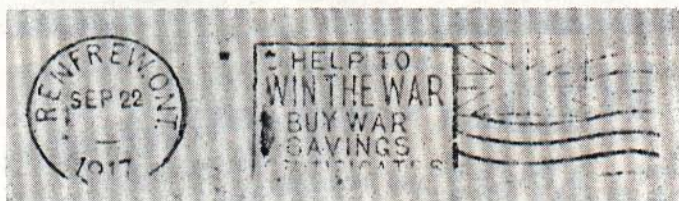


# MAIL FROM OUR MEMBERS



## Flag cancellations

I recently received a copy of Mr. Richardson's new book "The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973" and was interested in his comments on Type 24, Renfrew, pages 42 and 43.

The enclosed photocopy shows Type 24, Renfrew, dated September 22, 1917, four days later than the last noted date of issue. While this is documentation of usage, it was, in this example, used as a transit back stamp.

— R. P. Stokes

## That article — again!

I have read several times a letter from R. H. Pratt, published in the April issue of *Topics* and after several months of thought, it still bothers me.

I do not argue with the message the writer is attempting to get across, that the articles should be factual and that the editorial board should exercise care in the choice of material.

The bluntness and use of expletives, however, in Mr. Pratt's letter is enough to discourage contributions to *Topics*. The letter itself is most informative and I hope we will hear from Mr. Pratt's fund of knowledge, but please — not in anger!

— Douglas Murray

## ... and a word from the ed

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Murray perhaps does not realize that the article in question, on Labrador's postal history, was not written by a BNAPS member, as is the case with

most articles that appear on these pages. Instead the article was reprinted from an old issue of *Linn's Stamp News* which we inherited when we took over this job, along with many other "filler" items. The writer of the article wrote with seeming authority, and being short of time and long on space, we simply ran it without checking.

In fact, few articles are checked by the editorial board or by anyone else, except the editor. Such thorough checking might be possible only (a) if a full-time editor were available; (b) if the ultimate experts in each field of BNA philately had plenty of free time to devote to checking submissions (assuming an editorial board could agree on who the experts would be in the first place); and (c) if there were so many submissions available at all times that some could be set in type after having been approved while scores of other articles, for later issues, could be going through the mails, back and forth across the continent, getting approval. Such checking is a luxury that only a handful of scientific magazines can afford.

Happily, most articles we receive have been well-researched and can be run as they are written. When errors do occur they can be corrected in later issues. When there's a difference of opinion, the other view or views can form other articles afterwards.

This may not be the ideal way of doing things, but it's the only practical one. Contrary to the wishes of many members, this is not a scientific journal. Nor, in fact, is stamp collecting a science. It's a hobby — and one that is sometimes taken too seriously.