CANADIAN PHILATELIST



Journal of the
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY of CANADA

VOLUME XXI NUMBER 6

R.C.P.S. CONVENTION -- WINNIPEG

November 1, 1970

Dear Friends:—

Early in the Spring I had received a letter from a Mr. Woods of Birtle Manitoba regarding a collection which he wanted to sell. It was not convenient for him to ship it so it was decided that if I went to the Royal Philatelic Society's Convention in Winnipeg that he would be there and we could perhaps do business. I bought the collection and it contained a fine lot of mint Canadian plate blocks and various other interesting items. Mr. Woods was an ardent collector all his life, and it was with some resistance that he parted with his stamps. Perhaps by this time he has started to re-assemble another Canadian collection. I hope so.

While in Winnipeg, it was nice to meet the many friends. At the dinner banquet we had the pleasure of being at the table with the Chicago group of visitors — Mr. & Mrs. Sam Ray, Dr. and Mrs. Metejka and Mr. and Mrs. Richardson. We had lots of parties and fun, but I must add that we got lots of serious stamp talk and business in as well. The Winnipeg group went all out to make our visit a pleasant one. Unfortunately the well known Winnipeg dealer, Mr. Kasimir Bileski had taken ill and was confined to the hospital during the Convention. However, he and I had a deal pending and he did manage to get a few hours out of hospital to go to his office on Sunday morning, were in the quiet of his inner-sanctum our transaction was completed. Don't get too close to Mr. Bileski these days or you will get trapped into buying sweep-stake tickets. Usually a book instead of just one ticket.

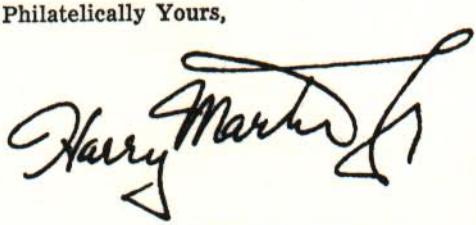
On the Monday and Tuesday following the Convention, I visited all the Winnipeg dealers, but unfortunately I was unable to turn up very much in the way of material, so I left Winnipeg and decided to stop off in Chicago where I was able to have a pleasant visit and see old friends. I was lucky enough to pick up a rather large Canadian plate block collection as well as the remaining stock of the late Henry Kuhlman, who was the Dean of Professional philately there.

Among other nice things recently purchasd have been some Newfoundlands, particularly mint sets, 6 Royal Family sets and other similar groups, all very helpful to build up our stock. One unusual item was Newfoundland stamps on Zepp covers which must be a fairly rare item. Then from England came a very large substantial stock of mint Canada. This was rather mixed and untidy, but we have been able to sort it out and make good use of it. Another collection was the Dr. Secord group which was a collection of Canada but unfortunately had been hinged in many parts with the unpeelable type hinge which came out during the War, and of course, some of the stamps were stained and soiled. These hinges were not completely used throughout the book and we were able to salvage many good stamps.

Mr. Bert Baulch, a most active stamp enthusiast for many years, recently decided to part with his surplus Canadians. He sent us an inventory which contained quite substantial quantities of a wide range of material, and I am proud to be able to say that we purchased this lot, and this too has been added to our stock.

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THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST

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

EDITORIAL:

"Most people would succeed in small things if they were not troubled by great ambitions"

—Longfellow

☆ ☆ ☆

CONVENTION LOCATION

In order to organize a successful convention a certain amount of work and administration by a group of local people is essential. By its very nature as the national society the R.P.S.C. is spread rather thinly and only in those cities such as Ottawa and Toronto where there are small groups of officers is it possible for the society alone to organize a convention. In all other areas some group of local philatelists, usually a Chapter, must agree to sponsor the function and to attend to the organization and administration of the event.

It is apparent therefore that if none of the chapters is willing to sponsor the event the officers of the society must either organize one at some location where there are volunteers willing to do the work (Ottawa 67 and Toronto 69 are examples) or have the event at some resort location where the management will make all such arrangements as part of the package (North Hatley 61 and Alexandra Bay 68 are examples). The only alternative would be to have no convention at all.

Needless to say we have attempted to interest Chapters to sponsor conventions and we hope that more Chapters will volunteer to make arrangements to hold one in their own area and we would be happy to provide assistance and advice as we have to all of the 12 different Chapters who have held conventions in the last twenty years.

We hope, in the near future, to be able to make available to our Chapters some guidelines and advice relating to the finance and organization of conventions which will answer many questions and outline just how easy it is.

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Well Philympia 1970 is a thing of the past and by general agreement of those attending for size and quality of exhibits it has had no equal. Held on four floors of the Empire Hall at Olympia the exhibits were well lighted and, what is most important, well spaced. One could examine all of the frames without being jostled by the crowds around the dealers stands.

The restriction of topical exhibits to one frame supported by one album made an interesting show and eliminated those interminable 10 frame exhibits of "Wheelchairs on Stamps" etc. which have been a problem in other large shows. Similarly the restriction of pure postal history exhibits to those of international calibre and then a further restriction to only four frames for this type of exhibit ensured a balanced show.

Such is the popularity of both topicals and postal studies that these restrictions are necessary to preserve an equitable balance between the various classes.

It is apparent that postal history has now reached a stage in popularity where it can and should support its own International Postal History Exhibition. This could be held in conjunction with a philatelic exhibition and in fact at Philympia a number of Postal History organizations were discussing this topic as well as the establishment of an International Federation of Postal History Societies.

It is to be hoped that developments in this area will not be long in appearing. It is not fair to either philatelists or postal historians that their differing exhibits and research studies should be judged by the same set of rules.

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The designs for Canada's Xmas stamps will add a colourful page to our collections but was it really necessary to have twelve?

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Dr. R. A. Chaplin - Canada
A. Ruta - Cochin
A. H. Hinrichs - Great Britain

POSTAGE STAMP DESIGN

As we are having some design difficulties in Canadian Postage Stamps it might be worthwhile to have the opinions of two famous artists on stamp design.

Eric Gill's "credo" for stamp designing seems to have been fully formulated when in February 1937 he wrote to A. Tydeman, Controller of the Post Office Supplies Department:

"From my point of view the whole idea of a picture stamp is essentially unreasonable. The essential things in a postage stamp are the statement that the thing is a stamp (the words "postage" etc.) the denomination and some sign that the thing has official origin (the King's head, a crown etc.). It seems to me that to use a pictorial subject is simply pandering to sentimentality and the appetite of collectors for anything curious. But if, for reasons unknown to me, it is decided to use a pictorial subject then I think it is desirable that the situation be faced quite frankly and that a really good photograph (i.e. good for the purpose) of the subject chosen be made and the necessary information

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(the word postage, the denomination the crown) be frankly imposed upon the photograph and no attempt made to combine the two things because they are essentially incompatible."

Edmund Dulac's ideas about stamp design are on record in an article he wrote for **The Listener,** of February 3rd, 1944, from which I quote:

"Like a label, a stamp must be clear and easy to read, it must convey all the information it is destined to convey: country of origin, value and the word meaning postage. One could be satisfied with this alone, set in good type and agreeably laid out. Other considerations, however, soon intervene as reasons for putting more on a stamp than simple lettering and figures. One is the fear of forgery which in the early days led to an elaboration of engraving devices that often produced very attractive results. Another is nothing less than a desire to advertise—to call attention to the good position of a nation in the world by displaying portraits of its ruler or its great men, views of the land or pictures of its history and commercial activities."

"A good artist is an invaluable asset. I mean by this a man who combines good drawing with a sense of pattern; and by pattern I mean an arrangement of patches of black and white, preferably on simple lines, that in itself will give pleasure to the eye and is made up of elements so broadly treated, or so simplified, that the idea to be conveyed stands out clearly.

"It is only when the label becomes a picture that stamp design degenerates. This does not mean that good design is altogether incompatible with the picture notion of a stamp—excellent results can be achieved when stamp designing is considered to be the business of an artist."

Much of what Gill and Dulac said a quarter of a century ago is still relevant to stamp design and it would indeed be fascinating to have their views on the more recently-issued commemorative and special stamps. Nevertheless, this account of the views they held so strongly may help us, today, to establsh criteria as to what makes a good stamp or, conversely, a bad one!

(Courtesy G.P.O. Philatelic Bulletin, London)

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On August 9, 1970 Mr. Henry M. Goodkind, longtime Editor of the Collectors Club Philatelist, died at Mount Sinai Hospital after a long illness.

Mr. Harrison D. S. Haverbeck has been appointed Editor by President Philip Silver. Mr. Haverbeck's philatelic credentials are of the highest order and he is well-known in this country and abroad.

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Milton Mitchell of Silver Spring, Md., was elected president of the Society of Philatelic Americans in the mail balloting tabulated at the organization's 1970 convention in Baltimore, Md. Milton succeeds R.P.S.C. member James J. Matejka, Jr., M.D., of Chicago, Ill. who has headed SPA for the past four years. Dr. Matejka has done a lot for Philately and the S.P.A. during his term of office.

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First Trans Canada Flight Halifax To Vancouver -- 7 to 17 October 1920

By MAJOR R. K. MALOTT

(Conclusion)

The last and most dangerous leg of the TransCanada flight was to be flown in the DH9A, G-CYBF, by F/L Thompson, pilot, and Air Commodore Tylee, as passenger. Weather for the next six days would be the determining factor as to whether or not the flight would be successfully concluded. Snow, rain and fog prevented take-off until 11:55 a.m., 13 October. The intrepid crew flew through heavy broken cloud in Kicking Horse Pass but the weather worsened and they landed at 3:10 p.m. at the Crowle Ranch, four miles south of Revelstoke, B.C. Mayor Walter Bews housed the 2 crew members for two days until the weather improved. On Friday 15 October, at 11:50 a.m. the DH9A took off and flew through very dangerous, turbulent weather, which eventually forced a landing at Merritt, B.C. at 1:15 p.m. An attempt to fly through the Coquihalla Pass in the Selkirk Mountains failed on 16 October. On 17 October another attempt commenced at 9:40 a.m., and this time despite a low cloud base the aircraft made it through the Pass, along the Fraser River and on to the flat delta country. At 11:25 a.m. the DH9A was landed at Minoru Park, Vancouver, 10½ days after the start of the transCanada flight, and taking a total of 49 hours and 7 minutes flying time. A total of 3341 miles were covered at an average speed of 68 MPH. The train schedule for the same distance took 132 hours and 10 minutes. Mayor R.H. Gale of Vancouver greeted the aviators in driving rain. Little public interest was created since the publicity had not been great for fear of failure of the venture and discredit to aviation and the Air Board.

F/L Thompson and Air Commodore Tylee put a special ending to the flight later by flying to Uplands near Victoria on Vancouver Island. The personnel and some of the DH9A's were returned to Camp Borden by train. A return flight was beyond the Air Board's capabilities at that time.

The bag of letters addressed to Mayor R. H. Gale of Vancouver, increased at every stop along the route. The original six letters to Vancouver were discovered in the Vancouver record vaults by the famous Canadian aviation historian and pioneer aviator, Frank H. Ellis. Letters were from Halifax, Winnipeg, Regina, Moose Jaw, Calgary & Revelstoke and their envelopes were autographed by all the aviators taking part in this flight. Apparently other cities received official letters enroute, as well as prominent citizens in these cities. The discovery of other envelopes has not been reported.

The six letters are now retained in the Vancouver City Archives under the care of Major J. S. Matthews, a veteran soldier of WWI. The letter from Mayor J. S. Parker, Halifax N.S. to Mayor R. H. Gale of Vancouver, B.C. dated Halifax, N.S., 23 September 1920 reads:

"His Worship the Mayor,
Vancouver, B.C.

Sir: The City of Halifax sendes greetings to the City of Vancouver, and trusts that the aeroplane by which this message is carried may be the harbinger of a service by the air from one coast of Canada to the other, which will bind yet more closely together the cities of this Dominion, and in comparison with which the railway will seem as slow and antiquated as the mail coach now seems in comparison with the railway.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. Parker, Mayor"

This Canadian pioneer flight was a success for it demonstrated that long distance flight by night and day was quite feasible in Canada, although much better facilities would be required in air fields, communication, directional aids, and supplies. To-day, 50 years later, Canadians enjoy a most efficient and effective aviation service TransCanada by Air Canada and CP Air, supported regionally by several smaller aviation companies. Passengers by the thousands, and mail and cargo by hundreds of thousands of pounds, are transported daily across the Dominion from Halifax to Vancouver, over the same route that fifty years ago took 10½ days in 49 hours and 7 minutes flying time.

NOTE: Two of the original pilots of this flight across Canada are still living today—Air Marshall Robert R. Leckie of Ottawa, Ontario and Air Vice Marshal G. O. Johnson of Lagos, Florida.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

A. **"The First Trans-Canada Flight—1920"** by W/C Ralph V. Manning, DFC, CD, formerly Director of Air Force History and now Assistant Curator Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Canada. From September 1964 edition of Canadian Geographic Journal.

B. **Canada's Flying Heritage** by Frank Ellis, University of Toronto Press, 1954. Pages 180-185 **"Spanning the Continent. The C.A.F. Trans-Canada Flight of 1920".**

EDITORS NOTE: Collectors interested in this phase of Canadian Philateley are invited to contact

Major R. K. Malott,
16 Harwick Crescent,
Ottawa 8 Ontario
Canada.

SAY YOU
SAW IT
IN C.P

Martin Apfelbaum:



IMPRESSIONS FROM PHILYMPIA:

This is the best run and best organized show we've ever attended. The quality and amount of advance publicity was very impressive. The co-operation from the British Post Office was sensational, including a special issue with first day at the show, publicity, special 3 color cancellation—different ones for each day of the show, literature, movies; a thorough and effective job.

The booths or stands as the British call them are large, well designed, kept immaculately clean and are well lit so a buyer can see what he is getting.

The quality of the material entered in competition is astounding. First rate scholarship and major rarities are evident in almost every other frame. These are truly examples of what a fine stamp collection can be. It is flattering to recognize a number of pieces we have placed with their owners on exhibition. This is being written before the awards dinner but I think and hope that some of our clients will be winners.

Another of the virtues at a show like this is the opportunity to talk with specialists in the more sophisticated areas. We can often learn much from them. Of course there is the possibility of mis-information too. We had a gentleman exclaim over how nice a certain cover was, but claimed that its four-figure price was triple what it should be. He called a fellow expert over to convince us of our overly enthusiastic pricing and the friend promptly bought the cover without a word of complaint about the price.

London is a great town to visit and to be a tourist in. The old story that there are no good restaurants in England is no longer true. We have had many terrific meals. There have been four of us here and three of our wives, the wives have been sight seeing and shopping and we've been working That seems to be the usual state of affairs.

Martin L Apfelbaum

Executive Vice-President.

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Notes on the Large Queens Issue of Canada

By James Law #4406

The Large Queens issue has a special place in Canadian History, being the first issue of Canada as constituted by the B.N.A. Act of 1867. Less than a year after the Act was passed the first "Dominion" issue appeared.

Previous to 1867 Canada proper was made up of two areas Upper and Lower Canada. Nearby were the separate Colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

Before 1860 no desire for unity between these three Colonies existed, nor was there any thought of Union between Upper and Lower Canada.

During the American Civil War of 1861-65 between the North and South it looked as if the Northeners were going to win. That made the Maritimes think they might be invaded, and that the United States would gain control of the whole territory, which prompted the following events.

With this possibility in mind, a small Conference was held at Charlottetown, P.E.I. on Sept. 1st, 1864, in what is now known as the Confederation Room, in the old Province Building. A second Conference took place in Quebec on Oct. 10th, 1864. Among the delegates were John A. Macdonald, Etienne Cartier, Alex T. Galt, D'Arcy McGee, Robert Baldwin and L. H. LaFontaine.

As a result of all this the Bill we now know as the B.N.A. Act was finally ratified with an additional provision that any other parts across Canada might come in later.

In 1870 the North West Territories joined, followed by Manitoba. In 1871 British Columbia. In 1873 P.E.I. In 1880 the Arctic Regions. The North West Territories were later given Provincial status in 1905, at which time they became Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The New Post Office Act was assented to at the first Parliament of the new Dominion on April 21st, 1867, and became operative nearly a year later when the "Dominion" issue appeared.

The Original issue consisted of seven stamps the ½-1-2-3-6-12½ and 15 cents. Plates were also prepared for a 5 cent, but were not used until 1875. They then

603

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took care of the reduced letter rate to the United Kingdom by Canadian Packet.

The stamps were officially issued on April 1st, 1868, although a few copies are known dated late in March.

The Queens head was copied from Charles Harry Jeans portrait, and the process used in production was line engraving, with the plates of unhardened steel. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 each 10 by 10.

The papers came from various mills, and run from quite thin, to medium, and in some cases quite thick. They also vary from hard crisp, to soft white with different meshing. There are two types of watermarks (1) E. & C. Bothwell, Clutha Mills (1868-69) and also the Alex Pirie & Sons in Script (1876). Only a small quantity of the 15c. had the Script wk, and they are very scarce.

Copies of the 1-2 and 3 cents exist on laid paper. The 2c. laid is a major rarity only 3 copies of it are known.

The imprint "British American Bank Note Company" appears 4 times on each unbroken sheet. On sheets of the ½c.-3c. and 12½c. values there is an additional imprint of the value in words in Capital Letters. As far as is known only one plate was made for each denomination with the exception of the 3c. and 6c., where 2 plates were made.

Perforations are generally close to 12 x 12 but with the following exceptions. The ½ and 15c. exist in both 12 x 12 and 11½ x 12. The 5c. only in 11½ x 12.

Unfortunately most of the original records on this issue were destroyed, but later research indicates that all were printed by the British American Bank Note Company at Ottawa till about 1875. At the Montreal office from 1875 to about 1888 then probably at both places till about 1896, with remainders from both offices being used as late as 1901 in the 15 cent.

Very few essays have appeared. The die essays are very scarce. The 3c. essays emanating from the North American Bank Note Company of New York have been used on Postal Stationery issues.

The Bradbury Wilkinson essays were probably offered for Canada's 1851 issues, and not used then, but seem to be the motif for the head and circle of the 1868 issue.

New Die Proofs are still being uncovered in various trial colours. Very few were listed by Jarrett or Boggs, but they appear in Auctions from time to time. It is not yet possible to make a complete listing of Proofs and Essays in the Large Queens issue.

Among many interesting features is the fact that the 15c. was in continuous use for over 30 years in numerous papers, shades, etc. and also both the watermarks.

The workmanship by the British American Bank Note Company was very fine indeed, with a minimum of flaws.

A wide field is open to the Postmark or Cancellation collector, and much work remains to be done by the Specialist in connection with these, as well as the stamps of the issue.

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WHAT'S NEW IN OLD CANADA

By DR. FRED STULBERG

UNUSUAL OFFSETS

In order to appreciate an unusual offset we must first understand the meaning of the word "offset" as it applies to stamps. Briefly, and with a tendency toward oversimplification, an offest occurs when, during a printing cycle, the ink is deposited from the printing plate to the "bed" of the press rather than to the paper so that when the next sheet of paper falls into place it picks up not only the impression of the stamps on the face of the paper, but also the ink pattern from the bed on the underside of the paper.

Examples of offsets on the Victorian Issues of Canada are relatively common for several reasons. Firstly, methods of printing were not as sophisticated as they are today and irregularities were more frequent. In addition, these issues were printed on dampened, ungummed paper which often caused sheets of paper to stick together further contributing to irregularities in the normal printing cycle. Lastly, since the paper was not gummed until after the stamp had been printed, any offset which would occur would be deposited directly on the paper and would survive the removal of the gum. This is in contrast to modern offsets which would be found on the gum rather than the paper.

Normally offsets are of the same design as the stamp (albeit in mirror image) and face in the same direction. However, in rare instances we find double offsets, offsets facing in a different direction from the stamp and offsets of completely different issues or denominations from those on the face. Above we see examples of the latter with the offset of the 5c. Registration Stamp on the reverse of a 2c. Small Queen and vice versa.

It is felt that this happens when two sheets of paper together and fall into place after a cycle with no paper (or an incomplete piece) in position. This double sheet would receive the stamp design on the top of the first sheet and the offset on the reverse of the underneath sheet. After the printing run was

completed an inspection would disclose some unprinted sheets (the odd one with an offset on the back) and these would be removed either to be run through the press again or to be set aside for a subsequent printing. This, of course, would explain how we can get an offset of one stamp on the reverse of a different one.

Some authorities claim that an offset occurred when sheets of stamps with wet ink were stacked one on top of the other. However, this theory falls by the wayside when we examine an offset under the glass. The fine line reproduction seen can in no way be attributed to the "blotting" action of wet ink.

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STAMP CLUB

CANADIAN STAMP COLLECTORS

Who have reached the stage where good copies of early material, is out of their reach, are invited to look to the group Perforated, or Overprinted OHMS and 'G'. The Canada Post Office accredited their use to certain Government Departments, for use anywhere in the Postal Union.
To those that have these in their collection, I offer the 1970 4th. edition OHMS CATALOG at $3.00. To those who might be interested in these, I offer the previous 3rd. edition for 10c. postage. These will describe fully, illustrate, and price the 234 major varieties, ranging from the 1912 Admirals to the 1962 Q.E. 'G', and 1963 Change of Typeface.
I welcome the serious collector, and the beginner, and offer collections, approval selections, or your wantlist.

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1962 Q.E. 'G'	Single	Block	Single	Block
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#047 2c.	1.00	4.00	1.00	4.00
#048 4c.	1.50	5.00	1.50	5.00
#049 5c.	.50	2.00	.50	2.00
1963 CHANGE of TYPEFACE			Mint	Used
#50 10c. Eskimo			1.00	.50
#51 20c. Paper			9.00	3.00
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Sales Department

These notes are being penned in my hotel room overlooking the blue waters of Douglas Bay in the Isle of Man where I am enjoying some peace and quiet, after a very hectic week in London at Philympia. Whist it is true to say, the exhibition was an outstanding success, many philatelists there, feel it was too big and well nigh impossible to see everything on exhibit. The material on display however was outstanding.

Many Canadians were to be seen at dealers' booths and the Royal was certainly well represented, as were members from the Toronto area.

As for my own personal philatelic interest — Postal History of the Isle of Man — I found that it was more scarce than gold bars. I did neverthless obtain a few interesting items.

To turn my thoughts to sales circuits again, I find that Canadian material is in very short supply and so I urge all of you who have any to spare, to mount them in the sales books and send them in NOW. I also need U.S.A. (early) M. and U. Great Britain; British West Indies; Pacific Islands; Netherlands and Colonies; early France and Scandinavia.

Recently, some members sent material mounted in the small books and these had to be returned. Please note, only material mounted in the LARGE books will be accepted. If you have run out of books, please send a dollar and a supply will be shipped immediately.

I should mention that if a sales circuit has not reached a member, who was a regular buyer last season, please let me know, as it is possible that your request did not reach me.

At the time of writing, Christmas seems so far away and yet it will be close at hand when this issue of the Canadian Philatelist reaches you, and so I would take this opportunity of sending you all my good wishes for the holiday season.

Gordon J. W. Frost



CEYLON

Situated off the south-eastern tip of the Indian sub-continent lies the pear-shaped island of Ceylon. Georgraphically, it has much in common with India to which, in fact, it was virtually connected by the curious Adam's Bridge of islets and reefs until the deepening of a channel navigable to ships, in comparatively recent years. Historically, too, Ceylon has much in common with India, her civilization dating from the time of Vijaya, 2,500 years ago, who was exiled to the island with his followers. Vijaya married a local princess, possibly of the Aboriginal Vedda stock, and became King of Lanka, from which the modern Ceylon is derived. The ancient capital of the island was Anuradhapura whose stately ruins can still be seen and it was here that a branch of the sacred Bo-tree which had sheltered the Buddha was planted in 288 B.C. It is from this period that many of the splendid temples, **viharas** or monasteries and irrigation reservoirs or tanks date.

Ceylon is just over 25,000 square miles in area and has a population today exceeding ten millions, mostly of Sinhalese or Tamil stock. Since the island is situated just to the north of the Equator it has a comparatively warm climate, relieved by the south-west and north-east monsoons which occur in May and October respectively. The climate varies from the arid plains of the north to the tropical rain forests of the central massif. Tea, rice, rubber and coconut are the main products in an economy which is essentially geared to agriculture.

The 'golden age of Lanka' occurred in the twelfth century. At the time that England was beset by the civil wars between Stephen and Matilda, Ceylon was enjoying unparalleled prosperity under Parakrama Bahu whose great capital was the magnificent city of Polonnaruwa. During his reign the Sinhalese empire spread from Southern India to Pegu in Burma, but after his death Ceylon gradually fell into decay, as a result of invasions at various times by South Indian armies. In 1505 a Portuguese expedition led by Lourenco Almeida visited the island and later ruled over the western sea-board and a portion of the Northern peninsula.

The native rulers, heavily oppressed

MINT CANADA

During the past year the demand for modern Mint Canada, the period between 1900 and 1950, has been particularly strong. This demand has been so strong that shortages have shown up in a number of values in almost every set issued during this period. These same shortages have occurred in the stocks of Dealers here in Canada, the United States and overseas. One result has been unusual competition in purchasing, either by auction or other means. A look at Part I of Scott's 1971 Catalogue will give a good picture of what is happening. Interest in collecting Canada is certainly healthy.

As dealers who specialize in Canada, old and modern, we have been hard pressed at times during the past year to keep our stocks up to the level that we like. However, we have made a number of useful purchases of mint Canada during recent weeks and stocks are being kept up. We will welcome your enquiries as always. We feel that we have something of interest for almost any collectors, beginning or advanced, collecting Canada or Commonwealth, or virtually any other country in the world.

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by the Portuguese and angered by the tactless proselytising of the Jesuit missionaries turned to the Dutch, the natural enemies of Portugal for help. In 1656 the Dutch captured Colombo and the rest of the territory ruled by the Portuguese soon fell into their hands.

During the French Revolutionary Wars, Britain, using the combined forces of the East India Company and Sinhalese volunteers, drove out the Dutch. The Peace of Amiens in 1803 confirmed this annexation. Consequent on internal strife among the Kandyan chieftains, the King of Kandy was deposed and the Kandyan Kingdom was ceded to the British Crown by the Convention of 1815 held in Kandy. At the end of the Second World War, the island was given its independence as a self-governing Dominion of the British Commonwealth.

Very little is known of the early postal history of Ceylon. It seems certain that the Dutch had some form of postal service, similar to that operating at Batavia and Cape Town. The East India Company must have likewise established a mail-carrying system during their period of occupation, but of neither administration is there any trace.

A so-called 'Free Post' was in operation at Colombo by 1809 at least, for the benefit of British troops engaged in subduing the King of Kandy. By 1822 a post office had been established at Colombo and by 1846 there was a daily mailcoach service linking the capital with the towns of Kandy and Galle.

India began using adhesive stamps in 1852 and Ceylon adopted the practice five years later. On the 1st April 1857 a 6d stamp was introduced to prepay the letter rate to England. This was recess-printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. Ltd. on blued paper with a star watermark and without perforations. A ½d stamp typographed in lilac on unwatermarked paper by De La Rue & Co. Ltd., appeared the following October. Between the 2nd July 1857 and the 23rd April 1859 Perkins Bacon produced stamps in denominations of 1d, 2d, 4d, 5d, 8d, 9d,

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1948 — UNUSED
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10d, 1/-, 1/9d and 2/-. It is interesting to note that the engine-turned background of many of these stamps was that previously used for the first issues of Chile, while the unusual portrait of Queen Victoria was simultaneously used for the stamps of the Ionian Islands then under British occupation. The earliest printings of this series were imperforate, although the ½d, 1 d and 2d stamps exist rouletted by a business firm for its own convenience. In 1861, however, the stamps were released perforated. The perforations vary greatly in consistency and quality. The following year Perkins Bacon's contracts passed to De La Rue who thenceforward printed the line-engraved issues. In September 1864 a 10d denomination was added to the series, recess-printed by Perkins Bacon but perforated by De La Rue. Between 1863 and 1867 De La Rue reprinted the series on paper watermarked Crown CC. The printings of 1867 were made on a distinctive hand-made paper.

In 1866 De La Rue abandoned the recess method and began producing a new series in the typographical process. These were the 1d blue and 3d rose and their main features were portraits of Queen Victoria engraved by Jean Joubert de la Ferté. In 1872 Ceylon adopted a decimal currency of 100 cents to the rupee and a new definitive series was typographed by De La Rue in denominations of 2, 4, 8, 16, 24, 32, 36, 48, 64 and 96 cents in small format and a 2r. 50c. in a larger format.

The new currency went through considerable 'teething' troubles, manifest by the large number of provisional surcharges on the island's stamps between 1882 and the end of the century. Postal rates had to be adjusted to conform to the regulations of the Universal Postal Union and there appears to have been a continual dearth of the more important charged stamps. No less than 62 different surcharged stamps, not counting the large number of varieties and errors, was Ceylon's record in that 20 year period. The stamps of 1872 differed from each other in design as well as colour, but fourteen years later they were gradually superseded by a new set in a common design, typographed by De La Rue on Crown CA watermarked paper. The original 15c. and 28c. denominations were augmented by 3c. and 30c. values in 1893 and a 6c. in 1899. In the latter year some of the earlier designs were reissued on Crown CA paper in new colours and high values of 1r. 50 and 2r. 25c. introduced.

De La Rue typographed an entirely new series in 1903 featuring the profile of King Edward VII by Emil Fuchs, in denominations of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 15, 25, 30 cents. The rupee values, 1. 50 and 2. 25, were added the following year and in 1905 a 75 c. denomination appeared. During 1904 and 1905 the series was superseded by the same designs but printed on the new Multiple Crown CA paper. New designs for the 5c and 6c values were produced in 1908 and two

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years later a standard design for 10c, 25c, 50c, 1r, 2r, 5r and 10r denominations made its appearance. The 3c in this design, and the original 2c in a different colour, were released in 1911.

Ceylon adopted the colonial keyplate designs for the series issued in 1912 with the MacKennal portrait of King George V. Stamps in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10c, 15, 25, 30 and 50 cents and 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 rupees in the small format and 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 rupees stamps in the large format were typographed by De La Rue on Multiple Crown CA paper. Considerable variation in shade exists and the 5c, 6c and 30c have been recorded with the watermark sideways. Between 1921 and 1927 the series up to the 100 rupees denomination was reprinted on the Multiple Script CA paper. On account of changes in the postal rates the 3c, 6c, 15c and 20c denominations were altered in colour and 9c and 12c values were introduced.

Unlike the issues of the late nineteenth century only two surcharged provisionals were found to be necessary during the long currency of the King George V series. In 1926 the 3c and 6c stamps were surcharged for use as 2c and 5c values respectively. The work was executed at the Ceylon Government Printing Works. The 2c exists with double surcharge or without the bar obliterating the obsolete value. In November 1918 the 2c, 3c and 5c denominations were overprinted WAR STAMP during the period at the end of the First World War when a supplementary charge was levied on correspondence in aid of the war effort. The 5c was also issued overprinted WAR STAMP ONE CENT in three lines. Inverted or double overprints have been recorded.

A new design, typographed in two colours, was produced by De La Rue between 1927 and 1929 for the 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 rupee values Ceylon was one of the last of the colonies to adopt pictorial stamps. Between the 1st May 1935 and the 1st January 1936 a series, recessprinted in two colours, was released. De La Rue printed the 2c (rubber tapping), 3c (Adam's Peak), 20c (coconut palms) and 50c (wild elephants), while Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. produced the 6c (Colombo Harbour), 9c (tea-plucking), 10c (rice paddy), 15c (river scene), 25c (Temple of the Tooth, Kandy), 30c (ancient irrigation tank) and 1r (view of Trincomalee). Each denomination carried a portrait inset of King George V in the uniform of Colonel of the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch).

The same basic designs were largely retained for the definitive series of 1938 portraying King George VI. Two of the designs (rubber tappings) and tea plucking differed in minor details from the 1935 series and the rice paddy design was replaced on the 1938 10c value by one depicting the great medieval rock-fortress of Sigiriya ('Lion Rock'), while a 2r denomination was introduced featuring an exquisitely carved guard-stone from the ancient capital of Anuradhapura. Adam's Peak (7,352 feet), 45 miles from Colombo, is revered by Budd-

CANADA

Scott #	Unused	Used	Scott #	Unused	Used
50-60	48.50	46.00	195-201	4.60	.85
66-73	20.75	10.50	202-10 (6v)	7.20	3.45
96-103	41.00	31.00	211-16	2.50	1.70
104-22	31.75	2.95	217-30	11.30	2.35
141-48	3.45	1.90	231-40	1.60	.29
149-61	50.40	14.40	241-45	11.75	1.85
162-83	27.25	7.35	249-67	12.18	2.27

NEWFOUNDLAND

Scott No.	Unused Set	Scott No.	Unused Set
61-74	$25.00	212-25	22.50
87-97 (12 val.)	42.50	233-43	4.00
98-103	40.00	253-66	3.25
104-14	27.50	C2	30.00
115-26	18.50	C3 or C3A	20.00
127-30	18.50	C6-C11	25.00
131-44	17.50	C12	100.00
145-59	12.00	C13-C17	19.00
163-71	12.50	C18	175.00
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26 - 27 November 1970

An auction of solely Queen Victoria material opening with 196 lots of Penny Blacks including rare plates and inverted watermarks. These are followed by Twopenny Blues and 1841 issues with varieties and multiples.

The second day opens with 'Cancellations' on line-engraved issues 73 lots), also featured are later issues to 1870, a small range of embossed and over 100 lots of 'surface-printed' issues.

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hists as the site of the Gautama's third and last appearance on the island; the cleft on the rock at the summit, said to have been the footprint of the Buddha, can be seen to this day. The beautiful Temple at Kandy contains a tooth relic of the Buddha. The Portuguese in their war against Jaffna in 1517, captured a tooth at Kandy which they publicly burned in the market place of Goa on the orders of the archbishop, but this was apparently a facsimile planted by the Buddhist priests.

A 5r stamp, in the same design as the King George V high values but portraying King George VI, was typographed in 1938 by De La Rue. During the Second World War there was considerable variation in the perforation and shades of many stamps of this series. To meet a shortage of 3c stamps the 20c and 6c values were surcharged on the 5th November 1940 and the 10th May 1941 respectively.

Ceylon participated in the colonial omnibus issues for the Silver Jubilee of King George V (May 1935), the Coronation of King George VI (May 1937) and Victory (December 1946). On the 25th November 1947 four stamps recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson were issued to celebrate the inauguration of the new constitution. The 6c featured the Parliament Building in the modern capital of Colombo, in contrast with the great **dagoba** or sacred pyramid of Amuradhapura, the classical capital, shown on the 25c value. The sun rising symbolically behind Adam's Peak, and the Temple of the Tooth at Kandy were the subjects of the 10c and 15c stamps respectively.

On the 4th February 1948 Ceylon achieved independence within the Commonwealth. The first anniversary of independence was celebrated with four stamps, recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson on paper watermarked with the lotus and 'sri' emblem. The 4c and 15c stamps showed the distinctive lion flag of Ceylon, while the Prime Minister, Don Stephen Senanayake, was portrayed on the 5c and 25c. On the 8th October 1949

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Ceylon released three stamps to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. The designs, featuring the globe with various means of communication or transport, both old and new, were recess-printed by De La Rue.

A new definitive series made its appearance on the second anniversary of independence. Recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, the stamps depicted a Kandyan dancer (4c), the Kiri Vehera, the Dagoba in a wellknown monastery at Polonnaruwa (5c), the beautiful Vesak Orchid **(Dendrobium macarthiae)** on the 15c, Sigiriya (30c), the Octagon Library at the Temple of the Tooth (75c) and the impressive ruins of Madirigiriya (1r).

These six values were augmented the following year by twelve other denominations, printed in photogravure by Courvoisier S.A. of Chaux des Fonds, Switzerland. Tea, rubber, rice and coconuts were featured on many of these stamps representing the essentially agricultural economy of the country, but the picture of the hydro-electric installations on the River Gal (2r) pointed to the modernisation of Ceylon. The 50c depicted a Sinhalese canoe with outrigger. Fauna and flora were represented respectively by the smaller deer or "Ceylon Elk' **(Rusa unicolor)** grazing in the Ruhuna National Park (2c) and a group of Star Orchids on the 35c. The remaining stamps alluded to Ceylon's rich cultural heritage, with a guard-stone (3c) and bas-relief (5r) from Anuradhapura, and a fresco from Sigiriya (25c). The original 10c design featuring two coconut palms, was replaced on the 1st December 1954 by a design showing a clump of King coconuts. This series ,together with those denominations recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, were re-issued in May 1958 with the inscriptions in Sinhalese instead of English.

Since the achievement of independence Ceylon has followed a fairly conservative policy where stamp issues are concerned. Commemorative issues have usually been confined to single stamps of low face value. On the 23rd February 1952 two stamps, printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., were issued to mark the Colombo Plan Exhibition. They depicted the mace of the Ceylon Parliament and symbols of industrial and agricultural progress. Although an independent country, Ceylon portrayed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on two stamps. A 5c green, recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, was issued in honour of her Coronation on the 2nd June 1953, while a 10c, recess-printed by De La Rue, honoured the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip to Ceylon in April 1954. A large contingent of richly caparisoned elephants took part in the picturesque Raja Perahera which was commenmorated on the stamp. The Royal Agricultural and Food Exhibition in Colombo was marked by a 10c stamp on the 10th December 1955 and showed farm produce, rice-planting and cattle.

Ceylon's statesmen have been portrayed on her stamps. A 10c green was released on the 26th March 1956 in recog-

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nition of Sir John Kotelawala's 25 years of public service. A view of the House of Representatives with his portrait inset was photogravure printed by Courvoisier. Sir John's successor as Prime Minister, the late S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, was commemorated by a 10c stamp on the 8th January 1961. The detail in this stamp was subsequently redrawn, showing Mr. Bandaranaike's hair darkened at the temples. A similar but smaller design was recess-printed by Courvoisier and released on the 21st September 1963. It in turn was re-issued by the same printers but in the photogravure process on the 1st July 1964.

The 2,500th anniversary of the birth of the Buddha was celebrated in May 1965 by a series of four stamps. The 3c depicted the arrival of Vijaya in Ceylon in 504 B.C. while the 4 + 2c, 10 + 5c and 15c denominations featured the Dharmachakra, a symbolic hand of peace and the globe. The 4c and 10c were re-issued on the 15th January 1958 with the premiums obliterated. There are a number of errors showing the overprints inverted or double. On the 1st April 1957 the centenary of the first postage stamp of Ceylon was signalled by four stamps. The 4c and 10c, photogravure printed by Enschede en Zonen of Haarlem, depicted various forms of mail transport, while the 35c and 85c values, printed by Courvoisier, reproduced the 6d stamp of 1857 in miniature.

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UPSTREAM FROM HULL -- THE FIRST POST OFFICE

By MAX ROSENTHAL

"The little village at which I write this letter, is the present head of the steamboat navigation on the Ottawa, on the Lower Canada side of the river, about seventy-five miles above Bytown. It is a small and very rough village, with much better buildings than streets, the stumps of the primeval forest being literally before each man's door."

So wrote the editor of the British Whig on August 8, 1848 from "Portage du Fort, Ottawa River", in a letter which was published in the Kingston, Canada West newspaper on August 16. He was touring the river northwest from Hull, the country where lumbering was king. About Portage du Fort, he continued:

"It is nevertheless a place of some small importance, with stores, mills, taverns, and other modern adjuncts to hamlets in Canada; and during the hey-day of the lumber trade, an immense deal of business was done in it. It takes its name from being at the foot of the first rapid of the many rapids and chutes which intervene between it and Fort Coulonge, the first trading post of the Hudson Bay Company; about 35 miles higher up the river.

"I shall retrace my steps. I started this morning, shortly after five o'clock, crossing the Union Bridge, and taking one long earnest gaze on the ever boiling Chaudier (kettle). I made the best of my way to Aylmer, at the head of the de Chene Rapids (Oaks) to be in time for the steamer, which starts at sharp seven.

"The village of Aylmer, the capital of the Sydenham District, L.C., is a thriving village. Several of the wealthiest lumbermen on the Ottawa make it their point of residence, and among them is John Egan, Esq., the member of the County of Ottawa, L.C."

Another lumber merchant, Charles Symmes, had laid out Aylmer in 1830, naming it after Lord Aylmer, Governor-General of Canada from 1830 to 1835. Symmes opened Aylmer post office in 1832. In the early 1840's P. Hodgkinson took it over; later in that decade John R. Woods became postmaster in his general store, on the north side of Main Street. He kept the post office there for many years.

Aylmer is in Hull Township, eight miles upstream from Ottawa, or Bytown, as it was then called, in Ottawa County, as is the next township upstream, Eardley. All the townships farther northwest are in Pontiac County.

By the mid 1870's there was a stage three times a day from Ottawa. Aylmer was the starting point of the Union Forwarding Company's steamers for the Upper Ottawa. There were three mails a day during summer and two during winter to and from Ottawa. Since there was also an Aylmer in western Ontario early postmarks were inscribed AYLMER-OTTAWA.

Steaming Up The Ottawa

Back in 1848 the British Whig's editor wrote:

"The journey thence to Portage du Fort is made by two steamboats and a connecting rail road, owned and managed by a few lumbermen, the chief of whom are Messrs. Egan and Aumond. The steamboats are two elegant iron vessels, about 130 feet long each, that at Aylmer called the Emerald, commanded by Capt. Cumming, and the other on the lake above, called the Oregon, commanded by Capt. Hilliard.

"The Lac du Chene is about 26 miles long, terminating at the celebrated chutes, called "the Shaws" (les Chats - the Cats.)" He would pass Eardley

HRH
NEW YORK



"If it was any more beautiful, it couldn't exist!"

This comment, by an experienced philatelist, certainly emphasizes the superlativeness of this wonderful corner pair of the "Twelve Pence" with full original gum.

The item comes, not unnaturally, from the celebrated "Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F. Lichtenstein Collection" of British North America. It is a part of "Sale 10" which will take place on December 7, 8 (3 sessions). The auction, comprising exclusively Canada, of all issues, will have some 900 lots in all.

A de-luxe catalogue, with color spread, will be mailed to those on the Harmer mailing list and those who have already subscribed to the Dale series. Others may obtain it for $1 post free (refunded to purchasers in this auction); the printed list of prices realized, mailed some 14 days after the auction, can be ordered for $1.

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Township, named after a village in Staffordshire, England, and organized in 1806. It had gotten a post office, also called Eardley, in 1842, in lot 24 concession 10, 22 miles from Aylmer. First settled in 1822 by John McLean, general dealer W. H. McLean was postmaster.

The next township upstream, Onslow, organized in 1805, got its first post office, with the same name, in 1839, on lot 10 of the 4th range, 28 miles down from Portage du Fort, at the confluence of the Quio River, as it was then called, with the Ottawa. First settled about four years earlier, the village was also called Quio, which in the 1870's was beginning to be spelled Quyon. Lumber merchant Walton Smith kept the post office in his general store. In 1886 its name was changed to Quyon.

The next three townships upstream on the Ottawa were not organized until the 1830's. Bristol Township came into being in 1834. In 1842 it got Bristol post office, in lot 4 concession, 13 miles southeast of Portage du Fort. The postmaster, William King, who kept it in his general store, also owned grist and saw mills. It was four miles across from Sand Point, Ontario, which was the terminus in the 1870's of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway. In fact, Thomas Craig, agent for the Montreal Telegraph Company, which served the railway, was deputy postmaster of Bristol then.

Wrote the editor of the British Whig in 1848:

"The steamers make one trip per week to Fitzroy Harbour, going on the other two times up St. Julian's Bay, on the northern side of the lake, to the station house of the Junction Railway. The station house is at the head of the bay, and the portage to be surmounted is three miles in length. The loco-motive power is horses."

There the editor crossed Clarendon Township, setup in 1833. It got Clarendon post office in 1837, opened by John Maitland. In the 1850's Edmund Heath kept it in his general store. Clarendon was to be closed in 1870. Nearby, Clarendon Centre had been opened in 1852 by James Shaw, in his general store. The newer village, on lots 8 and 9 of the 6th range, was 10 miles southeast of Portage du Fort. Shaw was still postmaster when in 1874 its name was changed to Shawville.

Above Les Chats

The British Whig editor continued:

"The lake above "the Shaws" (Les Chats) is called by the same name. The steamer which navigates it, the Oregon, makes three trips per week, leaving Portage du Fort on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at seven in the morning, and returning thither early in the afternoon of the same days. On the Lower Canada side are the Townships of Onslow, Clarendon and Litchfield." The latter was named after a city in Staffordshire.

Hiram Colton had opened Litchfield post office in 1842. In 1865 it became Pimlico, but closed for good in 1868.

Expounded the editor of the Kingston newspaper:

"I cannot give a better idea of the real civilization of the far away Ottawa Country, then to here mention, that at Portage du Fort, there is not only a post office, but that the office is a distributing one. No less than four mails arrive at and depart from this small village, three of which are tri-weekly, and the other bi-weekly."

The Portage du Fort post office had been established the previous year, 1847, with D. McLaren as postmaster, the same year as Calumet Island, in lots 13 and 14 of the 1st range of Calumet Island Township, 12 miles upstream from Portage du Fort. It was first settled in 1830. The first postmaster was Louis Brissard, general merchant and miller.

Hudson Bay Company Forts

In 1848 a post office was opened at Fort William, opposite Petewawa, by the chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company there, Hector McKenzie. The township it was in, Sheen, named after a village in England, and five townships north of Calumet Island, was not even organized until the next year.

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1847 saw Allumette Island Township organized, halfway between Calumet Island and Sheen Township. It was overgrown with reeds which looked like old style matches (allumettes). In 1852, across from Pembroke, Allumette Island post office was opened, with a weekly mail.

A little north of Calumet Island, in Mansfield Township, which had been organized in 1849, Fort Coulonge post office was established in 1853. It became a lumbering center when Thomas Bryson came in 1869 to build a store and mill. John Bryson engaged in lumber-

Farthest Upstream

Postal service came in 1853 to Aberdeen Township, three townships north of Sheen, when Rapdies des Joachims (locally pronounced "day Swishim") got a post office, 155 miles above Aylmer, with a weekly mail. There were four lumber merchants and four tavernkeepers, not at all a coincidence, as lumbering and taverns went together. One lumber merchant was also one of the tavernkeepers..

Chichester, one township south of Sheen, had been organized in 1849, named after a city in Sussex. 40 miles upstream from Portage du Fort, Chichester post office was opened in 1854, with "considerable lumbering" its reason for existense.

Collfield came into being in 1859 in lot 4 of the 2nd range Litchfield Township. In the same township Hargrave was established in 1862 by W. G. Leroy. The first house in this village, located in lots 13 and 14 of the 1st range, had been built the previous year by Ralph Grant. He kept a hotel. The lumber kings of Fort Coulonge were honoured when in 1872 Hargrave was changed to Bryson.

The next township up from Mansfield, between the latter and Chichester, was Waltham, set up like the other two in 1849. It was the last township south of Sheen to get a post office, not until 1865. Named after the township, until 1872 it was often incorrectly spelled Walton.

Meanwhile, North Bristol post office had been opened in 1862 by lumber merchant Robert Shirley. Lumbering and settlement were spreading inland from the Ottawa River. Thorne Township, north of Clarendon, got Thorne post office in 1860, changed to Thornby in 1869. The next township inland, Leslie, got Otter Lake in 1866.

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Applicants listed as new members have applied for membership in the Society and in accordance with the Constitution their names are hereby published. If no adverse reports are received within thirty days of publication, they will be admitted to full membership.

(*) Has requested that street address be left out)

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By HANS REICHE (RPSC 6397)

Canada's Christmas Bonanza, Collectors Feast or Famine, Christmas Exploitation, Why Suddenly, Canadian Stamps Lose Popularity—these are only a few of the comments and headlines in various USA and European stamp papers about the new Christmas stamps. One commentator asks what is the function of the review committee if they do not select the best design. Would it not be nice if these stamps would also appear on phosphorescent paper, pre-cancelled and overprinted to accommodate the anticipated postal rate increase. And how about some coils? Dividing them all up into equal portions may be one would find about 50,000 of each design and type, it would not be far off from the EXPO 70 tagged with just over 500,000 each!!!

It is with great delight to see that Scott has listed now some of the tagged stamps and the changed G overprint. Thanks for these listings must go to some of our members such as V. G. Greene' L. A. Davenport and R. Wrigley. May be one of these years other missing stamps will be listed such as No. 105, 109 Die 1 and Die 2.

Although we have mentioned this before, some collectors may have overlooked the fact that the recent regular 5 cents stamp was issued in a light blue and an indigo blue shade. Both should be collected. The 6 cents orange comes from a left sheet, first vertical row (position not known) perforated 12 with a clear guide dot in the left margin. This is a rather surprising find because we have not seen a guide dot for many years because the manufacturing takes great care to erase these guide marks before printing.

The issue of Netherlands computer stamps brings the question up when all countries will start issuing special stamps which are recognized by computer languages and which once scanned, can be programmed for sorting. The idea is of course not new and the tagging is the beginning of this venture.

The detection of watermarks on some stamps is difficult. Carbon Tetrachloride was used by many years ago but the toxic nature of this fluid made authorities declare this product unsafe for health reasons. The Exo Products Co. recently brought out a new fluid called Exo 1-1-1 which is excellent for watermark detection and safe for use by any.

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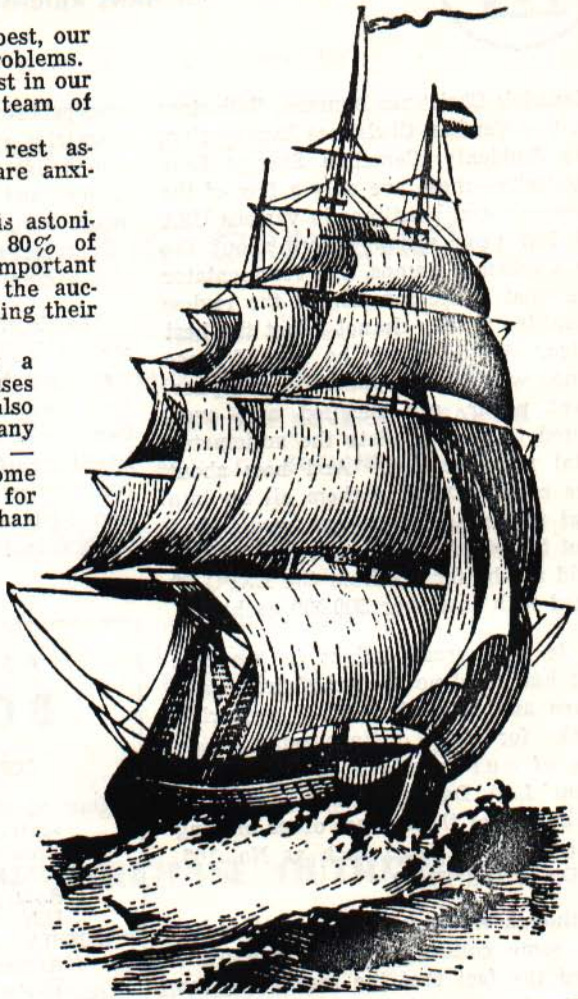
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COMPLIMENTS OF

CANADIAN BANK NOTE
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Dear Sir,

I am indeed sorry that your "problems" re plate block collecting are not over (Editorial, Canadian Philatelist, September-October 1970). In the opinion of this writer you could better direct your comments in philately to something more constructive that would increase interest in all phases of the hobby.

The fact that you are listed as a vice-president of R.P.S.C. make your comment just that much more ridiculous and with your obvious slanted viewpoint makes it debatable that you are fit to hold the position.

Is it any different to have an interest in plate blocks than for example, railroad or flower stamps? I find it a real challenge to locate certain early plate blocks in mint condition and even have spent hours trying to locate some of the so-called "Flying G's" in their respective plate numbers, as just one example.

You are so busy trying to make a "tripeless" point re Jim Sissons selling plate blocks by the pound that I strongly suspect you have a personal axe to grind on the subject, hence the diarrhea of your pen. In case you are not aware of it, gold and silver can also be bought by the pound.

Incidentally, any mint plate blocks you have to sell I'll buy, providing the price per pound is the prevailing price per pound of tripe. It is quite apparent that you would know the price of "tripe" as is evidenced by your current editorial comment.

W. R. WATSON, #8994

Editors Note: See! I told you my problems were'nt over.

Dear Sir,

I hope you managed to get a couple of laughs at my tongue in cheek digs at your last Editorial in CP. I note the Editor of the Stratford section in the Grand River Philatelic Association journal teed off at you as well. You should know better. For a man in your position to come out in print against first day covers and plate blocks is almost akin to being against Motherhood and the Church.

MICHAEL MILLAR #7537

ED: Oh! Woe is me!!

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All coils are notorious for poor centering. Positions such as these are even tougher. All listed below are Mint (Never Hinged) and centering is average. If you are a fussy collector do not collect these! Examples of these should rest in every collection. Very few stocks of these exist. When they take hold as with U.S. coils—they will be priced in outer space. Others available in quantities too small to list. What do you need?

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#180	2c. Green Line Pair	1.25	1.00
#181	2c. Deep Red Line Pair	5.00	3.60
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NOVEMBER 27 to DECEMBER 6— EXFILCA 70. Caracas Apartado Del Este 61.197, Caracas, Venezuela.

1971

FEBRUARY 19-21. Annual Exhibition of the Lakshore Stamp Club will be held at the Fairview Centre Auditorium, Pointe Claire, Quebec.

MARCH 27-28 — Annual Exhibition & Bourse of the North Toronto Stamp Club will be held at the North Toronto Memorial Gardens, 180 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto.

APRIL 17. Barrie Stamp Club Annual Exhibition, St. Georges Hall, Barrie.

MAY 6-8 — Annual Convention of the RPSC. Seignory Club, Quebec.

1971 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION — CAPETOWN, MAY 22-31
Commissioner J. N. Sissons
37 King St. E., Toronto.

1971 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUDAPEST, SEPT. 4-12. Canadian Commissioner W. H. P. Maresch, 8 Temperance St., Toronto.

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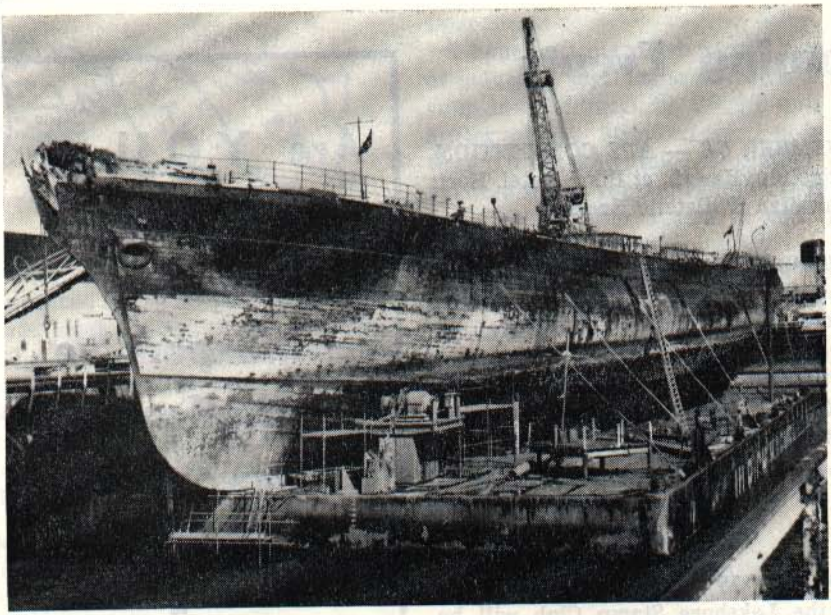
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By ROBSON LOWE RPSC 7400

"Well, how did you become interested in Stamps?"

My sister, who was ten years older than I, was keen collector and I was very young when I was attracted to her hobby. At that time, I adored her for she was much closer to me than my parents, and the first stamps that I remember were the Bosnian pictorials issued in 1906. Probably my sister gave me some duplicates and it must have been about 1912 when I went with her to visit our local stamp dealer, Alec Abrahams, who had a shop in the Fulham Road. Out of kindness, my sister let me choose what stamps she should buy for her collection and the recollection is that my first choice was always for line-engraved stamps.

When war broke out in 1914, my sister left home selling her collection to me for a few shillings, not because she needed the money, but, I suspect, because she thought I would value it more if I paid for it.

Abrahams was a good friend and thought nothing of talking about stamps for an hour, leaving me to look at the treasures in his collection while he broke off to attend to someone else who had come in the shop. In retrospect, probably the most valuable thing he taught me was the difference between buying and selling. In those days, a packet of 1000 different stamps cost about three shillings — he explained that if one bought these one was buying a lot of pleasure for a little money. They were worth nothing monetarily if one wanted to sell them. At the other end of the scale (or my scale) was a fine penny black which cost two shillings. To buy such a stamp gave one a great thrill, this was a classic, one would be proud of owning one of the first and most lovely stamps, and if one wanted to sell it, one could be sure that the dealer would give you at least a shilling for it.

It was very early on that I became fascinated with forgeries and whenever I could, bought a forgery to mount alongside a genuine stamp. It must have been Abrahams who introduced me to old Benjamin of 1 Cullum Street, who had, with his late partner Sarpy and their engraver, Jeffreys been convicted of uttering forgeries and served a prison sentence.

Their most popular line had been pairs of the forgery of the Sydney View one penny, first produced without clouds, and subsequently having clouds added to imitate the re-engraved plate. Before they were caught, the price was 2/6 for a single or 5/- for a pair, but after they came out of prison they doubled the price and sold them as forgeries. Such was the benefit of publicity. Out of his profits, Ben bought a little Villa in the Old Kent Road which he called "Sydney View" and it is only a few years ago that it was demolished in the name of progress. Ben was kindly, showed me his stock of cancellations and many of the forgeries which were for sale to the unwary bargin hunter. He gave me a copy of the forgery of the New Zealand one shilling which I still have.

During the war, I met with an accident which prevented me completing my formal education. Abrahams suggested that I "went into stamps" and my last year at school was glamourised by visits to stamp auctions and selling what I did not want to my fellow school boys — capital was built up!

Thinking that I should learn something about the trade, I got a post with Fox & Co. which was run by Humprey Golding. At 9 a.m. on the 3rd May, 1920 I

presented myself—at 9.20 a.m. I was fired. On the next day I made the decision. Abrahams bought my collection for £18, £2 cash was added and on the 6th May* I opened my first bank account at Barclays. I was in stamps for life.

* On the 6th May 1970, the directors of Barclays Bank Ltd. gave a dinner to the directors of Robson Lowe Ltd. commemorating the fifty years association. Among the guests were representatives of the other British Banks whose services are used by the RL group.

INVESTING IN PHILATELY

When one has been collecting stamps for close on sixty years and been a professional for fifty, one gets ideas about the returns on one's philatelic investments.

There are several books and many articles written on this subject and much of the advice is sound, or, over a decade has appeared to be so. However, the human race remembers the winners it backs but few of the losers, so if you really want to see what has happened you should study prices over the last century.

A hundred years ago, several philatelic magazines published in England, gave away a stamp with each issue of their journal. Some of these free gifts, which cost the publisher about ½d., are now worth £40 or £50. Others have not yet achieved the status of one shilling. As in other markets, fashions change. Two rabid enthusiastis with deep purses can affect a market where supplies are short and prices can increase tenfold. They die within a few years of each other and the value drops back to where they were before the rage started.

There are two great hobbies whose adherents are numbered in millions the world over. One of these is gardening and I remember that in 1938 my garden cost me about £800. My investment provided a fairly constant supply of tomatoes and spinach in season, some lovely flowers and gave my wife so much pleasure that I felt I had reaped a rich reward on the expenditure.

The other great hobby is stamp col-

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lecting with its science - philately, and its humanity - postal history. There are many millions of people who love this hobby and who reap a wonderful dividend in the companionship it brings them in the lonely hours, the communication of thought that leaves the gogglebox a pallid nonentity, the detective itch that you love to scratch, an exciting adventure when you thought your adventurous days were over, and, one of the few remaining freedoms—you can collect what you like, not what your neighbour or a philatelic tipster may suggest, just what YOU LIKE (it may be good advice not to tell your wife what you have spent on it).

It is my considered opinion that the financial benefits are dross—if there are any more buyers in the market when you sell than there were when you bought, then there will be a financial profit.

The one thing you can be sure of is that, should you take up collecting stamps, that you will have found the pathway to happiness. I have travelled this path for years and can only recommend it for those who want to forget the rat-race at the end of the day, who want to pass their leisure hours intelligently and ease their burdens. The capital invested is immaterial, for you no longer need any tranquillisers.

REVIEW

"The Stamp Duty of Great Britain and Ireland" by Samuel B. Frank and Josef Schonfeld. Volume 1. Price $9.00. Obtainable Dr. S. B. Frank, 3 Fairway Drive, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543, U.S.A.

Consisting of 230 large and clearly illustrated pages this catalogue of the embossing dies and of the impressed fiscal stamps will be essential not only to the collector of British revenues but to the antiquarian and document curator also.

For the first time the record books of the Inland Revenue have been extensively studied and with the help of Marcus Samuel of London this invaluable information has been incorporated with the authors previous work to produce what will be the definitive work on the subject and the source document for such information unobtainable elsewhere.

It is intended to add two more volumes to complete the series. Volume 2 will cover the Special Duty Stamps of Great Britain and Volume 3 will cover all the Irish dies.

The authors are to be congratulated on an excellent and valuable addition to the collectors reference library.

☆ ☆ ☆

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue. Volume 1—Queen Victoria, Volume 2—King Edward VII to King George VI. Price 45 shillings each. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. 391 Strand, London WC 2, England.

These two catalogues are without a doubt models of what specialised catalogues should be. In the Part One British Commonwealth Catalogue 15 pages are devoted to the stamps of Great Britain between 1840 and 1953. Volumes 1 and 2 of the Specialised cover the same period in 530 pages. Never since the publication of Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia Volume 1 (now out of print and selling for $45.00) has so much valuable information been available to the Great Britain collector.

All facets of each issue are dealt with in a clear and easy to read format including proofs, abnormals, alphabets, plating varieties, postmarks, perforations etc.

If there is a criticism it is only that such a wealth of collectable material listed one might be discouraged by the thought that it might be impossible to own it all. These catalogues are essential for all G.B. collectors.

K.R.

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150-53 Postal Media	.75	318-22 (t) Art	1.35	384 ILO	.30
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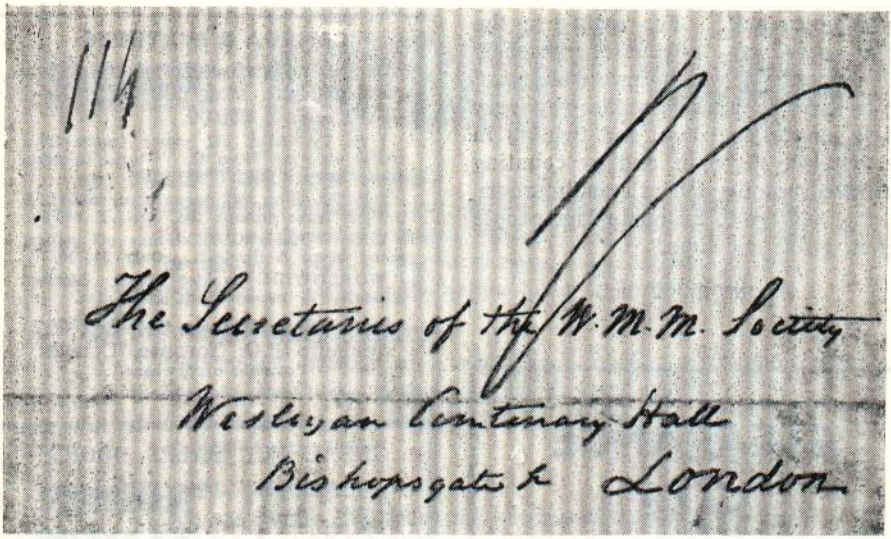
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This letter was written in Montreal on 20 January 1842. As the only postal charge shown is 1/- representing the ocean postage, it must have been mailed at Boston because of the absence of a datestamp or handed directly to the Admiralty agent. It travelled to Liverpool on the BRITANNIA's return trip leaving 1 February, following the voyage described by Charles Dickens, and it was delivered in London on 16 February.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CUNARD LINE

By J. C. ARNELL, RPSC 8170

IX. Life on a Cunard Steamer

While newspaper editors described the various Cunard vessels from the spectator's point of view, probably building their superficial observations around company handouts, actual personal accounts of a transatlantic passage are few and far between. One of the earliest such accounts is that of Charles Dickens, who travelled to Boston on the BRITANNIA in January 1842 and recorded the very rough and unpleasant trip in his "American Notes". Because of the nature of this particular winter voyage, it is obvious that Dickens' recollection of it was somewhat biased and this was reflected in his writing.

His description of the stateroom, which he shared with his wife, was that it was at first sight an "utterly impracticable, thoroughly hopeless and profoundly preposterous box", which had not "the remotest reference to, or connexion with, those chaste and pretty, not to say gorgeous little bowers, sketched by a masterly hand, in the highly varnished lithographic plan hanging up in the agent's countinghouse in the city of London." It contained "two berths, one above the other, than which nothing smaller for sleeping in was ever made except coffins." These were made up with "a very flat quilt, covering a very thin mattress, spread like a surgical plaster on a most

inaccessible shelf." For sitting in the cabin, there was "a kind of horsehair slab, or perch, of which there were two." As to size, it was possible "by very nearly closing the door, and twining in and out like serpents, and by counting the little washing slab as standing-room, . . . (to) manage to insinuate four people into it, all at one time."

(To be continued)

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