

The President's Message

With Canadians convinced that it is obviously necessary to resist Nazism now, or soon to be brutally dominated by it, it is with pride and determination that we stand with the democracies who are worthy of the name. Any self-interested neutrality policy is contemptible to Canadians who believe that it is high time to curb the influence of a ruthless Dictator.

The Directors are preparing for the publication of a membership list in booklet form and they would like to have members specify what specialty they might wish to have follow their names. They also want to give Dealers an opportunity to take advertising space. Every effort is to be taken to provide a satisfactory booklet.

It is with regret that the Directors learn of the death of Mr. Ralph Garratt, in Wellington, Ont. His membership in the Society was of long duration and was helpful to Canadian philately.

The Sales Manager requests more books to be sent in to him and he also wants more applicants for books of stamps to be sent on approval. Let us all help A.L. Reid to keep things moving in this department, by putting our duplicates into circulation profitably for ourselves.

Many papers on philatelic subjects are sent in to the Society after they have been presented at club meetings and these are always available for other meetings, so that it is suggested that members responsible for programmes might help each other by contributing or borrowing papers.

E. S. BALL, President.

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The following changes of address are reported -

Mr. Harold Fink, 7 Barclay Street, Hamilton, Ont.

Mr. Richard P. Germann, 296 South Chester Ave., Pasadena, Cal.

Mr. W. J. Cafley, 201 Millwood Rd., Toronto, Ont.

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The Early Canadian Machine Cancellations - by the Editor

In June 1938, we published a clipping from a Montreal paper dated June 1897. This article was to the effect that the Montreal Post Office had first used a machine canceller in May 1896. A few weeks later we came across a cover dated in April 1896 - since then many hours have been spent looking over covers of the 1896-1902 dating. In a bulletin of this type it is almost impossible to illustrate satisfactorily unless one had mimeographing facilities close at hand. In our case the Editing and Publishing are in different cities so we have made our descriptions as clear as possible. As none of our covers are authentic first or last day covers we have purposely omitted definite dates hoping that the members will do a little research of their own and their friends covers and advise the dates and types which they have. Only in this way can the length of time the various machines were in service be determined. You will note that types 1, 10 & 11 are not mentioned or illustrated by Jarrett, 1929.

The earliest known machine cancellations are from the Montreal Office, March 1896. The cancellation consisted of 7 wavy lines about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long. The cancellation varied from 16 to 18 mm. wide, the word Canada being 21 mm. long; the word taking the place of the centre line in the centre of the design. This type is not illustrated or mentioned in Jarrett's Handbook, 1929. It was also used in May 1896 (6th). The same type of cancellation was also in use in Montreal in June & August 1899, the only difference being the word "Canada" was only 19 mm. long. There is also a difference in the letters and figures in the date stamp or "hub" as it is known in P.O. circles. See type 8.

Type #2 - In April 1896 Montreal Office used the scarcest of the early machine cancellations. It is a flag cancellation, the Union Jack, 20 mm. wide by 57 mm. long. It is illustrated in Jarrett's 1929 as #1427. The word Canada is 20 mm. long in the centre of the cancellation. There is no wave to the flag or the word as in later types.

Type #3 - In June Montreal Office changed to another flag type 57 mm. by 17 mm. The flag and word "Canada" have a slight wave. The Canada is 16 mm. long. At this date there were several machines in service in this office. The cancellation from Machine A was slightly larger than the others. The letters denoting the machine in service are to be found under the Union Jack, the letter being in the 4th space from the flag staff. This type is shown as #1428 in Jarrett's 1929.

Type #4 - On June 20th 1897 the famous Jubilee cancellation made its appearance. This is the one with the word "Victoria" across the flag and the year 1837 above and 1897 below the word. The top edge is 64 mm. over all and the bottom edge 60 mm. over all. The width is about 22 mm. This same type with minute changes was used in Ottawa at the same period. This is illustrated in Jarrett's as #1431.

Type #5 - A few days later there appeared another Jubilee cancellation from Montreal. The flag is smaller and not nearly as elaborate as type #4. The flag is 30 mm. x 16 mm. with the flag staff 25 mm. long. The word "Canada" appears under the Union Jack. There is a crown in the upper centre of the design, under the crown in a scroll appears the dates 1837 and 1897 and the initials V.R. This type is illustrated as type #1430. Jarrett also shows a type 1430A with the dates and the word Canada omitted. The writer is not prepared to identify this type as being from Montreal at this time.

Type 6 - Early in August 1897 we have the first semi-furled flag type. There are no identification letters as to the machine in this type. The top edge is 53 mm. and the bottom 49 mm. long, the word "Canada" is 15 mm. long. The flag staff is 25 mm. long. It is known as type #1429 by Jarrett.

Type #7 - During 1898, possibly as late as June, the above type had two heavy horizontal bars added; as in type #6 the different cancelling machines were not identified although there are minute differences to be found by examining a number of covers.

Type #8 - See Type #1.

Type #9 - During 1900 the letters A to F were added to the above design. The identifying letters replaced the centre portion of the second and third lines from the flag staff. There was a change in the hub type too, the year was abbreviated to two figures as "00" instead of "1900". Jarrett lists this as type #1429A.

Type #10 - During 1900, either through the machine cancellers being supplied to branch offices, or during the breakdown of head office cancelling machines, a brand new type was used. The cancellation consisted of seven straight lines 60 mm. long with an overall width of 20 mm. The word "Canada" in the centre of the design replaced the centre line for a length of 25 mm. All cancellations examined by the writer are identified as being from machine "B", the letter breaking the third line from the bottom to the left of the word "Canada", the word "Canada" being 24 mm. long.

Type 11 - In July 1902, machines "C", "D", "E" and "F" were in use in Montreal, the identifying letters broke the second line from the bottom of the design at the extreme left hand. This type is also seven straight lines of the same overall dimensions as type 10. The word "Canada" is 26 mm. long and the letters a fraction of a millimetre shorter than type 10.

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C. A. ANDERSON

1120 - 12th St. E. Saskatoon, Sask.

In a later bulletin we plan to deal with the early machine cancellations of other cities in Canada.

The Editor will surely appreciate hearing from our members in the meantime regarding the dates and types of covers in their collections.

"We Want Good Roads"

The above words on mail matter of 1899-1900, signifies that the sender was a member of "The Canadian Wheelman's Association".

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