

Maple Leaves

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

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EDITORIAL

Enclosed with this issue of *Maple Leaves* is the Index for Volume 36 covering the issues from 2019 and 2020.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find details regarding our 2021 Convention. Sadly, the ongoing COVID situation and, in particular, the uncertainties over international travel restrictions and group meetings remain well into the summer in the UK and the Executive Committee have decided that we are better putting our efforts into the organisation of a 'virtual' Convention rather than trying to organise a meeting in Eastbourne that many members may find themselves unable to attend.

Whilst this makes it impossible to undertake many of the social aspects of our normal Conventions, it does also open up a range of opportunities that we hope members will be able to take full advantage of. I know that many of you are not able to attend a normal Convention for a variety of reasons. However, the majority of members do have internet access and many of you have been participating in online philatelic meetings during the last 12 months; often meetings on the other side of the world! Several of you may also have developed new skills in giving philatelic presentations online via *Zoom*. Well, in 2021 you will all be able to attend Convention from the comfort of your own homes at no cost! Not only that you can participate fully by giving a display as well as enjoying the material of others. This need not be anything grand – a few sheets or slides of your favourite material will give pleasure to us all. You should also consider entering the Society one-frame competition; an entry form is on page 92 or can be found on our website. All entries will form a 'virtual' exhibition which will be available for viewing for the duration of the event (entries in the competition will remain anonymous in this

exhibition). You can even attend the AGM and complain about the Editor! Regular Convention attendees will also be delighted to hear that we will be including time for the philaholic study group to meet, though I fear it will be a case of bring your own bottle unless further enhancements to *Zoom* are forthcoming! Full details can be found on page 117, please pay particular attention to the deadline dates for various activities associated with the Convention. We have also included in this issue a short piece on tips to develop online presentations and displays which may be helpful.

Our congratulations go out to member John Walsh, who, along with Anthony Thompson (himself a past member of CPSGB), has received the Pratt Award from the Collectors Club of Chicago. The award is given for the best article or articles on Newfoundland philately published in the year. In John's case the CCC listed no less than four articles, three of which were published in *Maple Leaves*.

My thanks go out to those of you who participated in our recent auction which saw well over 120 lots of material find a new home prior to closing. It is now time to look out any unwanted or surplus stamps or covers you may have as the closing date for consignments for our next auction is fast approaching - see page 119 for details.

Finally, news has reached the Editorial desk of the death of Jim McLaren at the age of 96. Jim was a member of the Society for over 30 years before standing down due to ill health in 2012. He was President of the Society in 1991/2, holding a very successful Convention in Perth. A prominent member of the Scottish philatelic community, he was also a Past Present of both the Perth P.S. and the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies. We send our condolences to his family.

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THE 1937 CANADIAN CORONATION FLAG CANCELLATIONS USED BEYOND THE OFFICIAL TIME PERIOD

Malcolm Newton

How often has one read in philatelic, or any other specialist publication of a completely different topic, such as horticulture, of “is known used from....” or “reported/seen in or from.....”. There is inevitably no follow up by the author of the original article (following further research) or by other enthusiastic people who could add substance, coupled with scans/photos of those missing details.

The Canadian 1937 Coronation Flag cancellation is one such topic which has had numerous specialist articles on both sides of the Atlantic by eminent collectors and students of flag cancels that, even after a period of 80 plus years is still yielding new items of interest or, with the improved forms of reproduction, can deliver images of previously unpublished material.

In both BNAP's *'Topics'* of 2008 where Gary Dickinson (1) showed items from his own collection as well as a list of information previously researched by Doug Lingard and others, or even in our own *'Maple Leaves'* the writer published an article on this subject in October 2012 (2). Both articles showed little information on covers that fell outside the defined period of use, even though their text alluded to the existence of such covers. Upon reference to either article, it will be read that this flag cancellation would be used from Monday 10th May to Saturday 15th May 1937 with the actual coronation of King George VI being on Wednesday 12th May.

The intention of this article is to provide interested readers, with as much information as is known to the author, accompanied with colour scans of material held in his collection or that of others, which adds more substance to previous articles. This is not intended to publish new research, but to bring to other collectors notice scarce material which may be hidden in their own collections and upon further inspection after reading this article, they may care to share with us all and add valuable information to the public domain.

As mentioned above, the use of Flags Type 50 and 51 (bilingual English/French) were designated by Canadian Postal Authorities for one week, ending on the Saturday. There does not seem to be a record of when the 22 offices were supposed to return these dies to Ottawa for archiving. The following day, being a Sunday, would be quiet, especially in the smaller offices and any mail received may well have been hand stamped rather than set up on the 'Perfect' rapid cancelling machine(s). Consequently, the sorting staff when setting up the dater hub for the 16th, failed to note that the slogan had not been removed to the default one with the following consequences.

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New Westminster. This office probably had very little mail to process on a Sunday in 1937 which resulted in a number of envelopes/cards being cancelled for the 16th as evidenced by the covers below.



Fig 1 A postal stationery 1 cent cover timed at 12PM (i.e. noon) being the city 'drop' rate. This was more than likely the earliest time the machine was used to justify the amount of uncanceled mail. (Courtesy of Bob Thorne)



Fig 2 An almost identical drop letter cover with the same handwriting, but to another addressee, also timed at 12PM. The sender was a James Shrimpton (inked rubber h/s on reverse) of South Burnaby. The author believes that at least one more cover of a similar nature exists.

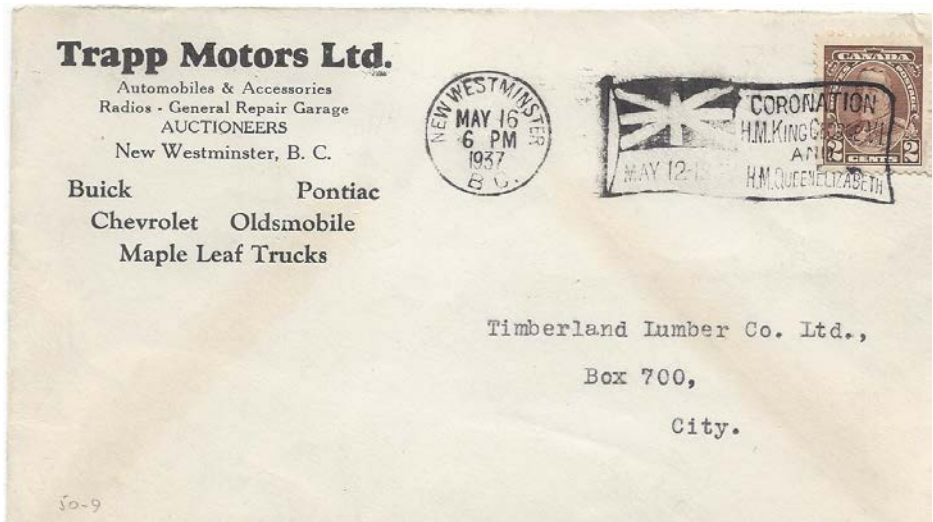


Fig 3 An attractive cover bearing a 2 cent adhesive, timed at 6PM to a local city post box. Are there any other times in collector's hands? (Courtesy Doug Lingard)



Fig 4 A most unusual cover with more questions than answers. It is dated May 19 and whilst the slogan just ties the Coronation stamp, there does not seem to be a dater hub impression, hence the necessity for the circular date stamp cancelling the adhesive, timed at '3'.

Were the sorting clerks servicing the machine and then noticed that the Coronation slogan was still in situ, removing this and replacing it with the default wavy line canceller?

Halifax. I have been able to track down two covers bearing the Sunday date of May 16, each timed at 11.30 PM. The Perfect machine may have been started at the end of day to clear that days accumulated post, without noticing until a few covers had been processed, that the Coronation slogan had not been removed.



Fig 5 Two covers from Halifax N.S. With May 16 dates.



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The actual size of the watermark viewed from the rear of the block.

Canada Scott #24a: 2¢ green on Bothwell paper, the AWESOME and UNIQUE BLOCK OF EIGHTEEN (positions 81-89, 91-99) showing the ENTIRE TWO LINE 'E. & G. BOTHWELL CLUTHA MILLS' WATERMARK, a scintillatingly crisp and fresh MINT MULTIPLE with full colour and original gum, there are several sensible supports and this is the CORNERSTONE MINT MULTIPLE which is absolutely essential when assembling any INTERNATIONAL LARGE GOLD AWARD-WINNING COLLECTION of Large Queens. This oft-described 'MOST IMPORTANT MINT MULTIPLE IN CANADIAN PHILATELY' has graced many of the 'storied' collections of the past, including those of Jarrett, Firth, Lees-Jones, Smart, Kennedy, Kanee, 'Lindemann' and Brigham. (Please note that the left vertical pair - positions 81 and 91 - has been re-attached to its correct original location, as it had previously been incorrectly placed at the other end of the strip when sold or photographed and while in the Firth collection)

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Ottawa. The latest date from Ottawa is a cover dated May 17 which is addressed to Sydney, Australia. There has been much discussion on how this occurred with the most plausible being that it was a 'by favour' cover for someone who had not posted it (probably to himself) during the previous week. The clerk managed to find the slogan, which had been removed at the end of day on Saturday 15th, placed it into the machine, but forgot to correct the dater hub. To date, there has been no record of any other cover bearing either May 16 or 17 dates, reinforcing the theory described.

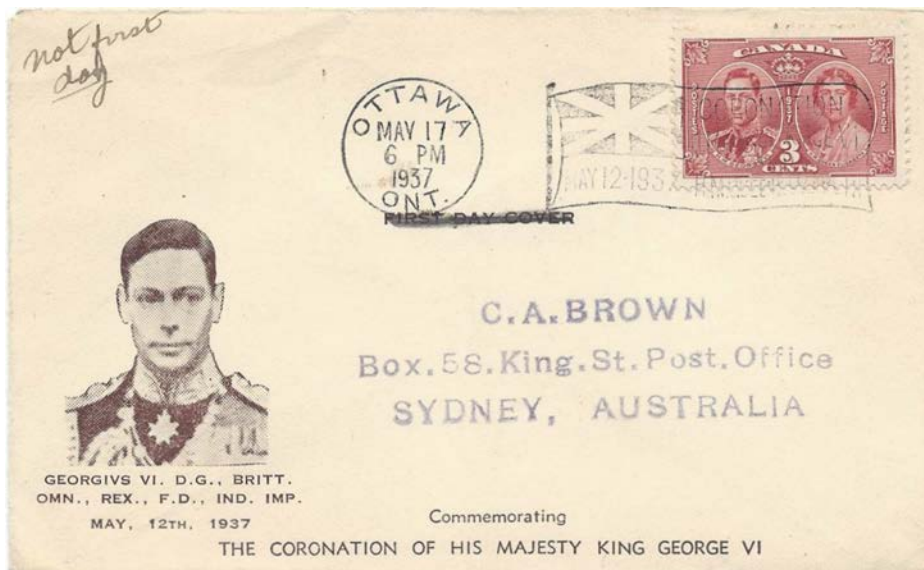


Fig 6 Cover from Ottawa with May 17 date.

Port Arthur. Unlike today's modern dynamic city named Thunder Bay, following the merger with Fort William and several nearby townships in 1970, Port Arthur in 1937 was quite small in terms of population. Nevertheless, the amount of mail being processed was enough to use the Perfect cancelling machine approximately four times a day during the week, but only a few times on a Sunday. This has resulted in the examples shown overleaf.

Windsor, Ont. A reasonably common slogan from a city of 100,000+ which indicates that there would have been a fair amount of mail being processed each day, although some dates in the period May 10 through to 15, are more difficult to locate. Nevertheless, the postal clerks failed to change the Coronation slogan to that of the default cancelling device resulting in the following known examples shown overleaf.

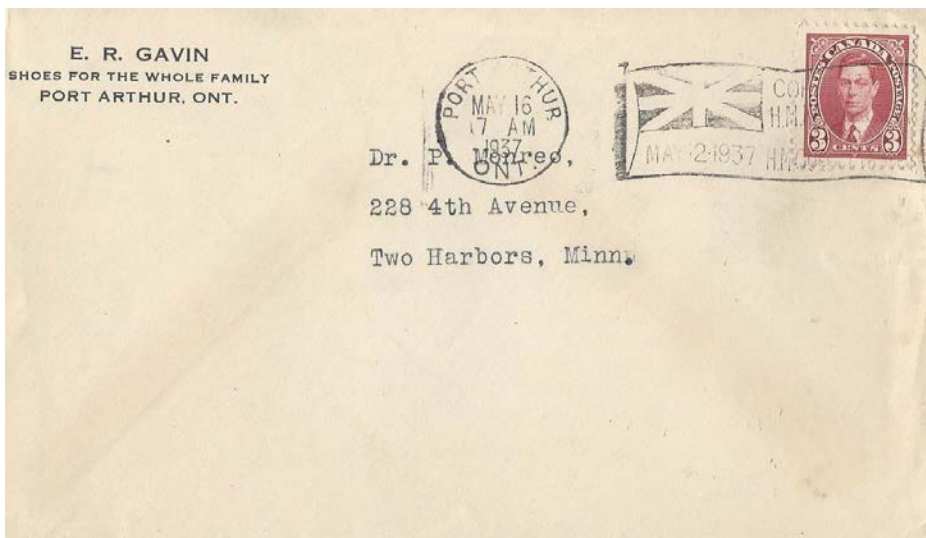


Fig 7 An example dated May 16 (Sunday) and timed at 7 AM. This time would have cleared the early morning mail and any leftovers from the previous day. However, those tasked with changing the day/time in the dater hub, forgot to check the slogan had been removed.



Fig 8 Dated May 17 timed at 7 AM. A full 24 hours later and the slogan error had still not been picked up, even though the dater had been changed. One other cover is known to the author, as there is a facsimile appearing in the 'Flag Pole' news letter (4) also addressed to the Commercial Credit Corp., Dated May 16 but timed at 7.30 PM. One speculates that the error was quickly discovered on the Monday.



Fig 9 Sunday, May 16. This example is timed at 11.30 PM yet there were, in all probability, a number of occasions throughout the day, when the machine would have been operated. The question must be asked 'where are other examples with earlier times?'



Fig 10 Another example from May 16 with the 11.30 PM timed dater hub. During the previous week there were other times of using the Perfect machine, even discounting the 10th (first day of the Coronation stamp and 4, 5 and 8 cent Mufti stamps) and 12th (the day of the Coronation) when it was used indicating that there was a demand for an automated process rather than hand-stamping.

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Fig 11 Whilst a feint impression, this is dated May 17 and timed at 12.30 AM. This is surmised to be the time when it was noticed that the Coronation slogan was still in situ.

Charlottetown, P.E.I. Finally, I am able to show the latest known example of the Coronation slogan. When I first saw this, I queried whether it was an error for May 12 as the time mark is in the middle of the night and was there a sleepy eyed clerk who put in 21 rather than the correct date of the 12th. When entering into correspondence with Doug Lingard, he dismissed this theory as he believed that there is an example in another collection which is dated May 18. This leaves the big question as to where are all the other examples prior to this date or even another one on the 18th? The capital had a population of approximately 10-15,000 at the time of this cover which leads me to suspect that there are still the odd one or two to be discovered.



Fig 12 If only this date appeared on a complete envelope which may have offered a clue as to how this came about.

If there are any other collectors of this Flag cancel and who discover dates of 16th May and later, the author would be pleased to receive scans. My email address is in the membership booklet.

References and notes:-

1. British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) quarterly journal 'Topics', Vol. 65 No. 1.
2. The King George VI Coronation Flag Cancels and Covers Vol. 32 No. 8.
3. Credit is given to Doug Lingard for the scans shown in Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 & 11.
4. 'Flag Pole' was a BNAPS study group news letter. This is shown in Vol. 7 No. 2 dated Sept. 1993.

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Editor's note: This article was first published in the December 2020 edition of 'Confederation' the newsletter of the BNAPS Large and Small Queens study group. We felt that the subject may be of more general interest to members so it is re-produced here with kind permission of the author and the newsletter editor, both of whom are CPSGB members.

THE 'INCORRECTLY DRAWN GUIDELINES' – NEW LIGHT ON ONE OF THE 2 CENTS LARGE QUEEN'S MOST FASCINATING VARIETIES

Brian Hargreaves

Variety collectors of the Large Queens issue will be well aware of the many un-erased guidelines that are to be found on the 2 cents value. Most are vertical or horizontal, found in the left and lower margins respectively and usually intersecting with the corner guide dot. This article however is about some very different guideline varieties altogether.

For those readers not familiar with these 'Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines' (or 'Misplaced Guidelines' as they are sometimes called), they are to be found at the bottom left corner of the stamp to the right of the guide dot. Figure 1 below shows one plate position with a short vertical guideline typical of the variety highlighted here in purple.

The fascination of these varieties is that the position of the guidelines varies, having been drawn at different distances from the dot – with the distance increasing on each stamp as they progress from left to right on the sheet. All of them seem to be found on the bottom row.

I have been a keen collector of Large Queen varieties for many years and have been putting examples of this particular variety to one side as curiosities. It was only recently that I decided to explore the variations in more detail. I naturally consulted the Duckworth's authori-



Fig 1

tative work on the Large Queens which covers the subject in some detail. However, my research has led me to question the accuracy of some of the Duckworth's observations

– in particular their comments about the actual number of these moving guidelines and their positions on the plate – but first some background.

A Historical Overview.

In researching these varieties I explored as much as I could of the previous literature on the subject. The earliest reference I came across was in Jarrett's 1927 pioneering work (1) where he talked about '*faint lines crossing at the lower left*'

Winthrop Boggs in his 1944 volume (2) talked about unburnished horizontal and vertical guidelines on the 2 cents plate, but that is all. The first article that I could find with any detail on the Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines was by Horace Harrison in 1961 (3). He stated that examples had been found from pp94, 96, 97 and 100 and assumed their additional existence on pp95, 98 and 99 by deduction. Five of the variants were illustrated. Sixteen years later in 1977, Hans Reiche in his Large Queen's Report (4) stated that these guidelines existed additionally on pp93. In other words, altogether they could be found on plate positions 93 to 100.

In 1986, the Duckworth's produced the first edition of their seminal work on the Large Queens (5). They devoted several paragraphs to these Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines; illustrating some of them (pp94, 95 and 99) and compiled a listing of pp94 to 100 with their respective distances from the guide dot.

Things had moved on somewhat by 2008 when the second edition appeared (6). The same illustrations were used but the numbering of the list of plate positions had changed to pp92 to 99. This development was based on work by Richard Johnson who used a 'travelling microscope' to measure the various spacings. The study was based on a sample of 29 bottom row stamps.

Finally, in 2010, Richard Johnson published an article in BNA Topics (7) providing a detailed examination of these guidelines. It was an extremely thorough report, using the travelling microscope previously mentioned, and applying regression analysis to determine the positions with more accuracy. He was aided in this by Henry Duckworth himself. The main message of the article was his conclusion that the variants started at pp92 and finished at pp99 – with no evidence for a pp100.

I have found no other articles on the subject since 2010 but what is clear from the above is the differing opinions over the years about the number and position of these varieties.

A Challenge to the Experts.

I hesitate to find fault with the philatelic wisdom and scientific rigour of the most recent publication on the subject, but I have great difficulty reconciling Johnson's conclusion with the copies in my rather modest collection. I have about 25 examples from the bottom row – Johnson had very slightly more – and I don't possess a travelling

microscope. My naked eye and a typical philatelic glass have however allowed me to draw some rather different conclusions. The scans below in fig 2 demonstrate clearly, I believe, a gradual and logical progression between pp93 and pp100.



Fig 2

I also have three of the variants on plate proofs – see fig 3. Naturally, the varieties show up particularly well on these proofs and no, the image in the middle is not a colour chaneling but rather a scarce blue trial colour proof.



Fig 3

To provide further evidence of the logic of these positions, I am indebted to Scott Robinson. His computer skills are greater than mine and he has been able to produce the graphic composite image in fig 4 overleaf which shows all of the Incorrectly Drawn Guidelines superimposed on one stamp.

So why am I so confident that the Duckworth information needs updating?

1. For reasons I cannot understand, my pp97 example has not been included in Johnson's analysis. I have several copies of the position, so it cannot be an anomaly.



Fig 4 Computer generated 'composite' image showing the positions of all of the incorrectly drawn guidelines superimposed.

2. It follows, therefore, that if Johnson had omitted this variant, his plate positions should be extended to cover pp100 (and the illustration of Duckworth's pp99 on page 47 of their book should become pp100)
- . My other problem with the Johnson/ Duckworth analysis is their suggestion for pp92. The vertical line, if it exists at all, is miserably short. Its appearance and location to the left of the guide dot seem to be totally inconsistent with the strong vertical lines in the other plate positions.
4. I have spent a long time looking for a plate position 92, where the guideline is to the left of the guide dot, with zero success. Does it in fact even exist? Neither Harrison nor Reiche thought so.

A Light Bulb Moment

Whilst pondering how to find the final proof I needed, I suddenly recalled the famous watermarked block of 18 owned by Ron Bringham. Fortuitously, this block includes the

bottom row. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Brigham and to Maxime Herold who organised a high-resolution scan of the block for this study.

I can report good news and not so good news from the scan! The good news was that there was clear evidence that all the positions from pp93 upwards were confirmed. Many readers will know that this block has had an interesting history. When Boggs illustrated the block is comprised 16 stamps. Later, in the Firth collection, it was made up of 18 stamps. However, when acquired later still by Ron Brigham the left vertical pair – pp81 and 91 – was re-attached after having been incorrectly placed at the right end of the strip.

Close examination of the high-resolution scan leads me to conclude that the progressive movements of the guidelines to the right indicate a gap between the two pairs at the right-hand end. The end pair has been re-attached at some time. It shows the pp100 variety and I therefore calculate that the missing pair would have to include the pp99 variety; a position confirmed by the range of plate positions illustrated in Johnson's 2010 article and in figure 2 above.

As for the pp92 question, the jury is still out. Any readers who have examined this famous block closely will be aware that one of the stamps is faulty. It is just my luck that the fault lies at the lower left corner of pp92! The corner has been re-attached pretty well but I am frustrated that, although there is no guideline present, it is not proof positive for my contention that there is definitely no guideline in that plate position (see fig 5).



Fig 5

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So finally, a request for those of you who have any examples of these varieties. Please look through your holdings to see whether you have a position 92. If so, does it exist with or without this fascinating variety? I would love to hear from you.

References:-

1. Jarrett; Stamps of North America 1927 pp118
2. Boggs; The Postage Stamps & Postal History of Canada 1944 pp245
3. Horace Harrison; Constant Varieties of the 1868 Issue: Maple Leaves August 1961 pp246 – 248
4. Hans Reiche; A Large Queen's Report 1977 pp38
5. H.E. & H.W. Duckworth – The Large Queen Stamps of Canada 1st Edition 1986 pages 46, 48 and 86
6. Ibid 2nd Edition 2008 pages 45, 47 and 84-5
7. Richard Johnson; BNA Topics Vol 67, no 3 July – Sept 2010 pp 52 - 55

NEWFOUNDLAND : A MOST TELLING AND ILLUSTRATIVE 10 CENT MIRROR IMAGE MAKES A REPEAT APPEARANCE

John Walsh *FRPSC*

In Maple Leaves Vol 35 No 2 April 2017, dear reader, you were introduced to a favourite sport fish of mine, the Newfoundland Atlantic Salmon. It was jumping and cavorting in the famous Newfoundland Humber River. While in the act of jumping we were able to see the reverse of the salmon image. Front and back images were dangled so as to present the eye candy for you. Well, after all those years I went back to those majestic 'Big Falls' to re-try my luck. And was I ever rewarded! Never would I have foreseen what happened, even though I wished it. Come and have a look. Please, no drooling as water interferes with the cooking oil I will be using.

There in the pool was another from that procreation act. The mirror certainly produces a wonderful reflection image. In anticipation of the oh's and ah's and the many questions of 'how did you do that', may I suggest you also have a chance to fly one of these beauties from that great river. I believe from the two images so far

found that there are eight more of these beauties waiting to be hooked. Let's see who else can hook one of these wonders. Happy fishing to all and to those lucky eight a great fish capture!



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AN INTERESTING 1833 YORK FAVOURED TRIPLE-RATED DROP MONEY LETTER IN NEED OF INVESTIGATION

John R Reynolds



Fig 1 1833 Stampless letter from BURLINGTON CANAL, favoured to YORK, rare TRIPLE-rate DROP MONEY LETTER. Internally dated Burlington Canal, Octr 28, 1833, containing £110 currency, to the Honble. John H Dunn, “ “ “, York. It was endorsed “Money Letter” m/s at LL in black. Carried c40 miles by favour to be mailed at York, rated Money 3 pre-paid in red [triple the 1d drop letter rate as it contained enclosures of money]. Only recorded YORK U.C OC 31 1833 double circle large date type postmark [12379.400] in red. Tape repair to several file folds and opening tears.

The illustrated and described money letter above was written at Burlington Canal on 28th Oct 1833 by John Chisholm, the collector of customs. The letter reads:

Sir, enclosed you will receive the sum of one hundred and ten pounds currency which sum you will please place to my credit on a/c of duties and acknowledge the receipt of the same.

I have the honour to be Sir,

Your obt servant

John Chisholm, Collr.

To the Honbl John H Dunn

Receiver Genl.

York

At the Receiver General's office, it was docketed upon receipt:

“John Chisholm Esq, Collector Burlington Bay, Octr 28th 1833, Remitted £110 “ – “ – Cy. Recd. and ackd 2 November 1833.”

Originally from the Stulberg Collection, this letter is of particular interest and worth investigating for several reasons. It has a rare York U.C postmark and a *Money 3* manuscript rating, both in red on the front. It was carried to York as a favour and posted there as a drop letter at an unusual rate. There are no markings on the back.

A RARE YORK U.C POSTMARK

The writer was initially drawn to the YORK U.C OC 31 1833 double circle, large date type postmark. This strike was reported by him and is the only recorded example of this postmark in the PHSC Postmark Database [12379.400]. The Town of York became incorporated as the City of Toronto a few months later, on 6th March 1834. This instrument is very likely the same one used later at another York post office, in Haldimand County, opened in 1836. It is first recorded used there on 1838 APR 13 or 16 [PHSC - 12386.200].

Letters at that time were normally given a postmark and the postage rated when handed in at a post office. This was stipulated in Art 1 of the *Instructions to a Deputy Post Master, in Canada, upon his appointment* by DPMG, T.A. Stayner, c 1830. The explanation for the York postmark of 31st October being such a normal posting mark is that the letter, written on 28th, was taken by favour from Burlington Canal to York, a distance of about 40 miles. Once at York it was mailed as a drop letter for collection by or delivery to the local addressee, the Honbl. John H Dunn, the Receiver General.

DROP LETTERS AND THEIR RATES

Stayner's comprehensive 8-page document makes no mention of Drop Letters. Subsequent Departmental Circulars were issued by him to clarify a range of situations, but the writer has not found one relating to Drop Letters.

The origins of Drop Letters in Canada are uncertain. The British Postage Act of 1765 also applied to *“the British dominions in Europe and America”*. It allowed for the development of Penny Post Offices, based on major towns and cities. In more populated Britain and Ireland these had become widespread by the turn of the century [See Staff, 1964, for details]. Presumably the DPMGs of BNA [George Heriot, Daniel Sutherland & Thomas Stayner] and senior postmasters were aware of the Act and its provisions.

Drop letters in Canada seem to have begun as unofficial local arrangements made by individual postmasters at larger offices. These letters did not require postal couriers to transport them out of town. The letters were handed in at a post office to be looked after by the postmaster for later collection, or for local delivery from the same office. There was usually a flat-rate charge of 1d currency, (plus an extra 1d for Carrier delivery), no matter how many enclosures. Stayner's c 1830 instructions, Art 1, also stipulates that

letters be entered on letter bills, one for each destination office, to be carried with the letters. Drop letters were presumably entered on a separate letter bill held with them in the local office.

Recent research by Banfield [2013] reveals a reference in a Lower Canada Post Office Bill for a one penny rate for the delivery and charge for local letters, to come into force on 1st January 1836.

Banfield [2013] also found a report from T.A. Stayner in Appendix F of the 1846 Sessional Papers (Victoria No.8) of Canada, relating to the question of a Penny Post in Canada:

“..there is at present no uniform mode of dealing with letters or packets deposited in a Post Office addressed to persons within delivery of such office, at the four principal offices in the Country”.

Thus, in 1846, Stayner clearly recognised the existing “unofficial” arrangements for such local Drop Letters. After almost 20 years as DPMG and 16 years after his sweeping 1829/30 rationalisations you would have thought that he would have formalised a uniform procedure for dealing with Drop Letters. Details of his report and proposals are summarised in Table 1. After the change to Canadian control of postal matters on 6 Apr 1851, the term “Box Letters” was introduced and rates were reduced to ½d if called for at the office, or 1d if taken out by Letter Carrier [Banfield quotes letters from W.H. Griffin, Secy, 17 Apr 1851 and J. Morris, PMG, 12 Aug 1851]. Large “½” and smaller “½d” handstamps were introduced shortly afterwards.

	Basic Drop Letter Rate	To Carrier	To Post Master	To General Post Office
To 1846 use at:				
Quebec	2d*	x	x	2d
Toronto	1d	Extra 1d	1d	x
Montreal	1d	Extra 1d	x	1d
Kingston	free	Extra 1d	x	x
Small offices	1d	n/a	1d	x
1846 proposals				
Large offices	1d	Extra 1d	x	1d
Small offices	1d inc delivery	n/a	1d	x
1851 reduction				
17 Apr 1851	½ d per ½ oz	Extra ½ d	?	?
12 Aug 1851	½ d per letter	Extra ½ d	?	?

*Rate included delivery, if required. An increase from the 1836 1d rate.

Table 1. Summary of Drop Letter Rates pre-1846 to 1851 onwards. Based on findings of DPMG T.A. Stayner, and his proposals for changes, reported in Appendix F of the 1846 Sessional Papers (Victoria No.8) of Canada. Added are the 1851 reductions introduced under Canadian control [After Banfield 2013].



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FAVOURED LETTERS

In Canada in the 18th and early 19th centuries it was common practice for letters to be carried forward by travellers as a “favour” for friends and associates, saving considerable sums of money. The term “bootlegged” is sometimes used for such mail. Local people were particularly reluctant to pay the full rate of 4½d cy for single letters up to 60 miles just for a letter to a local destination. The writer has never seen such a fully-rated local letter. Businesses, the Legislature, Courts, Churches and well-to-do families had clerks, apprentices, servants or other staff available to deliver them in person. This saving on individual postage charges deprived the postal authorities of revenue needed to develop the postal system in terms of increasing frequency and opening of new post offices.

With the introduction of Drop Letters some of this “favoured” mail, both local and distant, was handed in at the destination post office. This saved the person carrying the letters the task of walking around the town delivering them. Drop Letters thus joined other incoming mail to be collected by the recipient, or an agent, along with paid or unpaid mail from further afield. From larger Offices they could be delivered by Letter Carrier for an extra 1d charge. It brought extra income to some postmasters, as a perquisite, but, not always to the Post Office, as noted in Table 1.

EXAMPLES of FAVOURED DROP LETTERS, including MONEY LETTERS

An earlier Drop Letter to the 1833 one illustrated is displayed by Banfield [2013 sheet 3], dated Quebec Aug 9 1831, favoured from Montreal, 180 miles distant. It is rated m/s d2 in black, unpaid [and possibly delivered by Letter Carrier], to The Honble. John Stewart, Commr. for management of the Jesuit Estates. The annotation £60-10- . on the back suggests that it contained money and is thus a Drop Pre-manuscript Money Letter.

The writer has a Drop Pre-manuscript Money Letter from a few days later, dated York Up-Can Aug 14 [1831] in red, rated m/s 1d in red by favour from C.A. Hagerman in Brockville, 233 miles away, to J.H. Dunn, Receiver General. Docketing indicates that it contained £40, which was banked on 24th.

The writer also has a later Drop Pre-manuscript Money Letter, dated City of Toronto May 21 1838, rated m/s 1d in black, by favour from the Collector of Customs at Port Hope, 65 miles away, to The Honble. The Receiver General. It contained a £55 cy draft on Farmer’s Bank.

Pre-manuscript Money Letters are those which pre-date manuscript markings and show that they contained “money” by reference in the text or by annotation by the recipient. They are normally rated more than single, as they contained one or more “enclosures”. [Reynolds 2019].

Date	Place	Favoured from & mileage [1829]	Rate paid /unpaid	Money	Source
AU 9 1831	QUEBEC black	From Montreal, 180 miles	2d black unpaid	(Pre-m/s)*	Banfield 2013 sheet 3
AUG 14 [1831]	YORK UP-CAN red	From Brockville, 233 miles	1d red paid	(Pre-m/s)*	JRR
OC 31 1833	YORK U.C. red	From Burlington Canal, c40 miles	3d red paid	Money m/s red	JRR Fig 1
AU 6 1835	CITY of TORONTO U.C. red	From Niagara, c35 miles by water [99 miles by land]	1d black unpaid	Money M both m/s black	Searle 2020
JY 20 1837	CITY of TORONTO U.C. red	Possibly. To RB Sullivan, Crown Lands Dept	1d black unpaid	M m/s black	Handelman 2016 p 11
MY 21 1838	CITY of TORONTO U.C. black	From Port Hope, 65 miles	1d black unpaid	(Pre-m/s)*	JRR
MR 25 1839	CITY of TORONTO U.C. black	Possibly. To Hon John Macaulay [Surveyor General]	1d black unpaid	no	JRR
JY 29 1840	CITY of TORONTO U.C. black	From Indiana, Grand River, c70 miles	1d black unpaid	no	JRR
OC 12 1843	MONTREAL L.C. red	From Hull, 100 miles	1d black unpaid	no	Banfield 2013 sheet 4
MR 5 1844	CHIPPAWA U.C. red	Possibly. To Saml Street, Falls Mills	1d black unpaid	MONEY LETTER h/s red	Banfield 2013 sheet 4
DE 27 1844	TORONTO U.C. black	No, local from Toronto	1d black unpaid	no	Banfield 2013 sheet 6
AP 10 1846	MONTREAL LC	Possibly. To J Nye, Advocate	1d black unpaid	MONEY LETTER h/s	Harrison 1987 Fig 21 b/w image

Table 2. Twelve examples of early Drop Letters to 1846. Seven are definitely favoured. Eight are Money Letters. Ten are unpaid. The 1831 and 1838* examples are Pre-manuscript Money Letters, as explained in the text. Four of the sources listed also show later ones up to April 1851, when rates were reduced to ½ d per ½ oz and such items were to be termed “Box letters”. Both Banfield and Handelman refer to Harrison, Arfken & Lussy’s 2002 comment that “just two drop money letters are known, 1845 & 1846”. The latter is likely listed above. Mileages are based on Stayner’s 1829 table, when given.*

The Drop Letters described above head Table 2 opposite – a list of early examples to 1846, several of which were favoured to their destinations and some are also Money Letters.

INVESTIGATING OUR ILLUSTRATED LETTER – 1833 YORK FAVOURED TRIPLE-RATED DROP MONEY LETTER

Our 31st October 1833 item appears to be the earliest recorded Drop-rated manuscript Money Letter. However, it is not rated at a single 1d rate, as both earlier Pre-manuscript and later ones are. James Scott Howard was York postmaster at the time. It would appear that the person accepting it at York post office was inexperienced at the job. He ignored, or did not know, the generally accepted basic 1d rate. Endorsed as a Money Letter by the writer, the postal clerk knew that it contained money and rated it Money 3 in red to indicate a pre-paid triple of the 1d Drop Letter rate. The triple rating was presumably because of enclosures of two bills/cheques, possibly one for £100 and one for £10, the sum recorded as enclosed. Whoever favoured and handed the letter over at the post office clearly didn't know the correct rate either. The postal clerk also used the wrong handstamp, the rare YORK U.C double circle, instead of the generally used YORK UP-CAN single circle [12379.300], in use April 1830 to August 1834.

The normal rate for such a Burlington Canal to York Money Letter, with two enclosures for under 60 miles, was triple the 4½d cy rate, a total of 1/1½cy. It is uncertain what the postal arrangements were for dealing with mail at Burlington Canal. At the time, there was no post office at that location. Perhaps mail was given to a mail carrier and treated as a Way Letter. However, it is unlikely that the main York – Niagara Lakeshore mail carrier route went along the sand spit and marsh which stretches across Burlington Bay at the western end of Lake Ontario, through which the canal was eventually cut. The route more likely went round the Bay, through Wellington Square [opened 1826, later called Burlington], Dundas [1814], Hamilton [1825] and Grimsby [1816].

It is likely that John Chisholm, collector of customs, made his own postal arrangements. With its pre-payment markings, this letter suggests that he, or someone he trusted, paid the 3d in cash or had an account at York Post Office to pre-pay his postage. It would be easy for Chisholm to favour letters to York by way of vessels passing though the canal.

TAILPIECE

The research on Drop Letters generated by this 1833 Money Letter has highlighted the extent to which people in Canada mistrusted their postal system. They continued to favour their mail, especially if it contained money [incl cheques, drafts, bills etc]. Out of twelve examples studied, eight are Money Letters and four are not. Seven are definitely favoured, four are possibly favoured and only one is definitely a local Drop Letter. Ten are unpaid and two pre-paid.

Members who wish to go back to their collections may well find similar interesting favoured drop money letters to share with us, especially early ones.

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Look out for local letters sent within city or town limits fully-rated at 4½d cy, for under 60 miles. Look out for other letters from Burlington Canal to anywhere, noting their routes and rates. Also look out for any official post office documentation on Drop Letters, possibly a Departmental Circular.

A very interesting letter investigated!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The writer is particularly indebted to Colin Banfield for forwarding scans of the first eight sheets [to 1851] of his 2013 BNAPEX display. These gave detailed information from several sources, notably DPMG T.A. Stayner, on which Table 1 is based. Details of several of Colin's earliest Drop Letters are included in Table 2.

REFERENCES:

Banfield, Colin, 2013 Canada Drop Letters. Vermeil Award-winning display at BNAPEX 2013, Charlottetown P.E.I. The title page can be viewed at:

<http://www.bnaps.org/bnapex2013/bnapex2013-exhibits.htm>

Handelman, David, Feb/Mar 2016 Canada & Maritimes Money & Registered Letters to 1898.

Harrison, H.W., 1987. Money Letters: Forerunners of the Registry System Part 2, PHSC Journal No 51 pp 16 – 28. Fig 21- b/w image of this 1846 1d rated Drop Money Letter.

Harrison, H.W., Arfken, G.B., & Lussey H.W., 2002. Canada's Registered Mail 1802-1909. Collectors Club of Chicago. Quoted by Banfield 2013 & Handelman 2016.

Postage Act 1765 (5 Geo 3 c.25, 10th Oct 1765). London.

Reynolds, John R., An Interesting Pre-Manuscript Money Letter. *Maple Leaves* Vol 36 No 4, Whole no 354, October 2019. 230-1.

Searle, Graham., 2020. Personal communication.

Staff, Frank., 1964. The Penny Post 1680-1918, London, Lutterworth Press.

Stayner, T.A., 1829. "*Table of Post Towns in the British Provinces in NORTH AMERICA on the main post route; to which letters may be conveyed by the Post, with the Distances & the Rates of Postage for a Single Letter in HALIFAX CURRENCY, Constructed by T. A. Stayner Esq Dy. Post Master General in 1829*".

Stayner, T.A., c1830 Instructions to a Deputy Post Master, in Canada, upon his appointment. London? Great Britain. Post Office (Québec). 8p.

Article 1: “After post marking and rating the Letters which you are to send away, and which should be done as soon as they are deposited in the Office, you must enter the same in the Bill of the Mail, (which is called a Letter Bill or Post Bill) distinguishing the Paid from the Unpaid Letters, and putting down the Forwarded Postage (should there be any) in the column provided for that purpose. The Mail for each Office is of course to have a separate Letter Bill.”

Available on-line at the Canadian Archives: bac-lac.gc.ca or Brock University: dr.library.brocku.ca

Stayner, T.A., 1846 Appendix F of the 1846 Sessional Papers (Victoria No.8) of Canada. These related to the question of a Penny Post in Canada.

Information from this source extracted by Banfield, 2013.

A year ago we ran a story concerning a potential new variety of the Admiral 2 cent on 3 cent overprint with the overprint inverted. The article, not surprisingly, created much interest amongst Admiral collectors and a good deal of scepticism regarding the genuineness of the item (see Letters to the Editor in our October 2020 issue). Member, Garfield Portch, who is President of the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation and additionally sits on their Expert Committee has provided this update which as well as hopefully closing out the story also provides a fascinating insight into the work undertaken by the VGG Foundation when certifying stamps and covers.

EXPERT COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF BLOCK OF CANADA SCOTT #139 WITH INVERTED OVERPRINT

Garfield Portch FRPSC

Background:-

In July 2018, the Greene Foundation received a Request for Expertization for a block of four stamps identified by the submitter as Scott#139var. The submission was recorded as #12339 in folio 18-152 to be examined during the August 2018 meeting of the Expert Committee. (See fig 1 opposite)

In the course of the Committee meeting, the submission was viewed by all present with four members formally examining and recording their observations and opinions. Without spelling out the full observations, the key notes from the examiners were:-

1. Stamps are genuine but the overprint is by favour as no inverts were sold
2. Stamp is genuine and surcharge matches known electrotpe but is probably a favour or a private overprint
3. Examination using the VSC6000 to compare the overprint with known genuine examples shows that the overprints on the submission map very well with



Fig 1 Front and back of the block in question.

- examples in the reference collection. The texture of the overprint on the submission does not appear to have the same surface shine as genuine examples.
4. Stamp is not the same colour as examples in the reference collection. The surcharge is not the same as genuine examples but the design match is good.

Prior to the writing of a concluding opinion, the submission was taken to BNAPEX where it was shown to a number of dealers and knowledgeable collectors. Not one of those considered the item to be genuine.

On 25 September 2018 the Expert Committee issued certificate #F5149 stating 'Canada Scott no 130b mint OG block of four, with fake 2CENTS surcharge'.

The block and certificate were returned to the submitter. Shortly thereafter, the submitter requested that we re-examine the block and consider amending our opinion. Nothing was found to justify a change in the opinion of the Committee. The submission and certificate (see fig 2 overleaf) were returned to the submitter on 20 February 2019 with a covering letter explaining the final decision.

Note that in keeping with our privacy policy the submitter's name has been removed.

What happened next?

In the April 2020 edition of *Maple Leaves* a two page article appeared, entitled 'Potential New Admiral Variety Re-appears after 42 years' (1) The article presented details of the history and provenance of this block of stamps which, by examination of the photograph in the article, is undoubtedly the block previously examined by the Greene Foundation.

I was tempted to write a letter to the editor immediately following my first reading of the article. However, it is a policy of the Greene Foundation to maintain details of submissions in absolute confidence out of respect for the submitter. I did, however,



Fig 2 Above and right

undertake some more research in the VGG reference library.

On 9 July 2020, a posting by 'jogil' was entered on the Stamp Community forum

(https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=73402) announcing the discovery of a new and unique variety that had recently been certified as genuine by The American Philatelic Expertizing Service.

On the same day, I received an e mail from Robin Harris the editor of the *Unitrade Specialised Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* who had himself received an e mail (source undisclosed to me) advising that APEX had certified the block as genuine.

Later that same evening, I received a phone call from Jesse Robitaille of *Canadian Stamp News*. Jesse was looking for a comment as he planned to feature the story of the discovery in the next upcoming issue. His main question was 'why did the Greene Foundation refuse to examine this item?' Due to client confidentiality, I was unable to tell him that we had examined the item and given a bad certificate. At this point I realised that the story was going out of control and requested that Jesse would allow me to talk 'off the record'.

Off the record, Jesse revealed that he had been contacted by an individual (whose name is not relevant to the story) who told him that the Greene Foundation would not touch the item! I then asked Jesse to hold off on the publication of the story until such time as facts could be checked and confirmed. He agreed and has published nothing.

Shortly after this story broke, I phoned the submitter and asked if the APEX certification was true. He replied in the affirmative and promptly sent me a scan of the certificate and the four page supplementary report produced by APEX.

During this conversation he also told me that he did not own the item but was acting on behalf of a client who chooses to remain anonymous. I asked if the client would be willing

February 20, 2019

VIA FEDEX
Signature Requested

Dear

Re: Certificate F5149 – #139 with Inverted Overprint

The Committee has reviewed the 3 cent Carmine block with the inverted 2 CENTS surcharge and at this point is not prepared to change the opinion that the surcharge is not original.

We have found no other copies with genuine inverted surcharges. We do have a couple with badly forged inverted surcharges. Also we have asked several Admiral experts, and none believe there was a genuine inverted surcharge nor have they seen one.

We have reviewed several major Admiral collections in auction catalogues and seen no inverted surcharges. We are not aware of the Lussey collection catalogue or any photos of Ed Weiner's material. If you wish to do some research to come up with real other examples we will review the item again.

We do observe that the submitted block of four is not the same colour red as genuine surcharged copies. Also the black surcharge does not have the same shine to the ink as genuine copies. But we do note that the shape of the letters in the surcharge is very close to the genuine copies.

We are returning with this letter the block of four and our certificate F5149 dated September 25, 2018.

Yours truly,

Ted Nixon
Chairman

to return to item to the Greene Foundation in order that we could replicate the tests done by APEX using our VSC6000 machine. I stated that the VGG would re-examine the item and, if we changed our opinion, would issue a new certificate to that effect.

Because this entire process had become a public issue, I also asked for permission to publish the results of our findings whether they were in his favour or not. In an e mail dated 13 August 2020, that permission was given on the condition that he was the first to see the report. The e mail reads, in part:-

The owners of the block have no issue and accept that you pass on your findings with the public as have the APS. Between you and I, if your findings are different than the APS, they may not be very happy with that and could possibly cause a situation. Your call. Please let me know your thoughts and findings before you go public. I would like the owners to know beforehand.

In the journal *The American Philatelist* (August 2020, page 727), the expertizing of this stamp is revealed and documented in an article entitled 'Expertizing Discoveries, Findings, Confirmations and Goofs'

The Re-Examination Process

The process was broken down into four distinct steps, namely:-

- a) Checking the previous findings of the Greene Foundation
- b) Replicating the examination process used by the American Philatelic Society
- c) A logical and deductive analysis of the possibilities presented by this block of stamps and
- d) An additional forensic examination of the submission using the VSC6000 Video Spectral Comparator

Step 1: Re-examination of original findings

A review of the processes used in the original certification of this submission showed that everything was consistent with the type of work we usually do when examining stamps with overprints. It was confirmed that the stamps themselves are unquestionably genuine in all respects. Work was, therefore, concentrated on the overprint.

As it is not possible to undertake spectrographic analysis of black ink, the examination concentrated on the optical appearance of the ink and the match of the type with known genuine examples.

To supplement the negative opinions expressed unanimously by the Expert Committee, the submission was also taken to BNAPEX where it was examined by a number of dealers and by members of the Admiral Study Group. Again, opinions were unanimously negative.

The conclusion, for this report is that the Expert Committee of the Greene Foundation performed exactly as it should have done and it was justified in issuing a negative certificate.

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Step 2: Examination of the APEX Certificate Process

We are grateful to the American Philatelic Expertizing Service for their willing collaboration in the examination of this ‘patient’.

In a telephone conversation with Garry Leow, the complete evaluation process used by APEX was revealed to me and a supplementary report with images from their VSC6000 machine was supplied. Each of the tests that APEX applied was replicated at the Greene Foundation with identical findings.

The conclusion here is that APEX did as much as could be done with the information that they had available at the time. I believe that they would have consulted the Greene Foundation if they were aware that a negative certificate had been previously issued.

Step 3: The Deductive Analysis

This involved summarising both ‘Facts’ and ‘Questions’.

FACT: The King’s Printer encountered serious production problems while trying to overprint sheets of stamps that had already been trimmed and perforated. Only 500 sheets survived, and they were sent to the Philatelic Bureau. All remaining sheets were destroyed.

FACT: An examination of philatelic auction catalogues held in the Greene Foundation reference library shows that there has never been a genuine example of this stamp variety offered for sale.

FACT: The Greene Foundation has been expertizing and certifying stamps of Canada since 1975 and, in that time, has issued more than 30,000 certificates. Never, has a genuine example of this variety been seen by the Committee.

FACT: When the submission was taken to BNAPEX when originally submitted, not one collector, dealer or Admiral specialist considered the item to be genuine.

QUESTION: If George Marler purchased this block of four from a sheet owned by a dealer, Captain Bernier (see ref 1) what happened to the remaining 96 stamps? Surely a professional dealer would have sold them, even if damaged, to preferred clients.

QUESTION: Since George Marler was writing the definitive book on the Admirals (2), would he not more likely have purchased the entire sheet if for no reason other than study purposes?

QUESTION: In the story published in Maple Leaves it states that ‘*George was very proud of it...*’. If he was so proud, why does the block not get a photograph or even a mention in his book? In fact, on page 549 of the book Marler states that only two varieties are known, neither of which is the inverted overprint.

QUESTION: Since the block is reported to have been shown to Hans Reiche, why does Reich not acknowledge its existence in any of his writings?

OBSERVATION: In the October 2020 issue of Maple Leaves, Leopold Beaudet writes a two page article with his personal assessment of this block of stamps (3). He stops

short of providing a permanent written opinion but does provide some excellent food for thought.

CONCLUSION: This logical examination does not provide absolute or conclusive evidence but it does create doubt about the genuineness of this item.

Step 4: Forensic Examination using the Foster and Freeman VSC6000 H/S

Note: some of the forensic details are not being revealed here as their publication would be of great interest to others interested in creating fake philatelic overprints.

A number of processes for forensic examination of documents are available in the built-in technology of the VSC6000 but many of these are neither suitable nor relevant to the study of overprints. Since it had previously been determined that the stamps themselves were genuine in all respects, it remained to examine only the black overprints. The processes attempted were all done in comparison with a minimum of seven known reference pieces. The processes were:-

- Overlay and subtraction of images of the submission and known reference pieces
- Spectrographic analysis of the overprint under normal white light
- Spectrographic analysis of the overprint under ultra-violet light (365nm) and
- Hyperspectral imaging

The results, as expected, were wide ranging and are discussed below.

Overlay method:-

In this process, a high-resolution image of the subject stamp is fixed in the memory. A similar high-resolution image of a known reference piece is entered in the live screen which is then superimposed on the stored image. When the images are aligned, one is subtracted from the other and, if they are identical, a solid grey image remains. If there are differences, they will be highlighted either in black or white.

This test was repeated with seven known genuine examples on each of the four positions of the block.

The test showed that the overprint is an excellent match for the genuine and this does confirm the comparative study undertaken by the American Philatelic Expertizing Service.

Spectrographic Analysis under Flood Light:-

This test was doomed to fail before it even started because it is scientifically impossible to analyse black printing.

However, in the original examination some examiners mentioned that they thought the colour of the stamps in the block was ‘somewhat off’. The opportunity to compare the red of the stamp itself was taken and provides the reader with an example of the work involved in spectrographic analyses.

In this case ten reference stamps and the submitted block were examined. A single reading was taken from each of the ten reference stamps in an identical place. These all proved to be slightly different. A single reading was taken from three of the four stamps in the submitted block. As expected, they were identical so only an ‘average’ reading was used for the subsequent comparisons.

The results showed that the colour of the submitted stamps are essentially the same (allowing for the usual minor differences one would expect) as all of the reference stamps.

Spectrographic Analysis using 365nm Ultraviolet Light

This was a test that I had never attempted but, having discovered the VSC6000’s ability to do it, thought it might be worth a try.

Following the same procedures outlined in the previous section, I illuminated the subject using 365nm (long wave) UV light. I similarly selected identical points in the black ink of the surcharge and did comparative curves for both genuine overprints and known fakes in order to compare with the submission.

Although the results appeared to show some differences between genuine and known fakes, subsequent peer review by a respected physicist ruled out my results as ‘*scientifically incorrect but a nice try*’!

This failed result is included here simply to show that extraordinary steps were attempted in the analysis of this specimen and, perhaps more importantly, we do have test results peer reviewed if we are not confident in our own results.

Analysis Using Hyperspectral Imaging:

From the Foster and Freeman website ‘*Hyperspectral imaging is a relatively new technique in the field of questioned document examination and had previously been considered to be an incredibly high-cost method of analysis. Now integrated into the VSC6000 H/S system, HIS sensors collect and process information from across the electromagnetic spectrum combining the results into a three-dimensional multi-layered image cube. The images that make up the cube can then be scanned through manually in real time for further analysis and examination.*’

This process emerged as the ‘giant killer’ in that it was able to show, beyond any shadow of doubt, that there is a difference between the ink used for overprinting the genuine stamps and the more recent fakes.

For this test, I borrowed the commercial inventory of genuine overprints and faked stamps from Rob Taylor, a dealer from Brampton, Ontario. I combined them with a similar assembly of examples from the Greene Foundation Reference Collection.

The first item I tested was a known fake of a 'double surcharge'. As this stamp was undergoing HIS examination, I observed that one of the overprints began to fade away much earlier than the other (i.e. at a filter lever of about 760nm). The analysis showed that the upper of the two overprints was fading to grey while the lower (genuine) overprint was retaining its' strong black appearance.

I then tested other known fakes from both collections with similar results. The final test was to subject the questioned block of four to the same treatment. It behaved exactly the same as the other fakes.

Again, having never done this test previously, I obtained a scientific peer review that confirmed the validity of my results.

In Conclusion: we now have a valid test for the comparison of black ink used for surcharges. This test proved beyond any doubt that the submitted block has a fake overprint.

Conclusions and Observations:-

- The 25 Sept 2018 certificate #F5149 stating 'Canada Scott no 130b, mint, OG, block of four, with fake 2 CENTS surcharge' was accurate at the time of issue and remains so
- To this date there are no known genuine examples of this variety
- It is critical for Expertizing Committees to collaborate and talk among themselves
- The use of analytical methods for examining philatelic submissions is no longer an option, rather a necessity
- Expertizers, be they individuals or committees, must reach out beyond traditional resources to maintain a balance between expertizing experience and science.

Postscript:-

We have been advised by the American Philatelic Society that the certificate they originally issued for this block has been withdrawn and that a statement will be published in *The American Philatelist* in an upcoming issue.

References:

1. Potential New Admiral Variety Reappears After 42 years; Ariel Hasid and Graham Searle; *Maple Leaves* April 2020 vol 36 no 6 pp306 – 7
2. The Admiral Issue of Canada; George Marler published by the American Philatelic Society 1982.
3. Letter to the Editor by Leopold Beaudet; *Maple Leaves* October 2020 vol 36 no 8 pp 447 – 8.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ian Heron

TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL

I am hoping one of our members can provide some information on the likely routing of the cover shown in fig 1 below.

I am assuming the letter would have been routed via New York and I believe this was most likely flown on the Imperial Airways Short S-30 'Cabot' on its first return trip from New York. The only other possibility would have been on a Pan Am FAM 18 flight ex New York on the 19th August. There are no markings on the back of the cover.

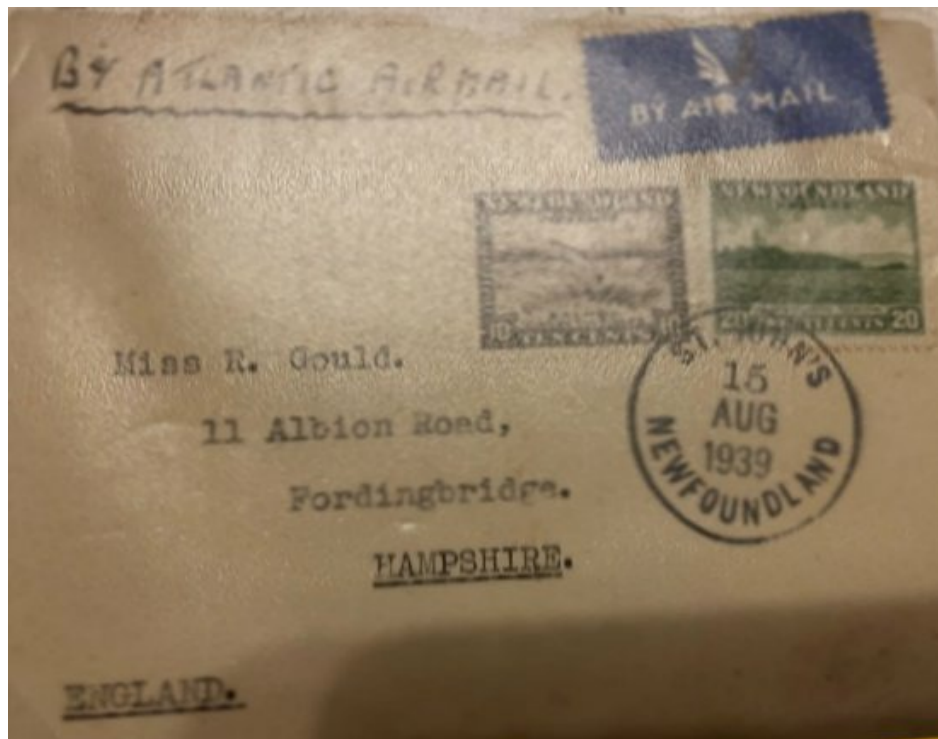


Fig 1

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

WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY.....

Dean Mario

Although I am not a specialist or collector of British Columbia law stamps, I found this particular court document especially interesting (see picture below). It bears two \$1.00 blue law stamps from the fifth series (1912-1926) and is dated 10 May 1918.

B. No. 142/1918.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



IN DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES:

TO THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OR A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA:

FRIDAY, THE 10TH DAY OF MAY, A. D., 1918.

THE PETITION of Richard _____, of the City of
Vancouver in the Province of British Columbia, machinist, sheweth:

1. That your petitioner was on the first Saturday in the month of March, one thousand nine hundred and three, lawfully married to Violet _____, nee Violet _____, then spinster, at Bolton, Lancashire, England.
2. That after his said marriage your petitioner lived and cohabited with his said wife at Bolton aforesaid, at Calgary in the Province of Alberta, and at the City of Victoria in the Province of British Columbia, which last-mentioned place he moved to in the month of March, A. D., 1917, and became domiciled in the City of Victoria.
3. That there is issue of the said marriage one boy, namely - Harold _____, aged fourteen years.
4. That the said Violet _____ committed adultery with Harry _____ in the City of Calgary aforesaid in the months of March and April, A.D., 1917, while your petitioner was in the Province of British Columbia; also with _____ Mercer at the City of Victoria in the month of July, A.D., 1917, during the time that your petitioner was working on H. M. S. "Lancaster" at the Drydock at Prince Rupert in the Province of British Columbia, being absent from home about three weeks; also with William _____ during the whole time that the said Violet _____ has been a resident of the City of Victoria; and a Chinaman who sold vegetables to us during some time that your petitioner and his wife were resident in the City of Victoria, the exact dates being unknown to your petitioner.



Innocuous and mundane legal court documents often reveal glimpses of Canadian social history and an insight into real peoples' lives. While divorce is usually never humorous, especially when children are involved, part of my schadenfreude sense of humour couldn't help but evoke a smile when I read the alleged damaging details provided by the petitioner in this divorce case – in particular the Chinaman who sold vegetables!

There is also a military connection which adds to the interest of this document. The petitioner was a machinist and was away "...working on 'HMS Lancaster' at the drydock at Prince Rupert" when some of the incriminating incidents were alleged to have occurred. "HMS Lancaster" was one of ten Monmouth class armoured cruisers built for the Royal Navy by the Armstrong Whitworth firm at their shipyard in Elswick. She was laid down on 4 March 1901, launched on 22 March 1902, and completed on 5 April 1904. Her displacement was 9,800 long tons, was 463 feet 6 inches long, had a beam of 66 feet, and could reach speeds of 23 knots. She had a complement of 678 officers and men. She is illustrated below on a postcard originating from Malta.



Upon completion, she was assigned to the 3rd Cruiser Squadron of the Mediterranean Fleet. "Lancaster" remained with the squadron after re-designation as the 6th Cruiser Squadron and returned home in 1912. She was then re-assigned to the reserve 5th Cruiser Squadron. In 1913, she was re-commissioned and assigned to the 4th Cruiser Squadron on the North America and West Indies Stations. After having served for several years in the Mediterranean, North America, and the West Indies, she returned to English waters for service in the 7th Cruiser Squadron of the Grand Fleet in 1915. Her Great War service included convoy protection and searching for enemy German commerce raiders.

In April 1916 she was transferred to the Pacific Station and where, presumably in July 1917, she was being refitted at Prince Rupert. "Lancaster" subsequently became the flagship of the Eastern Squadron in 1918. Her dismantling began in Birkenhead before she was sold for scrap on 3 March 1920. The ship was eventually broken up and ended her days in Blyth, Northumberland.

While it has been a century, most of the names have been purposely excised due to sympathetic discretion for any potential ancestors involved. It should also be noted that this document only represents one side of the divorce petition.

DIGITAL PHILATELIC DISPLAYS

Over many years (well over 100!) philatelists have developed a highly effective format for displaying their material. This generally involves mounting stamps and covers on A4 sheets in portrait format and surrounding the material with detailed explanations and information.

Many years ago these sheets would always have been handwritten. Many of us (particularly those with less than legible handwriting) then adopted typewriters before moving on to word processors and later desktop software.

The last year with all its lockdowns and restrictions on meetings and gatherings of all kinds has forced many Societies to explore the options of online meetings with digital displays. Whilst these do not allow the viewer to 'get up close and personal' with the material and study it in the flesh, they have shown us many advantages of this form of display. There is no 'putting up and taking down' to be done. No waiting in line to view sheets, often for far too brief a time. Digital displays also allow stamps or covers to be enlarged to show detail or allow us to view both the front and back of an item on the same sheet. A whole world of possibilities is opened up. That said, digital displays are different and if all you do is take your album pages and scan them you are missing out on all the possibilities the medium has to offer.

As our 2021 Convention is going to be a 'virtual' one held online via *Zoom*, it seems timely to provide a few bits of advice, based on the experience of the last 12 months as both presenter and viewer, on how to get the best out of a digital display. If you have not already had a go at one, why not use this little article as a stimulus to try out your skills and produce a display for Convention – it can be as short as one sheet/slide or as long as sixty. Don't be shy!!

THE BASICS

All the regularly used video-conferencing systems allow participants to 'screen share' – i.e. let everyone else in the meeting see what is on your screen. This is the basis for giving a digital display. The display can be in a number of formats. A *Powerpoint* file

is generally regarded as the best option as this software allows you to show a 'slide show'. However, a *pdf* file also works well and you can even just show a series of pictures files such as *jpeg*'s.

A key thing to note is the format. Most computer and ipad screen are designed to show information in landscape format not portrait. Using the normal portrait format will leave at least half of the screen blank and restrict your scope for making the best of your material. So aim to produce a display in landscape.

You are also going to need a scanner to scan your album pages/ stamps/ covers into a digital format. If you are using Powerpoint, scan the material as pictures (jpeg files at 300dpi work fine for most things but you may need higher resolutions to show detail well). The resulting picture files can then be placed on the slides and enlarged to fit your design.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR A GOOD PRESENTATION

The following guidelines should be considered when preparing material for a digital display and planning your presentation:-

1. Don't put too many images on any one slide. Four is a good maximum and one or two covers or a small group of stamps is more than enough.
2. Use as little writing as possible. Remember you are talking about the image(s) and your audience is going to be looking and listening but probably not reading.
3. For any one slide try not to talk for more than 2 minutes – one minute is better!
4. Don't be afraid to manipulate your images (using colour and sizing tools) to improve its appearance. Bring out the colour or detail you want to emphasise and crop out any extraneous material.
5. Put an enlarged image of a smaller part of your object alongside the larger image – this is a great way of showing plate flaws or re-entries on stamps or highlighting postmarks on covers etc.
6. Do try to master the use of your scanner to allow you to scan at different resolutions to best show details on stamps or covers. Unless you are a very experienced photographer it is probably best to avoid the use of photographs. We have all seen how a poor quality photograph can ruin an otherwise interesting item for sale on ebay.
7. Introduce a variety of display techniques and material throughout the display. The same format and layout on a number of slides is just as boring as the same format repeated on 'conventional' display pages.
8. When giving the presentation, resist the temptation to take too long explaining the intricate details of any highly specialised aspect of your material. You will quickly lose the attention of your audience!
9. Don't display all of your material on a screen with a stark white background. Pastel colours or grey tend to be easier on the eye.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE LEANING AND DISAPPEARING 'B'

Graham Searle *FCPS*

I have always found the early flag and machine cancels to be a fascinating and rewarding topic to collect and study. Prior to the introduction of the successful International machine cancels in 1902, there was a period of some six or seven years when rival companies were vying for the business of mechanising cancels and undertaking a series of trials to highlight the merits (and sometimes deficiencies) of their products.

The bulk of these trials took place in Montreal and the subject of this short article is just one of these cancels which dates from 1900.

In the period from 1897 to 1900, Montreal had made use of six cancelling machines made by the Bickerdike company. Initially, these had been equipped with involute flag cancels (type 7 – see fig 1 below). Presumably, these did not prove to be entirely successful in cancelling stamps as, in 1898 two heavy bars were added to them (type 8 – see fig 2 opposite). Then in early 1900, indicia letters were added to some of the flag cancels. At this last stage, for reasons we will probably never know, the die 2 flag cancel which would have received a 'B' indicia, was retired and replaced by a machine cancel – the Montreal type M5 cancel which does show a 'B' indicia – see fig 3 opposite.



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3 (courtesy of Sparks Auctions)

Lingard (1) reports the earliest known date of this M5 cancel as 31 March 1900 so the example shown in fig 3 is a fairly early use. You will note that the 'B' indicia is placed on the third line up from the bottom about 6mm in from the left edge and is in a very upright position relative to the horizontal lines of the cancel.

Now this M5 machine cancel was quite long lived compared to many of these early cancels. It remained in use until early 1902 (Lingard reports a LRD of 7 March 1902)

and whilst varieties such as use without the dater (fig 4) and inverted cancelling die (fig 5) are scarce, the cancel itself is relatively common.



Fig 4 Use without the dater (courtesy of Sparks Auctions)

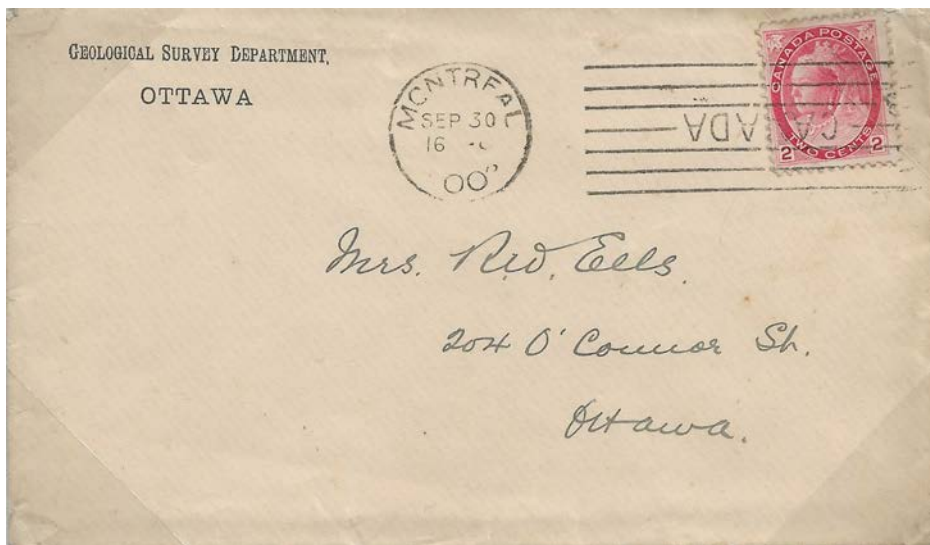


Fig 5 Inverted cancelling die

What is interesting, however, is what happens to the indicia 'B' over the life of this cancel. Fig 6 opposite shows an example from near the end of the life of this cancel. This example from early March 1902 shows the 'B' appearing at a rather rakish angle as though the letter is coming loose from its fixings. The Heaseman collection (2) had



Fig 6 Late use showing a sloping 'B'

an example from February 1902 which showed the exact same angle of the 'B'. I have also seen another example from late December 1901 with a similar sloping 'B'.

Hunting back through dated examples, I have found that the original upright position of the 'B' lasted at least until late January 1901. However, by July 1901 we start to see the 'B' leaning slightly to the left – see fig 7. I have an example on cover from August 1901

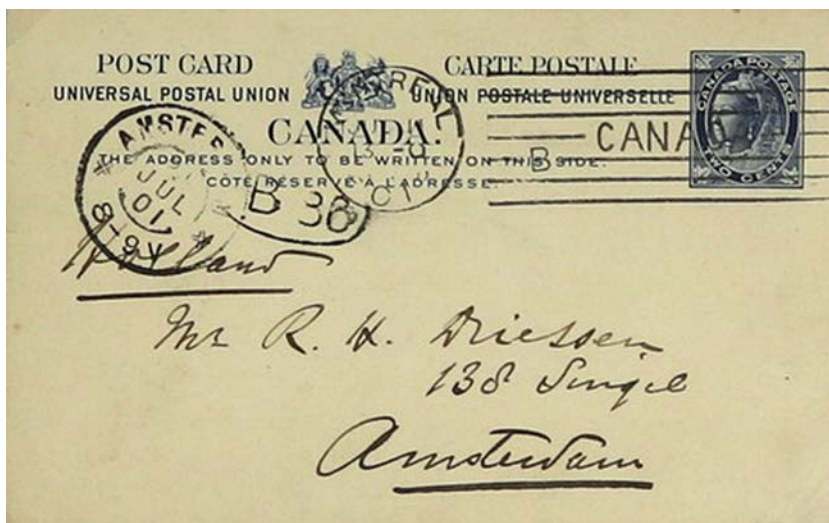


Fig 7 Use from July 1901 (courtesy of Sparks Auctions)

which shows this same slight lean to the left. It seems this movement of the 'B' got considerably worse over the course of the last few months of 1901 (compare figs 6 and 7).

When the Montreal type 8 flag cancels were retired in early March 1902, the type M5 machine cancel was also laid aside. All of these cancels were replaced in the Bickerdike machines by type M6 machine cancels which had the indicia letters A through F. The M6 'B' cancel is shown in fig 8. This cancel has an earliest recorded date (*I*) of 11 March 1902 so we can reasonably assume it directly replaced its' M5 counterpart. Readers will note that this cancel has the 'B' set lower (on the second line from the bottom) and to the left compared to the M5 type.



Fig 8

These M6 cancels remained in use until the aforementioned International machines were placed in use in Montreal in early November 1902. However, during the period from January to October 1902, a number of experimental machine cancels were also tried out in Montreal. Several types exist, all of which seem to have enjoyed sporadic use at best. One of these is shown in fig 9 overleaf.

Whilst this type clearly has a different dater to the older M5 machine cancel. Some other characteristics are similar, apart, that is, from the missing 'B'. Lingard (*I*) was of the opinion that this was not a modified form of the M5 obliterator but an entirely new cancel that was made for the experimental cancelling machine. He based this on the observation that the space for the missing indicia was 5mm from the left edge on this new cancel but 6mm on the M5 cancel. Close examination of the bars in fig 9 will, however, show that the right hand edge of the short bar is worn so this difference may not be quite so significant.

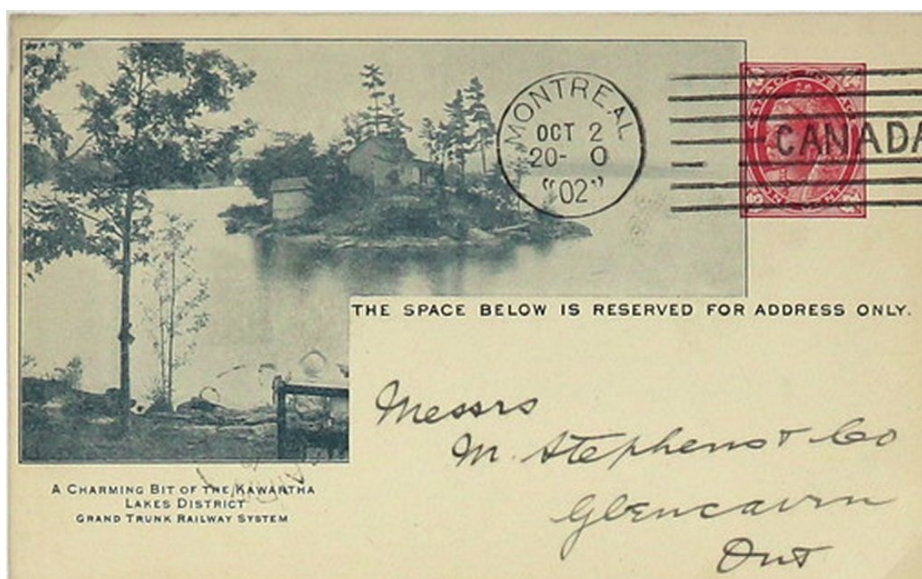


Fig 9 Experimental cancel from October 1902 (courtesy of Sparks auctions)

Whether it is an entirely new cancel, loosely modelled on the old M5 machine cancel or rather a modified version of the old M5 itself with the troublesome 'B' finally put to rest as Sessions and others believed (3) it is sadly very scarce, having been used very intermittently only between late August and the end of October 1902.

What is clear is that if you collect these cancels, you have to be looking very carefully where the 'B' is; or isn't!

References:-

1. Canadian Flag Cancels 1896 – 1919; Doug Lingard August 1993 (reprinted June 2000).
2. Robert Heasman Collection – Sparks Auctions Ltd 1 Feb 2020 lot 1247, figs 3, 4, 7 and 9 in this article are reproduced from this sale.
3. The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada; David Sessions 1982

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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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CPSGB CONVENTION 2021

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Take part in the Society one-frame Competition.

On line exhibition.

A chance to get your questions answered by the experts.

Opportunity to meet and greet your fellow members - albeit on line with a lot of 'social distancing'!

Full details and programme will appear in the July issue of Maple Leaves or online at the Society website.

Contact the President if you can offer a display - large or small.

SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here in the UK we are thankful for the truly impressive roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme which offers the prospect of a return to something approaching normality by mid to late summer. We look forward to meeting up with family and friends and the opportunity to travel beyond our immediate locality. Despite that good news there remains significant concern over new mutations and about the exact time-scales for lifting restrictions, particularly in respect of international travel. It is with regret therefore that your Executive Committee has decided not to proceed with plans for a physical convention for 2021 but to concentrate our limited resources on organising a virtual convention using the “Zoom” platform.

A good many of us are now familiar with “Zoom” and have enjoyed the shared experience of CPSGB Regional meetings, BNAPS study groups and local society meetings. Not as good as meeting in the flesh perhaps, but we have met kindred spirits who for one reason or another do not, or who are unable to, attend Conventions. We are aware that a small minority of our members do not have electronic communication but perhaps they will be able to visit nearby members who do and thus be able to join in.

During the next month or so we will be developing plans for our “Virtual Convention 2021” but to accommodate our North American members who are 5-9 hours behind UK time we intend holding afternoon and evening sessions, each of about two hours duration, during the **week commencing Monday 20 September**. Sadly, a formal partners’ programme will not be offered.

On a personal note, I must thank those who offered to give an invited display at Eastbourne 2020 and who might have carried forward their offers to Eastbourne 2021. Perhaps you might be able to offer your display for Convention 2022 which is scheduled to be held in Dundee, Scotland? I am sure that Karen Searle, our senior vice-president, would love to hear from you. Alternatively, you may be happy to display a modified version via *Zoom*. I will be in touch with you all shortly to discuss the options.

From experience we have learned that virtual displays take considerably more time than physical displays (however there is no putting up, viewing and taking down time), also that simply scanning album pages to “Power-Point” does not produce particularly appealing electronic displays. The most obvious factor being that most physical exhibits are portrait format whereas screen viewing on laptops and personal computers is landscape format. Reworking an exhibit to best effect for electronic viewing provides an opportunity to be more creative and to escape the constraints of competitive exhibiting rules. A short article elsewhere in this issue of *Maple Leaves* provides you with some information and help on this issue. With that in mind, I invite members who are willing to give a virtual display to contact me by e-mail or by regular mail. We have two different options in mind:-

- (1) “single frame” displays of up to 16 sheets / slides with up to 15 minutes talk-time, and
- (2) extended displays, not exceeding 60 sheets / slides with up to one hour talk-time.

In order that I can prepare a draft programme of events for inclusion in the July issue of *Maple Leaves*, it would be helpful if anyone wishing to give a display could contact me no later than **11 June 2021** with a title and note of whether it would be a single frame or extended display. Hopefully, I receive enough offers to put together a balanced and wide-ranging set of displays so don't be shy!

In addition to the displays, we intend to hold our regular Convention Competition based on one frame exhibits. An entry form can be found in this issue and is also available to download on the Society website. Running the competition on a digital basis gives an opportunity for many more members to participate and I would encourage you all to consider having a go. Full details of the rules governing the competition and the scoring methods used, along with the trophies that are awarded can be found at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk/PDF/competition%20rules.pdf Competition entries will need to be submitted by **15 August**, ideally in either *pdf* or *Powerpoint* format.

We also intend holding a virtual Annual General Meeting so please consider offering your services as a future officer of the Society. Formal calls for nominations will follow but at present both our Treasurer (Karen Searle) and Secretary (John Watson) hold dual roles, also serving as vice-presidents. In addition, Graham Searle holds the triple roles of editor of “*Maple Leaves*”, Auction manager and website manager. Mike Slamo, our librarian of many years, has indicated that he would like to stand-down and transfer our extensive library to someone else, and ideally, we need someone to shadow Graham by being Assistant Editor of “*Maple Leaves*” and becoming familiar with the process of getting our journal to print. Good governance requires us to give due attention to succession planning, and sadly we are greatly deficient in that regard. If you are willing to assist, or could be persuaded to do so, please contact me or any of the existing office holders for further information. **Your Society Needs YOU!**

In conclusion, Freda and I extend our warmest greetings to you and yours. Take care of one another and look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

Brian Stalker

FROM THE SECRETARY

Annual General Meeting

In accordance with Rule 20, notice is hereby given of the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held online via *Zoom* on Thursday 23 September 2021 commencing at 1500hours BST. In accordance with Rule 18, nominations are sought for the positions of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations and any proposed amendments to the Rules, should be sent to the Secretary to reach him no later than **15th June 2021**.

Fellowship

Members of the Society are eligible for election as Fellows for:-

- Outstanding research in the Postal History and/or Philately of British North America or:
- Outstanding service in the advancement of the interests of the Society

Nominations are sought for submission to the Fellowship sub-committee in accordance with Fellowship Rule 2. Such nominations must be on a prescribed form, which is available from the Secretary, and must be submitted to the Secretary, to reach him no later than **15th June 2021**.

Founders Trophy

This trophy, awarded only to members of the Society, is awarded by the Judging Committee for work considered by them to be the best subject of ORIGINAL or INTENSIVE RESEARCH in any branch of British North American Philately.

A nomination for the award, which must be proposed and seconded, may be submitted in writing to the Secretary, to reach him no later than **15th June 2021**.

The relevant Rules, referred to above, can be found at the Society website www.canadianpsgb.org.uk

John Watson

FROM THE AUCTION MANAGER

My thanks go to all those members who participated in the recent auction either as sellers or buyers (or both). Our next sale will be timed to coincide with the 2021 Convention and it will be a postal/ web based auction with a closing date of Friday 8 October 2021.

Consignments for this sale should be sent to me by **30 June 2021** at the latest and I hope to have the auction catalogue on line for viewing by the middle of August.

Graham Searle

LONDON GROUP

Our regular meeting venue at the Royal Philatelic Society remains closed due to the COVID restrictions. They are hoping to be able to re-open in June so we will keep the situation under review and provide a further update in the July issue of Maple Leaves – hopefully with some good news regarding forthcoming meetings.

Colin Banfield

SCOTLAND AND NORTH OF ENGLAND GROUP

Our next two meetings will be via *Zoom* on Saturday 24 April 2021 and Saturday 24 July 2021 respectively. All members (and their guests) are welcome to attend, please bring along a few sheets to display or any items you need help in 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.

Graham Searle

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP to 15th MARCH 2021

New Members:-

- 3091 COSTELLO, Richard; 11 Albany Avenue, Toronto, ON, Canada M5R 3C2; e mail richardcostello1957@gmail.com; **PH – Toronto**
3092 MEYERS, Thomas; 144 Lorenzo Circle, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779, USA; e mail TOMEY368@hotmail.com
3093 SALONEN, Kimmo; PO Box 421, Port Carling, Ontario, Canada P0B 1J0; e mail salosu@hotmail.com **PH**

Change of Address and Corrections to Address:-

- 2514 ARMSTRONG, Paul; new e mail address pfarmstrong@gmail.com
3067 HERON, Ian; 6 Garranard Park, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT4 2GL

Resigned:-

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3031 SMITH, Michael | 3073 DAVID, Kenneth |
| 3078 FISCHER, Chris | 3080 PISZKO, Peter |

Deceased:-

- 0956 HILL, Gordon

Revised Total:- 246

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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, Virtual meeting |
| Sept 20 - 24 | CPSGB Convention - Virtual |
| Sept 29 - Oct 2 | Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London |
| Oct 23 | Scottish Regional Meeting; Glasgow |
| Nov 9 - 13 | IPEX, Cape Town, South Africa |

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN 2019/21

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