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POSTAGE·STAMP·HANDBOOKS

Prince Edward Island

BY R. E. R. DALWICK.



EDITED BY
FRED. J. MELVILLE

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The Postage Stamp

An Illustrated Weekly Journal for all Classes of Stamp Collectors.

Edited by FRED J. MELVILLE,

Author of "The A. B. C. of Stamp Collecting," etc.

One Penny Weekly.

THE POSTAGE STAMP was started over three years ago by the late EDWARD J. NANKIVELL to meet the long felt necessity for an independent weekly journal absolutely free from the control of any Dealer but friendly and open to all without favour.

And it is now recognised as having most successfully met that demand. Its advertising pages have been, and will remain open to all Advertisers.

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THE POSTAGE STAMP in fact combines the publication of the highest class of useful and scientific articles with bright, varied and newsy pages. It forms a storehouse and reference library of all that is worth preserving in the philatelic literature of the day.

It aims at the popularization of all that is best in the fascinating pastime of Stamp Collecting and the promotion of the best and most permanent interests of Collector and Dealer alike.

And no effort is spared to win for it such a large and influential circulation as must command the advertising support of Stamp Dealers all over the philatelic world. Its sales have from the first been most satisfactory to all concerned.

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(1910)

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Prince Edward Island.

The Island.

PRINCE Edward Island is a small and very irregular British possession situated in the gulf of St. Lawrence, separated from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by the Northumberland Strait—a strait varying in width from nine to thirty miles.

Prior to 1799 the island was known as St. Johns, whilst up to 1873 the island had its own government. Nowadays the government is administered by a lieutenant-governor, appointed by the Dominion of Canada, and a Legislative Assembly of thirty members, elected for four years. The province is represented in the Dominion Parliament by four senators and five members of the House of Commons.

It is interesting to note that Prince Edward Island is the smallest and most densely populated (47 to the square mile) of the provinces of Canada. Its area is 2,133 square miles.

To go back to its early history. The island was first settled by the French about 1719; captured by the British in 1755, and passed into their possession in 1763. It was created a separate colony in 1769. The island affords varied occupations to its inhabitants, chiefly in forms of agriculture and fishing.

The island is known as "The Garden of the Gulf"; its oats, potatoes, sheep and horses having a good reputation.

The fisheries are well-known and extremely valuable, the oysters being especially famous.

The exports, consisting almost entirely of agricultural products, average about £200,000 annually, and the imports about £100,000.

Charlottetown, the capital, is situated on the south of the island at the mouth of the Hillsboro river. Two other towns of importance are Summerside and Georgetown, both of which are also on the coast. During the severe winter months (December to May) the above ports are all closed to shipping, as the ice cuts off all maritime trading.

The population of the island is about 104,000, chiefly of British descent ; but there are some Acadians (13,850) and a few Indians (255). The religions represented in the island are Roman Catholic (about 46,000), Presbyterians (about 30,700), and Methodist (about 13,500).

Philatelic History and Remarks.

Prince Edward Island issued its own adhesive postage stamps on January 1st, 1861. Apparently there was some kind of a postal system in vogue prior to the above date, as envelopes are to be met with bearing a red frank to defray postage prior to the issue of postage stamps.

The island continued using its own stamps until July 1st, 1873, when all stamps were withdrawn, as the Colony was then admitted as a province into the Dominion of Canada.

It may here be well to make a few remarks upon the collecting of the Colony under discussion. In the first place the stamps of Prince Edward Island have practically no sale whatever in this country, and yet why not ? Surely they are just as good (and even better) than many small colonies which find a good market to-day, and they are certainly *much more* worthy of a thoughtful philatelist's attention than any such modern fancies as the Cayman Islands, or Brunei ?

The specialist of small means is invariably lamenting that his purse does not allow him to take up a country in which he can work out his own researches. He is under the too common delusion that small countries have had all their philatelic secrets laid bare before he was born ! What a mistake !

Perhaps there is no small Colony which offers such a splendid field to the serious specialist of moderate means as Prince Edward Island. For instance, little more than nothing is known at present about some of the perforations, and imperf. between varieties.

Then again there are blocks and sheets imperforate on thick and thin paper, are both proofs, if so why such extremes in papers ? If only one is a proof what is the other ?

Prince Edward Island is emphatically well worthy of much more attention than it is at present receiving, and any specialist desirous of adding a new country to his favourites would do well to consider the claims of the island.

The designs and stamps themselves may not be the highest degree of philatelic art, but nevertheless there are numberless countries and districts which cannot claim superiority to the island in this particular direction.

To the minor variety specialist Prince Edward Island must indeed be a happy hunting ground, as the dots and slight irregularities upon the various stamps are almost legion.

A most interesting addition to a specialised collection of the island is to collect Canadian stamps to date bearing the various island postmarks from 1873 to the present time. With a little trouble many such post-marked varieties may be obtained from the Canadian stock books of the big dealers.

In the preparation of his handbook the author begs to to acknowledge much useful information gained from the writings of Mr. Donald King in the *Monthly Journal*, and Mr. Pemberton in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*.

Issue 1. January 1, 1861.

Perf. 9. No wmk. Paper yellowish.

Electrotyped and printed by Charles Whiting, London.

2d., rose, pale rose, dull rose, pale rosy carmine, brownish rose.

3d., blue, pale blue (scarce).

6d., green, yellow green.

Bisects :—

½ of 2d. rose used as 1d.

½ of 3d. blue used as 1½d.

The Royal Gazette for December 26th, 1860, announced the intended issue of the first set of postage

stamps for Prince Edward Island. When the stamps were put on sale on January 1st, 1861, it was found that only three denominations were on sale, a point which seems to demonstrate that the correspondence of the island was neither large nor varied.

Undoubtedly the point which strikes one most in these stamps is the perforation, which particularly in a block of any size has a most extraordinary appearance. The holes made are small and a considerable distance apart, so that in separating a stamp the chances were that the perforation would not tear evenly thus causing a tear or defect to the stamp. It is not often that a specimen of this issue is seen with even perforation on all four sides.

The perforation of this issue was done by a single line machine. A single line machine simply makes a single line of holes in one direction, so that the horizontal and vertical lines of perforation are made in separate operations. The result of this kind of perforation is that the points where the vertical lines cross the horizontal lines rarely fail to fall foul of each other, so that the corners of the stamps in a block are invariably very badly perforated.

The paper on which these stamps were printed is decidedly bad and cheap ; it possesses a dull smooth appearance, somewhat akin to the paper used for better class newspapers. The gum varies considerably, but is usually of a thin yellowish transparent nature which is very liable to crack and distribute itself unevenly upon the paper. The shades of this issue are numerous, especially in the case of the 2d. and 3d. values. The 2d. stamp runs into quite a small collection of shades ; a deep rosy carmine being a very desirable stamp. The 3d. stamp has several slight shades, but none of pronounced importance, barring a distinct pale blue, which is a very scarce stamp. In 1874, the year after Prince Edward Island ceased using its own stamps, the remainders of this issue were sold, consisting it is said entirely of the 2d. and 6d. denominations.

From the above it would appear that all the 3d. values had been used up, whilst the 2d. stamps must have been very poorly utilised when in use, as it is certain that a pretty considerable number of this denomination was among the remainders.

The stamps of issue I. had scarcely been issued before it was found necessary to have 1d. and 1½d. denominations. The authorities could not presumably wait for these values to be printed, or else they would not go to the expense, so they announced that the 2d. and 3d. values could be used as half their face if bisected diagonally. The necessity for the 1d. stamp (½ of 2d.) was the most urgent, owing to the fact that soldiers and seamen's letters were allowed to be sent to—also received from—Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia at that rate. We are told that the half stamp was also largely used in conjunction with the 6d. stamp to make up 7d., which was the 4oz. book post rate to most of the Colonies.

The necessity for the half of the 3d. stamp was made quite plain by Clause 17 of the Post Office Act, 1860 :—

> 'Letters to be forwarded to Newfoundland or Bermuda are liable to the charge of ninepence currency per rate, 3d. of which must be prepaid. Newspapers addressed to the foregoing places are subject to the charge of one penny half-penny currency, which must be prepaid."

Both the above bisecteds are very rare, the second naturally being the rarer of the two.

When purchasing bisecteds on originals of this island be very careful, as some most dangerous counterfeits are now and again seen. So cleverly, in fact, are these " bisecteds on originals " got up that experts cannot always detect without considerable trouble. The method employed is fairly easy for the faker. He gets together some old Prince Edward Island envelopes bearing cheap and common stamps of the island. Then he hunts through dealers' stock books, etc., until he finds a specimen which when cut in two will fit exactly the part of the postmark left on the envelope when the common stamp has been removed. As the early postmarks of the island are not numerous it is not a very hard matter for an unscrupulous person to cut a stamp and get the postmark to go exactly with that on the envelope. Bearing this in mind it is always advisable to get a written or printed guarantee when purchasing bisects.

As regards the quantities printed of issue I., it is not known to philately, the only rough idea that can be formed is based from an extract out of the Post

Office Accounts, where it is stated that the amount paid to Charles D. Whiting for postage stamps for the fiscal year ending March, 1861, was £57 for 250,000 stamps. From the above figures we surely have the true reason why the paper and printing of the stamps was of rather an inferior quality. £57 for 250,000 stamps or 4s. 4d. per thousand, is not an extravagant price, especially as Charles Whiting made no charge whatever for making the plates. Economy was evidently a matter of more than ordinary importance in this case. Turning again to the quantity sent out, namely 250,000 stamps, in which were contained three different denominations, Mr. P. L. Pemberton makes the following remarks in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* :—" Unfortunately, it is not known how many there were of each value, but, judging from their present relative rarity, taking both used and unused into account, I should estimate that the figures would be probably about

150,000 for the 2d.
40,000 for the 3d.
60,000 for the 6d.

At any rate, it is extremely unlikely that there would have been more than 150,000 of any one value."

Before concluding issue I., it may be advisable to consider the numerous so-called " minor varieties " that exist. The ordinary collector would of course take no notice of these small and minute dots, etc., which are to be found on almost half of the stamps in the sheet. These varieties are of no value or importance whatever, owing to the fact that their existence is entirely due to the extreme cheapness of the adhesives.

Issue II. 1864-65.

Perf. 11 to 12½. No wmk. Yellowish white paper. 1870, same, but paper bluish, all values except 1d. and 9d.

Electrotyped and printed by Charles Whiting, London.

1d., orange, brown orange, pale dull brown, yellow orange.
2d., rose, dull rose, carmine rose.
3d., blue, deep blue, dull blue.

[1868] :—
4d., black.
6d., yellow green.
9d., red lilac, mauve, very pale lilac red.

Varieties :—
1d., orange, imperf. vertically.
9d., red lilac, imperf. vertically.
2d., rose, *rouletted*

Bisects :—
½ of 2d., rose.
½ of 3d., blue.
½ of 4d., black.
½ of 9d., red lilac (known with MS. surcharge 4½d.).







☞ In this issue, the 2d., 3d. and 6d. stamps are precisely the same design and colours as in issue I., the only difference being in the perforation, which in this issue gauges in all possible compound combinations between

11 and 12½. It will be noticed that three new denominations have been added, namely, 1d., 4d. and 9d.

A rather remarkable point about this issue is that although new values were added, the practice of bisecting adhesives was not in any way checked. The four bisects above listed are the only ones which appear to have been used to any extent, but, nevertheless, copies of all values are said to have been halved. There does not appear to be any explanation why the 4d. stamp was bisected, considering that there was a 2d. denomination, so it is not out of the way to assume that when a person ran out of a certain value he was permitted to cut up any stamps he had to obtain the required postage.

Returning to the normal stamps of this issue, there is certainly nothing very remarkable about them, apart from some good shades of certain values and also the usual small " dots " and minor varieties of the cheap production.

As was the case in issue I. there is no record of the numbers of each denomination despatched to the island, so our deductions are merely based upon the warrants for payments to Mr. Whiting for postage stamps supplied from 1862 to 1868. The figures below do not, in all probability, convey much light upon the matter to the casual reader, so it is necessary to turn to the suppositions formed by Mr. Donald King and Mr. Pemberton in their articles already referred to.

Warrants for payments to Mr. Whiting :—

		£	s.	d.	
1.	March, 1862	23	8	10	
2.	March, 1863	100	0	0	and £25
3.	November, 1865 ...	26	6	10	
4.	End (?) 1867	73	1	3	

Mr. Pemberton in his article on these stamps says *re* the above warrant : " From the fact that there were some few of the stamps perf. 9 amongst the remainders it would appear that the warrant which I have numbered 1, dated early in 1862, was for some new values, and Mr. King's supposition that the consignment to which this refers consisted almost (if not entirely) all of pennies and nine-pennies is probably correct, especially as copies of both values, on entires, used in the middle of that year are known. These

first printings of the 1d. and 9d. were in the brown orange and lilac shades respectively, all later supplies being in orange to yellow orange for the 1d. and reddish lilac for the 9d.





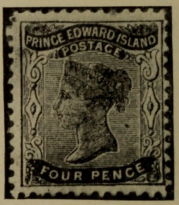
Marginal stamps generally show, on the outer edge, and at a distance of 1mm. from the design, a thin line of colour. The line is generally very much broken and disconnected, especially on the 9d., where, in fact, it appears but seldom ; in the later printings of both values it became more and more indistinct."

Coming to warrant 2, we notice a jump of over £100 more paid to Mr. Whiting, and that in the next year [1863]. It is supposed (and most probably quite rightly) that by far the greater part of this consignment consisted of 2d., 3d. and 6d. stamps to supercede the perf. 9 issue ; which as old envelopes will show were still being used as late as 1864. It is not very likely that the £125 was paid for the above three values only, as that would mean that over 500,000 of these three denominations had been sent out, which in the light for the demand of issue I. (same three values) would be absurd, as the 250,000 of issue I. proved to be quite enough for some years.

It is very probable that warrant 2 included another packet of the 1d. and 9d. values, and as an afterthought a special quantity of 2d. stamps may account for the extra £25. The 2d. stamp was very much used and is also the commonest stamp of this set, so it is almost certain that a large quantity was despatched.

There is, of course, not much material available in the way of old ledgers, etc., on which to base facts : accordingly it must be remembered that all statements made about numbers printed, when issued, etc., etc., are only deductions based upon certain rather vague theories.

It would appear that warrant 3 constituted an order for more stamps of the 1d. and 9d. denominations. In attempting to determine the actual date of issue of the various stamps of this Colony, there is one guide, but, unfortunately, one which does not usually enlighten the philatelist to perfectly correct dates. This guide is of course the dating of the postmarks upon the original envelopes. In Gibbons' catalogue the date of the issue of the 4d. stamp is given as 1868, but Mr. Donald King argues that it was included in the consignment of 1863, for the undermentioned reasons :—



The warrant for 1863 was for a very considerable amount, much too high in fact for the three values which were known to have been included in it. Then again the amount of the 1865 warrant was too small, so supposing that the 4d. value was not included in either of the above, it must have been sent out in 1867, but there is a certain amount of evidence which shows that all the 4d. stamps of that consignment (1867) were on the *bluish-white* paper. This being the case what about the 4d. stamps on the yellowish toned paper, they must have been in use at an earlier date than the bluish white copies, for it is certain that the yellowish paper was in use prior to the bluish.

A rather extraordinary fact, however, is that most used copies of the 4d. are on yellowish paper, and yet no used copy has been found dated earlier than 1867 !

There is one explanation which may possibly prove to be more or less correct concerning the use of the 4d. stamps. In all probability the 4d. stamps on yellowish paper were sent out in 1865, but were not sold at the P.O. until some time early in 1867. The stamp was then put on sale, and the supply being more than sufficient (?) the yellowish paper supply lasted out until (or almost until) the end of 1871. In the meantime a supply had arrived among the 1867 consignment, consisting of the 4d. on the bluish paper. This latter, however, was not used with the exception of a very few copies perhaps, and so eventually we find a very large quantity of the bluish paper 4d. stamps among the remainders to be sold.

Warrant 4 was considered to have consisted of the 2d., 3d. and 4d. values on the bluish white paper. In all probability there were some of the 6d. on the same paper included in the above warrant. The authenticity of the 6d. stamp on the bluish paper is often questioned—certain it is, however, that copies on the bluish paper are not infrequently seen, although whether the paper in such cases has been tampered with is entirely another matter.

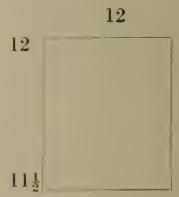
Before continuing further it is necessary to make a few remarks about the two varieties of tinted paper repeatedly referred to above. Many collectors classify the two papers as two distinct *issues*, but this seems to be a mistake, as surely they are only, at the most, varieties ? There is no change of design, no change of colour—but merely a slight tinge shade in the paper. The change was, we may quite safely assume, not intended by the printer, it being much more likely that as the years went by the paper used by Mr. Whiting, had through some slight change of process, altered in tint from yellowish to a bluish tinge. The stamps should of course be collected on both papers, but it seems quite unnecessary to style them as two separate issues. The first printings were all on the yellowish paper, in other words warrants 1—3 consisted of this hue, whilst warrant 4 contained the bluish printing.

The 1d. and 9d. were never issued on the bluish

paper, a point which goes to prove that these two values were printed in large quantities on the yellowish paper, or else the demand for them was small, but more likely the former.

Whilst on the subject of the 1d. and 9d. denominations, it is interesting to note that these two values were uniformally perforated 11—that is to say the early printings, *i.e.*, 1d. yellow brown and 9d. dull lilac.

In dealing with the perforations of this issue we are confronted with a multitudinous variety of compound perforations. It appears that there must have been *two* single line perforating machines in vogue, the first gauging 11 uniformly (the earlier of the two), the second gauging anything between 11 and 12½. This latter machine was of an extremely irregular gauge as it varied in different parts of its length. The perforation varies to such an extent in machine 2, that Mr. Pemberton tells us that " it is almost impossible to find a length of two *centimetres* in which the gauge of the perforations is constant." Such being the case it must cause the collector no surprise to find a Prince Edward Island stamp perforated somewhat after the following fashion :—



The above is, of course, an extreme case and one not likely to be met with in the ordinary run of affairs. It is, however, no very uncommon event to find stamps of this issue (yellowish and bluish paper) perforated differently on all four sides.

These stamps are also to be met with *imperforate between* in which condition they are considerably more valuable than in the usual state.

Mr. Pemberton in the *P.J.G.B.* sums up the perf. varieties as follows :—

Yellowish-toned paper.
A. *Perf.* 11, *uniform.*

1862. 1d., orange brown. 9d., lilac.
1865. 1d., yellow orange.

B. *Perf* 11 to 12. *irregular.*

1863-65. 1d., orange, yellow orange. 2d., rose. 3d. blue. 4d., black. 6d., yellow green, blue green. 9d., lilac rose

Bluish-white paper.
Perf. 11 to 12, *irregular.*

1867-68. 2d., rose. 3d., blue. 4d., black.

The above list is a good one, but why no allusions to the perforation 12½ ? As we have seen the 2d., 3d. and 6d. stamps (in the list B, 1863-65) with one or the other of the sides with an undoubted gauge reading 12½, it may almost be surmised that the other values also exist with this perforation.

The 2d. rose stamp is known *rouletted,* in which state it is of extreme rarity. Not much appears to be known concerning this variety barring Mr. Donald King's remarks quoted under :—

" This variety was first discovered by myself in October, 1888 ; it was found in a large quantity of used Prince Edward Island stamps sent me from Charlottetown ; they were principally the 2d. perforated 9, and only one specimen of the rouletted was found. The papers from which this lot of stamps came eventually fell into the possession of a friend of mine, Mr. Bartlett, and he was fortunate enough to discover four more. Up to the present date these are all the specimens known to exist, and taking the limited number of them as a criterion, they should rank among the great rarities. The paper is the same as that of the other values, and the colour is a deep rose with almost a shade of the *claret* tint of the 2d. perf. 9. It is a very common shade in that value. The roulette points are quite distinct. Whether these stamps were sent out rouletted or not is open to question, though I am inclined to think that they were."

The question as to why certain of the 2d. values were rouletted, is a question to which one can give no satisfactory answer. On the one hand it has been suggested that the perf. 9 was too large and so Mr. Whiting forwarded a few sheets rouletted for a trial. The other theory is that a sheet or two might have missed being perforated, and so were accordingly rouletted locally.

The latter theory sounds rather unlikely, as the chances would surely be against a rouletting machine being in the Colony.

All stamps of this issue contain the usual amount of flaws, dots, etc., so common in the stamps of this island.

The remainders, which were sold in 1874, contained the following quantities of the pence issues :—

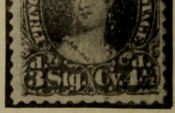
2d.	...	241,000
3d.	...	226,000
4d.	...	277,000
6d.	...	21,000
9d.	...	100,000

and 143,000 mixed stamps.

It will be noticed that in the above list the 1d. value is omitted, so it is more than probable that the "mixed stamps" consisted almost entirely of 1d. stamps, or at any rate a good percentage of the total.

June 1st, 1870. *Perf.* 12.

4½d., brown, dark brown.



This new value stands out in bold contrast against the other stamps of this island, owing to the fact

that it is a very beautiful stamp engraved in *taille douce* and printed by the British American Bank Note Co., of Montreal. The design is not unlike the early Queen's head stamps of New Brunswick. On the stamp itself we notice :—

"3d. Stg.—4½d. Cy."

The meaning of this is, of course, "3d. sterling—4½d. currency." The two different values are accounted for as follows :—the postal charge per half-ounce to Great Britain was 4½d. if paid in *local* currency, but only 3d. if paid in *English* coin. Prior to 1870, the postage per half-ounce to England had been 9d., so we find the corresponding inscriptions on the 9d. stamp for just double the amount.

The 4½d. value was printed in sheets of 120 in two panes of 60 each and ten rows of six.

It is very apparent that the 4½d. stamp was not used to any great extent as used copies are by no means very plentiful, and, moreover, among the remainders there were no less than 42,600 of this particular value.

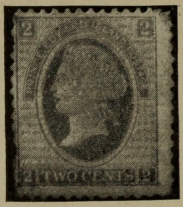
Issue III. 1872.

Perf. 11½ *to* 13.

Printed by Mr. C. Whiting, London.

1c., brown orange, orange.
2c., ultramarine.
3c., rose.
4c., green, deep green.
6c., black.
12c., red violet.







With the above issue Prince Edward Island changed its currency from pence to cents, a change which must have been a great convenience to the Colony, owing to the fact that all the British North American Colonies had already taken up the decimal system. The island did not make the change until four years after all the other Colonies—in fact—to be quite accurate, it was five years when the above issue did eventually make its appearance. It is indeed difficult to conceive under what trying circumstances the island placed itself for five long years in relation to all the neighbouring countries.

Early in 1871 the following notice was given out by the local Government :—

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DECIMAL SYSTEM OF CURRENCY ON THIS ISLAND.

(Passed April 17th, 1871.)

Whereas it is deemed expedient to assimilate the currency of this island to that of the Dominion of Canada and of the United States of America, and to introduce a decimal system of keeping accounts in the Public Offices of this Colony.

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows :—

1.—The unit of account on this Island shall be the Dollar of one hundred cents, the value of which dollar shall be on the basis of four hundred and eighty-six cents and two-thirds of a cent to the pound of British sterling money.

2.—The accounts at all Public Offices on this Island shall be changed and kept in the decimal system, which shall go into operation at the times following : For the accounts kept at the Savings Bank at the Public Treasury

on the first day of December next; for the accounts kept at all Post Offices, and at all other Public Offices except the Treasury, on the first day of January next for all accounts kept at the Public Treasury on the first day of February next.

3.—The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is hereby authorised to empower the Commissioner for issuing Treasury notes to have suitable notes of the decimal currency prepared and signed, the same to be exchanged with the Colonial Treasurer for the Treasury notes already in circulation, for the purpose of the Act.

4.—Gold and silver coin shall be legal tender at the rates set forth in Schedule A here annexed.

5.—The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is hereby empowered to provide a coinage of copper cents for this Island, and to cause postage stamps of the new denominations to be issued as soon as practicable.

To comply with the above notice, the cents issue was placed on sale at the post offices on January 1st, 1872. The stamps although somewhat like the pence issues in the matter of production (rough and ready), are, nevertheless, entirely different as regards designs. The stamps are still, as previously, the work of Mr. Charles Whiting, of London.

Mr. Whiting's charges for producing the stamps of this island seem to have steadily decreased. In the earlier times this gentleman produced the stamps at a cost of 4s. 6d. per thousand, but at the time of the production of the cents issue he charged (or was paid) at the rate of 2s. per thousand

That the cents stamps are not works of art is not to be wondered at, and yet they are certainly not much inferior to the pence issues.

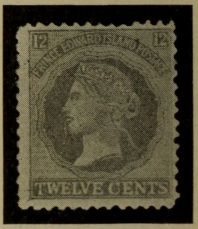
The stamps of this issue were not used to any great extent, a fact which is amply proved by the difficulty to obtain used specimens, and also by the large list of remainders given by Mr. Donald King in the *Monthly Journal.*

1c.	...	124,500
2c.	...	5,000 (?)
3c.	...	10,000
4c.	...	94,000
6c.	...	162,000
12c.	...	165,000

Mr. Emerson, who was the agent in Great Britain for the sale of these remainders, states that he is quite certain that the 3c. denomination was easily the first

of the series to run out. Such being the case, Mr. Pemberton commenting on the number 5,000 being





a misprint for 50,000 (the 2c. value) is more than probably correct. The different catalogue quotations for the 2c. stamp prove beyond doubt that the figure 5,000 is most certainly not correct. In the unused state the stamp is as common as all the rest, whilst, used it is no dearer than the others, and it is unlikely that only a few of this value were issued.

The 12c. stamp is well worth its catalogue quotation in fine used condition, whilst the 4c. is a very desirable piece used on original envelope.

The exact number of each of the values of this issue issued while they were in use, was as follows :—

1c.	...	170,000
2c.	...	95,000
3c.	...	280,000
4c.	...	106,000
6c.	...	138,000
12c.	...	35,000

The above numbers are obtained by substracting the remainders as given by Mr. Donald King, from the total numbers as supplied to the colony as given by Mr. Tilleard in the *London Philatelist* (Vol. II.). The entry in the ledger was dated June 4th, 1872, and was as under :—

Prince Edward Island Post Office.

294,500	Postage stamps,		1 cent, orange.
100,000	,,	,,	2 cents, blue.
290,000	,,	,,	3 cents, pink.
200,000	,,	,,	4 cents, green.
300,000	,,	,,	6 cents, black.
200,000	,,	,,	12 cents, mauve.

The stamps themselves of this issue do not possess any features of great importance. There are two points, however, about which it is necessary to say a few words—gum and perforation. The gum on the adhesives of this set varies to a very great extent from a white colour to a thick dull brown hue. The latter colour has a very decided effect upon the appearance of the stamps, owing to the fact that in many cases it stains the stamp right through the paper. The 1c. stamp is often seen in such a bad state that the design can hardly be seen through the strong dullness of the brown gum.

The two extremes in gum are not seen very often, a mixture between the two being the commonest.

The question of perforations is again a difficult one in the case of this issue. The machine (as previously.) varied in different parts of its length, but it is hardly likely that the difference amounted to such an extent as 11½—13. Mr. Pemberton has it that two machines were in use—the old one gauging 11½—12½, and another of 12½—13. To quote Mr. Pemberton on the subject :—

"The two machines were not used much in conjunction, up to now the only undoubted compound we have seen is the 1c. Further, we have as yet only found four values with the 11½—12 perforation, *viz.*, the 1, 3, 4, and 6 cents, while with the other perforation we have seen all except the 4c. The perforation most frequently met with is 12 all round, and stamps showing any variations either way are much scarcer."

The 4c. green exists with the perforation 12½—13, as a complete sheet of 100 stamps of this value with the above perforation has been seen by the author.

Specialists would do well to make a minute study of these perforations, as there is undoubtedly much to be learned about the stamps themselves from this source.



Under this issue the bisecteds still continue. Only three appear to have been seen which under the circumstances is quite sufficient, considering that none of them were at all necessary. The cents issue contained a 3c. and a 6c. face value and yet we have splits to make up these two values! There can be no doubt that these bisecteds were not authorised, but were merely used as a convenience by those who had run out of this or that value. The bisects known are :—

6c. made of half 12c.
3c. made of half 6c.
3c. made of half 2c. and whole 2c.

The stamps of the cents issue were withdrawn from circulation on July 1st, 1873, when the Colony was admitted as a province into the Dominion of Canada.

Proofs and Essays.

Before beginning this section it is very necessary to give a warning, so that all may be prepared if ever they are offered certain Prince Edward Island proofs at tall prices.

The original plates and dies of certain of the stamps of Prince Edward Island were purchased in the early nineties by Mr. Tilleard from Mr. Tuer. Mr. Tilleard having purchased these plates presented them to the Royal Philatelic Society At a later date Mr. Tilleard read a paper before the Royal Philatelic Society upon the stamps of Prince Edward Island, which paper was afterwards published in the *London Philatelist.* The illustrations for the above article were printed from the *original plates* on thick paper in

black ink. The impressions are therefore "proofs" in the true sense of the word, but are of course of no special value. All the proof illustrations in the *London Philatelist* have printed underneath them :—

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

(i.) Proof from original plate of value.

or (ii.) Proofs from dies of stamps of Pence issue.

or (iii.) Proofs from dies of stamps of Cents issue.

Inscription No. I. is printed under *sheets* of values.

Inscription Nos. II. and III. are printed under single specimens from the issues.

There are also some more proofs illustrating the article, which will be dealt with in due course.

The points to be specially noticed about these plates are : (1) they are printed on thick plate paper and (2) they bear inscriptions underneath (these are sometimes removed).

The author advertised for proofs of Prince Edward Island and among various replies received the following:

> Dear Sir,
> I have the four original sheets of Prince Edward Island printed in black. Each sheet states they from the original plate. They are printed on thick paper and I will sell the 4 sheets for £6 cash. They came from a very large collection. Particulars :
> Sheet of 2d. 7½ inches by 11. 60 stamps, none damaged.
> Sheet of 3 cents. 5 inches by 11. 50 stamps.
> Sheet of 4d. 6 inches by 8. 30 stamps
> Sheet of 12 cents. 6 inches by 10. 50 stamps.
> Crossed postal orders will get the lot. There are no more in the market. I have had this nice lot 10 years, they came out of a well-known collection I purchased left under a will.
> An answer will oblige, etc.

The above-mentioned proofs were of course the plates from the *London Philatelist* worth about 6d. The author wrote and informed this gentleman as to the real nature of these proofs, to which he received the following reply :—

> Dear Sir,
> I am absolutely astonished at your letter. I had no idea that the stamps were not proofs, it states they are on the sheet. Anyhow I am not the only one who has been deceived. I did not read Mr. Tilleard's article on P.E.I.

I have sheets on thin paper, but suppose they are not stamps Anyhow I can sell the four sheets for £2 as forgeries to my forgery collector, he has offered that for them.

Yours truly,

P.S.—Twenty or more of my customers saw the sheets and nobody said they could not be from the original die so I don't feel downhearted.

The above letter is worded in rather a clever way, at least the "P.S." part of it. Although having impressed upon this man the sheets *are* proofs, he does not seem to understand the author's meaning, as he states he is going to sell them as *forgeries for* £2! The author wrote again, asking to see the sheets on *thin* paper, and also explained *very fully* once again the exact nature of the thick paper sheets. As an additional piece of advice it was pointed out that the sheets could not be sold as forgeries, nor at a greater price than 6d., as the whole volume of the *London Philatelist* with plates unbound, could be purchased for about 4s. 6d.

The gentleman in question did not condescend to answer the advice given, but still continues to take collectors in (who know no better) with the proofs on thick paper.

It is a great pity that these splendid plates should thus be abused by unscrupulous persons.

Turning to the proofs on thin paper, there appear to be a great variety, and little doubt is entertained that these imperforate specimens on thin paper are proofs.

First of all among the *London Philatelist* plates we have "a proof from original engraved plate of head for pence issue." This head is upon a solid square background. There is a similar head for the cents issue.

The next item is a design, with no writing of any sort upon it, this die proof is also enclosed by a solid square background in the colours of the impressions of the trials. This die-proof is known printed in dark blue, brick red and brown reddish. All three are very rare.

The ordinary proofs of the stamps are not particularly interesting, they are merely imperforate specimens on thin paper.

Essays do not seem prolific, in fact the only one seen by the author was a very pretty design, much

resembling the 2c. of New Brunswick. This essay was printed in a darkish pink

Forgeries and Bogus Stamps.

The Stamp Collectors' Magazine for 1872, warns collectors against a clever forgery of the 4c. green stamp which appears to have been circulated very soon after the issue of the genuine stamp. The forgery is often found used with a false postmark, struck right across the centre of the stamp so as to disarm suspicion! In an unused condition the "stamps" were sold at 4d. each from a forged sheet of 100 stamps.

According to the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, the following are the variations between genuine and forgery :—

GENUINE.	FORGED.
1.—The crown of the head of the portrait does not touch the frame. There is a plainly visible space oetween it and the frame, along the whole length.	1.—The crown of the head touches the frame along a certain distance, and in a direct line under the letters DW of word EDWARD in the inscription in the upper margin.
2.—The square discs in the lower angles containing figure 4, are a trifle higher than the band running between them inscribed with the value.	2.—The square discs in the lower angles, containing the figure 4, do not project above the intervening band inscribed with the value.
3.—There is a clear space between letter O in the word POSTAGE on the first line of the inscription, and the letter E of PRINCE in the second line.	3.—The letter O in the word POSTAGE in the first line of the inscription touches the letter E of PRINCE on the second line.
4.—There is a vertical line of fine dots outside the exterior row of fine horizontal lines which forms part of the ground on right hand side. In other words each one of these horizontal lines is succeeded by a dot.	4.—The line of dots, referred to on the other side is absent.

The above forgery is seldom to be met with nowadays. Other forgeries do not seem plentiful—the commonest being perhaps the 12c. mauve genuine stamp with forged postmark.

Mr. Victor Marsh draws our attention to another forgery. He says : "About six years ago I noticed an advertisement offering *reprints* of the 4½d. brown, and knowing well that no reprints were made, but that many remainders were still on the market, I spent a

shilling or two to obtain samples of this novelty . . . These 'stamps' were boldly advertised . . . As you will see the specimen is a poor lithographed forgery."

When the cents issue were first chronicled, a stamp with a face value of 10c. was listed printed in rosy lilac. This value is now known to be entirely bogus. At the time of its discovery (1872) this 10c. stamp was the cause of a good many remarks in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

The first mention of this bogus variety was apparently in *Le Timbre Poste.* Next it was listed in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine.* After some time a supply of the cents issue was sent to a dealer direct from the island, but this consignment contained no 10c. stamps. Suspicion being thus aroused, various enquiries were made of M. Moens (who first listed the variety) as to where he had obtained the stamp under discussion. M. Moens explained that he had obtained three specimens from Mr. Goldner, who in turn said he had received them from M. Maury. The latter gentleman, however, disclaimed all knowledge of the stamp, emphatically denying that he had ever seen the variety.

As this bogus variety came upon philately at about the same time as the 4c. forgery it is most likely that both emanated from the same person.

The stamp is lithographed, with design imitating the 3d. value of the issue before (pence).

Mr. E. L. Pemberton, in some comments, made in 1876, describes this bogus variety as "An Imposter made by one Allan Taylor."

The *Philatelical Journal* (1872) stated that the stock of obsolete penny stamps was being utilised, the stamps being surcharged 2 CENTS.

The above statement may have been inaccurate, as we have never seen the provisional mentioned.

Postmarks.

The postmarks given, it is feared, are anything but complete, while the dates when they were brought into use and when they were superceded are not given. The postmarks given, it will be noted, are placed as much as possible in their proper order, but those which contain no date can be only approximately placed amongst the others.

There are just a few general points to be observed regarding the postmarks of this island. A rather curious feature is that dated postmarks, and town postmarks are rarely found obliterating the stamps, these particular cancellations usually being found on the left hand corner of the envelope or else on the back. The stamps are, in most cases, obliterated by "line" postmarks or else triangles or in fact any of the plain postmarks possessing no inscriptions or dates. The town and dated cancellations are of course every now and again seen upon the stamps themselves.

Another method in vogue for obliterating the stamps was with a blue pencil—nearly always, however, in conjunction with some form of a postmark. The pencil cancellation is almost invariably found in the following shape across the stamp :—



The "line" cancellation (the later one) is found sometimes in *red* instead of black, in which colour it is rather rare, and well worth having at the quotation of an ordinary variety.

1.—This postmark consists of 8 straight horizontal lines, measuring roughly as follows :—top line to bottom line, 15 mm., centre line 23 mm. long, top and bottom lines 14 mm. long.

2.—



3.—



The above three postmarks are all found on issue I., and probably on issue II., as well. A copy of No. 3 has been seen dated in March, 1866. It seems reasonable to assume that these postmarks (Nos. 2 and 3) were in use until about the beginning of 1868, as there does not appear to have been any change in this type of cancellation until that date.

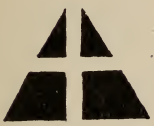
4.—



The above is almost invariably found struck across the stamp. It is chiefly found on issue II., and often cancels the bisects of this issue.

5.—Ten horizontal straight lines, about 1½ mm. apart, 17½ mm. from top to bottom line. Centre line is 25 mm. long, while end lines are 15½mm. long. The lines of this cancellation vary in thickness to a limited extent. This obliteration exists in *red*, and is rare thus. It is found on the stamps in both colours.

5A.—



6.—Eight *thick* horizontal straight lines forming an egg-shaped figure measuring about 15 mm. from top to bottom line. This is found on the stamps.

7.—



8.—



The above numbered postmark is found on the stamp and also frequently on the envelope, in conjunction with postmark No. 7.

9.—



10.—



For the first time in the above we have the name of the town of issue upon the postmark. It is true that the above cancellation is hardly complete, as the town Georgetown might be anywhere on the face of the globe from the above postmark.

11.—



The above contains " P.E.I." at the bottom of the postmark, thus giving the curious some idea as to the whereabouts of Charlottetown.

12.—



Nos. 4—12 are found on issue II., although it is likely that No. 12 is found on issue III. (cents) as well.

The following postmarks are found almost exclusively on the " cents " issue alone.

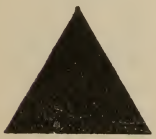
13.—



14.—



15.



The last three cancellations are all found on the cents issue, and are usually struck across the stamps. themselves. No. 14 is very frequently found obliterating an adhesive in conjunction with No. 13. No. 15 is a queer looking postmark, but is, nevertheless, one which does not look ugly upon a stamp.

16.—



There is another variety of the above large-sized postmark, in which the day of the month is above the month thus :—

21
FEB

This cancellation is often seen on envelopes of the cents issue, but it appears to be always used in conjunction with some other postmark, which latter usually does the franking of the stamp—that is to say if it does not entirely cover the adhesive !

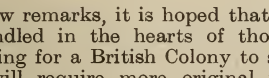
17.—



The above postmark is a very thick and heavy one, which was often used to cancel the stamps, with the result that stamps so used can generally scarcely be recognized.

18.—There is a postmark which came into use rather late in the history of Prince Edward Island cancellations, consisting of 10 horizontal straight lines, each full line being composed of very short lines, or in other words each of the 10 lines is an ordinary line cut into at a space of about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. This cancellation was followed by another of a somewhat similar character.

19.—Much the same as No. 18, except that instead of each line being composed of very short lengths of line from beginning to end, the ends of this cancellation are *continuous* lines, lengthening towards the centre thus :—



In these few remarks, it is hoped that some interest has been kindled in the hearts of those philatelists who are looking for a British Colony to specialise, and one which will require more original research than any other of its kind.

This handbook does not pretend to be a specialist's treatise on the stamps of Prince Edward Island, but merely a foundation basis for those collectors who start this Colony, so that they can build their own investigations upon the meagre ground-work here given.

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