

The CANADIAN PHILATELIST



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Vol. 9 No. 3

MAY. - JUN. 1958

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North American Tour

Early in June, two members of ROBSON LOWE LTD., of London and Bournemouth, are visiting North America. They hope to see many old friends and to make many new ones. With their intimate knowledge of the world's stamp markets, they hope to be of service to all who want to take advantage of the extraordinary conditions ruling in England since the Finance Regulations were altered on January 20th, 1958, whereby collectors resident in North America can now sell their collections in England and receive payment in dollars.

Many of you will have met Marion (Tolly) Lowe when she visited the United States and Canada in 1951. Since that time, she has had experience in several departments and, for the past four years, has operated THE BUSY BUYER'S SERVICE, where-by specialists and collectors with limited interests receive only those auction catalogues likely to contain their specialities, and the actual lots are pin-pointed.

Marion's companion is David Fortnum, who conducts many of the auctions in London and in Bournemouth, and therefore is familiar with all the problems of the hundreds of bid-forms which cross the Atlantic every week. At other times, he works in the technical department dealing with describing, publications and identification of forgery. A few years ago, they both took a week off and married, but that is another story. David also specialises in the stamps of Canada.

They will arrive in New York on June 2nd, and travel via Philadelphia (5th), Baltimore (6th), Washington (7th), Chicago (8th-10th), San Francisco (12th-13th), Portland, Ore. (14th), Vancouver (16th-18th), Calgary (19th-20th), Regina (21st-22nd), Winnipeg (23rd), Toronto (25th-28th), Ottawa (29th), Montreal (30th-July 1st), Boston (2nd-4th) and back to New York, whence they will sail home on July 9th.

If you would like to meet them on their tour, please write to them, C/o ROBSON LOWE, 50 PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W. 1, ENGLAND.

ROBSON LOWE, 50 PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Canada 1868 - The 'LARGE QUEENS'

By R.C. Martin

Before continuing our examination of the various papers which were used for the "Large Queens", we will repeat the classification which was set forth in an earlier article for the benefit of those who might have missed it at that time.

- Group 1 - Fibrous paper with no visible mesh.
- Group 2a - Vertical diamond pattern mesh (watermarked type).
- 2b - Vertical diamond pattern mesh (unwatermarked type).
- Group 3 - Horizontal "normal" mesh.
- Group 4 - Vertical "normal" mesh.
- Group 5a - "Blotting paper", very white with scarcely visible horizontal mesh.
- 5b - Laid paper showing typical laid lines pattern.
- 5c - "Carton" paper, very thick with "normal" horizontal mesh.
- 5d - Alexander Pirie paper (script watermarked type).

The first four groups have already been considered in detail, and we will now look at stamps belonging to Group 5, which contains most of the scarce, rare and unusual items in the series.

GROUP 5a

This group contains the stamps printed on what we have called "blotting paper" for want of a better name. It is one of the mystery types that make a collector wonder why so little reference has been made to it in print. Outside the writer's collection, the only references known to him are the appearance recently of several values on "blotting paper" in a well-known price list, and the inclusion of a few lots on this paper in auction sales early in 1957.

The paper is thick, soft, very white, and by comparison with other papers of this issue, quite absorbent. The mesh pattern is actually the "normal" horizontal type of Group 3, but it is difficult to see due to the chalky white opaqueness of the paper. On account of its absorptive quality, it took the ink better than any of the other papers, and as a result, produced beautifully printed stamps. However, it is difficult to find them in sound condition, since the paper being weak, creases badly and thins easily. The mystery is how so obvious a variety could remain apparently unnoticed for so long.

Based on numbers seen, this paper is about equally common on the 2c and 3c, and appears to have about the same scarcity as the Bothwell diamond mesh paper of Group 2a. It is scarce on the 6c. and 12½c and very rare on the 1c, seen so far only in the deep orange shade. Dated copies indicate a period of use from about October, 1868 to May, 1869, and the fact that only the 1c deep orange has been seen on this paper also points to this period.

Printings from both plates of the 6c have been found on this paper, which seems to reinforce the theory that two plates were necessary because a large quantity of stamps was required in a short time to take care of immediate demand, even though the total issue of this denomination was not great enough to warrant two plates in normal circumstances.

This "blotting paper" is so obvious that it should be included in any degree of specialized collection, and at least an example of the 2c and 3c can be found without too much difficulty. As remarked above, the 1c, 6c and 12½ will be harder to find, and as far as the writer is aware, the ¾c and

15c do not exist on this paper. They were in use at the time, but may not have had a printing during the rather limited currency of this paper. The 5c can not exist on "blotting paper", as it was not issued until 6 years after the period under consideration.

GROUP 5b

A very small quantity of laid paper was used during 1868 for printing three values, the 1c brown, 2c and 3c. The numbers printed can only be guessed at, but even the most common (the 3c) is quite a scarce stamp; the 1c can be properly called rare, and only two or three copies of the 2c are known.

The few examples of the 1c and 3c seen by the writer are all on horizontally laid paper with the laid lines spaced approximately 1/16 inch apart, but the 1c is on more opaque and thicker paper than the 3c. All 3c stamps are apparently in a slightly more orange shade than normal, and the impression is somewhat fuzzy.

At this point, it might be mentioned that the only forgery of the "Large Queens" so far recorded is a mediocre lithographic imitation of the 2c, likely made by Spiro Brothers, of Hamburg, and the copy in the writer's collection is on vertically laid paper slightly thinner than that of the genuine 3c laid. The engraving, perforations, and postmark on this forgery fortunately are so unlike the genuine that there is very little chance of anybody being fooled by it.

GROUP 5c

This group is actually a single stamp, the 15c, on paper known as "carton", which is hard, grayish white, and about twice as thick as the thickest "normal" paper. It has, however, the normal horizontal mesh pattern of Group 3.

Dated copies of the 15c stamp on this paper indicate that it appeared in 1880, so it could only exist for the 1/2c and 15 values, of the "Large Queens". Actually, it is known only on the 15c, which is always in a distinctive shade called deep clear violet. The same shade is found on the "normal" paper of Group 3, and judging by the

quantities seen, this variety is equally as scarce as the "carton" paper stamp.

GROUP 5d

Again, this is a group consisting of a single stamp—one of the rarest of the "Large Queens". It is the 15c on paper bearing a watermark in script lettering "Alexr. Pirie & Sons." measuring approximately 3/4 in. high and 7 ins. long. The paper is characterized by an open horizontal mesh; it is rather hard, grayish, and about as thick as an average stamp of Group 3 or 4.



All examples of this 15c stamp which we have seen, both with the watermark and on paper reasonably certain to be the "Pirie" paper, are in a pale, almost greenish, gray shade, typical of the 1876-1880 period. The wide open horizontal mesh promoted shrinkage from top to bottom and the stamps give the impression of being very squat and almost square. A good rule to follow is to examine the back of every gray 15c stamp that appears short and wide, as "finds" are still possible when one knows what to look for. These script watermarked stamps are known both perf. 12 and 11½ x 12; the latter must be very rare.

This concludes the discussion on paper types, into which we suggest grouping the "Large Queens", and it is hoped that the descriptions we have given will assist collectors to allocate these stamps to their respective printings. As we have pointed out before, the ability to recognize paper varieties pays off in two ways — it enables the collector of average means to enlarge his collection with some of the scarcer varieties, and also frequently provides them at the price of normal copies. We must acknowledge that it is generally considered in poor philatelic taste to mention the financial side of the hobby, but it is a fact that not many of us who collect these stamps can ignore the possibility of "finds" at normal prices. The next article in the series will be an attempt to describe some of the range of shades that might be included in a collection of "Large Queens", and after that, perforations and plate varieties will be discussed.

The Editor Speaks Out...

So you know now who the new Editor is - as if you had not guessed it already!

We want THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST to be the finest magazine in Canada - but we can not do it unaided!

First of all, we must have a good backlog of good and interesting articles. On principle, we do not want to reproduce anything from other philatelic magazines, unless of unusual interest. This issue is practically all original, and we want to keep it that way, but we can not do it without your co-operation, yours, Yours and YOURS! So, all you writers . . . and potential writers, don't be scared! You have something interesting to say. Put it down in writing and let others benefit from it.

Henceforward, the financial year of the Society will be from the 1 January to the 31st December. Concurrently with this change, the Year Book will be published with the Sept.-Oct. issue, i.e. on the 1st September of each year. This means that preparation for the Year Book will be in hand during July.

Kindly therefore let us have all changes of address, corrections, etc. well before the 1st August. We appeal particularly to all chapters to let us have, WITHOUT FAIL, all advices of changes in the data as it appears in the current Year Book, particularly in the name and address of the Secretary and places and dates of meetings. Surely you want this information to be accurate!

During the past five years, we have had quite a heavy correspondence, with members, chapters and others, and if we have one critical remark to make, it is that very, very few bother to frank their letters with other than the ordinary four and five cent stamps.

On our part, we have always endeavoured to frank our letters with something a little out of the ordinary. When we just about exhausted our stock of Bells, Responsible Governments, P. M. 's, Citizenships, Newfoundland, etc., we fell to using the pane of one cents out of the combination booklets. We had to stop this for a while because of the accumulation of fours we acquired and at one time, we purchased a coils of 2c. 's. Incidentally, we did not remove the "jumps", so quite a few of our philatelic friends must have used jumps. What bothers us is why most, if not all, of our philatelic friends don't reciprocate. Note-Dealers are just as bad, if not worse!

Some time ago, when corresponding with Miss Marjorie Harris, Editor of the BCPS Bulletin, we commented on the fact that the Bulletin bore not a single address. We note this has since been corrected. Some of our readers commented on our doing the very same thing in our last issue. Sorely needing an extra page, we took out the page listing the Officers and Directors, but plumb forgot to give any address anywhere. Our humble apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. We promise not to do it again!

B.C. Centennial Stamp

DATE OF ISSUE:

8th May, 1958

DESIGNER: Jack Harman, Vancouver

SIZE: $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" (app.)



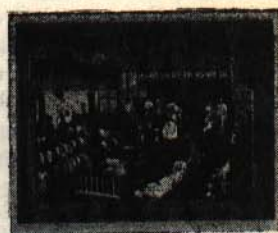
COLOUR: Green

PLATE - No. 1

PANES - 50 stamps

QUANTITY ORDERED:
20,000,000

Recent New Issues of Topical Interest



Two Victoria Stalwarts



The above photographs show two well-known Victoria philatelists in the process of receiving the C.P.S. Plaque from their respective clubs, the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society and the Greater Victoria Philatelic Society. In each case, the plaque was presented to the member who had contributed the most to the furtherance of philately during the past year.

what we'd do without Reg!"

The photo on left shows Reg Nairne, of the V.I.P.S. A stamp dealer in Victoria for 30 years, Reg is a native son of the city. He is No. 4 member of the VIPS and also a life member of the Club. He is a great writer and an article from his pen is in this issue. He is on the committee of Vicpex and we hear that the design and execution of the Vicpex poster is his own work. We don't think a greater compliment can be paid Reg than the one that has been heard: "I just don't know

The photo on right shows our worthy vice-President, Arthur Teare, of the GVPS. We could perhaps say quite a lot about Arthur, but we shall only mention that he is the secretary of the Vicpex committee. Everyone who knows what's what at once realizes that that means a lot of hard, very hard, work. He has other jobs too, but we prefer, for the time being, just to mention that he is a Manxman. We have heard of Scotsmen who are fiercely loyal to their mother country, but they are nothing to Arthur. Well, we must say that the island of the Tourist Trophy and other bicycle, motorcycle and other races is a mighty attractive place. If all Manxmen are like Arthur Teare, they must be a lot of supermen.

Congratulations to both Reg Nairne and Arthur Teare on a well-deserved honour.

LA VERENDRYE ISSUE



Date of Issue - 4th June, 1948
 Designer - Gérald Trottier, Ottawa
 Colour - Blue
 Size - 1½ approximately
 Plate - N° 1 (from Philatelic Agency only)
 Panes - 50 stamps
 Quantity - 20,000,000

Addresses

Once again we have had to leave out the list of Directors and Officers owing to the pressure of space, for which our humble apologies. We are giving below the addresses of our chief officers:

Editor: L. Lamouroux
 222 Lawrence Ave. West, Toronto 12
 Secretary: F. C. Green
 95 Cottingham St., Toronto 7
 Sales Manager: C. Woodhead
 123 Albertus Ave., Toronto 12
 Advertising Manager: Mrs. F.G. Wilkinson,
 90 Elgin St. N., Port Hope, Ont.

A Word from your President

When VICPEX is over, I shall no longer be your president, and as our next issue will not appear until 1 July, I feel that this is the time for a few words of farewell on my part.

I little thought, just before the Directors' meeting which took place immediately after the Annual Meeting on the 29th April, 1953, that I was about to become your President, and even less that in May, 1958, five years later, I would be passing on the reins of office to my successor.

However, I must admit that I have enjoyed every minute of it. Right from the start, I determined that I would visit as many chapters and members as possible in Ontario and Quebec. A little later, thanks to the forbearance of my good wife, I was able to visit almost all our chapters west of the Great Lakes and in the Maritimes and meet a great number of our members.

To say that I enjoyed the experience is a Churchillian understatement. I like to think that I have made many friends all over Canada, and better still, that they will all continue to honour me with their friendship in the years ahead.

Some honour me by saying that I have done a good job. I like to think that the Society is in a stronger position to-day that it was a few years ago. In the past, the C.P.S. has had plenty of ups and downs. I trust that the future will be ever upwards.

You will learn of the new President in due course after the Annual Meeting and the ensuing meeting of directors. He is a remarkable man, one of Canada's eminent collectors, with great administrative ability and plenty of energy and drive.

If the Directors see fit after the Annual

Quelques mots de votre président

Après VICPEX, je ne serai plus votre président, et comme le prochain numéro de notre revue ne paraîtra que le premier juillet, j'estime que le moment est propice de vous dire quelques mots d'adieu.

Voilà cinq ans que je suis votre président, et je dois avouer que ces cinquante années ont été des plus agréables.

Dès que l'on m'a élu, je me suis promis d'aller voir autant de nos membres et de nos sociétés dans les provinces de Québec et d'Ontario que possible. Plus tard, grâce à la patience de ma femme, j'ai même pu aller rendre visite aux sociétés qui se trouvent à l'ouest des Grands Lacs, ensuite, dans les provinces maritimes.

Il me fait plaisir de croire qu'au cours de mes tournées et de mes visites, j'ai pu faire de nombreux amis. J'espère qu'ils voudront bien continuer à me témoigner de leur amitié au cours des années à venir.

Vous aurez donc un nouveau président. Evidemment, je ne peux vous annoncer son nom avant qu'il n'ait été élu à la suite de l'assemblée annuelle qui aura lieu à Victoria le 10 mai, mais je peux d'ores et déjà vous assurer qu'ils agissent d'un des grands philatélistes du Canada et que c'est un homme doué d'une grande capacité de travail et dont l'énergie et le dynamisme sont immenses.

Toutefois, si le conseil d'administration le juge utile, je continuerai à vous servir en qualité de rédacteur de notre revue. Je ne vous demande qu'une chose, de continuer à m'accorder votre confiance toute entière, comme par le passé.

Si vous me l'accordez et que vous soutenez notre nouveau président comme vous

Continued on Page 25

Stamp Collecting on Vancouver Island

by G. E. Wellburn

Of course, you would expect a collector living on Vancouver Island to be fond of the stamps of the little British Colony. Since a boy, I have sought these elusive stamps, and not without a fair degree of success. Here and there, stamps and covers, and occasionally quite unexpected finds, have been gleaned from the pioneer Island families.

For instance, the grandson of the first farmers on the Island produced some old letters, which included a bundle of still more ancient letters which came with the family's furniture in a sailing ship around Cape Horn in the early 1850's. These included a fine triangular Dockwra-type "London Penny Post" cover of 1760, together with other 18th Century English and Scottish handstruck stamps.

The son of a learned judge unearthed some Vancouver Island covers and found with them a little packet of letters dated 1840, with the address of a famous English University. They were evidently a keep-sake of English schooldays and were brought out to Victoria at the time of the first gold rush in 1858. One would not expect to make an original find of "Penny Blacks" on the Pacific Coast, but it did happen!

The son of a chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company brought to light a schoolboy collection of British Columbia stamps. But much more unusual were the unused United States stamps, which had been bought over the counter at the Victoria Post Office be-

fore Confederation, in the days when American and Colonial stamps had to be used side by side on letters passing through the United States.

A little collection formed by a girl years ago in a small settlement, contained Colonial stamps, Barnard's adhesives, cut-out postmarks, express corner cards - a remarkable lot of B.C. - but included was a magnificent 7½d. Canada. What a story it might have told had it been left on the original cover!

And that recalls the greatest philatelic discovery ever made on Vancouver Island - a mint corner marginal pair of the 12d. Black Canada, located in 1923 by Ronald M. Angus in Victoria!

But the search for stamps has yielded a greater satisfaction and joy - the meeting of a passing generation of mid-Victorian pride and culture, a rare civilisation which has nearly passed away. These delightful old people! The lovely afternoon teas, served in exquisite china and silver amongst the rock gardens and oaks, on what was once the most care-free island on earth! Talks of the old days, followed by the trying on of the top hat worn by father at the Governor's reception in honour of the Pacific Squadron (1871); and admiring the rich silks worn by mother when she was presented to the Queen at the time of the Jubilee in 1887. Many happy such associations come to mind as I look over the faded, but beautifully written, letters in my Vancouver Island collection.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Meeting, I shall continue as Editor of our CANADIAN PHILATELIST, and I only ask for one thing, for you to continue to give me your support as you have done during my presidency.

This assured, the future gleams brightly and the good old C.P.S. will take its

rightful place in the comity of national philatelic societies.

To all our members and chapters who so loyally supported me, to all our officers who have given me such valiant help counsel and assistance, a heartfelt "Thank you". Do as much for my successor and he will be the greatest President we shall have ever had.

The Realm of Stamps

by Montor

When the last issue of THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST was in the press, a further announcement from Ottawa regarding the regulations for obtaining plate blocks at the Philatelic Branch was made.

The following are the reduced quantities to procure a plate block in each denomination. Minimum quantity, including Plate Block, for 1, 2 and 3 cent stamps: 20 stamps; 4 to 7 cent: 10 stamps; and 10 cents to \$1: 4 stamps. All future commemoratives, commencing with the B.C. Centennial stamp to be issued May 8, and new plate numbers of regular issues will be available on the new basis, commencing with plate No. 9 of the 1c, 11 of the 2c, 3 of the 3c, 15 of the 4c, 15 of the 5c, 3 of the 6c and 7c, 5 of the 10c, and 3 of the 15, 20, 25, 50c and \$1.

There is no change in the quantities of stamps that must be purchased to obtain plate blocks of stamps printed from plates prior to those mentioned above.

This new measure will enable collectors to obtain their plate blocks from Ottawa on practically a retail basis and will certainly overcome the criticism made by plate block collectors of having to purchase large amounts of unwanted postal paper.

However, it does in no way overcome the main objection to the fact that Canada is to produce and sell material at the Philatelic Branch in Ottawa which is not available in the ordinary way over post office counters.

Strong objection is taken to this, although it is of course realized that it was done in order to mollify somewhat the blow suffered by plate block enthusiasts when it was learned that there would be no more imprints on the selvage of panes sold at post offices. One fact emerges, and that is that the Department at last is paying some attention to the wishes of stamp collectors, something that has been sadly lacking during recent years. Never-

theless, the fact of having material on sale only for collecting purposes is to be greatly deplored and is a situation that is strongly criticized not only in this country, but also abroad.

An address of interest to all concerned with the welfare of philately was given by L. Rohe Walter, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General of the United States, before the joint meeting of the American Philatelic Society and the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 22 March.

Speaking of the co-operation extended by the U.S.A. Post Office to philately, he stated that philately is now a major public relations activity of the Department and referred to the establishment last year of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to advise the Post Office on philatelic matters. Mr. Walter also stressed the policy of co-operating with philatelic groups by collaborating in philatelic exhibitions and by, whenever possible, scheduling stamps for first day issuance in conjunction with stamp shows. It is indeed heartening to know of the fine co-operation philately receives from the U.S. Post Office, and without unduly labouring the point, it is now time that the Canada Post Office accorded Canadian philately the same measure of co-operation.

The United States Post Office Information Service is excellent in every respect. Releases are sent out well in advance, giving plenty of time for philatelic writers to publish announcements of new issues on the release dates, something Ottawa seems unable or unwilling to do.

Ottawa has also consistently refused to schedule new issues to coincide with our national exhibitions (Capex, held in 1951 was an international exhibition). Surely Bypex, held last year in Ottawa, should

Columbia Philatelic Society

On November 15th, 1947, fifteen men and women met at a friend's home to consider the formation of a philatelic society where a mutual hobby could be discussed and exchange of information and stamps could be made.

As the membership has varied, with an average attendance of eighteen, up to 28, meetings have been held in homes of members with a short social colsing, including refreshments.

In 1950, four members joined the Canadian Philatelic Society in order to obtain from that Society the approval books. Try as we could, we were not able to interest others in becoming members.

In September, 1952, the Columbia Philatelic Society decided to become a Chapter and in March 1953 became Chapter No. 11 of the Canadian Philatelic Society.

In 1949 and 1950, the Trail Kinsmen Club held hobby shows and in both members exhibited stamps and were present to explain to the public what the exhibits stood for. At this same period, some of our finest meetings were when members made up exhibits for club showing, judged by selected members and then by the membership as a whole. Considerable experience was gained from these meetings, especial-

ly to the hardworking members who made up exhibits.

In 1953, we joined the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs and to date we have exhibited in three of their exhibitions, with one Silver Award in 1956 and one bronze award in 1957 won by our members.

Our Annual Meeting, in November, always takes the form of a dinner meeting at which our wives are our guests.

In order to create interest in the hobby in the district, the day before a new Canadian stamp was issued, at least one member gave a few minutes description of the stamp and any special point of interest in the issue on our local radio station on a programme sponsored by Cominco, our home industry.

With this short review of our activities and history, we admit we are a baby club but a very active one (what child is not!) - and can count for ourselves very well as entertainers (ask the CPS president) and hope that should any CPS members ever pass by, they will call on some of us, and we will guarantee them a good educational and entertaining evening. We meet on the Fourth Wednesday of every month, except in July and August.

The Realm of Stamps

have made the Department realize that they were missing a splendid opportunity to gain a great deal of free publicity for Canadian new issues. Yet the release date for the B.C. centennial stamp has been set the day before the opening of VICPEX in Victoria.

Some weeks ago, in Montreal, the Hon. William Hamilton stated that the Post Office is planning to establish an advisory board of prominent Canadians, who will have a sense of important events in the

development of this country and an appreciation of the factors which go to make up a good stamp design. The appointment of such an advisory committee has been advocated in this column, and now that the general election is over, let us hope that this may be done without undue delay, and that other appropriate steps be taken to ensure that philately in Canada may receive the same measure of co-operation from the Post Office that it is accorded in most of the leading countries of the world to-day.

The Provisional Issues of British Columbia & Vancouver Island

by Reg. Nairne

Judging by the catalogue listings, few countries could be simpler to collect than British Columbia and Vancouver Island. There are only eighteen stamps all told plus one minor variety that practically no one has ever seen - the 3d. blue imperf., if you take Scott as your guide. Gibbons doesn't even bother with the latter refinement, but, to make up for the omission, lists two shades each of the 2½d and 3d. So a collector who likes the simple life might well pick on the stamps of these colonies as being among the most straightforward he could choose. All that would be necessary, seemingly, would be a healthy bank account.

Actually, however, the would-be specialist in this "simple" country would soon find himself involved in a morasse of provisionals that few other countries could match. And what would drive him to distraction would be the fact that there is not a single surcharge or other clue, as far as the stamps themselves are concerned, that could be of any help to him. (The surcharged issues of 1867-69, being basic, and only existing with overprinted denominations, are not, strictly speaking, provisionals).

Before attempting to point out the extraordinary mix-ups in the postal histories of the colonies concerned, it must be emphatically pointed out that there never was a colony known as "British Columbia & Vancouver Island, despite the fact that the first issue of 1861 clearly indicates that there was!

The trouble started when the stamps were first designed. Instead of the ampersand "&", there should have been inserted the word "or", for until 1866, the two colonies were quite separate, each with its own postal and accounting systems, and the only

reason for the dual inscription on the stamps (something unique in philately) was that both colonies were equally broke, and could not afford individual issues! As a matter of fact, B.C. footed the bill for printing the stamps, in the expectation of having the cost shared by V.I., but the latter colony stalled off paying until the union of the two colonies took place in 1866. When this happened, the combined colony became British Columbia and so the British Columbia & Vancouver Island did not apply even then!

Of the two colonies, it was British Columbia that really mixed things up, though the sister colony was considerably involved too. Both started off with similar postal rates of 2½d, the equivalent of 5c in those days, but in 1864, British Columbia raised the rate to the interior by ½d, so their 2½d stamps sold for 3d. This immediately caused trouble, for it was impossible for B.C. merchants to send over to Victoria and still buy them for 2½d!

The Mainland Colony also complained that Vancouver Island was getting off too easily when letters from Victoria, addressed to up country points in B.C. could go all the way for 2½d without B.C. getting a penny out of the transaction. It would not have been so bad if it had been possible to have had a reciprocal agreement, but as V.I. had no inland mail routes, and B.C. had the upkeep of expensive roads to the Caribou, etc., the arrangement being taken advantage of by the Victoria merchants was manifestly unfair.

Wootton, the Victoria Postmaster, made an attempt to rectify the situation on the 4th October, 1864. Letters going to up-country points in B.C. got special treatment, being franked with strips of three 2½d to make up the intercolonial rate of

Continued on Page 25

The Cover on the Cover

British Columbia's first provisional postage stamp, the "Customs Crown Seal", has been chosen as the official emblem of VICPEX. An illustration of this unusual "stamp" is shown on an express envelope of a century ago, actually two months before the Colony of British Columbia was proclaimed.

In April 1858, shiploads of gold seekers stormed Victoria and noisily opened up a new era in colonial history. Their destination was the Fraser River on the mainland, and Governor Douglas hastened to annex the mainland territory to his official jurisdiction under authority of the title "Governor of Vancouver Island and its Dependencies".

With the first inrush of miners to Victoria, came the American Express Companies. Freeman & Co. and Wells Fargo extended their services from California and established their offices in Victoria. Ballou's express and others started operations from Victoria to the Fraser River and up and beyond to the interior of British Columbia.

Sanction was granted the express companies to carry mail, subject to the payment of a Vancouver Island postage charge of five cents a letter.

On June 28, 1858, Alexander C. Anderson was appointed Collector of Customs and Postmaster General. He was already the Treasurer of Vancouver Island, so for a short time the collecting of all Colonial public revenue was in the hands of one man, a simplicity of civil service that to-day seems incredible.

As Collector of Customs, A. C. Anderson had an engraved circular brass seal which had been engraved in England and sent out in 1856 for impressing sealing-wax on customs documents. No Colonial postage stamps existed, nor was there any other handstamp available, so the customs crown seal became a most interesting makeshift to fill a sudden need for postage stamps.

But, you may say, "That isn't a postage stamp!" But it is a stamp! Let us examine the facts of a hundred years ago.

The American Express Companies operated under United States postal laws, which required them to use U.S. stamped envelopes, each bearing an embossed USA postage stamp, on which they printed their own express corner card or frank.

In July 1858, companies took their own printed envelopes to the Victoria Post Office, and paid in advance at the rate of five cents per envelope to Peter Tuite, who had been appointed deputy Postmaster of Victoria. Peter Tuite was an American gold seeker who presumably saw more security in working for the Colonial Government. The deputy postmaster printed on each envelope a "stamp" to denote that the Colonial postage had been prepaid.

It is true that the printing press was a man's wrist and the type was a brass seal, but the imprint was that of a Crown - the symbol of British authority. It was usually carefully and neatly applied in black ink to the express envelopes, but the fine engraving of the Crown, which shows in a wax impression, did not come out so well in the inked impressions on paper.

The franked envelopes were then sold by the express companies to the public at their offices in Victoria.

The Customs Seal remained in use from July 1858 for nearly a year as the only British Columbia postage stamp. In 1859, it was replaced by a plain oval handstamp, obtained from San Francisco, with the more appropriate inscription "Victoria V.I. Post Office". Adhesive postage stamps were not available until April 1860.

To-day, only about half a dozen covers are known to exist bearing the rare Customs Seal stamp, so it can proudly take its place among the rarest of British North American postage stamps.

Continued on Page 14

The Greater Victoria Philatelic Society

The old axiom "Great oaks from little acorns grow" is very appropriate in the case of the Greater Victoria Philatelic Society. Over the years, the Club has grown from a small group with mutual interests into an active and competent philatelic organization.

The Greater Victoria Philatelic Society was founded on May 2nd, 1939, by the late Mr. Frank Dymont. Assisted by Mrs. Dymont, he held regular monthly meetings in his home, believing that there was ample room in the philatelic life of Victoria for another club - one which would include and encourage young people. The Vancouver Island Philatelic Society already existed at this time, but as the Club was comprised, for the most part, of accomplished collectors and exhibitors, a definite necessity was felt for the formation of a club where the youngsters of the neighbourhood could come and trade their stamps.

From these small beginnings, has grown the Greater Victoria P. S., with a membership of over 70. Over the past years of growth, the meeting place has been changed from the Dymont home to a local restaurant, and from there to a public hall where plenty of space is available. The meetings are always lively and interesting, with lots of fun and "kibitzing" among the members and executive. An auction of philatelic material is always a part of every meeting and bidding is spirited. This feature was at one time in the form of a mail sale with photographs and printed matter circulated across the country.

Each year, the Club holds its annual exhibition and banquet in the lower ballroom of the Crystal Gardens. Always well attended, the show boasts of over 100 frames of material each year, and includes a display from the Post Office Department in Ottawa. Members are actively engaged at present in putting VICPEX over the top and have invited philatelists everywhere to come and join in the fun.

Mrs. Frank Dymont, although not a collector herself, is still very active in Club affairs. Mr. Lester Small has developed the Junior aspect of the Greater Victoria P. S. to such an extent that special meetings are held one hour prior to the regular meetings. Over 75 youngsters belong to the Junior Division and as many as 30 frequently appear for each monthly get-together. The children have their own section of the annual exhibition and attractive trophies and prizes are always presented, thanks to Mr. Small and his generous giving of his time and patience.

The present hard-working executive consists of the President, A. R. C. (Chick) Wildig, Vice-president Lester Small, Secretary C. J. Richards, Treasurer W. A. Teare, and Robin Clarke, who combines the functions of Recording Secretary and Auctioneer.

The Greater Victoria Philatelic Society is Chapter No. 32 of the Canadian Philatelic Society and is a member club of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, at whose annual convention in Bellingham, Wash., last year, members took a creditable number of awards in several classes.

THE COVER ON THE COVER *Continued from Page 13*

Two of these century-old envelopes, bearing original Customs Seals stamps, will be shown at the Centennial Stamp Exhibition at the Empress Hotel, in Victoria.

This fine cover is from the collection of that famous collector, G. E. Wellburn, a resident of Duncan, Vancouver Island, and a member of the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society.

A Word from the Librarian

We have not much on "Topicals" in the Library at the present time, but we are hopeful of remedying this state of affairs in the not too distant future, and to have on our shelves books dealing with this aspect of philately. We do have one book in the Library which should be read by all Thematic collectors, *A NEW APPROACH TO STAMP COLLECTING*, by Michael Harrison and Douglas Armstrong. There is a stimulating and helpful chapter on "Design and the Stamp", and the authors also look into other subjects, such as: "Propaganda by Postage Stamps", "Nationalism and Stamps", "The Economics of Stamp Collecting", "Stories in Stamps", "Some Strange Stamp Stories", "Stamps that have altered History". There are many colour and monochrome illustrations reproducing several hundred stamps. This book is well worth reading.

In our column last issue, we stated: "We can usually tell the enquirer where he can obtain the required information, even if we are stumped". To show this is no idle boast, here is an extract from a recent letter: "Many thanks for your help. I did appreciate it, even though the Library

did not have the material at present. I obtained the information from Mr. Shure." There is one way in which borrowers can help your Librarian give better service, return material as promptly as possible. Sometimes we have members on the waiting list for material you have probably finished with. Sometimes, the books are finished with before time has elapsed. So please help your Librarian by thinking of the other member. Extensions are freely granted, providing there is no one waiting for the material.

Stamp Collectors generally may be divided into two classes, general collectors and specialists. In the latter we can include Topical or Thematic collectors, who place the emphasis of their collecting on the subject, rather than on the stamp itself. Considerable research has to be done on the design portrayed on the stamp. Zoology, Botany, Archaeology, Architecture, Medicine and many other subjects, scientific, artistic and others have to be studied to ascertain what is really pictured on the stamp and to be able to talk intelligently thereon.

Herbert Buckland, F.C.P.S.G.B.

Librarian

Chapter News

CHAPTER No. 17

The Westmount Stamp Club has recently raised over \$750 at their annual auction for the benefit of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

The Club, under the presidency of S.R. Groves, has thus again demonstrated its ability to raise substantial sums for charitable purposes.

So many lots were received that the sale had to be extended over two sessions. The lots were auctioned by J.E. Pickering and Louis A. Sendel.

Our Westmount friends, early in 1953, raised over \$1,000 for the Governor General's Fund For European Flood Relief

and later, in the same year, over \$750 for the Westminster Abbey Restoration Fund Appeal. Well done, Westmount!

CHAPTER No. 5

The 15th Annual Exhibition of the North Toronto Stamp Club took place on the 22 and 23 March, and it was, if possible, even better than usual. The quality of the exhibits was remarkable and several would have deserved a place in a National show and even in an International Exhibition. The Grand Award went to Donald Young, with a very fine showing of covers, pre-stamp and others. We believe we have persuaded Donald to show these in Windsor and at VICPEX.

My Favourite Page

by Mrs. O. M. Dunphy, of Victoria

A favourite page from our exhibit "Other Men's Flowers", which won us a Gold Medal at the Northwest Federation exhibition held in Bellingham in 1957. My husband and I collect and exhibit together and many delightful hours we have spent on this theme.

"Other Men's Flowers" is the title of a volume of favourite poems compiled by the late Field Marshal Viscount Wavell. He called it his "war baby" conceived as a relaxation during campaigns in the East.

On our title page, we have used Wavell's selected quotation: "I have gathered a posy of other men's flowers and nothing but the thread that binds them together is my own" (by Montague). Our inspiration for the lettering, styled little trees, comes from the Belgian B354-359. Embellish-

ments are strictly in black to avoid distracting from the lovely colours of the floral stamps themselves.

We understand that many Topical collectors who enjoy deviating from the beaten philatelic path by illustrating their stamps with quotations and rhymes rather than botanical nomenclature, but we endeavour to pull them up to standard again by providing as much philatelic date as possible. And we do always aim at completeness.

And so do our mutual interests, in this world's most fascinating of hobbies, bring us together, with the same disregard of pedigrees, to study, learn and enjoy our stamps - to broaden our horizons and our knowledge of the world, its people and its wealth of absorbing subjects, even to the little flower.

Kamloops Stamp Club

The Kamloops Stamp Club is a junior among clubs for it only came into being in 1954, following a stamp display by Mr. Dave Arnott at a Hobby show sponsored by the Men's Club of the Presbyterian Church in Kamloops. This gave the local philatelists an opportunity to come out of their shell to view this exhibit.

Five collectors met to discuss the formation of what is now the Kamloops Stamp Club. By July 1st, 1954, the Club was a reality and had nine senior members and four junior members. Meetings took place at various members' homes on the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month. The first meeting took place at the home of Mrs. E. W. Veale, the first president of the Club.

In May 1955, an exhibition was held in E.A.A. Hall, where many fine exhibits were on view and great interest was shown by the public in the large array of stamps of many countries. This was a great filip to stamp collecting in the district,

especially among juniors, but unfortunately the club did not maintain a junior branch and the juniors dropped off. By January 1955, the membership had grown to thirty two and a monthly bulletin was mailed to members and collectors in the district, announcing future activities and containing items of general interest to collectors. From time to time, a supply of Commonwealth stamps is received from Great Britain. Also the C.P.S. Circuit also comes along and attracts great interest among the members. Auctions have been held with a measure of success.

The Club is undergoing at the present a certain lack of activity, but given the right leadership, it will soon revive and give stamp collecting the right stature it should have in the lovely little city nestling among the mountains on the banks of the South Thompson River.

SAY YOU SAW

IT IN THE

CANADIAN PHILATELIST

My Favourite Page

SAN MARINO

377



ORCHID

"ONLY A DEFTY, ONLY A POWER,
SAD IN THE FRUIT, BRIGHT IN THE
FLOWER..
ENDLESSLY ERRING FOR ITS HOUR."

THE PASSING STRANGE BY JOHN MASSEFIELD

LILY OF THE VALLEY

"AND LILIES, PURE AS ANGEL
THOUGHTS,
ARE OPENING SOMEWHERE NIGH."

MY MOTHER'S GARDEN BY ALICE E. ALLEN

379



POPPY

"AMONG THE HUSKING OF THE CORN,
WHERE THE DROWSY POPPIES NOD,
WHERE ILL THOUGHTS DIE AND GOOD
ARE BORN,
OUT IN THE FIELDS WITH GOD."

A SONG FROM "SYLVAN" BY LOUISE MOSEN GUNNEY

399



PANSY

"PANSIES LET MY FLOWERS BE:
ON THE LIVING GRAVE I BEAR
SCATTER THEM WITHOUT A TEAR,
LET NO FRIEND, HOWEVER DEAR,
WASTE A HOPE, A FEAR, FOR ME"

REMEMBRANCE BY MARY BYSSHE SHELLEY

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Flowers & Plants on Stamps

The Vancouver Island Philatelic Society

The Vancouver Island Philatelic Society, now in its twenty-seventh year, was formed in 1931 by seven prominent Victoria philatelists, namely, Messrs. R.M. Angus, W. Engelhardt, J.K. Hodges, Reg Nairne, J.A. Pearce, H. Whittaker and O. Weiler. All these charter members, except the last mentioned, are still active in the Society and during the past twenty-seven years have filled most of the official positions from Auctioneer to President.

The famous Empress Hotel in British Columbia's capital city, Victoria, has been the locale of the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society's monthly meetings, where many internationally known philatelists have been guest speakers. V.I.P.S. members have always been very active in exhibitions, not only locally but far afield. The official records show that over the years, members have won nearly one hundred trophies, including a great number of Grand Awards, from five different countries.

In 1936, the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society joined the Northwestern Federation of Stamp Clubs, open to clubs in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon. This Federation holds annual exhibitions

and a different club is host every year. The Vancouver Island Philatelic Society has twice been given this honour.

Almost from its inception, the Society has held stamp auctions at its meetings; these auctions have realized several thousand dollars for the owners of the lots offered.

Forty-two years, the V.I.P.S. has sponsored a stamp circuit among its members who have had the opportunity to look at, and purchase from a selection of good stamps having a value of over \$40,000.00. For the past eighteen years, the members have each month received an informative bulletin known as "THE GUIDE LINE".

Before the Vancouver Island Philatelic Society was one year old, it had a membership of thirty, steadily increasing until the limit of seventy resident members and ten non-resident members were enrolled. In 1948, these figures had to be raised to one hundred resident and twenty non-resident members. In 1956, the V.I.P.S. joined the Canadian Philatelic Society as Chapter No. 52, and in this, the British Columbia Centennial Year, are privileged to act as co-hosts, with the Greater Victoria Philatelic Society, to the C.P.S.

The Atlas S.C. holds Niagara Frontier Show

The local Committee of the Canadian clubs in the Niagara Frontier Federation, who are sponsoring the coming Exhibition, are busy for their plans for the Exhibition which will be held in the Welland High & Vocational School on July 25-26th, during Welland's Centennial Week.

The Exhibition will include a Court of Honour in which will be several Government Exhibits and one from the Canadian Bank Note Company, besides several other very fine displays.

The Niagara Frontier Federation now includes 14 clubs, 6 in Buffalo, 2 in Rochester, one in Niagara Falls, N.Y., one in Akron, N.Y., and four in Canada, the St. Catharines Stamps Club, the Niagara Philatelic Society, the Welland Stamp Club and the Atlas (Steels) Stamp Club. There are approximately 700 members in the Federation.

The Exhibition Chairman and President of the Federation is Mr. Herb. Waldon, 121 Ross St., Welland, Ont., from whom any information required may be obtained.

The Early Duplexes of Canada

by E. A. Smythies, F.R.P.S.L.

For many years, considerable interest has been shown in the amazing variety of Canadian postal cancellations. Jarrett's great work, published in 1929, has over 200 pages of descriptions and illustrations of these cancellations, and Boggs' book has over 150 pages. Since then, a number of handbooks and lists have been published on special types of cancels such as Squared Circles, Railway P.O.'s, Flags, Precancels, Perfins, Slogans and others. But, curiously enough, one of the most interesting and historically instructive types of postal cancels, namely Duplex, has been strangely neglected. Jarrett illustrates less than a dozen, Boggs gives the list of earliest duplex of 1860 and then practically ignores them. There is no handbook on duplex, and until recently, no articles or lists had been published in the philatelic press.

But within the last two years, this gap in our knowledge has begun to fill up. Two articles on duplex of the Georgian era (1932-35) by Dr Hollingsworth have been reprinted in *THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST* (Sept.-Dec. 1957), and a series of articles (by the writer) on duplex of the Victorian era (1860-1902) have been published in our contemporaries *TOPICS* and *MAPLE LEAVES*.

Recent researches have established a sort of evolutionary pattern in the standard types of duplex employed during the years in the major post offices, with a fascinating range of offshoots, trials and experiments, some rare and shortlived failures, others long-lived successes. It is the object of this article to describe and illustrate some of these standard and experimental types, but before doing so, it may be advisable to define what a duplex is.

A duplex is a labour-saving device, invented just about a hundred years ago to cope

with the rapidly expanding work of all post offices, whereby the adhesive stamp is killed (for further use) and simultaneously the cover is dated and the office of origin indicated. Thus a duplex is a hammer with two parts, a dater and a killer, normally firmly fixed together, the killer at about 3 o'clock and 3-4 mm distance from the dater. Some interesting exceptions to this general rule have, however, been recently discovered, which will be described later.

Daters are almost invariably circular, and usually show (i) the post office of origin, (ii) the date, (iii) the Province or Country and (iv) usually but not invariably, the time of posting. They are classified in three main types, I with incomplete outer circle, II with complete outer circle, III with no outer circle. (These last are rare, only four cases have been recorded). The accompanying plates of illustrations show examples of all three types.

Killers of the standard type A are circular, with a varying number of unbroken horizontal bars, sometimes many and thin, sometimes fewer and thicker. (see figs. 1 to 4 of the plate). This standard type A accounts for about 80% of all duplex used in the Victorian era. But the remaining 20% of experimental types show an astonishing variety of designs, original, attractive or bizarre, some quite common, others exceedingly rare. Later in this article I will give details and illustrations of a few of these in several types. But before describing these exotic types, it will be better to discuss the evolutionary trend of the standard types.

Duplex hammers for Canadian post offices were first proposed in February, 1860, when a requisition was sent to Berri of London for two hammers each for 16 towns and four hammers each for the 6 largest towns, each pair of hammers to show AM

and PM in the daters. This is interesting evidence of the growth of postal activity, since, prior to this, date-stamps had not had time indicia, which are, in fact, a principal factor in tracing the evolution and increasing importance of post offices, as I shall explain later.

Berri made (apparently) 48 hammers for 20 towns of a standard type IA (see fig. 1) with 12, 13 or 14 thin horizontal bars in the killer, and the letters C.W. or C.E. in the dater. (This was before Confederation). He departed from his instructions however in one respect, as several of his hammers showed neither AM nor PM but blank indicia. The earliest recorded date of use of a Canadian duplex, as illustrated by Boggs, is May 16, 1860. This first standard type continued in use until about 1873-75.

Three more standard types of duplex can be roughly correlated to three different periods, as follows:

The late 1870's - Type I.A. the killer with 10 or 11 thick bars, the dater with the let-ONT., QUE., N.S., etc. (after Confederation), and an incomplete outer circle. (see fig. 2).

The period 1899-1902, type IIA, the killer with 13 to 15 thin bars, the dater with a complete outer circle and frequently with the word "CANADA" (see fig. 3).

The period 1899-1902 - For several years after 1893, there was a marked decrease in the use of duplex, which were largely replaced by the type of cancel called "Squared Circles", but from 1899 they were extensively reintroduced, with a standard type IIA with 8 or 9 thick bars in the killer, sometimes small (see fig. 4), sometimes large (see fig. 5).

Meanwhile, the time indicia in the daters were frequently changing. These, as I have mentioned above, are an important factor in tracing the evolution of post offices. Where there was only one clearance a day, as in all post offices in the early days, and in villages and small towns even to the present day, there was no need for any time-mark, and the indicia

were left blank. With two clearances a day, we find the simple AM and PM of the early duplex. In the 1860's, in the largest towns, Montreal and Toronto, the duplex show exact times, 10 AM, 3 PM, and so on, while in medium towns we find low numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 or letters A, B, C, D, indicating four clearances. From 1900 generally, (earlier in a few large post offices) we find high numbers 10 to 24, indicating exact time of clearance by the 24 hour clock. Thus time marks are a very useful indication of the importance and amount of work at any post office at different periods. Examples of these time indicia are shown in the accompanying illustrations, No. 1 blank; Nos. 2 and 3 AM and PM; No. 4 high number, No. 5 Letter. I should perhaps emphasize that duplex hammers were issued only to the larger towns and post offices. Starting with 22 towns in 1860, the number had increased to about 150 in 1902, but in each case this represented less than 2% of all the post offices in Canada at that time.

Having described the standard types of duplex in some detail, we can now turn to the experimental types, of which there are an astonishing variety, and only some of the main types can be discussed in this article.

Type B - Oval killer with unbroken horizontal bars. Eleven duplex of this type have been recorded, which include a group of three from New Brunswick offices with the rare type III of dater, i.e. with no outer line (see fig. 6). Hamilton had three oval killer duplex, Halifax had two, and London, Kingston and Woodstock one each.

Type G - Circular killers with broken horizontal lines, enclosing a number of attractive and frequently rare cancels. Hamilton and London in 1870 incorporated their official numbers - 5 and 6 respectively - in duplex cancels (see figs. 7 and 9). This Hamilton 5 killer was mutilated by several cuts in 1876, no one knows why (fig. 8). Ottawa in or about 1880 adopted a killer with 19 bars enclosing "No. 1" (see fig. 10), which was evidently very popular and continued in use for over 20 years, besides being used as an early pre-



FIG. 1. Type I.A.



FIG. 2. Type I.A.



FIG. 3. Type II.A.



FIG. 4. Type II.A.



FIG. 5. Type II.A.



FIG. 6. Type II.B.



FIG. 7. Type I.G.



FIG. 8. Type I.G.



FIG. 9. Type I.G.



FIG. 10. Type II.G.



FIG. 11. Type II.G.



FIG. 12. Type II.G.



FIG. 13. Type II.H.



FIG. 14. Type III.G.



FIG. 15. Type II.H.



FIG. 16. Type II.L.



FIG. 17.



FIG. 18.



FIG. 19.



FIG. 20

cancel. As a duplex, it is very common, but as a precancel it is extremely rare.

In 1880, Toronto opened three Branch offices, North, East and West, which were supplied with duplex of a most unusual pattern, the initial of the branch being shown in blank on a striped background (see figs. 11 and 12). These are all rare (in fact, of E and W only one strike is known at present, in a Toronto collection), as the killer was very soon changed to

TORONTO
NORTH

etc., between 10 broken bars. Another example of a killer with an initial was Halifax (see fig. 13), which was used frequently as a duplex and a very similar strike as an independent killer.

A unique type of killer was used for 9 months in 1901 in Toronto. The words

TORONTO
CANADA

were in the circular killer, while the dater of unique pattern had only the hour (by the 24 hour clock), the date and year in bold type, and no outer circle or anything else! (see fig. 14).

Type H - Oval killer with thick or thin broken horizontal bars enclosing a number. A popular type of which 17 duplex have been recorded between 8 towns (see fig. 15). In one case, St. Andrew's, N.B. the numeral was forgotten and the small circle is blank!

Type L - Oval killer with thick broken vertical bars. This is an unusual type which was used only for Toronto and four of its suburbs, Parkdale, Spadina Ave., Yorkville, Riverside, and numbered 1 to 5 (see fig. 16). Of these, No. 1 is common Nos. 2 to 4 are scarce, No. 5 is a rarity.

A short time ago, that would have completed the list, but in the last few months, thanks to the cooperation of several enthusiasts in Britain and Canada, a whole class of new and unsuspected duplex cancels have been established by two or more identical copies.

Although these bear no resemblance to

one another, they have two features in common, i.e. (i) they are made up of well known daters and killers normally used separately, and (ii) the two parts frequently show relative movement, i.e. they break the standing rule for duplex mentioned earlier that the two parts "are firmly fixed together". The most plausible explanation of these freaks is as follows: The supply of duplex hammers from the central office was very inadequate - in the years 1880-83 it averaged 9 per year in all Canada - and so various postmasters who appreciated the advantages of duplex, manufactured their own from their stocks of separate daters and killers. It has been suggested that in many cases the detachable portion, i.e. the dater, was screwed on instead of being fixed by a bayonet point, and in consequence the dater may be found at any hour and any angle.

I will illustrate some examples of these improvised duplex. A very common killer used in the 1880's was the 2-ring target. This has now been confirmed as used in duplex in Toronto (two different hammers), Montreal, Winnipeg, possibly Hamilton and Quebec (see fig. 18). The latest surprising discovery is the use of two well-known cork killers as duplex, the Stellerton star (fig. 19) and the Toronto 8 segment cork (fig. 20); the latter with a very unusual and scarce type of dater. One wonders what will turn up next!

It is impossible in one article to record or list all the different duplex used in Canada prior to 1902 (more than 300 different duplex, spread over about 140 towns and post offices have been recorded, but I hope these notes and illustrations will suffice to give an introduction to a fascinating and long-neglected branch of Canadian philately.

FOUR UNIQUE STAMPS

There are only four stamps in the world to-day of which only one copy exists, the one cent British Guiana of 1856, the Swedish 3 skilling banco yellow, the 5 cent Boscawen Postmaster of 1846 and the One Mark Togo overprinted "Occupation Franco-Anglaise" of 1915.

Two Fine Additions to the Library

THE "EMBLEMS" of VICTORIA

We have been sent a copy of this new work for review, a remarkable and erudite handbook on these interesting issues. Victoria may be a "dead" country for many but there is nevertheless quite a band of enthusiasts in these early Australians and they will find this handbook interesting and fascinating. We are sure that, among others, Gerry Ketcheson, of the British Columbia P.S., will be one of the first to ask for this book from the Library, if he has not already obtained a copy for himself.

Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and beautifully printed by the Hawthorn Press (no connection, we presume, with the would-be purchasers of the Toronto Daily Star) - Limited edition of 350 copies - Price 52/6 - Obtainable from Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W. 1, G.B.

MUELLER'S CATALOGUE OF THE IMPERFORATE CLASSICS OF EUROPE

There are, in Canada, many philatelists who are profoundly interested in the very early issues of all European countries, France, G.B., Italian and German States, and so on, and this new handbook will be a MUST for them. Not only does it price these stamps in pairs, blocks, and strips, and in various combinations on cover, but it also indicates many kinds of varieties. Mr. Mueller is known as one of the most erudite of our professional philatelists and this fine work confirms it, if it ever needed confirmation.

Both these fine handbooks are now in our Library and Herbie Buckland will be very pleased to send either on request.

Incidentally, watch the "Library News" in our next issue for a very important and sensational announcement.

ANPEX 1959

We have received a communication from R.H. Markham, the secretary, announcing ANPEX 1959, to be held in Sydney, New South Wales, 2-9 February, 1959.

He says, in part: "It is sincerely hoped that Canadian collectors will avail themselves of this opportunity and exhibit at ANPEX 1959, thus giving Philatelists down under the chance to see some of those gems at present reposing in Canadian collections and at the same time helping to strengthen the ties of friendship and good-fellowship within the British Commonwealth.

"The assistance of Canadian Philatelists would be greatly appreciated as we, naturally, hope that this will be the most successful Philatelic Exhibition yet held in Australia."

Mr. W. P. Maresch, 628 Yonge Street, Toronto 5, Ont., has been appointed Commissioner for Canada for Anpex 1959 and all enquiries should be addressed to him.

The Editor has one copy of the Prospectus and will be pleased to forward it to anyone of our members who is interested..

Comox Valley Stamp Club

We wanted to say a few words about the baby of the British Columbia chapters, the Comox Valley Stamp Club, located in Courtenay, but we have received no story on the Club. However, we can say it was formed about a year ago, the prime mover being Leonard Hall, a newcomer from Kamloops. The club is quite active and we hear that the entire membership almost will be in Victoria for Vicpex, so we are looking forward to meeting many of the Club there.

British Columbia Philatelic Society

The British Columbia Philatelic Society, of Vancouver apparently has no one capable of writing a history of the Club, and Gerry Ketcheson, the President, sends us three copies of a bulletin and the Annual Review of the Club, dating back to 1937 1938 and 1939, and practically tells us: "Just you write something, old man!" This would be tough to do in the case of a club with which we are well acquainted, but in the case of the BCPS... well! Here goes anyway, but remember the sign in an old Western saloon: "Don't shoot the pianist - He is doing his best!"

An attempt was apparently made to start a club in Vancouver just before the First War, but it was not until the 27 November 1919 that a few enthusiasts met in the old Hotel Vancouver and the British Columbia Philatelic Society was born. Samuel Gintzburger was the first president. We note that Gerry Ketcheson was even then on the Board of Directors and he is President of the Club to-day, an enviable and most honourable record. However, we note that at the time he was too busy with his gladioli to do any "stamping", a state of affairs

which, we hope, he has corrected to-day.

The BCPS has had some very eminent collectors among its members and a glance through the pages of those old Bulletins and Reviews reveals names like Bury Binks, Gerry Wellburn, W.C. Mainwaring, H.M. Bradshaw, Ronald Angus - Was he not the one who discovered a pair of Twelvepenny Blacks on Vancouver Island? - G.P. Bainbridge and others.

The BCPS has been very active in the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs for many years and has done well in the Federation Exhibitions.

The Club has now some 50 members, I believe. They put out a very interesting monthly Bulletin under the able editorship of Miss Marjorie Harris, with whom we have corresponded on several occasions.

After having met at the Vancouver Hotel for many years, the Club now meets on the First and Third Fridays of each month at the Y.W.C.A. They will be very pleased to welcome any Vicipex visitors who happen to be in Vancouver on either of these days.

THE PROVISIONAL ISSUES *Continued from Page 12*

2½d, plus the 6d rate from New Westminster to the Caribou. About 50 letters were so treated before the situation became intolerable, and on October 26th, the Colonial Secretary ordered the Postmaster to stop selling stamps entirely and to revert to prepaying postage in cash.

In 1866, at the time of union, the remaining 5c and 10c Vancouver Island stamps on hand in Victoria were distributed throughout the new colony of British Columbia, but here again, there was nothing on the stamps themselves to show that the usage was provisional.

Finally, the 2½d stamp turned up once more, only now, in 1866, it sold for 6 1/4c, though again, there was nothing to indicate the change in face value! These were generally used in pairs to make up the 12½c rate then prevailing.

The arrival of the definitive issues of 1867 must have been hailed with heartfelt thanks by the unhappy postal authorities. Their troubles, as far as provisionals were concerned, were at an end!

QUELQUES MOTS DE

Continued from Page 8

m'avez aidé au cours des cinq années passées, je vois un avenir brillant pour notre société, aux tout premiers rangs des plus belles sociétés philatéliques nationales.

Du fond du coeur, je vous remercie tous et je remercie tous mes confrères de la collaboration si dévouée qu'ils m'ont prodiguée depuis cinq ans. Faites-en autant pour mon successeur et il fera le plus grand président que nous ayons jamais eu.

Royal City Stamp Club

On March 5th, 1937, four men met at the home of G. Sager for the purpose of forming a stamp club. They were E. Peart, G. Turney, W. Bradshaw and L. MacDonald. The Club was to be known as THE ROYAL CITY STAMP CLUB, with meetings to be held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. A write-up to this effect was inserted in the local paper, and at the next meeting, P. Ranger and R. Wulff joined the Club. At the third meeting, C.A. Marshall became a member and also the first President of the Club. At this time, a ruling was made to the effect that no one could hold the chair more than one year.

Later, when the Club has 15 members, it was agreed that each member should specialize in a different country, and this, along with the Club's Annual Exhibition, has been the reason that the Club has won the Grand Award at the Exhibitions of the North West Federation six times since 1939. The Federation comprises 28 clubs, 7 in Oregon, 16 in Washington and 5 in British Columbia.

The Club holds its meetings at the Y.M.C.A., 514 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, at 8 p.m., and still on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. It goes without saying that visitors are always welcome to attend the meetings and the Club hopes that any visitor to VICPEX staying a few days in Vancouver, either on the outward or return journey, will call in and spend and evening there.

For New Zealand

Enthusiasts

The numerous collectors of New Zealand in Canada will doubtless be interested to hear that the Nelson Philatelic Society in New Zealand is issuing a special souvenir cover in conjunction with the appearance of the special stamp commemorating the Centenary of Nelson as a city, on the 29th September next. The cover is a four-

A Great Treat for Visitors to Vancouver

No doubt, many of the visitors to Victoria will be staying over on the West Coast for a while, and the following communication will be of great interest to everyone.

"Stamp collectors and visitors to British Columbia will have an opportunity of seeing a world famous collection during Centennial Year in Vancouver.

As a Centennial project, the British Columbia Philatelic Society has arranged with Mr. Gerald Wellburn, of Duncan, B.C., to show selected pages of Canada and the Provinces from 1851 on. As this collection has only been shown at International shows, collectors in or coming to Vancouver will have a wonderful opportunity to view this outstanding display. The showing will be located in the Vancouver Public Library and will run from May 1 to May 31.

On May 30-31, June 1, 1958, the Vancouver Public Library will also be the scene of another exhibition, that of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs, who will hold their 18th Annual Convention and Exhibition here. General Chairman of the affair is Mr. B. C. Binks, 465 East 12th Street, North Vancouver, B.C."

Everyone knows of Gerry Wellburn, probably the greatest philatelist in Canada and whose name appears on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, perhaps the greatest honour to which any philatelist can aspire. The fortunate ones who will be able to be in Vancouver between the 1 and 31 May are certainly in for a treat, and we are very happy to be able to say that your Editor will be among them.

colour job and will have a special cancel by the Post Office, a complete novelty and departure from the normal cancellations.

Covers can be obtained at a cost of 7d. sterling each, payable by Money Order. Each additional stamp, 3d. each extra.

Orders should be sent as soon as possible to the Nelson Philatelic Society, Box 16, Nelson, New Zealand.

The Secretary's Page

The applicants listed below 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, they will be admitted to full membership.

NEW MEMBERS

- 6840 N. Samuel, 11 Glen Edyth Dr., Toronto 7, Ont.
- 6841 H. D. Dunlop, 8806 - 101 St., Edmonton, Alta.
- 6842 E. L. Fielding, 3765 Cadboro Bay Rd., Victoria, B.C.
- 6843 Mrs. O. M. Dunphy, 1844 Oak Bay Ave., Victoria, B.C.
- 6844 V. L. Dunphy, 1844 Oak Bay Ave., Victoria, B.C.
- 6845 Alex McMillan, Box 81, Lockerby, Ont.
- 6846 D. W. Rennie, 3814 Girouard Ave., Montreal 28, P.Q.
- 6847 R. H. Geary, 24 Kenaston Ave., Montreal 16, P.Q.
- 6848 F. Balassa, 610 - 17th Avenue, Lachine 32, P.Q.
- 6849 Dr. M. L. Morris, 118 Simcoe St. North, Oshawa, Ont.
- 6850 W. Slater, R.R. 1, Comox, B.C.
- 6851 Dr. R. Allore, 28 Campbell St., Belleville, Ont.
- 6852 A. A. Zeitchick, 1280 - East 86 St., Brooklyn 36, N.Y., USA
- 6853 E. L. LaMountain, 4095 Melrose Ave., Montreal 28, P.Q.
- 6854 G. L. Worden, 68 Thorncrest Ave., Dorval, P.Q.
- 6855 B. D. Wasylenko, 70 Douglas St. West, Sudbury, Ont.
- 6856 L. Van Pelt, 42 Scarborough Crescent, Toronto 13, Ont.
- 6857 C. Voos, 6 Baintree East St., Downsview, Ont.
- 6858 J. W. Wilson II, 1101 Sinclair Bldg., Fort Worth, Texas, USA
- 6859 J. A. Koke, Box 389, Dauphin, Man.
- 6860 Bruce Oland, Keith Hall, Hollis St., Halifax, N.S.
- 6861 G. H. Thornberry, 2816 Dewdney Ave., Victoria, B.C.
- 6862 J. Sadler, 421 - 5th Street South, Lethbridge, Alta.
- 6863 Lewis W. Chapman, Carragana, Sask.
- 6864 F. B. Brooks-Hill, 53 Second Street, Oakville, Ont.
- 6865 H. C. K. Organ, 415 Brixton Ave., Montreal 23, P.Q.
- 6866 V. Blauner, 317 West 87 St., New York 24, N.Y., USA
- 6867 W. C. Homburg, 2768 Satellite St., Victoria, B.C.
- 6868 E. Lorensen, 4250 Dieppe Rd., R.R. 3, Victoria, B.C.
- 6869 Supt. E. Brakefield-Moore, R.C.M.P., Montreal 6, P.Q.
- 6870 Ross H. Baker, 40 Charles St., Truro, N.S.
- 6871 William J. Walsh, 108 Furby St., Winnipeg 1, Man.
- 6872 Emile Cochand Sr., C.p. 14, Ste-Adèle-en-Bas, P.Q.
- 6873 W. H. Foott, Box 13, Harrow, Ont.
- 6874 A. Frank, 462 Rocklyn Rd., Springfield, Pa., USA
- 6875 L. W. Buchanan, 26 Rothesay Ave., Elwood S. 3, Melbourne, Australia
- 6876 J. K. Mackenzie, Scotia Firs, Truro, N.S.
- 6877 Mrs. W. J. Bird, 176 Queen St., Box 25, Truro, N.S.
- 6878 Lieut.-Col. W. H. Gillespie, 557 Mansfield Ave., Ottawa 3, Ont.
- 6879 George Turner, 316 Haig St., Oshawa, Ont.
- 6880 R. Mirabelli, 5530 Victoria Ave., Apt. 12, Montreal 26, P.Q.
- 6881 George Little, 3675 Iona Dr., Victoria, B.C.

REINSTATEMENTS

- 5590 Geo. Hicks, Listowel, Ont.
- 4979 Mrs. W. A. Porter, Boys' Farm & Training School, Shawbridge, P.Q.
- 3001 Dr. J. A. Crocker, Glen Sitka, Land's End Rd., R.R.1, Sidney, B.C.
- 5514 H. Dube, 200 Bay Street, Toronto 1, Ont.
- 4577 B. Kimberley, 1081 Spadina Rd., Toronto 12, Ont.
- 4352 W. H. E. Schmalz, 129 King St. West, Kitchener, Ont.

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3659 Frank Willcox, 1205 Fort St., Apt. 41, Montreal 25, P.Q.
 3378 J. H. Benjamin, 2260 Valade St., St-Laurent, Montreal 9, P.Q.
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 6716 G. April, 1015 avenue Brown, appt 3, Québec 6, P.Q.
 6454 F. C. Hayes, 19 Moorehill Dr., Toronto 17, Ont.
 6450 T. Peddie, 326 Douglas St., Victoria, B.C.
 4351 N. Speirn, 161 Bertha St., Riverside, Ont.
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 4461 Glen P. Farmer, 718 Pickering St., Ogdensburg, N.Y., USA
 6745 W. S. Benson, Box 175, Snow Lake, Man.
 6774 L. P. Crispell, 2518 Princeton Rd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio, USA

CORRECTIONS

5576 Peter Mezulis, 6911 - 111th Avenue, Edmonton, Alta.
 6319 J. M. Shelton, RCAF Station, Penhold, Alta.
 6752 E. C. Dowler, 1465 William David Avenue, Montreal 4, P.Q.
 6119 Aimé E. Struthers, 96 Royal Park, Box 171, St-Eustache-sur-le-Lac, P.Q.
 6839 P. M. de Chazal, 60 Church Ave., Granby, P.Q.
 6736 Pierson Ostrow, Box 57, Burlington, Vermont, USA

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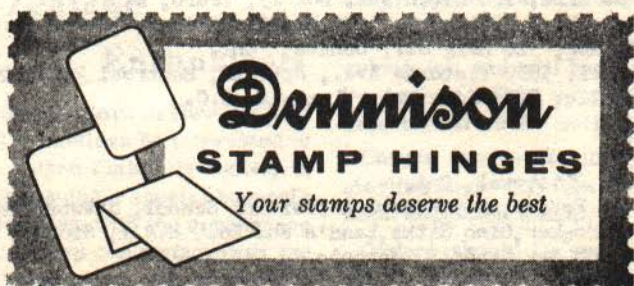
T. H. Anderson, Buffalo - Resigned
 E. H. Hilton, Toronto 12, - Resigned
 E. H. Voegel, Waterloo - Deceased
 H. Fishman, The Pas, Man. - Deceased
 Mrs. J. Miller, Kenora, Ont. - Resigned
 M. J. Hotson, Virgil, Ont. - Resigned
 W. L. Gutzman, Strathmore, P.Q. - Resigned

CHAPTER CORRECTIONS

Chapter No. 18, Stratford P.S. - Delete
 Chapter No. 46 - Niagara P.S. - Secretary: R. Gilbert
 1481 Portage Rd. South, Niagara Falls, Ont.
 Chapter No. 41 - R. A. Stamp Club - Secretary: Mrs. M. R. Livingstone.
 59 Lawrence St., Blossom Park P.O., Ont.
 Chapter No. 36 - RCAF Stamp Club of Aylmer - President: R. K. Malott, F/L
 Secretary: J. Skinner, LAC, RCAF Station, Aylmer, Ont.

NEW CHAPTER

Chapter No. 63 - DAUPHIN STAMP CLUB
 President: C. Beek
 Secretary: J. A. Koke, Box 389, Dauphin, Man.



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