

# Maple Leaves

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**phone: 917 863 9011**

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A.E.Stephenson, *FCPS*  
**Edited by: Graham Searle, FCPS**  
Ryvoan, 11 Riverside, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6PS  
e mail: [searle711@btinternet.com](mailto:searle711@btinternet.com)

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**EDITORIAL**

This issue of Maple Leaves marks the start of a new Volume (37) and a new year. In wishing all our members a Very Happy 2021 I am sure we can all wish for this new year to be rather more ‘normal’ than the last. The recent news on vaccine roll-out provides some hope that philatelic meetings and events may be able to once again take place later in 2021; if so, we hope to meet again soon.

The New Year also means that annual subscriptions are now due. If you have not already paid, details can be found on the notice that accompanied the last issue of *Maple Leaves* or online at [www.canadianpsgb.org.uk](http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk). If you are unsure of your subscription status please contact one of our Subscription Managers/ Agents. See page 58 for details.

I hope to have an index for Volume 36 of the journal complete in time for it to be mailed out with the April issue of Maple Leaves so that those of you who like to get your copies bound will be able to include the index.

I must apologise for a rather important typo in the last issue. The author of the article on WWII Canadian Merchant Navy Mail is Jonathan Johnson not ‘Johnathon’.

Those members who have a particular interest in the Admiral issue of Canada and who, like me, find themselves sometimes frustrated by the quality of the pictures in the Marler book on the issue, will want to pay a visit to a new website established by member Bill Burden. In what can only be described as a ‘labour of love’, Bill, with the help of many other Admiral enthusiasts, has set about trying to record high quality

digital images of all the many plate varieties, re-entries and retouches to be found on this long lived set of stamps. You can see what is on offer at [cms.wgburden.com](http://cms.wgburden.com)

The New Year is a good time to thank all of our advertisers for their support and to ask all our members to continue to support them. Without them, we would have little to collect and, just as importantly, would lack the knowledge, guidance and help they provide.

Finally, the sad news has reached the Editorial desk of the death of George Arfken at the grand old age of 97. George was a long-time member of the Society and is probably best known as the author or co-author of no less than nine books on the early stamp issues and postal history of Canada. He also contributed well over 250 articles to various philatelic publications. Books bearing his name on the Pence Issue, Decimal Issue, Small Queen Postal History and the Registration Stamps of 1875 remain the seminal works on these issues and provide a fitting memorial to a remarkable philatelist.



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*Editor's Note: This article was submitted to the Journal in early 2020 but I have delayed publication waiting for a chance to place the entire article in one issue.*

# **NEWFOUNDLAND:DISCOVERIES IN THE DESIGN SIZES OF THE 1932 FIRST RESOURCES; 1933 GILBERT; 1937 LONG CORONATION AND 1938 ROYAL FAMILY ISSUES**

**John M. Walsh RPSC and Robin Moore**

**This study:-**

- A) Establishes the Printing Press types used by Perkins Bacon & Co**
- B) Disproves allegations that perf 13.3 x 13.3 was done by Waterlow & Sons and**
- C) Proves that the large 21mm image size 1932 First Resources stamps were printed by Perkins Bacon & Co, rather than only by Waterlow & Sons.**

## **1. PRINTING PRESS TYPE USED BY PERKINS BACON & CO.**

In 1931 watermarked stamp paper for Newfoundland was introduced. The Newfoundland Government had requested that their stamp paper was to have watermarks placed into it and the Newfoundland Coat of Arms was chosen. They were to be positioned so that each stamp would be printed on top of a Coat of Arms. In 1932 a new series of stamps was released with engraving and printing done by Perkins Bacon & Co under contract by John Dickinson & Co, who were agents for the Newfoundland Government. This issue contained a mixture of views, fish, animals, fishing and sealing fleets for which Newfoundland is famous. There are portraits of the Royal Family; one being the first in the British Empire to portray Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) who was born on 21 April 1926.

The printer sets the outline for how they want the individual watermarks to be placed into the paper. The paper maker, Croxley Mills, then does the positioning on to the paper making screen as per the outlines. The engravure manner of plate printing known to be in use by Perkins Bacon & Co at this time was the wet paper printing technique. This method of printing uses unguammed stamp paper to print on. For the printer to have unguammed stamp paper it confirms that was the way the paper maker shipped the paper. Croxley Mills made the watermarked stamp sheets sized as 22½ in. x 26 in. Co-author Walsh owned the sheet in the format shown in fig 1 overleaf. It had no gum on it.

The sheet consisted of 400 watermark subjects positioned in the format of four panes that were separated by horizontal and vertical gutters having 100 subjects in each pane

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Cross gutter format for 400 subject sheet as per imbedded watermarks

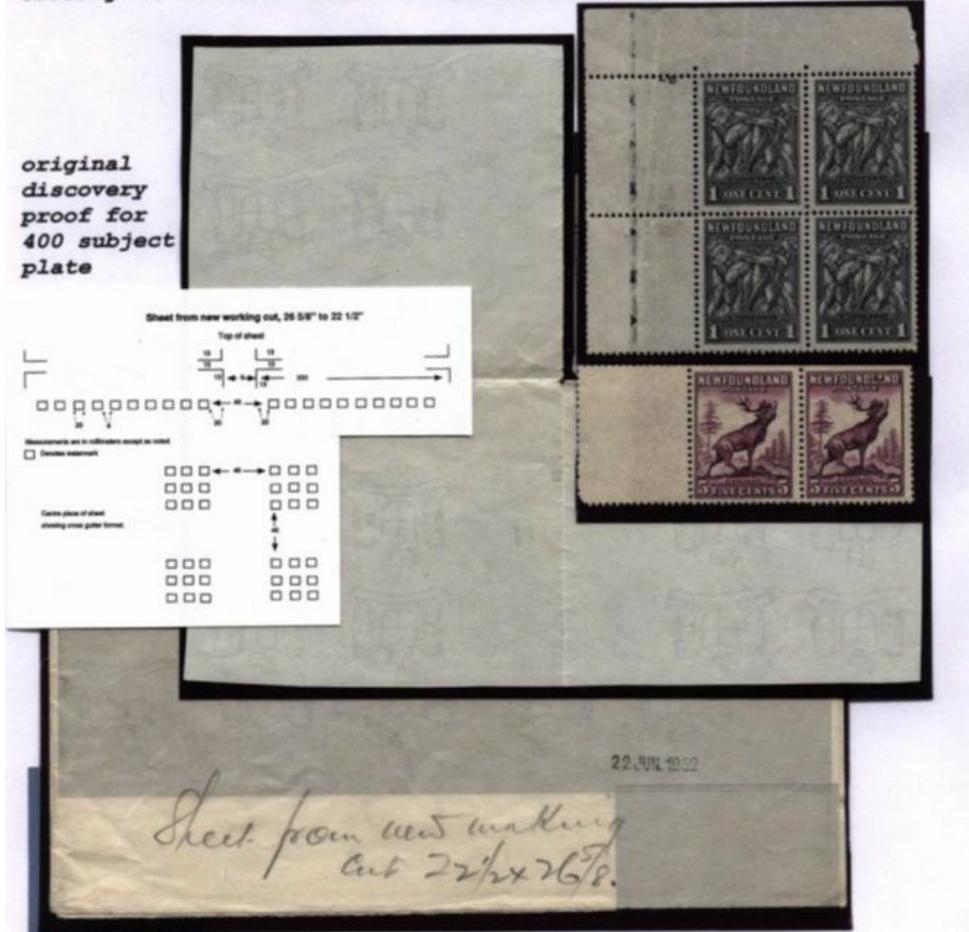


Fig 1. Resources Issue of 1932 – 1¢ grey value from plate 6. It shows half of the wide 46mm gutter showing the perforations on the inside left margin indicating where the other pane was attached. The 5¢ value also shows the same features. Shown in conjunction with the central section taken from the sheet layout used in 1932. The top sheet margin strip shown at the bottom displays the date and the sheet size.

set in a layout of 10 horizontal x 10 vertical subjects. Cutting marks to enable pane separation can be seen set into the sheet margins. See fig 1 above for proof of this layout.

With unguammed paper the printer used the wet printing technique which was done by the following steps:

- making a printing plate that had four panes each having 100 subjects engraved upon it.
- having the paper dampened because wet paper enables better impressions.
- printing plate die was covered in ink; excess removed; pressure is applied to press the ink

into the wet paper.

- d) paper dried then gum applied. Gum allowed to dry then perforations applied.
- e) then that single four pane sheet was divided into panes of 10 horiz. x 10 vert. subjects for Post Office use.

This wet paper printing technique is confirmed from marketplace observations. With this technique, Offests (image is a reverse of front) can be found under the gum. Offsets are created on the printed sheet underside. When landing on the previously still wet inked sheet above the ink sometimes transfers to the verso. The wet sheets need to be dried before gum application. The colour-of-issue stamps on watermarked stamp paper are found unguammed. Therefore, no offsets will be on top of the gum. Sheet-fed rotary press wet printing enabled faster stamp sheet production. For those stamp denominations required in massive quantities, rotary press printing would be the method of choice. For orders of lesser demands, sheet-fed flatbed wet press printing would be the choice. Detailed understanding of these press types was received from researcher Julian J. Goldberg, through his personal communications and from his own and co-author Walsh collaborative published research findings. Their published research had to do with the presses being specifically used in Canada to print its stamps in this same period (*see ref I*).

## **2. DESIGN SIZES OF THE ISSUED STAMPS**

### **Introduction: -**

We have examined the Newfoundland stamp material that came from the estate acquisitions made by stamp dealer Kasimir Bileski; often known as Kas of K. Bileski. He had acquired the estate of Alfred John Hubbard, Chairman of the Board of Perkins Bacon & Co. It was Bileski, by his successful, informative, and persuasive selling technique, who introduced this material post-1975 into the public domain. In his aggressive selling, Bileski made comparisons of his material to the issued stamp size of the 1941 Waterlow & Sons issue. He stated his material was of Waterlow & Sons making. He forgot that Hubbard did not work for Waterlow & Sons and that thus there was no reason for Hubbard to have received their material. He even forgot to notice the pre-1941 dates stamped on the stamp sheets.

This study presents facts that demonstrate a variety of printing developments were being introduced to enhance Perkins Bacon & Co stamp production. The samples are those from Bileski via the Hubbard estate. The results show that the acquisitions in his estate are comprised of material that was specifically made from the presses of the printing company Perkins Bacon & Co. It shows that A. J. Hubbard had a continuous relationship with this company's name as it went through different ownerships. The material being studied encompass that of the 1932 First Resources, 1933 Gilbert, 1937 Long Coronation and 1938 Royal Family issues. Only some of the 1938 Royal Family issue is included because we have not seen associated items connected to the 2¢ green and 7¢ blue denominations. The study shows that both unguammed and gummed stamp products exist for these issues.

For the time sequence in this article, here is a short outline of this company's working timeline: Perkins Bacon & Co pre 1936; then in 1936 - 1939 same name with new ownership; it was sold and renamed Perkins Bacon Ltd. 1939 - 41; then the plant was destroyed in May 1941.

Documentation by many authors say that the 1932 First Resources issue was only comb perforated 13.5 x 13.5. However, this was discovered not to be accurate. Found in this issue there exists 14.3 x 14.3; 14.2 x 14.2; 14 x 14; 13.9 x 13.9 and 14.1 x 13.7 perforations. Also found is a 13.3 x 13.3 perforation. It will be shown that this perforation has been incorrectly stated to only belong to the new 1941 Waterlow & Sons printer. It is also stated that the comb perforator only punched holes around the stamped images. This is incorrect because the perforations can be found punched across and through the different side margins. Additionally, imperforate between varieties show that line perforation was in use.

### **The First Resources Issue: -**

Starting with the 1932 First Resources issue, the following tables 1 and 2 provide information in explained headings to provide facts to support our observations. From the stamp quantities that would be required, it is probable that a rotary press printed those stamps having plate numbers. This can be stated because of research published by Anthony B. Thompson (*ref 2*). He reports visual information as gleamed from Perkins Bacon & Co Engravings Book 1923-1935. This book has in it their Order Book. It shows in written form and from writings on some die proofs, indications for such a method was in use. Seen written on some die proofs is that flatbed press printing was also utilised. Usually when both presses are present at the same business, the flatbed press printing would be applied to print small order quantities, a choice of economy.

Presented in the 1932 issue table 1 overleaf are items available only as one sheet of 100 for each design. Besides showing the imperforate coloured plate proofs, ungummed and gummed design size 20.4 mm, are the interesting Y imperforate black unwatermarked ungummed design size 21 mm plate proof stamps. When Bileski sold these latter items, he made a point of listing them as being from the Waterlow & Sons 1941 issue. This is because of the 21 mm design size, that he and all others, associated with the 1941 Resources issue when compared to the 20.4 mm design size of the issued 1932 Resources. He also sold the 5¢ black die II unwatermarked, ungummed design size 21 mm. Again, he and the stamp community seem to have forgotten that this stamp sized die II was not issued in the 1941 Resources issue but only found in the 1932 issue. And they all forgot the pre-1941 dates written on these stamp sheets. A hunt for the printed denominational black design size 21 mm die plate proofs was undertaken.

**HAVE YOU TRIED TO ENROL  
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**

From the collection of co-author Moore came many of these Bileksi released stamps. After much scrutiny and measurement, the reported sizes made by Bileksi are confirmed. A study was then made of the 1932 large die proofs. These would be used to make the hardened plate proof for the printing plate. The discovery was made that during the 1932 die developments the same denomination can be found having two different die design sizes: the sizes being 20.4 mm and 21 mm. In their initial stamp production, Perkins Bacon & Co used watermarked, ungummed paper to print the issue. Use of this paper required having a die size larger than the

Table 1.

1932 Jan 02 perf. 13.5 x 13.5; 20.4 mm  
all exist imperf. & 0.100 M each  
Colour (NG); (G) (20.4 mm) & (21 mm)  
perf. 13.3 x 13.3 (20.4 mm)  
diamond  $\diamond$  unwmkd Black (NG) 21 mm  
x wmkd Black (NG) 21 mm  
star  $\star$  wmkd Black (G) 21 mm  
square  $\blacksquare$  wmkd Black (G) 21 mm

1932 Jan. 02 Gum Issued

1932 Aug. 15 perf. 13.5 x 13.5; 20.4 mm  
all exist imperf. & 0.100 M each  
diamond  $\diamond$  Colour (NG); (G) (20.4 mm) & (21 mm)  
x unwmkd Black (NG) 21 mm

1932 Aug. 15 Gum Issued

✓OFFSET under gum

PLATE\*\*\*

1938 Jan. 01 perf. 13.5 x 13.5; 20.4 mm  
all exist imperf. & 0.100 M each  
Colour (NG); (G) 20.4 mm  
x unwmkd Black (NG) 21 mm

1938 Jan. 01 Gum Issued

1932 Resources issue table. \*\*\*1932 Plate #s as found in Walsh Plate Number Exhibit 1897 - 1947 ([www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org)).

1¢ green $\times$	1¢ green			1, 2
1¢ gray		required later	1¢ gray	✓ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
finished state NG (size 20.4 mm)				
bookend red blue (size 20.4 mm)				
2¢ die I rose $\times$	2¢ die I rose			1, 2, 3
2¢ die I green		required later	2¢ die I green	1, 2, 3
2¢ die II green	2¢ die II green		✓	2, 4 (perf. 13.3; size 21 mm)
horiz. perf. 14, imperf. vert. (size 21 mm)				
violet NG (size 21 mm)				
red NG (size 21 mm)				
indigo NG (size 21 mm)				
orange NG (size 21 mm)				

Die proofs delineate both ungummed printing methods: flatbed; machine (sheet-fed rotary bent plates, wet, NG)

3¢ orange brown	3¢ orange brown		1, 2, 3
vert. perf. 13.3, imperf. horiz. (size 20.4 mm)			
indigo NG			
red brown NG			
4¢ violet $\times$	4¢ violet		2, 3 (rotary No.3 broke 05Oct32)
4¢ rose		required later	4 (imperf. only; no print for release)
		14.1 x 13.7; imperf. horiz. (size 20.4 mm)	
vert. pair, imperf. horiz. (left perf. 13.7, right perf. 14.1, horiz. side perf. 14.1)			
vert. pair, imperf. horiz. (left perf. 14.1, right perf. 13.7, horiz. side perf. 14.1)			

Die proofs delineate both ungummed printing methods: flatbed; machine (sheet-fed rotary bent plates, wet, NG)

5¢ die I violet $\times\diamond$	5¢ die I violet		
black $\star$			
black $\blacksquare$			
5¢ die II violet $\times\diamond$	5¢ die II violet	✓	2, 3, 3 (perf. 13.3; size 21 mm), 4, 5, 6, 7
horiz. perf. 14.2, imperf. vert. (size 21 mm)			
green NG			

Die proofs delineate both ungummed printing methods: flatbed; machine (sheet-fed rotary bent plates, wet, NG)

1932 Jan.02 perf. 13.5 x 13.5; 20.4 mm  
all exist imperf. & 0.100 M each  
Colour (NG); (G) (20.4 mm) & (21 mm)  
perf. 13.3 x 13.3 (20.4 mm)  
X unwmkd Black (NG) 21 mm  
☆ wmkd Black (NG) 21 mm  
■ wmkd Black (G) 21 mm

1932 Jan. 02 *Gum Issued*

1932 Aug. 15 perf. 13.5 x 13.5; 20.4 mm  
all exist imperf. & 0.100 M each  
◆ Colour (NG); (G) (20.4 mm) & (21 mm)  
X unwmkd Black (NG) 21 mm

1932 Aug. 15 *Gum Issued*

✓OFFSET under gum

PLATES\*\*\*



imperf. x 13.3



14.1 x 13.7;  
imperf. horiz.

48¢ brown X      48¢ brown  
violet NG

**1932 Resources issue table.** \*\*\*1932 Plate #s as found in Walsh Plate Number Exhibit 1897 - 1947 ([www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org)).

6¢ blue X	6¢ blue
	7¢ red brown X      7¢ red brown
	horiz. perf 14.2, imperf vert. (size 20.4 mm)
	8¢ orange red X      8¢ orange red
	horiz. pair, imperf. vert.
10¢ black brown X	10¢ black brown
orange NG	
14¢ black X	14¢ black
vert. pair, imperf. horiz.	
15¢ magenta X	15¢ magenta
brown NG	
20¢ gray green X	20¢ gray green
	24¢ blue X      24¢ blue
	vert. pair, imperf. horiz.
25¢ gray X	25¢ gray
vert. perf 14.2, imperf. horiz. (size 20.4 mm)	
30¢ ultramarine	30¢ ultramarine
vert. pair, imperf. horiz.	
mauve NG	

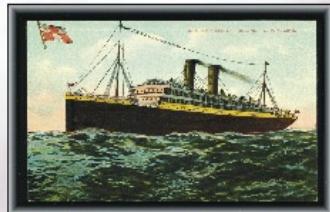
finished product. From the die sizes seen, it would have to be the 21 mm size, as the press used the wet paper printing technique which results in the paper shrinking when dried. Confirmation is found when the issued perforated stamps and the imperforate un-gummed and gummed coloured stamps are viewed; they are of a smaller design size than the die. If dry pregummed paper was used, then a plate proof made from a hardened 20.4 mm die proof could be used. The 1933 Gilbert dies are 20.2 mm in size, as are the printed stamps (see below).

The stamp designs issued for the 3¢ value (2 Jan), 2¢ green die II (15 Aug) and 30¢ value (2 Jan) only in 1932 are not found in black having 21 mm design size. But the imperforate 2¢ green die II is found in four colour trials with a design size of 21 mm. These printed design size differences indicate that two types of printing presses were available to be used to print stamps by Perkins Bacon & Co, otherwise Hubbard, the chairman of that company, would not have had them. Analyses of what was happening with printing industry techniques has not been previously undertaken on these Newfoundland stamps. These plate proofs show the black Perkins Bacon & Co 1932 issue can be found in the larger 21 mm size in conjunction with the 20.4 mm for the printed coloured plate proofs and their corresponding perforated issued stamps.



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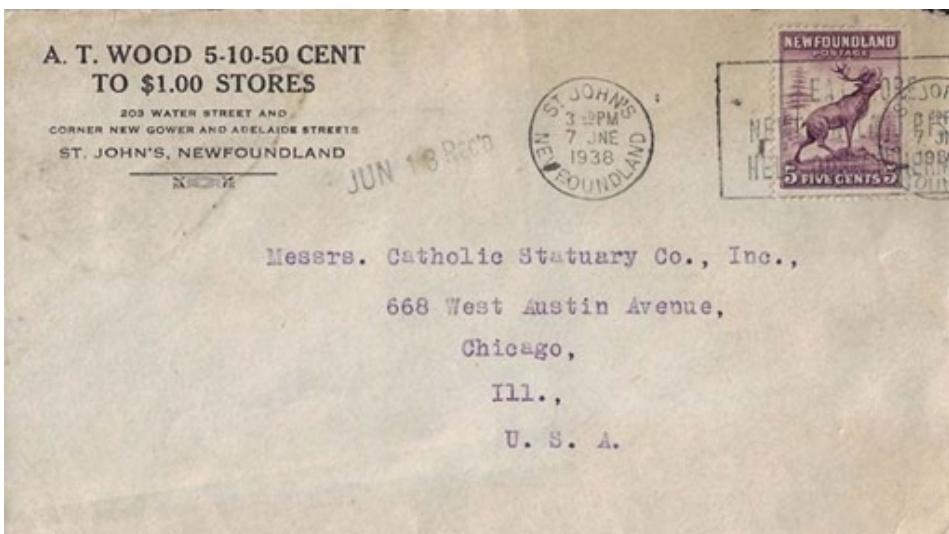
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Having the Perkins Bacon 1932 plate proof images in black and with the 2¢ die II colour trials on large 21 mm design sizes indicates they had to be printed post-1932 and pre-1941 on a different printing press. Why this period? Because the last denomination of the First Resources issue produced is the 48¢ value, which was under development in 1937. It was issued on 1 January 1938 which is in the period when dry printing was coming to the forefront. The 48¢ black in 21 mm black design size suggests that Perkins Bacon & Co printers were testing their printing plates using a high pressure press to see if they could do dry paper printing. The black printed designs, when examined, show that they are of high quality.

In this study several envelopes were found (Figs. 2 - 5). The visual information on each 5¢ envelope, shows die I and die II with design sizes 20.4 mm and 21 mm in perf. 13.3 x 13.3 and 13.5 x 13.5, and proves they existed in the Perkins Bacon & Co period. They could not have been made by the 1941 Waterlow & Sons printing manner as all have incorrectly assigned. The diverse addressed locales St. John's, Renews and Botwood, clearly shows that 5¢ stamps having perf. 13.3 x 13.3 and in die I and die II sizes were in Newfoundland prior to the destruction of Perkins Bacon & Co printing plant.



*Fig 2 Envelope dated 7 June 1938 with 5¢ Caribou die I perf 13.3 design size 20.4mm. Many have incorrectly placed this perf 13.3 with the 1941 Waterlow & Son printing issue. This 1938 dated envelope clearly places perf 13.3 x 13.3 in the Perkins Bacon & Co working period.*

The envelopes (in figs 2, 3 and 4) definitely prove that the 5¢ die I and die II design size 20.4 and 21 mm stamps with perforation 13.3 x 13.3 and 13.5 x 13.5 had to have been made prior to the destruction of the Perkins Bacon & Co printing plant and had been shipped well in advance of that plant being destroyed in May 1941.

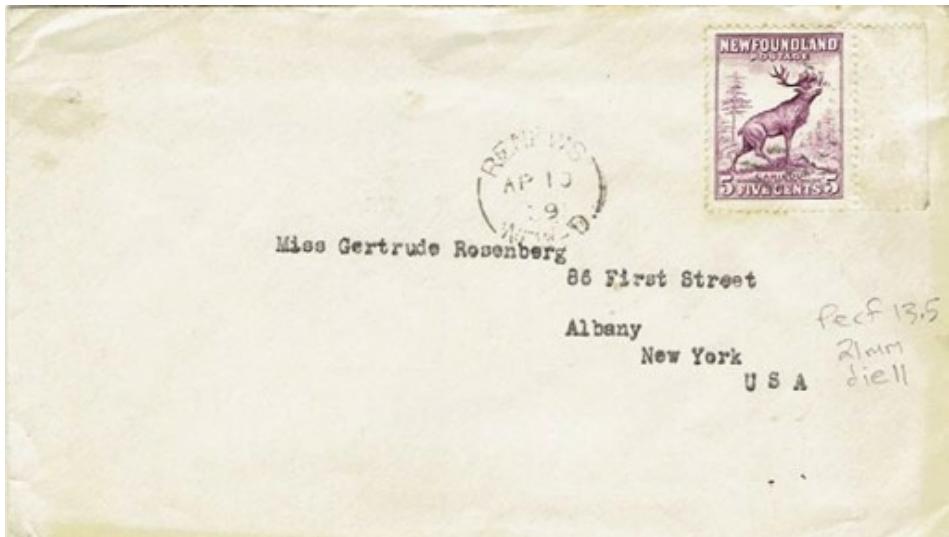


Fig 3 Envelope dated 10 April 1939 with 5¢ Caribou Die II perf 13.5 x 13.5 design size 21mm. Once again, this is in the Perkins Bacon & Co period.



Fig 4 Envelope dated 19 Sept 1940 with 5¢ Caribou Die II perf 13.5, design size 21mm. See detail of sizing. Once again, the stamp was made in the Perkins Bacon & Co period.

Further envelopes (shown in figs 6, 7 and 8) dated 14 Nov, 19 Nov and 22 Nov 1941 were found from different locales and have 5¢ die I perf. 13.3 x 13.3 and design size 21 mm. These are also indicative of item sizes that are found with printings belonging to Perkins Bacon & Co.

Remember, the Perkins Bacon & Co plant was destroyed in May 1941. The Perkins Bacon & Co chairman stated that their salvaged dies were turned over to the new

CENSOR

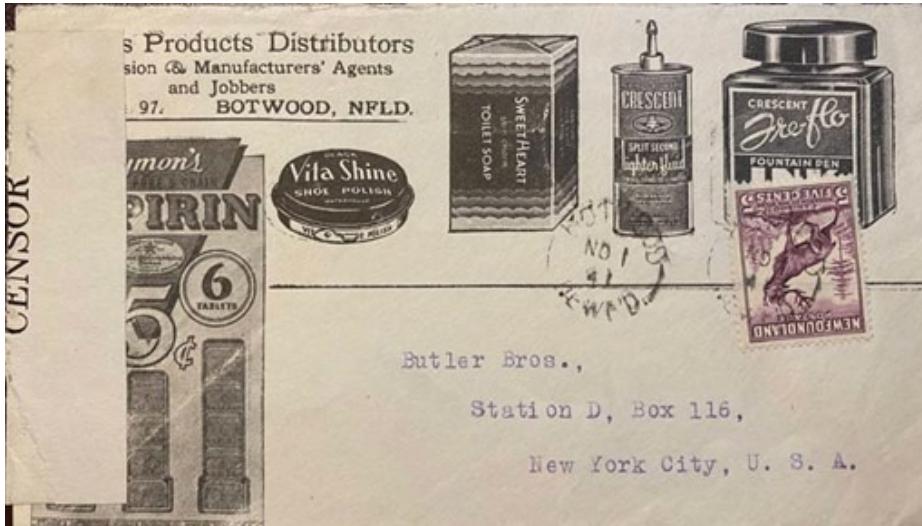


Fig 5 Advertising envelope dated 1 Nov 1941 with 5¢ Caribou Die II perf 13.5, design size 21mm.

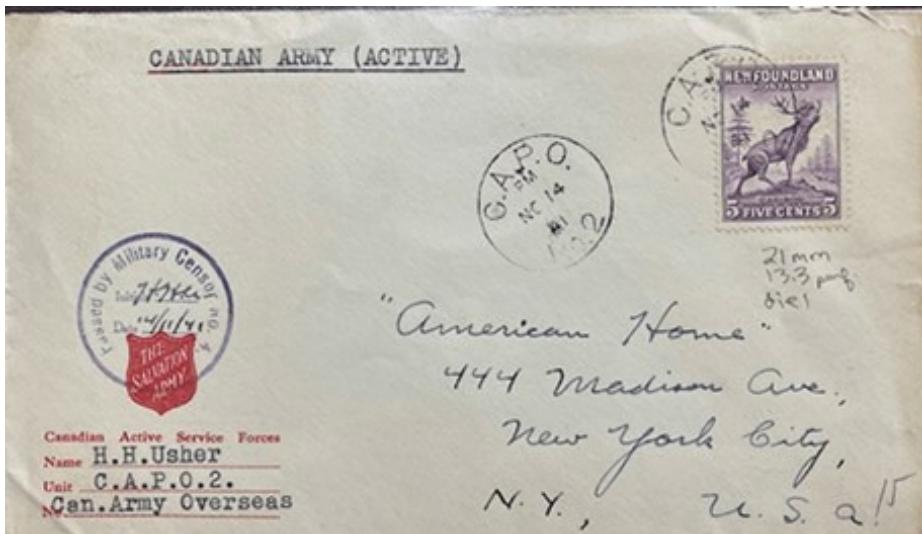


Fig 6 5¢ Caribou die I with perf 13.3, design size 21mm on envelope dated 14 Nov 1941.

printer. Upon examination they were found to need some repairs before use. The new printer, Waterlow & Sons, made use of the Perkins Bacon & Co dies. It is shown that the dies of 1932 being used were in the large design size 21 mm. This use is known from the issued printed material made by Waterlow & Sons. This material has the design size of 21 mm because their printing presses were created to use the high pressure, dry printing, technique. The issued 1941 Second Resources issue was printed on dry pregummed paper. Those assumed black design images of 1941 had to have

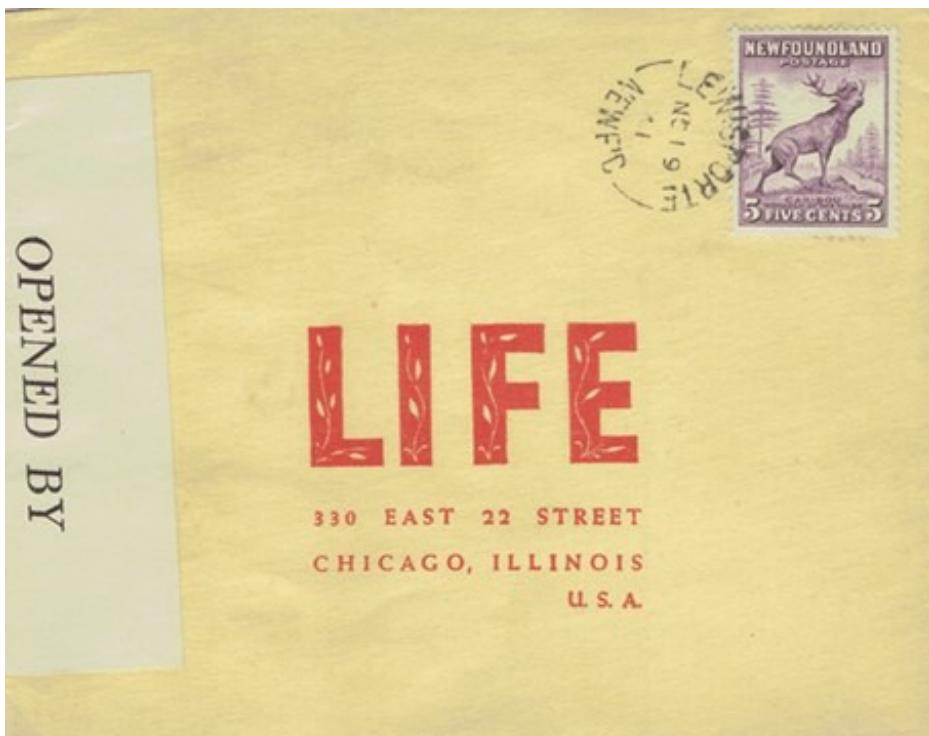


Fig 7 5¢ Caribou die I with perf 13.3, design size 21mm on envelope dated 19 Nov 1941.

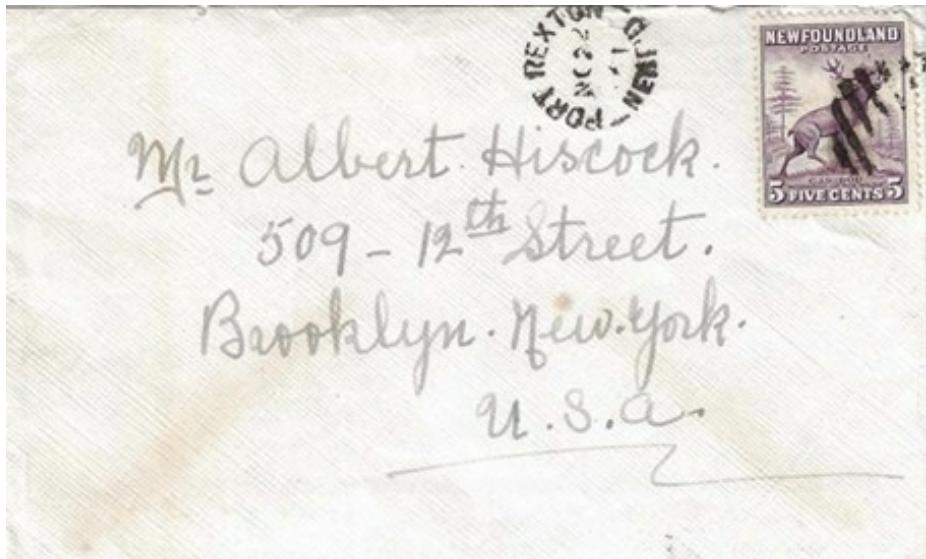


Fig 8 5¢ Caribou die I with perf 13.3, design size 21mm on envelope dated 22 Nov 1941.

been printed pre-1941 by Perkins Bacon & Co because they still had all the 1932 issue dies, when most of the 1932 issue in black were printed using this new dry paper printing technique.

Ayshford's written research of the Waterlow & Sons archives (*ref 3*) does not reflect the finding of any black imperforate 5¢ Caribou stamps in their files. As he could only report on what he found, one is left to realise that no black imperforate sheets were ever placed in the archive files. Since they kept those other printing files archived, then it is obvious that no black imperforate sheets were made, because Waterlow & Sons would have archived them with the other files.

The reader will recall that the 5¢ die II was not reissued in 1941 and its colour trials are in 21 mm design size. Also, as the 5¢ die I design size 20.4 mm having perforation 13.3 x 13.3 is found used in 1938 it must be a Perkins Bacon & Co issue. Then it is found on 5¢ die I with design size 21 mm with perf. 13.3 x 13.3 which is a proven Perkins Bacon & Co printing manner.

The new printing company Waterlow & Sons did not do 13.3 perforations for Newfoundland stamps. It has also been reported that perforations did not proceed through the sheet top margins. The image table, table 2 overleaf, proves this reporting to be incorrect. Different perforation sizes other than from comb perforating are presented. Even some of the one directional imperforates are found with design size 21 mm. It seems that **Perkins Bacon & Co had the ability from 1932 onward to do both wet and dry printing and with both comb and line perforations.**

The envelope shown in fig 9 is dated 16 May 1945 and shows die I with perforation 12.5 x 12.5 and the design size 21 mm. Other perforations that had been previously discov-

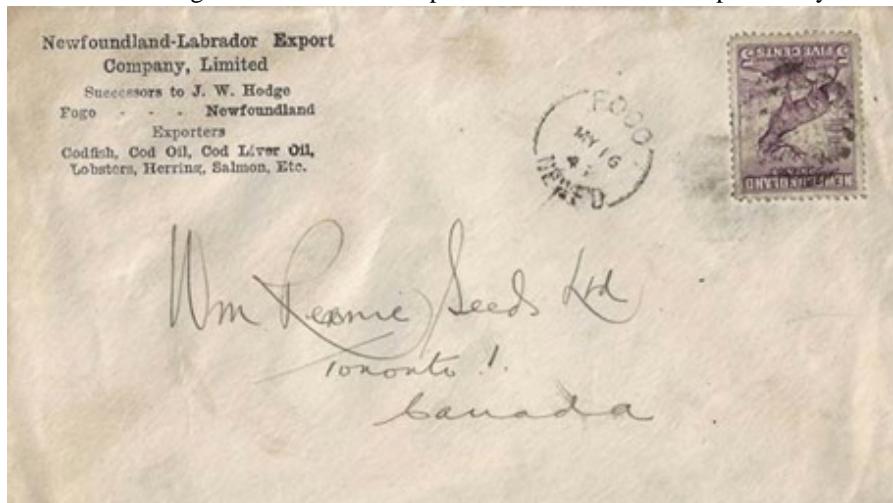


Fig 9 5¢ Caribou die I with perf 12.5 and design size 21mm on envelope dated 16 May 1945.

Table 2 - 1932 Resources Issue - Observed perforation styles

2 holes top margin	2 holes top margin + holes across left margin	2 holes top margin + holes left margin with a break before left column holes	1 hole top margin	1 hole top margin + holes across right margin	1 hole top margin + holes across left margin	holes through top margin + holes across left margin	no hole top margin
1¢#1 green	1¢ #1 green	1¢#2 green	1¢#1 gray	1¢#3 gray	1¢#4 gray	1¢#1 green	
1¢#2 gray	1¢#2 gray		1¢#5 gray	1¢#5 gray	1¢#6 gray		
2¢#1 rose	Die I	Die I	Die I	Die I	Die I	Die I	Die I
2¢#2 rose	2¢#2 green	2¢#2 green	2¢#3 green	2¢#3 green	2¢#3 green	2¢#1 green	2¢#1 green
2¢#3 rose		Die II	Die II	Die II	Die II	Die II	Die II
		2¢#4 green	2¢#4 green	2¢#4 green	2¢#4 green	2¢#2 green	2¢#2 green
						14.2 x 14.2	
3¢#1 brown	3¢#1 brown					3¢#1 brown	
3¢#2 brown	3¢#2 brown						
3¢#3 brown							
Die II	4¢#2 rose					4¢#2 rose	4¢#3 rose
5¢#2 violet						13.9 x 13.9	
Die II						4¢#2 rose	
5¢#3 violet						14.3 x 14.3	
Die II							
5¢#4 violet							
Die II							
5¢#5 violet							
Die II							
5¢#6 violet							
Die II							
5¢#7 violet							

*Plate blocks demonstrating examples of observed perforation styles and other interesting items.*



2 hole top margin



2 holes top margin +  
holes on left margin break  
before left column holes



1 hole top margin +  
holes across right margin



2¢ die II; no hole top  
margin



2 holes top margin +  
holes across left margin



1 hole top margin



2¢ die II; 1 hole top  
margin + holes across  
left margin



2¢ die I horiz. and vert. double perforated



5¢ partial offset under  
gum



2¢ full, partial offset;  
under gum



2¢ die II; plate 4;  
full offset under gum



holes through top margin  
+ holes across left margin  
+ perf. 14.3 x 14.3



2¢ die II; holes through top  
margin + holes across left  
margin + 14.2 x 14.2 x vert.  
imperf.



holes through top margin  
+ holes across left margin  
+ 14.3 x 14.3 x horiz.  
imperf.

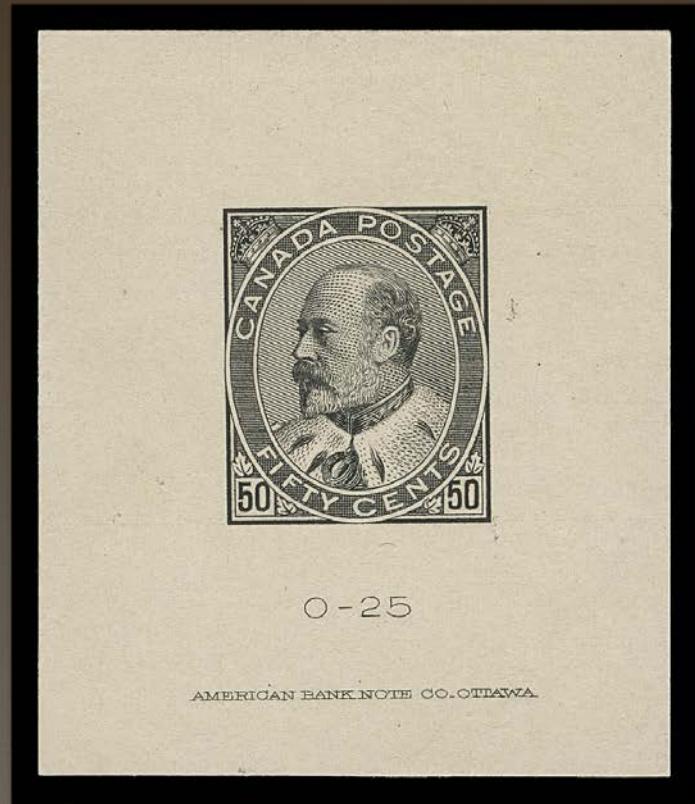
Observed perforation styles show basic perf. 13.5 x 13.5 utilized, with several other differing sized perforation gauges seen. From manner of the sheet perforation runs, it suggests that some denominations had several panes positioned on the sheet during the printing process. As well it shows perforation technique was in the line not just comb formation. The 5¢ die II perf. 13.5 x 13.5 design size 21 mm has been seen.



5¢ die I; 20.4 mm;  
small perf. 14 x 14

# Public Auction - Spring 2021

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ered by co-author Walsh, with help from John G. Butt, in this 1941 Second Resources issue are 12.5 x 12.8, 12.8 x 12.8, and 12.8 x 12.5. These sizes are indicative of the new printing format manner by Waterlow & Sons starting in 1941 and continuing to 1949.

Much can also be learned from the proofs and colour trials of this issue produced by Perkins Bacon & Co. The black proofs of the 5¢ die 1 are shown in fig 10. These images provide proof that Perkins Bacon & Co were deeply involved in perfecting their developing printing techniques. It shows that if the company did not improve its printing methods they would lag in the industry. This was not going to happen as they were deeply involved in printing the stamps of many countries.

Fig 11 below presents several 5¢ die I and die II sized images. The die and size differences are readily observed.



Fig 11 Proof pairs of the 5¢ Caribou. From the top these are: die II at 21mm; die I at 20.4mm; die I at 21mm and die II at 20.4mm.



Fig 10 Black proofs of the 5¢ die I all with design size 21mm. From the top, these are: 5¢ die I, unwmkd NG; 5¢ die I, wmkd G; 5¢ die I, wmkd NG.

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To give further proof of the ownership and maker of these design size 21mm stamps it is helpful to look at the colour proofs pairs as acquired and received from the estate of Perkins Bacon & Co chairman A.J. Hubbard by K. Bileski and sold by him. Several of these are shown in fig 12. This shows a variety of imperforate plate proofs of the 1932 issue 5¢ Caribou die II. There are different printing plates displayed as well as different shades. When measured, it is found that there are two different design sizes in this group. The stated pre-1941 dates are taken from the sheets these proofs were cut from. This group of proofs shows design sizes of both 20.4mm and 21mm and the stated dates prove that they were all produced pre-1941.

*Thus, the 21mm design size cannot be only from the new printer Waterlow & Sons as has been alleged.*



5¢ die II plate 2;  
design size 20.4mm



5¢ die II plate 2; design size  
20.4mm, shade difference



5¢ die II plate 2; design size  
21mm; thin paper; Plate Ptrs 7  
Mar 1939, 6800 Hand Plate  
Order No DB291 A.S.C.



5¢ die II plate 3; design size  
20.4mm; on blue moire paper



5¢ die II plate 4; design size  
20.4mm



5¢ die II plate 4; design size  
21mm; written on sheet top  
'Very first stage'



5¢ die II plate 4; design size  
21mm; written on sheet 'Sept  
23rd 1938'



5¢ die II plate 4; design size  
20.4mm; on blue moire paper;  
written on sheet 'Last Impres-  
sion 5,500 pulls 15/11/38'



5¢ die II plate 5; design size  
21mm; on blue moire paper;  
written on sheet '8000 sheets  
12/1/40 A.S.C.'

*Fig 12 Range of 5¢ Caribou plate proof pairs.*

To supplement this article's information on these stamps, a determination of paper thickness was conducted by co-author Moore, measuring his 5¢ Caribou gummed sheets. He found the thickness on the 1941 sheets of Waterlow & Sons measured 0.08 – 0.09mm. His 1932 sheets of Perkins Bacon & Co were found to give a thickness of 0.08 – 0.12mm. Plate 3 and plate 7 of the 5¢ die II had a reading of 0.08 – 0.09mm. While the 7¢ had a reading of 0.12mm. The paper gauge used is a US made Starrett 1010mz. (see fig 13)



Plate 3 design size 20.4mm and paper thickness 0.08mm



Plate 7 design size 21mm and paper thickness 0.08mm



1932 7¢ design size 20.4mm and paper thickness 0.12mm



1941 5¢ design size 21mm and paper thickness 0.08mm

Fig 13 Paper thickness on the Resources Issue stamps

### The Later Stamp Issues: -

The tables 1 and 2 have been presented to show how much differentiation occurred with the printing of the 1932 Resources issue. As soon as the early issued First Resources values were finished, the 1933 Gilbert issue was commenced. The authors examined the Gilbert large dies and saw no observable difference from the issued 20.2 mm stamp design size. The imperforate proof sizes are the same engraved size as the issued stamps. This leads to the observation that the only printing press used for this Gilbert set was the dry paper printing technique. This is confirmed as both the 1¢ and 2¢ denominations can be found with offsets which are found on top of the gum.

Then for some reason the Newfoundland Government decided they needed a 48¢ value

to augment the 1932 Resources issue. Development of this new value was undertaken in 1937 as determined from dates on the progressive die proofs, with an issue date being 1 January 1938. However, during the time period of the making of this 48¢ value, a new order was received from the Newfoundland Government. It was delivered by their contractor, John Dickinson & Co, to Perkins Bacon & Co to do the engraving and printing of the Long Coronation issue, as it was called.

The issued Long Coronation set consisted of 12 different image dies having denominations going from 1¢ to 48¢ formed in a horizontal rectangular shape. The rectangle consists of two images. One is an oval having a head vignette of King George VI positioned next to the same looking designs used in the 1932 First Resources issue. The Long Coronation issue is also found in the public domain as imperforate plate proof material. Kasimir Bileski released this material as it was part of the same Hubbard estate. In the Bileski selling spiel it was stated that one sheet of 100 images of each denomination existed. Because of the interesting findings in the earlier 1932 Perkins Bacon & Co engraved and printed issues, it was decided to study this issue. Possibly different printing presses were also being utilized with this issue.

There are three types of Long Coronation plate proof material seen in the public domain. They are category (I) imperforate unwatermarked black ungummed; category (II) imperforate unwatermarked colour ungummed and category (III) imperforate watermarked colour gummed. These headings match the listings in the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue*.

Having access to this imperforate material in co-author Moore's collection, this adventure became real. The initial direction was to measure the design length of all the items in category (I). These imperforate black ungummed items were all found to measure 37.3 mm, whereupon the 20¢ denomination was randomly selected for continuing comparisons. The numbered figures 14 to 20 on pages 26 and 27 show how the multiple scanned images were done and to provide visual acuity with the results in written form. There is no 1¢ black found with this set. However, the 1¢ in black on blue bookend paper does exist. It is often positioned in this set. It is found that the colour designs of the 1¢, 3¢ die II and 48¢ are larger than the rest of the set designs. The die proofs were measured in this set and like the 1932 issue two die sizes of 37.3 mm and 38.1 mm were found. Those ungummed black printed plate proofs, from the Hubbard estate as sold by Bileski, show their size to be 37.3 mm for all denominations apart from the 1¢ and the 3¢ die II which were not in Bileski's material. The 3¢ die II was released later during the printing run of this issue. The reason for this happening was to improve the weak facial definition of the king. When the issued stamp is measured most are found to give a printed size of 37.3 mm. However, three colour printed denominations are in the larger design size of 38.1 mm. They are the 1¢, 3¢ die II and the 48¢. A table is provided on page 27.

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Fig 14 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 1¢ imperf black NG bookend = larger and 48¢ imperf black NG = same.



Fig 15 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 3¢ die I imperf black NG = same



Fig 16 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 1¢ imperf black Gum = larger



Fig 17 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 20¢ imperf colour NG = same and 48¢ imperf colour NG = larger



Fig 18 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 1¢ perf colour Gum = larger and 48¢ perf colour Gum = larger



Fig 19 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 3¢ die I imperf colour NG = same and 3¢ die II imperf colour NG = larger



Fig 20 Comparison of the 20¢ imperf black NG size versus 3¢ die I perf colour Gum = same and 3¢ die II perf colour Gum = larger

### Measurement Table

item measured with mm sizes	all except →	1¢	3¢ die I	3¢ die II	48¢
imperforate unwmkd black NG	37.3 mm	—	37.3 mm	—	37.3 mm
imperforate unwmkd black NG	37.3 mm	38.1 mm blue bookend (moire)	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	38.1 mm
imperforate unwmkd colour NG	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	38.1 mm
imperforate wmkd colour Gum	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	38.1 mm
perforated wmkd colour Gum	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	37.3 mm	38.1 mm	38.1 mm

From this pattern it shows that two printing presses were in use by Perkins Bacon & Co. The smaller image design size would be done by the wet printing technique while the larger image design size was printed by the dry paper technique. For whatever the reason, the measurements show that the 1¢, 3¢ die II and 48¢ values were printed using only the high pressure printing press on dry paper. This demonstrates that Perkins Bacon & Co had the presses to print the larger size image designs. **It provides additional proof that all previous assumptions of those large printed designs as being attributed to Waterlow & Sons for their 1941 printings are incorrect.** In fact, they were the initial experimental printings made post-1932 by Perkins Bacon & Co to determine their capability or the feasibility of using new high pressure printing press technique to print on dry printing paper.

Continuing the examination of the next issue printed by Perkins Bacon & Co, the 1938 Royal Family issue, we find that Bileski also had material on this issue acquired from

the same estate. An item seen by the authors is the unwatermarked black ungummed plate proof of the 3¢ Queen Mother stamp (see fig 21). This black proof, when measured, has a design width of 20.2mm. When compared to the printed in issue colour set (see fig 22) they all measure the same. The printed bookend paper varieties were also found to be the same size. The hardened dies for each of the denominations measure the same 20.2mm. The 3¢ black plate proof was compared to the 2¢ plate 2, 3¢ plate 2 and 4¢ plate 2 blocks (see fig 23). They all matched the 3¢ black plate proof size.

These measurements, especially those taken from the hardened dies, provide proof that the 1938 Royal Family issue was printed on dry pre-gummed paper. If it had been printed by the wet printing technique the design size would have been smaller than the hardened dies because wet paper shrinks when dried. The 4¢ plate 2 block in fig 23 shows perforations continuing across the gutter. From observations of those right side margins on the 2¢ and 3¢ values, where no perforations extend into the margin, this suggests that a second pane was attached to this gutter, otherwise there would be no reason to continue perforating past the last left side column.



Fig 21 3¢ Queen Mother black plate proof



Fig 22 - immediate right - Royal Family set compared for size versus the 3¢ black plate proof



Fig 23 - far right - Royal Family plate blocks compared for size versus the 3¢ black proof



Whether other black proofs exist for the remaining denominations in this issue, the authors are unaware. Possibly others have them and can add information.

An interesting item was seen on the website of Canadian stamp dealer Rob Taylor of Taylor Stamps (known as ebay seller Taylorstamps1). It consists of a note from Bileski and some other items (see figs 24 – 26).

From the provided information and visual items we can see that in 1940 the printing company, Perkins Bacon & Co, were having difficulties with their press while trying to print the 2¢ denomination; so much so that the plate was condemned. They had to resort to a second printing plate (see fig 23).

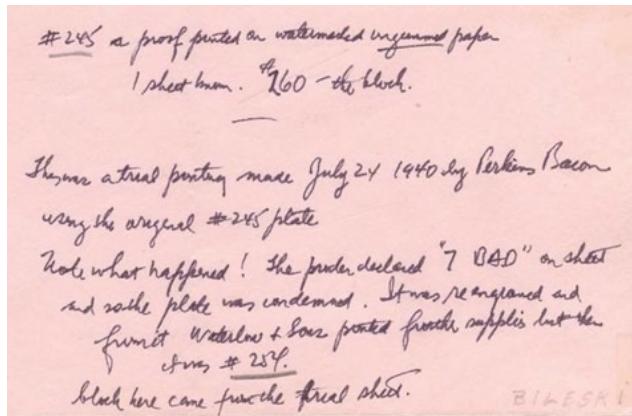


Fig 24 K. Bileski notes



Fig 25 K. Bileski; sheet manuscript info reads '7 BAD'



Fig 26 Front and back of 2¢ proofs.

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In May 1941, the Perkins Bacon & Co printing plant was destroyed. With the company now out of the printing business, the Newfoundland stamp contractors in England, John Dickinson & Co had to find a new printer and try to place, without disruption, the continuing print order. The printer chosen was Waterlow & Sons.

Waterlow & Sons, now under contract, continued to print the Newfoundland postage stamp orders. At the time, it seems that no-one was aware that a new printer was doing the work.

As an aside, it is noted that when this company's archives were sold, Bileski was able to purchase many interesting items from when they were producing the remaining 1941 – 1947 Newfoundland postage stamps. The findings in the Waterlow & Sons archives were researched and written up in a twenty-page monogram by John Ayshford (ref 3).

#### References: -

1. Innovations by Canadian Stamp Printing Companies CBNCo and BABC-Co Revolutionise the Stamp Printing Press; J. Walsh and J. Goldberg, *Maple Leaves* Vol 35 no 3 July 2017 pp147 -167
2. The Intaglio Printing of Newfoundland's 1932 – 1941 Industrial Issue by Perkins Bacon; Anthony B. Thompson, *BNA Topics* Vol 70 no 2 April – June 2013.
3. The Last Stamps of Newfoundland; John Ayshford, edited by Mike Brachi and published by Robson Lowe, London. 1978
4. The following references relate to earlier comments made by co-author Walsh on the stamp printing sheet size and the perforations found on the 1932 First Resources and 1941 Second Resources issues along with the image design sizes:-

*BNA Topics* Vol 46 No 5 Sept – Oct 1989 page 7

*BNA Topics* Vol 46 No 6 Nov – Dec 1989 page 6

*BNA Topics* Vol 47 No 3 May – June 1990 pp 8 - 10

Interestingly, this earlier published research was decried by many well-known writers.

#### *Editor's Note:-*

*In the time I have been sitting on this article waiting for a suitable space to allow us to run it in its entirety, John and Robin have been busy continuing their research into these issues and have discovered some significant additional material showing different design sizes on Newfoundland stamps of this period. We plan to publish their follow up work in a subsequent issue of *Maple Leaves*.*

# 1863 – INCOMING LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA, USA TO HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Alan Blakeley

The letter shown in fig 1 below was a recent acquisition from eBay and has proved to be a nice example of why postal history is such an interesting aspect of our hobby. After some research, the story so far is as follows but any more information would be welcome.

The letter is **dated internally at Philadelphia on 19 January 1863** and mailed on the same day to Halifax. It was marked “**Steamer from Boston**” in manuscript and carried by the **Cunard ship “Africa”** that left Boston on 21 January 1863, arriving at Halifax on 23 January where it received the ‘**U<sup>D</sup> STATES Halifax’ arrival date stamp of 23 January** on the back (see fig 2). This date is much later than the latest recorded date of April 1860 recorded in the book, ‘The Nova Scotia Post’, by J J MacDonald.

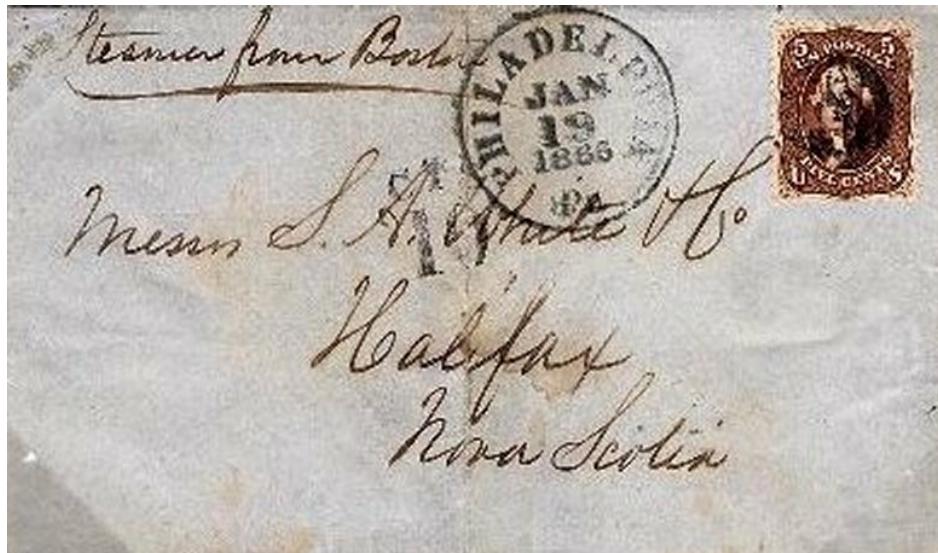


Fig 1



← Fig 2

Fig 3 —>



The letter is franked with a 5 cents red-brown Jefferson (Scott #75) from the US issue of 1862 with a fancy target cancel. In 1861 the US Post Office introduced a 5 cents rate for letters carried from port to port **within** the USA. It is therefore likely that the letter was carried by ship from Philadelphia to Boston with the stamp paying this new rate. We shall never know whether the sender misinterpreted the new rate and put a 5 cents stamp on rather than the correct rate to Nova Scotia of 10 cents. The **black '10 CTS' handstamp** just to the left of the Philadelphia dispatch cancellation (see fig 3) confirms that as per the regulations an additional 10 cents postage was due on arrival at Halifax from Boston.

So far, so good. However, further study revealed another, similar example, shown in fig 4 below. This letter was mailed from Boston to Halifax in October 1862 and is also franked with a 5 cent US stamp. It too has been subject to 10 cents due on arrival in Nova Scotia. In this case the 5 cents stamp cannot be paying the port to port rate within the US. Maybe one of our North American members can explain the rates and routing better than me!



Fig 4 Front and back

# STRAIGHT JACK FLAG CANCEL OF 1896

## AN IN-DEPTH CENSUS AND ANALYSIS AND A REQUEST FOR HELP

**Sid Mensinga**

I first saw this scarce elusive cancellation on a Small Queen cover a few years ago when visiting a fellow collector in his stamp den as he shared his magnificent collection of Small Queen covers. (A most effective way to encourage a returning collector to delve deeper to become a more serious philatelist). I was smitten! I soon found a partial cancellation on a single stamp in my collection of “extras”, and quickly purchased another partial cancellation on a 15 cent large queen. I was determined to learn more and while doing so began purchasing “Straight Jack” covers.



*Fig 1 Saturday 11 April 1896: 14-0 or 2pm – the earliest reported day and hour of use.*

**Background:** The “Imperial”, Canada’s first electric rapid cancelling machine, leased from the Imperial Mail Marking Co., was first in use on 10 March 1896 at 4:30 p.m. as part of a rapid cancelling machine experimental trial period.

The trial period occurred during March and April 1896 on a single, trial, rapid cancelling machine. Four cancellation types and one subtype can be identified during this trial period. All four cancellations used the same dater hub but the obliterations varied over the two month experimental period. The Straight Jack Flag was the fourth obliterator used during this experimental period. Prior to this time, all cancellations had been hand applied.

**What is known:** The reported period of usage of the Straight Jack cancel is 11 April, 2 p.m. until midday 22 April (some 12 days - two of which were Sundays). The literature states various but similar reasons for its withdrawal. “*The new killer must have been deemed unsatisfactory*” others surmised ‘*thin lines did not provide dark cancel*” and noted “*breaks in the lines*”.

[L .Paige Collection of Flag Cancellations 1896-1996 and Early Machine Cancellations 1896-1902](#) published Nov. 2014 provides images of two first day April 11 covers and notes that three first date covers and two cut squares are known. In addition, Paige

shows one on a US postcard posted in Canada paying the 3 cents letter rate. Larry Paige also provides a cover showing the damaged flagless dater as a receiving mark.

L. Paige in BNA Topics 1997 states that between 50 and 60 examples are known. (He mentions a one frame exhibit at BNAPEX 96 showing one example for each of the 12 days.) He notes that many appear on domestic use covers and shows one paying the UPU 5 cent rate to Germany and one showing the UPU 2 cent post card rate to Austria.

The BNAPS Flag Study Group conducted a survey in 1995 which reported: “ 53 sightings” (33 covers, 15 cards, 1 front, 4 pieces) exist. Perhaps more common than some thought. Use recorded on all 12 days including both Sundays 12th & 19th. First day 11 April 1896 with 5 covers and one piece”

Though informative and providing a window of some understanding, these articles by Paige and others, and census data uncovered, lack specifics. I believe more can be learned by studying the growing number of actual covers in my collection and images of the covers shared by fellow BNA flag cancel and Small Queen collectors.



Fig 2 The Straight Jack cancel used on an advertising cover on 17 April

**My intent:-** is to complete an in-depth census, study and analysis using actual images of Straight Jack covers and those on piece. I will collate known information, study time marks, types of mail, postal rates, and destinations, quality of the strikes and other postal markings and unique features of covers with Straight Jack cancellations. I trust that my analysis and the tentative conclusions will confirm and expand the knowledge of the Straight Jack Cancel. My study will also comment on and provide rarity factors for known/reported Straight Jack cancellations within the census data gathered. Other unique and historically significant information evident on personally owned covers will also be researched and reported on. Images used will be those in the author's collection,

scans from past auctions, those provided by fellow collectors/dealers, as well as images found in the literature.

The author recognizes that the accuracy and robustness of conclusions drawn will be dependent on the number of covers studied. To date my study includes images of 33 covers and 5 cancels on piece. To enable even more precise conclusions and to include all known covers that have survived, the author requests collectors/dealers to please submit scanned images of any Jack Flag covers/postcards, fronts or on piece in their collections. Scanned images will be greatly appreciated and can be sent to [sidmensinga@gmail.com](mailto:sidmensinga@gmail.com) Any images supplied will be acknowledged in reports and publications.

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## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Terry Layman**

#### **UNITRADE CATALOGUE**

I have been a regular user of this catalogue for some years. Members based here in the UK will have noticed that it has become more and more difficult to source the catalogue from UK based retailers. There are, of course, a large number of suppliers in Canada and the USA but the cost of postage and packing on a volume weighing in at close to 2kg is often prohibitive and can easily double the cost of the book. However, I have found at least one supplier who is willing to use current high value stamps on the package, get them nicely cancelled and offers a 50% rebate on the shipping cost if the stamps are returned to him. This is Frank von Hause from Vancouver (you can find him at [www.fvhstamps.com](http://www.fvhstamps.com)). Doubtless there are others offering a similar service.

### **Dave Freeman**

#### **WARTIME CENSORSHIP ON A CALGARY STAMPEDE COVER**

As a resident of Calgary and long-time collector of Stampede covers, I was delighted to purchase the cover shown overleaf in fig 1 from the recent CPSGB auction. The cover was sent to Switzerland and was subjected to some fairly harsh censorship by the German authorities. If you are wondering what they took exception to, you can compare this cover with the similar one in fig 2 overleaf. This was sent locally and uncensored. It appears that the Germans didn't like the 'V' for victory sign within the steer's nose!



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Fig 1

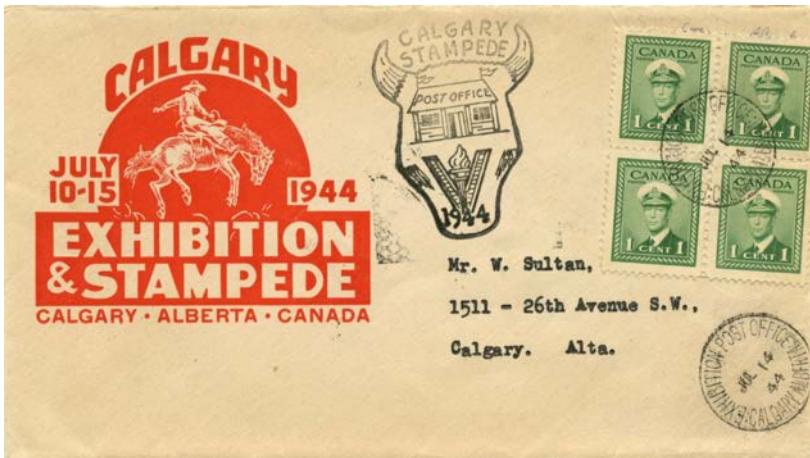


Fig 2

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# SOME THOUGHTS ON THE REGISTERED LETTER STAMPS AND THEIR USES AND MIS-USES

John Wright

## The Dangers of Single Imperforate Stamps

Most philatelists will be aware of the dangers of single copies of imperforate stamps when the issue also exists in perforated form. This is a particular problem with the Registered Letter Stamps of 1875.

The apparently imperforate 5 cents stamp shown in fig 1, illustrates the point.



Fig 1 Apparently imperforate 5 cents RLS

These Registered Letter Stamps were introduced by Canada in late November or early December 1875 and had a distinctive shape to draw attention to the mail on which they appeared. There are three values: 2 cents orange, paying the registration fee on domestic mail, 5 cents green for the USA and 8 cents blue for the UK (although this rate was reduced to 5 cents on 1 July 1877). Postmasters were initially 'expected to promote their use' but their use became mandatory in October 1876.

A small group of these stamps recently obtained nicely illustrates the problems the printers, British American Bank Note Co., experienced when perforating these oddly shaped stamps. The result was

Bought many years ago in a collection it 'looks good' – well centred with excellent margins and a large stamp. However, this copy came with a B.P.A. certificate, illustrated in fig 2, which says .... 'cannot be certified genuine', and has the signature of Robson Lowe and two others. When displayed, no viewer has challenged the statement that, despite the certificate, it 'looks good'.

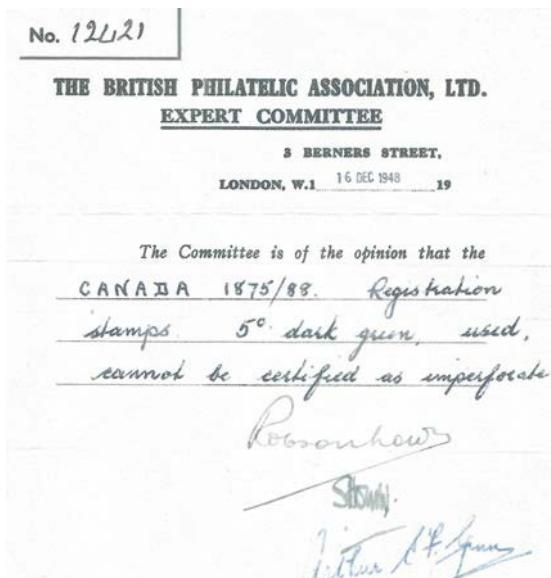


Fig 2 1948 BPA certificate relating to the stamp in fig 1

specimens that were either very narrow, normal or jumbo – see fig 3. The ‘jumbo’ copy shown here on the right in fig 3 is so large that the copy hitherto thought to be



Fig 3 Selection of 5 cents RLS's showing the wide variation in stamp size. The stamp on the right could easily be ‘converted’ into an imperforate single.

imperforate fits entirely within it, justifying the doubts expressed by the BPA Committee about its genuineness.

Just for the record, a genuine example of the imperforate 5 cents RLS is shown in fig 4; this time a marginal pair!

Similar misplacements of the perforations can be found on the 2 cents orange value (of which incidentally only a single pair of an imperforate variety are known); see fig 5. These can be too low (sheet position 1, or sheet position 5 from plate 2), too high (imprint showing) or too far left (again imprint showing). A very scarce variety exists on this 2 cents value where stamps from the bottom row of the sheet are imperforate between stamp



Fig 4 Genuine imperforate pair of the 5 cents RLS (courtesy of Graham Searle)



Fig 5 Selection of 2 cents RLS's all with misplaced perforations. The third stamp in the row could, with some judicious trimming, be ‘converted’ into a would be example of the ‘imperf between stamp and margin’ error.

and margin. Unscrupulous trimming of the perforations on the third example in fig 5 could easily produce a ‘would be’ example of such a variety. So, once again, caution is required. A genuine example of the variety is shown in fig 6 – with, in this case, full imprint and margin.



Fig 6 The genuine imperforate between stamp and margin error (courtesy of Graham Searle)

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### Registered Letter Stamps used on their own on cover.

It was never the intention that Registered Letter stamps should be used on their own; only that they should be used to pre-pay the registration fee. However, confusing Post Office instructions coupled with the odd bit of flagrant disregard for the regulations has resulted in a few examples of these stamps appearing on their own on covers.

When the Registered Letter Stamps were first introduced, the Post Office Circulars were fairly clear that they should be used only to pay the registration fee and not used to pay postage. The temptation to make use of the 5 cents stamp to prepay both postage and registration on domestic letters proved too much for some postmasters at small



Fig 7 June 1876 registered letter from Gorrie, Ontario to Goderich franked with a single 5 cents RLS paying both postage and registration, contrary to regulations. (Courtesy of Graham Searle)

offices. The example shown below in fig 7 was sent from Gorrie, Ontario to Goderich in June 1876 and is one of a small number of such 'contrary to regulation' covers known from 1876.

On 8 May 1889, the domestic registration fee was increased from 2 cents to 5 cents, leaving post offices with stocks of, now useless, 2 cents RLS. To allow these stocks to be used, a P.O. Circular was issued allowing the 2 cents stamps to be used to part pay the 5 cents registration fee in combination with ordinary postage stamps. Once again, the intention was that the use of the RLS to pay postage was not permitted although, in this case, the wording of the circular was less than crystal clear. One example of the resulting confusion is shown in the cover overleaf in fig 8 (showing both front and back). This well-travelled cover, with postage and registration paid by four copies of the 2 cents RLS was posted in Middle Musquodobit N.S. on 21 January 1897. It has transit marks for (1) Halifax N.S. on 21 Jan; (2) Halifax & Amherst N.S. M.C. W. of 22



Fig 8 January 1897 registered letter, sent within Nova Scotia and franked with four copies of the 2 cents RLS paying the postage and registration fee. Despite this being contrary to regulations the letter passed through the mails unscathed.

Jan; (3) Lower Stewiacke N.S. of 22 Jan; (4) Halifax & Amherst M.C. of 24 February, together with the receiver (5) from Upper Stewiacke N.S. of 24 February. All of which leaves you wondering where this item was between 22 January and 24 February! Despite the letter being franked contrary to the regulations it has passed through the mails without comment. The Maritime Provinces did, of course, have something of a track record for rather loose interpretation of post office regulations.

Fig 9 opposite shows a similar looking cover mailed in June 1893 from Argyle N.S. This also has the postage and registration prepaid with four copies of the 2 cents RLS. However, in this case, the letter was sent to Toronto where the item was



Fig 9 June 1893 registered letter mailed from Argyle, Nova Scotia that also shows the use of four 2 cents RLS's to prepay both postage and registration fee. This cover, sent to Toronto, was passed to the Dead Letter Office with a handstamp indicating 'Returned for postage'. (Courtesy of Graham Searle)

promptly dispatched to the Dead Letter Office with a handstamp at top left reading 'RETURNED FOR POSTAGE'.

However, just to prove that this practice was not the sole preserve of the Maritimes, fig 10 shows another, rather impressive, example of the use of a registered letter stamp on its own. This May 1893 letter was sent from the small town of Codrington, Ontario to New York. In this case the postage and registration has been paid with a single copy of the 8 cents RLS. This stamp had no legitimate uses after 1877 and had, no doubt, been languishing in the stock of the Codrington postmaster since then. Here was a perfect

Fig 10. May 1893 registered letter from Codrington, Ontario to New York franked with a single copy of the 8 cents RLS paying the combined postage and registration fee. Once again, contrary to regulations but passed through the mails without comment. (Courtesy of Graham Searle)





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opportunity to use it! One can be equally sure that the New York postmaster would have had little interest or awareness of the finer points of Canadian Post Office regulations. So, once again, the letter passed through the mails without comment.

**Ordinary postage stamps used to prepay the registration fee.**

In the period between late 1875 and October 1876, the use of registered letter stamps was to be encouraged but was not mandatory. After October 1876 and up to May 1889, the registration fee should only have been prepaid with a registered letter stamp.



Fig 11 Trio of registered drop letters all mailed within Toronto between December 1875 and April 1879

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The three covers shown in fig 11 neatly illustrate the rules (and the occasional failure to follow them) in the early years of registered letter stamps. All three of these covers are registered drop letters mailed within Toronto. One might imagine that a major post office like Toronto would show a greater adherence to Post Office regulations than some smaller offices.

The top cover was posted in December 1875 and shows the 3 cents postage plus registration fee prepaid by a 3 cents Small Queen stamp. At this time, such franking was entirely legitimate, indeed it is even possible that the Toronto Post Office had not yet received supplies of the new registered letter stamps. The second cover shows a similar franking but this time on a letter mailed in March 1877. By this time, the use of RLS to pay the registration fee was mandatory so this one has gone through the mail contrary to regulations. The bottom example, mailed in April 1879, shows the correct, post October 1876, franking of a 1 cent postage stamp plus 2 cents RLS.

The ‘contrary to regulations’ cover shown in fig 11 is far from unique. Fig 12 shows another example also mailed from Toronto (in this case to Ottawa), in April 1877,

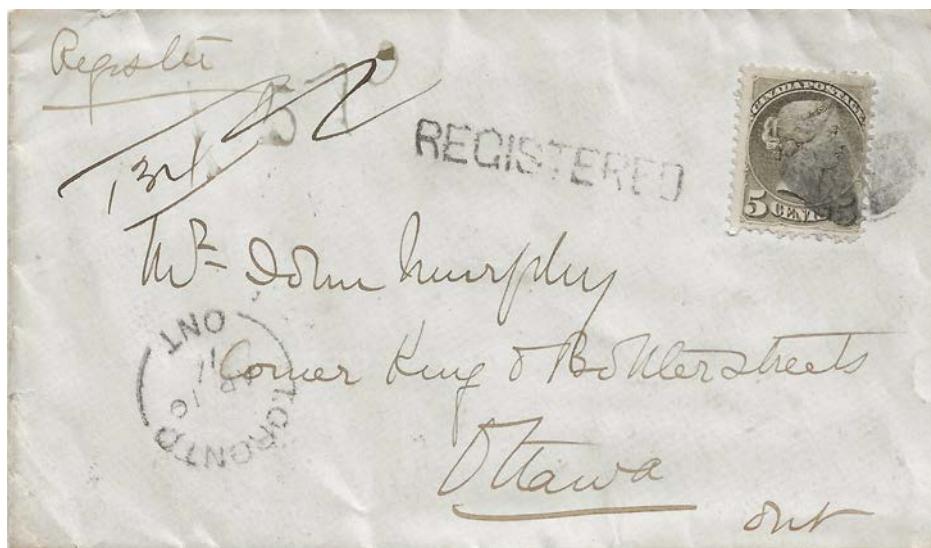


Fig 12 Registered letter from Toronto to Ottawa mailed in April 1877 and franked with a 5 cents Small Queen paying the combined postage plus registration fee.

which has the combined postage (3 cents) and registration fee (2 cents) prepaid by a 5 cents Small Queen; a scarce single usage of this Small Queen stamp.

A third example is shown in fig 13 overleaf. This is a heavy packet, weighing between 1½ and 2oz, mailed from Toronto to Madoc, Ontario. Mailed on 17 October 1876, when one might imagine the new Post Office regulations concerning registered letter stamps, issued just two weeks earlier, would still be fresh in everyone’s minds; this cover also



Fig 13 Quadruple rate (1½oz to 2oz) registered letter mailed from Toronto to Madoc on 17 October 1876 shortly after the use of RLS became mandatory. The 14 cents rate (12 cents postage plus 2 cents registration fee) has been prepaid contrary to regulations with Small Queen stamps.

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has the combined postage and registration fee of 14 cents prepaid entirely in postage stamps, contrary to the new regulations.

**But sometimes people went to great lengths to get the use of the Registered Letter Stamps correct.**

With all the examples shown above, one could be excused for thinking that post office staff made little effort to comply to the regulations concerning the use of these registered letter stamps. However, the example shown in fig 14 suggests otherwise.

This is part of a wrapper from a piece of registered parcel post mailed in May 1887. The parcel post rate at the time was 6 cents per 4oz, so the strip of four 3 cents Small Queens prepaying the postage on this parcel suggests that the item weighed in at between 4 and 8 oz. The sender of this parcel obviously thought that the registration fee for a parcel was 2 cents but the July 1882 Official Post Office Guide had clarified that the 5 cents parcel registration fee had to be prepaid with a 5 cents RLS. It must have been tempting



*Fig 14 May 1887 registered parcel, correctly (in the end) franked with a strip of four 3 cent Small Queen paying the 12 cents postage and a 5 cents RLS paying the registration fee. A previously applied 2 cents RLS can be seen under the 5 cents RLS at the top.*

to add another 3 cents postage stamp to make up the difference but this would, of course, have been contrary to regulations so a 5 cents RLS was placed over the top of the 2 cents RLS.

It is worth noting that had this package been sent as a letter the 2 cents RLS would have sufficed for the registration fee. However, the postage would have been at least 27 cents (9 x 3 cents) so the option chosen was far cheaper.

Finally, I would like to thank our Editor, Graham Searle, for providing a few of the pictures for this article from his own collection.

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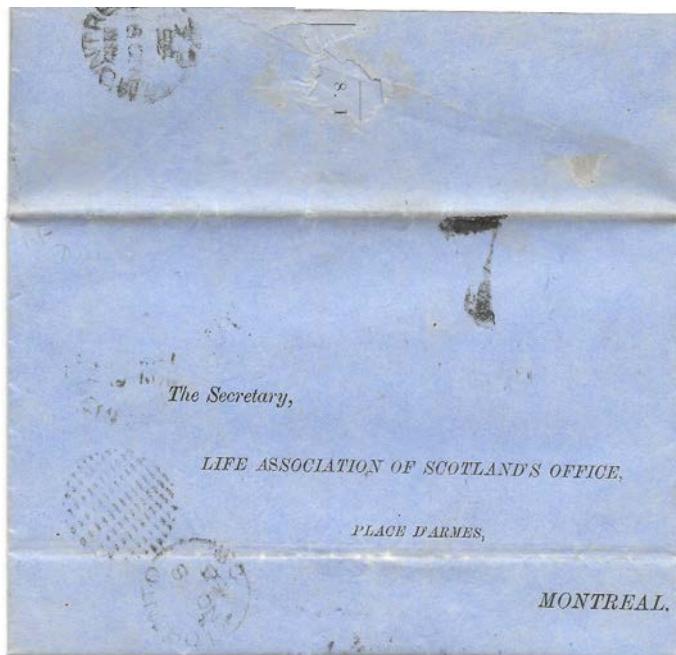
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# AN INTERESTING 1866 LIFE INSURANCE QUESTIONNAIRE WITH A TORONTO BERRI BROKEN BARS DUPLEX CANCELLATION

**John R. Reynolds**

Members who collect insurance-related items will have come across a range of hand-written and pre-printed letters pertaining to the operation of such businesses. The illustrated and described item shown in fig 1 below is both unusual and interesting. It shows how insurance businesses collected confidential information about individuals and the amount of detail supplied by referees, often quite important people in the local community.

The folded blue form, comprising four pages is from a print run of 3,000, dated 5 – 1865. The first page, shown in fig 2 overleaf, is headed (Letter to Private Friend) and is from the Life Association of Scotland, Corner of Place D'Armes, Montreal, 1865, signed by R Wardems?, Secretary, asking for strictly confidential information on the lifestyle of an insurance proposal on the life of Horatio J Andrews, a 22 year-old Accountant of Toronto.



*Fig 1 Fig 1. 1866 Stampless folded blue life insurance form, rated large 7 h/s[collect], TORONTO C.W NO 8 66 Berri broken bars duplex [DBE 90a/DUN 111], returned to Life Association of Scotland Office, Place D'Armes, Montreal. MONTREAL C E AM NO 9 66 split circle receiver on back.*

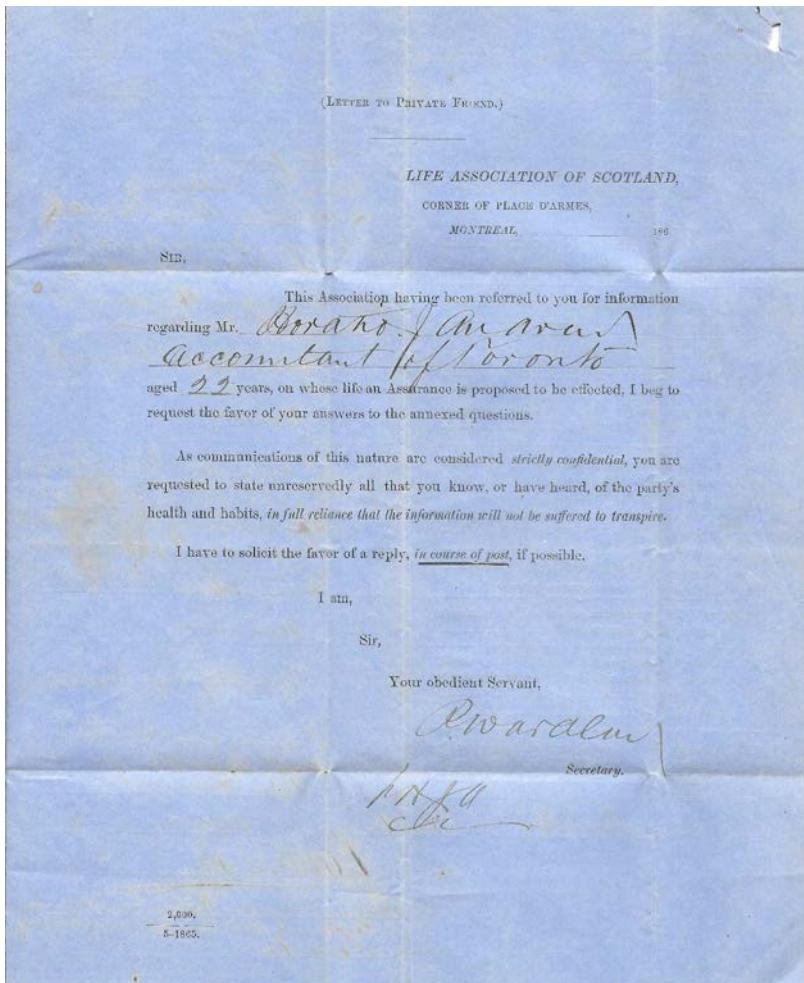


Fig 2. (*Letter to Private Friend*), being a request from the Life Association of Scotland, Montreal, for confidential information on the lifestyle of Horatio J Andrews, Accountant of Toronto, aged 22 yrs.

The second page, shown in fig 3 opposite, is headed “Questions submitted to Mr Walter S Lee Esq”, followed by 11 questions tabulated down the page, with space for answers on the right (with unused space opposite, on the third page). Hopefully, members can read the questions and see that the answers are clearly favourable, with the last giving a ringing endorsement, “*I should consider him highly eligible for a life assurance*”. It is signed by *Walter S Lee*, Dated at *Toronto, this Eighth day of November 1866*. His occupation is given as *Secretary & Treasurer, Western Canada Permanent Building & Savings Society*. His residence is given as *Toronto*. Quite a “Friend”!

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO MR. *Walter J. Lee Esq.*  
 REGARDING MR. *Brooks J. Chapman* aged 22 years.

1. For what period have you known him? Four years  
 2. Do you know him intimately? and do you see him frequently? I know him intimately  
 & see him 2 or 3 times a week  
 3. What has been the general state of his health? Above, only Equal to, or Below, the average?  
 4. When did you last see him, and what was then the state of his health? 2 or 3 days ago, he appeared in good health  
 5. What illnesses or accidents has he suffered from? None that I know of  
 When did they occur? No  
 6. Has he ever shown symptoms of Indolence, Insanity, or any Nervous Affection? No  
 7. Have your opportunities of observing his habits of life been such as to enable you to give positive evidence respecting them? Yes, I have seen him daily for a year or  
 a little within this last year  
 8. Has he *always* lived a regular and temperate life? He has always lead a regular  
 temperate life - I am  
 not aware of his going away  
 to any excess  
 Or, has he at any time been intemperate? No  
 Or, have you difficulty in deciding that question? (Please answer each question to the best of your knowledge)  
 9. Have his habits, occupation, or mode of living, been in any respect injurious to health? No  
 10. Have any of his relatives (*living or dead*) been afflicted, to your knowledge, with consumption, or other disease of the chest? No  
 Or with insanity? No  
 11. Is there any circumstance *whatever* which may possibly render an assurance on his life more than usually hazardous? No

Dated at Toronto this Eighth day of November 1866  
 Signature Walter S. Lee  
 Occupation Secretary, Treasurer Western Canada  
 Permanent Building & Savings Society  
 Residence Toronto

Fig 3. Eleven searching questions, with favourable confidential answers supplied by Walter S Lee Esq. of Toronto, Secretary & Treasurer, Western Canada Permanent Building & Savings Society.

When folded, the fourth page, shown in fig 1, has the printed address to which the completed and folded form was returned: The Secretary, Life Association of Scotland's Office, Place D'Armes, Montreal.

Of further interest are the postal markings. The letter was dispatched with the uncommon TORONTO CW NO 8 66 Berri broken bars duplex [DBE 90a/ DUN 111], in sporadic use from 24 Aug 1866 to 1 April 1867. This lacks the AM or PM of earlier, 1860 style, Berri cancels and although similar to the 1863 Berri [without AM or PM],

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has had the 13 horizontal bars of the killer mutilated by 8 vertical cuts to make this distinctive cancel. Cobourg had a similar instrument. [see *Cloutier, 2005, ref 1*].

The large 7 handstamp in black on the front indicates the need to collect the sum of 5 cents per half ounce plus 2 cents extra for being unpaid. This rate was effective from 1 July 1859 to 1 April 1868, when rates were reduced to 3 cents, plus 2 cents.

On the back flap is a smudged MONTREAL CW AM NO 9 66 split circle receiver, with a smudged offset on the front.

The writer has not come across any other similar items and wonders why this particular letter has survived to reach postal historians. Presumably such references are kept on file with the proposal documents of the individual life assured, until that person dies and the assured sum is paid out. How long are such confidential documents kept before being destroyed? Perhaps Horatio Andrews didn't take up the proposal and the document was put aside in a pending file, to be disposed of later?

An interesting item from the collection!

Do any members have other interesting Life Insurance correspondence they would like to share?

#### References:

1. Cloutier, Stephane, 2005. Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancels, third edition. Conestoga Press, Thornbury ON. Updated on PHSC website: [postalhistorycanada.net](http://postalhistorycanada.net)

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## SOCIETY NEWS

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another three months of mixed responses and restrictions to the Covid-19 pandemic have passed but at long last the final testing and approval of some vaccines offer hope for the future. What we might or might not be allowed to do in the second half of 2021 is still unclear but by the time that the April 2021 issue is put to bed we hope to be announcing that Convention 2021 will go ahead in Eastbourne between the 20th and 24<sup>th</sup> of September. However, by then many of us will have been social distancing or avoiding physical contact for a full year and it is difficult to gauge how many will be keen to throw off our restraints, in particular how many of our overseas members will wish to take to the skies and cross the Atlantic. It is hoped that many of those who offered to provide invited displays for 2020 will do so for 2021 but planning a programme of events will have to be delayed until things become a little clearer.

We are fortunate to enjoy a hobby that provides mental stimulation without needing physical contact with others. We are also fortunate that modern technology such as the internet and virtual meetings via Zoom enable us to maintain a high level of communication and we are grateful to those who have taken the initiative and organised virtual meetings. I suspect that such meetings will become a regular feature for study groups and that is to be welcomed.

Freda and I pass on our best wishes to you and yours with sincere wishes that 2021 will be happier, healthier and less restrictive than 2020. We look forward to meeting up again and enjoying one another's company.

**Brian Stalker**

### **FROM THE SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER**

Annual subscriptions for 2021 are now due for those who have not yet paid. If you have mislaid your Subscriptions reminder which accompanied the October issue of Maple Leaves you can find another copy online at the Society website at [www.canadianpsgb.org.uk/membership](http://www.canadianpsgb.org.uk/membership)

As usual, subscriptions can be paid by cheque to either myself or Mike Street in Canada or by PAYPAL using the Society website. If you are unsure of your subscriptions status please contact Mike or myself by e mail for confirmation, contact details are on the inside back cover.

**Ken Flint**

### **FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER**

Our next Society auction will be a postal/ internet based sale closing on **Friday 19 March at 1200hrs** GMT. My thanks to those members who have contributed material for this sale. The Auction Catalogue should be on-line to view at the Society website by mid January and those members who have previously requested paper copies will receive one in the mail as usual.

**Graham Searle**

### **LONDON GROUP**

We have decided to cancel the currently planned meetings of the London Group 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 the first half of 2021 but updates will be provided on the Society website or in future issues of Maple Leaves.

**Colin Banfield**

## SCOTLAND AND NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP

Our November meeting via Zoom opened our horizons with attendees from Gloucestershire, Ottawa and New Jersey adding their expertise and good humour. We enjoyed an extraordinary range of material as it seems many of our members have mastered the art of digital displays. With the Covid restrictions remaining uncertain our next meeting will be held on **Saturday 24th April** and will also be a virtual meeting via Zoom. 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 – in particular if you would like the Zoom link. 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 in October and two via Zoom in April and July.

**Graham Searle FCPS**

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## AND FINALLY ..... PHILATELIC PHRASES

As the compiler of the Society Auction catalogues, I was amused by this little piece I found in the latest edition of the St John's Newfoundland Philatelic Society Newsletter. This guide to the real meaning of philatelic phrases is a salutary warning for all of us who read through auction catalogues. As for me, I am still trying to recall just how many of these I might have used in the last 7 years!

The real meaning of philatelic phrases?

- '*Needs sorting*' - a mess
- '*Needs careful sorting*' - a real mess
- '*Rare*' - uncommon
- '*Extremely rare*' - scarce
- '*Exceptionally rare*' - very scarce
- '*Full of character*' - tatty
- '*A good basis for further expansion*' - All the scarce values are missing
- '*An excellent basis for further expansion*' - Most of the scarce values are missing
- '*Varied condition*' - mostly damaged
- '*An original lot*' – rusty
- '*One of those original lots so rarely encountered those days*' - rusty and stuck down
- '*An ideal lot for the specialist*' - heavily duplicated
- '*A number of useful covers noted*' - the rest of it is rubbish
- '*The envelope is soiled and torn and part of the flap is missing but would display well*' - ...preferably in a darkened room
- '*Worth careful inspection*' - we didn't have time to check this one
- '*Viewing essential*' - don't say we didn't warn you
- '*A veritable olla-podrida*' - I've been given a thesaurus

- 'The finest example we have seen in many years' - the first we've ever seen
- 'An eclectic mix' - see 'Needs sorting'

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## AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP to 15th DECEMBER 2020

### New Members:-

3089 MORTON, Robin D. *FRPSL*; 1 Fromandez Drive, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 8LN; email [robanddimorton@btinternet.com](mailto:robanddimorton@btinternet.com); CGC, M

3090 THOMSON, Colin J.; 21 High Street, Strathmiglo, Fife KY14 7QA; e mail [dalginch@gmail.com](mailto:dalginch@gmail.com); C to 1970

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

2172 LYON, Gary; updated e mail address [gary.lyon@easternauctions.com](mailto:gary.lyon@easternauctions.com)

2983 HINE, Tony; 155 Chaplin Crescent, Toronto, ON Canada M5P 1B1

3062 HOBRATH, Norbert; PO Box 361430, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 USA

### Lost contact, presumed deceased:-

1512 CAMPBELL, Capt N.D.

**Revised Total:- 248**

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 2021 (Note all events are subject to confirmation subject to COVID restrictions)

Jan 22- 23 York Stamp & Coin Fair, York Racecourse

Mar 25-27 Virtual Spring Stampex

Apr 16 - 17 Northern National - Perth, Scotland

Apr 24 Scottish Regional Meeting, Zoom

July 3 MIDPEX, Leamington Spa

July 24 Scottish Regional Meeting, Zoom

Aug 12 - 15 Great American Stamp Show, Chicago

Sep 3 - 5 BNAPEX, Winnipeg

**Sept 20 - 24 CPSGB Convention - Cumberland Hotel, Eastbourne**

Sept 29 - Oct 2 Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London

Oct 23 Scottish Regional Meeting; Glasgow

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

### President:

Brian Stalker, *FCPS, FRPSL, OTB*, 7 Larch Close, Heathfield, Sussex TN21 8YW  
e mail: brianstalker63@sky.com

### Secretary:

John Watson, Lyngarth, 106 Huddersfield Road, Penistone, South Yorkshire S36 7BX  
e mail: john.watson1949@btinternet.com

### Treasurer:

Karen Searle, Ryvoan, 11 Riverside, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6PS  
e mail: karensearle28@btinternet.com

### Editor, Website Manager and Auction Manager:

Graham Searle *FCPS*, Ryvoan, 11 Riverside, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6PS  
Tel: 01330 820659 e mail: searle711@btinternet.com

### Subscription Manager

Dr. Ken Flint, 73 Montalt Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5LS  
e mail kenflint@btinternet.com

### North American Subscriptions:

Mike Street, *FCPS, OTB*, Unit 105, 1136 Maritime Way, Kanata, Ontario K2K 0M1 Canada  
e mail: mikestreet1@gmail.com

### Handbooks Manager:

Derrick Scoot *FCPS*, 62 Jackmans Place, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 1RG  
e mail: derrick.scoot@sky.com

### Librarian :

Mike Slamo, 112 Poplar Avenue, Hove, Sussex BN3 8PS  
e mail: m.slamo171@btinternet.com

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Hugh Johnson, 27 Ridgeway Avenue, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5BD  
e mail: hughrjohnson@yahoo.co.uk

### Advertising and Publicity Manager:

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