

## Review: The CANADA and NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPLESS COVER CATALOG

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BY DR. JAMES C. GOODWIN #171

This publication represents the first attempt to catalog the Stampless Covers of Canada and Newfoundland. The Authors and their collaborators are greatly to be commended for the tremendous amount of effort necessary to place such a catalog on the philatelic market. Their reward will be the grateful appreciation of an already large group of B.N.A. collectors, and others whose interest will lie in the comparison of the material illustrated, described and classified, with that of their own countries.

Konwiser and Campbell are well known for their valuable contributions to the stampless cover field. They have attracted in consequence, the assistance of a large group of collaborators—well known philatelists such as Denton, Jarrett, Halliday, Richardson, Wellburn and many others. A publication such as this confidently may be expected to provide a great impetus for further research into the field of early history, postal or otherwise, of Canada and Newfoundland. It may be pointed out in this connection, that no serious collector of stampless material will fail to note the contents of old pioneer letters in order to check dates, locale, time occupied in transmission of mail, etc. In so doing, little known, or unknown phases of the early historical development of Canada may be brought to light—a fascinating field in itself. The authors express the hope that those using this Catalog will not hesitate to assist in subsequent revisions—especially in relation to greater accuracy, simplicity of classification, inclusion of new material, etc.

Prefacing the catalog of stampless cover markings itself one finds a large section containing much useful information, so necessary for the careful study of the collector's own covers. The 'anatomy' of the stampless cover is explained, together with an analysis of surface markings, and suggestions as to the valuation of stampless material. A sensible definition and triple grouping of cover markings is presented: (a) *Town and date markings*, (b) *Rate markings*, e.g. Paid, Unpaid, Free, etc., and (c) *Service markings* which include (1) Carrier markings, such as Way, Ship, Steamboat, Railway P.O., etc., (2) Contributory markings such as Too Late, Adv., Money Letter, etc. The undesirable use of the terms 'manuscript', and 'handstruck postage stamps' should be discontinued. They tend only to confuse the collector who pictures in his mind the well known adhesives, when the term 'postage stamps' is used.

The question of U. S., Canadian, and British currency differences is well covered, again necessary for the proper understanding of postal rate markings. A section on postal rates and their development completes this picture.

An admirable and concise section adequately covers the postal history of Canada, supplemented by a useful list of important cities, giving dates of founding and names of founders. Brief historical notes follow on British Columbia, Cape Breton, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Vancouver Island. There is included as well a valuable list of early post offices, with dates of their establishment.

Preceding the section devoted to the cataloguing of approximately 2000 Stampless Cover items, there are several pages of illustrations, showing the main varieties of town, rate, and service markings. Konwiser has attempted illustration and classification of town markings based on the following general types: Straight Lines, Ovals, Fancy townmarks and Crowned Circles, Double Circle, Circle and Circular town markings. On the whole the idea is good, and is one answer to a very complex problem of classification. The combined experience of collectors in using this catalog undoubtedly will suggest modifications and perhaps improvements toward further interest, simplicity and accuracy—the ultimate goal. The ideal catalog might be stated to be one in which each item combines illustration (or type reference to illustration), description, dates of use, and valuation of the cover. Demand may ultimately justify the expense necessary to produce such a publication. In the meantime an excellent start has been made. Your reviewer asks you to remember after you have examined your copy carefully, that the authors have asked for suggestions and further assistance. Let us all get behind them and help produce a Standard Catalog of Stampless Covers of Canada and Newfoundland second to none.