

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 5th 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 . 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.



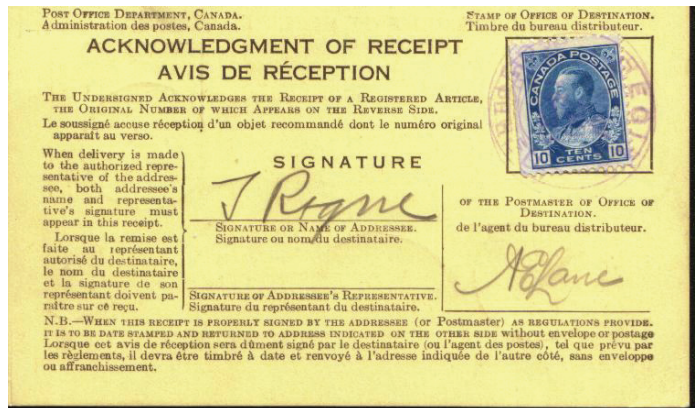
Another service associated with registration was acknowledgement of receipt (AR), which for a fee let a mailer require signature by the recipient. This would be accomplished by the receiving post office sending back a postal card for that purpose, indicating date of receipt and the receiver's signature. This service was available at time of mailing of the registered item, or later for an extra fee. Examples of the latter are rare in almost any period.

New services have been added in the last two decades; they are associated with express mail and private carriers that contract with Canada Post for expedited service. Canada Post has issued various envelopes and cardboard mailers for this purpose, and these will form the specialty collecting of the future.

Registration handstamps that identified registered letters were created as soon as the service was started. They continue to this day and are widely collected. Single-line REGISTERED boxes, ovals with R inside, and boxes with city name and space for a registration number are all collectible. Railway mail facilities aboard trains had canceling devices that form a specialty area in registration. There is much research yet to be done in this fascinating cancel-collecting area.

Special Delivery

Special delivery was a service the post office provided for certain cities in which delivery to the address would be expedited. With excellent railroad service throughout Canada by 1898, the service was initially made available to seven cities. This was expanded in 1908 and again in the next decade. An extra fee was charged and a special stamp created to identify such mail. Reciprocal special delivery service between Canada and the U.S. officially started in 1923. Mailers to the U.S., and from the U.S. to Canada, could put their own country's special delivery stamp on



the envelope, and the service would begin at the border. Previously, U.S. special delivery stamps were available at the larger Canadian city post offices for that



purpose, as were Canadian special delivery stamps at major U.S. city post offices. In 1942, airmail special delivery stamps were issued that combined the fees. Special delivery stamps were discontinued after 1946, since ordinary stamps had always been accepted to pay the fee. Special delivery services were discontinued in 1990,

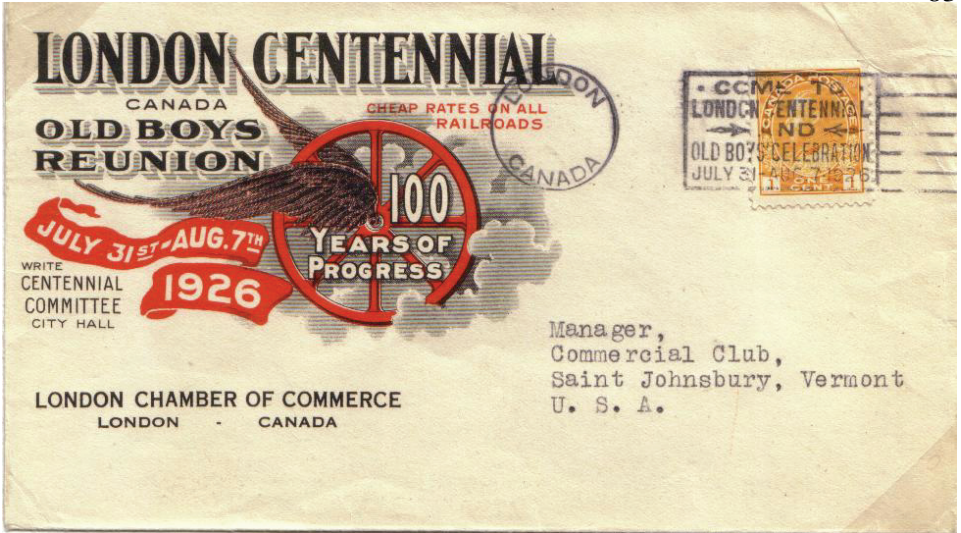
but similar services are available today under different names. Special cancels identified with special delivery began to appear in the 1920s through 1990, and many of those canceling devices were used on the new classes of mail after 1990. Much research remains to be done, especially in the modern era.

County and City Collecting

Perhaps the greatest change in Canadian stamp collecting has occurred in the last few decades with collectors of their city, county, region, or province history including postal history. This has added many collectors who did not collect traditionally but were interested in the growth of their area. Genealogy has also contributed to that collecting. The focus on postal history includes postmarks of towns, covers to or from persons of note in that area at various times, corner covers and cards of commercial enterprises in that area, and artifacts of government, companies, hotels, restaurants, etc. that accompany correspondence or expand the collection into thematic areas.

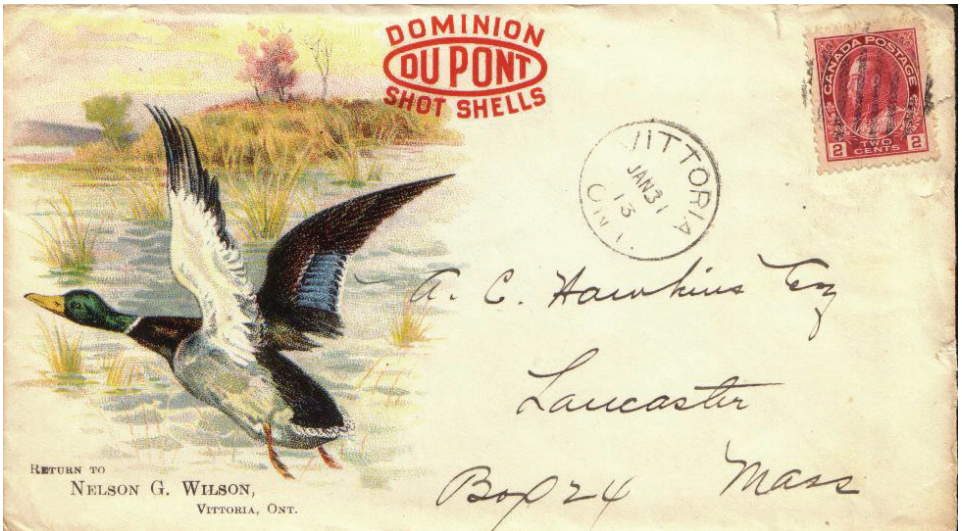
Fairs and Exhibitions.

Beginning in the late 1880s and continuing to modern times, county, provincial, and national fairs and exhibitions promoted their venues by providing post cards and covers that advertised the dates and activities. Some are multicolor and extremely attractive. Some collectors only focus on one town or activity, such as the Calgary Stampede or the Canadian National Exhibition, while others may collect all in a particular province. The heyday of these covers occurred during the Edward era into the George V pre-WWI years. After the war the use of these covers for advertising re-emerged but died down by the 1930s, although they continue today. In addition to printed designs on covers, labels can be found on covers, as well as both post office slogans and meter advertising.



Advertising Covers

What a marvelous area within our hobby to collect! Advertising covers are found coming from the dawn of the hobby itself right up to present day. From earliest days companies put their ads on their envelopes. Some-times it was just a return address in the upper left corner. These covers are termed "corner cards." Other companies printed elaborate advertisements on the envelope itself, and these are called "advertising covers." Recently a major award was given to a lady who showed



a collection of hotel advertising covers.

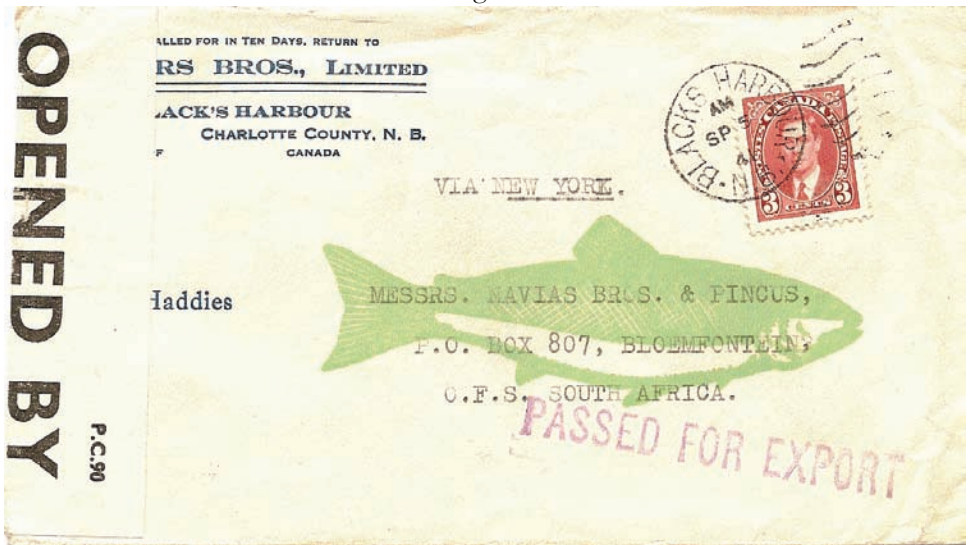
The late 19th and early 20th centuries were probably the zenith for advertising covers. More recent years have seen them continue, but their use has slowed as companies become more and more cost conscious. Collectors tend to collect

these by topic area such as typewriters, hotels, horses, fur farms and sellers, farm implements, hardware, guns and ammo, book sellers, or newspapers.

We think the advertising covers of the 20th and 21st centuries are very collectible. We also think they may be scarcer than most people understand, particularly from the last few decades. We would suggest you look at collecting advertising covers two ways:

National Companies: One of the most popular is the Canadian Hudson's Bay Company. Shown in the Arctic topic section is a Hudson's Bay Company cover with its red ensign cachet. Another national company that made great advertising covers was the Bulova Watch Company. The company printed a common ad on their envelopes, but each dealer's store could add their own name and return address to the design. I don't think anyone has ever identified how many different Bulova covers there are waiting for your collection. Gun and ammunition companies are also very popular.

Local Advertising: Here the field is wide open and the potential is infinite. Show below is a really nice "all over" advertising cover from the Connors Brothers of New Brunswick. An "all over" advertising cover is one in which the advertisement

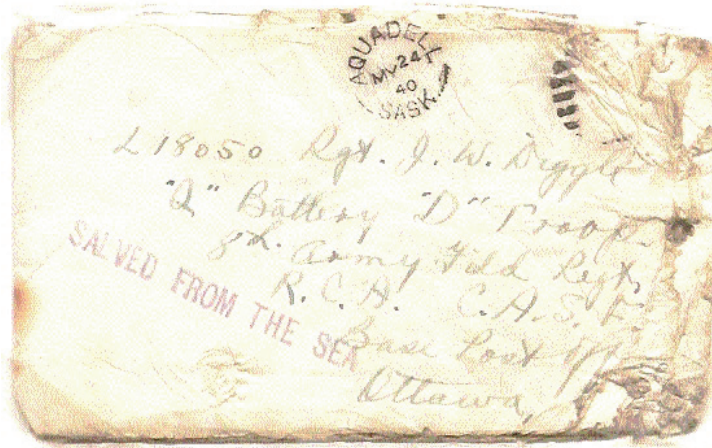


covers the whole envelope. This cover shows a cod fish on the body of the envelope addressed to South Africa during WWII. The envelope has also been opened for inspection by a wartime censor.

The subject of collecting advertising covers is so big you will probably have to limit yourself to a theme (autos, farm machinery, hotels, etc.) or possibly to a location. I have a friend who has developed a very nice collection of advertising covers from Vancouver BC. This is a collecting area where the constraints are only those you put on yourself.

Interrupted Mail

“Neither rain nor snow, nor sleet nor dark of night shall stay these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds” says the supposed creed of postal services. Fire, train wrecks, airplane crashes, robberies, labor stoppages, and war can sure play havoc with mail delivery and herein lies a wonderful potential postal history collection. Collecting interrupted mail, or crash covers as they are sometimes referred to, is a never-ending potential collection because there will always be something that can interrupt the delivery of the mail.



Pictured on this page is a cover that was taken off a torpedoed ship in the North Atlantic Ocean during WWII. The wounded ship *S.S. Eros* was towed by ocean-going tug to the coast of Ireland, where she was beached and the mailbags

removed and forwarded. The stamp is missing as you might expect on a cover that has been immersed in seawater but the letter got delivered. On the front of the cover is the British handstamp SALVED FROM THE SEA.

Collecting Picture Post Cards. Many Canadian stamp collectors also save picture post cards. There are several reasons for saving post cards and several ways to collect them. You may want to save picture post cards of post offices, or perhaps your hometown. You might even use the picture post cards to complement your stamp collection. Transportation-themed cards could be used to show how the mail was moved. Many stamp collectors and postal historians will collect post cards for their address side (not the picture) as illustrations of the postal markings.

Those who choose to collect the picture side of the post card may elect to choose pioneer post cards (produce in 1903 or earlier), patriotic cards (with their fancy printings), or cards produced by specific companies or photographers.

There are two basic types of post cards: printed cards and real photographs. The former are usually less expensive to collect than the latter, but scarce printed cards can also be costly. Printed post cards typically depict scenes that would be visited, places like Niagara Falls as an example. Small towns and resorts would usually have real photo cards; because of their limited printing, they are scarcer and harder to find than printed cards. They also are finer examples of photographic art than are most printed cards.



Manitoba and then back. Between 1935 and 1939, the *S.S. Nascopie* was the EAP ship and she carried north large quantities of philatelic mail. These easily-available covers bear postmarks from far-north offices such as Craig Harbour, Lake Harbour, and Pond Inlet, Northwest Territories. The difficulty level rises when one looks for EAP postmarks,



registered covers, covers from years before 1935 and after 1939, covers from non-post office points, and commercial (not contrived) mail. Hudson's Bay Company envelopes from the Arctic add color to a collection. The *Nascopie* carried a few covers from Greenland to Canada during World War II. The *Nascopie* grounded and was wrecked in July 1947; covers that survived the wreck

Gradually, catalogues of major Canadian post card series are being compiled, but coverage is far from complete. No matter whether one's collection is a research-type collection or a collection of picture post cards as a supplement to philately, their accumulation is an enjoyable endeavor. This is an area of philately in its infancy and there is lots of room for you to jump in and start something completely new. Finding a gem of a post card and studying it under a magnifying glass, one quickly realizes that a picture really is worth a thousand words.

Arctic and Northwest Mails. The collection of mail carried to or from the Canadian Arctic is fascinating. When one determines the route it has taken, a collector often finds that the cover has survived a very difficult trip. Each summer from 1932 to 1962, there was an expedition (called the Eastern Arctic, Patrol or EAP) that carried a ship-borne post office north to the Arctic from Montreal, going as far as Churchill,

are available. Other Arctic mail to add to a collection includes covers from United States Army Post Offices in the Canadian Arctic, and covers from weather and DEW Line stations. Mail from the western Arctic is also very desirable. Towns on the Mackenzie River have been served by airmail since 1929. Earlier mail is very scarce. In winter, mail often was carried by dog teams. Mail carried through the Northwest Passage combines both the eastern and western Arctic.

XVIII. REVENUES

Federal Revenues

Revenue stamps are used to pay a fee, tax, or credit to a governmental department or authority. These have a long history in both British and Canadian history. A catalogue by E. S. Van Dam is widely used by revenue collectors, and for advanced information the series of eight catalogues by E. Zaluski provide the most recent information compiled about various types of revenues.



Revenues can be organized a variety of ways. Federal issues of stamps included three Bill Stamp issues beginning in 1864, the third contemporaneous with the Large Queens in 1868 and early printings of the Small Queens in 1870. The stamps are generally reasonable in price except for a few dollar values. Some impressive errors exist as imperforate varieties as well as a rare two-color \$2 stamp with an inverted center. Gas inspection stamps were produced for Victoria, Edward, and George V reigns, and as electricity became used at the turn of the century,

electric light inspection stamps were issued, then combined gas and electricity inspection stamps. Mostly these are inexpensive, and imprint blocks are commonly available for most values at reasonable cost. Weights and measures stamps were issued from 1876 up to 1930 and are also generally inexpensive. The Supreme Court of Canada issued stamps associated with petitions and submissions of documents from 1876 to 1938. Included are some of the most expensive revenues, the "In Prize" overprints used during World War I for legal documents related to the capture of German shipping and their disposition as war prizes.

Customs duty stamps were issued in 1912 and 1935, and they can be found on incoming covers that were dutiable. War Tax stamps were issued during World War I for use on a variety of goods and services, as were excise tax stamps. The latter were continued in various issues through World War II, many used on cigarettes, for example. During World Wars I and II, there were war savings stamps that citizens bought to support the effort. They were payable with interest after the war. Small values were pasted into booklets that had to be completed to receive the interest and value. One of the rarest revenue stamps is a \$5 French language version of a WWI savings stamp.

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Other types of Federal revenues include consular fee stamps, embossed cheque stamps, medicine stamps, playing card stamps, postal note stamps, unemployment insurance stamps, lock seals (used at distilleries and excise warehouses), and petroleum stamps.

Provincial Revenues

Most provinces produced revenue stamps for various tax collection, including law stamps related to filing legal documents, telephone tax stamps (as telephones became commonly used), and various special taxes. Newfoundland issued inland revenue stamps from 1898 to the 1940s as a separate colony, and other issues as part of Canada. It also issued customs duty, war savings, transportation tax, and a beer stamp in 1938. Interestingly, Cape Breton, which is part of Nova Scotia, issued separate law stamps associated with their law library.

Several of the provinces also issued hunting and conservation stamps, as did the Federal government beginning in 1985. These are quite popular. In particular, Alberta has a great variety of wildlife hunting stamps.

Tobacco Stamps

Tobacco stamps were issued from 1868 onward. The stamps were usually rated in terms of weight for bulk tobacco, or in number of cigarettes or cigars. Many types



of tobacco were produced either internally in Canada or imported as raw tobacco and produced as finished products. These received different colors and stamps. Some of the stamps were used to band packages and are almost 23" long. Almost all were un gummed, intended to be pasted onto the package for which they were intended. A catalogue by Lee Brandom in 1976 is the most recent and comprehensive listing of the tobacco stamps of Canada and Newfoundland. The latter issued a small number of stamps, and they are much scarcer than the Canadian

stamps. At present there are no expensive tobacco stamps of Canada, although recent interest has driven prices upward significantly.

Tobacco stamps can be collected as singles or in sheets. Most have serial numbers on them to maintain records of use. Some have plate numbers and imprints, or coupon receipts that were intended to be torn off once the stamps were used. A great many remainders were held and later sold to collectors when late 19th century stamps were no longer used. These were erroneously labeled as proofs, but are in fact regular stamps that never received serial numbers. Recently a large number of plate proofs on india paper pasted on card have become available from the American Bank Note Company sale of proofs that took place in 1990. A few die proofs exist but they are rare and expensive.

XIX. PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Most specialists soon accumulate articles, catalogues, and books related to their topics. Often, as collecting interests change, the accumulation approaches library size. Some collectors become so interested in the philatelic literature that they specialize in the works themselves. This collecting can greatly aid in understanding a specialty area or an entire field of collecting, but may simply be the collecting bug focused on the literature. A few decades ago, it was at least feasible to assemble a reasonably complete worldwide philatelic literature library, and quite a few comprehensive collections were developed. More recently the sheer volume of books on all the different collecting areas probably prohibits ever again pursuing completeness. Even in BNA philately, the expansion of major reference works from about ten in 1970 to hundreds today requires a significant expenditure, as new works quite commonly command \$100+ each. Nevertheless, a time-tested recommendation is that spending money on a library always pays off, particularly in advanced knowledge that develops a keen eye for rare items not seen by others. We can attest to this personally because many rarities have come our way for the price of the ordinary item because of our libraries.

Libraries typically consist of four elements: books, auction catalogues, articles from philatelic journals, and newspapers. More recently, scans and listings from internet auctions and sites are saved. At the end of this work, we list what we feel is a list of the general works most BNA collectors will find useful. Beyond those, searches of various stamp society websites, such as the BNAPS site, will lead to more specialized works. Also, online searches using good browsers such as Google or a good research library can quickly locate additional works. While many auction companies have BNA stamps for sale, the auction catalogues typically collected are those of companies that specialize in BNA material or who occasionally conduct auctions predominantly or entirely of BNA material. The only current stamp newspaper that emphasizes BNA material is the *Canadian Stamp News*. The majority of specialized research articles will be found in *BNA Topics* (journal of BNAPS), *Maple Leaves* (journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain), and the *PHSC Journal* of the Postal History Society of Canada. Addresses of these societies

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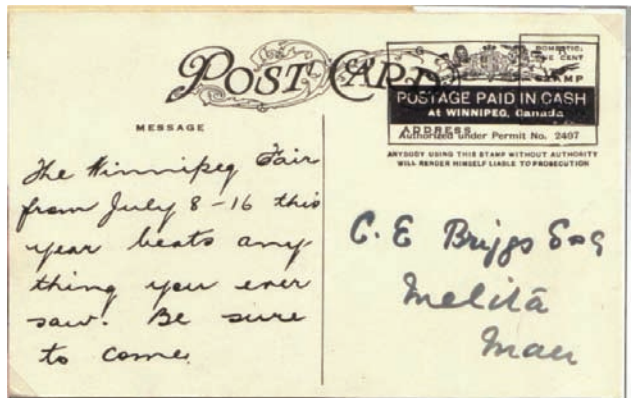
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The internet has already changed the way collecting is done through online auctions and websites. Material that was difficult to find a decade ago now is often seen through these venues. For personal use, it is quite permissible to copy an image from the computer to store it either electronically or in print. Since the image is owned by the person who has established the website (or the image is used by permission of another owner), in general it is not permissible to use that image in any public way without obtaining permission from the owner. The law varies by country, however, and one must verify the permissible usages where one lives. In our own experience, we have seen and documented items that have never before been described, such as new plate flaws in stamps and new destinations and frankings. The discoveries themselves cannot in general be copyrighted since they appear in a public venue, so that they may be described, even though without permission the image cannot be used. We have found most image holders are very generous in permitting use of their image for nonprofit uses.

XX. PERMIT MARKS AND METER CANCELS

Permit Mail

Starting in the year 1903, companies mailing large volumes of advertising and catalogues no longer were required to put stamps on each item. They could print on each cover or card a boxed mark very like a stamp that indicated the town of mailing and the permit number that they were assigned by the Post



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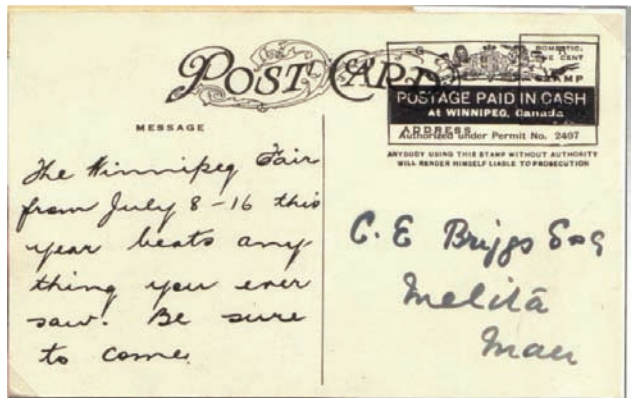
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Meter Cancels.

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were used by larger companies in the 1920s. Other companies competed for business and different types can be collected to show the varieties used. While never having the interest that stamped mail generates, from a postal history perspective, metered mail shows the same usage, and for modern mail it may be the primary way to show many postal rates. Early metered mail from the 1920s and 1930s to foreign destinations, for example, is quite scarce. Advertising covers and slogans add greatly to their appeal.

XXI. MAJOR SOCIETIES ASSOCIATED WITH CANADIAN PHILATELY

Stamp collecting and postal history collecting societies are numerous, and many might help you study your specialization. For example, a person who specializes in Canada's involvement in WWII might find advantages in belonging not only to a Canadian society but to any one of the numerous societies dedicated to the study of WWII. Listed below are the four key societies that focus on the stamps and postal history of Canada.

Canadian-Oriented Philatelic Societies

(A) BNAPS (The British North America Philatelic Society)

BNAPS, the sponsor of this book, is a society dedicated to the study of Canadian philately. You can reach them online at www.BNAPS.org.

Membership carries many privileges:

1. BNAPS produces two quarterly journals. *BNA Topics* is a scholarly publication containing many articles on varied Canadian philatelic subjects. *BNAPortraitS* is a quarterly journal that contains the business issues and news of BNAPS.
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- that meets for a long weekend annually. Noncollecting spouses or partners are always welcome, and some great friendships can be developed through attendance at regional group meetings.
3. Study Group membership provides contact among members having similar specialty interests. BNAPS has an ever-increasing number of study groups as one of its foundations. We like study group membership because it allows us to put forward different ideas so that the other members can critique them, and support or explain them by showing pertinent material. This sharing of information allows the hobby to grow. As a new member in BNAPS, you will get a year's free membership in any study group you want. Study group membership is not expensive (the fees usually just cover the cost of mailing newsletters).
 4. BNAPEX is the acronym for the annual get together of BNAPS members. This three-day event moves from city to city in North America. It usually has a bourse with many of the best Canadian dealers available in one location. There is usually a 120–180 frame stamp exhibit with a showing of some of the finest Canadian stamp exhibits in existence.
 5. BNAPS is dedicated not only to publishing meaningful books on the topic of collecting BNA but also to creating books showing some of the great exhibits created by members of BNAPS (see section XXII). Members of BNAPS get a significant discount on the books published by BNAPS; in fact the discount on a book sometimes can be large enough to pay for your annual dues in BNAPS.
 6. BNAPS also carries stamps and postal history items for sale on their web site. Members who want to make things available to a knowledgeable market place use this sales area.

(B) CPS of GB (Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain)

Established in the 1930s, this society was established to support collectors of Canadian philately who resided in Great Britain. It is now one of the premier Canadian philatelic societies, and deserves your time and attention.

1. The CPS of GB publishes a quarterly journal titled *Maple Leaves* and, like *BNA Topics*, it is a scholarly journal with many and varied subjects written by some of the most recognized names in BNA philately.
2. The CPS of GB maintains an interesting and useful web site at www.canadianpsgb.org.uk, where interesting articles maybe found. At this web site, you'll see that membership fees for this society can be paid in pounds, or even in USA or Canadian dollars. This is convenient for those of us in North America.
3. CPS of GB holds an annual convention in the British Isles. This convention is noted for its social side, with many programs designed to entertain the noncollecting partner.
4. The society maintains an extensive lending library for members. Its catalogue lists the weights of publications held. Mailing costs might be

such that borrowing books by U.S. or Canadian members may best be done through BNAPS or the American Philatelic Society.

5. CPS of GB holds two auctions a year, providing another location for collectors of BNA material to find relatively hard to locate items.

(C) PHSC (Postal History Society of Canada)

This society is dedicated to the postal history side of collecting Canada, and produces an excellent journal.

1. The *PHSC Journal* is a quarterly publication that by all measures is a high-quality publication, with articles written on many subjects concerning postal history.
2. The society has two web pages. At www.postalhistorycanada.org, the member or collector can link to many other societies and study groups. This web site also has a number of features open to all collectors, including some articles, lists of new Canadian post offices, and lists of trans-Pacific steamship sailings. In addition, for members, at www.postalhistorycanada.net there is a developing database web site containing back issues of the *Journal* and some study-group newsletters, and lists of Canadian post offices and their postmarks. Certain data are open to all collectors.
3. The PHSC has a number of active study groups available.

(D) SHPQ (Société d'Histoire Postale du Quebec)

SHPQ is a French-language philatelic society, highly regarded but without an English translation available. Membership here is recommended for anyone collecting the mails of Quebec.

1. SHPQ produces a journal—*Les bureaux de poste du Quebec*—dedicated to the study of the postal history of Quebec.
2. The society maintains a French-language web site at www.shpq.org.

Generalist Philatelic Societies

Earlier in this section, we described societies that serve the collectors of BNA material. There are a few societies serving the general stamp or postal history collectors that bear a mention in this book. The two most important generalist societies for those of us in North America are the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and the American Philatelic Society.

(A) RPSC (Royal Philatelic Society of Canada)

Canada's national society serves all collectors and produces the *Canadian Philatelist*, its philatelic journal, six times a year. Subjects in this journal can be anything dealing with stamps, shows, judging, and the many things we philatelists desire. Information about the RPSC can be found at www.rpsc.org.

1. Probably the most important service offered to the collector is the insurance available at a discounted rate.
2. The society has sales circuits available; the member must bear the expense of mailing the circuits.

3. There are numerous chapters (local stamp clubs) around Canada, and a complete list of them is available on their web site and in each issue of the *Canadian Philatelist*.
4. The RPSC is the “keeper of the keys” when it comes to philatelic judging in Canada. The RPSC gives accreditation to Canadian regional-level, national-level, and international-level philatelic judges.
5. There are numerous slide programs available for those who wish to present a program at their local club.
6. The RPSC holds an annual convention, and exhibiting and winning a high award at their Royal/Royale show is major accomplishment.
7. On the RPSC web site, there are useful suggestions about estate planning.

(B) APS (American Philatelic Society)

Very similar to the RPSC, the APS offers the same amenities as the RPSC. For those of us living in the USA, the insurance program is more logical because insuring across the border is sometimes impossible. The society can be found on line at www.stamps.org.

1. The APS produces *The American Philatelist*, its monthly stamp journal. It is a very well done magazine. Like the *Canadian Philatelist*, *The American Philatelist* has articles on all kinds of stamp issues.
2. The APS sponsors a number of nationally-ranked philatelic events around the USA. The winner of each of these stamp shows gets to compete in their Champion of Champions show held each year at their annual convention.

There are numerous societies out there that specialize in any number of particular topics. If you specialize in airmail within Canada, perhaps a membership in the American Air Mail Society would serve your needs. You will have to explore your area of specialization to determine if membership in any of these societies meets your needs.

XXII. CANADIAN LITERATURE RESOURCES

We have worried about how to write this section of our little book. While we could produce a long list of publications we have used over the years, that would only be of value to you if you want to collect what we do! However, we did promise to present a summary of useful books. We'll describe Canadian literature resources in two ways: first, through a list of publications that will help every BNA collector, then by direction to detailed, specialty publications.

Basic References. There are some classic books that every BNA collector should either own or be familiar with. Aside from numerous catalogues (mostly just lists of stamps and their prices), these three books describe Canada's earlier stamps.

The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, W.S. Boggs, Chambers Publishing, Kalamazoo, Michigan (1945). This two-volume book (available also as a reprint)

3. There are numerous chapters (local stamp clubs) around Canada, and a complete list of them is available on their web site and in each issue of the *Canadian Philatelist*.
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The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, W.S. Boggs, Chambers Publishing, Kalamazoo, Michigan (1945). This two-volume book (available also as a reprint)

describes early BNA stamps and postal history. It was based mainly on the comprehensive collection of Alfred Lichtenstein.

The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps. Volume V, North America, Robson Lowe, London, England (1973). This large book covers Canada to about 1950, and is especially helpful with early postage rates.

B.N.A. Book. Stamps of British North America, Fred Jarrett, privately published, Toronto (1929). This reference work was the competitive target of the Boggs volumes. Jarrett's large section on early postmarks is still very useful.

There are books devoted to single stamp issues. For example, the Large Queen stamps and their postal history are described in *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use 1868–1872* by H.E. & H.W. Duckworth. George Arfken (sometimes with colleagues) has produced postal history monographs on the Pence, Decimal, Small Queen, and late Victorian-Edward eras. Steinhart wrote a book on the Admiral era postal history. There are monographs devoted to the Small Queens by Hilson, to the Edward and Admiral stamps by Marler. Study groups and articles in journals have updated information from these books. Robin Harris has produced a series of book describing many of the Elizabethan stamps of Canada.

Articles in philatelic journals are essential information. Back issues of *BNAPS Topics* are online in the Horace Harrison Library on the BNAPS web site. A searchable index is available, too. The *Canadian Philatelist* is archived at the RPSC web site, and the PHSC web site allows its members to read the issues of the *PHSC Journal* online. The other major journal about BNA stamps is *Maple Leaves* by the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Specialized Publications. Today, you as stamp collectors—setting out on whatever specialization you choose—have a tremendous tool available to you and that is the Internet. With the Internet, you can access various archives, talk to strangers in foreign countries, and “Google” just about any question you have. We recommend that you utilize the www.BNAPS.org web site, look at the Education section, and read some of the articles on specialization that are there.

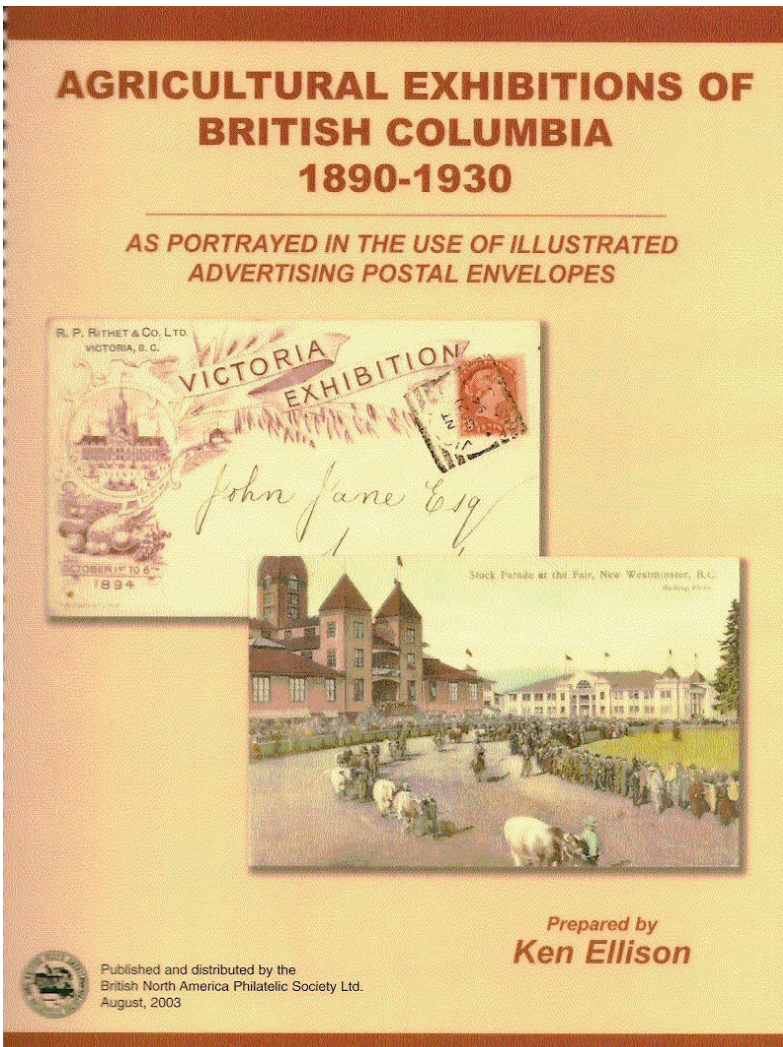
After determining your specialization, look at the BNAPS bookseller and see if there are books dedicated to your area of interest. There are books on individual types of cancels, books on revenue stamps, and books on areas of postal history. Look too at the very well regarded BNAPS Exhibit series. These books, which picture past medal-winning exhibits, are a treasure trove of information and technique on how to present a serious study. Many of the exhibits available in these books have been broken up and no longer exist. BNAPS has elected to record these fine exhibits in hopes of preserving our philatelic history.

As a member of BNAPS, think seriously about joining a study group that interests you. There you can share information or learn from other study group members. Some study groups have archived their newsletters (both BNAPS and PHSC have this feature). At the study-group level of publications, there is room for error; the members are trying to elicit other opinions or confirm their findings and

assumptions. As a member you are free to write up, or challenge what is being said in someone else's paper. It's this exchange of ideas that creates a finished idea that can then be *formally* published.

Shown below is an example of one of the booklets of the BNAPS Exhibit series, one on *Agricultural Exhibitions of British Columbia 1890–1930* by Ken Ellison. This is a pretty specialized collection but it shows what might be done, what is available, and how to present such a narrow topical subject.

Whatever you do, enjoy your collecting. If you are like us, you will find that it can be many years of fun.



AN INTRODUCTION TO BNAPS

The **British North America Philatelic Society Ltd., BNAPS**, is an international organization devoted to the collecting and study of the stamps, postal markings, and postal history of Canada and its pre-Confederation colonies. Whether you are at the start of your Canadian adventure or have already developed areas of expertise you will find a warm **BNAPS** welcome when you become a member. Our members, whether general collectors, respected dealers or distinguished authors, enjoy good conversation and correspondence about all aspects of BNA philately.

PUBLICATIONS

BNA Topics, the journal of BNAPS, is published quarterly and mailed to all members. Each issue is packed with information and original articles about BNA philately. The journal is fully indexed and a cumulative index for its first fifty years is available.

BNA PortraitS, the Society's newsletter, is also published quarterly and contains news about the social and business side of **BNAPS**.

The **BNAPS** publishing program regularly produces handbooks, catalogs and reproductions of members' award winning exhibits to further its educational objective of expanding the understanding of BNA philately.

BNAPS books are available to members at significant discounts from the retail price.

SPECIALIZED STUDY GROUPS

Popular areas of activity within BNAPS are the many study groups which afford members the opportunity to communicate with each other over shared interests. Each study group publishes its own newsletter in which members exchange opinions and report findings. The Study Groups are responsible for the seminar presentations at the annual conference; and, provide an opportunity for members to discuss their recent discoveries and puzzles.

BNAPS REGIONAL GROUPS

In several areas of Canada and the United States BNAPS members have formed regional groups which meet in addition to the annual convention. These meetings provide yet another opportunity for the discussion and swapping of BNA materials.

PHILATELIC EXCHANGE CIRCUITS

Members enjoy access to the web-based BNAPS exchange circuit and the opportunity of disposing of unwanted or duplicate material and acquiring new items at very reasonable prices – see what is available at <http://.bnaps.org/circuits/circuits.htm>

BNAPS Web Site <http://bnaps.org/>

BNAPS maintains an award winning web site which provides general and specialized information about BNA philately. Included are up-to-date sources of information about society activities, a puzzler page offering members philatelic challenges, a BNAPS youth site (to encourage younger collectors), links to relevant web sites and information about the history of **BNAPS**.

To become a member of **BNAPS** go to the BNAPS website and click on 'Join BNAPS'

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Each fall **BNAPS** meets for its convention and exhibition at locations alternating between Canada and the United States. If you have ever attended a typical stamp convention or commercial bourse and found yourself wandering about aimlessly knowing practically no one, then a **BNAPS** convention will be a real treat for you. Highlights of each convention include top-notch BNA exhibits by members, a nucleus of well stocked BNA dealers, study group seminars, and spouse activities. Here you will have a chance to meet and make friends with more collectors who share your interest than you ever thought possible.