

# The Stamps of Canada, Introduction

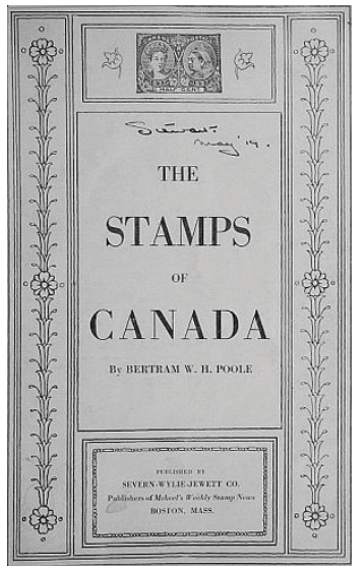
*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

With this issue we begin a new series, and expand our coverage of Canada to include the older issues as well as the new issues (see facing page).

In this case, "new" also is old, as one aspect will be a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole—the cover of which is reproduced here.

If you collect Canada, or you are interested in exploring the philately of Canada, we also have on StampNewsNow.com, under US & Worldwide Postal Services, articles on all of Canada's 2013 new issues. Also of interest to Canada collectors, advertisers who have a significant Canada stock include Eastern Auctions (see their ad this page) and Mark-Lane Stamps (see facing page).

And with that, we will begin our presentation of *The Stamps of Canada*.



is the system of lakes with an area of 90,000 square miles. In addition to the tributaries of the St. Lawrence already mentioned, the Dominion boasts the Fraser, the Thompson, and the greater part of the Columbia River in British Columbia; the Athabasca and Peace Rivers, which flow into Lake Athabasca, and out of it as the Slave River, which issues from the Great Slave Lake and flows into the Arctic Ocean as the Mackenzie River (total length 2,800 miles); the Albany and the Churchill, flowing into Hudson Bay, and the Nelson, which discharges from Lake Winnipeg into Hudson Bay the united waters of the Assiniboine, the Saskatchewan, the Red River and the Winnipeg.

West of the Great Lakes... From the lakes to the Rockies stretches a vast level plain of a prairie character, slowly rising from 800 feet at the east end to 3,000 feet at the foothills of the Rockies.

*To be continued*

## Introduction

Canada was originally the French colony of New France, which comprised the range of territory as far west as the Mississippi, including the Great Lakes. After the war of independence it was confined to what are now the provinces of Quebec and Ontario—then known as Upper and Lower Canada. At the confederation (1867) it included only these two provinces, with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; and since then it has been extended by purchase (1870), by accession of other provinces (British Columbia in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873), and by imperial order in council (1880), until it includes all the north American continent north of United States territory, with the exception of Alaska and a strip of the Labrador coast administered by Newfoundland, which [in 1915] still remains outside the Dominion of Canada.

On the Atlantic the chief indentations which break its shores are the Bay of Fundy (remarkable for its tides), the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Hudson Bay (a huge expanse of water with an area of about 350,000 square miles); and the Pacific coast... is remarkably broken up by fjord-like indentations. Off the coast are many islands, some of them of considerable magnitude,—Prince Edward Is., Cape Breton Is., and Anticosti being the most considerable on the Atlantic side, Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Is. on the Pacific; and in the extreme north is the immense Arctic archipelago, bound in perpetual ice.

The surface of the country east of the great lakes is diversified, but characterised by no outstanding features... The St. Lawrence and its tributaries form the dominating physical feature in this section, the other rivers being the St. John, the Miramichi, and the Restigouche in New Brunswick. Eastern Canada is practically the Canadian part of the St. Lawrence valley, (330,000 square miles), and the great physical feature

# The Stamps of Canada, Introduction Pt. 2

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

The eastern and western portions of the Dominion are heavily wooded, and comparatively little inroad has been made on the forest wealth of the country. It is estimated that there are 1,200,000 square miles of woodland and forest, chiefly spruce and pine, including about a hundred varieties; consequently the industries connected with the forest are of great importance, especially since the development of the pulp industry. The central prairie plain is almost devoid of forest. Agriculture is the dominant industry in Canada, not only in the great fertile plains of the centre, but also on the lands which have been cleared of forest and settled in other parts of the Dominion.

The Canadian climate is cold in winter and warm in summer, but healthy all the year round. With all its extremes of cold it permits of the cultivation in the open air of grapes, peaches, tobacco, tomatoes, and corn. The snow is an essential condition of the prosperity of the timber industry, the means of transport in winter, the protector of the soil from frost, and the source of endless enjoyment in outdoor sports.

The French Canadians are almost exclusively the descendants of the French in Canada in 1763, there being practically no immigration from France. The French language is by statute, not by treaty, an official language in the Dominion Parliament and in Quebec, but not now in any other province, though documents, etc., may for convenience be published in it. English is understood almost everywhere except in the rural parts of Quebec, where the habitants speak a patois which has preserved many of the characteristics of 17th century French.

The Indian people, numbering a little over 108,000 in 1902, are scattered throughout the Dominion. They are usually located on reserves, where efforts, not very successful, are made to interest them in agriculture and industry. Many of them still follow their ancestral occupations of hunting and fishing, and they are much sought after as guides in the sporting centres. The Dominion government exercises a good

deal of parental care over them and for them; but the race is stationary, if not declining.

The constitution of Canada is of a federal character, midway between the British and United States constitutions. The federated provinces retain their local legislatures. The Federal Parliament closely follows the British model, and the cabinet is responsible to the House of Commons.... The governor-general (appointed by the King, though paid by Canada) has a right to disallow or reserve bills for imperial consent; but the veto is seldom exercised, though the imperial authorities practically disallowed temporarily the preferential clauses of 1897. The Constitution of Canada can be altered only by Imperial Parliament, but for all practical purposes Canada has complete self-government.

In 1534, Jacques Cartier landed on the Gaspé coast of Quebec, of which he took possession in the name of Francis I, King of France. But nothing was done towards permanent occupation and settlement until 1608, when Samuel de Champlain, who had visited the country in 1603 and 1604, founded the city of Quebec. Meantime French settlements were made in what is now the maritime provinces, but known to the French as Acadia. France claimed, as a result of this settlement, exclusive control of the whole immense region from Acadia west to Lake Superior, and down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. But the control of this region was not uncontested. England claimed it by right of prior discovery, based mainly on the discovery of Newfoundland in 1497 by John Cabot.

In the north the charter granted in 1670 by Charles II to Prince Rupert to found the Hudson's Bay Company, with exclusive rights of trading in the Hudson Bay basin, was maintained till 1869, when, on



Canada 272: Forestry



Canada 271: Agriculture



Canada 250-751: Caribou Hunter, Walrus Hunt



Canada 159: Parliament



Canada 644-647, Winter Activities: Curling, Snowshoeing, Skiing, Skating



Canada 208: Cartier's arrival in Quebec



Canada 2156a: Champlain exploration



Canada 2290: 2008 Francophone Summit, Quebec



Canada 2044: Pierre Dugua de Mons, leader of French settlement in Acadia

a payment of \$1,500,000, their territory was transferred to the newly created Dominion of Canada. A long struggle was carried on between England and France for the dominion of the North American continent, which ended in the cession of Acadia by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, and the cession of Canada by the treaty of Paris in 1763. Of all its Canadian dependency France retained only the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the coast of Newfoundland, and the vexatious French-shore rights.



*St. Pierre & Miquelon C27:  
French arrival*

During the war of American Independence Canada was invaded by the Americans, and the end of the war saw a great influx of loyalists from the United States, and the formation of two new colonies—New Brunswick and Upper Canada (now Ontario).

The treaty of peace in 1783 took away from Canada territory now included within Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. In 1791, owing to differences of race, Upper Canada was separated from Lower Canada; but discontent resulted in rebellion in 1837-8 which occasioned Lord Durham's mission and report. The results of that were the granting of responsible government to the colonists, and in 1840 the reunion of the two provinces. But the different elements, British and French Canadians, worked no better together than they had done while separated; and in 1867, as an escape from the deadlocks which occurred, confederation was consummated.

After the War of Independence the history of Canada is chiefly concerned with the gradual removal of the commercial preferences she had enjoyed in the English market, and the gradual concession of

complete powers of self-government.

The [Metis, of mixed First Nation and European extraction] of the north-west broke out in rebellion in 1869-70, but it collapsed as soon as the forces led by Colonel Wolseley reached Fort Garry on Winnipeg. Riel, the leader, escaped, to return later and foment another outbreak in 1885. This proved more dangerous but was eventually suppressed and Riel executed. The chief events since have been the Halifax award (1888), which justified the Canadian contention against the United States interference with fisheries. The Behring Sea award (1897) settled the sealing difficulty; and a joint commission met at Quebec in 1898 to determine all outstanding questions between Canada and the United States. In 1903 these reached a final solution in the Alaskan Boundary Commission's settlement of the frontier line between British Columbia and Alaska.

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter I

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole. Although this installment is headed Chapter I in the booklet, it was preceded by an Introduction that we presented in our Parts 1 and 2.

## Chapter I.—Its Postal History.

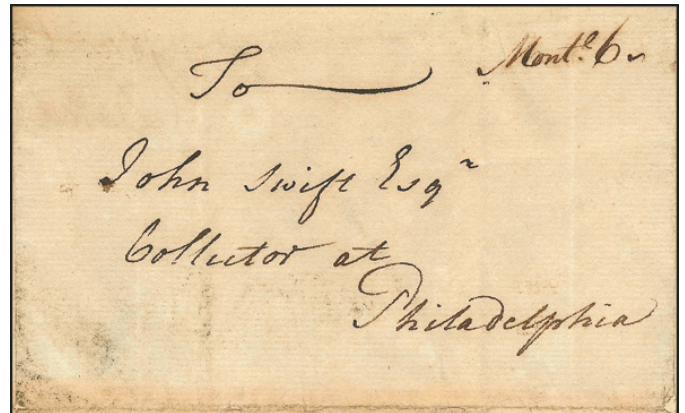
The *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for August, 1868, contained an interesting article on the history of the Canadian Post-office, largely compiled from information given in the "Canadian Postal Guide," which we cannot do better than quote in full.

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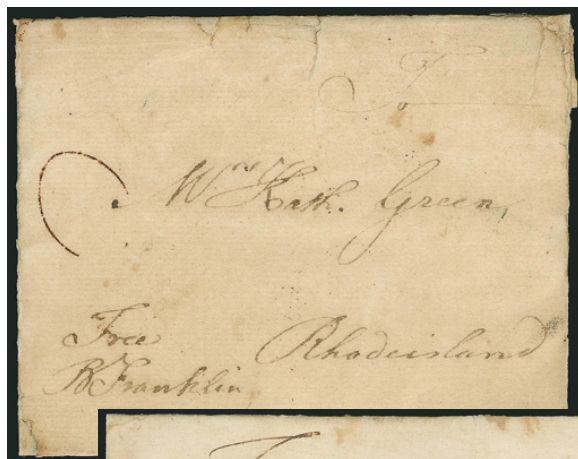
The earliest records of the administration of the post-office in Canada, are dated 1750, at which period the celebrated Benjamin Franklin was Deputy Postmaster-General of North America. At the time of his appointment, the revenue of the department was insufficient to defray his salary of \$1,500 per annum, but under his judicious management, not only was the postal accommodation in the provinces considerably extended, but the revenue so greatly increased, that ere long the profit for one year, which he remitted to the British Treasury, amounted to \$15,000.

In the evidence given by Franklin before the House of Commons in the year 1766, in regard to the extent of the post-office accommodation in North America, he made the following statement:—

"The posts generally travel along the sea coasts, and only in a few cases do they go back into the country. Between Quebec and Montreal there is only one post per month. The inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country, that the posts cannot be supported amongst them. The English colonies, too, along the frontier, are very thinly settled."



An 1868 folded letter with "Montl. 6-" manuscript postmark and "6" (deadweight) rate addressed "To John Swift Esqr., Collector at Philadelphia", sent by John Campbell, one of Great Britain's colonial governors in North America.



Top, a Benjamin Franklin "Free B. Franklin" free frank (lower left) as Deputy Postmaster General for the Colonies in America on a November 25, 1762 folded cover to Rhode Island, some expert restoration; bottom a circa 1772 Benjamin Franklin free frank, now as "B. Free Franklin", lower left, sent to his wife while he was in England. While he was still a representative of the Crown, still as Deputy Postmaster for the Colonies, this frank also demonstrates his evolving revolutionary spirit.



A March 18, 1795 folded letter from Detroit, then part of British North America, to Hants, England, with a "HALIFAX / SHIP LRE / JUN 18 / 95" four-line handstamp and manuscript "1/1". This letter traveled by Indian courier to Fort Niagara, then by ship up the St. Lawrence River to Halifax. From Halifax it went by packet to England. Attesting to the sketchy delivery pattern, the letter, from an army officer, notes "Our Winter Express also brought me a letter from Mr. Finnell dated 31st. Octr...the Communication is not yet open, which prevents my writing to Mr. White the Attorney General of the Upper Province who resides at Niagara...This takes it conveyance with...an Indian who is going across the Country...as he bears a tolerable good character, think it has a chance of reaching you."

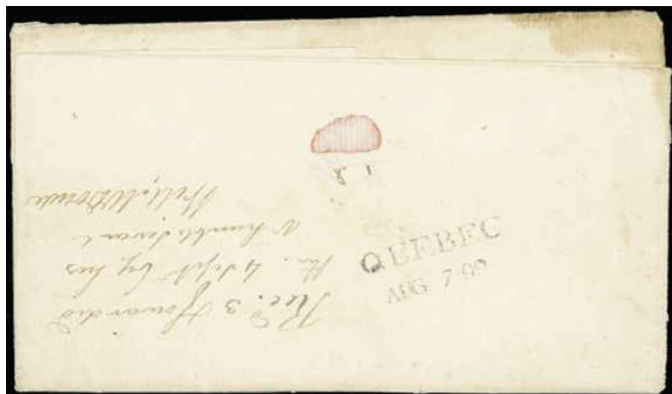
In 1774, Franklin was recalled, and the following year the War of Independence broke out, and the office was filled by Mr. Hugh Finlay, who had, under his predecessor, been postmaster at Quebec.

Canada is divided into Upper and Lower. From a Quebec almanack

of 1796, we glean that there were seven offices in the former and five in the latter. Mr. Finlay is designated as "Deputy Postmaster-General of His Majesty's Province of Canada."

At that time mails were dispatched monthly to England, and semi-weekly between Quebec and Montreal, or Halifax. At Baie des Chaleurs the visits of the postman must, we conclude, have been few and far between, as they were only favored with a mail "as occasion offered".

In 1800, Mr. George Heriot succeeded Mr. Finlay. At this time



August 7, 1799 folded letter addressed to John Peters, Kingston, U.C., with a two line "QUEBEC / AUG 7 99" datestamp dispatch.

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, were all under the authority of the Canadian administration.

The following is taken from the advertising column of the *Upper Quebec Gazette*, printed in 1807:—

The mail for Upper Canada will be dispatched from the post-office at Montreal, on the following days, to wit:

- Monday, 14th January.
- Monday, 12th February.
- Monday, 12th March.
- Monday, 7th April—the last trip.

A courier from Kingston may be looked for here in 14 or 15 days from the above periods, where he will remain 2 or 3 days, and then return to Kingston.

Another courier will proceed from this with the Niagara mail, via Messrs. Hatts', where the Sandwich (co. Essex) letters will be left, both from Niagara and this 'till the courier comes from there to return with them.

Letters put into the post-office will be forwarded any time by  
W. Allan,  
Acting Deputy Postmaster.

Mr. Heriot resigned in 1816, and was succeeded by Mr. D. Sutherland, who, on his accession to office, found Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island wholly withdrawn from the Canada charge. New Brunswick, however, continued to be included in it. This appears also to have been withdrawn in 1824, so that from that date until just lately, we have to do with Canada proper.

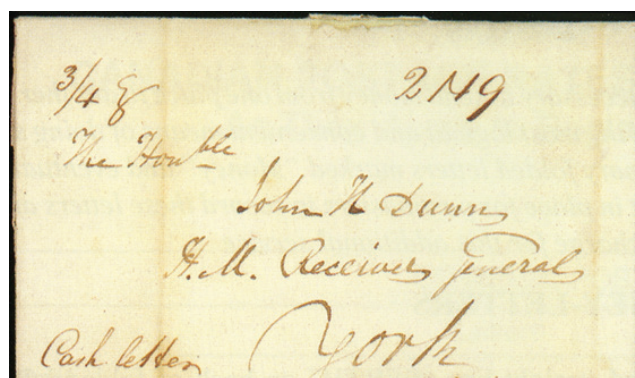
In 1827 there were 101 post-offices, and 2,368 miles of established post-route. The number of miles of mail-travel was 455,000. The letters that year were estimated at 340,000, and newspapers, 400,000. From the Canadian Postmaster-General's report for 1865, now lying before us, we find the number of letters had increased to 12,000,000; the miles of annual mail-travel was 6,350,000, the mails being carried regularly over 1,931 miles of railway route.

The following extract from the *Quebec Mercury*, published on July 18, 1829, conveys some idea of the postal communication with England at that period:

No later advices have been received from Europe since our last.

Some further extracts from the London papers, to 31st May, inclusive, brought to New York by the *Corinthian*, will be found in another part of this number.

In the *Montreal Courant*, dated September 2nd, 1829, was the fol-



Top, the earliest recorded cash letter, dated October 21, 1823, with manuscript "3/4 oz" and "2N9" rate, sent from the postmaster and inspector of licenses at Perth to "H.M. Receiver General" at York, containing cash payment for tavern license fees.

Bottom, the earliest recorded Money Letter, with manuscript date "15 April" (1825) on reverse and manuscript "Money Letter and "1N10" rate, carrying a £4 duty paid by the office at Cornwall.

Cash and Money letters were forerunners to Registered Mail.

lowing paragraph, showing the improvement which had been effected in the communication between Prescott and that city:—

Expeditious Travelling.—On Saturday last, the Upper Canada line of stages performed the journey from Prescott to this city in about 17 hours, leaving the former place at a little before 3 a.m., and arriving here a few minutes before 8 in the evening. Not many years ago this journey occupied two, and sometimes three days, but owing to the great improvements made by Mr. Dickinson, the enterprising proprietor, by putting steamboats on the lakes St. Francis and St. Louis, and keeping his horses in excellent condition, it is now performed in little more than one-third of the time.

Even so late as 1833, newspaper proprietors found it (particularly in the Upper Province) better to employ their own couriers. As a proof of this we transcribe from the *Queenston (Niagara) Colonial Advocate*, of that year the following advertisement:—

**Post-rider Wanted Immediately.**

The proprietor of this newspaper wishes to contract with a steady man (who can find and uphold his own horse) to deliver it to the subscribers once a week during the winter, on the route between York and Niagara, via Ancaster.

Mr. Thomas A. Stayner was postmaster in 1841, and through his

To be continued

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter I, Part 2

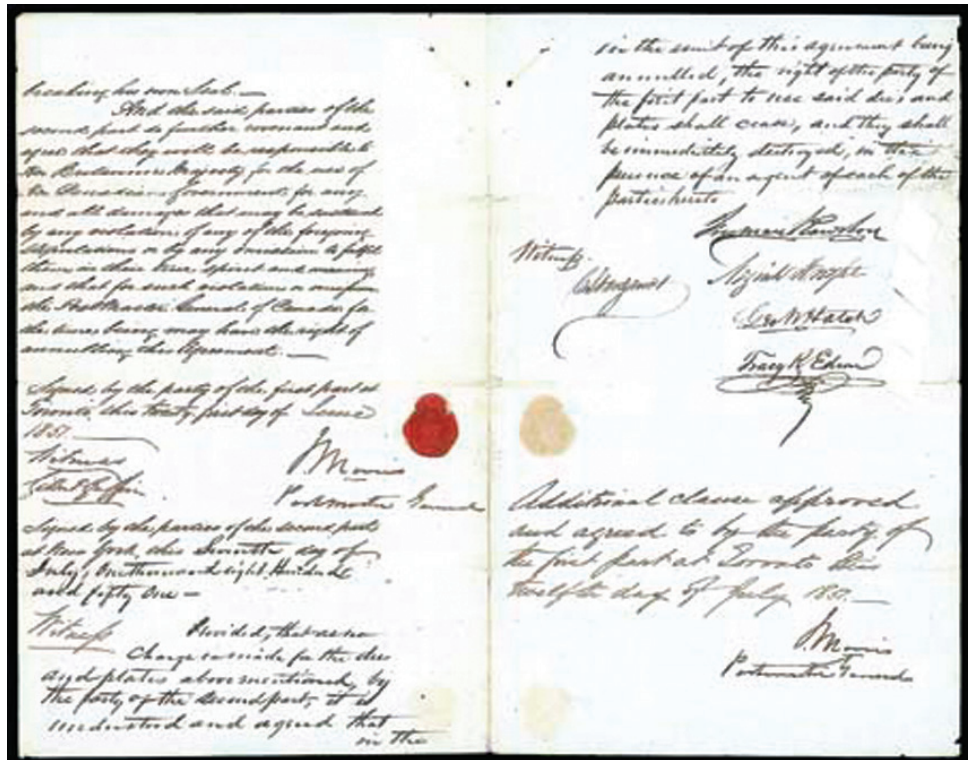
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## Chapter I.—Its Postal History (Cont.)

Mr. Thomas A. Stayner was postmaster in 1841, and through his recommendation a uniform rate of 1s 2d sterling, per half ounce, was adopted between any place in Canada and the mother country. About this time regular steam communication across the Atlantic was established.

The transfer of the Canadian post-office from the control of the imperial authorities to the Colonial government, was effected April 6th, 1851. Mr. Stayner then resigned, and the office was filled by the Hon. James Morris, who was the first Postmaster-General. This may be termed the red-letter year of the Canadian post-office. In the first place, the postage, which had hitherto been according to distance and had averaged 15 cents on each letter, was reduced to a uniform rate of 5 cents per half ounce. The newspaper charge was also considerably reduced. Within a year after, the number of letters transmitted through the post had increased 75 per cent. The operation of the department was greatly extended, and last, but most decidedly not least, was the introduction of postage stamps.



A portion of the seven-page handwritten contract to print Canada's first postage stamps, between the Province of Canada, represented by the Provincial Post Master General, James Morris, and the New York engraving firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson. The contract spells out which stamps are to be printed: "three (3d.) pence, six (6d.) pence and shilling (1/-)" and that the stamps should be "on suitable paper of the best quality, prepared for use with gum, at the rate of Twenty Cents per thousand stamps". The contract also stipulates that the dies and plates will remain "the exclusive property of Her Britannic Majesty for the use of Her Provincial Government of Canada" and details security arrangements for the dies and plates when not in use. Signed and sealed by Post Master General Morris on June 21, 1851; signed and sealed by Freeman Rawdon, Neziah Wright, George W. Hatch and Tracy R. Edson on July 7.

In February, 1855, the money-order system was first begun, and has within the last few years been greatly extended. Letters seem to have been first registered in 1856. In October of that year the Grand Trunk Railway was completed as far as Toronto so that, in connection



Folded letter to Montreal with "Bytown, U.C., Apr 6 1851" double-ring c.d.s. with manuscript "3" rating on—the first day of the new 3d domestic letter rate notwithstanding distance. The Canadian Government took over the responsibility for the Post Office from the British Government on April 6, 1851. The fact that April 6 in the year 1851 was a Sunday, helps to explain the rarity with only two known examples. (Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855 when the city was incorporated.)



1857 3p red on ribbed paper (Sc. 4c) tied by target cancel on 1858 cover to St. Therese with matching "Mon. & Isld. P.J. Grand Trk. R. Way Oct. 18, 1858" c.d.s.

with the Great Western, an unbroken line of postal communication was established between Quebec in the east and Windsor in the west.

The decimal system of coinage was introduced in 1859; this, of



1859 6p brown violet on wove, perf 11-3/4 (Sc. 13) tied by numeral cancel with "Hamilton C.W. Au19, 1859" c.d.s. on cover to Buffalo, corner card at lower left for the Great Western Railway of Canada, also with two-line "Canada Paid 10 Cts" handstamp in red.

course, as is well known, necessitated a new issue of postal labels.

We now arrive at the issue of labels for the new Dominion. The post-office act was passed on the 21st of December, 1867, and came into operation the 1st of April last. The internal rate is reduced from 5 cents to 3 cents the half ounce; but the postage to this country remains unchanged.

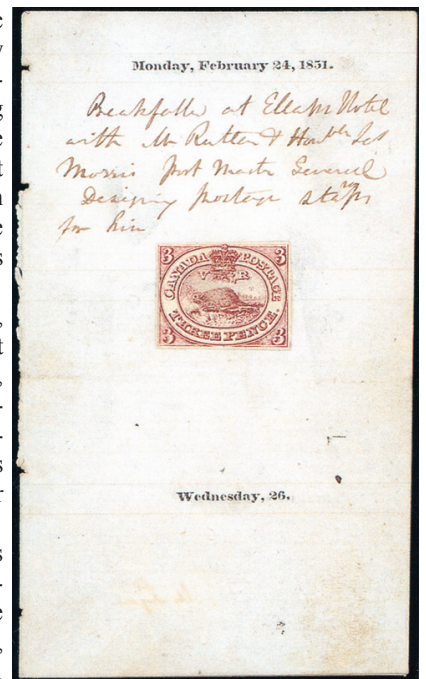
The following is the order for the issue of the new labels:—

**Postage Stamps.**

To enable the public to prepay conveniently by postage stamp the foregoing rates, the following denominations of postage stamps for use throughout the Dominion, have been prepared, and will be supplied to postmasters for sale:—

Half-cent stamps, one-cent ditto, two-cent ditto, three-cent ditto, six-cent ditto, twelve-and-a-half-cent ditto, fifteen-cent ditto, all bearing as a device the effigy of Her Majesty.

The postage stamps now in use in the several provinces may be accepted, as at present, in prepayment of letters, etc., for a reasonable time after the 1st of April; but from and after that date all issues and sales to the public will be of the new denomination.



February 24, 1851 plate essay with notation that the stamp designer met with Postmaster General Morris "designing postage stamps for him"

*To Be Continued*

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter I, Part 3

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We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole.

## Chapter I.—Its Postal History (Cont.)

Continuing the postal history from where the article in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* concludes, we find that in 1869 the color of the 1¢ value was changed to yellow as it was found that the brown-red color was too easily confused with the red of the 3¢ [Scott lists this as orange yellow, Sc. 23. JFD.]. Early in the following year



the 3¢ denomination appeared in a reduced size [Sc. 37] to be followed about April by the 1¢ and it was, naturally, presumed that the whole set would appear in this form. Two years elapsed, however, before further additions were made for it was not until 1872 that the 2¢ and 6¢ values appeared.



In 1874, an entirely new value—10 cents



[Sc. 40]—was issued and in 1875 a 5¢ stamp [Sc. 26, numbered within the 1868-76 Large Queens] made its appearance in the large size of the 1868 series.



Mr. C. A. Howes, in his admirable monograph on the stamps of Canada, explains the belated appearance of this label as follows:—

“The die of this large 5 cent stamp had been engraved in 1867 with the other values of the first Dominion series, but as there were no rates requiring such a denomination in the set, it was not issued. When in 1875 the need for a 5 cent value arose, the unused die was employed to make a plate for temporary use, until a new die conforming in size and design with the small stamps could be prepared.” This large 5 cent stamp had a short life of about four months when it was superseded by the 5¢ value in the same size as the other denominations of 1869-73.



In 1882, the 1/2¢ value [Sc. 34] was reduced in size so that this stamp, as in the case of its predecessor of 1868, was smaller than the other denominations. From that date until 1892 no further changes were made so far as new designs or values were concerned though some striking alterations in shade took place, notably in the case of the 6¢ and 10¢ values.



In 1892, 20¢ and 50¢ [Sc. 46, 47] stamps were issued for use on heavy packages. These not only differed in design from the other stamps of the series then



current but were also very much larger.



In 1893 an 8¢ stamp [Sc. 44] was issued which was used for prepayment of postage and the registration fee and upon its advent the special registration stamps ceased to be printed though existing stocks were, presumably, used up.

In 1897, the Diamond



Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated by the issue of a special series of stamps comprising no less than sixteen values ranging all the way from 1/2¢ to \$5 [shown, a proof of the \$5, Sc. 65P]. As to the utility, to say nothing of the necessity, of some of the higher denominations perhaps the less said the better for before and since Canada has managed to get along very well with a highest regular denomination of 50¢.

In the latter months of the same year, and early in 1898 a new set was issued in a uniform design showing the jubilee portrait of the Queen [shown, Sc. 73]. This is known as the maple leaf issue from the fact that the lower angles are ornamented with maple leaves and in contradistinction to a modified design which almost immediately replaced it which had numerals in the lower corners.

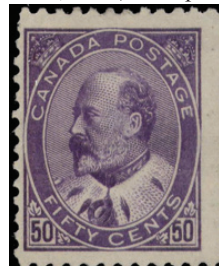


The Christmas of 1898 was marked by the issuance of the celebrated 2¢ map stamp with its proud motto “We hold a vaster Empire than has been”. This stamp [Sc. 85] was issued to mark the introduction of Imperial Penny

Postage, and one consequence of the reduction in the postal rate was so to reduce the demand for the 3¢ value that in order to use up existing supplies more quickly they were overprinted “2 cents” [shown, Sc. 88].



In 1899, the color of the 2¢ stamp was changed from purple to carmine, thus conforming to Postal Union regulations. In December, 1900, a 20¢ stamp of the type of 1898 was issued on the final exhaustion of the stock of the 1893 type; and in 1902 a 7¢ value [Sc. 81] was issued in place of the 8¢ for combined use in payment of registration and postage.



In 1903, 1¢, 2¢, 5¢, 7¢, and 10¢ values were issued bearing King Edward's portrait,





a year later the 20¢ value in the same type was placed on sale, and in 1908, the stock of the old 50¢ stamps of 1893 having at last been used up, a King Edward stamp of that value was issued [p. 22, Sc. 95]. In the same year the three hundredth

anniversary of the founding of Quebec by Champlain was celebrated by the issue of a special set of stamps these being of the same large size as the Jubilee series of 1897, but with a different design for each denomination [shown, Sc. 99, Champlain's home in Quebec], while in 1912 a new series bearing the portrait of King George V [shown, Sc. 122]—made its bow and this completes Canada's postal history to date.



# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter II

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

## Chapter II.—A Postmaster's Provisional.

Postage stamps were first placed on sale to the public in Canada on April 23rd, 1851, as we shall show later, but, according to an interesting article which appeared in the *London Philatelist* for June, 1904, it seems possible that at least one postmaster anticipated events slightly by issuing a stamped envelope of his own shortly before the regular governmental stamps were ready. It will perhaps simplify matters to reproduce the article in its original form, viz.:—

### Canada: Hand-Stamped 3d Envelope of 1851.



*The unique envelope, Sc. 1X1, not valued by Scott*

We are indebted to Mr. E. B. Greenshields, of Montreal, for the following very interesting information:—

The following facts may be of interest to collectors of the stamps of British North America. Some time ago a cover was offered to me, which seemed to me to be absolutely genuine, yet I had never, up to that time, heard of such envelopes being in existence. This letter was posted in New Carlisle, Gaspé, Lower Canada, on April 7th, 1851, and was stamped "Three Pence" in two lines, inside a square, with a black border of neat design around the sides. Across this was written, "Letter R. W. Kelly Apl. 1851". The letter was addressed to Toronto, C. W., and on the other side was stamped the date the letter was received, "Apl. 16 1851". I sent the envelope to Mr. Donald A. King, of Halifax, and received the following reply from him:—

Halifax, N. S., February 22nd, 1904.

"Dear Sir,—I have yours of 19th inst. with cover, and am much obliged for your kindness in permitting me to have a look at it. It is new to me. I have no doubt it is absolutely genuine, and probably was made by the Postmaster at New Carlisle to save trouble in stamping the letter '3d' as was then the custom. It is just possible that the writer (whose name appears to be endorsed on the envelope) was the Postmaster there. A reference to the Postmaster-General's report for that year would give his name. As far as my memory serves me, the Canadian stamps were not then in issue, though an advance circular may have been sent out. I have shown the cover to a friend of mine who is an expert in typography, and he assures me that the printing is as old as dated, and that such type and border could not be procured now at any cost.... As to the value of your cover, it is impossible for me to say, but very considerable to any collector of British North America.

"Yours faithfully,  
"Donald A. King."

Following up the clue given to me by Mr. King, I wrote to the Post Office Department at Ottawa, and received the following answer:—

Ottawa, 2nd March, 1904.

"Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your communication...and in reply am directed to inform you that R. W. Kelly...was

Postmaster of New Carlisle in 1851....He appears to have been Postmaster from 1851 until his resignation on the 9th April, 1855.

"As regards your inquiry as to whether postage stamps were used on the 7th April, 1851, and your statement that you have an envelope sent on that date from New Carlisle to Toronto with 'Three Pence' printed on it, inside a fancy border, I have to say that postage stamps were issued to the public for the first time on the 23rd April, 1851, and that stamped envelopes were not issued until some years later. The stamped envelope to which you refer may have been an envelope so stamped on the prepayment in the New Carlisle Post Office, of three pence, the required charge for postage.

"William Smith, Secretary."

It will be noted from the conclusion of this letter that, according to the department at Ottawa, one might infer that the use of such a stamp would not be irregular. This is confirmed by the following extract from a reply to a letter a friend of mine wrote to Ottawa at my request:—

Ottawa, March 2nd, 1904.

"I took those questions of Mr. Greenshields over to Mr. — of the Post Office Department. He tells me that before the first issue of stamps, which took place on the 23rd of April, 1851, each Postmaster had a steel stamp which he used to mark the amount prepaid on the letter. These stamps were of different patterns, and it is probably the impression of one of them that appears on Mr. Greenshield's envelope. In some of the smaller post-offices they continued to use these stamps as late as 1875. It is rather a singular coincidence that if the inquiry had been, regarding the position of Postmaster, more than one day earlier, the Canadian records would not have shown whether the man named had held office or not, the reason being that it was on the 6th of April, 1851, that the Post Office Department was transferred from the Imperial Government, and all records prior to that date are in the possession of the Imperial authorities."

It seems strange that more of these covers have not been found. Such well-known authorities on the stamps of British North America as Mr. Lachlan Gibb and Mr. William Patterson, of Montreal, and Mr. Donald A. King, of Halifax, had not seen any until I consulted them about this one. I think it is very interesting to hear of a stamped envelope like this being used by the Post Office just before the issue of postage stamps.

So far as we have been able to find out the above constitutes all that has been published regarding this envelope. We can find no further mention of it in the columns of the *London Philatelist* or of any other journal published since 1904 nor does Mr. Howes so much as refer to it in his recently published monograph on Canada's postal issues. Yet, on the face of it, the matter seems one worthy of extended investigation by some Canada specialist or other. Its history is similar in many respects to the history of many of the much sought after Postmaster's provisional stamps of the United States and there is a possibility that this envelope may represent a legitimate postmaster's provisional.

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter III

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole.

## Chapter III.—The First Issue.

In common with the other Colonies of British North America, Canada was granted the privilege of administrating its own postal service in 1850, and in the same year an Act was passed providing for the change. It is hardly necessary to quote this Act in full though the following extracts are of interest:—

### Cap. VII.

An Act to provide for the transfer of the management of the Inland Posts to the Provincial Government, and for the Regulation of the said department.

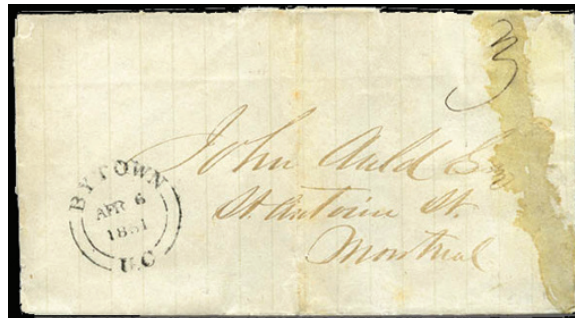
II.—And be it enacted, that the Inland Posts and Post Communications in this Province shall, so far as may be consistent with the Acts of the Parliament of the United Kingdom in force in this Province, be exclusively under Provincial management and control; the revenues arising from the duties and postage dues receivable by the officers employed in managing such Posts and Post Communications shall form part of the Provincial Revenue, unless such monies belong of right to the United Kingdom, or to some other Colony, or to some Foreign State, and the expenses of management shall be defrayed out of Provincial Funds, and that the Act passed in the Eighth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and entitled An Act to provide for the management of the Customs, and of matter relative to the collection of the Provincial Revenue, shall apply to the said Posts and Post Communications, and to the officers and persons employed in managing the same, or in collecting or accounting for the duties and dues aforesaid, except in so far as any provision of the said Act may be insusceptible of such application, or may be inconsistent with any provision of this Act.

VIII.—And in conformity to the agreement made as aforesaid between the Local Governments of the several Colonies of British North America, be it enacted that the Provincial Postage on letters and packets not being newspapers, printed pamphlets, magazines or books, entitled to pass at a lower rate, shall not exceed Threepence currency per half-ounce, for any distance whatsoever within this Province, any fraction of a half-ounce being chargeable as a half-ounce; that no transit postage shall be charged on any letter or packet passing through this Province, or any part thereof, to any other Colony in British North America, unless it be posted in this Province, and the sender choose to prepay it; nor on any letter or packet from any such Colony, if prepaid there; that Twopence sterling the half-ounce shall remain as the rate in operation as regards letter by British mails, to be extended to countries having Postal Conventions with the United Kingdom, unless Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom shall see fit to allow this rate to be changed to Threepence currency; that the prepayment of Provincial Postage shall be optional.

That all Provincial Postage received within the Province shall be retained as belonging to it, and that all Provincial Postage received within any other Colony of the British North American Colonies may be retained, as belonging to such Colony. That no privilege of franking shall be allowed as regards the Provincial Postage. That Provincial Stamps for the prepayment of postage may be prepared under the orders of the Governor in Council, which stamps shall be evidence of the prepayment of Provincial Postage to the amount mentioned on such stamps; and that such stamps, prepared under the direction of the

proper authorities in the other British North American Colonies, shall be allowed in this Province as evidence of the prepayment of Provincial Postage in such other Colonies respectively, on the letters or packets to which they are affixed and which have been mailed there.

\* \* \* \* \*



"Bytown, U.C., Apr 6 1851" double-ring c.d.s. with manuscript "3" (d.) rating on folded letter to Montreal, Canada, reverse with red "Montreal L.C. AP 8 1851" double-ring backstamp—the first day of the new 3d. domestic letter rate notwithstanding distance. The Canadian Government took over the responsibility for the Post Office from the British Government on April 6, 1851. The fact that April 6 in the year 1851 was a Sunday, helps to explain the lack of other examples. Bytown was renamed Ottawa in 1855 when the city was incorporated.

The passage of the above Act and its approval by the Imperial government was followed by a notice to postmasters which gave the date at which the transfer of the postal system from Imperial to Provincial authority was to take effect, gave more explicit instructions with regard to rates of postage, and stated that postage stamps were being prepared. Mr. Howes gives the chief provisions of this Notice as follows:—

Notice to Postmasters.

General Post Office.

Montreal, 14th March, 1851.

Sir:—

I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General, to communicate to you the following instructions, for your guidance in the performance of your duties, under the New Post Office Law of the 13th and 14th Vict., chap. 17, passed at the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, which will take effect, and supersede the Imperial Post Office Acts, hitherto in force in Canada, on and from the 6th day of April next:

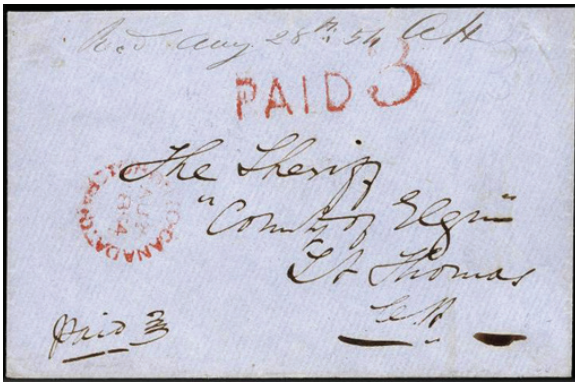
1.—From the above date, all Letters transmitted by the Post in Canada, with the exception of Packet Letters to and from the United Kingdom, will be liable to a uniform rate of Three Pence, currency, per half-ounce for whatever distance conveyed: prepayment will be optional: the charge increasing according to the weight of the Letter, one single rate for every additional half-ounce, counting the fraction of a half-ounce as a full rate, thus:

A Letter, weighing not exceeding 1/2 ounce, will be liable to 3d postage.

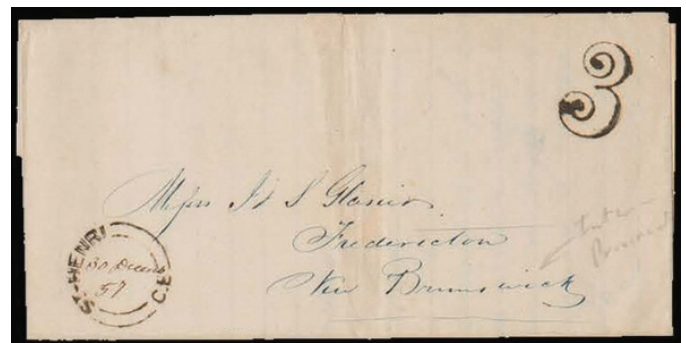
A Letter, weighing more than 1/2 ounce, and not exceeding 1 ounce, will be liable to 6d Postage.

A Letter, weighing more than 1 ounce, and not exceeding 1-1/2 ounces will be liable to 9d Postage, and so on.

It will be observed that the above scale differs from that now fol-



1854 Stampless cover from Toronto to London, Canada, with carmine red "PAID 3" handstamp and "Toronto Canada PAID Au 26 1854" c.d.s.



Dec. 29, 1857 Way letter from St. Anceline (a tiny Quebec town that never established a post office) to New Brunswick, unpaid from St-Anceline and delivered by mail carrier for posting on Dec. 30 at St. Henri, addressed to Fredericton, New Brunswick with routing via Quebec City on December 31. The cover is rated from Canada 3d collect, the Inter-Provincial rate. rate of 3d per half-ounce.

lowed, in advancing one rate for each half-ounce after the first ounce.

2.—The single Packet rate for Letters by the Atlantic Steam Packet Mails to and from England, via the United States, of 1s 2d sterling, if unpaid, and 1s 4d currency, if prepaid, as also the rate on Letters, by those mails, via Halifax, of 1s sterling, if unpaid, and 1s 1-1/2d currency, if prepaid, remain unaltered, and the present scale of weights is to remain in force as regards such Letters.

Post Masters must be very careful to observe this distinction when taxing letters, weighing over one-ounce, intended for the English Mails.

3.—The regulations now in force with regard to Letters to and from Soldiers and Sailors in Her Majesty's Service, by which under certain conditions such Letters pass through the Post on prepayment of a penny only, remain unaltered.

5.—Letters addressed to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, or Newfoundland, are to be rated with the uniform

6.—Letters to and from the United States will be liable to the uniform rate of 3d per half-ounce, between the Frontier line and the place of posting or place of destination in Canada; and until further arrangements can be made, this charge on Letters from Canada to the United States must be prepaid at the time of Posting.

9.—The charge on Letters posted at an office for delivery in the same City, Town, or Place, and any additional charge made on Letters delivered at the residence of parties to whom they are addressed, are to remain as at present, until further instructions.

10.—No Franking Privilege is allowed under the New Act, except with regard to Letters and Packets on the business of the Post Office, addressed to or transmitted by the Post Master General.

*To Be Continued*

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter III, Part 2

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole.

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## Chapter III—The First Issue, Cont.

Notice to Postmasters

General Post Office

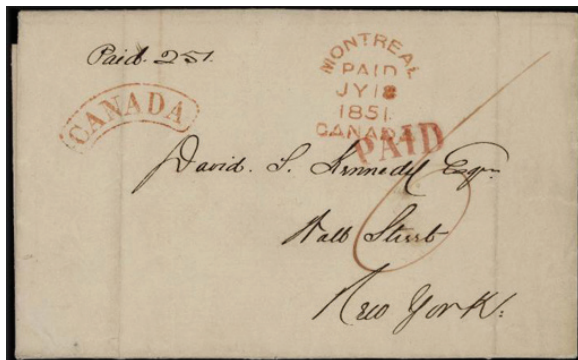
Montreal, 14th March, 1851

[The last provision from this notice stipulated] Stamps for the prepayment of Postage are being prepared and will be distributed for the use of the public at an early date.

T. A. Stayner.

Deputy Post Master General.

Shortly afterwards a Notice, or Department Order, dated April 2nd, 1851, was issued to postmasters regarding the rates of postage between Canada and the United States, California and Oregon. It is hardly necessary to reproduce this in its entirety and it will suffice to state that the rate on single letters to the United States was sixpence currency, equivalent to ten cents in United States money, while to California and Oregon the rate was nine pence currency per half-ounce.



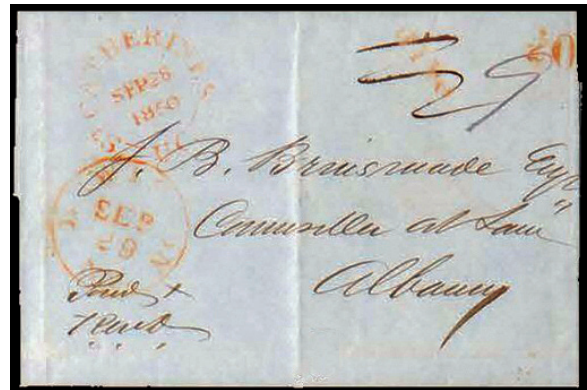
1851 stampless lettersheet to Wall Street, New York, with business enclosure, rated "6" manuscript in red, also with "PAID", "CANADA" Arc in red, and "MONTREAL PAID JY 18 1851 CANADA" handstamps.

On newspapers, pamphlets, etc., the rates were the same as those for Canada itself with the stipulation that all such mail must be prepaid. Certain offices were named for handling the mail between Canada and the United States, viz: Post Sarnia, Windsor, Fort Erie, Queenston [see top of next column] (the channel of communication with the United States for the country west of Toronto), Niagara, Toronto, Cobourg (a communication during summer only, by steamer to Rochester), Kingston, Brockville, Prescott, Montreal, St. John's, Dundee, and Stanstead.

On the 21st of April, 1851, an Order was issued from the Post Office Department referring to the issue of stamps. The most interesting paragraphs from this order are:—

Postage Stamps are about to be issued, one representing the Beaver, of the denomination of Three pence; the second representing the head of Prince Albert, of the denomination of Six pence; and the third, representing the head of Her Majesty, of the denomination of One shilling; which will shortly be transmitted to the Post Masters at important points, for sale.

Any Letter or Packet, with one or more Stamps affixed, equal in amount to the Postage properly chargeable thereon, may be



1850 St. Catharines UC (Upper Canada) to USA double rate folded letter prepaid on SEP 28 1850 and addressed to Albany, N.Y., routing via the Queenston and Lewiston, N.Y. exchange offices on September 29, 1850, with PAID 9d for the 1 ounce under 60 mile delivery double rate to the border (2 x 4-1/2d per 1/2 ounce) plus PAID 20¢ for the 1 ounce double rate for under 300 mile USA delivery to Albany (2 x 10¢ per 1/2 ounce).

mailed and forwarded from any office as a prepaid Letter or Packet; but if the Stamps affixed be not adequate to the proper Postage, the Post Master receiving the Letter or Packet for transmission will rate it with the amount deficient in addition. This Regulation concerning Letters short paid has reference only to Letters passing within the Province.

Stamps so affixed are to be immediately cancelled in the office in which the Letter or Packet may be deposited, with an instrument to be furnished for that purpose. In Post Offices not so furnished, the stamps must be cancelled by making a cross (X) on each with a pen. If the cancelling has been omitted on the mailing of the Letter, the Post Master delivering it will cancel the stamp in the manner directed, and immediately report the Post Master who may have been delinquent, to the Department. Bear in mind that Stamps must invariably be cancelled before mailing the Letters to which they are affixed.

It is rather interesting to note that the series comprised only three values, though the postal rates, as shown in the Notice quoted above, and further amplified in a lengthy set of "Regulations and Instructions" called for numerous rates of 1/2d and 1d as well as 7-1/2d so that it certainly seems strange that no provision was made for stamps by means of which such rates could be prepaid.

The beaver is typical of Canada, for the prosperity of the Colony is largely founded on this animal, whose skin has been a valuable article of commerce since the days of the early trappers in the land of the maple tree. The choice of a beaver as the central theme of the design of Canada's first stamp—the 3d value—is, therefore, particularly appropriate. The stamp is rectangular in shape and the centrepiece is enclosed within a transverse oval band inscribed "CANADA POSTAGE" at the top, and "THREE PENCE" below. Above the beaver is an Imperial crown which breaks into the oval band and divides the words "CANADA" and "POSTAGE." This

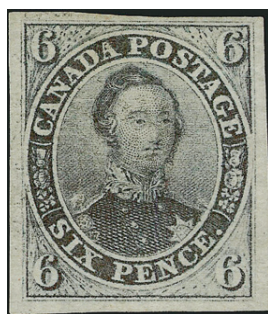


Canada Sc. 1

crown rests on a rose, shamrock, and thistle (emblematic of the United Kingdom) and on either side are the letters “V R” (Victoria Regina, i.e. Queen Victoria). In each of the angles is a large uncolored numeral “3”. Mr. Howes tells us that this stamp was designed by Sir Stanford Fleming, a civil engineer and draughtsman.

... The beaver is furnished with powerful incisor teeth, with which it is able to bite through fairly large trees, and its fore paws are very strong. Its hind feet are webbed, so that it is a powerful swimmer, and its tail is flattened, and serves as an excellent rudder. Its ears are small and when laid back prevent any water entering them. Beavers generally live in colonies, and show remarkable intelligence and ingenuity in the construction of their homes or “lodges” and in the building of dams, where water in the vicinity of their dwellings has become too shallow to suit their tastes. These dwellings are often constructed on the banks of rivers, but the Canadian beaver is particularly fond of building lodges in the centre of large expanses of fairly shallow water....

The 6d stamp follows the usual upright rectangular form and its central design consists of the portrait of Prince Albert, the Royal Consort. The portrait is enclosed within an upright oval inscribed in a similar manner to the 3d but with, of course, “SIXPENCE” on its lower portion. The numeral “6” is shown in each of the four angles. Albert Francis Charles Augustus Emanuel the younger of the two sons of Ernest, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, was born in 1819... King Leopold and Baron Stockmar had long contemplated an alliance between Prince Albert and Princess Victoria, and the pair were brought



*Canada Sc. 2*

together in 1836. When the succession of Victoria was assured the betrothal took place, and on February 19th, 1840, the marriage, which was one of real affection on both sides, was solemnized in the Chapel Royal, St. James Palace. The Prince Consort’s position as the husband of a constitutional sovereign was difficult, and in the early years...his interference in matters of state was resented. Ultimately he became “a sort of minister, without portfolio, of art and education”, and in this capacity won much esteem and popularity. He also interested himself in agriculture and in social and industrial reform. To him was due the Great Exhibition of 1851, which resulted in a balance of a million dollars for the encouragement of science and art. His personal character was very high, and he exercised great influence on his children. He was an ideal consort, and entirely worthy of the title “Albert, the Good”.

*To Be Continued*

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter III, Part 3

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

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## Chapter III—The First Issue, Cont.



The 12d stamp is very similar in design to the 6d denomination but bears the portrait of Queen Victoria. The life and reign of Queen Victoria are matters of such general knowledge that biographical details are hardly necessary. A few words, however,

regarding the source of this handsome portrait, which was used to adorn so many of the earlier British Colonial stamps, will not be amiss. Mr. Howes tells us that this portrait “was taken from the full length painting by Alfred Edward Chalon, R. A., which was ordered by the Queen for her mother, the Duchess of Kent, as a souvenir of Her Majesty’s first visit to the House of Lords. The occasion was the prorogation [ending of a session] of Parliament, on July 17th, 1837, and the Queen is portrayed in her robes of state, because of which fact the painting is sometimes described as ‘in Coronation Robes’, but this is erroneous.”

The 12d requires a few words in explanation of the manner in which the value was expressed for “One Shilling” would appear to be a more natural form for this amount rather than “Twelve Pence”.

Mr. Donald A. King says:—“This was undoubtedly done intentionally, as though it was intended for a one shilling stamp, yet it could not be called that, as there were a number of shillings of different values in circulation in the Colony. If the stamp had been lettered ‘One Shilling’, the Post Office was liable to have tendered for it 6-1/2d, 7-1/2d, 10d or 12d, according to locality”.

Mr. Howes gives a fuller explanation which we cannot do better than quote in his own words:—

“A glance back at the rates of postage we have already quoted will show that it was generally necessary to give them in two forms, ‘currency’ and ‘sterling’. The somewhat depreciated Canadian currency required fifteen pence, as will be noted, to equal the shilling sterling—a point brought out on the two stamps issued subsequently for the British Packet rates. Add to this fact that in New England the ‘shilling’ was a current expression for 16 cents (10 pence currency), while in New York it represented 12-1/2 cents (7-1/2 pence currency) and we can readily see that in Canadian territory contiguous to these

sections the number of pence to a ‘shilling’ might often be a debatable quantity. As a matter of fact the French Canadians of Lower Canada made general use of the ‘shilling’ as reckoned at 10 pence (20 cents) in the old currency, while the ‘York shilling’ was extensively used in Upper Canada. ‘Twelve Pence’ was without doubt wholly intentional, therefore, as the designation of the stamp, and was a happy solution of any ambiguity in its use, even if it has proved a stumbling block to the understanding of latter day collectors.”

The three values forming this first issue were manufactured by Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, of New York, who are, perhaps, better known to fame as the engravers of the 1847 5¢ and 10¢ stamps for the United States government. All three stamps were printed from plates engraved in *taille douce* [copper plate line engraving] the plates consisting of one hundred impressions arranged in ten horizontal rows of ten each. The manufacturer’s imprint—“Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, New York”—was engraved twice on each of the four sides quite close to the stamps. The imprints were so placed that the bottoms of the letters are always next to the stamps with the consequence that on the printed sheets of stamps the imprints read upwards at the left, downwards at the right, and upside down on the bottom margins.

A variety of the 3d denomination is catalogued with “double transfer”....“Double strikes” are not uncommon on stamps produced by the line-engraved process though they are not often so striking as the first of these Canadian varieties and those found on the United States 10¢ stamp of 1847.

According to a valuable summary from official records published in the *Metropolitan Philatelist* we learn that the first delivery of stamps from the manufacturers took place on April 5th, 1851, when 100,000 of the 3d denomination were delivered to the Canadian Government. On April 20th, a second supply of the same value comprising 150,200 stamps arrived in Canada. On May 2nd 100,400 of the 6d were received followed two days later by 51,400 of the 12d, this latter being the only consignment of the highest value ever received from the printers. We have already pointed out that the 3d was placed on sale on April 23rd, 1851. The date of issue of the 6d is not known for certain as there are no official records relating to this though, as a supply was received on

May 2nd, they were doubtless issued some time during the same month. The 12d was issued on June 14th as we shall show later.

*To Be Continued*



*The 1851 12d black tied by a target cancel on an 1852 folded letter sheet to New York, showing “Montreal L.C./JY 21 1852” double arc origin datestamp, “Canada” exchange office handstamp in arc, and straight-line “Paid” handstamp—the finest of the seven recorded covers with this stamp.*

# The Stamps of Canada, Chapter III, Part 4

*Based on a Mekeel's Weekly Publication by B. W. H. Poole, with images added*

We continue in this issue with a reprinting, with updates and new images, of *The Stamps of Canada*, a booklet that was produced for *Mekeel's Weekly* by Bertram W. H. Poole.

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## Chapter III—The First Issue, Cont.

The three values of this series, as well as other denominations in pence issued later, were withdrawn from use on July 1st, 1859, when decimal currency was introduced. By means of much diligent search through Post Office Reports and other records Mr. Howes has determined that a total of 3,528,700 3d stamps were issued and a total of 402,900 of the 6d value. Some of both these values were issued with perforation late in 1857 or early in 1858. Unfortunately there is no means of separating these from the imperforate ones as shown by the official figures but if we use the somewhat rough-and-ready means of reckoning afforded by catalogue quotations it would seem that of the above totals about three million of the 3d and 325,000 of the 6d were imperforate.

The 12d value, as every collector knows, is a very rare stamp. Even had the full supply of 51,000 stamps, received in the first and only consignment from the manufacturers on May 4th, 1851, been issued, it would have been a rare variety, but as a matter of fact, the greater portion of the consignment was destroyed and only 1510 were actually issued. ... While we can trace no official notice referring to the discontinuance of this denomination, or the actual date at which it ceased to be used, the writer of the article referred to above says that the balance of 49,490 stamps were destroyed on May 1st, 1857, "in accordance with the practice of the Department in cases of the discontinuance of stamps" though as this was the first Canadian stamp to be discontinued, a precedent could hardly have been established.

The following interesting excerpt from the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for April, 1870, states that the 12d value was discontinued in 1855 and it also lays considerable stress on the scarcity of used specimens of this stamp, viz:—

One of our readers observing from a reply we made to a correspondent in the last October number, that we were in doubt as to whether the 12d was ever actually used, has been good enough to write the Deputy Postmaster-General on the subject and has obtained from him the following reply:—

"Ottawa, 28th October, 1869.

Dear Sir:—In reply to your note of the 26th inst., let me say that the twelve penny postage stamps were issued to the public in 1851, but did not find favor, and so few were sold—only a few hundred altogether in three or four years—that they ceased to be issued in 1855.

I am, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,  
W. A. Smyth."

This is satisfactorily conclusive as to the emission of the stamp in question; but if even only a few hundreds were used, we are surprised that no used copies turn up. Were they used otherwise than for postage? Mr. Philbrick informs us that no unused copy of the stamp was ever seen by him, nor does he know of its existence. Plenty of proofs on India paper, etc., exist, but the paper of the stamp was laid and thin, of a hard texture.

An extract from the *Stamp Collectors' Monthly Gazette*, published at St. John, New Brunswick, in September, 1869, shows that the rarity of the 12d was already recognised as witnessed by the fact that "even \$5" could be obtained for a specimen. We give the paragraph in full:—



*The 1851 12p, Sc. 3, on a cover from Hamilton to New York*

This stamp, as some of our readers are aware, was in use but a short time, so short, that many persons even those residing in Canada, knew nothing about it. One gentleman living in Quebec, to whom we had written on the subject some time ago, informed us that we must have been laboring under some mistake, when we asked him for some particulars about it. He told us that no such stamp was ever issued; but a subsequent letter from him told a totally different tale (as was expected)—he gave



*A rare block of four of the 12p with Specimen overprint, Sc. 3S*

us a few facts, and that was all we wanted. It was first intended for postage to England, and was actually used for a time. The postage was afterwards reduced and the 10d stamp took the place of the 12d. The latter is now one of the rarest in existence, and very readily obtains such prices as \$4.00 and even \$5.00 for one specimen. Proofs are often offered for sale on India paper, with the word 'specimen' written on one side. Amateur collections must content themselves with this last, for it is utterly impossible to obtain the real Simon Pure article for less than the sums we name, and even then, it is doubtful whether it can be had at the price or not. The color of the genuine stamp is black, it is an adhesive, and contains a portrait of Queen Victoria in an inscribed oval, with figures 12 at corners.

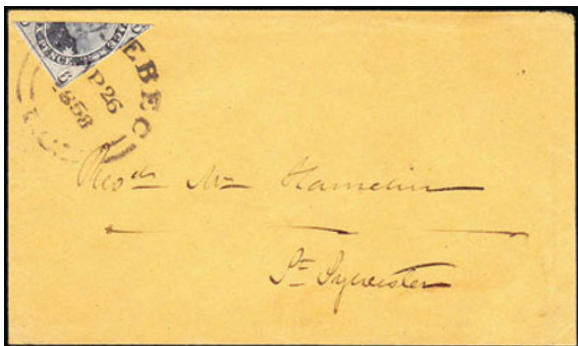
All three values of this first set were issued imperforate and while the 3d, of which at least three millions were issued, varies but little in shade, the 6d, printed in comparatively small quantities, provides a number of striking tints. In his check-list, Mr. Howes gives "black-violet, deep-violet, slate-violet, brown-violet, dull purple, slate, black brown, brownish black, and greenish black", and we have no doubt the list could be considerably amplified, though the above should be sufficient for the most exacting of specialists.

The catalogue gives two distinct sorts of paper—laid and wove—for all three values, with a sub-variety of the latter, designated "thin", for the 3d and 6d denominations. But specialists are not satisfied with



this meagre classification and recognise numerous other varieties such as thick white laid, soft white wove, thin and thick grayish, thick hard, thick soft, ribbed, etc. Mr. D. A. King, in his article in the Monthly Journal, says, "There are fourteen varieties that we are able to distinguish", and he gives a general classification of their characteristics...

Bi-sected stamps were not used in Canada to anything like the same extent that similar varieties were used in the other British North American provinces. The 6d is catalogued as having been divided diagonally and the halves used as 3d stamps, though there can have been no real necessity for such bi-section.



*The earliest recorded use of the eight known 6d bisects, postmarked Quebec, April 26, 1858*

A bi-sected stamp of quite another character was mentioned in the Monthly Journal for April, 1898, as follows:—

The Post Office describes a so-called "split provisional" of the early 3d stamp, which is described as consisting of one and a half of the unperforated 3d on wove, upon an entire envelope postmarked "Port Hope, July 16th, 1855, Canada, Paid 10c." Our contemporary does not appear to perceive that the postmark plainly indicates that the supposed half stamp is really only a badly cut copy; the 3d of Canada passed for 5 cents, and as this letter is plainly marked "Paid 10c", the stamps upon it evidently passed as two 3d, not as one and a half, which would have corresponded to no rate of postage.

The same journal, two months later, made more extended reference to this variety and while its bona-fides as a "split" is established its use as a half stamp is as much a mystery as ever. We cannot do better than give the paragraph in full:—

In the New Issues column of our number for April, we called in question the character of a supposed "split" three pence stamp of Canada, which had been chronicled in the Post Office, New York. In reply to our criticism, Messrs. Morgenthau & Co., the publishers of that magazine, have most kindly forwarded to us the letter bearing the divided stamp, and have requested our opinion upon it. The specimen

is such a curious one and presents, we think, such a puzzle for philatelists, that we have taken the liberty—which we hope its owner will pardon—of having a photographic block made from it, and we give a full size illustration, showing both the stamps and the postmarks, herewith. [The photo was not reproduced in the Poole booklet. JFD.] As our readers may perceive, we were quite wrong in suggesting that the "split" stamp was merely a badly cut copy, as it appears to have been carefully bi-sected diagonally and to have been intended to pass as a half stamp, making up, with the entire stamp to which it is attached, a rate of 4-1/2d. If this were all, though the specimen would be a great rarity—indeed, we believe it to be unique—it would not be necessarily a great puzzle to us. It is true that we do not know of any 4-1/2d rate in Canada, and there never was a 4-1/2d stamp in use there; but still, such a rate might have existed, although there was no possible means of making it up except by the use of at least three 1/2d stamps; but the puzzling part about this letter is that it is addressed from Port Hope in Canada to New York, the single rate from Canada to the United States was 10 cents; the letter is marked "CANADA—PAID 10 Cts." by the side of the stamps, and that rate was sixpence in Canadian currency. The whole document appears to us to be perfectly genuine and bona-fide; we have examined it with a skeptical mind and a powerful magnifying glass, and we can only say that if it is a "fake" it is wonderfully well done. On the other hand, if it is genuine, the half stamp must have done duty as a whole one, because it certainly took two 3d stamps to make up the 10 cents rate. The puzzle remains a puzzle to us, but we are grateful to Messrs. Morgenthau for their courteous reply to what may have appeared a captious criticism



*There is a Port Hood Provisional, but it is not related to the "split" discussed above—and which is not listed by Scott. This provisional was created in 1899 and used in Nova Scotia without authorization. The 1898 3¢ (Sc. 78) was split so that it produced 1/3 of a stamp, to be used as a 1¢ stamp (Sc. 88B) and 2/3 of a stamp, to be used as a 2¢ stamp (Sc. 88C), as seen on this cover used within Port Hood. We will cover this provisional in a later chapter from the Pool book.*