

## Speaker Notes for “The Postage Stamps of Prince Edward Island”

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(presented to the OPS Canada Study Group on 22 October & 19 November 2020)

Slide 1 Title: The Postage Stamps of Prince Edward Island

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Slide 2 History of Prince Edward Island

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- A few significant dates relating to the history of Prince Edward Island (PE) and its stamps are shown.
- In 1763 the Treaty of Paris signed by Britain and France awarded all of the Maritimes to the British who had occupied PE since 1759.
- Starting in 1764 Capt. Samuel Holland begun a survey of PE. He divided the Island into 67 townships or lots (each about 20,000 acres). He also sited the capital and named it Charlottetown.
- His 1775 plan (shown here) identifies the projected counties, parishes, townships and lots.
- In 1769 after extensive lobbying by the island's settlers, a separate colony named "St. John's Island" was established with local government to replace the previous NS control of PE affairs.
- In 1851 Britain surrendered control over the postal affairs in BNA giving PE authority to establish, maintain and regulate the postal communications which they did by enacting legislation.
- In 1851 the population of PE was about 70,000. By 1861 it was about 80,000, by 1871 about 94,000, and by 1881 it had grown to about 110,000. In the 2016 census the population had reached about 140,000.
- In 1861 the first postage stamps were issued.
- In 1872 the last series of postage stamps were issued.
- On 1 Jul 1873 PE joined Confederation.

Slide 3 Summary of Prince Edward Island Stamp Issues

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- PE issued a total of 13 different stamp denominations before joining Confederation in 1873.
- Colour variations can be found on all issues, though only a few have received catalogue status. The perforation gauge can also vary on most values with only a few noted in catalogues.
- The gum quality varies considerably for most issues, ranging from almost colourless to thick brown.
- All stamps, but one, were engraved en épargne (i.e. with the non-printing areas removed) and printed by Charles Whiting of London using electrotypes mounted on a wooden backing.
- The only exception was the 4½d stamp that was line-engraved by the British American Bank Note Co. (BABN) of Montreal & Ottawa and issued in 1870.

Slide Charles Whiting, London, England

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- Charles Fenton Whiting (1802-1875) was the son of James Whiting of Beaufort House, Strand, London. James was a prominent engraver, skilled at compound-plate printing which allowed several colours to be printed in perfect registration in 1 operation. The complex, expensive nature of the printing was well-suited to banknotes and the process was patented in 1820. James Whiting's company used the equipment to print labels, wrappers, duty seals and decorative borders for government documents. Charles also became an engraver, etcher and printer of banknotes, certificates, patent medicine labels, tickets and other documents requiring security features to minimize the possibility of forgery, as well as books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers.
- In 1839 Charles Whiting was 1 of 4 £100 winners in a British Treasury competition with over 2600 entries, to produce suggestions for a postage stamp. Whiting alone submitted over 100 essays using different designs and secure printing methods. His winning entry is seen at the lower right of the 4 essay grouping. All were later rejected in favour of the Penny Black design printed by Perkins, Bacon & Petch.
- Charles Whiting realized cancelling devices would also be needed to prevent the reuse of stamps and submitted essays for designs that would be difficult to forge.
- Over its existence, the printing premises were relocated several times in the Strand area, but retained the name Beaufort House even when no longer located on Beaufort St.
- There is no known image of Charles Whiting.
- A successor company, Whiting and Co., was formed after his death in 1875 with no Whiting family involvement, but went bankrupt in 1892.

Slide Charles Whiting Stamp Contracts

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- Charles Whiting received his first PE postage stamp contract in 1860 for the production of 3 stamps. It is unclear how he was selected for this work. Later he received contracts for all remaining PE stamps except the 4½d value.
- Alfred Deacon, engraver for Charles Whiting and skilled at lathe work, retained a notebook for daily entries of the work he performed on labels, stamps and other designs he created. It is thought that 8 pages from his notebooks still remain.
- Deacon had started in 1829 with James Whiting and in 1881 after 52 years of service, was dismissed as Whiting & Co. were running into financial problems after Charles Whiting's death. Deacon went on to work as an engraver for the security printer Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. for 5 more years until his death in 1886.
- This page shows an unused master die in black (top, right) dated 7 Feb '60 and likely intended for the first pence stamp issues and below, the separate die proofs dated Aug '60 that were actually used for the first 3 PE stamps.
- The only postage stamps Whiting produced were those for PE, although in 1860 he also produced a set of GB telegraph stamps issued on 1 Sep 1860. These appear on

the lower half of this page. They were prepared for use by the military stationed at Aldershot near London to send telegrams via the South Eastern Railway. A used copy of the 1s stamp on paper, watermarked S.E.R., is shown on the right. Early copies are known perforated 9, while later copies were perforated 11 or 12, likely on the same equipment used to perforate the PE stamps.

- It remains uncertain if Whiting actually perforated any stamps in-house or relied on an outside firm for this production step.

## Slide 6 Charles Whiting Stamp Printing Process

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- Charles Whiting used surface printing on electrotype plates. First a single copper die was made with the stamp areas to appear in colour raised above the non-printing areas by removing the surrounding metal. Thus only the raised areas came into contact with the paper and received ink.
- To form the electrotype, a series of lead moulds (also called clichés or clichés) were produced from the engraved die, assembled in a wooden frame and soldered together to form a plate. A 1 cm layer of wax was placed on a tray and given a coating of graphite. The plate was also coated with graphite and the wax layer placed on top of the plate. The resulting sandwich was placed in a high pressure press, the resulting wax impression removed and coated with more graphite to make it electrically conductive. The wax impression was immersed in a copper sulfate bath and a current passed through it to create a thin copper shell. The shell was removed, strengthened with a suitable metal backing, cleaned, levelled and attached to a wooden base to produce the finished printing plate.
- The 100 subject 3c pane (lower left) was built up starting with 5 electrotype plates using a 10 subject mould group. Thus there are 10 Dies (also called groups or types) with subtle differences that are repeated 10 times. The arrow on the 3c stamp block points to the catalogued “dot variety “ found on all 10 of the Die 2 positions, using Lehr’s Die designations. Depending on the plate size and construction sequence used for each stamp value, the number and repetition pattern of the Dies will vary.
- The small, irregular marginal line fragments found on many stamps result from a failure to remove minor metal ridges when finishing the copper printing plate.

Slide 7 Possible Charles Whiting Perforation Equipment

- There is no documentation to identify the perforating equipment used by Whiting or an external supplier on his behalf. The literature often refers to the use of 5 different perforating machines based on the gauge and hole size found on actual stamps. These are referred to as Machine A (perf 9), Machine B (perf 11), Machine C (variable nominal perf  $11\frac{3}{4}$ ), Machine D (perf  $12\frac{1}{4}$ , large holes) and Machine E (perf  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , small holes). While the pin spacing for 4 machines was reasonably consistent, the pins in Machine C were set irregularly so that part of a stamp on a sheet row can measure in the extreme case from  $10\frac{3}{4}$  to  $12\frac{1}{4}$ . Stamps with compound perforations occur when sheets were first perforated on 1 machine followed by a different machine for the other direction.
- If Whiting, primarily in the paper and card business, did his own perforation work, it seems likely that he used simple single line stroke perforators (also known as guillotine perforators), common at the time in GB, as opposed to the mechanically more complex single line rotary perforators generally used for perforating stamps in North America in the 1860s.
- To use a stroke perforator, the operator perforated 1 stamp row at a time by aligning the sheet with the appropriate ruler marking for 1 stamp dimension, turning the handle to have the moveable bar pins punch the sheet and return, then advancing the sheet by 1 row and repeating the operation. When all rows were perforated in 1 direction, the sheet was turned  $90^\circ$ , the ruler adjusted for the other stamp dimension and the process repeated. A 100 stamp pane would thus require 22 guillotining operations to fully perforate all stamps, a tedious process.
- Poor attention to detail using this style of machine could explain part-perforate, imperforate between, and the poor centering found on most stamp issues.

Slide 8 William Wyon Head - Whiting Pence Stamps

- The Wyon Medal (top left) celebrates Queen Victoria's first visit to London and was engraved in 1837 by William Wyon who had been the chief engraver at the Royal Mint in London since 1828.
- The die for the medal is based on his model of the future Queen Victoria made in 1834 when she was only 15. His name, shown as "W. Wyon. R.A." (RA for Royal Academy), appears at the base of the Queen's neck.
- The sketch of William Wyon (top right) was made in 1835 when he was 40.
- Henry Corbould later produced a drawing of the Wyon head that served as the basis for the world's first postage stamp in 1840, the GB Penny Black (bottom left), line-engraved by Perkins, Bacon & Petch. In all portraits of Queen Victoria on British stamps the hair goes above the ear and over the crown as seen on the Wyon medal.
- Alfred Deacon, engraver for Charles Whiting, also used this Wyon medal to create a rather cruder version of the portrait (bottom right). This portrait was used for all the PE pence-denominated stamps, except for the  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp which was separately line-engraved and printed by the BABNC in Ottawa.

- Although Charles Whiting was capable of high quality printing, the available PE budget did not permit this attention to detail. To save money, the stamps themselves were printed using inexpensive inks on poor quality paper with variable ink absorbency.
- Although Charles Whiting was capable of high quality printing, the available PE budget did not permit this attention to detail. To save money, the stamps themselves were printed using inexpensive inks on poor quality paper with variable ink absorbency.

Slide 9 Tilleard Reprint Die Proofs

- When Whiting and Co. went bankrupt in 1892, the successor company did not own the remaining dies or electrotype plates as Charles Whiting had never charged anyone for their production and so they remained the property of his estate and were auctioned as such. The Philatelic Society of London (now RPSL) purchased the dies and plates from the successful auction bidder to prevent unauthorized reprints. For each plate, the RPSL arranged to have several high quality impressions printed on good paper. One set was used to illustrate an article by J.A. Tilleard, secretary of the Society, on the stamps of PE. The article appeared in the London Philatelist as a series over 4 months in 1893. The actual dies and plates remain to this day in the RPSL museum.
- The full set of the die reprints is shown here. They consisted of top row (left to right): an unadopted essay on brass for a 3d value, an engraving on copper for the cents head, and the die proof of the engraved pence head; second row (left to right): die proofs of the 2d, 3d and 9d values; third row (left to right): die proofs of the 1c, 1d and 3c values; fourth row: die proofs of the 4c and 6c values.
- Individual and sets of these reprints, as well as reprint sheets from the printing plates also used to illustrate the London Philatelist articles appear periodically on the philatelic market.

Slide 10 Preproduction for First Stamp Issue

- Alfred Deacon's master essay for the first pence stamps (top left) differs in the background design from the issued stamps, but was largely adopted for the 3d stamp.
- The unfinished essay for the 3d (top, right) also differs from the issued stamp having a different background. This unadopted essay is known to exist in black, blue and vermilion colours.
- The archival images Deacon retained in this 1860 record book page (bottom row) show the revised background and colours of the 3 stamps as issued by PE on 1 Jan 1861.

Slide 11 First Pence Stamps Issued in 1861

- In 1858 PE still insisted that the recipient pay the postage for letters arguing that prepayment by poor residents would be a hardship in writing relatives and friends in the UK and elsewhere. As prepayment was required in the UK, the Colonial Office pressured PE which finally passed an Act in Mar 1860 authorizing the Lieutenant-Governor “from time to time cause stamps, with their value printed thereon, to be sold and used for postage”.
- The first stamps share a common overall design, but with different shaped portrait surrounds and different colours to assist in recognizing the values easily.
- The 2d value was printed in panes of 60 subjects (6 horizontal rows x 10). The two higher values were both printed in panes of 30 subjects (6 horizontal rows x 5) as the anticipated demand was lower. All values were printed on thick (3 mil), soft, yellow toned paper and perforated 9 by Machine A.
- It is likely that the choice of colours for these denominations was chosen to comply with the 1860 Crown Agents directive “Scheme of Colours for Denoting Various Values of Colonial Stamps”.
- L.C. Owen was a successful businessman before being appointed as PMG in 1860 on the death of his father Thomas, the previous DPMG & PMG since 1842. As PMG, in addition to the first postage stamps for prepayment of mail, he established a regular mail service to and from PE. In 1866 he resigned as PMG, entered politics and became the Premier of PE from 1873-76. He was succeeded as PMG in 1867 by Thomas Owen, probably a relative, and in 1870 John A. MacDonald was appointed as PMG. He served until 1874.
- The official public notice announcing the availability of these stamps also authorized diagonal bisects of the 2d and 3d stamps to make up rates.

Slide 12 Some Shades and Varieties Found on the 1861 Issue

- As the plates for this first issue were made almost entirely from an assembly of a single mould from the die, the design variations among positions is negligible.
- For the 60 subject pane for the 2d stamp, it appears 59 electrotypes were made from 1 mould and for position 15 a second mould was used for some reason. Some authors and Stanley Gibbons identify this position as being Die II. In Die II the portrait surround and left frame line do not merge and there is a small break in the top frame line, unlike all other positions that are identified as Die I.
- The quality of perforation on this issue was poor, resulting in centring issues as well as complete failure to perforate one or both directions in some cases. It is possible that a perforating machine was modified for rouletting as well as punch perforation as a brief experiment to improve stamp separation. This could explain the small number (5) of rouletted stamps that have been found used, as well as 1 still on cover (current whereabouts unknown). No mint rouletted copies are known.
- The small perforation hole size combined with the coarse perforation gauge and poor paper resulted in considerable difficulty in cleanly separating the stamps

without damage. The result was that Charles Whiting used or arranged for finer gauge perforation equipment for all remaining issues printed.

- The rare double impression of the 3d stamp (bottom, right) is only known in mint condition.

Slide 13 First Pence Issue Covers

- The Post Office Act of 1851 not only turned over postal affairs to PE, but also specified the rates of postage for ½ oz. letters to be 2d within PE, and 3d as the intercontinental rate throughout BNA. When the Act was amended by PE in 1861 the rate within PE for newspapers was fixed as ½d and printed advertisements as 1d. The amendment also set a rate of 6d to the US, and 9d when sent to the UK or NL among other destinations. The fee for registration was an additional 6d to any destination. While a ½d stamp was never issued, the required 1d and 9d denominations were printed and issued later in 1861.
- With only 30,000 stamps issued, the 6d value was the first to be used up, followed by the 2d stamp (150,000 issued) and finally the 3d value (75,000 issued). No perf 9 stamps remained unsold when PE joined Confederation in 1873.
- In 1861 there were 86 post offices throughout the island and by 1873 the number had grown to 168.

Slide 14 Additional Pence Value - One Penny

- A 1d stamp was needed for mailing pamphlets, periodicals and other printed matter weighing less than 1 oz. as well as soldier's letters among other uses.
- The initial order for this denomination was placed in 1861, but later than the first stamps, and likely issued in Nov or Dec 1861, though no public announcement of its availability appeared in the Royal Gazette.
- This first printing was in orange brown shades again on thick, soft, yellow toned (sometimes called cream) paper, and perforated 11 by Machine B. The quantity was insufficient to meet demand and a second order was placed which was first issued in late 1862. These stamps were also on soft, yellow toned paper, now in yellow orange shades and this time using Machine C, with its irregularly set pins, thus giving a variable perforation 11¾. This printing also produced some stamps with compound perforations when both Machines B and C were used to perforate panes. To meet the continuing demand, a third order was placed and received in late 1866 or early 1867. This time the stamps were printed on thick, soft, ivory toned paper again in yellow orange shades using Machine C with variable perforation 11¾.
- Catalogues do not recognize the subtle distinctions among these various printings, although specialists do.
- The left stamp on the two die proof impressions (top left) shows a small red ink circle below the neck marking an area that was strengthened on the right stamp.
- Ken Kershaw wrote a series of books (BNAPS publications) about 15 years ago on plating characteristics of various positions of the 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6c and 12c stamps.

Slide 15     Some Shades and Varieties - One Penny

- Subtle colour shades exist for all PE values, with only a few receiving catalogue status. The same applies to printing plate flaws where only a few are listed.
- Fully imperforate and part perforate singles and multiples can arise from several sources including cut up proof sheets, the tedious nature of the perforation process and poor quality control. The presence of gum and differences between the paper and colour for proofs and production can be helpful in distinguishing the origin.
- With the destruction of the PE postal records in the 1880s, speculation has continued with respect to their postal legitimacy. Leslie Tomlinson, a specialist in PE stamps and postal history, believed some examples represented actual printer's waste. It is also possible some of this material was included in the PE stamp remainders described in the 1874 PE Treasurer's Office summary as "mixed stamps". All remainders were sold to the Charlottetown stamp dealer Arthur Bartlett in 1884.

Slide 16     Additional Pence Value - Nine Pence

- A 9d stamp was needed for letters to the UK, NL and other foreign destinations. As the 9d was intended for transatlantic mail, it was also denominated as 6½d stg. for convenience.
- It appears that both the 1d and 9d denominations were ordered later in 1861 and issued likely in Nov or Dec 1861. No public announcement appeared in the Royal Gazette for this denomination either.
- This first 9d printing was in blue violet shades again on thick, soft, yellow toned (sometimes called cream) paper, and perforated 11 by Machine B. As the quantity was insufficient to meet demand, a second order was placed which was first issued in late 1862. These stamps were also on soft, yellow toned paper, now in red violet shades and this time using Machine C, with its irregularly set pins, thus giving a variable perforation 11¾. This printing also produced some stamps with compound perforations when both Machines B and C were used to perforate panes. To meet the ongoing demand, a third order was placed and received in late 1866 or early 1867. This time the stamps were printed on thick, soft, ivory toned paper again in red violet shades using Machine C with variable perforation 11¾.

Slide 17     Some Shades, Varieties and Uses - Nine Pence

- Again subtle shade differences are found.
- The cover (lower left) shows a typical use for a ½ oz. letter to the GB.
- The cover (lower right) shows the 9d stamp used to pay a 3d interprovincial rate with 6d registration fee.

Slide 18 Further Printings - Two Pence

- Four separate orders were placed for additional 2d stamps over the years following the original perf 9 issue of 1861.
- This first printing order, received in late 1862, was in several rose shades on thick, soft, yellow toned (cream) paper, and variably perforated 11¾ by Machine C. In some cases when both Machines B and C were used to perforate panes, the stamps can also be found with compound perforations of 11 gauge and variable 11¾ gauge.
- The second order, received in early to mid 1865, was printed on coarse, rough-surfaced heavy bluish-white toned paper in similar rose shades, again primarily variably perforated 11¾ gauge by Machine C.
- The third order, received in late 1866 or early 1867 was in similar shades, but this time on thick, soft, ivory toned paper again perforated a variable 11¾ by Machine C.
- The fourth and final printing order was received in early 1871. The stamps were again printed on rough-surfaced, coarse, heavy, bluish-whited toned paper in several rose shades, again primarily nominally perforated 11¾ by Machine C.

Slide 19 Some Shades and Varieties - Two Pence

- Position 15 (second row, left) is identified by some authors and the Stanley Gibbons (but not Unitrade) catalogue as Die II. The top frame break near the D of ISLAND is the easiest distinguishing characteristic for this unique mould on the 60 subject pane.
- The catalogued TWC flaw (bottom row, centre stamp) is not constant and does not occur on all 2d panes. It did not appear on the original perf 9 issue or on the early printings of this perf 11¾ issue, and is likely the result of plate damage occurring during the printing run.

Slide 20 Further Printings - Three Pence

- Again mail volumes necessitated four separate orders for additional 3d stamps over the years. after the original perf 9 issue in 1861. As the orders for this denomination accompanied those for the additional 2d quantities, they have the same paper and perforations characteristics as the 2d value. For ease of reference, the details are repeated below.
- This first printing order, received in late 1862, was in several blue shades on thick, soft, yellow toned (cream) paper, and variably perforated 11¾ by Machine C. In some cases when both Machines B and C were used to perforate panes, the stamps can also be found with compound perforations of 11 gauge and nominally 11¾ gauge.
- The second order, received in early to mid 1865, was printed on coarse, rough-surfaced heavy bluish-white toned paper in similar blue shades, again primarily variably perforated 11¾ gauge by Machine C.
- The third order, received in late 1866 or early 1867 was in similar shades, but on

thick, soft, ivory toned paper again perforated a variable 11¾ by Machine C.

- The fourth and final printing order was received in early 1871. The stamps were again printed on rough-surfaced, coarse, heavy, bluish-whited toned paper in several blue shades again primarily variably perforated 11¾ by Machine C.
- Leslie Thompson, a PE stamp specialist, believed the imperforate tête bêche (upper right) may in fact have been printer's waste.

Slide 21 Some Shades and Varieties - Three Pence

- Shown here are some examples of different shades, plate flaws and perforation errors.

Slide 22 Further Printings - Six Pence

- There were 2 further printing orders for the 6d stamp following the original perf 9 stamp issued on 1 Jan 1861.
- This first printing order, received in late 1862, was in yellow green shades on thick, soft, yellow toned (cream) paper, and variably perforated 11¾ by Machine C. In some cases when both Machines B and C were used to perforate panes, the stamps can also be found with compound perforations of 11 gauge and nominally 11¾ gauge.
- Mail volumes necessitated a second printing order, received in late 1866 or early 1867, now in blue green shades on thick, soft, ivory toned paper, again perforated a variable 11¾ by Machine C.

Slide 23 Some Shades, Varieties and Use - Six Pence

- To raise money for the British Red Cross, reprints of the 6d value were made in 10 different colours in the late 1940s from the original die which had recently been rediscovered. At a later date the HR Harmer auction company in London apparently sent out a number of these reprints to their customers as seasons greeting cards. In May 1971 the famous Winnipeg stamp dealer Kasimir Bileski purchased all the remaining Harmer stock which soon found its way onto the philatelic market.
- The 10 die reprint colours include: blue, blue green, dark blue, dark brown, light brown, magenta, purple, vermillion, yellow and yellow green. They are listed by Unitrade in a footnote.
- The 6d die itself resides in the museum of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Unlike the earlier dies acquired in 1892 it was not defaced with 2 narrow parallel lines.

Slide 24 Additional Pence Value - Four Pence

- The printing history for the 4d value is unclear due to the lack of records. James Lehr, a PE specialist writing in 1978, believed there were 3 printings, the first delivered to PE in 1862, a second delivery in 1865 and the last order received in 1871. These 3 printings would have coincided with those for the 2d and 3d values found on similar papers with similar perforations.
- More recently in 2002, Martin Cusworth, another PE specialist, stated there was only 1 printing sent to PE in Feb or Mar 1869. This was based on Deacon's Jan 1869 notebook entry (lower left) showing a finished stamp, and the fact that no legitimate covers are known postmarked before Mar 1869. Cusworth explained the fact that the stamp is found on both the earlier yellow toned (cream) paper with brownish gum and the later bluish-white toned paper with white gum, as Whiting first using up remaining yellow toned paper stock before using bluish white paper. Stamps on both papers were sent to PE on an urgent basis at the same time since the reduced postal rate to the US had already been in effect from 1 Nov 1868. The simple background shading lacking lathework also suggests haste creating this stamp design.
- The blue imperforate pair (top left) shows a pair of 3d stamps printed in blue on the reverse. Thompson believed this was another example of printer's waste.
- The die proof reprint (lower centre) that appeared in the 1893 Tilleard article was carefully printed with good ink on a high grade of thick (7 mil) paper. It shows that the Whiting dies could produce high quality results. The minor marginal marks at the lower right corner are typical of inadequate plate finishing. The issued stamp (bottom, right) from a different plate position has a longer top marginal line.

Slide 25 Some Shades and Varieties - Four Pence

- Gutter strips (lower right), both imperforate and perforated, exist for the 4d value, as well as for 2d and 3d values. These are found only on the later, white paper. Cusworth believes this is evidence that different printing equipment was used after an earlier fire at Whiting's former premises. This equipment now allowed double panes to be printed.

Slide 26 Four Pence Cover

- The Royal Gazette notice announces the new lower 4d postal rate to the US that came into effect on 1 Nov 1868. The rate for letters sent to the west coast including CA, OR and the colony of BC remained at 6d.
- The stamp on the cover is from position 19 (the catalogued FOUP variety).

Slide 27 British American Bank Note Co. of Montreal & Ottawa

- The BABN was founded in 1866 with William Cumming Smillie (1813-1908), a script letter engraver as President after a merger with their Montreal competitor Burland, Lafricain & Co. Among the senior staff was Alfred Jones (1819-1900), the foremost portrait engraver of his time and Henry Earle (1827-1914), a designer and letter engraver. They acquired a building at the corner of Wellington and Kent Sts. in Ottawa as well as the Burland premises in Montreal for their operations. After protracted negotiations with the Canadian government, they received their first 4 year contract in Feb 1868 to engrave and print what became known as the Large Queen issue (printed in Ottawa), followed by the Small Queen stamp issue (printed in both locations over time).
- The early stamp production was carried out in Ottawa until 1871 when production was transferred to their Montreal facility. A planned return to Ottawa in 1888 was delayed until spring 1889 by the sudden Ottawa building collapse on 30 Apr 1888 during construction of new premises at the same Wellington St. location. The collapse was blamed on frozen mortar resulting from earlier winter construction on the new building (erroneously referred to in the Ottawa Journal at the time as the Burland Bank Note Co.).
- There remains no documentation to indicate the quantity or cost to have the 4½d PE stamp printed by BABN. It is also uncertain who did the engraving work, although it seems likely both Alfred Jones, their portrait engraver and Henry Earle their designer and lettering engraver were responsible.

Slide 28 Inspiration for Portrait on 4½ Pence Stamp

- The painting (left) by Alfred Edward Chalon (1780-1860) represented the first public appearance of Queen Victoria on the occasion of her speech in the House of Lords when she prorogued the UK Parliament on 17 July 1837.
- This portrait was painted by order of the Queen to present to her mother, Duchess of Kent, Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld.
- The watercolour copy (right) of the Chalon painting by Edward Henry Corbould (1787-1844) was used by various engravers for several British colonial issues including the 4½d stamp of Prince Edward Island produced by the BABN.

Slide 29 Queen Victoria Portrait Used on 4½ Pence Stamp

- Effective 1 Jan 1870 GB had lowered the postal rate for letters to Canada from 6d sterling (stg.) to 3d stg. Due to an oversight, PE had not been included in this agreement. As a result the PE post offices received numerous complaints that letter writers in GB were being required to pay both an added 3d stg. charge plus a 6d stg. fine for using insufficient postage. The PE government reacted to these complaints on 2 Feb 1870 directing the PMG to obtain a similar agreement for PE. This was quickly done and the PMG announced on 20 May 1870 that the letter rate would be lowered from 6d stg. to 3d stg (4½d local currency) effective 1 Jun 1870.
- Likely to respond quickly, the PE government chose not to place an order for this new denomination with their normal printer, Charles Whiting, but chose the geographically closer British American Bank Note Co. (BABN) in Ottawa who held the then current contract for Canadian stamps.
- For this stamp BABN used the the Corbould watercolour copy of the Chalon Head.
- The unadopted 6d essay (top row, middle) was likely submitted speculatively by the American Bank Note Co. (ABN) of New York. It is similar in overall design to their NB 2c orange stamp previously issued in 1863 (top row, right).
- The Corbould watercolour was used by various engravers working for other printers for British colonial issues such as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and New Zealand. The different stamp engravers involved for the various colonies produced subtly different portrait designs.

Slide 30 4½ Pence Issue of 1870

- BABN printed this stamp in sheets of 120 subjects (10 horizontal rows x 12). These sheets were first guillotined vertically into 2 panes (10 rows of 6) each having a straightedge and central perforated horizontal gutter, suggesting the original intent was to cut them into 2 smaller panes of 30 stamps, though this was never done. A vertical cutting guideline is visible in the straightedge area on both blocks. The panes were line-perforated 12 using a rotary wheel perforator.
- Unitrade lists the stamp in brown and yellow brown shades, both priced the same in mint and used condition. It seems likely that very few stamps were postally used as James Lehr noted in 1987 that only 10 covers were known bearing this stamp.

Slide 31 Four and a Half Pence Covers

- While the 4½d stamps were first available on 1 Jun 1870, replacement decimal stamps were issued less than 2 years later starting in Apr 1872, and thus few 4½d stamps were sold to the public.
- Of the known legitimate covers, the cover addressed to NS (lower right) postmarked 1 Jul 1870 is the earliest recorded.

Slide 32 Pence Bisect Covers

- As indicated previously, the Royal Gazette notice of 26 Dec 1860 announcing the availability of postage stamps specifically authorized diagonal bisects of the red (2d) and blue (3d) denominations. Thrifty islanders ignored this restriction, and bisects of all stamp values can be found on covers legitimately passed through the mail by tolerant postmasters.
- The cover (top left) is a rare use of a 2d bisect to pay the interprovincial 3d rate.
- The cover (top right) pays the 4½d rate before the issuance of the 4½d stamp on 1 Jun 1870.
- The cover (lower left) pays the 3d interprovincial rate using a perf 9 bisect and registration fee of 6d.
- The cover (lower right) postmarked 23 Aug 1870 pays the recently reduced 4½d rate to GB using a 9d bisect.

Slide 33 Leonard Wyon Head - Whiting Cents Stamps

- Leonard Charles Wyon, son of William Wyon became a probationary engraver at the Royal Mint under his father starting in 1843. Upon William's death in 1851, Leonard was appointed to a new position equivalent to chief engraver following a reorganization of the Royal Mint. In addition to medals, he also designed currency coins for many British colonies including PE, as well as foreign countries.
- A sculpted bronze bust of Queen Victoria by William Theed (1804-1891) served as the basis for Leonard Wyon's engraved die that appeared on the 25c and 50c coins of Canada issued from 1870 to 1901, as well as on coins of other Commonwealth countries, British stamps and much British printed postal stationery of this era.
- PE was reluctant to convert to decimal currency until GB finally insisted in 1871. The Province of Canada had switched over in 1857, followed by NS in 1859, NB in 1860 and NL in 1863. On 17 Apr 1871, the PE Legislature passed an act to establish a decimal currency system to be effective 1 Jan 1872 for accounts kept by post offices.
- It appears the PE government first considered buying the decimal stamps from the Boston engravers and stationers Lowell & Brett, also agents for the National Bank Note Co. of New York, who had also submitted some sample PE cancellation hammers in 1871, though no stamps or hammers were ever purchased. PE subsequently placed an order with Charles Whiting, but at a cost of about 2s. 2d. per 1000 stamps, compared to about 4s. 6d. per 1000 for their last order of pence stamps in 1869, likely due to this new competition.
- The Wyon-Theed head was used for the portrayal of Queen Victoria on all PE cents-denominated stamps to be issued "as soon as practical" in the words of the 1871 act.
- All values were printed in panes of 100 subjects, but with differing mould arrangements, resulting in various Die repetition patterns. They were printed on brittle, hard white paper and coated with yellowish to dark brown gum that sometimes stained the face of the stamps.

Slide 34 Alfred Deacon Notebook Page for the Cents Issue

- Work undertaken on all PE cents stamps appears on this Deacon notebook page. The stamp details (lower left) include the geometric lathe settings for the engraved background patterns used for the different denominations.
- The PE government planned to issue the cents stamps as soon as they were received. The date of 1 Jan 1872 is given for all denominations in the Unitrade and SG catalogues, and is almost universally referenced in the literature. In fact the dates associated with the archival copies found on this Deacon notebook page range from 27 Nov 1871 for the 1c and 3c values, to 20 Feb 1872 for the 2c and 12c values.
- Le Timbre-Poste journal issues published by J.B. Moens in 1872 give the issue dates as April 1872 for the 1c and 3c values, June 1872 for the 4c and 6c values, and July 1872 for the 2c and 12c values. These dates are entirely consistent with this Deacon notebook page, but appear to have been forgotten by later generations of philatelists and cataloguers.
- The catalogue values for legitimately used cents values both as stamps and on cover are significantly higher for the 2c and 12c stamps only sold for roughly 12 months compared to the 1c and 3c stamps sold for about 15 months, with the 4c and 6c stamp values falling inbetween. This pricing reflects the relative length of time the different stamps were available in post offices.

Slide 35 1872 Cents Issue - 1¢ Value

- The 1c value, found in brown and yellow orange shades, was variably perforated  $11\frac{3}{4}$  by Machine C. Other panes were perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$  with small holes using Machine E. In cases when both Machines C and E were used to perforate panes, the stamps are found with compound perforations.
- The 1c rate was intended for mailing  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. printed circulars in unsealed envelopes, and books within PE or Canada per oz.

Slide 36 1872 Cents Issue - 2¢ Value

- The 2c value, found in blue shades, was perforated  $12\frac{1}{4}$  with large holes using Machine D. Occasionally panes were variably perforated  $11\frac{3}{4}$  by Machine C. In cases when both Machines C and D were used to perforate panes, the stamps can also be found with compound perforations.
- On a pane of 100 stamps, 65 positions are Die 1 and 35 are Die 2. Die 1 has a small coloured dot at about 5 o'clock on the "O" of "TWO". Die 2 has an uncoloured vertical line joining the "O" of "TWO" to the uncoloured line below.
- The 2c rate was intended for books and parcels to the UK per oz., and for mailing newspapers to Bermuda and the West Indies per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Covers with the 2c stamp and no other stamp value are rare.

Slide 37 1872 Cents Issue - 3¢ Value

- The unadopted essay (upper left) was prepared by the BABN who had supplied PE with the 4½d stamp in 1870. It seems likely that in 1871 they learned the PE government was again exploring the use of another company to print the cents stamps and decided to submit another line-engraved proposal. The portrait of QV in her widow weeds appears to have been prepared by the same BABN engraver who worked on the Canada third bill stamp issued in 1868.
- The issued 3c value is found in various rose shades. It was variably perforated 11¼ by Machine C. Some panes were also perforated 12¼ with large holes by Machine D. Other panes were perforated 12½ with small holes by Machine E. In cases when both Machines C and E were used to perforate panes, the stamps can be found with compound perforations.
- Unlike many other minor flaws found on all pence and cents values due to the number of steps required in the electrotyping process to prepare the finished printing plate, the dot between the PRINCE and EDWARD flaw first received Stanley Gibbons catalogue status in the 1890s. It is still listed by both SG and Unitrade and has a catalogue premium of about 100% for both mint or used stamps.
- The 3c rate was intended for letters within PE per ½ oz. It was thus more widely used than other cents values.

Slide 38 1872 Cents Issue - 4¢ Value

- The 4c value, found in yellow green shades, was only perforated 12¼ with large holes using Machine D.
- The 4c stamp paid the ½ oz. letter rate to Canada, and the registration rate within PE as well as to Canada and the US.

Slide 39 1872 Cents Issue - 6¢ Value

- The 6c value was printed in black, which can appear grey if underinked.
- Most panes were perforated 12¼ with large holes by Machine D. One pane is known perforated 12½ with small holes by Machine E.
- The 6c stamp paid the ½ oz. letter rate to the US, GB, Newfoundland and Bermuda.

Slide 40 1872 Cents Issue - 12¢ Value

- The 12c value, found in various violet shades, was only perforated 12¼ with large holes using Machine D.
- The dot in right margin variety is a typical minor electrotyping flaw caused by damage to the wax sheet being transferred to the copper layer and not being detected and removed by burnishing. Early PE stamp collectors identified many such flaws which never received catalogue recognition.
- The 12c stamp did not pay a specific rate, but had a number of make up uses such as heavy PE letters and parcels, and double weight letters to the US and UK.
- There are less than 12 legitimate in period covers or partial covers recorded bearing 12c stamps. Because of their rarity, they should be certified.

Slide 41 Cents Bisect Covers

- Bisects in the cents era are very rare. The stamps were only in use for about 15 months or less until PE joined Confederation, and with the introduction of the cents stamps in 1872, post office regulations no longer authorized the use of bisects. Tomlinson, a PE specialist, thought that more than half the known bisect cents covers were faked, again suggesting a certificate of authenticity is warranted before buying such rare items. All 4 covers shown here have certificates.
- The cover (top left) pays the internal PE rate for a ½ oz. letter.
- The cover (top right) is 1 of 2 known with a 4c bisect and pays the local Charlottetown drop letter rate. The other known cover is from the same law office correspondence.
- The cover (lower left) is 1 of about 10 known with a 6c bisect paying the internal PE letter rate.
- The cover (lower right) is the only recorded example of the 12c bisect and pays the ½ oz. letter rate to the US.

Slide 42 Prince Edward Island Stamp Summary

- The issue dates shown are the most probable based on existing evidence including known dated covers in those situations where their availability in PE was not publicized. The issue dates for the cents stamps are taken from 1872 Le Timbre-Poste journal articles. They are consistent with the 1871 and 1872 dates shown next to the finished stamps found in engraver Alfred Deacon's notebook page.
- As noted earlier, the date of issue for the 4d stamp remains controversial. While Lehr in 1987 believed it was first issued in late 1862, Cusworth uncovered subsequent evidence published in 2002 to suggest it could not have been in use before Mar 1869, the date of the earliest known legitimate cover. Several earlier dated covers have now been discredited. The discovery of Deacon's notebook page shortly before shows the date 9 Jan 1869 next to a finished 4d stamp and would appear to confirm 1869 as the correct date of issue.

- The documentation for the quantities printed and the remainders recorded in 1874 by the PE Treasurer's office reveal discrepancies that can only be partly reconciled. The production data shown here are based on Lehr's 1987 assessment of the most likely estimates from his research.

Slide 43 Arthur Bartlett & Prince Edward Island Remainders

- Arthur Bartlett (1852-1920) was a stamp collector and later became a stamp dealer. In 1884 he purchased the 1.6M PE pence and cents remainders with a face value of about \$90K for \$1,100 (or 1.2% of face). An early Bartlett ad presumably geared to the GB market, indicated he would sell a mixed lot of 725 stamps for £15. The PE stamps proved to be a slow seller and following his death in 1920, the remaining stock was purchased by Stanley Gibbons. According to Lehr, the last of the remainders were placed on the philatelic market in the 1940s. Even in 2020, most mint pence stamps other than the first three perf 9 issues are relatively inexpensive. The later pence stamps in fine mint condition, catalogue in Unitrade at between \$6 and \$80, while the cents stamps range in value from \$4 to \$20. Used copies of all values generally have higher catalogue values, reflecting their limited use by the small PE population.
- As the PE cents stamps were never demonetized, they remain valid for postage in Canada to this day (lower right).
- Bartlett as the syndicate manager for both the NS and PE remainders, had fancy letterhead printed in Hamburg, Germany (date unknown, but after 1900 given the letterhead date). Postal authorities were concerned that cut out stamps were being sold as genuine. After Bartlett was taken to court where he protested that he had spent a great deal of time and money on their printing, the POD agreed that he could use the letterhead on hand, but could not have more printed.
- The letterhead exists with two different watermarks. The version with 'E&K H FEIN' and the large crest (lower middle) is about 3 times scarcer than the other simpler watermark (lower left).

Slide 44 Prince Edward Island Forgeries & Bogus Stamps

- PE stamps were forged in the 19thC to deceive collectors unfamiliar with this small British colony. To attract unsuspecting collectors, disreputable individuals also created non-existent bogus stamps that were never issued by PE. A number of their efforts are seen here.
- PE forgeries are less common than those of the other BNA colonies and generally sell for more than the real stamps. PE is the only BNA colony where forgers also created bogus stamps.
- The forgeries are often easily recognized by their somewhat crude appearance and irregular perforations. In the Taylor 3d forgery (top row, left) the Queen is bald and in the 4d forgery (top row, next stamp) the Queen's mouth is even missing.
- The Scott example (middle row, left) was made in Birmingham England, but the

forgers were uncovered in 1872 and they produced no other forgeries.

- The 1866 Charles Lyford 10c P EDWARDS I creations (middle row) preceded the actual 1872 issue of decimal stamps. By the mid-1860s there were already rumours of a switch to decimal currency. An April 1867 Royal Gazette notice denied any currency conversion. The stamp sold poorly and Lyford mentioned this to his mentor Allan Taylor. Taylor indicated that he liked a challenge.
- In 1872 following the issue of decimal stamps, Taylor decided to produce another bogus 10c value (bottom row, left). It was listed by J.B. Moens in "Le Timbre Poste" and in the GB Philatelic Journal in 1872 and even given a space in the J.W. Scott 1872 "Common Sense Postage Album". When a stamp dealer sent an order for this stamp to the PE Post Office and was told it did not exist, Taylor discontinued this stamp and created the 15c version in 1873. Sales were poor as collectors still remembered the bogus 10c swindle.

Slide 45 Prince Edward Island Handstamps

- Some of the more common handstamps are shown. As PE had a post office in Charlottetown since 1787, when the first handstamps were issued in 1814 there was no need to include the name of the capital as there were no other post offices. The first handstamp used in the stamp era (top left) was originally issued in 1843 by the G.P.O. in London and was of typical construction, being about 10 cm long with a hardwood handle and an engraved brass end. The paid handstamps (top row, last 2 at right) were also a relic of the stampless era when letters could be prepaid by the sender or charged to the recipient.
- There are 2 known Charlottetown duplex cancels (second row, last 2 at right). They are the earliest known duplexes in the Maritime provinces. Both contained a 25 mm dater and smaller 12 mm obliterator, separated by about 6 mm. Over the 27 month usage period, 4 different obliterators were used.
- The 13 in the Charlottetown 13 (third row, left), the only legitimate numeral cancel, is thought to refer to it being thirteenth in an 1863 alphabetical list of post offices.
- The remaining cancels (third row all about 25 mm across) were purchased by PE in 1872 from John H. Zevely, Wheeling WV who from the 1850s to 1889 manufactured and sold wooden handstamps to small US post offices. The handstamps were made of boxwood and assigned to smaller PE post offices, but still wore quickly, thus often leaving indistinct cancels.
- The various barred killer cancels (bottom row) used over an extended period in many cases were likely made with more durable hardwood handles and brass ends.

Slide 46 Prince Edward Island Fake Handstamps

- There were 32 legitimate lot number cancels issued starting in 1853 when 11 PAID handstamps made by John Francis in London were supplied to PE. The double broken circle hammers marked Lot 32 (top row), while typical of the 1850s style, are fake as there was no Post Office located on this particular lot.
- The Summerside Paid and Wood Islands (top row, right) are both known creations of Raoul de Thuin, who alone in the mid-20thC is believed to have created over 50 faked PE covers, many with bisects. The sloppy printing and breaks in the outer circle suggest these were rubber rather than metal handstamps.
- The large number of both common pence and cents remainder stamps available after PE joined Confederation, meant that fakers seized on the 1872 and 1873 dates when preparing fake dated cancels to give them the air of legitimacy.
- The Alberton, Selkirk and first Charlottetown cancel (middle row) refer to P.E.I. and ISLANDS and so suggest a non-English culprit such as Angelo Panelli or his friend Raoul de Thuin. There never was a post office called Selkirk. The Charlotte Town Jul 10 and 5 Jan 72 (middle row, right) are also thought to be European fakes.
- The B31 (bottom row) was issued to Sierra Leone in 1860, and is found on both NS and PE stamps and covers. A similar authentic B31 British mailboat cancel was also used by the Allan Line.
- The large star (29 mm across) and triangle (bottom row, right) are both too large when compared to the similar legitimate cancels.
- To detect fake cancels, a good knowledge of legitimate cancels is important, as well as the ability to distinguish fake rubber from metal stamps, the expected ink characteristics, and good philatelic references.

Slide 47 Prince Edward Island Genuine Stamps with Fake Cancels

- Mint stamps are more plentiful than used copies and thus tend to have lower catalogue prices than used copies, especially for the short-lived cents issues. The result is that used stamps have been created from genuine mint remainder stamps by adding fake cancels to fool the unsuspecting collector. A number of such examples are shown here.
- Most of the fake cancels shown differ from those on the previous page. In some cases cancels have the appearance of rubber handstamps applied to well-centred stamps that show no soiling typical of having gone through the mails, and use more modern inks that tend to migrate through the poor quality stamp paper.
- This fake B31 (middle row, left) shows wider spacing between the B and 31 than that on the previous page and is thought to be by the early 20thC forger Francois Fournier. It is known on various remaindered PE values.
- The curious cancel on the 1c stamp (middle row, second from right) appears to be a mirror image of the words "BRITISH WEST" and a partial cartoon figure, perhaps from a child's stamping kit.
- The Charlottetown CDS (bottom row, left) is likely a modern rubber stamp with

modern month and day notation.

- The oak leaf (bottom row, middle), is now considered fake, though was once thought to be legitimate.

Slide Further Reading

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