

A harder way to collect these Cello-Paqs is to collect them still in their packaging. This can be difficult because they were not announced by the Canadian Post Office, and so were used up by the general public and missed by many stamp collectors of the time.

The Christmas stamps first issued by Canada in 1964 are known to be available both tagged and untagged in miniature sheet format. The other definitive stamps were issued in Cello-Paqs as they were introduced, until the Cello-Paqs were discontinued in 1967.

## XI. AIRMAILS

### Pioneer Airmails of Canada and Newfoundland

A few flights took place early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Only a few cards and covers exist, but they have no specific designations. Toward the end of WWI, various flying clubs and groups began printing stamps for demonstration flights. For example, the Aero Club of Canada began printing stamps for their demonstration flights. The flights, which were carrying covers bearing both the special stamps and Canadian stamps needed to pay postage for mail carriage, were supported by the Canadian Post Office. Some of these flights produced rarities.



## Semi-Official Stamps of Canada

In the 1920s, certain private companies were permitted to print stamps for regularly scheduled flights, particularly in the northern parts of Canada, where no roads existed or where winter travel was difficult. These semi-official stamps were intended to pay the extra costs and to be placed on the backs of regular franked mail. On occasion, the semi-official stamps can be found on the address sides of covers. The stamps as well as covers are collected. Some philatelists collect proofs and varieties of these stamps, in the same way government stamps are collected. No companies produced authorized semi-official stamps for Newfoundland. Most surviving covers bearing semi-official air labels were prepared for collectors; covers used for regular (commercial) mail are quite scarce.



## Stamps of Canada and Newfoundland

At the end of WWI, prizes were offered for airmail-crossing of the Atlantic, to spur development of air travel. Newfoundland

was a natural starting or intermediate point, and some of the great airmail attempts and flights are associated with Newfoundland stamps prepared for those flights. These were overprinted Newfoundland stamps of the period, and some are the great rarities of airmail collecting. In most cases, no more than 100 or 200 stamps were prepared, and in some cases almost all



were used on covers sent with the flights.

Canada issued its first airmail stamp in 1928, and continued issuing airmail stamps until 1946. Thereafter ordinary postage stamps were used for airmail service, which gradually became identical with regular service for domestic mail in 1951, and by 1971 became the only service for foreign mail except for parcels and other classes of mail. The airmail rate fluctuated between 5¢ and 7¢ during the stamp period. There are a few varieties on various issues, and plate number blocks are collected. Airmail special delivery service was also available, with special stamps printed for this service between 1942 and 1946. Special delivery for airmail was paid with regular stamps thereafter. The airmail stamps are generally affordable, although imperforate and part-perforate varieties exist for the 1931 and 1933 issues.

Newfoundland airmail stamps were first issued as overprints for special flights. All are very expensive except the 1919 Alcock and Brown flight overprint in used condition. The first regular airmail stamps were issued in 1931 and the last in 1943. Again, several overprinted airmail stamps commemorated various special flights. All

are expensive. Collecting Newfoundland airmail covers and stamps comprehensively is an activity for a well-funded collector.

### First Flights

By 1928 the Canadian Post Office began scheduling regular flights to transport mail. Various routes were investigated, and as these services began, most covers carried on the first flights bear special markings. These first flight covers (FFCs) became very popular, and the number of covers for many flights was in the thousands. This has resulted in first flights between various cities whose covers are very inexpensive and readily collectible. Related to this were airport dedication covers, prepared when new sites were developed. Most first flights have special cachets commemorating the flight and are easily identifiable. Many took place in the northern and western parts of Canada, where airmail provided much better service than road transport, which could be slow or nonexistent in winter. First flights continued throughout the 1930s, and except for a hiatus during WWII, continued into the 1950s. Jet travel seems to have ended the emphasis on their preparation.

**Airmail Rates and Routes.** Collecting airmail covers that were used commercially or personally (non-first flight covers) has long been of interest to collectors. In the 1930s, expansion of airmail service both domestically and to foreign destinations caught the imagination of collectors, and it has remained high ever since. The semi-official covers and FFCs detail much of domestic expansion of airmail. However, much of the interest in how Canadian airmail expanded to foreign countries is both shown and documented by Canadian airmail covers to foreign destinations. Obviously the first expansion was to and through the U.S. as it developed its airmail



schemes. As early as 1925, Canadian covers could be included in the Contract Airmail system (CAM) of the U.S. by placing U.S. stamps of the correct fee on covers also paying the Canadian rate to the U.S. Early examples are highly prized by both U.S. and Canadian airmail collectors. So far, the earliest examples of Canadian airmail carried by this service are from 1927. After 1928 per agreement, the airmail fee could be paid entirely with Canadian stamps. The U.S. expanded its system both to Canada and to the Caribbean and Central and South America in the late 1920s and into the 1930s with the Foreign Airmail contracts (FAMs). Canadian mail could participate, generally at the combination of the standard airmail rate to the U.S. plus the U.S. fee to the country in the FAM system. The early rates are often confused and confusing to both postmasters and collectors. The fees became more standardized by 1931. Expansion to South America led to very high ¼ oz. fees to mail letters, and most correspondence is commercial, sent as mining and railroad companies expanded in Central and South American countries. Because of the high airmail fee, high-value Canadian stamps sometimes can be found on such covers.

While mail across the Atlantic and Pacific remained restricted to ships in the



1920s and early 1930s, expansion of airmail service in Europe led to the interesting combinations of airmail, surface, and resumed airmail delivery of mail. Thus, one can collect covers that were carried by airmail in

North America, by ship to England or Europe, and by resumed airmail service in a European country. Where service was not available, a marking of colored parallel bars was used to cancel AIR MAIL handstamps often applied to Canadian airmail covers. By the mid-1930s England had begun various airmail systems within the British Empire to Africa, Asia, and Australia. Canadian covers could utilize this service, so that collecting airmail examples to various destinations under the constantly changing rates is a challenge. Similarly, as the U.S. expanded trans-ocean mail service, Canadian mail could take advantage of the U.S. air services. The Pan Am clipper service went from San Francisco via Hawaii, Midway, Wake Island, and Guam to the Philippines. From there mail could be sent to Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, and various other Asian countries. All such mail is very desirable. The fees were high, so for many of these routes one sees the use of 50¢ and \$1 stamps.

World War II both restricted and expanded airmails from Canada. New routes, especially the Pan Am route to India via South America and Africa, opened new collecting possibilities, and this has become an area of great interest to airmail collectors. Mail sent to military personnel overseas, official mail, and commercial mail supporting the war effort can be found to many of the airports along the route that developed. Branching lines in Africa went to Egypt and South Africa as well. Mail to and from a number of countries in Asia passed through India. Covers bound from India to Canada bear a wide variety of rates that depended on the particular route followed—routes seemingly determined by the destination of the next airplane to leave. Such incoming airmail covers supplement the knowledge we gain from studying outbound Canadian airmail covers. After the war, resumption of commercial traffic, along with the new knowledge of remote places, led to many new airlines and routes throughout the world. Rate changes were common as carriers contracting the flights tried to determine costs to carry the mail, so that the early postwar period is one in which collecting new routes and rates is interesting to airmail collectors. As systems developed and standardized, the number of new routes decreased, and little new material of that sort is found now. Airmail service has become the standard, and in most situations surface mail is no longer available under postal schemes, but is left to private carriers or contracts between Canada Post and private carriers.

## **XII. CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS**

Cancellations were intended to prevent a stamp from being reused. Over the course of time these have evolved to serve many purposes in addition. The discussion below summarizes the major types of cancellations collected—on stamp, on cover, or both—from 1851 onward. Initially, stamps were to be cancelled separately from any date cancels. This was occasionally ignored, and later was changed so that cancels of stamps often included the town and date. Collectors accumulate them by varieties, on different stamps, and with different ink colors.

### **Target Cancels**

The earliest cancels, other than pen scratches, were 7-ring target cancels made of brass. These were widely distributed to the larger towns. They are found in black, blue, and less commonly in red or green ink. Used throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century in various similar formats, target cancels are one of the commonest to be found in that period.

### **Duplex Cancels**

Originally developed to cancel, date, and identify the office of origin on a letter, the duplex cancel made its debut in Canada in 1860. The original instrument was long-handled with a metal striker composed of a killer and a changeable dating circle all in one device. The original hammers were supplied by D.G. Berri and Company of England, where duplexes were first used.

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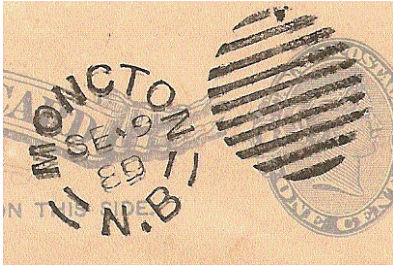
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Berri duplex cancels were used mostly in the 1860s and make a very nice area to collect. Some are pricey because of the stamp they are on or the on-cover usage.



One approach to collecting duplex cancels is to segment a collection into three parts, Victorian era, early 20<sup>th</sup> century (the three kings era Edward VII, George V, and George VI), and finally Elizabethan. You might elect to further segment the collection into the various provinces and territories. Another approach is to collect strikes on various stamps in one or more of those periods. Yet a third is to work on

so-called calendar collections, showing use of the duplex by day, month, or year. Some collectors try to get the entire duplex cancel used on a part of a cover, like a 2" x 4" piece of a cover. This takes less space than collecting entire covers. While not a good idea for classic stamp material, more commonly found modern duplex cancels lend themselves easily to this approach.

In his *Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancellations*, author Stéphane Cloutier documents over 6,000 different cancels you could assemble for a complete duplex collection of individual different strikes. This work and earlier catalogues by Robert Lee are a must for detailed collecting of duplex cancels. If in your collection you tried to show an early and late date for each cancel, then the number climbs to some 12,000 copies of cancels, which is a pretty daunting task!

You will find that some of the best copies of duplex cancels appear on post cards; the card stock takes a very good ink impression and shows well in a collection. Lucky for us post cards are not that expensive. Shown on the previous page is a strike of a duplex cancel from Moncton, New Brunswick on a post card.

#### 4-Ring Numerals

These were issued in 1859 for Canada, consisting of four concentric rings with a number between 1 and 52 in the middle. Several additional high numbers (516, 627) were included for some unknown reason. Collectors look for them on Pence, Decimal, Large Queen, or even Small Queen stamps and covers, although usage of some numbers stopped by 1868. The 6 was not used, and 48 is not confirmed as being used. Rarity factors are given in the Unitrade Canada catalogue. Occasionally red or green ink was used, creating great rarities.



#### 2-Ring Numerals

In 1869 the 4-rings were replaced with 60 new 2-ring cancels with numbers 1–60. They were given to the largest towns from 1 to 60. 17 has not been identified and only a few

strikes are known. Usage on the Large Queens is known for all numbers, but with the Small Queens, many were discontinued in favor of other devices. A few were continued to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and even later (such as numbers 3, 40, and 50). Rarity factors are given in the Unitrade Canada catalogue. Red and blue ink usage created rarities for a few numbers.

**Fancy Cancels.** Fancy cancels are defined as cancels with recognizable shapes for forms other than the regularly issued cancels. The Fancy Cancel Study Group of BNAPS identifies these in categories as numerals, letters and names, stars and crosses, leaf/flower, crown, fraternal organizations, bogey head, patriotic, hearts,



marine topics, bird and insects, and geometric designs. The height of usage was in the Large Queen stamp period and early Small Queen period through the 1870s, although a few can be found on Decimals and later into the Leaf/Numeral period. A few are found thereafter. Collections can focus on all or any of the categories and periods listed. A remarkable roller cancel from Brilliant, BC is shown here.



**Squared Circles.** In 1893 a new set of cancels was issued for the major towns. Consisting of a square of horizontal bars with a circular center including town, date, and province, these “squared” circles were used for no more than 10 years (with a couple of exceptions), and yet they remain one of the most popular collecting areas because of the large number of towns (well over 300), types (thin and thick bars), and varieties of hammer, date, and other details. An excellent catalogue

published by the Squared Circle Study Group is available providing details on dates of use, use on various stamps and postal stationery, and variations.

**Flag Cancels.** Flag cancels form one of the bigger collecting fields in cancel collecting. This is also an area with no rules; you might elect to collect all the cancels, or the earliest and latest dates to show the cancel’s period of use. You might



have an area of special interest, such as the Small Queens, and only collect copies of flag cancels applied to Small Queens. In all cases, you will need to collect more than a stamp, either the full envelope or at least a cut (2" x 4") square that allows you to show not only the flag killer portion but also the dater portion of the cancellation.



Although a few “fancy cork cancels” in the shape of a flag are known to exist before 1896, flag cancels made their first appearance in Canada in 1896, with the use of the first rapid canceling machines. The greatest number were produced during the Admiral period, many with slogans as duplex cancels. These cross into slogan collecting.

Many gold medal level flag cancel collections have been formed over the years; the material is out there to be found and most postal history dealers keep a stock of such cancels on hand.

Of course, like most BNA collections there are rarities and some of them can be expensive and very difficult to find. If you are looking at starting a flag cancel collection, you might look at the twentieth century. Be aware there are rarities here also, but it is an area that needs further study.

The way you collect these cancels is your decision; one way we might suggest is to look for copies of all the cities that used the cancel and possibly the earliest and latest dates for each city. There are some cancels such as the “purple ink” Royal Train cancels where this will prove very difficult and expensive to accomplish. On the contrary, a complete collection of the 1937 Coronation cancel will require you to find more than 75 different examples of these cancels for the 7 days they were in use, but obtaining them will not break the bank.

Another flag cancellation collection you might consider forming is the WWII ENLIST NOW series of cancels. This cancellation was applied at 32 different cities,

many with multiple hub designs and a few with broken killer designs. This collection could form a 75–80 page collection in its own right.

Flag cancellations are a fun collection. They are also a really handsome addition to a postal history collection.

### MOON Cancels

Money order office number (MOON) cancels were issued in the mid-1920s to post offices that could sell money orders. These cancels are generally rectangular and include the town name, office number, and date. Less well studied and collected, they offer a challenging yet inexpensive area.

### Supplementary Cancels

Cancels telling people what happened, or what a delivery person should do, or indicating special services, are termed supplementary or auxiliary cancels. Among the earliest are Money Letter and Registration marks. Mail given to a postal mail carrier on the route was termed



Way Mail, and bears an appropriate cancel. When the Dead Letter Office was begun to deal with undeliverable mail, cancels indicating a letter passed through the DLO were created. Cancels such as Not Known or No Such Address were used on returned mail to tell senders the letter could not be delivered. Special Delivery cancels are known. These cancels continue today, so that collecting them can include the entire span of Canada postal history or specific periods, type of cancel, or type of service. This area has been little touched by writers, and there is much work to be done to document the types in each area.

### Spray-On Cancels

A new area of philatelic study has arisen in the past decade. Late in 1992, a new type of machine cancellation—the spray-on postmark—appeared on the front of Canadian mail. Soon the machines making these modern cancels were installed at a number of



mail processing plants. The marks made by these machines have dot-matrix characters, and the lettering of the postmarks is computer-controlled. The postmarks usually consist of a machine number, the postal code of the processing plant, a date and time, a slogan (even if it is only POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTALE), and several obliterator bars. The first spray-on marks were single lines; now most have two lines, with the slogan on the second line. Because the cancels are computer-controlled, a clerk entering a new slogan can make an error (sometimes intentionally). Some errors are corrected quickly; others last for a day or two.

Spray-on marks are applied by rapid cancelling machines (jet-spray cancellers) that are connected to optical character readers. The readers can decipher the addresses on most envelopes, and code and sort tens of thousands of them per hour. The forwarding codes are the orange bars found on envelopes. In this way, mail is automatically postmarked and sorted at the very fast rates needed for today's huge volumes of correspondence. Some collectors have expressed their displeasure with the new type of cancel, claiming it seriously defaces their used stamps. Some postal historians, though, went with the flow and actively collect the marks. As with any type of postmark, one may save cancels in several ways, such as saving covers marked by all the known machines, or from a particular processing plant or city, documenting the changes that occur in the spray-on marks during the year. Often, alert eyes can spot different slogans and errors in spelling of the slogans on current mail. Joel Weiner's *Canada Inkjet (Jet Spray) Cancels 1992-2005 (3rd Edition, 2006)* lists over 2,300 distinct varieties along with thousands of minor variations, an increase of about 900 cancels since the 2001 edition. It provides the collector with the most complete listing available of these cancels.



### Collecting Town and Province Cancels

Many collectors today specialize in finding cancels of their town, county, region, or province. This popular approach lets collectors learn about the history of the topic they selected. Frank Campbell's book *Canada Post Offices 1755-1895* gives a good start for earlier cancels. There are specialized books for each province listing post offices, their dates of operation, and the types of cancels they used. Collectors of a city try to find early markings, cover usages within the city and from it to other places, even mail coming into the city. They may restrict themselves to a certain period or try to represent

the entire span of the city's history. This approach can be inexpensive, or very expensive if one shows the stamps that could be used in the city and the time encompasses the Pence period, for example.

We would give a novice collector a word of warning: if you select too narrow an area to collect, you may become frustrated. Sometimes early postmarks from a small town are so scarce that only one or two exist, and these may be solidly in other collections. Choose a slightly flexible or wide geographic topic that will allow you to get a good start.

Province collecting is much broader, with many thousands of towns to find for provinces such as Ontario or Quebec. The western provinces have long been popular, and with the historical background of the development of the Canadian West from the fur trade through the settlement into the 1900s, finding and obtaining such material can be both difficult and expensive. On the other hand, if one simply wishes an example of each town's name with a cancel, a high degree of completion can often be obtained for little cost. Of course there are towns that existed for only short periods of time, and cancels from these often are both hard to find and costly.

### Perfins

Governments (both federal and provincial) and private companies began punching small holes in stamps they used as a security measure to stop theft. These are called perfins. Generally, the holes form initials related to the company or agency creating them. Official perfins were used by Canadian federal agencies and have OHMS punched on stamps of the 1930s and 1940s. These were replaced by printed letters. Company perfins began in the 1890s with the Inter-Colonial Railway and W. G. Gage Company. Other companies such as Sun Life, Canadian Pacific Railway, etc. also began using perfins. These can be collected as stamp or as stamps on cover. Stamps with company perfins were also precancelled and are listed under precancels.

### Precancels

Clerks in large post offices often dealt with large mailings of advertising mail, newspapers, etc. and rather than cancel each stamp, the Canadian Post Office permitted mailers to purchase pre-cancelled stamps to put on the material. These were pre-printed on sheets of stamps by printers. Official precancels were created by the Canadian Post Office during the 1800s, using a roller cancel with the number 21 as early as the 1860s. In 1903, city names replaced the straight and angled bars previously used. These were carefully controlled by the Post Office and mostly were issued from large cities.

A comprehensive listing of precancels is found in *The Canada Precancel Handbook* by H. G. Walburn, 1988.



## Slogan cancels

Since 1897, the Post Office Department has allowed slogan cancels to be used as an advertising medium. It is preferable to collect slogans on cover but the sheer volume of available material and space required will probably convince the collector to narrow his or her sights. The more common material is considered collectable as a cut-out that includes both the slogan and the dater hub cut to approximate size of



two inches by four inches. Collecting slogans from a favorite city, county, or province would be a very formidable challenge.

Many collect slogans on cover with a related advertising or corner-card. The “Classic Period” of slogans is 1912–1919, when the majority of slogans were produced on International canceling equipment. During this period, the popular fair-, flag-, and war-related material made an appearance. Thematic slogan collecting is popular. The *Coutts Slogan Catalogue* includes 46 main topics and scores of sub-topics.

## XIII. POSTAL STATIONERY

Postal stationery comprises government-issued envelopes, postal cards, post bands and wrappers for newspapers and catalogs, letter cards, aerogrammes, letter sheets, and official versions of some of those categories. Similar material is available for both Canada and Newfoundland. *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland*, edited by Earle Covert and Bill Walton, describes and illustrates the many postal stationery items available.

**Envelopes.** Beginning in 1860, envelopes with a stamp-like impression that paid a postage rate were issued by the Canadian Post Office, with a premium for the cost of the envelope. Most envelopes were developed for either drop letter, printed matter, or first class rate usage. These are often collected by their royal period: Victorian, Edward, George V and VI, and Elizabethan. Some proofs exist for some issues, and errors and varieties can be found for a few in the printing and in the cutting of the paper for the envelope, as well as types of cuts. Mint copies are often preferred for such studies, while used examples illustrate mail to domestic and foreign destinations. Because the envelopes take impressions of cancels well, cancel

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usage on envelopes is also of interest. Precancelled and special envelopes for elections form a specialized interest. Companies with large volume mailings could purchase specially printed envelopes for a particular size and shape, creating yet another collecting specialty.

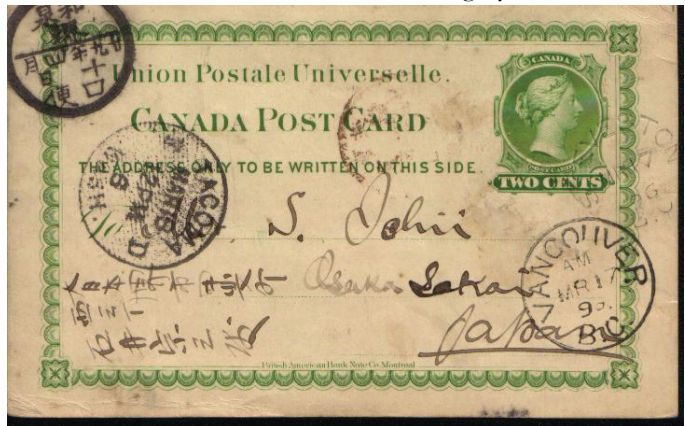


### Postal Cards

Post cards issued by the Canada Post Office are referred to as postal cards, to differentiate them from the privately printed picture post cards introduced at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Postal cards were issued in 1871 and initially were used only for domestic mail. As countries began to accept postal cards as legitimate mail, international rates were developed with new cards beginning in 1877 and expanded with Canada's 1878 entry into the UPU. Cards are collected by royal period.

Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, postal cards were permitted to be overprinted with advertising. Canadian railroads and shipping lines created pictorial cards to show off the beautiful destinations available to tourists. These cards are highly collectible and the many varieties create a lifelong pursuit.

By 1900 many companies used the cards for advertising, and these are also of great interest to card collectors, with advertising on both front and back. In 1932 an official set of 71 picture postal cards



was issued. In 1971 and 1972 view cards, with the picture and stamp design being identical, were issued, victim to the same inflation and not continued. In 1997 through 2000, a joint venture of Canada Post and a private company created picture post cards for mailing by tourists with no price but "POSTAGE PAID" listed, solving the inflation problem of having to print many versions as the postage rates rose.



A special form of postal card was developed to be used for commercial purposes, with two cards joined by perforating cuts. The intent was that a customer was mailed the joint card and could send back a reply card without cost, since the cost was already on the reply half of the card. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century these cards had a cheaper valuation, because most would be discarded, reducing the sender's cost to mail many potential customers.

Some cards in the 1920s onward were precancelled so that the post office would not have to cancel the many thousands of cards a mailer might send out.

These are collected by both card collectors and precancels collectors

**Post Bands and Wrappers.** Beginning in the late 1800s, mailers of newspapers and catalogues could purchase stamped wrappers with gum that could have an address put on them. A few were even precancelled. These are found through the Elizabethan period and are quite collectible.

**Letter Cards.** A special sealable postal card termed a letter card was issued beginning in the 1890s. These letter cards were folded and gum on the edge permitted sealing for privacy in correspondence. Their denominations were for regular 1<sup>st</sup> class rates rather than post card rates. Their use ended almost as they began, with the exception of a new letter card issued in 2000.

**Aerogrammes.** To reduce weight for airmail letters at a time when the costs were higher than regular mail, lightweight paper sheets were printed with airmail rates. Begun in 1947 their issuance and use continues today, when international rates are again quite high.



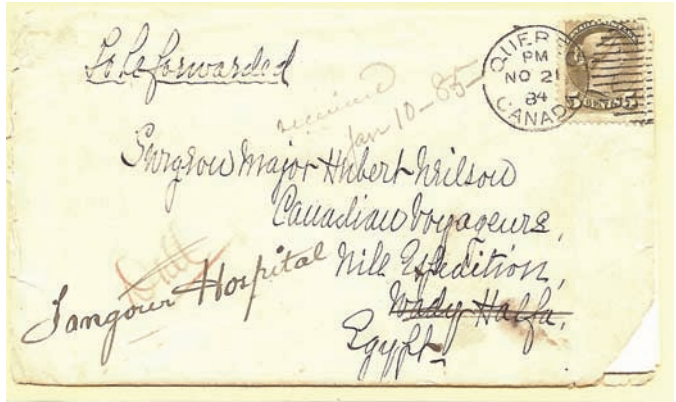
**Letter Sheets.** In 1973 and 1974, Canada Post tried selling letter sheets with domestic rates stamped on them. These floral design sheets were the victims of rapidly rising rates.

#### XIV. MILITARY MAIL/WAR-RELATED

An extremely large and exciting area of BNA to collect! Some of the earliest areas of study are the French and English wars. This is the stampless era, and you can expect to pay a premium for some of these scarce folded letters and covers. It will help the collector if he or she has some knowledge of the French language. Also within the stampless era is the war of 1812.

In the time of the Large and Small Queen stamps there are the Riel rebellions; in the Small Queen era there is the Nile Expedition. The second Riel Rebellion of 1885 pitted the Native Americans and Métis of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan areas against the Canadian government.

Also, Canadians served in the various armies of the British Empire. There are a limited number of soldier's letters known to exist from these times and



you can expect to pay a large premium for any you might locate. For example, a newly-recorded Canadian cover to a British soldier serving in the Afghan war of 1879 recently was sold in England.

#### Canadian Contingents in the Anglo-Boer War

The special markings on these covers from 1900-1902 include "ENROUTE" and the "CANADIAN CONTINGENT" oval date markings. There are a number of Field Post Office strikes that are well documented in support literature available through the BNAPS book store (see the BNAPS web site for information on the store and member discounts). A number of very attractive patriotic covers exist, including a series with pictures of officers serving in the war, and there are various shades of purple and magenta field post office markings to be looked for by the collector. Almost all patriotic were used domestically or to the U.S., so finding them used overseas is difficult.

#### Before WWI

In 1909 a system of field post offices was established to serve the Canada Militia Camps. In all there were some 30 hammers prepared for 18 different camps. None of these strikes is common and a few are darn scarce if not rare.

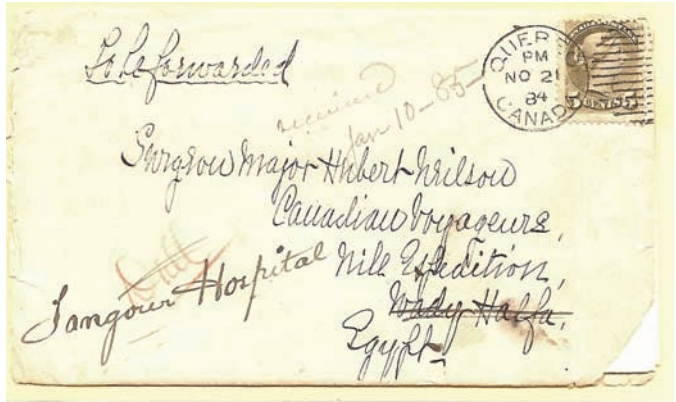
**Letter Sheets.** In 1973 and 1974, Canada Post tried selling letter sheets with domestic rates stamped on them. These floral design sheets were the victims of rapidly rising rates.

#### XIV. MILITARY MAIL/WAR-RELATED

An extremely large and exciting area of BNA to collect! Some of the earliest areas of study are the French and English wars. This is the stampless era, and you can expect to pay a premium for some of these scarce folded letters and covers. It will help the collector if he or she has some knowledge of the French language. Also within the stampless era is the war of 1812.

In the time of the Large and Small Queen stamps there are the Riel rebellions; in the Small Queen era there is the Nile Expedition. The second Riel Rebellion of 1885 pitted the Native Americans and Métis of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan areas against the Canadian government.

Also, Canadians served in the various armies of the British Empire. There are a limited number of soldier's letters known to exist from these times and



you can expect to pay a large premium for any you might locate. For example, a newly-recorded Canadian cover to a British soldier serving in the Afghan war of 1879 recently was sold in England.

#### Canadian Contingents in the Anglo-Boer War

The special markings on these covers from 1900-1902 include "ENROUTE" and the "CANADIAN CONTINGENT" oval date markings. There are a number of Field Post Office strikes that are well documented in support literature available through the BNAPS book store (see the BNAPS web site for information on the store and member discounts). A number of very attractive patriotic covers exist, including a series with pictures of officers serving in the war, and there are various shades of purple and magenta field post office markings to be looked for by the collector. Almost all patriotic were used domestically or to the U.S., so finding them used overseas is difficult.

#### Before WWI

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## World War I, 1914–1918

This is a tremendous area for a specialized collection. It encompasses the Admiral era and is becoming popular as the Admiral stamps reach that magic 100-year-old plateau in philately.

One can collect field post office markings, censorship, Regimental and Orderly Room markings, hospital mail, and a very difficult area—the Nursing Sisters' mail. Mail from “The Front” is common, but letters to soldiers are far less so, as the paper was often needed for basic functions such as starting fires. There are very



poignant covers that followed wounded or dead soldiers from one hospital to another across France and Great Britain, with many markings and directional notations. Mail sent back home to Canada was stamped in Canada at a few major post offices because the soldiers had no stamps available. Prisoner of war (POW) mail from camps in Germany back to Canada, mail from POWs in Canada back to Europe, and even letters to POWs can be found at reasonable prices to illustrate the procedures. Internees in Holland also received and sent mail to Canada that can be collected.

## Russia and Siberia, 1918–1919

Applied in northern Russia “Passed by Censor” and in Siberia the “Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force” markings and other scarce envelope marks are very collectible. However, like some of the others, they are difficult to find and command a premium at the dealers’ booth or on the auction floor.

## World War II, 1939–1945

World War II material is a very popular area to collect, very well supported by study groups (see the BNAPS web site for study group information), by dealers’ stocks at the bourses at stamp shows, and by the various auction houses around the world. There are many areas of specialization: field post offices, CAPO, NPO, censor, regimental, orderly room, hospital and POW markings, cigarette acknowledgement cards and stationery, including V-Mail, and Christmas aerogrammes, just to mention a few.



*Prisoner of War and Internment Mail.* A number of very fine collections have been amassed telling the story of internment and POW camps. One might look at mail from German POWs in Canada sent to Germany, or at mail items from Canadian POWs sent back to Canada. One area of interest has

always been the POW parcel labels and their markings. POW mail from Canadians held by the Japanese is probably the hardest to find because much of this mail never made it to Canada. Most mail routes to Japan were closed fairly early in the war. Also, the Japanese government discarded some POW mail headed for Canada.

*U.S. Bases in Canada and Newfoundland.* The United States maintained a number of military bases in Canada and Newfoundland, and their mail is most collectible. The most readily available are from military member's mail from the building sites along the route of the ALCAN (Alaska-Canada) Highway and a number of Army Air Corp bases in Newfoundland.

*Canadian Bases in the U.S.* The biggest interest in this area comes from covers mailed from Adak and Sitka in Alaska's Aleutian Islands, where Canada played a major part in the defeat of the Japanese in the Aleutian Islands. CPC No. 1 and CAPO 51 postmarks were applied by Canadian army postal clerks there in 1943.

*Canadian involvement with the United Nations*

*Korea.* The Canadian armed forces were very much involved with the war in Korea, and there is quite a bit of collectible material from this era. The material is not as readily available as that from WWII but is out there to find.

*Peace Keeping.* Canada has been involved with all the major peace-keeping activities the United Nations has been involved in and postal markings are available from all these various activities. These include Vietnam after the peace accords in 1973.

Military mail is a semi-modern to modern collecting area. There are many study groups available to the collector. Dealers generally carry stock that runs the gamut from very expensive to very affordable. In this area of BNA philately, there is still room for much work and study.

## XV. RAILWAY MAIL

RPOs offer endless and fascinating study. If there is a part of you that loves trains, then collecting RPOs propels you into the glorious saga of the development of our railways. From the Newfie Bullet, through the Maritimes, along the Grand Trunk between Quebec and Windsor, across the country on the Canadian Pacific transcontinental; it's a memorable trip. While these main routes did yeoman's service in moving the mail efficiently over great distances, the smaller railways and branch lines offer surprises to the RPO student.

RPO is the abbreviation for Railway Post Office. RPO also refers to postmarks applied by railway mail clerks on board the mail cars. They span the 1850s to 1971, paralleling the development and decline of Canada's railway system. Early RPOs often can be recognized by the name of the railway in the postmark—WELLAND RAIL ROAD and CENTRAL ONTARIO RWY. are among those seen. RPOs were first used in Canada in 1853 on the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, the Canadian portion of the line running between Montreal and Portland, Maine.

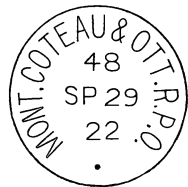
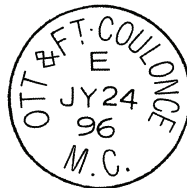
The first Canadian RPO is shown at the left. The next figures show two hammers used 1854-55. Other initials may be found on RPO cancels, such as MC for mail car, PC for postal car, RyPO or RwyPO for railway post office, and PO car. Most RPO cancels have an '&' connecting an origin and a destination, although the same hammer was used in both directions. Most early RPOs indicate the direction the train was travelling, being

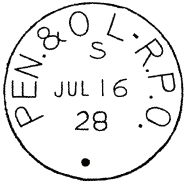
shown in the cancellation by the words or letters UP, DOWN, E, W, N, S, SOUTH, EAST, etc. The cancel shown below indicates, for example, that the mail car was travelling east from Fort Coulonge to Ottawa.



Later the directions were generally replaced by the train number of the particular run. Many collectors have a collateral collection of timetables relevant to their interests. Examination of a CN timetable for

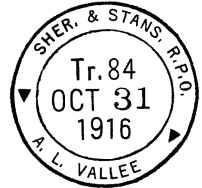
train 48 shows that the train was travelling east (Ottawa to Montreal via Coteau Station) when the mail clerk cancelled the letter. The cancel shown was postmarked on train 48.





TPOs (Travelling Post Offices) and other marine postmarks used in post offices on steamboats and ships are also studied. Newfoundland had many TPOs, as many of the outports could only be reached by sea. The cancel at the left shows that the letter came from the steamboat travelling south from Okanagan Landing, BC to Penticton.

Mail clerks were tested regularly for sorting accuracy and speed, RPO clerks being subject to higher standards than other clerks. As the train rolled down the track, the postal clerk was in the mail car sorting and postmarking mail. Bags were filled to be dropped off and others taken on. On some runs, a large number of clerks were involved and many hammers were needed in the mail car. The inclusion of a number, such as No. 5 or No. 6, meant that sorting errors could be traced back to the clerk responsible.



Hammers 5 and 6 on the examples shown here were assigned to clerks on the busy railway run between Calgary and Edmonton.

As a condition of employment, the RPO clerk had to purchase a private handstamp. Seen in a variety of shapes, they were to be used on internal paperwork—facing slips, bag tags, and letter bills—but they occasionally may be found on cover, contrary to post office regulations. Examples of private mail clerk handstamps are shown here.

The Railway Post Office Study Group of BNAPS has published 6 newsletters a year for the last 36 years. All aboard!



### RPOs

What to collect?

- A particular route - Quebec and Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver
- A geographic region - RPOs of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Southwestern Ontario
- A railway - Grand Trunk Railway, The Great Western Railway
- A particular period - Victorian, Edward VII, George V, George VI, Elizabethan
- Hammer studies - the classification of similar postmarks offers hours of squinty fun

## Paquebot Covers

Here is an area just waiting for a major collection to be formed. There are many world-wide ship cancel collections but few dedicated to Canadian material! A little background: At the 1897 UPU Congress held in Washington DC, it was agreed that the French word “Paquebot” would be the international word meaning “posted at sea.” To get a mail piece into the mail stream under UPU rules, mail posted on board a ship using the postage available on that ship would be dropped off at the next port of call. One could arrange a Canadian Paquebot collection in three sections. First, one could show Canadian stamps bearing foreign post-marks. We know that more than 20 countries postmarked Canadian postage with a Paquebot cancel. We are sure there are many more out there to find. The second area of collecting might be foreign stamps bearing a Canadian postmark. We believe this is

the area of greatest potential in your Paquebot collection.

Pictured here is an example of a Canadian Pacific Steamships Ltd. letter card from the SS *Empress of France* that has been franked with Great Britain ½d and 1d stamps paying the postage rate from Great Britain to the U.S. The stamps have



been cancelled at Quebec, as that was the first port of call.

Probably the most difficult area to collect would be the third segment—Canadian stamps used on mail addressed to Canada but still carried on board a ship. This would be particularly difficult for trans-Pacific steamship mail because trans-Atlantic mail is more common. The ports of Vancouver and Victoria used Paquebot cancels on mail coming to Canada, as did Chinese, Japanese, and Australian ports. For a number of years, New Zealand had marine post offices (with cancels) on ships that arrived in British Columbia.

Canada has many thousands of miles of coastline and many remote coastal communities were served by coastal steamer. An envelope posted on a coastal steamer might receive a “Way Mail” cancel indicating it was posted along the way and would enter the postal system at the first port of call with regular postal service.

A dedicated Canadian Paquebot collection could be a truly interesting collection, and a world class exhibit if your collecting interests take you along the exhibiting road.

## XVI. THEMATIC, CARD, AND COVER COLLECTING

### Topical Collecting

Collecting a specific topic on stamps generally isn't restricted to a single country, but Canada is one country where a restricted topical collection is very easy to assemble. For some people this is an interesting area to start a stamp collection, or to tutor a child or grandchild on stamp collecting.

I would certainly recommend going to a current stamp catalogue such as *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, where in the back of the book one can find a list of over 115 various topics that can be collected. The largest topics



include but are not limited to: Airplanes, Animals, Buildings, Centennials, Christmas, Emblems and Logos, Flags, Flowers, Hockey, Maple Leaf, People, Ships and Boats, Sports, Transportation, Trees and Water (ocean, rivers, bays etc). One of the most impressive areas one could collect is the "Animals" area. Most of Canada's animal stamps commemorate her endangered species. This very important area has many beautiful stamps associated with it. Recently voted

Canada's most beautiful stamp, the \$8 Grizzly Bear stamp probably is the crown jewel in a Canadian animal topical collection.

Another great topic, and one for which there are many inexpensive and colorful stamps available, is Canada's flag. Most of the Canadian stamps depicting her flag have been very colorful and a joy to behold on a page. Such a collection has a known start date, June 1, 1965, and the designs continue to be issued.

If you want to include postal history in a topical collection, you could look to the Royal Visit of 1939 or flag cancels on envelopes. There have been gold medal-level collections formed around these two topical ideas. Another area of study involves the first flights of the various airmail routes within Canada. Here again is an area of study where high-level awards have been garnered with such a collection. Topical collecting can be a lot of fun and an educational experience for the collector as the collection builds.

### Mourning Covers

Mourning covers are envelopes with black borders around the perimeter to indicate a death in the sender's family. There are also examples of mourning covers with a black border around the stamp. These are quite difficult to find because a 'collar' as it is known to the post office was not allowed by them. The placing of a black border around the envelope is a tradition started in Victorian England.





When the Prince Consort to Queen Victoria died, she went into mourning (this was to last for the rest of her life) and she ordered that all her stationery have a black border to signify her mourning. This practice was soon picked up by the general public. Canada was no exception. The use of mourning covers passed from favor during the reign of King George VI and seems to have

totally disappeared today. One protocol seems to have risen during the period of use of such covers and that is that the width of the border tends to indicate the closeness of the person being mourned. Illustrated at the left is a Small Queen cover with a very thick border, which would tend to say that the person being mourned was extremely close to the letter writer. A good collection of mourning covers would be a very colorful collection indeed!

### Patriotic Covers

An interesting and newly developing area of study is the collecting of patriotic cacheted covers. A patriotic cover is one that offers an advertisement in support of the country in time of war or danger. Some of the earliest patriotic covers of



Canada are from the Boer War. Many were produced by a company called J. C. Wilson Company. These are very colorful and complex in design. These early patriotic covers were often used to enhance a collection that was devoted to the study of the war. Many are hard to find and are expensive when they are found.

Patriotic covers from much more modern times, especially WWII, are more moderately priced and more readily available. One of the growing areas of patriotic cover collecting is that of the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Series put out by McMillan in the early 1940s. Over 170 of his various covers have been identified. A list of these covers can be found on the BNAPS web site at [www.BNAPS.org/Education](http://www.BNAPS.org/Education) . An example of a McMillan patriotic is at the top of the next page.

There are a tremendous number of WWII patriotic covers with different cachets. Collecting them would be both a lot of fun and provide a colorful collection.



In the subject of patriotic covers, one could also include those covers that have a patriotic slogan cancel. Included might be the V ●●●—, the “Enlist Now,” or the myriad of other slogan cancels developed during

the war. Many of these cancels were used at numerous cities across Canada, and collecting one from each city would be a nice challenge. You might even extend your collection to include the earliest and latest recorded dates in each city.

Collecting areas such as these require back up information, and the BNAPS book department is a likely source for all your needs. Remember that as a member of BNAPS, you can get a significant discount on the books of your choice.

## XVII. SPECIALTY STUDIES

**Registration and Acknowledgement of Receipt Studies.** In 1855, the Canadian Post Office began registering mail, particularly mail with money, contracts, or other valuable paper instruments, as well as parcel post items, to better track them and reduce theft. This service cost extra. Initially paid with stamps, in 1875 stamps were issued specifically for registering domestic mail, mail to the U.S., and mail to England, with three differently colored stamps. The stamps were required until 1889; their use was largely discontinued by the mid 1890s. Registration remains to this day an optional service, and collectors specialize in the rates and types of mail that could and can be registered. Registration was available after 1878 for mail to UPU countries, and collectors look for examples sent to various destinations. Airmail and special delivery were additional services that could be added to the registration, but are uncommon.