

may expect, were the North, East, and West Branch Offices, and were situated at what was then close to the directional limits of the city. There was no South office since Toronto's south is Lake Ontario. These offices processed all mail received and, as far as is known, issued money orders. They were true post offices in every sense with their own postmasters but under the guidance of the Toronto Post Office. There were two sets of cancelling devices known to these offices and both were of the duplex type.

The first type (Fig. 1), which was used for a period of one year, was composed of a single ring "TORONTO, ONT." dater coupled with a grid type killer showing an "N", "E", or "W", in intaglio.

The second type (Figure 2) indicated the branch name in both the dater and the grid killer and these came into use in 1882. Examples from the East Branch are the rarest, since this post office was situated in a section of the city that was relatively sparsely populated, and with low industrial density. In fact, the growth of Toronto to the east was slower than in any other direction until well into the twentieth century.

THE STREET SYSTEM

The next major change came in 1886, at which time the Street Post Office era was ushered in. The North Branch, situated at Queen and Bathurst Streets with Follis Johnson as postmaster, became Bathurst Street Post Office, and the East Branch with W. C. Price as postmaster, (from Mr. Giles), became Queen Street East Post Office at Queen St. East and Parliament Street. In addition to these, three new post offices were established. These were Bleecker Street Post Office at Wellesley and Bleecker Streets (northeast section) with Mrs. E. Newton as postmistress (Toronto's first); Dundas Street Post Office at Dundas Street and Ossington Avenue (west section) with Albert Hudgin as postmaster; and the Spadina Avenue Post Office at Spadina Avenue and College Street (west central section) with Joseph Reading as postmaster. It appears as though the initial device of each of these six post offices was a single ring dater and a ten bar killer duplex. These are shown in Figure 3.

(To be continued)

A Philatelic and Postal History of Newfoundland

By kind permission of the author

Brien C. Damien

(Continued from last month)

Freeling replied to the effect that Newfoundland could be brought into the fringe of the British postal system, more or less as Gower requested. Postmaster Solomon opened the office in 1806. In 1809 provision was made for forwarding letters to Brigus, Harbour Grace, and Carbonear. Merchant vessels carrying the letters to these ports received one shilling each. Then, Governor Admiral John Holloway, Gower's successor, issued this relevant proclamation: "I authorise Mr. Solomon to pay at the rate of one penny per letter to . . . any . . . person . . . who may deliver them to his care at the Post Office, and I also authorise him to demand two pence for every letter he delivers from his own office, one-half being for his own trouble." The first post office was simply an informal yet reliable agency for exchanging local letters and for entrusting foreign mail and receiving it with merchant boat masters. The facility

itself, a sideline for Solomon, consisted of perhaps a corner of his office and Watch Shop, a desk, chair, some pigeonholes and bookkeeping equipment. Due to the many methods of getting around paying for a collect letter, Solomon's other enterprises were much more lucrative than the Post Office. Britons writing to Newfoundland had to pay a high tariff, one shilling, for transmission to Halifax, in addition to In-land Postage to the British packet port, Falmouth.)

St. Johnsmen were soon accustomed to dealing directly with the merchant masters, rather than taking their letters to the post office, where they would miss several boats while the postmaster was occupied with non-postal business. After the following notice was issued, the gap between Solomon and his customers became a gulf:

"In consequence of the small number of letters brought to this office, in comparison

to those received at this port, the postmaster is under the necessity of informing the Public that no letter in future will be sent to the respective person to whom (it) may be addressed—but due notice will be given, as early as possible, by affixing a list on the outside of the office door; and it is expected that all letters will be paid for on delivery, as everyone must be aware of the trouble and inconvenience of entering such trifles in a book."

An enraged resident even wrote to the General Post Office Secretary requesting that he (the resident) be given the postmastership. Apparently, he believed that Solomon was dishonest as well as unbusinesslike. Although nothing came of the man's request, Solomon eventually had to concede to his customers, for shortly afterward he advertised for "a sober man who will undertake to deliver letters to the different persons to whom they may be addressed."

Simon Solomon himself engraved the first hand stamp used at the office. The ornate design of the imprint consisted of a double circle circumscribing (literally) the royal seal within, plus the words "Post Office Newfoundland." It was first used in 1810, and some think it followed another device made in London, making a rectangular impression with the royal seal and the inscription "General Post Office St. John's—Nfld." These devices were not used for postmarking, but rather indicating prepayment of postage. It was in 1821 that the first postmarking device—also engraved by Solomon—saw use, impressing the words "St. John's" on all mail passing through the office. Solomon made a second prepaid handstamp in 1827, producing a design identical to that of the 1810 device, except that the new design was positive, i.e. the background was white as opposed to the negative imprint of the earlier device.

(to be continued)

Canadian Revenue Study Group News

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Static—First I would like to thank all those who have written asking for information and supplying information for this column. Since I have been involved with taking over the Treasurer's job for BNAPS my hands have been full and I ask your forbearance in replies. I am forwarding some to others whom I feel will more than adequately take care of your questions and be able to help you in finding sources of catalogs, lists, etc. I hope to be back on an even keel after the early dues deluge and work associated with it slows down a bit; thanks again for your patience.

To Revenue Group Members—by this time you have already received a four-page list of Revenue goodies. This is due to the efforts of Ed Richardson and Bill Rockett, along with an assist from others.

As Bill states, we hope to make mailings periodically to the members of the Revenue Group. We are trying to do this in a semi-catalog format, but this will in no way take the place of the catalog we hope to get out in the future.

One sending of sheets was made in 1969 and we hope for two or three to be sent out in 1970. So those of you who are in-

terested in Revenues, and not on the Group List, I'd suggest you get in touch with Bill Rockett and join the rest who are getting this information. Bill's address is 2030 Overlook Ave., Willow Grove, Penna. 19090.

Yukon Overprints—Another in the overprinted 50c Yukon has made its appearance in the form of a \$20 variety; this would be Sisson's R-18. An up-to-date listing of these items along with the colors of the surcharges is being worked on at this time and the information should be available in the near future.

Plastic Playing Cards—Bill Rockett advises that there are two different overprints on the 20c Red three-leaf with "Plastic Playing Cards" in three lines, along with vertical lines, and what appears to be a crown on top at the left side; better look out and see what you can come up with.

Upper and Lower Canada Law Stamps—

It would appear that this is a fruitful field for members to start looking about for catalog help. Since there appears to be many perf varieties, overprint errors, etc., it would be helpful if members would look