



KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

October, 2016 — January, 2017

Issue 35

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Eight cent, single use, in period, and paying the correct rate stamps on cover from the arch issue to the Mufti issue to an UPU destination for up to two ounces in weight are one of the hardest frankings in Canadian philately to find. A couple of friends eventually helped me obtain my first eight cent # 236 on cover to Italy after 33 years of collecting this issue. Recently another friend helped to obtain my second such cover. Estonia is a very sought after destination for any issue, however with single 8 cent franking, Christmas came early.

► Chairman's Notes - by Gary Steele

What a year this has been in the world overall. In the world of philately we had the big New York International in May/June and our BNAPEX in Fredericton in October. Overall, they were very good shows with good attendance of dealers, collectors, and cooperative weather.

I am sure, like myself, many others have found, obtained, and studied new finds and acquisitions. Postal history material especially seems to be harder and harder to find but still seems to pop up every so often. There are long spells between purchases sometimes, but then when you least expect it, something new hits the eyeballs and heart.

The key is to keep looking. Ask your friends, let them know what you are looking for. The more eyes the better. For example a friend emailed me about a cover I have only had two of in 37 years. I knew the dealer and did a deal. That cover is an eight cent #236 George VI single use on cover to Estonia (see above). If you want a good destination this is one of them.

When purchases are far and few between emails and contacts can always have an impact. When that does not seem to work, spend some time on research on what you may have or what others may need to know.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

New Members: On behalf of the King George VI Study Group, I would like to welcome the following new members;
Dennis Amos, Gary Coates, Kevin Hans, Harold P. Jones Jr., and Gilles Morel.

King George VI Study Group

The King George VI Study Group operates under the auspices of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS)

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Back Issues: \$2.50 Cdn; \$2.50 U.S;
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► Editor's Desk

This issue of Post and Mail starts with one of the scarce eight cent mufti covers which was used in period, and paying the correct rate with one stamp. In addition, the cover is to a tough destination—Estonia.

On page three, there is the eighth installment of Eldon Godfrey's F.E.C.B articles. This installment focuses on Permit Application Forms .

Part four (page 11) of Donald J. LeBlanc's "The Royal Visit of 1939 " introduces us to "The Impossibles". In part four, the author introduces us to the scarce and rare plate blocks of the Royal Visit stamps. The article provides the background on how these rare blocks came to be.

On page 17, I've started what I hope will become a new part of our newsletter. For members who are not familiar with the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation and the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library which it houses, I've provided some background information. The H.P.S. L. is a great place to do philatelic research and the staff are extremely helpful and enthusiastic about what they do.

If you know of some philatelic information that the members of our study group might like to hear about, ie: a website, magazine article etc., please let me know. As most of us have collecting interests beyond KG VI, as long as it has to do with philately, I'll put it the newsletter. It doesn't have to be KG VI related.

On page 18, Joe Trauzzi tells a story about a "Tin Can Mail" cover. It is a fascinating story providing details about the "Tin Can Mail" deliveries and its' history. I would love see more of these stories for inclusions in the pages of Post and Mail.

Going forward, I am going to shift publication of the newsletter to coincide a little better with other BNAPS publications. As long as I receive material, the target dates will be early in April, June and October.

Page 19 provides a taste of BNAPLEX - 2016 for those who couldn't get to the conference.

The KG VI study group and the newsletter are intended to share information, research, discussion, and helping each other.

If we are to support this goal with quarterly newsletters, we need more contributions.

Comments, questions, want ads, items for sale are welcome.

A single cover or several that is/are interesting to you, or one or more of your favourites make great articles.

Find an interesting article, do some research — please share.

THIS IS YOUR STUDY GROUP — PLEASE HELP.

KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

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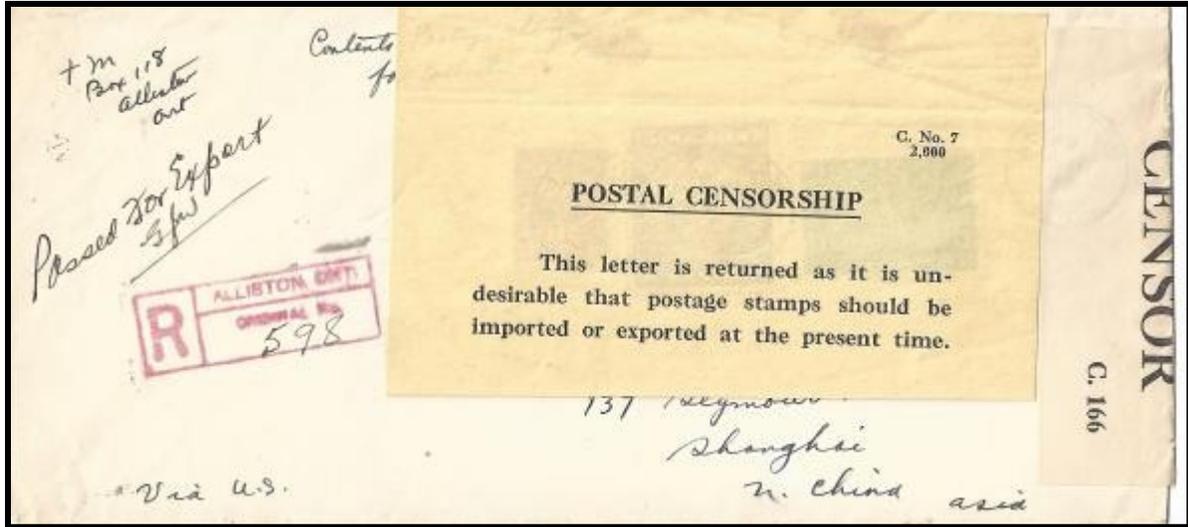


Figure 2a. Shanghai

Registered in Alliston, Ont., on **October 10, 1939** to Shanghai, N. China and noted on the face “*Contents Postage Stamps For Collectors*”; Postmaster **J. Gerald Jefferson Whiteside** noted in manuscript “*Passed For Export*”. The letter travelled to Vancouver where Censor C.166 rejected the forwarding of the letter and affixed “flimsy paper” **Form C. No. 7**.

There is no “Returned to Sender” marking on the envelope – with Form No. 7 affixed, it is assumed the letter was returned to the sender under a separate “ambulance cover”.

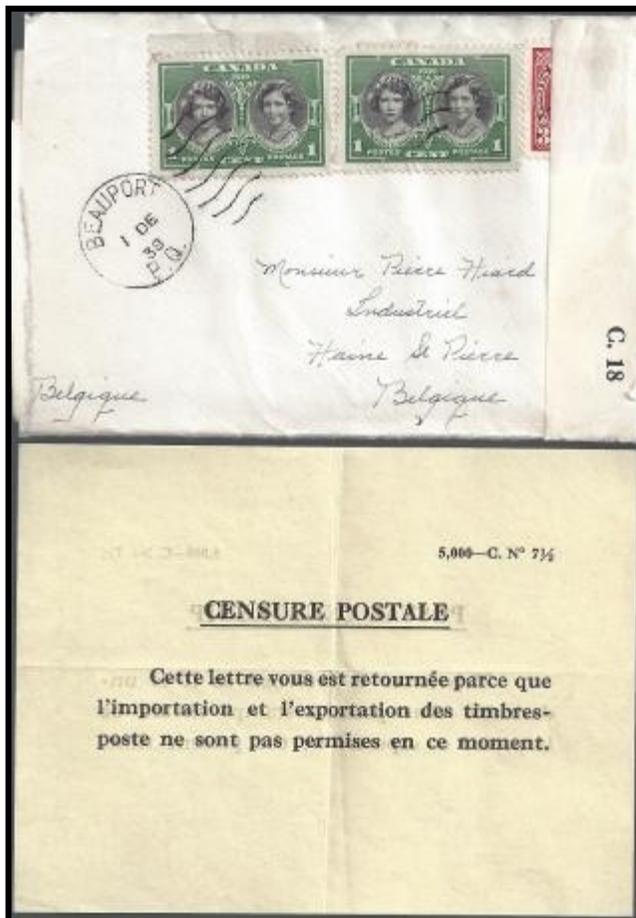


Figure 2b. Belgium

KING GEORGE VI POST & MAIL

Mailed (Figure 2b) at Beauport, P.Q. on December 1, 1939 to Haine St. Pierre, Belgium, the mailing highlights the lack of understanding and in some instance disregard of some postmasters of the requirements of the FECB. The Postmaster at Beauport, **Joseph Parent??**, accepted the letter into the postal system with no evidence of enquiry regarding the content of the letter – there is no endorsement “Passed for Export” made at the post office.

The letter bears no “in-transit” markings; however, the letter was rejected for onward transmission by Ottawa Censor C.18 and enclosed the “flimsy paper” bi-lingual **Form C. 7 ½** (bi-lingual printed on both sides) for return to the sender. It is assumed the letter was returned to the sender under an “ambulance cover”.

So – when was the mailing of postage stamps authorized under the umbrella of Form B permitted without further examination being required?



Figure 3a. Marigold Stamp Company

On **September 9, 1940**, Marigold Stamp Company mailed its communication to So. San Francisco, U.S.A. The cover is marked “PASSED FOR EXPORT”; however, there is no evidence of Form B.



Figure 3b. Marks Stamp Company

On **January 17, 1941**, Marks Stamp Company mailed its registered communication to Albany, New York. Note that Marks has a pre-printed envelope for use with cross border and other international correspondence, including a CUSTOMS DECLARATION.

The cover is marked PASSED FOR EXPORT. B FORM SUBMITTED. Initials

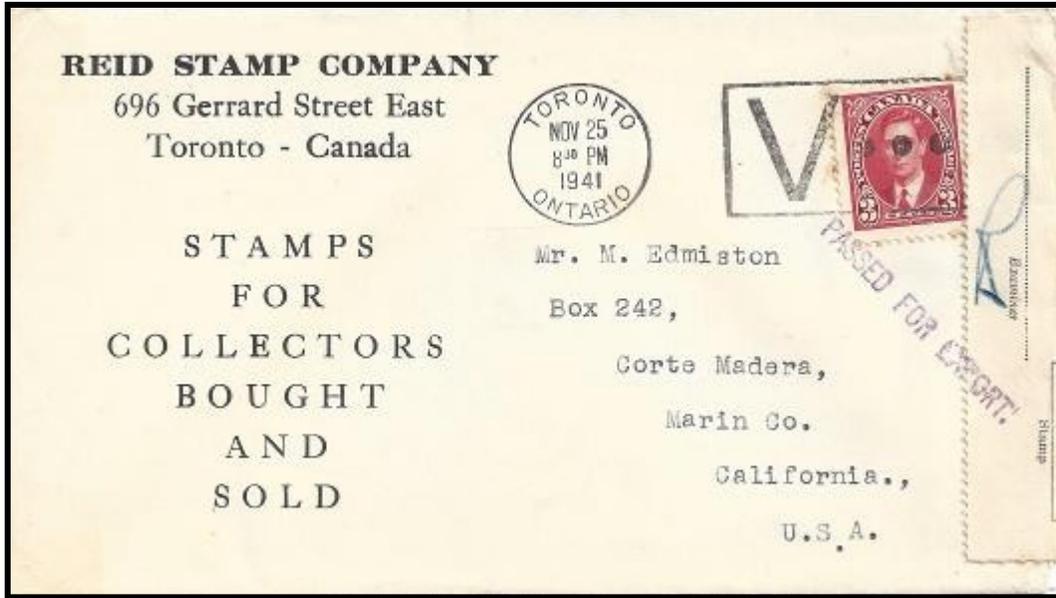


Figure 3c. Reid Stamp Company

On **November 25, 1941**, Reid Stamp Company mailed its correspondence to Corte Madera, California but failed to submit Form B. The correspondence was forwarded to the office of the District – Toronto where it was opened, examined, re-sealed and forwarded one day later.

Form D Application for Permit to Export Goods (often used together with Form B and noted as BD)

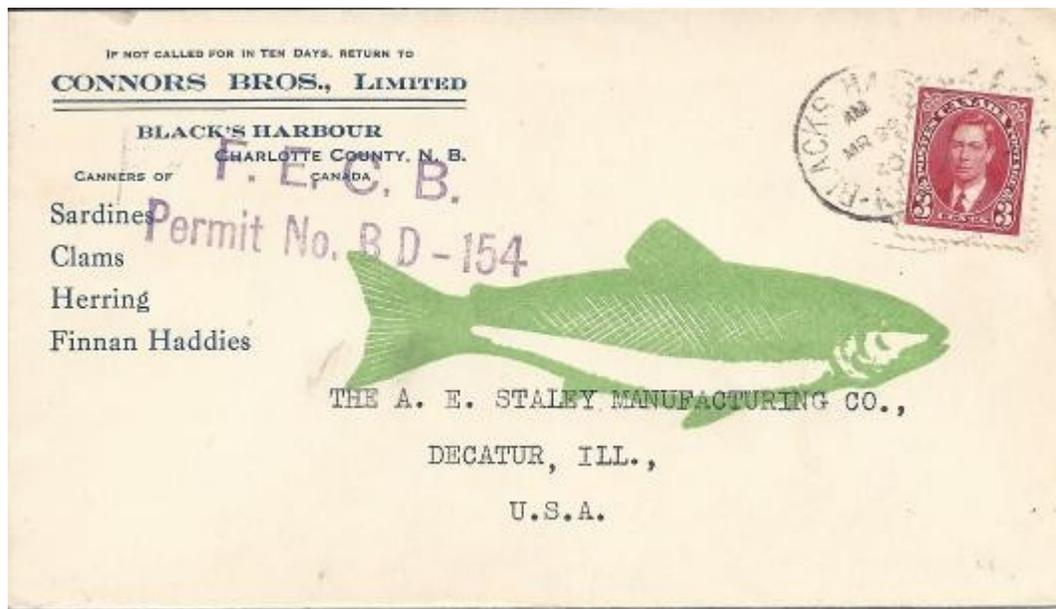
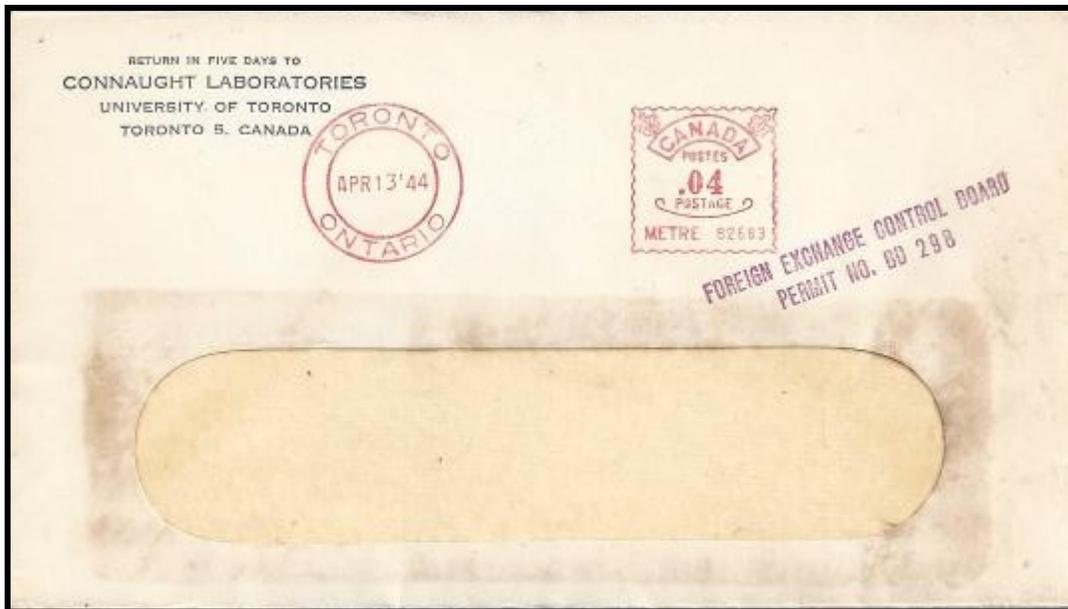


Figure 4a. Connors Bros

Connors Bros. Limited correspondence on **March 29, 1940** to Decatur, Illinois, U.S.A., bears the hand stamp **F.E.C.B. Permit No. BD – 154**.



Figurw 4b. Connaught Laboratories

Connaught Laboratories correspondence on April 13, 1944 bears the hand stamp

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL BOARD / PERMIT NO. BD 298

Form F Application for Foreign Exchange (used to substantiate a payment in foreign exchange)

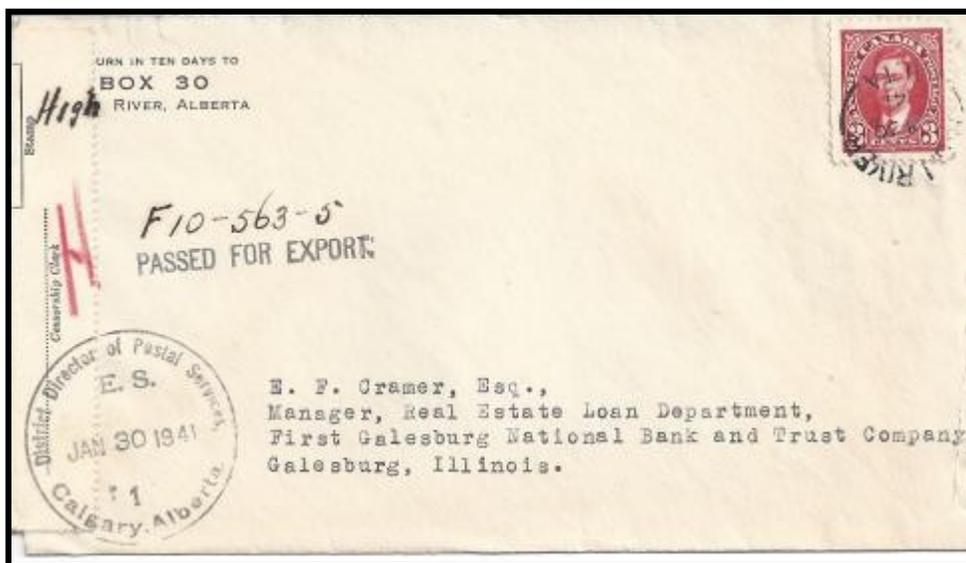


Figure 5a. High River

Correspondence on January 30, 1941 to Galesburg, Illinois, U.S.A., bears the hand stamp

PASSED FOR EXPORT and Manuscript F10 - 563 - 5 and was opened, examined, re-sealed and forwarded same day by the District Director Postal Services / Calgary, Alberta.

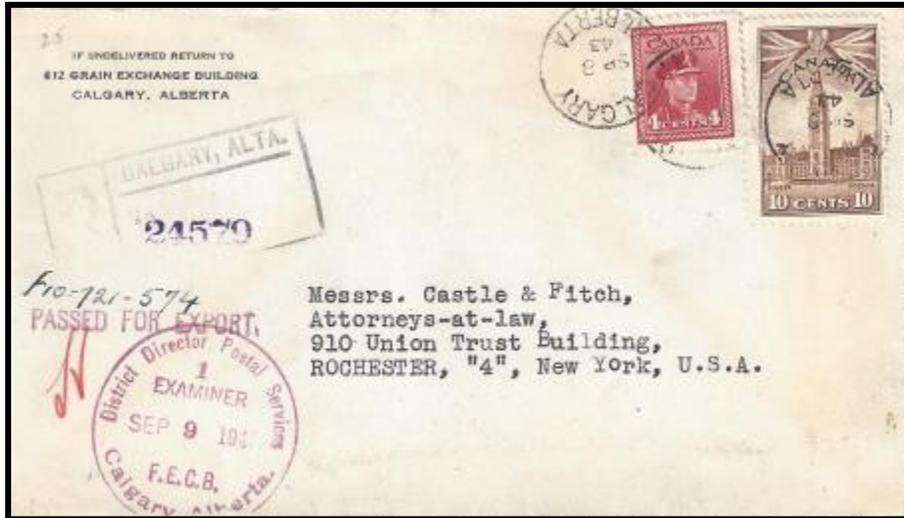


Figure 5b. Calgary

Correspondence on **September 8, 1943** to Rochester, New York, U.S.A., bears the hand stamp:

PASSED FOR EXPORT and Manuscript *F10 - 721 - 574* and was examined without opening (deemed to be mailed by a reliable source) and forwarded next day by the **District Director Postal Services / Calgary, Alberta.**

Form G Application to Transfer Canadian Dollars to the Account of Non-Resident



Figure 6. Calgary

Correspondence on **August 4, 1942** to Auburn, N.Y., U.S.A., bears the hand stamp

PASSED FOR EXPORT and Manuscript *G10 - 721 - 174* and was examined without opening (deemed to be mailed by a reliable source) and forwarded next day by the **District Director Postal Services / Calgary, Alberta.**

Form K

Application to Export Property Other than Goods

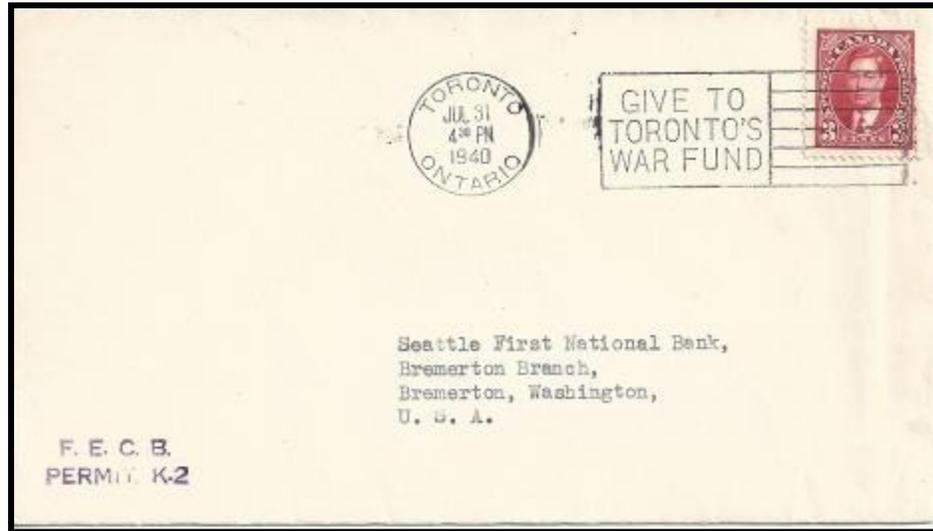


Figure 7. International Petroleum

International Petroleum Company Limited correspondence on Jul 7 31, 1940 was permitted to pass without further verification bearing the hand stamp F.E.C.B./PERMIT K-2

Form H

Application for Foreign Exchange for Travel Purposes and/or Permission to Export Foreign Exchange and/or Canadian Currency for Travel Purposes Form H is produced in both Long and Short formats

In order to travel abroad a traveller would require funds to sustain his/her travel needs. Though not of direct application to the handling of mail, a travel permit in respect to the required funds could be obtained at the post office.

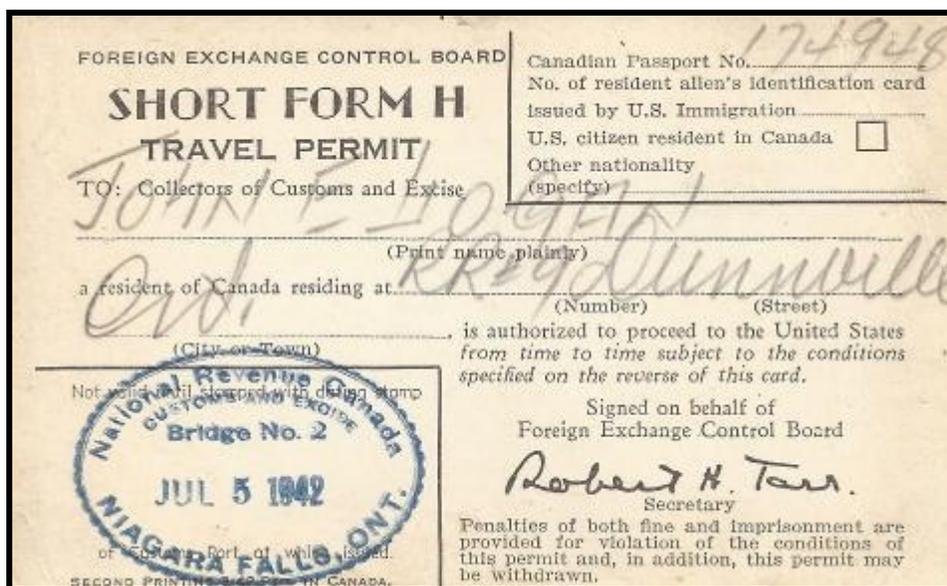


Figure 8a. Short Form H

The conditions under which this card may be used as a permit to leave Canada are:

1. The length of stay in the United States will not exceed 48 hours at any one time.
2. The trip does not involve any expenditures or borrowings outside Canada (except expenditures of the kind indicated in paragraph 4) either directly by the traveller or by any other resident on his behalf or indirectly by reason of transportation or other expenses in the United States being paid for in Canada. Accordingly, this card may not be used where aeroplane, railway, bus or other tickets have been purchased in Canada for destination in the United States except a city or town immediately across the border.
3. The traveller is not taking out of Canada any securities or any U.S. dollar cash or travellers' cheques and is not taking more than \$5 in Canadian cash or travellers' cheques.
4. No expenditures will be made in the United States except for nominal amounts for urban transportation or for incidental expenses in connection with business trips or in the event of an unforeseen emergency.

I undertake to use this permit only for trips to the United States which comply with the foregoing conditions and declare that no permit previously issued to me on this form has been cancelled.

Oliver Logan
(Signature of Permit Holder)

A resident desiring to travel to the United States in circumstances where this card is not suitable should apply to his bank for the ordinary travel permit on Form H.

Figure 8b. Short form continued

Convenient wallet/ pocket sized Short Form Travel Permit and Conditions of Use. (\$5 Cdn limit)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

TRAVEL PERMIT
PREPARE IN DUPLICATE
NOTE CONDITIONS ON BACK

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL BOARD FORM

REFERENCE No. H 11-789-228

SURNAME (PRINT NAME) *FARMER* Christian Name (GIVEN NAME) IN FULL *John P. Farmer*

ADDRESS (IN FULL) *2 Leith Ave. Toronto 13*

OCCUPATION *Self-employed employee*

<p>A. I hereby apply to the Foreign Exchange Control Board to take with me out of Canada bank notes, coin and travellers' cheques up to the amounts specified.</p> <p>B. Estimated number of days outside Canada and date of departure.</p> <p>C. Means of transportation from Canada</p> <p>D. Destination</p>	<p>CASH AND TRAVELLERS' CHEQUES</p> <p>Canadian funds..... \$ <i>5.00</i></p> <p>U.S. funds..... \$ <i>20.00</i></p> <p>Sterling..... £</p> <p>Other currencies.....</p>	
	<p>Estimated number of days outside Canada and date of departure.</p> <p>2 <i>Aug 4/49</i></p>	
	<p>Means of transportation from Canada</p> <p>Train <input type="checkbox"/> Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Plane <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p>Destination</p> <p><i>Buffalo N.Y.</i></p>	
	<p>E. Reason for journey</p> <p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS—APPLICANT'S EMPLOYER TO SIGN FOLLOWING DECLARATION: I/We certify that the applicant is a regular employee of the undersigned and that the trip described herein is being undertaken solely in my/our business interests.</p> <p>Name and authorized signature of employer..... ..</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH } TO BE COMPLETED ONLY WHEN APPLICATION SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED BY F.E.C.B. FOR PURPOSE INDICATED.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION }</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER } I DECLARE THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ANY U.S. DOLLARS OBTAINED BY ME FOR TRIPS COVERED BY THIS AND ALL OTHER PERMITS ON FORM H (EXCEPT THOSE FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL SINCE NOVEMBER 15, 1948) IS NOT MORE THAN \$50.</p> <p>Signature of applicant..... <i>John P. Farmer</i></p>	

F. I declare the above information to be true and correct and that no other application for me or on my behalf has been made in connection with this trip.

Date..... *Aug 4 1949* Signature of applicant..... *John P. Farmer*

G. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FROM F.E.C.B.

H. APPROVED FOR DEPARTURE BY CUSTOMS OFFICER

DATE *AUG 4 1949* NAME AND AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE *L. L. in Hall*

FILE NO.—(THIS PERMIT IS FRAMED BY BANK)

HAVE YOU READ THIS?

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

TRAVEL PERMIT

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

1. Unless otherwise specified, no expenditures may be made outside Canada in connection with the journey for which this permit is issued, except for nominal transportation and incidental expenses in the United States or for temporary expenses outside Canada (including ordinary tourist purchases which are eligible for importation into Canada).
2. Any Canadian or foreign currency or travellers' cheques remaining in the traveller's possession at the end of the journey must be brought back to Canada on his return and, in the case of foreign currency and travellers' cheques, sold to an authorized dealer.
3. No debts or obligations may be incurred to any non-resident for purposes incidental to the journey except those which will be paid with foreign currency bought from an authorized dealer or special agent of the Board for the purpose or with the currency and travellers' cheques authorized for export under this permit.
4. United States dollars may not be used to meet expenditures in a sterling area country.

FORM H — INSTRUCTIONS

1. Subject to certain exceptions a permit on this form is required by every resident of Canada and Newfoundland who desires to leave Canada taking more than \$10 in foreign bank notes and coin and travellers' cheques or more than a combined total of \$15 in Canadian and foreign cash and travellers' cheques.
2. The form is to be completed in duplicate and submitted by the applicant to his Authorized Dealer (i.e. bank) or Special Agent of the Board who may deal with the application if it is within his authority or to do so in accordance with the Regulations or Instructions of the Board or who will otherwise refer it to the Board.
3. The Authorized Dealer or Special Agent must when approving the form fill in the date up to which the form is valid for departure from Canada. This date shall be not more than two weeks after the date on which the application is approved unless the applicant is re-joining Canada temporarily on his journey, in which case the validity date shall be not more than two weeks after the date on which the application is approved plus the time between the applicant's first and final exit from Canada.
4. If an authorized Dealer or Special Agent approves the application or receives it back from the Board after approval by the Board, he will furnish one copy to the applicant and forward the duplicate to the Board at Ottawa.
5. The applicant must surrender his copy of the form to a Canadian Customs officer at the time of leaving Canada. If the trip involves entering Canada temporarily, either going or returning, or if the travel is in transit between two points in Canada and the traveller will return through the United States, the Authorized Dealer or Special Agent should mark the Form H "valid for return trip". The Customs Officer at each port of exit from Canada should stamp the permit and it should be surrendered to the Customs Officer at the final port of exit from Canada.
6. The Customs Officer to whom the form is surrendered will stamp it and forward it direct to the Board at Ottawa.

J. TO BE STAMPED BY CUSTOMS OFFICER AT FIRST PORT OF ENTRY WHEN TRAVELLER IS TO RE-ENTER CANADA TEMPORARILY ON JOURNEY.

K. TO BE STAMPED BY CUSTOMS OFFICER AT LAST PORT OF ENTRY WHEN TRAVELLER IS TO BE DEPARTED.

PORT DATING STAMP

Long Form Travel Permit and Conditions of Use (Permitting Funds greater than \$5 Cdn)

Figures 9a and 9b. Long Form H

Part 9 of this F.E.C.B. series will look at specified censorship and other perceived "censorship" activity by F.E.C.B. examiners.

THE ROYAL VISIT OF 1939 – PART IV
“THE IMPOSSIBLES” PLATE BLOCKS

BY DONALD J. LEBLANC

Introduction

In two recent major auctions held in 2015, two “Impossibles” Royal Visit Issue Plate Blocks were offered to collectors. Firstly, in the Brigham Collection of Canada auction sale, held on June 13, 2015, item 377 was described as a 1¢, #246 plate 2-3 block, LR position, one of “The Impossibles”. It was listed at \$1,250.00, sold at \$1,150.00 plus 15% commission for a total price of \$1,323.00 (See Illustration 1).



Illustration 1.

Next, in the Eastern Auctions Ltd auction sale held on October 23rd of the same year, item 755 was described as a 3¢, #248 plate 5-3 UL, with a missing side margin, but another of “The Impossibles”. The estimated value was listed at \$750.00, but it sold at twice the estimate, at \$1,600.00 plus 15% commission for a total of \$1,840.00 (See Illustration 2 and 3).



Illustration 2.

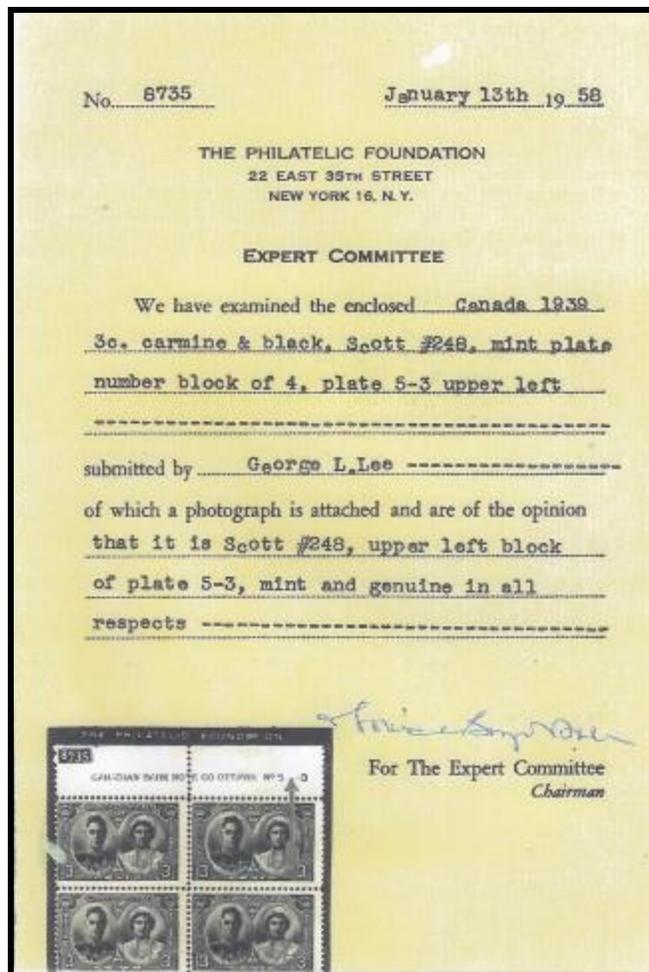


Illustration 3.

I have been following auctions for the last 40 years and usually one of these rare blocks shows up only once every 10 years or so. To have two plate blocks offered in the same year is quite exceptional.

What is an “Impossible” Royal Issue plate block?

Basically, it is the nickname given to describe the very rare plate positions of the Royal Issue, by a collector, **Mr. A.K. Grimmer**, in an excellent article published in September 1945 in *Popular Stamps Journal* (1).

Of the 176 possible plate combinations, there are 152 plate positions that are fairly common and not rare. The 3¢, plate 5-1 is believed to have never been issued, thereby eliminating 4 more corners. That leaves 20 rare positions: For the 1¢, the 4 corners of plates 1-3, 1-4, 2-3, and 2-4 and the 4 corners of plate 5-3 of the 3¢ stamp. All of the 2¢ positions are quite common. Of these rare positions, only 14 have been reported and prices are listed in the Unitrade Catalogue, leaving 6 positions with no sightings as yet.

The term “The Impossibles” was repeated in **K. Bileski's** plate block catalogues in the 1950's and 1960's and this nickname has stuck until today. In hindsight, since at least 14 different of the 20 do exist, they should have been called the “Improbables” instead of the “Impossibles”.

Why are the catalogue values for these 14 plate blocks so high?

Have a quick look at your Unitrade catalogue and verify the values for these 14 different plate blocks of the Royal Visit. I have been researching these blocks for the last 30 years and I have established the quantities that exist today, based on all of the major auctions sales over the last 60 years.

In total, according to my estimates, there are only 21 examples of these 14 position blocks remaining. There are 3 copies of 2 positions. I have photocopies of the 3 different examples of #246 plate 2-4 UL. I have photocopies of 2 of the 3 copies of #248 plate 5-3 UL. (Two are illustrated in this article). There are only 2 samples of the following positions, all #246, that is plates 1-3 LL, 2-3 LR

More surprisingly, concerning the remaining 9 positions listed in Unitrade, my research has indicated that there exist only ONE example for each position for a total of NINE plate blocks.

Therefore, the TOTAL inventory of the “The Impossibles” for these 14 positions blocks is a grand total of 21 blocks! In the next edition of the Post and Mail, I will furnish details of my research and more photos of these rare positions.

In terms of rarity, let's try to place these blocks in perspective. The Seaway Invert single is very expensive at \$12,500 catalogue, but I do not consider it very rare, since it is estimated that 400 exist. The 50¢ Bluenose (#158) plate block of 6 is valued at catalogue at \$3,000. Again, this is expensive, but not really a rare plate block, since at least 150 exist. Here, we only have a total inventory of 21 blocks for all of the rare 14 plate positions of which 9 of the 14 positions are unique, one of a kind! They are scarcer than the Royal Issue Imperf. Plate blocks, since at least 4 of each value exist.

Some more will show up, but even if we reach 25 or 30, they are still quite special and they will always be honoured as “The Impossibles”.

K. Bileski's comments

Everyone is familiar with dealer K. Bileski's poetic and colourful summaries. Here is what he had to say in his early catalogues concerning the Royal Visit Issue and the “The Impossibles”

“The three dominations issued to celebrate the “Royal Visit” were the first bi-colour Canadian stamps to be issued, printed entirely from engraved plates. The duty plates printed the coloured position of the stamp and the head plates, the black portion. The combination of these two plates gives the surprising large number of possible positions as listed above. A few of the positions in the 1¢ and 3¢ denominations are extremely rare.” (2)

“Combine one engraved “duty” plate with one engraved “head” plate, add three different denominations and with the help of several duplicate plates of each and forthwith, the collector has a possible 176 colourful position blocks to locate. It is many years since the 1939 Royal Visits appeared, but interest remains undiminished and the number who are trying to complete the fabled 176 must run into thousands.”

“The secret? Well, outside of their attractiveness, there is the delight in participating on one grand treasure hunt. Make no mistake. The great rarities were not printed by the Post Office in just one or two sheets each. More certainly must exist, widely scattered in dealers stocks and collectors accumulations completely ignored by their owners.

There are more of these rarities and perhaps present valuations may help turn them up. As matters stand, [in 1962], out of these 24 “Impossibles”, 13 different have been found. One exist in 2 examples, another in 3, the rest one each, making a grand total of 16 blocks!” (3)

[Author's comments: Since the sixties, a 248 5-3 LL has been discovered and listed for a total of 14 different and second copies of 3 others also confirmed, for a grand total of 21 instead of 16 blocks. We now refer to a total possible possibilities as 20 instead of 24, since it is believed that 248 plate 5-1 was never issued, thereby eliminating 4 blocks in the total.]

Why are these 20 positions so rare?

Let's divide the probable reasons into 2 groups. The first group is the common reasons related to all issues of the 1930's, 1940's and the 1950's. The second group is attributable specifically to the Royal Issue.

There are many common explanations to equate scarcity. These 3 stamps were printed in large sheets of 200 stamps with blank margins to form 4 panes of 50 stamps each, when the sheets were guillotined in the margins. Each pane contained only one plate block inscription on the outside corner. Bundles of 100 panes, all with the same plate inscription in the same corner were sent out to all of the depots, then to all of the post offices across Canada. For example, the four positions of the 1¢ plate 1-1 could be spread out between Halifax and Vancouver. If there was a second request from a Post Office, they would most likely a different position and a different plate number.

Basically, the Post Office Dept. in Ottawa did not appreciate plate block collectors. The Philatelic Dept. in Ottawa did not advertise the plate positions before they were issued, nor did they stock all of the plate numbers or plate positions. They would stock some panes, but only well-centered stamps and chosen randomly when supplies diminished. No current list of positions available were provided to collectors.

To avoid the time of separating a plate block from a pane, the philatelic office in Ottawa would not sell by mail a plate block by itself; rather the purchaser had to acquire a full pane for the 1¢ to 5¢ stamps and blocks of 10 for the higher values.

To avoid having an inventory of loose stamps, plate block collectors would avoid formal requests from Ottawa and would rely on

both a friendly local stamp clerk and a corner store stamp dealer.

Both solutions were not ideal, since their inventory was limited for current stamps. Therefore, the serious plate block collector would have to visit all the post offices in his town and surrounding villages to try to pick up different plate positions by himself. Local stamp clubs were just starting to emerge and not of much help.

If we have plate block collections today, they are possible thanks to the perseverance of early plate block collectors of the 1940's and 1950's.

Another obvious reason is that certain steel plates would crack or develop fissures during the printing of stamps. If the operator noticed the plate cracking, he would stop utilizing that specific plate and continue printing more stamps with the other plates containing no flaws. There is no record for any issue of that period to indicate how many stamps each plate produced. Here, for example, the 20 rare positions are all related to only 5 specific "duty" plates. It is my belief that these 5 plates developed fissures early in their production and the number of sheets produced are of a smaller quantity than from other plates.

Specific reasons to explain the scarcity of the Royal Visit Issue "Impossibles"

1. A Commemorative Issue: Contrary to the Mufti Issue of 1936 and the War Issue of 1942-43, these 3 stamps were printed to commemorate one event, the visit of Their Majesties and was a limited order with a fixed quantity. All of the stamps were sent out in April and May, 1938. Even though many post offices were sold out by September, no new orders were placed to the printers. The current definitive stamps, the "Mufti" stamps were always available during the visit and afterwards until July 1942. For example, concerning the 1¢ Princesses, 50 million stamps seems like a very large order, but compare it to the 1¢ Mufti at 1,394 million and the 1¢ War Issue at 2,543 million, and one realises the contrary.

2. Popularity of the King and Queen: No one could predict the impact of Their Majesties' visit would have on the Canadian public. The crowds that greeted them at each train stop across Canada were phenomenal. Many stamps were purchased as souvenirs and never found their way on envelopes or in collections. For only 4¢, one could have a portrait of Their Majesties and the Princesses. For \$2.00, one could buy a full pane of the 1¢ and 3¢ stamp (and no G.S.T or H.S.T.). These non-collectors indirectly competed with the plate-block collectors for these stamps.

3. Misinformation from the Post Office Dept.: There was advance information to the public to procure First-day covers of this Issue, whether from the Ottawa office or from the Royal Train post office on board, but no advance information about plate blocks whatsoever. Nor did the post office inform the public of the positions available at the Post Office in Ottawa. They would answer inquiries, but even here, my research uncovered that some misinformation was sent out, even though not done purposely.

One plate block (and 1st day cover) collector did inquire about the list of different plate positions that were printed. Our friend, **Mr A.K. (Allen) Grimmer**, the same individual who would later, in 1945, baptized the rare ones, "The Impossibles", is this collector. The Post Office sent out a reply that I found in the Archives, in the summer of 1939, but indicated only the "duty" plate numbers, thereby indicating only a total of 13 plates or 52 plate positions. This reply is not dated and is annexed to my article. (See Annex "A").(4)

This reply was not acceptable to our Mr Grimmer, since the numbers he found in the margins were combined numbers. He therefore requested more information concerning the "Tint" or "Face" plate numbers. A second reply was sent, again not dated, that now gives the correct plate combination of 44 plate numbers and 176 possible plate positions.

However, this information was only sent out in late 1939, when most of the post offices were sold out of these stamps. A copy of this reply from the Archives is found in **Annex "B"**. Mr Grimmer wanted the stamp community to be aware of those plate positions. He sent out this 2nd reply to certain clubs for publication. **The Rural Canadian Stamp Club** published it in its January 1940 bulletin, and gave credit to Mr Grimmer, but by this time, most post offices were out of stock.(5)

In terminating, Illustration # 4 (page 15) shows examples of the only 2 positions of # 248 3¢ plate 5-3 reported. There are possibly 3 examples of the UL position (two are shown in this article), but this is the only known example of the LR position. These 2 blocks were shown in the "**Gem Collection**" at the World Philatelic Exhibition in Toronto in 1996. I still own these two blocks.

In the next article, we will continue with the "Impossibles" and I will publish photographs of the known 1¢ positions. If anyone has any of these "Impossibles", please send me an email and scan to : jeanmall@hotmail.com

Any comments or questions are appreciated.

Good Hunting!

Donald J. Leblanc



Illustration 4.

References

- (1) “Royal Visit Plate Blocks” by Mr. A. (Allen) K. Krimmer, Popular Stamps, published by A.L. McCready in Cobden, Ontario, September 1945 edition, at pages 11 and 12.
- (2) The Canada Plate Block Catalogue, K.Bileski, 4th edition, 1959.
- (3) The Canada Plate Block Catalogue, K. Bileski, 5th edition, 1962.
 Note: Same comments repeated in 6th and 7th edition, in 1965 and 1968.
- (4) Library and Archives, Canada
 Vol. 3944, page 197, File 13-7-23, Postage.
- (5) Library and Archives, Canada
 Vol. 1344, page 198, File 13-7-23 Postage.

ANNEX “A”

**Post Office Department, Canada
Financial Branch – Philatelic Division (4)**

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry, I have to advise that the Royal Visit commemorative stamps are issued to the Post Office in panes of fifty each of which bears two plate numbers, the first in colour, representing the “Duty” plate, and the second, in black, representing the “Tint” plate.

So far, as the Department is concerned, only the former number has any significance. The second was added by the manufacturers by reason of the fact that any defects that might have developed in the “Tint” plates during the process of printing could not very well have been traced without these plates being numbered.

So far, as the “Duty Plates” are concerned, the following numbers were used:

1- cent stamps – Nos. 1-2-3-4-5

2- cent stamps – Nos 1-2-3

3 cents stamps _ Nos. 1-2-3-4-5

Yours Truly,
H.E. Atwater
Financial Superintendent

ANNEX “B”

**Post Office Department, Ottawa
Financial Branch, Philatelic Divisions (5)**

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry, I have to advise that the Royal Visit commemorative stamps are issued to the Post Office in panes of fifty, each of which bears two plate numbers; the first, in colour, representing the “Duty” Plate, and the second, in black, representing the “Tint” or “Face” Plate.

So far, as the Department is concerned, only the former number has any significance. The second was added by the manufacturers by reason of the fact that any defects that might have developed in the “Tint” or “Face” plates during the process of printing could not very well have been traced without these plates being numbers.

The following is a list of the plate numbers used. They are not all available through the Philatelic Division.

1- cent stamps

On “Duty” plate No.1 with “Tint” or “Face” plates Nos. 1-2-3-4

“ “ “ “ 2 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1-2-3-4

“ “ “ “ 3 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1-2-3-4

“ “ “ “ 4 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1-2-3-4

“ “ “ “ 5 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1-2

2-cent stamps

On “Duty” plate No. 1 with “Tint” or “Face” plate Nos. 1-2

“ “ “ “ 2 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1-2

“ “ “ “ 3 “ “ “ “ “ “ 1-2

ANNEX B continued on Page 17

3-cent stamps

On "Duty" plate No.1 with "Tint" or "Face" plate Nos. 1-2-3-4

" " " " 2 " " " " " " 1-2-3-4

" " " " 3 " " " " " " 1-2-3-4

" " " " 4 " " " " " " 1-2-3-4

" " " " 5 " " " " " " 1-2-3-4

Yours Truly

H.E. Atwater, Financial Superintendent

► Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation

If you are not familiar with the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, it is home to the **Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library**.

What the Harry Sutherland Philatelic Library offers you is:

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| * The Foster and Freeman VSC 6000 | * assistance with all manner of philatelic questions. |

Your editor goes to the V.G. Greene Foundation by taking to GO train from Burlington to Union Station in Toronto, and then the Younger Street subway to the Summerhill station. The V.G. Green Foundation is a one block walk north from the subway station.

If you don't live near Toronto or can't get there, there is a very keen and helpful library staff who will help you.

- * Simply define your research query, and what you want to know?
- * Check the online catalogue (www.greenefoundation.ca) to see what they may have.
- * Send them an email or phone them with your question(s).

The email address for queries is library@greenefoundation.ca.

The telephone number is **416-921-2073**

Mailing address is 10 Summerhill Avenue, Toronto, ON M4T 1A8

The regular opening hours are Monday through Thursday, from 10 am to 4 pm. You can also research at the Library on the Fourth Wednesday of most months. until 7 pm and on the following Saturdays.

Fun Time Philately

By Joe Trauzzi

This is my favorite cover in my 1939 collection. Most philatelists consider it philatelic in nature but for over 100 years it was the only way mail was delivered and sent from the island. It is tin can mail!

Tin can mail was started in 1882 on the island of Niuafu'ou, Tonga in the south sea. **William Travers**, a plantation manager working on the island found himself with out any way to contact the outside world. The island is very steep and no harbour was deep enough for ships. Mr. Travers proposed to the Tongan postal authorities that passing ships could throw overboard a biscuit tin can with mail inside. Swimmers would than make the hours long, one-mile swim in a strong current to retrieve the tin can.

Tin can mail was made popular by an English trader named **Charles Ramsey**, the first westerner to make the treacherous swim, over 112 times and mostly at night. By the 1920s tin can mail had become so popular it was a tourist attraction and cruise ships helped deliver the mail while passengers watched.

In 1928 Ramsey's rival, who worked for a competing trading house, named **Walter George Quensell** saw a great opportunity. He set up a small hut on the beach and started stamping all the mail for the visiting ships. He claims to have stamped over a million and a half covers, making a small fortune.

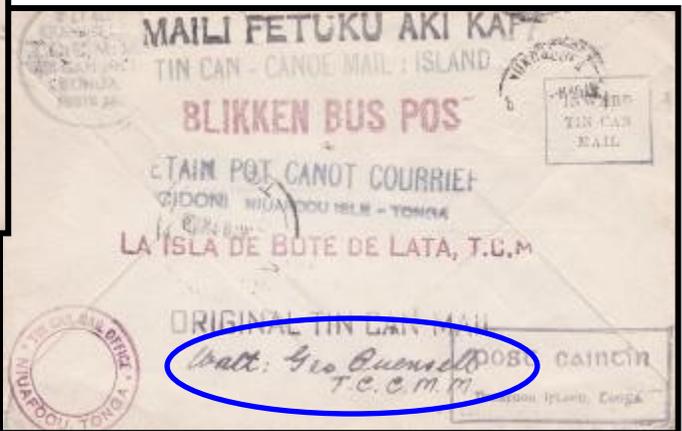
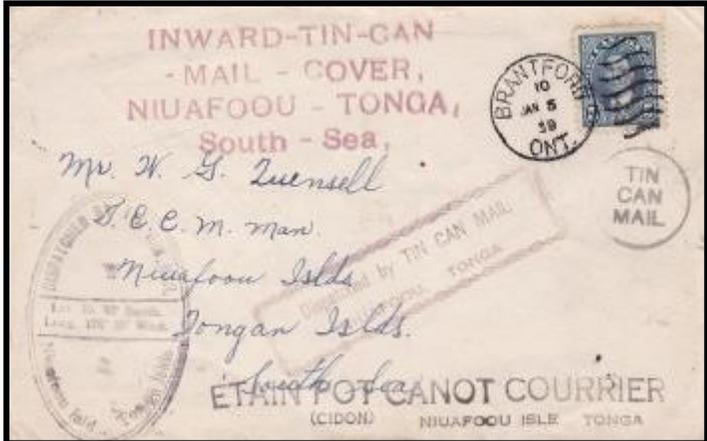
In 1931 a shark killed a Tongan swimmer and swimming was banned. Afterward the mail could only be retrieved by canoe. The only woman to make the swim was an Australian champion swimmer and sister in law of Walter Quensell, **Pauline Hoeft**,

In 1946 a volcanic eruption occurred and caused the evacuation of the island. It was 12 years before anyone could return and by then Quensell had died. Tin can mail was revived and lasted until 1983 when an airport was built on the island.

My cover is Canadian stamped, sent from Brantford, Ontario on Jan 5, 1939 to Mr. W. G. Quensell paying the correct five cent non UPU rate. It has numerous cancels and markings on it and is signed as original tin can mail by Mr. Quensell.



Location of Niuafu'ou



► **BNAPEX – FREDERICTON, N.B. —2016**

This year's conference held in Fredericton, N.B., was outstanding. The weather was excellent, food was great, the exhibit hall was spacious, with lots of room for vendors and the exhibits. The outing to King's Head, a restored historic village, featured home cooking which was quite tasty, especially the Maritime bread! As usual the Sunday night presentations and banquet was well attended and again excellent. A great big congratulations to all who were involved in putting the Fredericton conference together.

Below are photo's as follows: two of our King George VI study group meeting (did I mention the meeting rooms were huge), a shot of the exhibit area, an exterior shot of the King's Head and one taken at the Sunday evening banquet.

Members and Guests present at the King George VI study group were: **Eldon Godfrey, Robert Haslewood, Marl Isaacs, Luc Legault, Ken Lemke, Peter McCarthy, Jeff Parks, Gary Steele, Derek Smith, Paul Sneyd, Mike Street, C.A. Stillions, and Jim Woodfill,**

During the meeting there were a number of show and tell items by: Jeff Parks, Jim Woodfill, Gary Steele, Eldon Godfrey, and Luc Legault.

An appeal was made by Gary Steele to see more King George VI exhibits at the various shows.



► Members' For Sale Corner

For sale –KG VI Stamps and Postal History

Member Dealers can help you find that special item you are looking for

See the back page of Issue 30 for further details

Dave Jones has a few hundred MNG Unitrade 285 plate blocks (3, 6, 7 and 8); 286 (plates 12, 13 and 14) for sale and a few 306 (plate 18) also some mint and NG singles for these issues. If of interest to anyone studying these issues please email shibumi.management@gmail.com Not looking for a million dollars.

► Members' Wants

Precancel plate blocks, precancel varieties and precancels on cover wanted: Gary Steele, is willing to trade for anything he has listed on Ebay under Sportster.

Dead Letter Office Covers - All Issues Gary is also looking for DLO covers for the 1937 - 52 period.

KGVI Covers with Foreign Postage Dues Gary is also interested in underpaid Canadian covers to foreign destinations charged/marked Postage Due and paid with foreign dues or regular stamps. Gary can be reached by email at gwsteele57@gmail.com

Mufti Pre-cancels Bruce Field is seeking any values of Mufti pre-cancel warning strips of 20. Bruce can be contacted by e-mail at a.b.field@sympatico.ca

Peace Issue Rates and Destinations Mike Street is looking for Peace Issue Stamps (Sc #s 268-273, C9, CE 3-4 and E11) on mail to China and the American Pacific (Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, Philippines) up to June 1952 but especially Sept 16-Nov 15/1946. Also Parcel post anywhere, legitimate paquebot and unusual foreign destinations, including Russia and components of the USSR from 1946 to June 1952.

Members

Your Want or For Sale List Could be Here

Contact Ken at kwlemke@sympatico.ca

► Members' Wants

Covers Wanted Eldon Godfrey is seeking "Mail Suspended Service" and "Foreign Exchange Control Board" covers. His e-mail address is ecg@godfrey-godfrey.ca

KGVI Booklets - All Issues Eirwyn Jones is looking to buy/sell/exchange KGVI booklets and has duplicates to offer. Eirwyn can be contacted by mail at 10 Low Green, ATHERTON, Manchester, United Kingdom M46 9HS or by email at jennifer.jones45@btinternet.com

KG VI Patriotic Covers Bill Verbruggen is assembling a collection of KG VI Patriotic Covers for the purpose of studying the Postmarks used. He's interested in corresponding with study group members who can assist him with:

- * Postmarks used during the KG VI era
- * Cachets produced during the era.
- * Any references pertaining to the above mentioned subject.

His e-mail address is verbill@dccnet.com

George VI Postes-Postage production materials

Peter Kritz is asking for members' help in locating any production materials for the George VI Postes-Postage or withdrawn issues including any press releases or correspondence they may have for these issues. Also looking for #285 Plate #4 UR. Peter can be contacted by email at pkritz@coldwellbankerpbr.com

Postmarks on KG VI wanted Patrick Moore in Bonn, Germany, is looking for a nice large collection or collections of clear and readable postmarks on KG VI stamps. Geographic diversity rather than scarcity is important. His e-mail address is patrick.moore@snaflu.de

1949 - 51 Postes-Postage Greg Spring is looking for in period postal history items featuring the last Canada KGVI issues incl. overprints postally used to destinations outside of Canada and the US particularly, dated 1949 but no later than Feb 6, 1952 (the King's death). Greg can be contacted by email at g.m.spring@asch.co.uk.

KGVI Period Articles Wanted Your Editor is always looking for articles or images of special items from Members for future Post & Mail Issues. Also this space is available for any member who wishes to place a Want List ad. Detailed want lists can be published on the Study Group website. Contact Ken or Stephen for further info at snail mail or email addresses given on page 2 of the Post & Mail.