

Maple Leaves

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

**ISSN
0951-5283**

October 2020

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Journal of
THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
INCORPORATED 1946

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Opinions expressed in the various articles in this journal are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Society

Published four times a year by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain
web address: www.canadianpsgb.org.uk

Annual Subscription £15.00 UK/ £20 Overseas – Due 1st January

Vol. 36 No. 8**October 2020****Whole No. 358**

EDITORIAL

This issue of Maple Leaves contains, as an enclosure, the annual reminder regarding subscriptions. These fall due on 1 January 2021. If your copy does not have the enclosure, fear not. A missing enclosure simply means that you need take no action as you have already paid, have life membership or have been a member continuously for over 50 years (in which case you are excused for loyal service!). However, as usual, if you are in any doubt please contact our Subscriptions Manager(s) – details can be found on the inside of the back cover.

At our Annual Convention we normally ask our Officers to present annual reports to those members attending. With no Convention possible this year we have decided to include these reports (or at least those we had to hand) in this issue for all to read. You can find them on pages 475- 479 along with the Annual Accounts. If you have any queries regarding these reports or the accounts please get in touch with the relevant officer. As before, contact details can be found on the inside back cover.

My thanks go out to all those members who have participated, either as sellers or buyers (or both) in the recent auction which will have closed by the time you read this. As you will see from the Officers Reports, the auctions make a considerable contribution to Society funds helping us to keep subscriptions at historically low levels but more importantly they provide some excellent material to add to our collections and even the odd bargain along the way. I would urge you all to look out any surplus material you may have for future auction sales and/ or the Society packet; both the Auction Manager and the Packet Manager are always on the lookout for new material.

Whilst on the subject of the Exchange Packet, members should note that the Packet Manager has been busy uploading new material to the website over the last 3 months. This new material includes both covers and cards and also stamps including revenue material. So, take a quick look if you have not already done so. You can find the goodies at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk

2020 has certainly turned out to be a year none of us will forget with much of normal life on hold for long periods and stamp club meetings and exhibitions cancelled or postponed. The digital age has come to our rescue with many auction houses still able to function with online attendance and dealers able to continue selling their wares via the web. As this issue goes into the mail, I and many others will be 'attending' a virtual Stampex. It remains to be seen just how effective such an event will be but it will, at least, save me the trip to London (thus more to spend on stamps!) I hope the many dealers who have signed up to participate will find it worth their while.

Earlier in the year, when we were all in 'lockdown' here in the UK, I was hoping that the enforced period of study and contemplation may bring forth a flood of new articles for *Maple Leaves*. Alas, few have so far appeared and the Editorial cupboard is looking as bare as I can ever remember it being. So, if you want to continue receiving a varied and interesting journal in 2021 please get writing. Articles can be long or short, serious or frivolous. I am more than happy to edit your work, correct your spelling and grammar etc so don't be shy!

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POSTAL ADVERTISING DIE SLUGS – POST WORLD WAR 1 - PART 2.

Malcolm Newton

In this concluding part of the immediate aftermath of WW1 and its effect on the wording of the slogans issued during 1919 by the various offices across Canada, the emphasis is still on the encouragement to save and invest in Government schemes. There was, however, one complete departure from all the other slogans issued this year and this came from Niagara Falls. Used in 1919, 1920 and 1921 it spread the message “Conserve Energy, Locate Factory at Seat of Power”. From the Writer's own visit to this area a few years ago, it did not strike me as being a particularly industrialised area, even a century later.

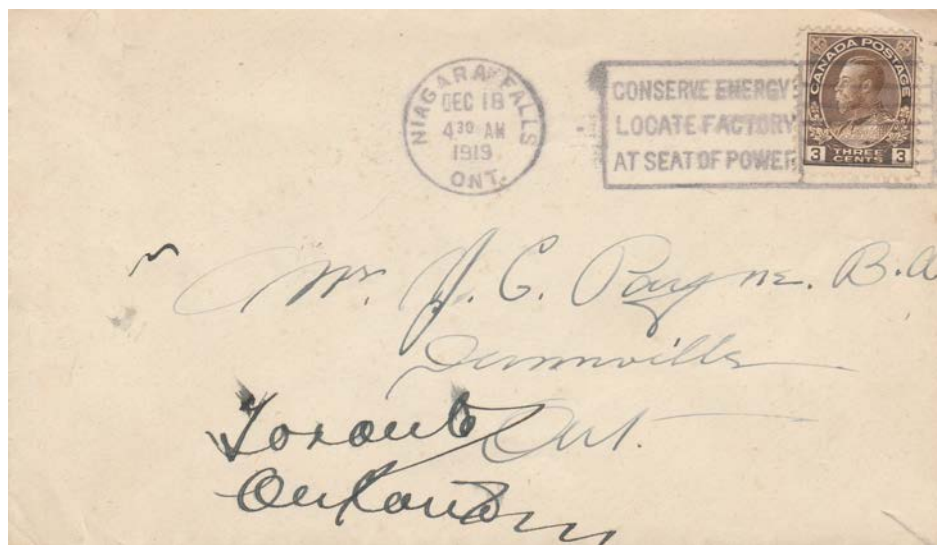


Fig 13 First recorded 17 June, this example from Niagara Falls is the last known date of use in 1919.

As we go into late summer, the 'Buy War Savings Bonds' message is still in full flow but a number of cities are still determined to advertise their exhibitions and fairs. For example, there was the 'Coburg Horse Show Aug.' repeat as were Toronto's 'Canadian National Exhibition Aug 23 to Sept 6.' and 'Broadview Boys' Fall Fair Sept. 17-20' with New Westminster using it's new Universal machine to promote it's 'Provincial Exhibition Sept. 29 – Oct. 4'. Kingston and Victoria also joined in, temporarily replacing their 'Buy War Savings' die. Examples of the Kingston Exhibition slogan and the Victoria Home Products Fair slogan are shown in figs 14 and 15 overleaf.



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Well the moment has arrived! After 15 years of negotiations, the owner of these three UNIQUE imperforate sheets has finally agreed to sell. The editors of the Unitrade Canada Specialized were aware of their existence and they were listed in a footnote. Orders will be taken on a first come first basis and cut up accordingly. Sheets are all VF Never Hinged but some do have minor gum pinches or wrinkles and were originally bought from an Archive Sale. Prices will be as follows. Payment plans can be arranged.

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Fig 14 The Kingston Industrial Exhibition slogan shown here was used between 7 August and 27 September.

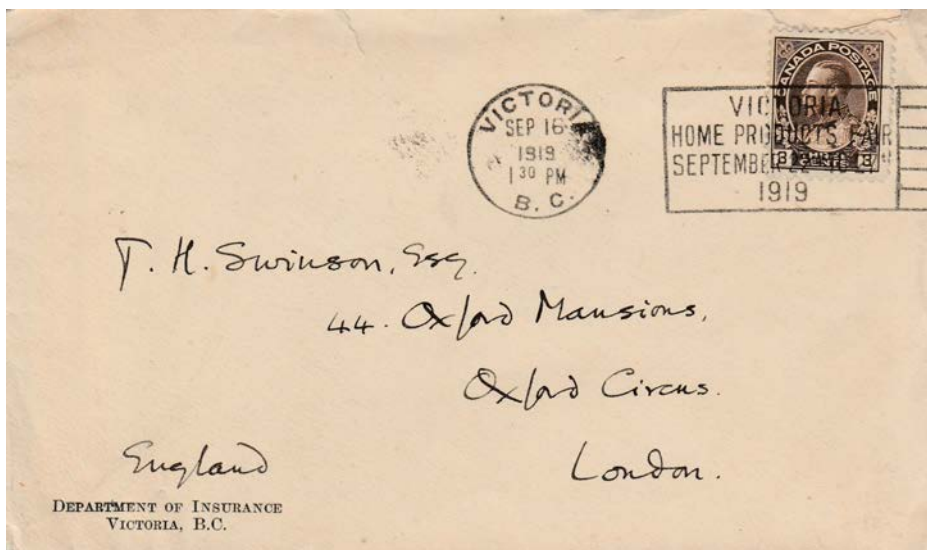


Fig 15 'Victoria Home Products Fair September 22nd to 27th 1919' was used between 28 August and 27 September.

However, there was to be a slight change in the patriotism message as, in the second and third weeks of October, the appearance of a new campaign emerges with "Buy Victory

Bonds – all Canada is your Security” at 16 offices and “Buy Victory Bonds every dollar spent in Canada” used at 18 locations, a couple of which ran the two dies concurrently due to the number of cancelling machines they possessed. Another 14 offices employed the “Victory Loan 1919 the Bridge from War to Peace” wording.



Fig 16 ‘Buy Victory Bonds - all Canada is your Security’. The Universal dies employed at Hamilton and that of the scarce office of Yarmouth N.S. The recorded periods of use are 15 October to 17 November and 16 October to 13 November respectively.



Fig 17 ‘Buy Victory Bonds every dollar spent in Canada’ used at Kingston between 29 October and 8 November..

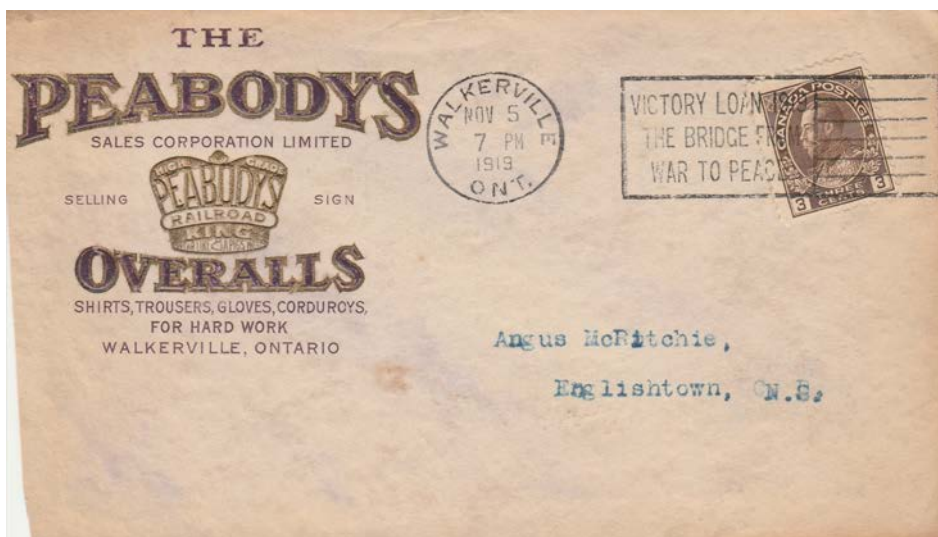


Fig 18 Walkerville's die with the 'Victory Loan 1919 the Bridge from War to Peace' wording used from 23 October to 3 November.

Whilst all this was going on, six offices advertised another campaign entitled "Clean-up! Fire Prevention Day October 9th 1919". This campaign was repeated in 1920 and 1922 at other offices, but with the appropriate dates for the year concerned.

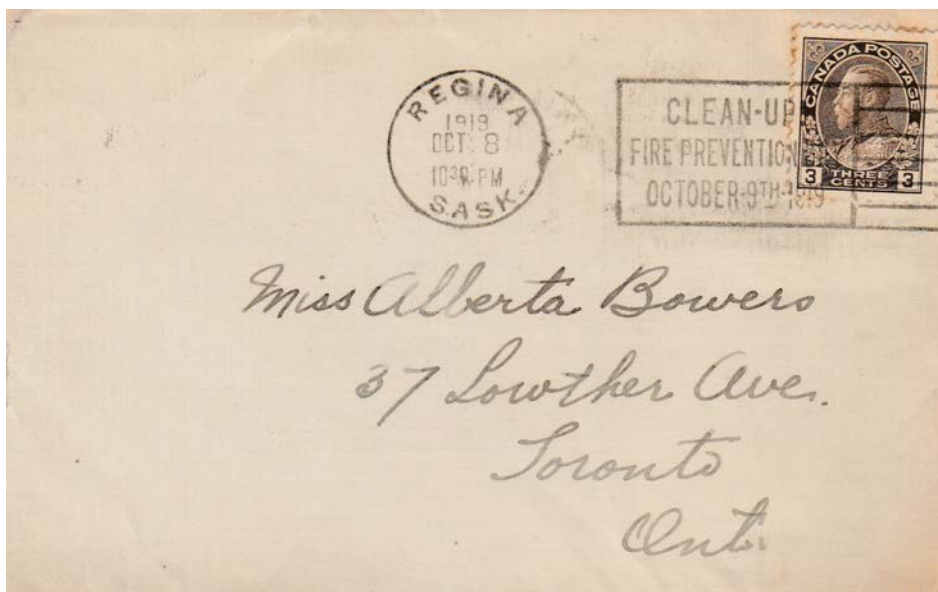


Fig 19 This Regina die is recorded from 29 September with this cover bearing a date 8 October being possibly the latest known.

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BNA AND CANADIAN POSTAL HISTORY



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Another patriotic message was brought into use at 13 locations with all using Universal dies other than North Bay who had a Columbia machine. This read “Let us not demobilize patriotism Buy Victory Bonds”. Again, another late October release, running for just a few weeks. Use at Toronto is recorded by way of a single example dated 4 November.

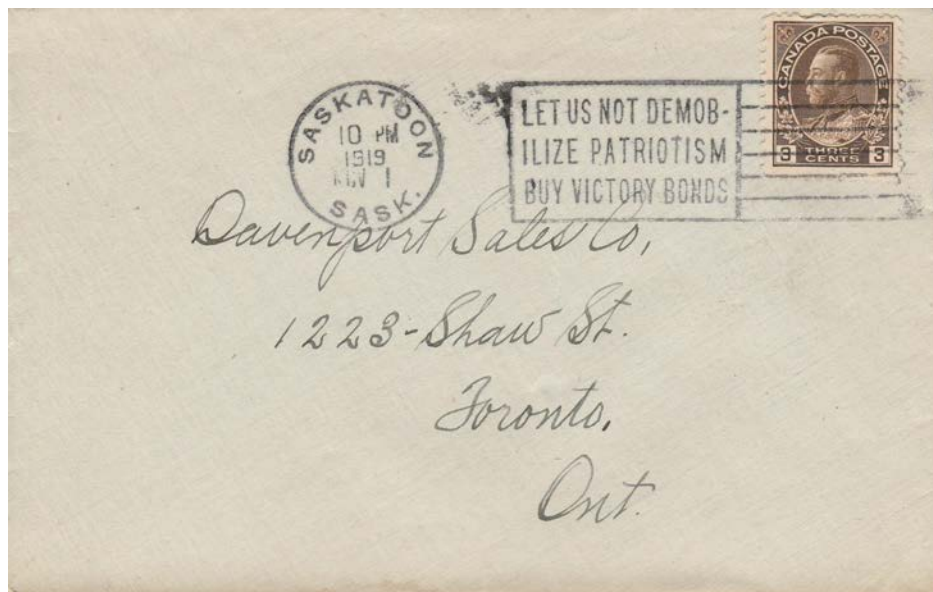


Fig 20 Saskatoon's message is recorded used from 18 October to 11 November.

A similar message is recorded from Quebec, in French, which reads “Finissons la Besogne Emprunt de la – Victoire – 1919” or 'let's finish the job'. It does not appear to have been utilised by Montreal. An example of the Quebec die is shown overleaf.

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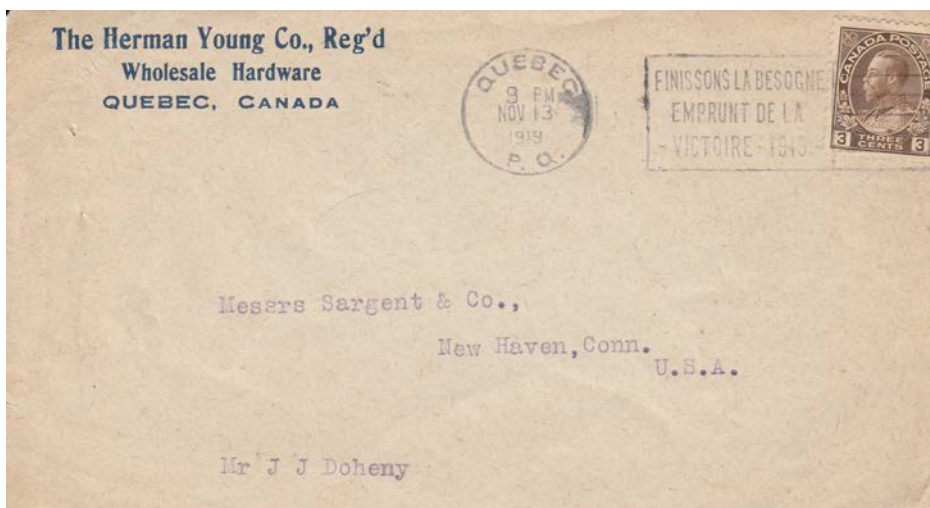


Fig 21 This example of the Quebec die is the last known date of use - 13 November.

Another 14 offices used the wording “Keep our Farms and Factories busy Buy Victory Bonds”, with Collingwood and Orillia having Columbia machines.



Fig 22 Sydney N.S. used the ‘Keep our farms and factories busy’ slogan from 17 October to 13 November.

1919 finished with Calgary's "Alberta Winter Fair" slogan in November and of course, Toronto had the final say on 1 December, with it's "Help the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives", the first time since January 1916, but now with Universal dies.

For those readers with good memories, I mentioned in Part 1 of this article the high activity at Montreal. At the beginning of September 1919, Montreal had at least four Universal machines enabling four separate dies to be used of the 'Buy War Savings' slogan, reputedly being in operation to the end of the year, with use into January 1920. Along with other offices, Montreal introduced it's "Clean-up! Fire Prevention Day October 9th 1919" between 20 September and 9 October, before being withdrawn and replaced by no less than five concurrent slogans during the week commencing 13 October.



Fig 23 'Clean up! Fire Prevention Day' slogan from Montreal. (Image courtesy of Yan Turmine.)

Exactly what day they commenced can only be judged by the earliest recorded day by philatelists. These are "Souscrivens a L'Emprunt de la Victoire", "Keep our Farms and Factories busy - Buy Victory Bonds", "Let us not Demobilize Patriotism - Buy Victory Bonds" and "Répondez à l'Appel Emprunt de la Victoire 1919". "Liquidons la Guerre Emprunt de la Victoire 1919" emanated from Station B which implies that not all slogans were used at the main sorting office and may account for the number of dies in use at the same time.

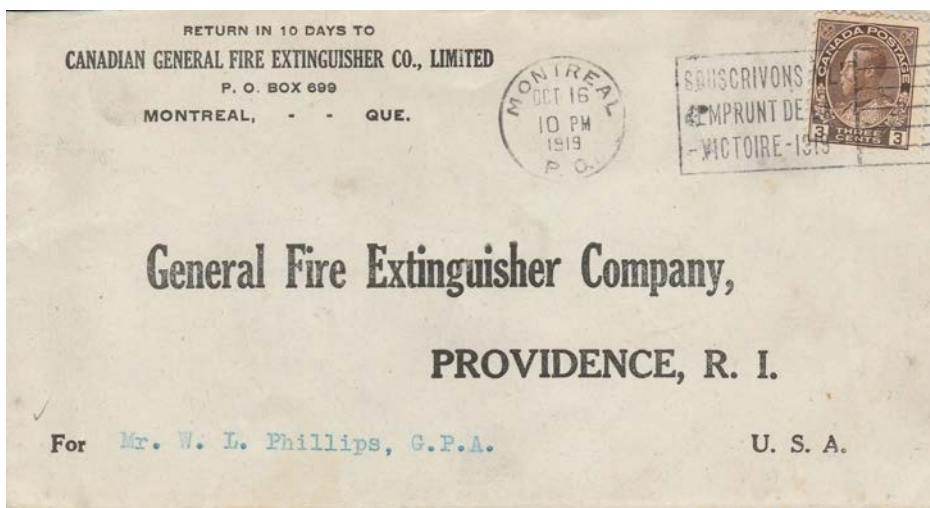


Fig 24 'Souscrivons a L'Emprunt de la Victoire' or 'let's subscribe to the victory bond'.



Fig 25 'Keep our Farms and Factories busy Buy Victory Bonds'

A further slogan appeared the following week, with the earliest recorded date being 21 October which was the "Buy Victory Bonds all Canada is your Security". An example of this slogan can be seen on page 435. All six slogans ceased abruptly during the week ending 16 November.

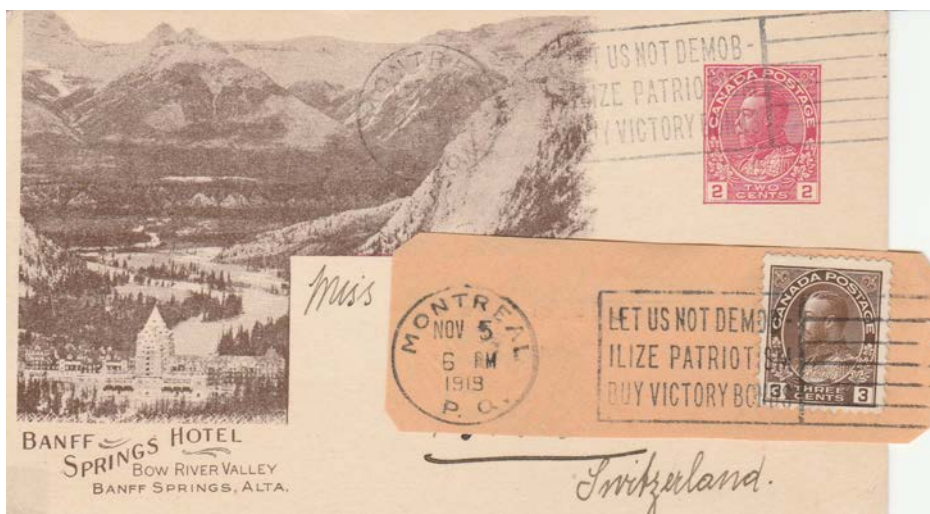


Fig 26 'Let us not Demobilize Patriotism Buy Victory Bonds' used on a CPR Banff Springs Hotel card dated 30 October together with a clearer impression.



Fig 27 'Répondez à l'Appel Emprunt de la Victoire 1919', roughly translates as 'answer the call - buy Victory Bonds'.

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Fig 28 'Liquidons la Guerre de la Victoire 1919' or 'finance the war - buy Victory Bonds'. This clearly shows that the cancellation was carried out at Station B.

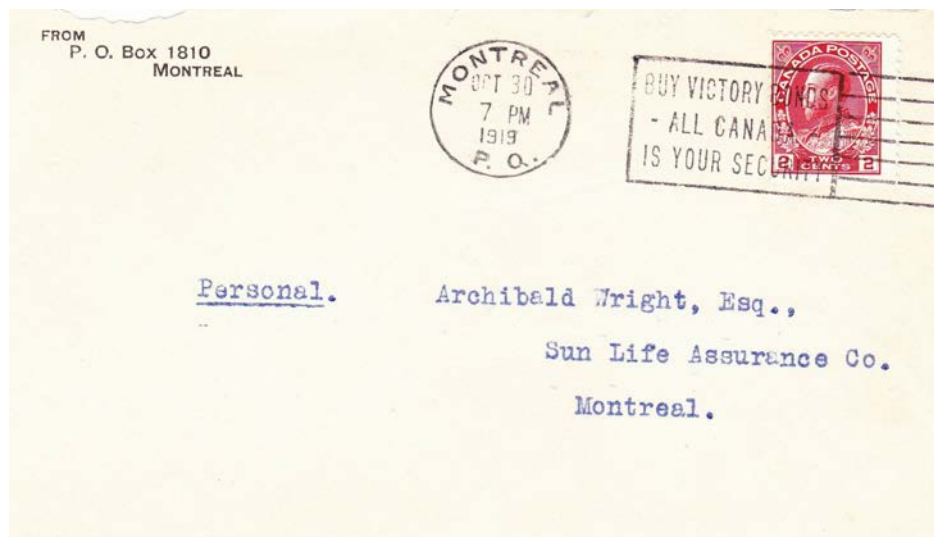


Fig 29 'Buy Victory Bonds all Canada is your Security' slogan from Montreal. (Image reproduced courtesy of Bob Thorn.)

With so many dies being utilised over such a defined period, it has been suggested that a number of Montreal's sub-offices were used to employ these dies as mentioned above and also in the dater hub.

Following the withdrawal of these dies, presumably the 'Buy War Savings' message regained prominence. Just as everything was settling down to normality, die 1 which was possibly put aside in the week commencing 22 September, made a re-appearance on 1 December but re-worked to include the letter 'C' in the obliterating bars.

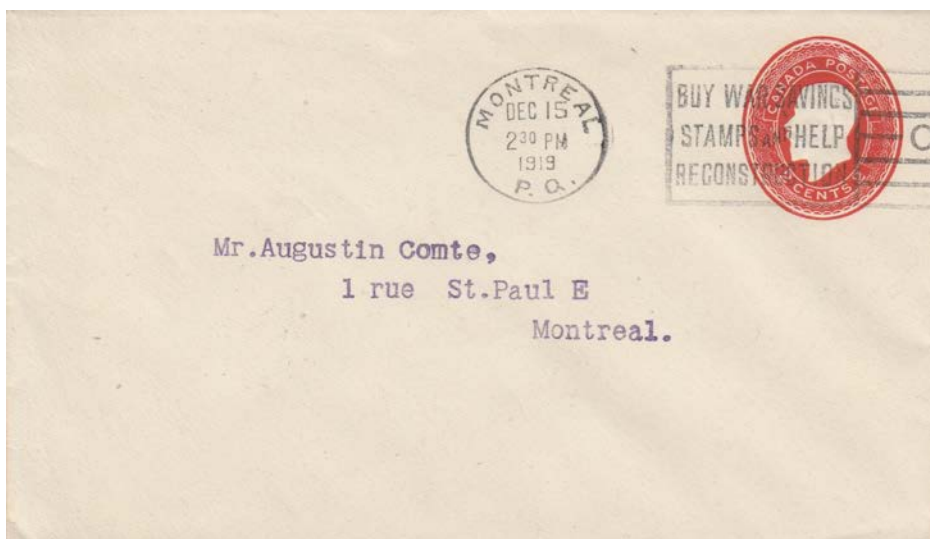


Fig 30 'Buy War Savings' die 1 slogan with a 'C' added to the killer bars. First appearing on 1 December it has been recorded being used in January 1920.

To conclude this article, I now illustrate on the chart opposite exactly how this hectic period relates in the 1919 calendar. The chart clearly shows the overlap of the dies in relation to the 'Buy War Savings' message. However, whilst it appears that others may have specimens of this slogan in use between 13 October and 16 November, regrettably I do not. Consequently, I can't confirm that there were nine machines in use at any one time although I have yet to find anyone who contradicts this theory.

If anyone reading this article has any of these Montreal covers and would like to sell them to me, I would be interested to initially receive scans – email in the CPSGB directory.

Finally, my thanks go to Hugo Deshayes for his assistance in translation of Canadian French used in these slogans.

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Universal Die 1

Clean-up! Fire Prevention
Day October 9th 1919

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de la Victoire

Keep our Farms and Factories
busy buy Victory Bonds

Liquidons la Guerre Emprunt
de la Victoire 1919

Let us not Demobilize
Patriotism Buy Victory Bonds

Répondez à l'Appel Emprunt
de la Victoire 1919

Buy Victory Bonds all Canada
is your Security


Buy War Savings Stamps and
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WWII CANADIAN MERCHANT NAVY MAIL

Johnathon Johnson, OTB

On 1 September 1939, the ocean-going Canadian Merchant Navy (CMN) consisted of thirty-seven Canadian registered ships that weighed over 1,000 deadweight tons, manned by one thousand, four hundred and sixty men. Of these, five hundred and ten seamen (35 percent) died at sea prior to the Canadian government's 1942-1945 merchant ship building program. That program increased the total number of ocean-going CMN seamen to eight thousand, three hundred and fifty. By 1945 the CMN had become the fourth arm in Canada's participation in the successful war over the Axis powers, along with the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force. Without delivery of munitions and material the armed forces would have had little to fight with. The details in this article also apply to Great Lake ships (Lakers) when they left North American waters.

1) Mail Handling Process - September 1939 to June 1943

Peacetime handling of merchant seamen's mail continued without much change for the first forty-six months of the war, with the notable addition of civilian postal censorship of mail to foreign countries. Mail to a merchant seaman was addressed with the seaman's name, his ship's name, c/o the company name and address. This mail was then forwarded to the seaman by the company. Mail sent from merchant seamen to Canada had to follow the regular civilian postal regulations, including postal censorship, of whichever port they were in, whether overseas or in Canada.

2) c/o PO Box 9000 Mail Forwarding Program (July 1943 to September 1945)

Despite the desire for prompt mail delivery for morale purposes, security reasons inevitably led to a slower service. Within a week of the war starting the British Admiralty refused to provide civilian companies with convoy information deemed secret, including when and where their ships were sailing. As more merchant ships were ordered into convoys the steamship companies were unable to effectively manage the handling of mail addressed to their ships. After months of discussion, agreement was reached on 6 July 1943 that the Royal Canadian Navy would take responsibility for handling mail addressed to merchant seamen through their Fleet Mail Office (FMO) system. Within weeks the RCN started their merchant navy mail forwarding program called "c/o PO Box 9000, Montreal". This "closed" form of address was created exclusively for mail addressed to CMN ships. Included in this program was mail to RCN gunners while serving on loan to DEMS (Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship) ships. The seamen were to advise their contacts that their return address was c/o PO Box 9000 Montreal. (see figure 1 overleaf) The Box 9000 Montreal office was located in a small office at the HMCS Hochelaga training base, located at 224 Place d'Youville in Montreal.

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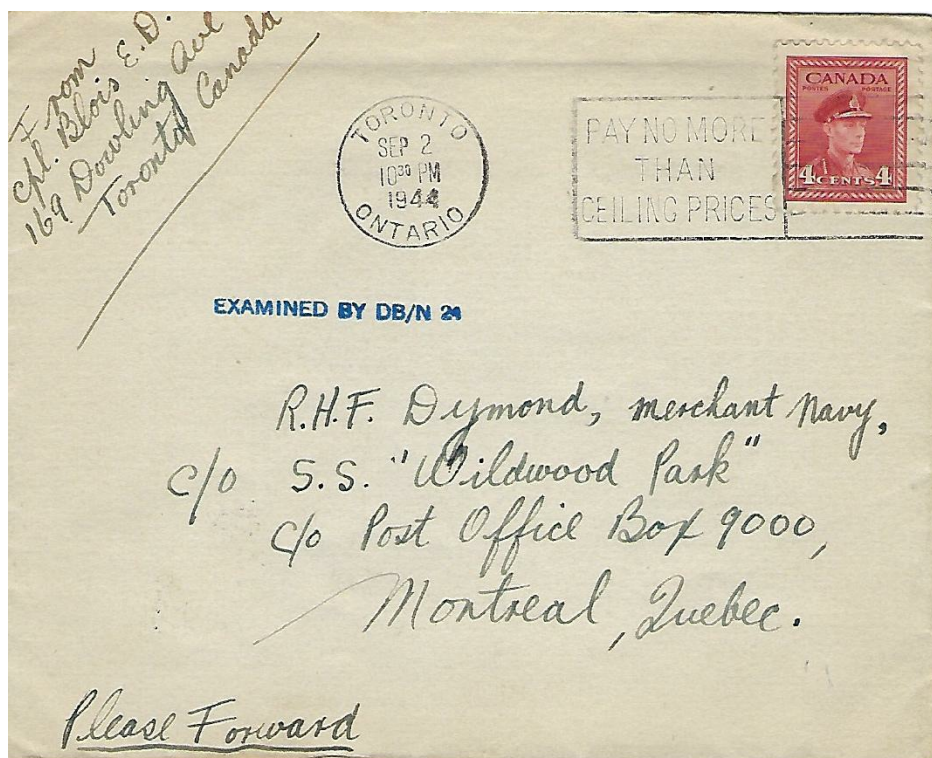


Fig 1 : Cover to R.H.F. Dymond on SS Wildwood Park c/o P.O. Box 9000, Montreal, PQ. With Box 9000 censor 24.

3) Expansion of Merchant Navy Mail Handling (June 1944 to September 1945)

The success of the Box 9000 Montreal process led to the opening of a second Box 9000 office on 30 Aug 1944, "c/o PO Box 9000 Vancouver" (see figure 2 opposite). A sailor could use either Box 9000, Vancouver or Montreal, as his return address. Seamen serving in the Pacific could of course expect quicker movement of their mail if they used Box 9000 Vancouver.

4) Merchant Seamen Given Postage Free Privileges (April 1945 to January 1946)

About the 3 April 1945, Mr H Beaulieu, Director, Administrative Services, Post Office Department of Canada, released a directive for mail dispatched from merchant ships of Canadian registry. Each ship was provided with a rubber stamp with a rectangular border surrounding the words "Canadian Maritime Mail" (CMM) (see figure 3 opposite). A post box was to be installed on each ship where the crew could post their letters. Letters and postcards posted on the high seas, underlined in the directive, could be mailed postage free when the handstamp was applied.

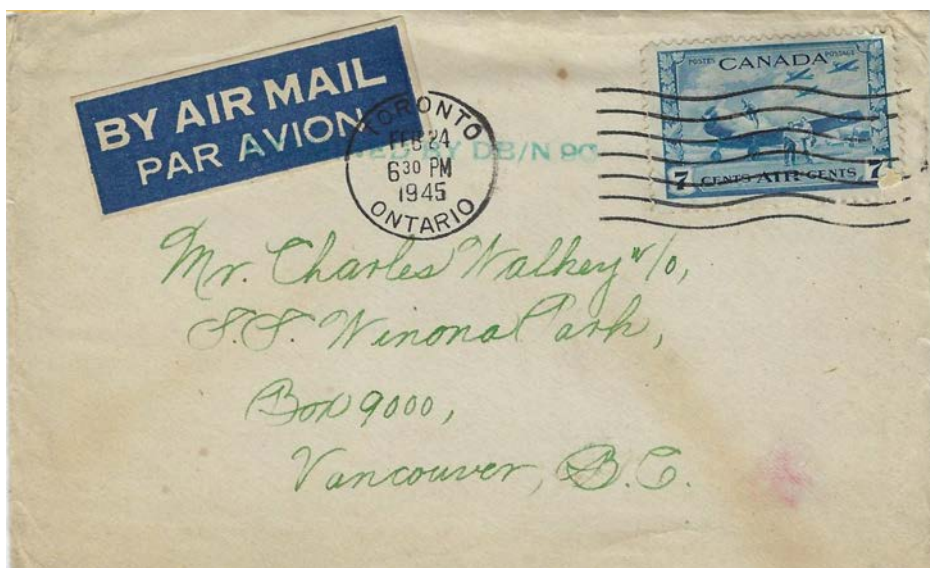


Fig 2 Cover to C.E. Walkey on SS Winona Park, c/o P.O. Box 9000, Vancouver, BC. With Box 9000 censor 90.



Fig 3 "Canadian Maritime Mail" handstamp on 8 Apr 1945 Armed Forces Air Letter from Seaman N Martin on SS Tweedsmuir Park, in port (Montreal?), posted free.

The Privy Council's Order-in-Council 1945 - P.C. 4157, dated 7 Aug 1945, approved postage free surface mail for the Canadian merchant navy when overseas, but only if mailed at a naval or military post office. The author has seen two undated "Merchant Ships Free Mail" handstamps which are believed to have been applied as a result of 1945 - P.C. 4157. (see figure 4).

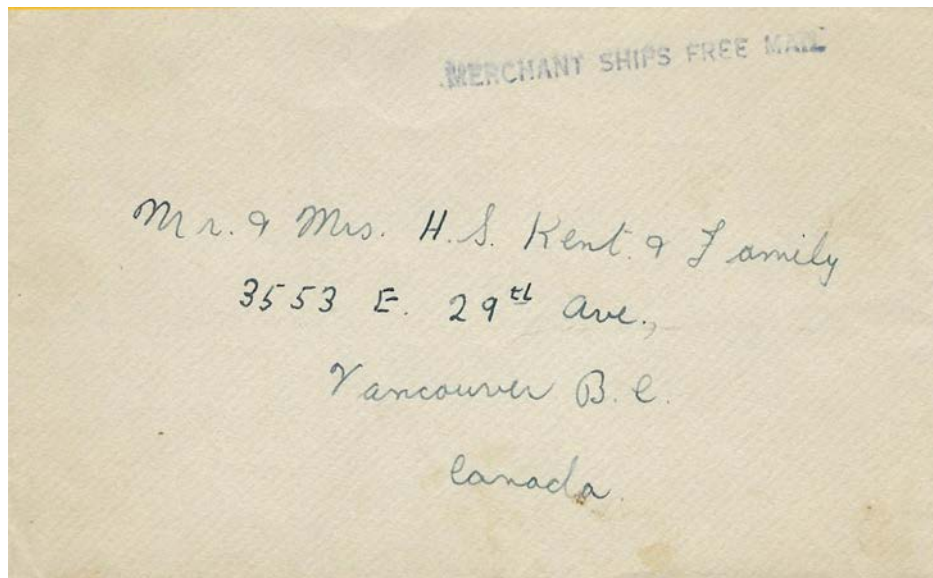


Fig 4 "Merchant Ships Free Mail" handstamp on undated cover from R Kent to his parents.

5) Return to Peacetime Mail Handling (October 1945 to December 1946)

The end of the war, VE-day 8 May 1945 and VJ-day 14 Aug 1945, meant the security and censor restrictions were no longer necessary on merchant seamen mail. In early September 1945 the Box 9000 staff began forwarding CMN mail to the company managing each ship. Both Box 9000 offices ceased operating on 15 Sep 1945. Closure of Box 9000 Montreal and Box 9000 Vancouver programs meant the merchant navy mail handling process returned to what existed prior to July 1943.

On 31 Dec 1946, all free postage privileges and special reduced rates, for members of the Armed Forces, were withdrawn.

Before WWII ended the Canadian Government was already beginning to dispose of the Park ships that they owned. Most of the ships were sold, and renamed, by the end of 1946. Some of the surviving non-Park ocean-going ships' registrations were transferred offshore. Both the ocean-going Canadian Merchant Navy and the RCN Box 9000 program to deliver mail promptly to merchant seamen scattered around the globe ceased

to exist. The steamship companies resumed receiving and forwarding mail to their employees.

The author would very much welcome reports of merchant navy mail, especially: a) censor numbers used on mail to PO Box 9000 Montreal and Vancouver; b) "Canadian Maritime Mail" rectangular handstamps (early and latest dates reported are 8 Apr 45 and 7 Apr 1953); c) Additional examples of "Merchant Ships Free Mail" straight line handstamp, especially if they are dated by other markings. Please send any information to Jonathan Johnson (jcjperfin@hotmail.com)

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LAC, RG12, Volume 1478, File 8020-77

LAC, RG24-C-10-1, Volume 6676, File CPC-4-10-1. Pg 28, 29

LAC, RG24-C-10-1, Volume 6694, File CPC-7-2-13 (NPO 1117), & File CPC-7-2-22 (NPO 1120), & File CPC-7-2-23 (NPO 407), & File CPC-7-2-26 (NPO 409).

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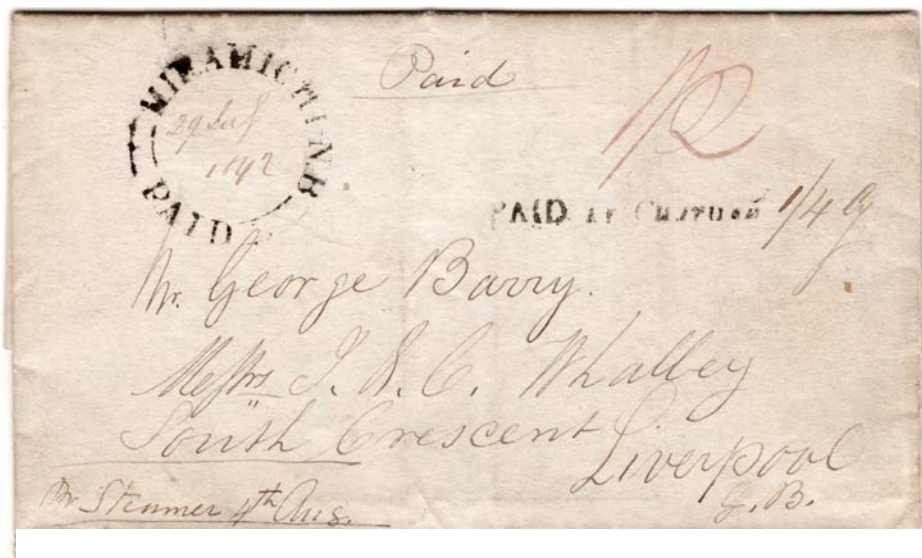
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rob Leigh

PAID AT CHATHAM HANDSTAMP

I thought you might be interested in this item that I recently came across (see fig 1 below). It is a straight-line reading "PAID AT CHATHAM". It seems to be legit, but I haven't found any previous mention of it. This is Chatham New Brunswick of course, not the important one in Upper Canada. Also shown below the scan of the cover is a better representation of the full handstamp. Can any of our members confirm other examples of this mark?



PAID AT CHATHAM

Fig 1

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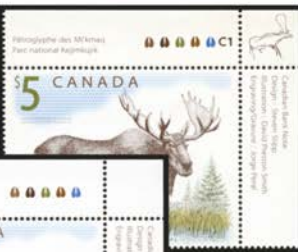
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Leo Beaudet

INVERTED ONE LINE OVERPRINT ON THE 3 CENT ADMIRAL

I am writing about the article on the 3 cent Admiral block of four with the inverted one-line overprint in the April 2020 issue of *Maple Leaves*. As you probably know, the block was submitted to the APS expertization service and received an APEX certificate of genuineness. The APS certificates are online, and this particular certificate was discussed in the column, "Adventures in Expertizing" by Gary Wayne Loew in *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 134, No. 8, August 2020.

I looked at the APEX certificate on the APS website and an image of the block of four. I have not examined the actual stamps. Here are my observations.

On the plus side:

1. All the characters in the overprint are correctly positioned. The APEX certificate points out this fact.
2. All the characters in the overprint have the right shape. For example, the vertical member of the "T" in "CENTS" is thinner at the top than at the bottom. This characteristic is evident in the inverted overprint.
3. If the overprint is a fake, it is the best I've seen.

On the minus side:

1. All the characters appear skinnier than on the genuine overprint. This may just be an artefact of the scan of the inverted overprint block.
2. I looked through the auction catalogues of several "name" collections (Norris, Reford, Lussey, Marler, Bayes, Goodhelpsen, Lum, Brigham, Lindemann (collection sold by Saskatoon Stamp Centre) plus several anonymous collections.) None had the variety, but some of them had extensive holdings of varieties of the one-line and two-line overprints. Now, all these collections were missing key Admiral items, which is not surprising since some items are extremely scarce and some items are only recently discovered. No collection had everything. However, the overprint varieties (shifted, doubled, missing on one stamp in pair, inverted on the two-line overprint, etc.) are almost certainly by-favour items so one might have expected to see the inverted one-line overprint in one or more of the collections mentioned above.

I do also have some concerns about the story in the *Maple Leaves* article regarding the history of the block:

1. Based on the story in the *Maple Leaves* article, the timeline appears to be as follows:

- a) Sometime before 1978, Captain Bernier (the retired Montreal Police Dept. captain who became a stamp dealer) somehow acquires a poorly handled pane of 100 of the one-line inverted overprint.
- b) Sometime before he shows the block to Hasid in 1978, Marler (who lived in Montreal) buys the block of four with the inverted overprint from Bernier.
- c) In 1978, Marler shows the block to Hasid, Hans Reiche, and Carl Mangold (Mangold was a Montreal artist; he designed the 1957 UPU stamps, was a Fellow of the RPSC, and passed away in 1984).
- d) Sometime between 1978 and the end of 1980, Marler sells the block to Harry Lussey.
- e) Marler dies on 10 April 1981.
- f) Maresch sells Lussey's Admiral collection at auction on 10 June 1981. The block is not in the auction. Given the auction preparation time, Lussey almost certainly wouldn't have acquired the block after 1980 since he was disposing of his Admiral collection.
- g) Since the block wasn't in the Maresch sale, presumably Lussey sold it before consigning his Admiral collection to Maresch.
- h) Maresch sells Marler's Admiral collection at auction on 29 Sept 1982. Some items are sold in a follow-on auction and by Private Treaty. The block is not in any of these.
- i) Lussey dies in April 2003.

2. As far as I am aware, Marler never mentioned the inverted overprint (perhaps not too surprising because he was more interested in constant flaws like re-entries and retouches). Nor did Reiche (more surprising since he liked to document all varieties, constant and non-constant).

3. During the Admiral period, Norris was probably the largest beneficiary of by-favour material from the Post Office (see my article, "The Frederick T. Norris Admiral Collection", in *The Admiral's Log*, Vol. XIII, No. 1, Dec. 2013). How did Bernier acquire a complete pane with the inverted overprint when most of the by-favour material went to Norris?

4. Then there is the question you raised in the *Maple Leaves* article. Assuming Bernier did acquire the pane and sold a block of four to Marler, what happened to the rest of the pane? Even if most of the stamps in the pane were damaged, it seems likely that Bernier would have approached other collectors and dealers with offers to sell the variety.

As ever, with new Admiral varieties – nothing is simple or clear-cut!

THE PATH TO A SPECIALISED COLLECTION – PART 1 THE CENTENNIAL ISSUE OF 1967

Graham Searle *FCPS*

Sooner or later, most novice stamp collectors feel the urge to specialise. This may be to just one country, a specific time period or even just one stamp issue. If your desire is to form a collection of just one stamp issue, collectors of Canada are, on paper, spoilt for choice. Many of the early issues from the country, the Pence or Cents issues, the Large or Small Queens or even the Admirals of 1912 offer huge scope for specialisation. However, they also require pockets that are a fair bit deeper than most collectors can contribute to their hobby. In this series of articles, we will explore a few of the more modern Canadian stamp issues which also offer considerable scope to form a specialised collection but without the need to break the bank and with material that is, for the most part, still fairly readily available. We start some 55 years ago with the Centennial issue of 1967, in many respects the issue that opened the field of modern specialised collecting.

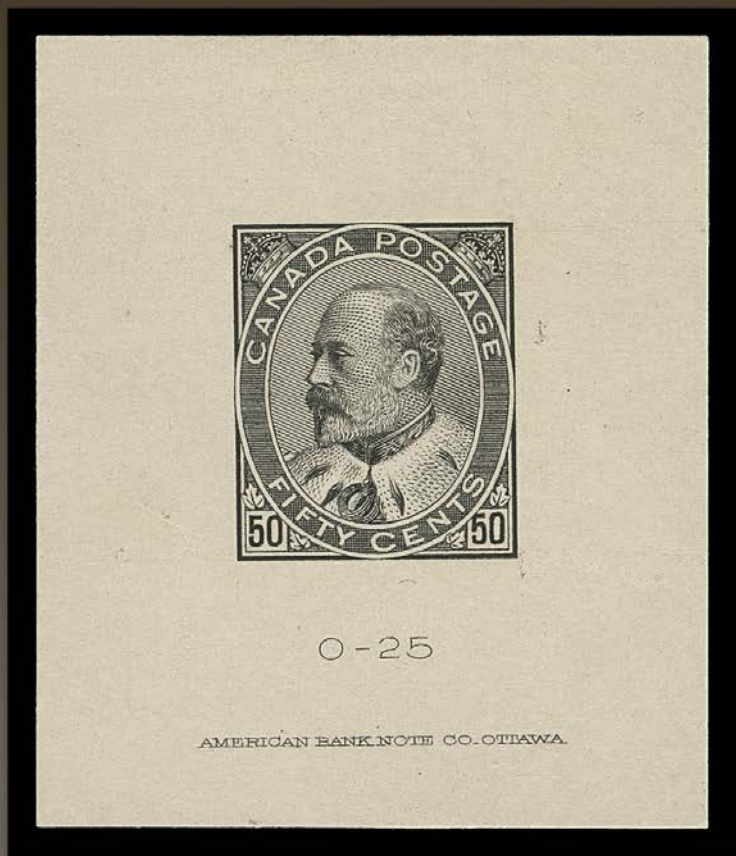
Your author has a bit of a soft spot for this issue as I am old enough to have been collecting new issues when this set of stamps was released. Now, in truth, the 1950's and 1960's was not a very exciting era for new issue collectors. Every year, Canada Post would put out a bulletin listing the stamp issues to be released in the following 12 months. On the appointed day, the stamps in question would appear. Little or no philatelic input was required aside from finding the odd minor plate variety or the even more unusual major variety like the Inverted Seaway stamp. All this was set to change as the 1960's drew to a close.

Even then, the release of the Centennial stamps in February 1967 was fairly inauspicious. Yes, it was the first full definitive series to be issued by Canada since 1935 but the designs were not exactly inspiring (Canadians were, in fact, so unimpressed that the issue lasted a mere seven years before being replaced). The issue comprised some 12 stamp values from 1 cent to \$1, along with a trio of coil stamps, two stamp booklets, a couple of cellopaqs and the low value stamps issued with the Winnipeg phosphor tagging – all produced by the Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNCo) and all looking remarkably similar to that which had gone before. Indeed, the most exciting philatelic item in the new issue was a 'stamp box'. A plastic creation, containing a card with a full set of the new stamps on it (see fig 1 on page 452). Collectors have spent the last 50 years trying to work out how you can possibly fit this philatelic novelty into a display.

In a few short years, however, this initial issue of 12 values had grown to just under 100 different stamps apparent to the naked eye. Arm yourself with a UV lamp and the list grew to some 230 different varieties – and that if you only considered three different types of paper. Bearing in mind that an early book on the issue attempted to list a staggering 13 different grades of fluorescent paper, the scope for specialisation is

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Fig 1 Card enclosed in the commemorative stamp box showing the full set of original stamps in the Centennial issue.

clearly considerable! Add in a wealth of postal stationery items, both regular and special order; many tagging errors and varieties, commercial perfins, precancels and, of course, a huge field of postal history and you have an issue that can keep the most avid collector busy for many years.

A number of factors combined to cause this explosion in stamp varieties. The first of these came about as a result of some printing innovations. By 1967, the British American Bank Note Company (BABNCo), rivals of the CBNCo, had got hold of some neat European technology that allowed the printing of large, folded, booklet panes and also panes with se-tenant designs in different colours. Canada Post was so impressed that the BABNCo was given the contract to print all the Centennial booklets from late 1967 on. This was the first time that a Canadian stamp issue had been produced jointly by two different printing firms. Needless to say, the two printers used different perforating machines. The CBNCo stamps were perf 12 (as all issues since 1935 had been – albeit with some very minor variances – *see ref 1*). The BABNCo initially produced stamps with perf 10. When this proved to be unpopular with the public they increased the gauge size – not to perf 12 but to perf 12½ x 12. With three different perforations in use, the explosion of varieties had begun!

The second major factor affecting the number of stamp varieties was the drive for mechanisation in postal sorting. The Winnipeg phosphor tagging, first introduced on some Canadian stamps in 1962 was an early spin-off of this but during the 1960's the authorities had also moved to try and improve the 'whiteness' of stamp papers by adding fluorescence. (Many of the earliest examples of this were only discovered when collectors started looking backwards from the Centennial issue). The most extreme example of this paper whitening was the so-called 'hibrite' paper – a brilliant white paper readily distinguishable from the normal cream paper with the naked eye. However, many intermediate grades of fluorescence can also be found; although a UV lamp is probably required to best distinguish these.

Other technical changes were to follow. Around 1971, the printers switched from a shiny dextrine gum to a dull, matte, PVA based gum. In the same time frame a new type of tagging appeared to replace the Winnipeg tagging. This new type, initially referred to as Ottawa tagging but thereafter as General tagging can be found in two different types. The initial OP-4 type proved to be highly migratory. A later refinement, OP-2, was more stable and was used on all Canadian stamps from 1973 onwards.

Another technical change occurred in 1968 when the printers switched to metric sizing of stamp designs. This change is often overlooked and whilst the change to an individual stamp design was small and is best observed by looking at large blocks of stamps (see fig 2 overleaf) it is, nonetheless, quite impressive when viewed this way.

The final factor impacting on the number of stamp varieties was our old friend inflation. The first class letter rate was increased from 5 cents to 6 cents in late 1968 requiring a new 6 cents stamp. The printing contract for this was given to the BABNCo who from this point on printed all of the first class letter rate sheet stamps in the issue. The initial colour chosen for the new 6 cents stamp (orange) did not work too well with the sorting machines and it was changed to black in early 1970. Further rate increases required a 7 cents stamp in June 1971 and an 8 cents stamp later that same year.



Fig 2 Pair of blocks showing the precancel warning strips. The 1 cent block on the left has the stamps printed in the original imperial design size. The 6 cents block on the right shows the stamps printed in the slightly smaller metric design size. The difference only becomes obvious when seen in large blocks like this.

From a collectors' point of view, the key thing about all of these changes of perforation, paper, gum and tagging was that the Post Office did not regard them as 'new stamps'. No notice was given of any of these changes and collectors were left to try and identify them as they appeared (or more often than not to try and work backwards to see if they existed at all). Given all the changes that were taking place simultaneously, it is not surprising that many of the variants were very short-lived. Indeed, several of them were only discovered some time after the Centennial issue had been replaced (for example a mint copy of the rare 6 cent orange stamp with Winnipeg tagging printed on hibrite paper which was issued in December 1969 and replaced by the new black stamp a few weeks later – see fig 3 below - was first discovered as late as 1987). For the first time, in a long time, Canadian philatelists had something to get their teeth into!

So, if you are looking for a challenge and an area to specialise, this is a good place to start. The material is still available in bulk and much postal history can also be found quite cheaply. Yes, there are a few (thankfully a very small few) expensive howling rarities, mostly involving the 'hibrite' paper, (see fig 3 for some examples) but the vast majority of the stamp varieties and the associated postal history along with postal stationery can be obtained reasonably cheaply though they may require a fair amount of



Fig 3 A few of the Centennial rarities. You may need to save up for these! Shown on the left is the 6 cents orange sheet stamp perf 12½ x 12 on hibrite paper with Winnipeg tagging and on the right imperforate pairs of the 6 cents orange and 6 cents black coil stamps, both on hibrite paper.

hunting down. There are also a huge number of minor stamp varieties which should also not break the bank (see fig 4 overleaf for some examples). Those interested can refer to the Unitrade Catalogue (ref 2) which has an excellent listing of this issue. An even better and more comprehensive guide can be found in the seminal work on this issue by Robin Harris (ref 3).

Finally, this is an issue that offers up the occasional oddity and humorous item.



Fig 4a A few of the less expensive varieties to be found from this issue. The 6 cents orange block shows the 'doubling of C' variety on the top right stamp from plate position 10. The 6 cents black stamp shows the 'doubling of the second A in Canada' variety on the lower left stamp. The 5 cents block shows the vertical line through 5 variety on the lower left stamp (plate position 11 from plate 3.)



Fig 4b Two varieties which come from booklets. The block of 2 cents stamps from the Opal booklet of 1970 shows the ‘missing tree trunk’ variety on the lower left stamp. The cut down scan of the \$1 booklet pane from 1972 shows the top 8 cents stamp with the variety ‘missing design at right’.

Prior to producing the perf 10 x imperf coils, the CBNCo undertook trials of a new printing process. The trials produced some ‘dummy’ coil stamps. When the 6 cent coils were issued in rolls of 100, these dummy stamps found a use. The Post Office marketed a coil dispenser, designed to hold a roll of 100 stamps and aimed at high volume postal users such as small businesses, and put these dispensers on display in selected outlets to advertise them. Fig 5 below shows a strip of six stamps attached to a long strip of ‘dummies’. When this strip was rolled up, the dummy coils were not visible giving the impression that a full roll of 100 stamps was in the dispenser. This way, if the dispenser was stolen from the display the Post Office only lost 36 cents and not \$6!



Fig 5 Strip taken from a roll held in one of the Post Office coil dispensers. It was made up of 6 copies of the 6 cents stamp (4 are folded over here) attached to 94 copies of the ‘dummy coil stamps’.

These coil rolls of 100 stamps also had descriptive wrappers. When these first appeared, a few people had a go at using them for postage either believing they were stamps themselves or possibly just trying it on! See fig 6 on page 460 for an example of one that was used successfully – clearly not all the postal staff were aware of what they were either.

Whilst it may have been a rather uninspiring and short-lived set of stamps, the Centennial issue left a lasting legacy for philatelists. Every subsequent stamp issue – particularly the more complex definitive issues – and even a few earlier ones, have been subject to greater scrutiny by collectors. Now we find ourselves looking out for perforation, paper, gum and

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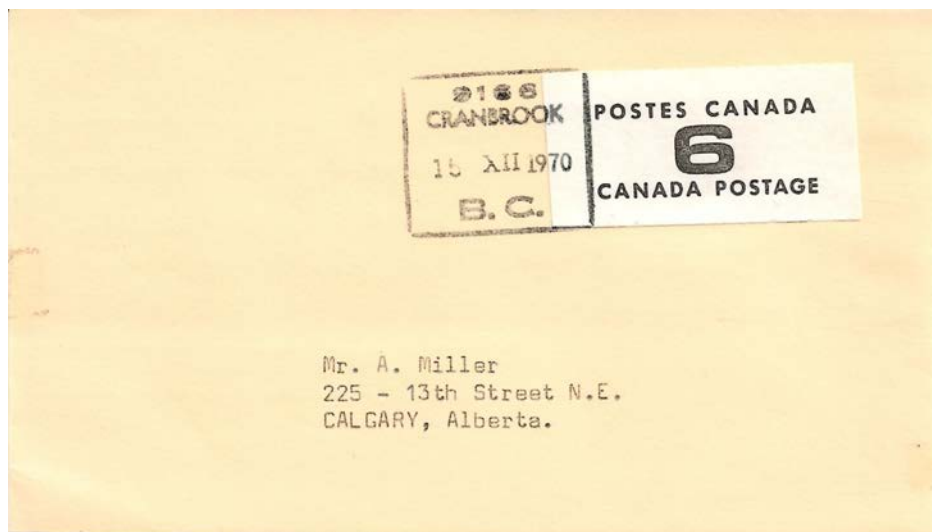


Fig 6 Coil wrapper from the 6 cents black coils used successfully to pay the postage on a December 1970 card from Cranbrook to Calgary.

tagging varieties from day one rather than seeking them out in hindsight. Future articles in this series will take a look at a couple of the more recent definitive issues that offer similar scope for specialised collections.

References:-

1. Discovery of Stamp Perforation Changes that started in 1962; Julian Goldberg and John Walsh; Maple Leaves Jan 2020 pages 243 – 259.
2. Specialised Catalogue of Canadian stamps published annually by the Unitrade Press
3. Centennial Definitive Series 1967 – 1973 by D. Robin Harris, published in July 2000.

Note that the illustrations of the plate varieties in fig 4a are reproduced from reference 3 which illustrates many other similar varieties to hunt down.

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NEWFOUNDLAND : 1919 CARIBOU ISSUE 15¢ DENOMINATION

ITS' TRUE INK INGREDIENT STRUCTURE DISCOVERY

John M. Walsh FRPSC

In the 1919 Caribou stamp series of Newfoundland twelve denominations were released from 1¢ up to 36¢. Each denomination had re-orders sent from the Newfoundland Post Office and these were printed at different times of their usable life cycle. Some denominations had as many as six re-orders.

It is commonly observed that when re-orders are printed, there are often differences in the same ink colour intensities. Collectors call these shades. One collector's eyes might see a different colour shade which another collector does not see as different. This provides enjoyment in stamp collecting and sometimes confusion.

This article focuses only on the 15¢ denomination of this 1919 issue. This poorly imaged animal, since its creation, has been tormented by many 'research' philatelists. They have commented on the look of the antlers, asked why the mouth is open and commented on the words used inside the stamp design. The ink colour of this stamp has also been called into dispute.

You may wonder why the colour might be in dispute. From its obvious look, it presents as a blue colour. Yes, you can find examples in a lighter blue shade (see fig 1). So, in general, there are blue and light blue colours. Some will try to divide the shades further into lesser intensities, but at the end of the day it is only shades of the same blue colour.

The problem that raises its ugly head is that some have tried to suggest that two different inks, having different blue colours, were used to print this 15¢ denomination and much has been discussed about its true colour. Even stamp certifiers have certified that they can see that two different inks were used, one being Prussian Blue. When examples of the stamp are sent out to get a certificate, only some of those presented will get certified as being of the Prussian Blue colour. The expertizing group does charge a fee to provide a certificate that will state 'yes' or 'no' to it being Prussian Blue. As we all know, these certificates are perceived to lend credibility and enhancement to that certified item when it is offered for sale. *And yes, it is only an opinion.*



Fig 1

So why is it important if the stamp is deemed to be Prussian Blue or not? If we look back at past books and catalogues on the issue we find the following:-

Poole and Huber in their 1922 book described the colour as deep blue. Boggs Newfoundland book of 1942 described it as dark blue. The Scott 1952 catalogue also uses the term dark blue. Holmes Specialized 1968 catalogue describes it as deep blue, a term also used by the Robson Lowe book of 1973. The first mention I can find of Prussian Blue comes in the 1977 Unitrade catalogue which listed shades of Indigo and Prussian Blue; the latter with a 4x value. The 2005 edition of this same catalogue listed the same two shades but the value multiplier for the Prussian Blue shade was now 3x. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and British Empire 1840 – 1970 catalogue of 2010 listed shades of Indigo and Prussian Blue; the latter with a 6x value. Walsh Newfoundland Specialized eCatalogues from 2012 and 2014 listed three shades; dark blue, bright blue at 2x and Prussian Blue at 3x. By the 2016 and 2018 editions of this same catalogue, the value multiplier for the Prussian Blue shade had been removed (no value shown) and it was noted that this shade required a certificate. The 2016 and 2020 editions of the aforementioned Stanley Gibbons catalogue listed shades of Indigo and Prussian Blue with the latter now having a 7x value mark up. The 2019 and 2020 editions of the Scott Specialized Catalogue of classic stamps and covers from 1840 to 1940 listed two shades, Scott 124 and Scott 124b Prussian Blue with a 10x price mark up. The Walsh 2020 eCatalogue has listed only two shades, blue and light blue with the same valuation.

The trend, in recent years, to distinguish a specific ‘Prussian Blue’ shade and to give it a greater and greater price differential is clear.

From 2014 onward, the author, editor of the *Newfoundland Specialised Stamp eCatalogue*, has been asking many a philatelist and stamp certifier how you can tell which stamp is Prussian Blue versus plain blue when Prussian Blue is a specifically made ink that happens to give a blue colour? A reasonable request you would think!

Many interesting responses were received. ‘I can tell by the subtle differences in shade’ being the choice of most responders. Some certifiers compared the stamp colour by eye against the Pantone colour chips. Certainly not a very scientific way, was my way of thinking. All eyes see colours differently; definitely male examiners. You will not need all the digits on one hand to list the female examiners!

Because cataloguers have deliberately listed two definite and specific ink colours with a very differential valuation, a dedicated search for a scientific means to give closure on the two colours listed, Indigo Blue and Prussian Blue, was undertaken. With the distinctive cataloguing, it seems that everyone forgets that the Prussian Blue colour is determined by the ingredients used in its ink preparation. Prussian Blue itself is simply a specific ink that has a blue colour.

It is recorded by Harry Huber in Poole and Huber published in 1922 (very close to the time of ordering and release of the Caribou issue) that the initial Caribou stamp order

was received in St. John's, Newfoundland on 2nd January 1919 and he provides the stated delivered quantity for the 15¢ value as 50,000. Shortly thereafter, the contractor Whitehead Morris Ltd was further ordered by the Newfoundland Government to provide a re-order of 25,000 of each of the high denominations to be given direct to the Newfoundland High Commissioner in London. No delivery of this re-order was made to St. John's, they were for specific sales in England. The contractor had their printer De La Rue directed to print this additional 25,000 order after the initial order had already been finished and sent out. Future researchers suggest that this 15¢ re-order seems to have had a different blue shade to the original. The difference in the blue colour was noticed and a specific name was assigned. Cataloguers picked up on the two blue name differences and listed them with different valuations.

Information on Newfoundland stamps has been released by Robert H. Pratt in many a publication. Stamp collectors would be seriously lacking information without his research. However, some of the information he published has his opinion embedded into it. At times, readers have accepted this to be fact.

The Collectors Club of Chicago Pratt digital files provide all readers with freedom to study the images and written statements as provided by Pratt. From these CCC Pratt digital files is found and shown a 15¢ imperforated lower right marginal block having HC initials and a date of 28/11/18. Pratt makes a point of deliberating stating '*note the colour of the 15¢ which is INDIGO*'. He states that 13 Dec (no year) was the last date of the last stamp to be printed on the first order (shown is the 36¢ having HC 13 Dec 18 on it). He says on another slide image that shows a set of perforated upper left corner blocks '*is believed to have come from sets sold by the Newfoundland Commission in London*' It is also felt that they were printed after the first run and thus have different shades (lighter). He specifically states that the 15¢ value '*is the PRUSSIAN BLUE colour.*' On another slide #2-1510 showing perforated blocks, with an upper left corner 15¢ different block from the previous, he states '*the 15¢ value is the INDIGO colour*'. Whilst some have placed great store by these comments, it is important to remember that **these are his (Pratt's) opinions** assigning colour names to the 15¢ value not the printer or the contractor. As to the date that Pratt created these digital files, that is unclear but they have different numbering in the top left sheet margins.

To the author it did not make sense to have another different ink composition made up to print a specific re-order.

In the search for a more scientific answer I sought out chemistry professor (emeritus) Richard Judge who, armed with scientific instruments, has been studying and publishing his research findings on stamp ink analysis. He was approached and asked if he would do a scientific analysis to determine if there were really two different ink ingredient consistencies. He agreed to do this and would do it with the help of the author and Garfield Portch, a member of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation (VGG).

Richard Judge was given a selection of uncertified and certified 'Prussian Blue' stamps that were gathered from a variety of sources to be analysed alongside a number of stamps deemed to be in the normal 'blue' shade. He used the VSC 6000 Reflectance, XRF and ATR-FTIR spectroscopy instruments. The basic question he was asked was **'Does a Prussian Blue Shade Variety Exist for the 15¢ Newfoundland 1919 Trail of the Caribou Issue?'**

With this direction, Richard Judge made use of a variety of scientific instruments at his disposal. His detailed findings are presented below by the author in a shortened format. The results provide the conclusion for all stamp collectors.

Abstract:- Philatelic catalogues list two major blue shades for the 15¢ Newfoundland Trail of the Caribou stamp. This study showed that the ink chemistry, as determined by XRF, ATR-FTIR and reflectance spectroscopies, is the same for three certified 'Prussian Blue' stamps and 34 standard blue stamps. Based on the known properties of Prussian blue pigment that is present in all copies and is likely the sole colouring agent, this study concludes that separate listings for this stamp are not supported. Clearly, shades variations do exist, but not a different ink.

Introduction:- philatelists think that shade determination is more art than science. This analysis shifts the emphasis towards a quantitative scientific determination. Summarised are the results of X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF), Attenuated Total Reflectance – Fourier Transform Infrared (ATR-FTIR) and Visible and Near IR Reflectance spectroscopic studies. Published results in the scientific literature about this pigment and fillers are presented along with research conclusions.

Experimental Details:- John Walsh supplied eight uncertified copies along with one copy certified by the APS Expertizing Service (APEX) as Prussian Blue. Garfield Portch of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation Expertizing Service (VGG Expertizing or VGG) supplied two normal copies, a block of four normal and their standard copy for Prussian Blue determinations. Richard Judge, retired chemistry professor and analyser supplied 23 uncertified copies, one used and one copy with a Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL) certificate as Prussian Blue. The XRF tests were performed with Bruker Tracer Vi with a thin A1 filter at an excitation energy of 20KV and a current of 70uA. The Infrared studies used a Thermo Nicolet 6700 FTIR with a 'Smart Orbit' diamond micro ATR accessory. Spectra were recorded at 4 and a few selected at 2cm^{-1} resolution with a minimum of 32 scans. The spectra were uncorrected for ATR artifacts. Reflectance spectra were recorded using Foster Freeman VSC6000/HS comprehensive examination system for stamps. The copies remaining were analysed with a higher resolution Ocean Optics USB4000 reflectance spectrometer and a coaxial fibre optic reflectance probe.

Discussion:- Instrumentation results shown in fig 2 present a representative XRF spectrum of a high and a low calcium content stamp. X-ray fluorescence will only give

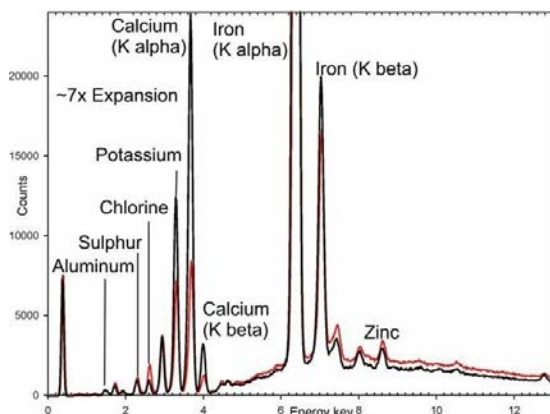


Fig 2 XRF spectrum of a higher calcium content stamp (black) versus a lower calcium content stamp (red). Except for concentration differences in calcium, potassium and chlorine the two groups of stamps share identical elemental compositions.

oxygen and hydrogen. A further limitation in interpreting the chemical make up of the stamp lies in the deep penetrating powers of X-rays. Both the thin layer of ink and the paper itself contribute to the spectrum. Nonetheless, all examples, including the certified copies, show amazing similarity in the elements present. The absence of lead (Pb) and/or barium (Ba) in all the spectra is significant. Stamps of this era typically contained Pb, primarily as 'white lead' which was used as a diluent to moderate the intense colour of the pigment. Ba in the form of barium sulphate was another intense white diluent. Another common diluent is Ca in the form of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3 or chalk) and this is the diluent in use here (see fig 3 overleaf). The trace amount of Zn could indicate the use of either zinc oxide (ZnO) or zinc sulphide (ZnS) both of which are white compounds.

The XRF has shown that calcium (Ca) atoms or ions are present in the stamp although the molecular or salt compound responsible for the signal cannot be determined by XRF alone. However, Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy will give different signals for the various possible sources of Ca. In figure 3 the major absorption peaks due to 'Prussian Blue', calcium carbonate and cellulose are indicated. FTIR has unequivocally shown that the pigment 'Prussian Blue' is present in **all** the samples. This pigment is discussed later. Cellulose from the paper is seen from both the ink and paper and is a consequence of the engraving process that leaves much of the paper surface exposed.

Both the spectra from the XRF and FTIR instruments show a partitioning of the samples into two groups based on their calcium content. Typical spectra are shown in fig 4 overleaf. A limited sample size suggested a 4:1 (higher:lower) partition. As shown in fig 5, the certified copies are mixed between the two limits.

information about the elements present in a sample, not the chemical compounds that contain these elements. As indicated, iron (Fe) is strongly present whilst calcium (Ca) and potassium (K) are clearly present but at less concentration and variable concentration. The elements aluminium (Al), chlorine (Cl), phosphorous (P), sulphur (S) and zinc (Zn) are present but in trace amounts. As an identification technique, this is as far as this XRF will take us. The instrument is limited to elements heavier than sodium (Na) and thus the bulk of the elements that make up the stamp are 'invisible' such as carbon, nitrogen,

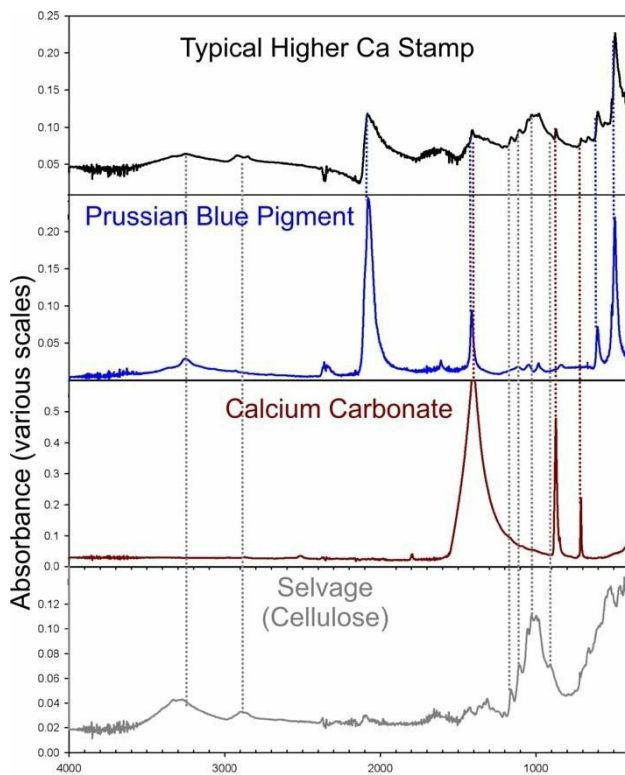


Fig 3 A representative sample of the three major compounds identified in the high Ca content stamps.

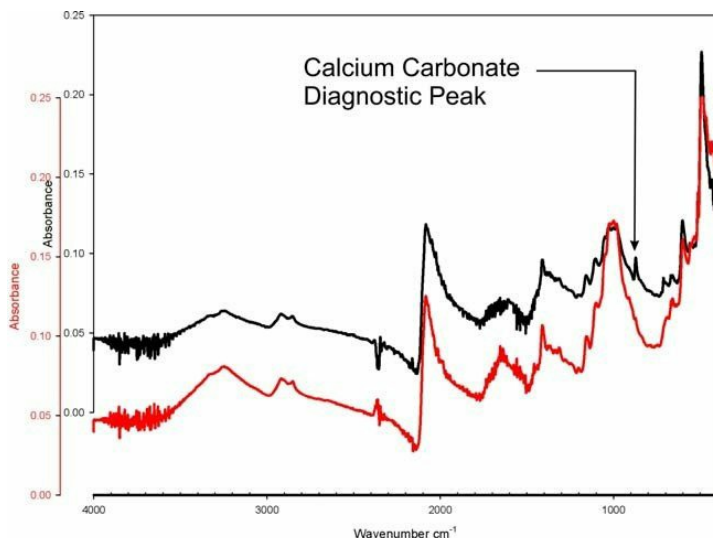


Fig 4 ATR- FTIR spectra comparing a representative high calcium carbonate stamp (black) with a low calcium carbonate stamp (red). Note the 'Y' axes are split to better show the two spectra.

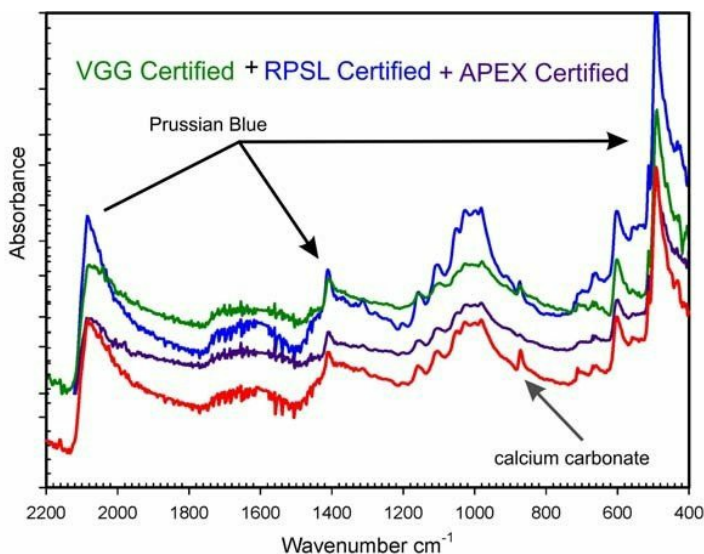


Fig 5 The three certified Prussian Blue copies (upper plots) compared to one of the thirty higher calcium carbonate stamps (lower plot in red).

The reflectance spectrum is the one most easily interpreted as a colour or a shade. Small changes in the spectrum can lead to noticeable shade changes as perceived by the eye. For the analysis, a large area of heavy inking was chosen to maximise the ink contribution – see fig 6. Nonetheless, a contribution by the white of the paper influences the reflectance curve. In general, all stamps were dark, approaching an over-inked condition. As a consequence, the reflection spectra are grouped near the bottom of the plot.

Figure 7 overleaf shows the VSC6000 reflectance spectra of 13 uncertified and 2 certified copies. Although the curves are similar in shape, each curve is unique. In a second experiment. An additional 21 stamps and a RPSL certified copy had their reflectance spectra measured by a different instrument and with a different reflected light collection geometry. For this experiment, the CIE L^*ab values were calculated from the reflectance spectra. This mathematical technique yields two numbers, a^* and b^* which serve as the axes in a two-dimensional plot. This method is often used to catalogue shade differences (see ref 1 page 105). If shades exist, the (a^*b^*) pairs for the stamps partition (more or less) into small clusters or islands. As figure 8 shows, the plot for this issue indicates that



Fig 6 Stamp design showing the area used for the tests

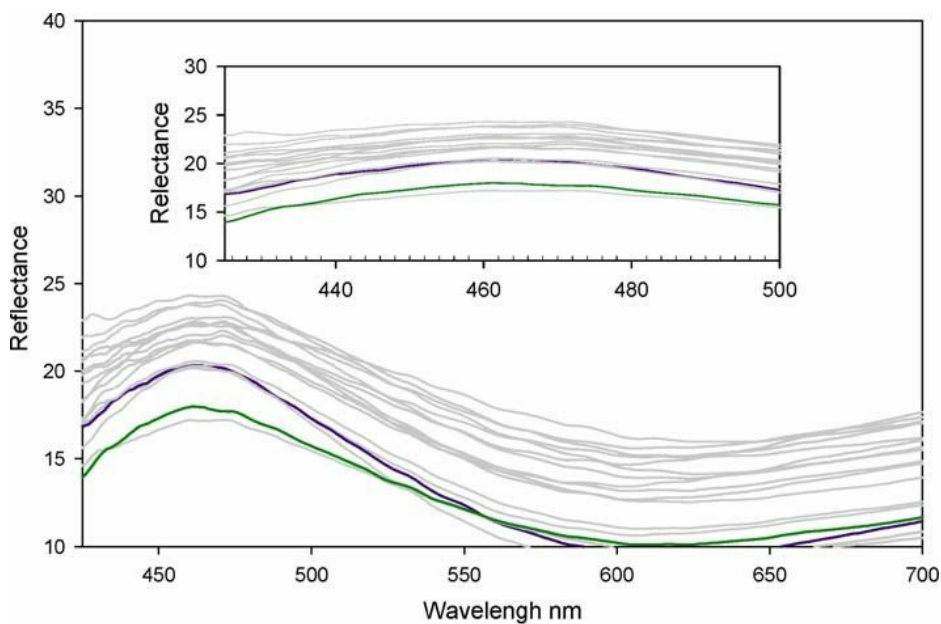


Fig 7 VSC6000 reflectance traces of the VGG (green) and APEX (blue) certified Prussian Blue copies versus 14 uncertified copies.

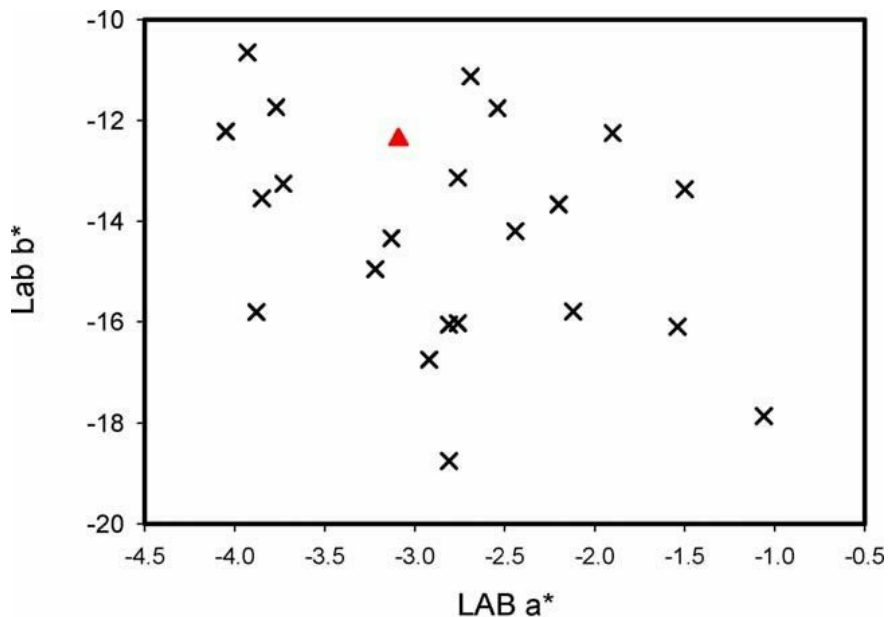


Fig 8 CIE L*a*b plot for the higher resolution reflectance spectra. The RPSL certified copy is shown as the red triangle.

the RPSL copy is not unique and indeed no obvious partitioning occurs for this Newfoundland stamp.

The spectra show amazing similarity in the elements present. The mirror image plot shown in Fig 9 illustrates this. No discernible difference is seen.

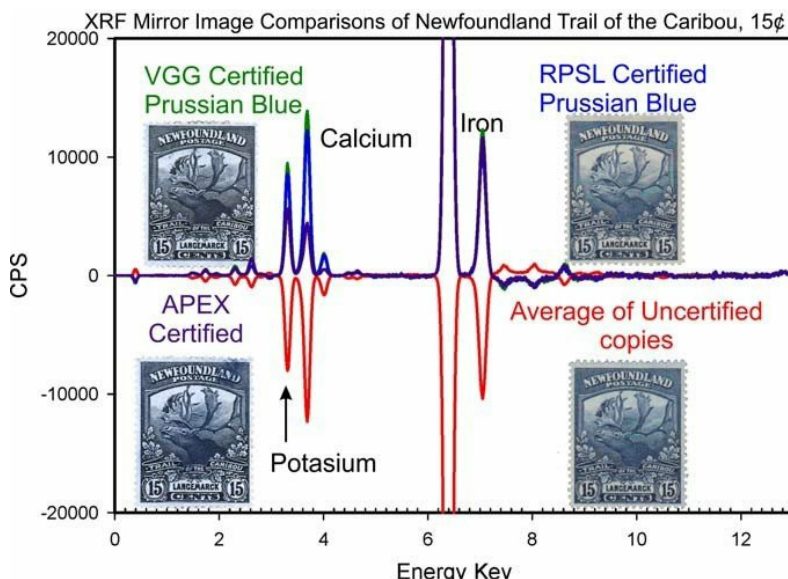


Fig 9 Mirror image plot. The upper part of the chart shows the spectra of the VGG certified, RPSL certified and APEX certified Prussian Blue copies. Note the almost exact match of the lower part of the chart showing the spectrum of the uncertified copies (shown in red) for the elements present and their relative concentrations

Some information concerning Prussian Blue:- Prussian Blue was a common blue pigment used in the early 1900's as an additive to printing inks. It is a compound containing the cyanide group (CN) along with two oxidation states (charges) of iron, Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} . There are several methods of preparation both in the early 20th century and at present (see ref 2; page 9694). The literature talks of two forms of Prussian Blue, insoluble and soluble although, in reality, both are highly insoluble compounds. Further, there are multiple ways of arriving at these two 'solubilities'. Of particular note, is that the method of preparation of the pigment will alter the physical properties such as 'hue, tinting strength and hiding power properties' (see ref 2; page 9700). Different preparations give rise to different chemistries. One possibility is a Prussian Blue with only iron, the cyanide group and water molecules. Other preparations will show potassium (K), sodium (Na) or the ammonium ion group (NH_4) as part of their make-up along with water.

The preparation method around the turn of the 20th century is from the method used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of the United States (see ref 3; page 42). Their

method gave two forms of Prussian Blue. One method produced a solid which chemists at the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing called 'Prussian Blue'. The second method also produced a solid which they called 'China Blue'. Both forms started with the same potassium containing compound to produce an intermediate compound called 'Berlin White'. This compound was then reacted with different oxidising chemicals to produce the two forms. Because both compounds are intensely blue, the final ink was diluted with a white solid compound. The perceived hue, however, is dependent on the thickness of the ink covering the paper. The hue for both compounds is blue, 'Prussian Blue' being the darker of the two. Today both compounds are called 'Prussian Blue'. Shade intensities do occur.

Conclusions:-

The FTIR spectra has conclusively shown that all the stamps examined contain the pigment 'Prussian Blue'. The whitening agent used was calcium carbonate. There are no lead compounds in the ink, although Pb compounds were a common and preferred diluting agent. The stamp paper is composed primarily of cellulose and FTIR was unable to identify other compounds. The FTIR spectra of all stamps are remarkably similar.

The findings show no evidence of another pigment used in the ink.

There is no discernable difference in the X-ray spectra between the VGG certified copy, the APEX copy, the RPSL copy and the other stamps. All stamps contain potassium. By carefully restricting the exposed area of a stamp, the ink free margin of the stamp at the perforations shows that potassium is in the paper but the intensity is low. The batch to batch variations in the oxidation of Prussian Blue from Berlin White will influence particle size and thus shade. The reflectance spectra show small variations from each other.

The actual spectra from all sources show little or no difference. The VGG sample has higher Prussian Blue pigment concentration as shown by the Fe count in the XRF spectrum (second highest) and the absorbance (second highest) from the FTIR spectrum. Measuring was done from the same area of the stamps for all three instruments.

The over-inking may factor as a unique shade. But given the well documented scientific literature on the influence of particle size on perceived shade and the shade variation noted by Underwood in the early 1900's and the lack of significant elemental or molecular differences among the two certified copies from the other stamps, it is concluded that it is unable to determine a chemically unique shade for the two certified copies. Until one is able to determine a chemically different ink composition for a unique shade, it is best to only catalogue a single colour designation for this stamp. One can indeed collect visually different shades and call them specific names and thereby confirm that a continuum of shades is possible for this stamp.

References:-

1. Herendeen, David L, James A. Allen and Thomas Lera; 'Philatelic Shade Discrimination Based on Measured Colour', London Philatelist, Vol 120 2011, pp 105 – 117.
2. Samain, Louise, Fernande Grandjean, Gary J. Long, Pauline Martinetto, Pierre Bordet and David Strivay; 'Relationship between the Synthesis of Prussian Blue Pigments, their Colour, Physical Properties and Their Behaviour in Paint Layers'; J. Phys. Chemistry C117, 2013, pp 9693 – 9712.
3. Underwood, Norman and Thomas V. Sullivan; 'The Chemistry and Technology of Printing Inks, 1915 published in New York by Van Nostrand Co.

General reference was also made of the following work:-

Grandjean, Fernande, Lousie Samain and Gary J. Long, 'Characterisation and Utilisation of Prussian Blue and its pigments'; Dalton Trans 2016, pages 18018 – 18044.

Editors Note:-

This article highlights a dilemma at the boundaries of our hobby and science. Stamp collectors love shades – after all they represent additional things to collect. However, we are not always very clever about how we name them. The Stanley Gibbons Colour Guide for Stamp Collectors – probably the most widely used tool of its kind on this side of the Atlantic – lists at least 16 different shades of blue. The vast majority of these – possibly even all of them – will have Prussian Blue as the pigment providing the blue colouration. However, one of the 16 shades is actually called Prussian Blue. Now this is not always a problem. The 17 cents value of the 1859 Cents issue of Canada has three listed shades in the Unitrade catalogue, one of which is Prussian Blue. In this case the value differential between the shades is minimal so there is no great problem if we get the identification wrong.

However, this is not always the case. The most famous example I can think of is the 1935 Great Britain Silver Jubilee 2½d stamp. Two shades are listed in the catalogue. One is 'Blue' – value just a few £'s, the other is 'Prussian Blue' – value £15000+! No prizes for guessing which shade you will want your copy to be. A quick look online at ebay, as I write this, reveals an amazing five copies of this very rare stamp for sale at prices ranging from £10000 to £15000 (one wonders just how rare it really is!). However, to my untrained eye the shades of these five stamps are all totally different and two of them have certificates!

The moral of the tale is fairly clear..... buyer beware.....even if there is a certificate.

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SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT (AND FIRST LADY!)

This is being written during the closing days of August, approaching six months of “Social Distancing”, and for many of us that aspect of everyday life is likely to persist for many weeks, and possibly months, to come. Normally, I would attend five or six local philatelic meetings a month but most societies have cancelled meetings for the remainder of 2020. My other main hobby is railway modelling but the outlook there is equally bleak with some exhibitions for early 2021 already cancelled. I certainly miss the social contact, the banter and camaraderie.

Under normal circumstances we were planning to be in Nova Scotia by now, enjoying a vacation before attending BNAPEX 2020 in Dartmouth / Halifax. On our return there would then have been a busy (frantic?) few weeks finalising arrangements for our CPS of GB Convention in Eastbourne. None of that will now happen and we can only hope that circumstances will improve to allow us to meet in September 2021.

Despite this hiatus to our philatelic and social activities I am pleased to thank our officers and committee members for maintaining essential services to our members. “Maple Leaves” continues to be published and Graham Searle has prepared an excellent catalogue for a web / postal auction on October 2nd – with another scheduled for early 2021. Those services of course depend on you, our members, for preparing articles for publication and for submitting material for the auctions and then for bidding. So thank you one and all; please continue to support our Society.

Virtual hugs and handshakes all round and let us look forward to the real thing, and better times to come.

Kindest regards to you and yours

Brian and Freda Stalker

FROM THE TREASURER

The Society Accounts for the twelve months period up to 30th June 2020 appear on pages 478 and 479. If members have any queries relating to the accounts please contact me (see inside back cover for contact details).

The Society remains in good financial health. Income was once again greatly helped by significant advertising income and good auction results. At the same time, our major expenditures were subject to little or no inflation. The £/\$CAN rate remained reasonably stable over the year and the bulk of the Society assets remain invested in Canada where they accrue a higher interest rate than in the UK.

Having reduced subscriptions twice in the last five years, I am holding them steady at current levels for the coming year.

I once again extend my thanks to Mike Street who has managed the Canadian accounts for the Society and to Jim Bisset who has acted as our Honorary Examiner.

Karen Searle

FROM THE SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER

Enclosed with this issue of Maple leaves is the reminder regarding subscriptions for 2021 for those members who need to act regarding payment. (If you had no such enclosure with your copy, you need take no action). Subscriptions fall due on 1st January 2021.

The annual subscription rate remains at the low level of £15 for UK members and £20 for those living overseas. As usual payments can be made by cheque (in £ mailed to me or in \$US or \$CAN mailed to Mike Street) or via PAYPAL on the Society website. You can even pay by direct BACS transfer to the Society account. If you wish to pay by this method please contact the Treasurer who will provide the necessary details.

Members who have paid in advance for 2021, have a life membership or have been a member for over 50 years continuously need take no action and will not have received the reminder with this issue. If you are unsure if one or any of these apply to you, please contact me or Mike Street by e mail or phone and we can confirm your status. Contact details can be found on the inside of the back cover.

Ken Flint

FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER

By the time you read this our 'Convention Auction' will have closed on 2 October and results should have found their way to all bidders. Subject to receiving sufficient material from vendors we plan to hold another postal/web auction in Q1 2021. The closing date for consigning material to this sale will be **Friday 18 December**.

We remain short of material for future auctions so please do look out those surplus stamps and covers and consign them to a Society auction. Our vendor commission rates are well below the market rate and you will automatically reach an audience of hungry buyers.

Graham Searle FCPS

LONDON GROUP

Although the offices of the Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, are due to re-open in October, we have decided to cancel the remaining planned meetings of the London Group this year due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID 19 and the fact that many of our regular attendees are in the 'vulnerable' category.

All being well, we hope to recommence meetings in early 2021 but updates will be provided on the Society website or in future issues of *Maple Leaves*.

Colin Banfield FCPS

SCOTLAND AND NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP

The next meeting of the Scotland and North of England Group will be held on **Saturday 14th November**. Our current plan is that this meeting will be an 'in person' meeting in Glasgow (see below) but those who do not want to travel may join in via Zoom. If meeting in person, we will be meeting 'chez George' at 'Kilmory', 20 Mirrlees Drive, Kirklee in Glasgow. The postcode is G12 0SH and Mirrlees Drive is located just off the Great Western Road to the west end of the Royal Botanic Gardens. All members (and their guests) 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 or if you would like a map! Confirmation of the arrangements will be circulated by e mail nearer the time.

Our tentative plans for 2021 are to hold three meetings, one in person and two via Zoom.

Graham Searle FCPS

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

It has been quite a quiet year this year. There have been relatively few new applications for membership, yet our overall membership number has remained fairly stable. Once again, the two principle ways that new members have heard of our society and decided to join are either recommendations from existing members or through the internet.

There has been no written correspondence, but I have had various emails asking about aspects of the society which I have been able to deal with. There have also been a few encouraging remarks about the Society Website.

John Watson.

REPORT FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER

Two auctions have been completed during the last 12 months, generating over £1500 for the Society.

The first of these was the 2019 Convention Auction in Bakewell. This sale featured some 344 lots (from 12 vendors plus some donated lots) and achieved gross sales of around

£10080 which included some £85 of donated material. The sale attracted a high number of bidders with over 35 bidding on the book and some 12 bidding aggressively in the room. Of the 50 total bidders, only 4 were unsuccessful in winning any lots. Around half the book bidders were from North America and 12 made use of the PAYPAL payment option. The nett return to the Society, after expenses, was just over £1030. Once again expenses were kept to a minimum with only 8 paper catalogues printed off for the sale; one of which was available to members at Convention to aid viewing.

The second was a web-based sale held in March 2020. This featured some 343 lots from 14 vendors two of whom had donated their material for Society funds. The sale drew bids from 34 book bidders of whom 32 were successful in winning at least some of the lots they bid on. Bidders were split roughly 50/50 between the UK and North America. The sale was notable for including the largest range of Revenue material we have ever offered. Gross sales were just over £5250 with a nett return to the Society, after expenses, of just over £510. Once again, the PAYPAL option was well used and two buyers made use of a BACS transfer option which we plan to offer more widely in future sales. Expenses were kept to a minimum with just 7 copies of the Auction catalogue printed. The shipping out of lots was impacted by the COVID 19 situation with very long shipping times for international shipments (not helped by Canada Post effectively ceasing any attempt to track packages). However, as far as I know all lots got to their destination eventually.

Items that continue to always sell well include the mixed lots of covers and bulk lots of Admiral stamps. The revenue material in the last sale also sold well, in particular the scarcer items. After many years when RPO's and ordinary stamp issues did not draw any bids, both of these types have sold well in recent sales; clearly fashions change! As ever it is the high quality and unusual material that draws the most bids regardless of the genre.

As I noted last year, the excellent results achieved over the last 3 – 4 years' worth of auctions have relied heavily on two major vendors (these comprised some 60% of total sales in the March 2020 auction). Both of these (the estate sale of the late Peter Payne's collections and a large long term collection owned by one of our older members) have now been virtually exhausted so in the spirit of Mr Micawber, I am hoping that *'something else will turn up'* to maintain results. Whilst we have a small number of other regular vendors, the total number of vendors has fallen off in recent years so we need to find a way to encourage more vendors to use the Society Auction.

Graham Searle

REPORT FROM THE EXCHANGE PACKET MANAGER

The packet has continued to sell well again this year, but **we are still in great need of more Vendors to submit material.** There have been no new vendors again this year.

Facebook Page

The Facebook Page has been active for nearly 2 years and now has 111 'Likes'. The Facebook CPS of GB Discussion group now has 81 members an increase of 32 on last year.

Hugh Johnson

REPORT FROM THE EDITOR, MAPLE LEAVES

I am pleased to report that the four copies of Maple Leaves due to be issued since our last AGM have been issued on schedule. The quantity of good material available has allowed us to maintain the size of these issues at the maximum of 64 pages. Our printers/ distributors have continued to do a good job and prices have remained stable.

Our level of advertising income remains very high by historic standards. The number of advert pages is now as high as we would wish it to be for a balanced issue.

Material to hand for future issues has fluctuated during the year but is, once again, very low after the July 2020 issue and a further plea for additional articles has been made. As usual, I remain indebted to a few (thankfully prolific) authors for the bulk of the material published although recent pleas for material have brought forward a few new authors which is most welcome. After many years of struggling to get articles on matters Newfoundland, I have been able to publish several in the last year. However, articles on the other Maritime Provinces, British Columbia and Vancouver Island remain notable only by their absence.

Graham Searle
Editor, Maple Leaves

REPORT FROM THE WEBSITE MANAGER

All routine updates to the site have been completed as planned.
No significant issues to report.

Graham Searle

We have included these Officers Reports in this issue of Maple Leaves as they are normally posted at our Annual Convention which, of course, has had to be postponed this year. If any member has any queries relating to these reports or the annual accounts on the following pages, please contact the relevant officers of the Society. Contact details can be found on the inside back cover.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020



CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO YEAR ENDED 30 June 20

INCOME		£
	Subscriptions and Donations	4229.10
	Maple Leaves Advertising Revenue	2988.81
	Bank Interest	592.22
	Miscellaneous	21.21
	Exchange Packet	43.64
	Convention Auction Surplus	1025.11
	Internet Auction Surplus	510.52
TOTAL INCOME		<u>9410.61</u>

EXPENDITURE		
	Maple Leaves Printing and Distribution	4839.18
	Administration Expenses	143.12
	ABPS fee	135.00
	Insurance	418.89
	Peter Payne Estate	4.40
	Website running costs	254.39
	Write down of Ties Stock	46.53
	Convention Deficit	431.59
	Overall surplus for year	3137.51
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>9410.61</u>

Notes:- Canadian funds have been converted to sterling at C\$1.68= £1

Hon. Treasurer

Hon. Examiner

22 July 2020

20 July 2020

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET FOR
YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020**

		£	£
ASSETS			
	Cash balances:RBS Account	8502.10	
	Meridian Bank	9801.96	
	Sub-total cash		18304.06
	Investments at cost:		
	** Janus Henderson Unit Trust	3000.00	
	Interest bearing Canadian bank bond	27038.31	
	Sub-total investments at cost		30038.31
	* Library books as valued		4454.70
	* Trophies as valued		2351.46
	TOTAL ASSETS		55148.53
LIABILITIES			
	General fund balance at 30/6/19	12784.53	
	Sterling surplus 2019/20	-1282.43	
	General fund balance at 30/6/20		11502.10
	Canadian fund balance at 30/6/19	32810.95	
	Exchange rate gain over 2019/20	-390.61	
	Canadian \$ surplus 2019/20	4419.93	
	Canadian fund balance at as 30/6/20		36840.27
	Library fund		4454.70
	Trophy Fund		2351.46
	TOTAL LIABILITIES		55148.53

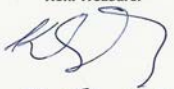
Notes:

For 2019/20 , Canadian funds have been converted to Sterling at the rate of C\$1.68 = £1,
whilst in 2018/19 Canadian funds were converted to Sterling at the rate of C\$1.66=£1
This difference gives rise to an exchange rate loss (expressed in Sterling) at 30/6/20

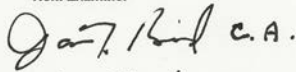
*These are disposal values. Insurance (Replacement) values are £9,000 and £23,720 respectively.

** These had a market value of £5495.16 on 30th June 2020

Hon. Treasurer


22 July 2020

Hon. Examiner


20 July 2020

URGENTLY REQUIRED

ARTICLES - LONG AND/OR SHORT

FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF MAPLE LEAVES

**Please send as *pdf* or *word* document to the Editor with any
pictures supplied as jpeg scans at 300 dpi.**

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP

to 15th SEPTEMBER 2020

New Members:-

- 3084 DUNLOP, Garry; 3 Guardswell Place, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1SD; e mail garry.dunlop@talktalk.net
- 3085 MORELAND, Steve; 94 Simcoe Street, Angus, Ontario, Canada L0M 1B0; e mail info@morelandrevenuestamps.com; **R**
- 3086 CHERMISHNOK, Vince; Rua do Carrascal 1, 2500 – 602 Nadadouro, Portugal; e mail vchermis@ibinx.com
- 3087 CUSWORTH, Martyn; 15 Lea Drive, Shepley, Huddersfield, Yorkshire HD8 8HA; e mail martyn.cusworth@yahoo.com
- 3088 MORGAN, Howard; 26 Kensington Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 7XS; e mail hmorgan125@zoho.com; **N**

Change of Address and Corrections to Address:-

- 2967 McLAUGHLIN, David; 703 – 1600 Charles Street, Whitby, ON Canada L1N 0G4
- 3073 DAVID, Kenneth; PO Box 190, Orleans, MA USA 02653

Revised Total:- 247

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 7 - 10 ANKARA 2020 FEPA Exhibition, Turkey
- Nov 9 CPSGB London Group meeting - cancelled**
- Nov 14 CPSGB Scotland and North of England meeting - Glasgow/Zoom**

2021 Provisional Programme

- Jan 22- 23 York Stamp & Coin Fair, York Racecourse
- Feb 17 - 20 Spring Stampex, BDC Islington, London
- Apr 16 - 17 Northern National - Perth, Scotland
- Sep 3 - 5 BNAPEX, Winnipeg
- Aug 25 - 30 PHILANIPPON, Yokohama, Japan
- Sept 20 - 24 CPSGB Convention - Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne**
- Sept 29 - Oct 2 Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London
- Nov 9 - 13 IPEX, Cape Town, South Africa

2022 Provisional Programme

- Feb 19 - 26 LONDON 2022 (postponed from May 2020)
- Sept 28 - Oct 2 CPSGB 75th Anniversary Convention - Dundee**

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN 2019/21

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