

# Postal Stationery Panorama

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Through the courtesy of Alf Holness (BNAPS 596), we have procured a few copies of the new Forces Air Letter illustrated in our column in the March, 1963 issue of TOPICS. Canadians should be able to get these at their local post offices, but for those of you living outside of Canada, we would be glad to send a free copy as long as the supply lasts. These will be unused. However, if you prefer to collect these FALS used, F/L Robert Furneau, RCAF Station, St. Sylvestre, P.Q. informs us that he is still willing to help anyone interested to get these with CAPO cancels. Just self-address the form, add a 5 cent Canadian stamp and send it under separate cover to Bob; he will do the rest.

## Specimens

For many years we had suspected the existence of Canadian postal stationery with U.P.U. specimen overprint, as we had seen these overprints on the stationery of almost every other member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The only reports we had received until recently were on the specimen in oval handstamps on 'Commercial' envelopes (Fig 1.). These, we felt sure, were printers' proofs and as the handstamps were applied by private individuals, had no philatelic significance.

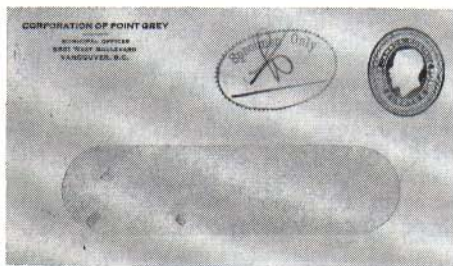


Fig. 1

At the BNAPS Convention last September, we had the good luck to purchase Fred Jarrett's collection of Canadian Postal Cards which contained the first three U.P.U. Specimen overprints we had ever seen or heard about. The cards were Holmes #1427d, 1430f, and 1432a. The last is illustrated in Figure 2. In Figure 3, for comparison, we show the Newfoundland envelope #1600a



Fig. 2

with similar overprint. The Newfoundland envelopes and postal bands so overprinted were reported many years ago in TOPICS by Dan Myerson (BNAPS L3). Stationery with this overprint is a true specimen of the P.O. Department's making. Theoretically at least, a copy of each postal emission of a country is supposed to be sent to the U.P.U. and one to the postal department of each member nation, to familiarize them with all new issues. These were usually invalidated by overprinting them with the word 'Specimen'. Some countries must have sold stationery to collectors with this same overprint, which would account for the fact that from many countries, specimens are relatively common. Obviously, this is not true of Canada and Newfoundland.

We feel sure that there must be other items of Canadian stationery with this overprint, and would like very much to hear from anyone who can report even one new item.

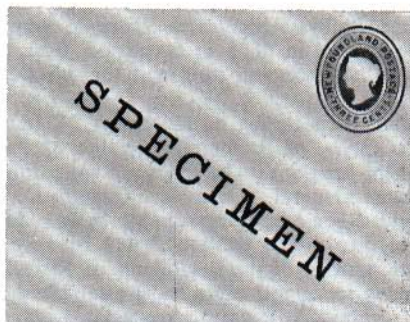


Fig. 3