrectly used singly in figure 21 opposite, paying the Special Delivery fee, but the sender had failed to pay the 2 cents first class forward rate, so the addressee was charged 4 cents double deficiency postage due.



Fig 20



Fig 21

Like any stamps, the use of the Confederation and Historical issues continued beyond the time when they had been replaced with another issue, with people continuing to use up left over stamps. The last three examples show some interesting uses from slightly later dates. Figure 22 overleaf is a 1930's usage of the 12 cents Confederation stamp. It pays the same rate as figure 20, but the interest is in what happened next. The letter is from the Treasurer's office, Windsor Ontario containing a letter of notification under the Assessment Act. The letter is still in the envelope, but it pertains to the estate of

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Fig 22

Antoine Mayhew. Clearly the letter was put in the wrong envelope or wrongly addressed, so the addressee on realising that the letter was not intended for him dutifully returned the letter to Post Office where the correct procedure was followed; that is to say, it was marked “Opened by mistake...” and resealed and sent back to the Treasurer’s office.

Figure 23 below shows a letter which was both registered and given special delivery, using Confederation stamps to pay for all services. Finally figure 24 overleaf shows a registered cover of 1929 to The Falkland Islands. On 25th December 1928 the 3 cents



Fig 23





Fig 24

Empire rate was reduced to 2 cents, making it possible for Canadians to send a letter anywhere in the Empire for the same price as sending one down the road.

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# POSTAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBERTA POST OFFICES ORIGINATING IN THE DISTRICT OF ASSINIBOIA – MEDICINE HAT

## Rick Parama

At noon on 1st September 1905, the District of Assiniboia ceased to exist when the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta came into being. The boundary between the two provinces was set at the 4th Meridian. Within the electoral district of Assiniboia West, there were a few post offices located west of the 4th Meridian which were transferred to the Province of Alberta. The major post office in this small region was Medicine Hat. Thus, Medicine Hat was first in the District of Assiniboia and from 1st September 1905 in the District of Alberta. The Canadian Post Office Department (POD), were prepared for this change as indeed there is recorded a date stamp from Medicine Hat dated in the morning of 1st September 1905 with an “ASSA” designation and on the same day, another with an “ALTA” designation used in the afternoon. The POD must have anticipated this change early enough to have had the replacement made. It seems that of the few offices in Assiniboia West that had this distinction; only the post office of Medicine Hat was singled out. It seems that for the smaller post offices; the POD waited to replace the date stamps with the “ALTA” provincial designation only when the “ASSA” date stamps were in need of replacement.

All known Medicine Hat date stamps, prior to noon 1st September 1905, had an “ASSA” designation. It thus came as a surprise to me that this was not the case with Medicine Hat’s first numeral 1 roller. A cover, dated 2nd October 1901, had its adhesives placed on the back and canceled with a Medicine Hat numeral “1” roller. Further the roller postmark is clearly with the “ALTA” designation and in at least two of the three possible positions in which the post office name appears “ALTA”. These seem to be an error for “ASSA”. Figures 1-3 overleaf and on page 146 show the back and front of the cover as well as a detail of the canceled adhesives.

Medicine Hat rollers during this period are not at all common. As far as I know this is the second or third example. Smythies did not record a MEDICINE HAT, ASSA roller, but does record a Medicine Hat “ALTA” roller Type IV numeral 1 is said to be dated “1910”. In “*Emerging Saskatchewan*”, Wagner and Thompson illustrate one roller from Medicine Hat but it is undated. It is listed as it was an “ASSA” roller, but the “T” of “ALTA” seems to be apparent in the strike illustrated (ID:243; bottom right margin of Map stamp, and what seems to be a 20¢ Widow Weed. On the same page Thompson & Wagner indicate there is only one recorded strike of this roller and state it is on a Canadian POD post card. If so this would be the second or third copy (it is difficult to conceive a post card with a 20¢ Widow Weed, but one never knows). The cover in Figure 2 of this article shows that the roller was issued to Medicine Hat by 2nd October 1901. A strike of this cancellation on the map stamp would support this date. Curiously,

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*Figs 1 and 2 - Front and back of the cover*

Wagner and Thompson omit this roller from the list of known “ASSA” roller postmarks in the section on roller cancels, pp. 2.6-2.7

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*Fig 3 Blow up of the block of stamps on the reverse of the cover showing the roller cancel with the ALTA designation.*



# **INNOVATIONS BY CANADIAN STAMP PRINTING COMPANIES CBNC<sub>o</sub> AND BABNC<sub>o</sub> REVOLUTIONISE THE STAMP PRINTING PRESS**

**Julian J. Goldberg and John M. Walsh *FRPSC***

From 1840 up to the 1920's, the printing of postage stamps was done by the conventional method that is termed 'wet paper' printing. This printing process, in use throughout all postage stamp issuing countries prior to 1922 for intaglio recess line engraved postage stamps, made use of paper that did not have a dry pre-gummed back. Initially this printing technique was undertaken by placing single wet sheets of paper on the then-in-use flat plate printing press. By the 1900's all postage stamp printers realised that their work load had dramatically increased. In order to supply their population's mailing requirements, Post Office Departments were ordering dramatically increased quantities of postage stamps. They were even placing orders for many different designs at the same time. The postage stamp printers knew they were being over extended. Something had to give: either more labour or faster, more efficient, machines.

In Canada, the American Bank Note Company, Ottawa (ABNC<sub>o</sub>) a subsidiary of the American Bank Note Company of New York used a small sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved wet paper rotary press that utilised single sheets of wetted paper to print the 1897 Victoria Diamond Jubilee Issue. Then in 1907, ABNC<sub>o</sub> in Ottawa used a bigger sheet-fed rotary press that utilised single sheets of wetted paper to print many one and two cent denominated postage stamps of the 1903 – 1908 Edward VII Issue in a 400 subject format instead of the earlier 200 subject format since these postage stamps were used the most and were the first Canadian postage stamps printed in the billions. This rotary press enabled faster printing and with the larger printing plate size enabled greater production. This rotary printing press was also used to do most of the wet printing of the 1911 – 1925 Admiral Issue. However, to finish the printing process for the single sheet presses a variety of labour intensive processes was still required. The paper needed to be dried so that gum could be applied to the non-printed side. Then the gum had to be dried. These single sheets then had to have perforations in both directions applied by use of two separate perforators and also guillotined to cut the sheets into separate panes. This was all labour intensive and time consuming.

Later in the development of printing techniques a different type of press, the web-fed small size intaglio recess line engraved rotary plate wet paper press, was invented by Benjamin R. Stickney and patented in 1914 (U.S. patent #1,115,127). His newly developed press design, first created to produce coil stamps, made use of a large roll of paper without gum that would stream across this press during operation. The paper was wetted just prior to being printed on. This continuous wet paper web was pulled across the impression cylinder. While the wet paper web was moving over the impression cylinder, this moving paper web was pressed by the impression cylinder to impact into

a revolving pair of curved printing plates coated with ink. The images from the two plates were absorbed by this travelling paper. The reason for employing wetted paper was to enable it to be pressed deeply into the transferred engraved lines in the steel plate. This penetration enabled the embedded ink to be taken up or absorbed into the paper. This method made use of a low pressure force. The Stickney presses were a great help in alleviating some of the printing demands but were not the complete answer to the problem. The many steps and much time needed to produce and finish printed stamps continued to be a crucial factor to the postage stamp printing companies.

In Canada, two security printing companies were in contract competition for the printing of stamp orders from the Canada Post Office Department (CPOD). Both of these printing companies realised their individual printing production constraints. These companies were the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNCo) and the British American Bank Note Company (BABNCo). The BABNCo partnered with the United States Bureau Engraving and Printing (USBEP) who was the owner of the Stickney rotary press. The BABNCo, recognising the potential of the Stickney press, acquired a USBEP large Stickney rotary press to complement its ability to bid on CPOD stamp contracts of which it won one in 1930. In response to the USBEP having its printing of 400 subject plate sheet stamps with its large size Stickney press which was patented in 1921 (U.S. patent #1,378,386), the CBNCo gradually started replacing its wet presses with sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved rotary plate dry presses in order to print more stamps and to save more time. This started on 26 December 1922 shortly after the Canadian Bank Note Company had become incorporated on 30 November 1922 as an independent Canadian company. Now, it was no longer a subsidiary of the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo), New York.

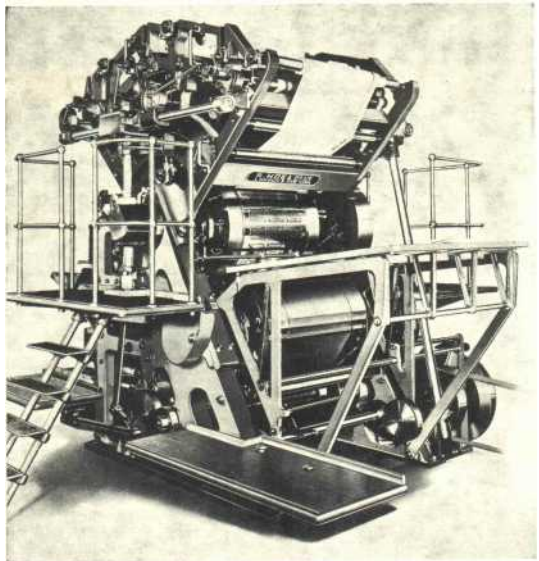
These two Canada registered security printing companies proceeded to compete aggressively against each other. They each wanted to lower labour costs and to speed up the printing process thereby garnering an advantage in contract bidding. To do both processes, they both made printing press discoveries that led to startling advances in the postage stamp printing production process. There were three notable Canadian advances regarding the production of printing postage stamps. These improvements were:

- a) The introduction of dry paper printing by CBNCo in late 1922 whereby the sheet-fed rotary plate press utilized pre-gummed one-sided dry paper for printing which was a major direction change from the wet un-gummed paper technique in use prior to this time.
- b) The introduction by BABNCo in the middle of 1930 of the use of sheet-fed flat plate press dry printing. This was a major improvement on the old method of flat plate press wet printing that was first used to print postage stamps in that it allowed flat plate printing to be done much faster than before.
- c) The ultimate improvement by BABNCo started after 1932 and before 1935 when they introduced the use of web-fed rotary plate press dry printing. Massive achievements in work and efficiency were the result.

Dry paper printing is the process of printing postage stamps on cut paper sheets or uncut paper rolls that have not been wetted with water. The paper to be employed has gum applied by its manufacturer prior to being sold to the printing company. In contrast the older wet printing process used un-gummed paper prior to printing because it had to be wetted. Only after the printing and paper drying process was gum applied. The innovative Canadian postage stamp dry printing process was a major improvement over the older wet printing process. The progressive change from wet to dry printing occurred over time on three different postage stamp printing presses.

The advantages provided by dry printing over the wet printing process are that fewer production steps are needed. The eliminated steps are: a) drying the paper after printing, b) gumming the paper after the ink drying and c) drying the paper after gumming and prior to the perforating process. These actions were all work and time consuming. With the dry printed paper process no shrinkage occurs across the paper grain that would affect the image size. There is no need to gum the paper because dry printing paper comes pre-gummed from its manufacturer. The dry pre-gummed paper leaves no marginal gaps because gum coverage is complete across all the paper. Dry printing has a requirement for faster drying printing inks. This necessity is to prevent softening of the gum. Greater printing pressure also has to be applied upon the plate in the dry printing process to enable the absorption of the printing ink from the printing plate by the dry pre-gummed paper. This increased pressure causes an embossed impression of the design that can readily be seen on the gummed side of the dry printed stamp paper.

After 26 December 1922, the CBN-Co in Ottawa began to change over from using sheet-fed rotary plate press wet printing, used from 1907 onwards (first used in 1897 only), to using dry printing. Its printing presses used curved (bent flat) printing plates with cut sheets of white wove paper. For wet printing, the process involved using cut sheets of white wove wet un-gummed paper being fed to the press through the front receiving end and then being pressed onto the inked curved printing plates by the impression cylinder and then exited via the back delivery end of the press. The wet sheets then had to be dried, gummed, dried again and perforated. For dry printing, cut



*Sheet - fed intaglio rotary plate printing press*

sheets of white wove dry pre-gummed paper were fed to the printing press through the front receiving end and then being pressed onto the inked curved printing plates by the

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impression cylinder and then exited via the back delivery end of the press. The dry sheets were then perforated. In order to provide the greater printing pressure needed for dry printing, its printing press was made with a larger and stronger impression cylinder and a larger and stronger plate cylinder to hold up to three printing plates which could print more postage stamps faster. In contrast, its wet printing press held only one or two printing plates. The full conversion change over from wet to dry printing occurred in January 1926 and the first dry printed Canadian postage stamp was the 3¢ brown King George V denomination of the 1911 - 1925 Admiral Issue, Scott/Unitrade 108c, NSSC 98d from 1923. Its wet printed counterpart Scott/Unitrade 108, NSSC 98 was first issued in August 1918. Thus, from January 1926 onwards, the CBNCo dry printed all of its line engraved Canadian sheet, booklet and coil postage stamps while up until 26 December 1922 all Canadian postage stamps were wet printed. By use of this dry printing process some of Canada's most beautiful line engraved postage stamps were produced. An example is Canada's 50¢ Bluenose postage stamp Scott/Unitrade 158, NSSC 134 which was a sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved rotary plate press dry printed postage stamp.

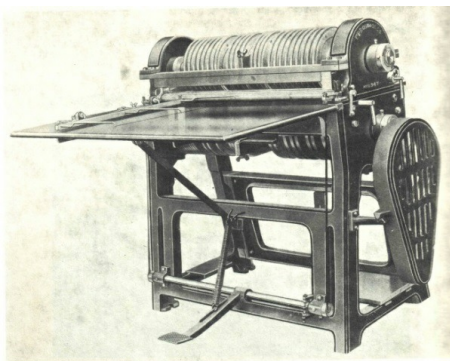


*Canada's first dry printed stamp*



*The Bluenose*

Perforating and slitting of the sheet into panes was done off-press in a separate processing step performed on different machinery. Perforating was done using two rotary wheel sheet-fed perforators which produced gauge 12 x 12 perforations. Perforating wheels on one perforator produced the horizontal gauge 12 perforations while a similar perforator produced the vertical gauge 12 perforations. A middle cutting wheel on each perforator cut the sheets down into individual panes at the same time as they were being perforated or they were separately cut by a guillotine that was not part of the perforator.



*Rotary wheel perforator*

In comparing Canada Scott/Unitrade 106, NSSC 94 which is a wet printed postage stamp with Scott/Unitrade 107e, NSSC 97f which is a dry printed postage stamp, there are three main details that accentuate the differences found between wet and dry printed Admiral Issue postage stamps. These are:

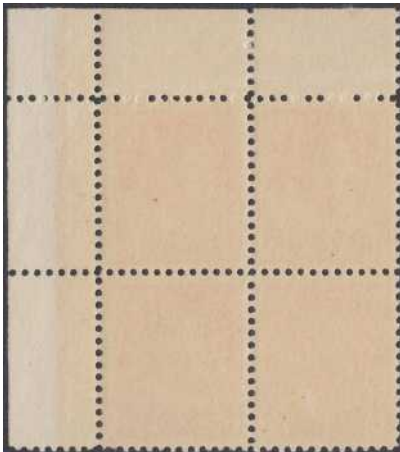


*Wet printed Scott 106*

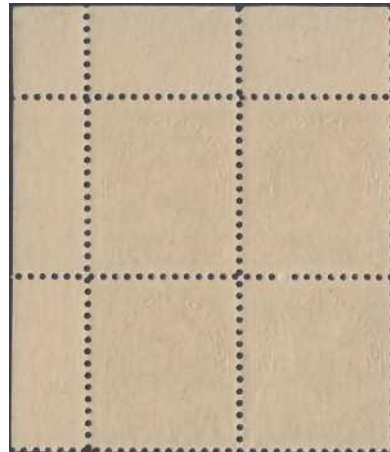


*Dry Printed Scott 107e*

a) The horizontal stamp design width is narrower on wet printed sheet postage stamps (17.5mm) than on dry printed sheet postage stamps (18mm). This happened because horizontal shrinkage occurred across the vertical grain of the wet paper when it dried. Similar horizontal shrinkage is found on wet printed Admiral booklet and coil postage stamps with a vertical paper grain. (It is observed that some early wet printed Admiral booklet postage stamp designs are vertically shorter and they are often termed 'squat' looking because the paper grain was horizontal instead of the usual vertical.)



*Wet printed Scott 106*



*Dry printed Scott 107e*

b) The increased pressure requirement in dry printing postage stamps left a distinct design impression visibly seen on the gum side of these postage stamps which looks like



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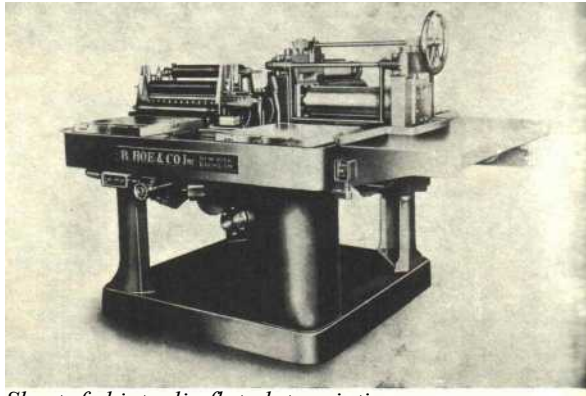


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embossing. This design impression provides a very distinguishing characteristic to dry printing which is not found on the back of wet printed postage stamps because the wet printing process required less pressure to print onto the pliable wet paper.

c) The gum on the wet printed postage stamp sheet does not completely cover the sheet but leaves a gap while the gum found on the dry printed postage stamp sheet completely covers the sheet since it had been fully applied by the paper manufacturer before the printing process.



*Sheet -fed intaglio flat plate printing press*

When the BABNCo won the contract to print Canadian postage stamps in 1930, they turned to the USBEP in order to get a Hoe four plate flatbed printing press. This press featured flat printing plates that utilized cut wet single sheets of paper that were gummed after printing. This was the same type of press being used for the flat plate press wet printing of U.S. postage stamps by the USBEP at that time. The BABNCo modified this press to enable dry printing. This would allow use of dry pre-gummed paper sheets for its Canadian postage stamps. To enable the high pressure dry printing requirement, BABNCo mainly reinforced its flat printing plate beds and its impression cylinder. The first Canadian sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved flat plate dry printed postage stamp was the 5¢ dull violet denomination of the 1930 - 1931 Arch/Leaf Issue, Scott/Unitrade 169a, NSSC 146a from 1930. Its wet printed counterpart Scott/Unitrade



169, NSSC 146 was first issued on 18 June 1930. With this flatbed press, the BABNCo dry printed all of its Canadian flat plate printed sheet and booklet postage stamps from 1930 to 1934. An example of a beautiful Canadian postage stamp printed by this method is the 1934 Jacques Cartier 3¢ postage stamp issue Scott/Unitrade 208, NSSC 172.



The Hoe sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved flat plate press could utilize up to four printing plates at the same time to form up to four separate flat printing surfaces. Hoe press operations were manual. Originally, this press had printed on dampened un-gummed white wove paper sheets using the “wet” method. With its increased pressure modifications, it could now perform the “dry” technique of using dry pre-gummed white wove paper sheets. With dry paper there is no shrinkage across the grain of the paper. On the Hoe press, up to four flat plate beds revolved in a square circuit attached to a roller chain. The multiple operations: inking, wiping, polishing, layering of pre-gummed paper sheet, passing the plate with paper sheet on it under an impression cylinder to take the printing impressions and then the removing of the printed sheet away from the plate were all manually performed in simultaneous succession.

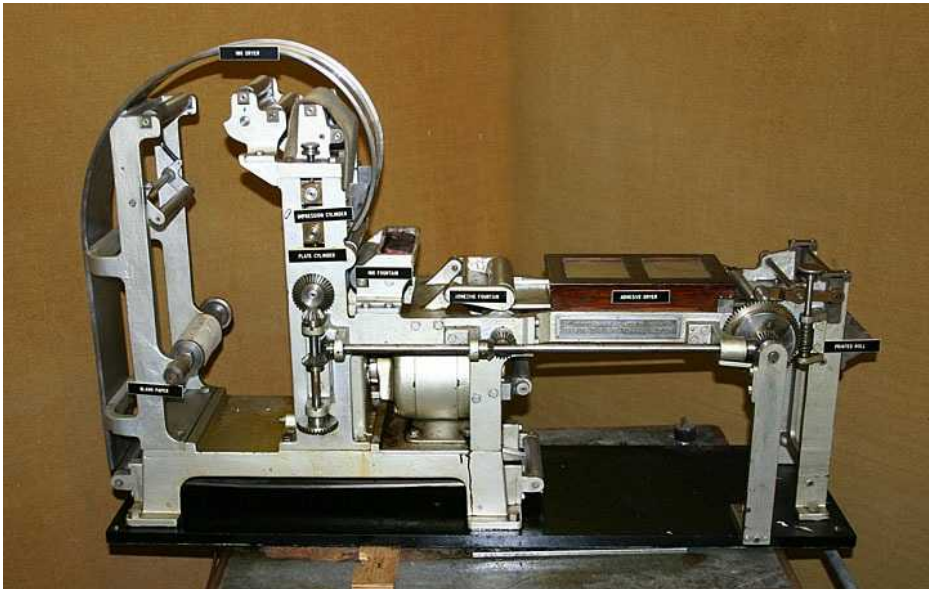
With this press there was no bending of a flat steel printing plate into a semicircle. Thus no transfer of increased image size occurred as happened from the stretched printing plate curvature direction length. But for this press to operate a greater pressure was required to push the dry pre-gummed paper sheets into the engraved printing plate. To do this, both the printing plate beds and the impression cylinder were strongly reinforced. This increased pressure enabled the dry pre-gummed paper to absorb the inked intaglio recess line engraved printing plate impressions. This high pressure procedure resulted in the printed stamps having an embossed appearance on the dry pre-gummed side.

Perforating and slitting of the sheet into panes was done off-press as a separate processing step on different machinery. Perforating was done on two rotary wheel sheet-fed perforators which produced gauge 11 x 11 perforations. Perforating wheels on one perforator produced the horizontal gauge 11 perforations while a similar perforator produced the vertical gauge 11 perforations. A middle cutting wheel on each perforator cut the sheets down into individual panes at the same time as they were being perforated or they were separately cut by a guillotine that was not part of the perforator. The main characteristics that distinguish BABNCo’s sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved flat plate press dry printed postage stamps are as follows:



Sheet-Fed Hoe Intaglio Flat Plate Press Dry Printed (Scott/Unitrade 199, NSSC 166)

- a) The stamp design height is around 22mm just like its die block because the printing plate was flat for both sheet and booklet postage stamps.
- b) The stamp design width is around 18.5mm just like its die block because there was no horizontal shrinkage across the dry vertical paper grain for both sheet and booklet postage stamps.
- c) The rotary wheel perforator produced gauge 11 horizontal perforations that extend through the selvage for both sheet and booklet postage stamps.
- d) The rotary wheel perforator produced gauge 11 vertical perforations that extend through the selvage for both sheet and booklet postage stamps.
- e) The stamp design shows an embossed impression on the back due to the increased high dry printing pressure for both sheet and booklet postage stamps.
- f) The gum fully covers all of the selvage with no gap because it has been fully pre-gummed on dry paper for both sheet and booklet postage stamps.
- g) There is a large outer horizontal top or bottom pane selvage from the original large sheet for only sheet postage stamps.
- h) There is a large outer vertical right or left side pane selvage from the original large sheet for only sheet postage stamps.



*Web-Fed Intaglio Rotary Plate Printing Press (courtesy Smithsonian NPM)*

When the BABNCo got the contract to print Canadian postage stamps in 1930, they also turned to the USBEP in order to get a Stickney rotary plate printing press. This press used two curved (bent flat) printing plates in conjunction with wet uncut rolls of paper that were gummed after printing. This was the same type of press being used for the rotary plate press wet printing of U.S. postage stamps by the USBEP at that time and the BABNCo used it for rotary plate press wet printing of Canadian sheet, booklet and coil postage stamps from 1930 to 1933. The first Canadian postage stamp printed by





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this printing press “wet” method was the 2¢ dull green denomination of the 1930 - 1931 King George V Arch/Leaf Issue, Scott/Unitrade 164, NSSC 139 which was first issued on 6 June 1930. However, after printing many Canadian postage stamps by using the web-fed intaglio recess line engraved rotary plate press wet printing method, the BABNCo managed to modify this press for dry printing of some Canadian sheet postage stamps such as 1¢ green of the 1932 King George V Medallion Issue, Scott/Unitrade 195d, NSSC 161a from after 1932 and before 1935. Its wet printed counterpart Scott/Unitrade 195, NSSC 161 was first issued on 1 December 1932. This press used two curved (bent flat) printing plates with dry uncut rolls of paper that were pre-gummed by its paper manufacturer prior to printing. It appears that when the CBNCo won back the contract to print Canadian postage stamps in 1935, they started using a somewhat similar rotary plate dry printing press to print its coil postage stamps from 1935 to 1969 starting with Scott/Unitrade 230, NSSC 183h which was issued first on 20 July 1935. (This CBNCo rotary printing press instead used only one curved printing plate which was attached to the plate cylinder. This curved printing plate printed on dry pre-gummed paper that was in a web paper roll. After the printing plate impression was transferred to the paper, the plate cylinder was stopped and the paper roll was pulled backwards to make up for the distance from the bottom of the last row printed and the top of the first row that would have to be printed next after the printing plate on the cylinder had rotated around. This printing of coil postage stamps was slower because of stopping the rotation of the printing plate on the cylinder after each impression by allowing for the adjustment of the paper roll.)



*Scott 164*



*Scott 195d*

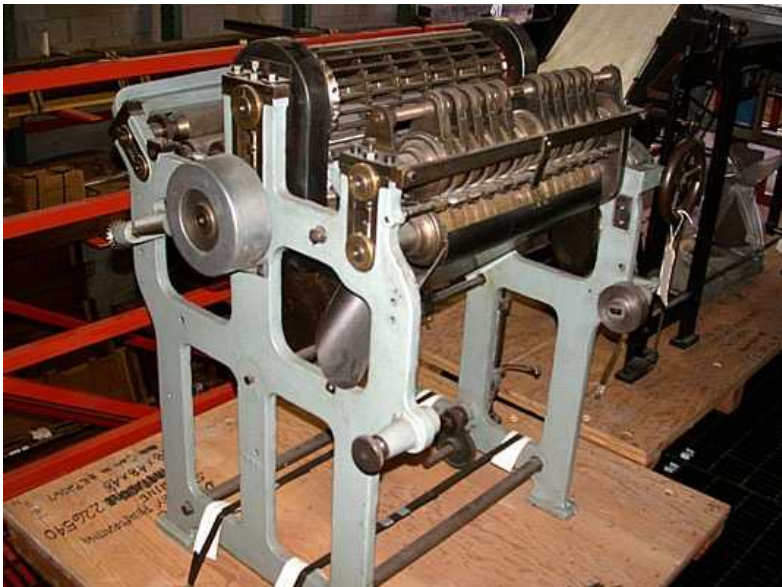


*Scott 230*

The Stickney rotary press was a web-fed intaglio press that used two paired curved recess line engraved steel printing plates mounted together on a plate cylinder to form a continuous round printing surface. Bending a flat steel printing plate into a semicircle increased the stretched length of the printing plate in the direction of the curvature and this “stretch” was transferred to the printed stamps. Stickney rotary press operations were highly mechanized. The press printed on dampened un-gummed white wove paper rolls using the “wet” method. Upon drying, wet paper shrinks across the grain of the paper. The Stickney press operating procedure has the paper web passed through dampening rollers where the paper was wetted with water and then moved in between the impression cylinder and the plate cylinder with the paired curved printing plates, which were mechanically inked and wiped. After printing, the paper web entered an electrically heated drying chamber. Upon exiting, the web moved along to the gum-

ming unit and was then dried again in another electrically heated drying chamber before being wound up at the end of the press. Perforating was done off-press on a bar and wheel perforator.

To carry out rotary press dry printing, BABNCo reconfigured its web-fed Stickney press. Dry printing used pre-gummed white wove paper rolls that before printing were pre-gummed to fully cover the paper by its paper roll manufacturer. Three major press station functions were disabled: a) web dampening, b) web gumming, c) and their related drying units. Faster drying printing inks were introduced because driers were no longer needed. Impression pressure was greatly increased to force the dry paper into the design line recesses of the inked intaglio recess line engraved curved printing plates. This was mostly done by strongly reinforcing both the impression cylinder and the plate cylinder. This left a distinct embossed design impression that can be seen on the gummed side of printed stamps. Rotary press dry printing allowed cost and time savings through production efficiencies that provided and maintained faster printing speeds by avoiding well-known wet printing production setbacks. The use of dry pre-gummed white wove paper rolls eliminated the production steps of: a) wetting the paper before printing, b) drying the paper after printing and before gumming, c) gumming the paper after drying, d) drying the paper after gumming and before perforating, and e) having to mechanically break the gum before perforating to deal with paper curling. Thus, dry printing reduced the cost and amount of time used in printing postage stamps, especially during the time of the Great Depression.



*Bar and wheel perforator (courtesy of the Smithsonian NPM)*

Perforating and slitting of the paper web into sheets was done off-press as a separate processing step on a different machine. This was all done on one Stickney bar and wheel web-fed perforator which produced gauge 11.25 x 11 perforations. The perforating bars produced the horizontal gauge 11.25 perforations while the perforating wheels produced the vertical gauge 11 perforations along with two outer cutting wheels that trimmed the right and left side selvage margins. To deal with the tendency of wet printed stamp paper that was gummed by the press to curl during changes in humidity and temperature, broad parallel gum breaker ridges that were 5mm apart were mechanically added horizontally across the dried wet paper to break the gum. The gum breaking cylinders were mounted on the perforator ahead of the front perforating wheels. After the perforating bars located in the middle of the perforator, there was a pair of mounted cutting cylinders located at the back of the perforator which cut the web roll into separate sheets that dressed their appearance by giving them a wavy horizontal cut on the top and bottom. The perforated sheets were cut into separate panes by a guillotine that was not part of the perforator.

The characteristic similarities and differences between web-fed Stickney rotary plate press wet printed and dry printed postage stamps are as follows:



*Rotary press wet printed - Scott 195*



*Rotary press dry printed - Scott 195d*

a) The height of the stamp design is more than 22mm due to rotary “stretch” in the vertical direction of printing plate curvature for web-fed Stickney intaglio rotary press wet printed sheet and booklet postage stamps and for web-fed Stickney intaglio rotary press dry printed sheet postage stamps. (For Stickney rotary press wet printed coil postage stamps, the length of the design is less than 22mm due to shrinkage occurring vertically across the wet horizontal paper grain.)

b) For wet printed stamps, the width of the stamp design is less than 18.5mm due to shrinkage occurring horizontally across the wet vertical paper grain. (For Stickney rotary press wet printed coil postage stamps, the width of the design is more than

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18.5mm due to due to rotary “stretch” in the horizontal direction of printing plate curvature.)

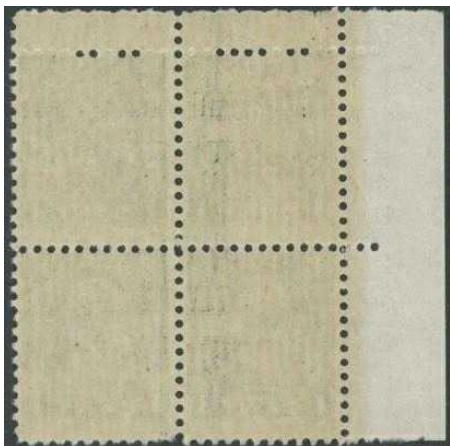
c) For dry printed stamps, the width of the stamp design is around 18.5mm just like its die block because there is no shrinkage horizontally across the dry vertical paper grain.

d) The bar on the bar and wheel web-fed perforator produced gauge 11.25 horizontal perforations that do not extend through the selvage.

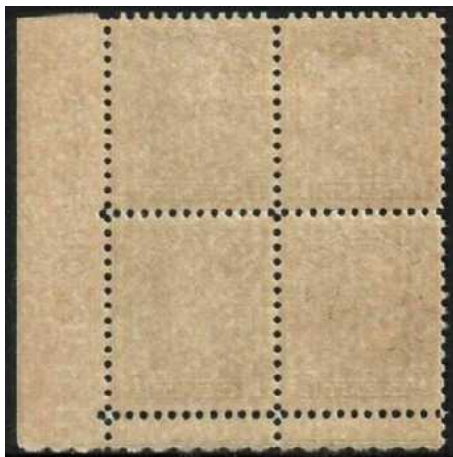
e) The wheel on the bar and wheel web-fed perforator produced gauge 11 vertical perforations that do extend through the selvage for wet printed sheet and booklet postage stamps and for dry printed sheet postage stamps. (For Stickney rotary press wet printed coil postage stamps, a web-fed Stickney bar perforator produced gauge 8.75 vertical perforations.)

f) There is a messy horizontal ink line across the bottom or top of the pane selvage caused by the ink being deposited in the joint lines between the two joined curved printing plates for both wet and dry printed stamps. (For Stickney rotary press wet printed coil postage stamps, there is a messy vertical ink line between every 24th and 25th stamp in a coil roll caused by the ink being deposited in the joint lines between the two joined curved printing plates.)

g) There is a horizontal wavy line on the bottom or top of the pane selvage produced by a pair of cutting cylinders mounted on the perforator after the perforating bars to cut the web into sheets for both wet and dry printed stamps.



*Rotary press wet printed - Scott 195*



*Rotary press dry printed - Scott 195d*

h) There are fine vertical streaming ridge lines in the gum from the on-press gum applicator roller for wet printed sheet and booklet postage stamps. (For Stickney rotary press wet printed coil postage stamps, these fine streaming lines occur horizontally.)

i) The stamp design shows an embossed impression on the gummed back resulting from the required increased high dry printing pressure for dry printed sheet postage stamps.

j) There is a gap in the gum of the left or right side selvage because the on-press gum applicator roller did not extend completely across the paper web for wet printed sheet and booklet postage stamps.

k) The gum on dry pre-gummed paper fully covers all of the selvage with no gaps because it has been fully pre-gummed by its paper manufacturer for dry printed sheet postage stamps.

l) Horizontal gum breaker lines positioned 5mm apart were added during perforating to prevent paper curling for wet printed sheet and booklet postage stamps. (Note however, that there are some dry printed sheet postage stamps that have gum breaker lines on them from before the perforator was adjusted to not apply them to dry printed stamps since they were not needed on dry pre-gummed paper as it did not curl.)

Thus, both of these Canadian companies, CBNCo and BABNCo, were at the pioneering forefront of intaglio recess line engraved dry printing of Canadian postage stamps. Both companies used different printing presses which were first used for the wet paper printing of postage stamps and which were later made or changed to enable the dry paper printing of postage stamps. Due to the different printing contracts that they each obtained, CBNCo was able to intaglio dry print Canadian postage stamps for at least 45 years while BABNCo was only able to intaglio dry print Canadian postage stamps for 5 years at the most. The most promising breakthrough in dry printing for its time was BABNCo's web-fed intaglio recess line engraved rotary plate press dry printing. Unfortunately, this BABNCo printing achievement and its dry printed postage stamps have been overlooked and misidentified for some time. The USBEP which owned the Stickney press patents did not change over from Stickney wet printing to BABNCo dry printing at the time since BABNCo may have kept its Stickney press changes to itself and it also then lost its Canadian stamp printing contract to CBNCo in 1935. Canada first started dry printing postage stamps at least 20 to 30 years before the United States. This happened even though much of the printing equipment that was supplied to and used by these Canadian postage stamp printing companies to make Canadian postage stamps was made in the United States. In comparison, the USBEP first initiated the dry printing of U.S. postage stamps when they printed the U.S. Liberty Stamp Series in the middle 1950s.



To provide more comparative information of the Canadian dry printing innovative processes to the ongoing United States intaglio recess line engraved dry printing processes, we show that the USBEP issued its first sheet-fed (Hoe) flat plate press dry printed stamp with United States Scott 1041 sheet postage stamp on 9 April 1954. This was short-lived with the last such flat plate dry printed U.S. postage stamp being Scott 1053 which was issued on 19 March 1956.

The USBEP issued its first sheet-fed (Miehle) rotary plate press dry printed stamp with United States Scott 1041B sheet postage stamp on 9 April 1954. This press was replaced by the sheet-fed Giori rotary plate dry printing press, which used dry pre-gummed paper sheets, from 1956 to 1985 starting with United States Scott 1094 which was issued on 4 July 1957.

(The Overrun Countries Issue Scott 909-921 from 1943 to 1944 is considered to be the first sheet-fed intaglio recess line engraved rotary plate press dry printed on dry pre-gummed paper United States postage sheet stamps. However, these stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo), New York, NY instead of the USBEP in Washington, DC and these stamps were also printed by two different printing processes consisting of the frames being intaglio recess line engraved and the centres being offset letter pressed (not intaglio recess line engraved printed) into the space inside the frames.)



The web-fed Huck and Cottrell rotary plate presses started use in the middle 1950s to replace the Stickney rotary plate press (which lasted from 1914 to 1962). However, both still used web rolls of un-gummed paper that were wetted with a diminished water content of 5%-10% by these presses. They named their paper process as "dry" because their water content was "drier" than the Stickney rotary press which used 15%-35% water content. But these presses still had to use the wet printing extra steps of drying and then gumming these un-gummed paper rolls after the printing process along with still having perforator gum breakers applied to the gum to prevent paper curling like with Stickney press stamps before.

The Huck presses were used from 1950 to 1955 starting with United States Scott 1016 which was issued on 21 November 1952 but this stamp was wet printed. It was not until 28 July 1954 that the first "dry" (less wet) printed United States stamp Scott 1063 was issued. The Cottrell presses were used from 1955 to 1985 and replaced the Huck presses. Its first "dry" (less wet) printed stamp was United States Scott 1081 issued on 5 August 1956. It was not until 1 March 1971 that the USBEP issued its first web-fed

(Cottrell) rotary plate press dry printed on dry pre-gummed paper stamp. It is United States Scott 1278a and 1393a booklet panes with dry dull gum without gum breakers (instead of wet shiny gum with gum breakers) found in United States Scott BK119 booklet.

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# THE GREAT BRITAIN 1½d POSTAGE DUE *DE MINIMUS* RATE

John Wright

Following World War I, gold ceased to be used as a form of currency by many countries; being replaced by paper money. This destroyed the relation between national currencies and the 1920 Madrid U.P.U. Convention created a world standard valuation based on the French Golden Centime (even though this was no longer a circulating currency). The U.P.U., laid down a standard international postage scale which included Postcards at 30gc each and Letters at 50gc for the first 20 grammes.

At the same time, the 'Double Deficiency' rule for underpaid postage was amended to become a minimum of 30gc for both Postcards and Letters. This applied from 13 June 1921 to 30 September 1925. For Great Britain, this minimum charge equated to 1½d. The letters and cards below show some examples of this '*de minimus*' postage due rate applied on mail from Canada.

The letter shown below in fig 1 was posted in Halifax N.S. on 5 October 1921 to London, England. The 3 cent brown Admiral underpays by 1 cent the 4 cent Empire rate to the UK which had become effective only a few days earlier on 1 October. There are strikes of 'T 10' in circle and '1½ D F.B.D.' to show the *de minimus* charge, and 1d and ½d postage due stamps were added and cancelled 17 OC 21. As the rate to the UK had been 3 cents (2 cents postage plus 1 cent War Tax) since 4 April 1915, it is perhaps unsurprising that a number of underpaid covers posted in October 1921 can be found.



Fig 1

Fig 2 below shows a second example, this one posted from Kakabeka Falls, Ontario on 12 October 1921 to Birmingham. Receiving a 'T 10' in circle and a one line 'INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID' handstamp, the 1½d due charge was made up of '1d' and '½d' handstamps; Birmingham having presumably not received at that time the specific '1½d' handstamp. The GB 1d and ½d stamps were again applied.



Fig 2

Fig 3 shows a letter mailed from Montreal on 21 October 1921 to London, England which also received an 'INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID' handstamp (this one in two



Fig 3



lines). This time the 1½d due charge handstamp consisted of a '1d' and a penciled in '½', and the GB postage due stamps were applied.

Fig 4 shows a letter mailed from Quebec on 22 October 1921 to London, England. This carries a 'T 10' in circle and the same style postage due handstamp as in fig 1 but with 'F.B.A.' rather than 'F.B.D.' Once again 1d and ½d postage due stamps have been



Fig 4



Fig 5

applied. Fig 5 (on previous page) mailed from Ottawa a year later on 22 November 1922 is also 1 cent underpaid. It is also clearly marked 'T 10' but in this case there is no indication of either the British postage due required or even that it was collected.



Fig 6

Fig 6 above shows a later letter mailed from Markdale, Ontario on 10 January 1925 and mailed to Aberdeen in Scotland. It too is underpaid being franked with a 3 cent red Admiral. This example shows a bold '2' handstamp (presumably applied in Canada to indicate double deficiency due of 2 cents) along with a smaller 'T 10' and a rather stubby '1½ D' handstamp applied in Britain. There are no postage due stamps present in this case; perhaps the dues were collected in cash?

Finally, I show fig 7 opposite which is something of a curiosity. This is a postcard mailed from Bracebridge, Ontario on 26 July 1951 to Godstone, Surrey. It too was underpaid by 1 cent, the postcard rate at the time being 3 cents. It received a large 'T 6' in circle and an 'INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID' handstamp, seemingly getting a handstamped '1D' and then a (blue) 1d GB postage due stamp. But closer inspection shows something between the '1' and the 'D'. When the stamp was partially lifted, a clear '1½ D' mark was revealed, similar to that on figs 1 and 3, which had been largely obliterated by careful application of the postage due stamp.

The assistance of Barrie Wright is gratefully acknowledged for the background information in this article.

*(Editor's Note: members may wonder why the covers shown in figs 1 – 4 all had 1d and ½d postage due stamps applied when GB did issue a 1½d postage due stamp. This latter*

stamp did not however come out until 1923, by which time most folk had presumably got used to the new higher postal charges. Examples of the de minimus charge being paid with a 1½d postage due stamp are scarce – however, to prove they really do exist fig 8 below shows one mailed from Hamilton to London, England in July 1923 and franked with a very early example of the 1½d GB postage due. This cover will feature in the Convention Auction sale in October 2017)



Fig 7



Fig 8

# THE USE OF FOUR RING NUMERAL CANCELS AFTER CONFEDERATION

**Graham Searle *FCPS***

Many members will be aware of the four ring numeral cancels issued in the 1850's to post offices in Canada. This series of cancels was issued to the 50 most important post offices in the Colony. To confuse matters slightly, the numbers 6 and 9 were not used as it was feared they may be confused with each other, so numbers 51 and 52 were added to make up the 50. The order in which the cancels were issued was simple – alphabetical. That is apart from 51 and 52 which were given to the offices which would have received 6 and 9! Later in the period up to 1867, a few other four ring numerals appeared, notably 516 and 627.

In this same time period, New Brunswick used their own numeral cancels- in their case numbers in barred ovals – to designate the post office of origin.

So far, so good. But when Confederation came around in 1867, a new system of cancels was clearly required to meet the needs of the new enlarged 'Canada'. Enter the two ring numeral cancels. These were issued in 1868 to the 60 most important post offices in the Dominion. This time around, number 1 was allocated to the office with the largest turnover (Montreal) with the succeeding numbers being allocated on the basis of post office size/turnover until you got to the smallest, number 60 (Newmarket).

These two groups of cancels have always been very popular with collectors and forming a complete 'set' of either is something of a challenge as some of them are very hard to find indeed. Given the main periods of use, the 4 ring cancels are usually collected either on Pence stamps or the Cents issue of 1859 (rarity factors are normally given for the latter). The 2 ring cancels are usually collected on either the Large or Small Queens (with rarity factors listed for both in the Unitrade catalogue).

Whilst you won't find 2 ring cancels used before 1868, you will find some 4 ring cancels used after that date. However, despite some searching I have been unable to find any listing of which 4 ring cancels can be found on post Confederation stamps (Large and Small Queens), never mind how rare they might be.

The fact that they exist on Large and Small Queen stamps is the result of two things, namely:-

- a) A number of post offices that were given a 4 ring cancel in the 1850's did not qualify for a 2 ring cancel in 1868. As a result, they simply carried on using the 4 ring cancel. The best example of this is Stanstead, Que (4 ring 45) which used its 4 ring cancel well into the 1890's.



- b) Some other offices which were given 2 ring cancels seem to have also carried on using the 4 ring cancels. A good example of this is Ottawa (4 ring 27, 2 ring 8). The 4 ring 27 cancel is quite often seen on early examples of the Large Queens and is probably about as common on these issues as the 2 ring 8. Ottawa clearly had a need for several cancelling devices as it was not long before they started using fancy '8' cancels to supplement the official devices so continued use of the 4 ring cancel was probably a convenient option in 1868.



*Three Large Queen stamps showing 4 ring cancels of (from left to right) Ottawa (27), St. John's, Quebec (39) and Three Rivers (47). All three of these post offices were issued with 2 ring numeral cancels in 1868.*



*Two Small Queen stamps showing 4 ring cancels of (from left to right) Melbourne (20) and Stanstead (45). Neither of these offices were issued with a 2 ring cancel in 1868 and appear to have simply continued using the older 4 ring cancel.*

So, which 4 ring cancels exist on Large and Small Queen stamps? In attempting to put together a list I first consulted the sale catalogue of the late Jim Hennoks' collection of numeral cancels. Jim had what was probably the finest collection ever formed of these cancels so it seemed a decent place to begin. To that list I have added a few of my own and some I have seen offered on e bay or in auction elsewhere. The result is shown below but is, I am sure, far from complete. As one would expect, the list of numbers known on the Large Queens is far greater than that on the later Small Queens but both lists are surprisingly long.

At this stage I am making no attempt to assess the relative scarcity of these cancels but I suspect that with one or two exceptions, most of these cancel/stamp combinations are quite scarce.

**4 ring Numerals known on Large Queen stamps:-**

1, 2, 7, 10, (13), 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, (38), 39, 41, (45), 47, (52), 516, (627)

**4 ring Numerals known on Small Queen stamps:-**

13, 20, 23, 24, 35, 36, 38, 41, 45, 52, 627

The numbers shown in brackets in the Large Queen list have not been seen by me but may be presumed to probably exist given they are known on Small Queen stamps.

I would ask all our members who collect Large and Small Queen stamps to check their holdings and see if they have any other 4 ring Numeral cancels not listed above. It would also be nice to have confirmation of the existence of the numbers in brackets in the Large Queen list if any members has any of these.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to member Cimon Morin who has been awarded the inaugural Anatole Walker prize. This prize is awarded to the author(s) of the best article



appearing in the year of publication of the *Bulletin d'histoire postale et de marcophilie*, the official organ of the Société d'histoire postale du Québec (SHPQ).

Cimon was awarded the prize for his article on the early posts of Hull, Que in an article entitled “Les débuts de la poste à Hull”

The photo on the left shows Cimon receiving the award from the President of the SHPQ, Christiane Faucher

# SOCIETY NEWS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Arrangements for the 2017 Convention are progressing well. There are no changes to the draft philatelic programme published in the April issue of *Maple Leaves*. However, I have now finalised the arrangements for the two afternoon trips as follows:-

On the Thursday we will be taking a trip on the Strathspey Steam Railway from Broomhill (near Grantown) to Aviemore, then travelling on by coach to the Cairngorm Mountain Base station with the opportunity to take the Funicular railway up the mountain, weather permitting, if you wish. The Base station sits at around 610m above sea level so the views even from there are fairly impressive. There is also a nice café there for those who don't wish to travel to the top. The top station sits just below the summit of Cairngorm mountain at around 1100m. On a clear day you can see most of Northern Scotland from there so hope for good weather but do wrap up warm!

On the Friday we will be visiting Culloden. This is a National Trust for Scotland property and members of NTS or any affiliated group will have free entry so do remember to bring along your cards if you are members. Culloden is the site of the last battle fought on the British mainland in 1746 when the troops of King George defeated the Jacobite army of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

In addition to the organised trips, I know that some of you have expressed an interest in bird-watching opportunities around Grantown. The Cairngorm National Park is excellent for birds and other wildlife and to maximise your opportunities I would suggest adding on some days before or after the Convention. Our hotel has a mass of information to help you. However, if you are pushed for time, Graham has rather gallantly offered to get up very early to lead some pre-breakfast wildlife walks around Grantown, wether permitting.

The area also has a multitude of whisky distilleries and golf courses (two of Scotland's main exports!) Once again there will be plenty of information available on arrival if you are interested in either of these pursuits.

The full updated draft programme can be found on the Society website.

Please remember that to guarantee your hotel room, bookings must be in by July 31st. You do not have to send the form if you do not wish to do so, just e mail me the required information.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Heart of the Highlands in October.

**Karen Searle**

## **FROM THE SECRETARY**

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Society's Annual General Meeting to be held at the Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown on Spey on Saturday 7th October 2017, commencing at 0900hrs. If any member has any item they would wish to see added to the Agenda under 'Any Other Competent Business', they are asked to contact me no later than 15th September with the Agenda Item(s) and sufficient background information that I can raise the matter on your behalf should you not be planning to attend the meeting in person.

**John Watson**

## **FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER**

Our next Society Auction will be a room sale to be held in conjunction with Convention at the Grant Arms Hotel in Grantown on Spey on Saturday 7th October 2017 commencing at 2pm.

The Catalogue for this sale will be online during August. As usual, if you don't have easy internet access please request a paper copy (those who have done this in the past need not ask again – you will get one automatically).

The sale contains a very wide range of material but is particularly strong in Edward VII and Admiral period stamps and postal history, including many rarities and also Postal Stationary and transatlantic mails incoming to BNA from the UK. We are also pleased to offer a good range of 19th century Canadian bisect material and a large accumulation of early Cinderella material from the Canadian Colleges and Express companies.

As usual, there will also be a host of other material from 18th century pre-stamp covers to modern postal history with material lotted to suit all pockets with estimates from £2 to many £100's. Remember that the ever increasing buyers premiums added on by most commercial auction houses do not apply in the Society sale so please take a look at the Catalogue and support the Society by bidding with confidence for some quality material knowing you will only pay one increment above the next highest bidder with no add-ons other than postage and packing.

**Graham Searle *FCPS***

## **LONDON GROUP**

The London Group programme for the balance of the season is as follows:-  
17 July                      Something different – e.g. non-Canadian

All members are requested to bring along a few sheets or items to query, to each meeting.



All meetings are held at 31 Barley Hills, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 4DS and will commence around 12 noon.

For confirmation of meetings, or for any further information, or if in doubt due to weather etc. please contact Dave on 01279 503625 (home) or 07985 961444 (mobile).

**Dave Armitage *FRPSL***

## **SCOTLAND AND NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP**

The next meeting of the Scotland and North of England Group will be held on Saturday 28 October 2017 at the Buccleugh Arms Hotel in Moffat, commencing at 1400hrs. All members are welcome to attend, please bring along a few sheets to display or any items you need help with identifying. Please contact the Editor for any further details.

**Graham Searle *FCPS***

**AND FINALLY.....**

A picture of your President helping to hold up a ridiculously large cup (The Glasgow 800 Cup) awarded to your Editor at the recent Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies dinner in Perth.

The cup was won for a Postal History display of the Early Rate Handstamps of Canada 1836 - 1875 in four frames which the Editor is threatening to use as the basis for an article in a future issue of *Maple Leaves* if insufficient material is forthcoming from our members.

You have been warned!

In the meantime, domestic negotiations are ongoing regarding the polishing of the cup!



# AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP

## to 15th JUNE 2017

### New Members:-

3051 FINLAY, Bob; 127 London Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9SQ; e mail:  
[bob3109@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bob3109@hotmail.co.uk) ; CL, CS, PBL, FDC

### Change of Address and Corrections to Address:-

2495 TRIPLETT, Brian; 1161 Spring Glen Court, Leland, NC 28451, USA  
2807 LONGLEY, Bill; revised postal code (address remains unchanged) L8B 0P5  
3026 HEROLD, Maxime; PO Box 92591, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6W 4R1; e mail :  
[canadastampfinder@gmail.com](mailto:canadastampfinder@gmail.com)

### Resigned:-

2495 TRIPLETT, Brian (due to ill health)

### Removed for non-payment of dues:-

2639 DICKINSON, Roger  
2784 TAYLOR, Martin  
2862 FLYNN, Charles  
3021 HAMMOND, Rob  
3028 DUMSDAY, Paul  
3033 COTTENDEN, David  
3036 FRIESEN, Rick

Revised Total:- 252

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 2017

Jul 8 MIDPEX, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre  
**Jul 17 London Group Meeting - Bishop's Stortford**  
Jul 20 - 23 PHSC Symposium, Hamilton, Ontario  
Jul 21 - 22 York Stamp & Coin Fair, York Racecourse  
Jul 27 - 30 Philatelic Congress of GB, Cardiff  
Sept 1 - 3 BNAPEX 2017, Calgary, Alberta  
Sept 13 - 16 Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London  
**Oct 4 - 8 CPSGB Convention, Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown - on - Spey**  
Oct 14 Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Stamp Fair & Convention, Ardingly  
Oct 24 - 29 FIP Exhibition, Brasilia, Brazil  
**Oct 28 Scotland and North of England Group Meeting, Moffat**

### 2018

Feb 14 - 17 Spring Stampex, BDC Islington, London  
Aug 15 - 18 PRAGA 2018 - Prague  
Sep 12 - 15 Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London

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