

The authors' main discussion concerns Fig 2. The Die Proof shows the so-called 'Bump' under the 'S' of POSTAGE to be a slightly extended horizontal shading line — the engravers hand pushed a tiny fraction too far. It is a Master Die flaw, not a Transfer Roll flaw, and is present on every 6 Cents SQ printed. On overinked copies it appears as a small blob of colour, on underinked copies, for what it truly is. The 'mutually exclusive relief break' is neither mutually exclusive, nor a relief break. Worn printings show the break *and* the 'blob'. Well printed copies do not show the break, which is from wear on the plate.

The Die Proof, if examined, will show the oval line (Fig. 4) to be very fine from about 6 o'clock to about 4 o'clock. Wear would cause gaps in this area. Interestingly, it looks as if there were some attempt to retouch the plates at this point as most examples show the line to be irregular. The Proof does not.

I cannot comment on Fig. 3 except to say that it is not on the Die Proof. Both Figs. 5 & 6 are, again, Master Die flaws, not Relief flaws.

Multiple material I have shows no evidence of a regular change of relief, and much more work will have to be done before any such conclusion can be drawn.

N.J.A. Hillson
Glasgow

THE IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ROLLER CANCEL

Ken Ellison's discovery of a cover with the 1932 'Ottawa Imperial Economic Conference' roller cancel (*TOPICS* 43:1,35) is indeed a nice find.

There are no official records or other documentation to substantiate that a special PO was established for the conference delegates. It is, however, very possible that conference mail was given special handling, with the roller applied, in much the same manner as the 'Travelling Letter Box' mail of the 1930's-60's era.

I know of only one other instance in which a roller slogan cancel has been used ('Visit Nipigon Museum' Nipigon, Ont. 1975-), but there are undoubtedly a few others that were put into service.

The roller slogan was not the only postal commemorative emanating from the Imperial Economic Conference. The CPO put on a special demonstration of expedited overseas mail — a direct flight to the Straits of Belle Isle

(presumably St. Anthony, Newf.) to meet outgoing steamers, cutting at least two days off the Transatlantic mail time. A slogan die was prepared reading 'By Air from Ottawa to Belle Isle 1/3 of Shortest Route to Europe' (Proulx #900). Perhaps due to desire to illustrate this possibility to conference delegates, this service appears to have been only employed for incoming mail. (Several covers are known with the slogan applied in Ottawa, as a receiver, on mail from Britain addressed to conference delegates. The usage appears to have been confined to only one or two flights.

The 'Imperial Economic Conference' itself was a bit of a misnomer. First held in 1887, it served as the main forum for consultation between Imperial and colonial leaders. Conferences were held at irregular intervals in London, with the exception of 1894 & 1932 when it was held in Ottawa. The current biennial Commonwealth 'Heads of Government' meetings are the direct successor to the Imperial Economic Conference.

Graham J. Noble
Kingston



(Editor's Note — Member Ernie Ward of Ottawa wrote along the same lines as Graham Noble. He included a copy of the cachet, shown here, which was apparently applied to covers mailed in Ottawa.)

NEWFOUNDLAND WITH CANADIAN SQUARED CIRCLES

A couple of days after reading *Newfoundland with Canadian Squared Circles* I received a BNA circuit from the APS. In it I found a Newfoundland 3c, #63, with about half of a Victoria, BC squared circle showing. 'VICT', 'B' and 'SP/9' and a few light bars are

visible. I suppose it may have been cancelled on arrival, the clerk thinking that it was uncancelled.

R.S. Bloomfield
Knoxville, TN

CANADA'S REGISTRY SYSTEM

Apologies to the membership are in order because I announced in print that I would devote 1983 to a rewrite and update of my book *Canada's Registry System*. Personal problems at home have prevented my accomplishing this project. I will begin again this fall.

In the meantime, those seriously interested can obtain much of the new information by obtaining photocopies of the following pages in *The American Philatelist*: May 1975 — 429; August 1975 — 732, 733; February 1976 — 117, 118; February 1977 — 94, 95, 96; October 1978 — 968, 969, 970. Photocopies may be obtained from The American Philatelic Research Library, Box 8338, State College, PA, USA 16803 for \$2.50US for the complete set.

Horace W. Harrison
Baltimore

NOTES

CROSS-BORDER MAIL STUDY GROUP FORMING

Susan McDonald has announced that she will chair a group to study the Canada/USA cross-border mail system, from its inception to Canada's entry into the Universal Postal Union. Members interested in joining this group should contact Susan c/o Study Group Coordinator John Burnett, 757 Parkwood St., Sidney, OH 45365

MIFSUD BC COLLECTION ON DISPLAY DURING EXPO '86

Visitors to EXPO '86 in Vancouver should set aside some time for a visit to the Posthouse in Canada Post's Pacific Division Headquarters at 1010 Howe Street.

On display for the duration of the fair is a large portion of BNAPS'er Austin Mifsud's British Columbia postal history collection. Most of the material deals with the BC and Cariboo gold rushes (*including the cover illustrated in this issue — Ed*). Another section is devoted to items postmarked 'Granville', the name of the settlement which became Vancouver 100 years ago this year.

Posthouse, which is open daily, Monday to Friday, is also featuring a video presentation entitled 'Once Upon A Postmark', a look at the role the postal service has played in the growth and development of Vancouver.

CANADA FINDS \$5.5 MILLION FOR NEW PHOTO MUSEUM

When cutbacks forced on Canada's National Film Board by the former Liberal govern-

ment threatened the existence of the collection of the NFB's still photography division, the country's photographic and arts community rallied. Protests supported by media personalities, literary heavyweights and others were directed toward the Department of Communications, which is responsible for most of the nation's museums. The change in government in 1984 placed the matter in the hands of Marcel Masse, the new Minister in charge of the department.

As a result of the protests, the government is providing \$5.5 million to renovate a long-unused tunnel which was originally built in 1912 to allow passage from the Ottawa railway station to the Chateau Laurier Hotel across the street.

A report in the *Ottawa Citizen* stated, "When construction is completed in January, 1988, it will have gallery space, offices and storage areas for the 150,000 photographs and 12 staff members now located at the former National Film Board offices.

"The new museum will have an entrance on Wellington Street made of glass and concrete with escalators to carry visitors to (ground) level. Its roof will continue to be the access road to the Chateau Laurier's parking garage."

The new photography museum will be a five-minute walk from the former Wellington Street site of the National Postal Museum.

STANLEY COHEN COLLECTION TO BE AUCTIONED

The Stanley Cohen collection, well known