

CANADA METER STUDY GROUP  
AFFILIATED WITH THE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
OF CANADA

JUNE 1984

NEWSLETTER

NO. 12

With the arrival of warmer weather, time to retreat to the cool basement and sort through CMSG mail. This Newsletter includes notes on the Legris catalogue, a few odds and ends of interest, a few early items brought to our attention and a profile questionnaire on the future content of your newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Doug Murray of Charlottetown PEI has withdrawn .

Mr. Russ Handley, 186 Main St., R.D.6, Vincetown, N.J. 08088 joins the Group. He collects full covers, world wide meters, and is quite interested in exchange.

Several other enquiries are pending. So we still have about 30 members.

FINANCES

Not too good folks. On the enclosed questionnaire I have indicated when you last contributed. Effective immediately the CMSG Newsletter will be sent only to individuals who continue to send the editor \$4 per year or regularly contribute material or who stimulate discussion. To raise a few \$, back copies of this newsletter are available at \$.1 each and a few copies of both the 1975 Irwin catalogue and the 1984 Legris catalogue are available (at cost) from the editor.

LEGRIS CATALOGUE

The review of a new meter and permit catalogue by Yvon Legris stimulated numerous replies. First, Mr. Dalpé has indicated he is not an author having only assisted Mr. Legris by showing him his collection. The editor apologizes for any embarrassment this has generated. I suspect however others also are making the same error as suggested by the two reviews from BNA Topics and the Ottawa Citizen which are enclosed. The critics have pointed out errors, poor writing etc. but the book remains a useful guide and brings us up-to-date. Several writers have suggested this gives those of us wanting a well researched book on Canadian meters, prepared sequentially through the Newsletter in looseleaf format, added rationale for forging ahead with all our members' cooperation, much like the MSS has done.

# New Canadian catalogues cover neglected areas

Two publications on somewhat neglected aspects of Canadian philately were released earlier this year. Both to some extent draw on works by earlier authors, but can stand on their own as having the most complete coverage of their subjects.

The 1984 *Canada Meter and Permit Postage Stamps Specialized Catalogue*, by Yvon Legris with the help of Jean-Guy Dalpé, is published by Yan Philatelic of Montreal. It has a list price of \$10.

It adds a good deal of information to the earlier *Canadian Meter Postage Stamp Catalogue* by Ross W. Irwin in the 1970s, and includes pricing for both cut-outs and full covers with Canadian and Newfoundland meter impressions.

Some of the illustrations of the various meter types seem to be reproductions of those used by Irwin. For some of the sub-types, one has to study the illustrations to determine how they vary. For example, types 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 have different inscriptions at the bottom of the indicia which Irwin both illustrated and described. The present catalogue only illustrates them.

As I compared the two catalogues, I could only think that Irwin's earlier efforts should have been acknowledged. The new catalogue adds much information, including very useful introductory pages, but I don't think could have been done without Irwin's earlier work to set a framework.

The permit listing is the first attempt at comprehensive coverage of this area that I can recall seeing. To quote the authors: "a permit postage stamp is an imprint authorized by the Post Office and used for mailing. It bears a special number (permit No.) which identifies the user and serves to calculate the amount of postage due by the latter." The variety of different styles listed should interest more collectors in this specialty.

The second publication, the 1985 *Standard Catalogue of Canadian Booklet Stamps*, published by The Unitrade Press of Toronto, is written by a friend of long-standing, Bill McCann. It lists at \$5.95.



## Stamps

Ralph Mitchener

Ottawa Citizen, June 23, 1984

1984 CANADA METER & PERMIT POSTAGE STAMPS SPECIALIZED CATALOGUES; Yvon Legris & Jean Guy Dalpé; Yan Philatelic, 6700 Langelier Blvd., Montreal, Quebec H1M 2C5. Soft cover, 96 pp., \$10.00.

The publication of this new catalogue coincides with the start, in this issue of TOPICS, of a series on collecting Meter stamps. Both events reflect a surge of interest in Meters and Permits. The catalogue itself is further evidence of the remarkable resurgence of philatelic activity in Quebec, and particularly in Montreal.

It is divided into three sections — information, Meter listing and Permit listing. The information section clearly gives terminology, a little history of Meter and Permit postage stamps, guidelines on condition and prices, reasons for collecting Meters and suggestions for different types of collections. It also explains and shows differences in townmark circles, printing of town names and date marks, and in indicia. Return Postage Prepared and Specimen Meters are included, as are lists of advertising slogans, postal endorsement slogans and adhesive tape monograms.

One unique feature of this work is the listing in catalogue format of different types of Postal Permit designs used since Permits were first introduced in 1903. Another first is the listing of Quebec Law Stamp Meters.

The use of a consistent numbering system for varieties is an improvement over the earlier Irwin catalogue, although the inclusion of many minor date and slogan varieties makes the system a bit cumbersome.

The numbering system for major types, also different from Irwin's, is good, but it is marred in places by not being consistently followed, as in the case of Roneo meters.

Labelling of illustrations is one area which could be improved. Lack of definite identification leads to ambiguity in some places, especially where type numbers appear on a different page from the illustration's.

"The present usage of Meters and Permits largely exceeds that of Postage Stamps, and they should be considered on the same level as adhesives for they serve the same purpose — to pay postage. All complete collections should include them", say the authors. A lot of work has gone into this catalogue, privately printed by the authors, who obviously have the courage of their convictions.

BVA TOPIC  
June 1984

V. A. (B) 42-43

NWT/YUKON METERS

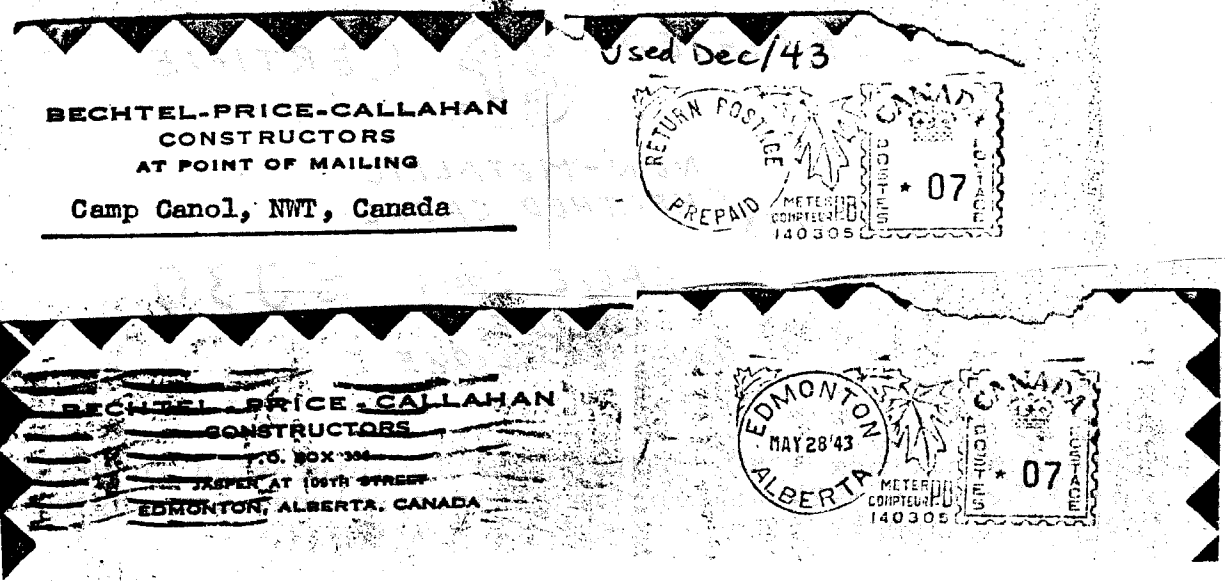
The notes in Newsletter 11 have generated some lists and news on northern meter usage.

Ed Lapham reports additions as follows (Irwin types):

NWT	FORT SMITH	20.2
	FROBISHER BAY	20.1
	HAY RIVER	14.1
	IGLOOLIK	20.1
	YELLOWKNIFE	14.1
YT	ELSA	11.1
	FARO	20.1
	WATSON LAKE	20.1
	WHITEHORSE	20.2
YUKON	WHITEHORSE	11.1
	WHITE HORSE	13.1

Unlisted last time also now is NORMAN WELLS NWT

Illustrated below are items used at Canol Camp NWT. This was a road and oil pipeline constructed during the final years of WW II linking oil wells at Norman Wells to the Pacific coast. The US firm involved in construction, Bechtel-Price-Callahan, used an Edmonton meter with Return Postage Prepaid slug to allow free posting of letters by workers on site. It is likely the meter was not actually carried up north but its a nice addition to the story behind the Canol project.



Ross Irwin notes that a PB meter was used at ALERT for seven days. The meter was withdrawn due to inability to provide maintenance. It is also likely the high security at this installation would preclude regular maintenance. Also the townmark would not likely have said ALERT but some form of MPO would make more sense. ALERT is currently served by an MPO in Belleville Ontario and mail sent in on military flights.

Ross also adds to our northern meter list in addition to those reported on previous page:

NWT	FORT SIMPSON	23.1
"	FORT SMITH	14.1
"	HAY RIVER	11.1
YT	DAWSON	20.1
YT	WHITEHORSE	14.1

#### ODDS AND ENDS

- MSS Bulletin 183 includes notes on inverted townmarks which are apparently "common" on Irwin type 23.1 meters. Neopost meters (Irwin type 22,2) meters with inverted townmarks are also illustrated. These are all likely operator errors and oddities but certainly not "varieties".
- Jean Guy Dalpé has sent the editor an example of a Hasler townmark which is blank except for date and with no indicia. It was used in association with a permit mail printed cover for a bulk first class mailing in 11 IV 84 by Hydro Quebec.
- Ross Irwin brought to our attention that the Canadian Standards Association has used meters for registration of lengths of wire for many years with each manufacturer of electrical wire having one of these special machines. It is meant to be a "guarantee" of the length of wire sold and is attached as a tape to the wire spool. Bob Kitchener sends an illustration of another one of these meters for sheathed cable.

CERTIFIED



CERTIFIE

NON-METALLIC  
SHEATHED CABLE

1183

CABLE SOUS

≈ 030

GAINÉ  
NON-METALLIQUE

PB 2054

- Gabe Pustel, Box 1345, Jackson, NJ is interested in acquiring Great Britain 1924 Wembley meter impressions. Can anyone help him along??

At the recent (May 84) ORAPEX meeting I met again several of our members. Thanks to Ernie Merriken and Bob Kitchener for the tips and encouragement. Mr. Kitchener has also provided some new items for the dormant military listing distributed two years ago. Perhaps its time we finished this project with a small final publication.

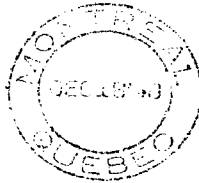
CHRISTMAS SLOGANS

Bob Kitchener adds the illustrations of early Christmas slogans to those illustrated in the last two Newsletters.

**MCARTHUR CHEMICAL CO. LIMITED**

P. O. BOX 1960 (PLACE D'ARMES)

MONTREAL, QUE.  
COMPLIMENTS  
DE LA  
SAISON



**DOMINION STEEL & COAL CORPORATION LIMITED**

624 CANADA CEMENT BUILDING

MONTREAL, CANADA

SEASONS  
GREETINGS



**JOHN B. STETSON COMPANY (CANADA) LIMITED  
BROCKVILLE, ONT.**

*A Stetson Hat*

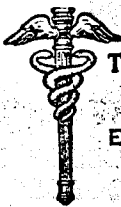
★ makes the ideal  
Christmas Gift



**Canadian Postage Meters & Machines Co. Ltd.**

137 Wellington Street West  
TORONTO 2, ONTARIO

IT'S TIME FOR  
  
CHRISTMAS ADVERTISING



**THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE**  
AT POINT OF MAILING

E. 6

Join our...  
**CHRISTMAS CLUB**  
now!



**ADDITIONS TO THE CANADA TOWN LIST  
(ALAN DRAVES LISTING)**

BC BRISCO	ONT BATH	PQ SACRE-COEUR +
MATSQUI	CALSTOCK	STE CATHERINE
NEW DENVER	CARLSBAD	PORTNEUF +
SLOCAN PARK	SPRINGS	ST-FAUSTIN
TUMBLER RIDGE	CFPO 5000 /	STE-HENEDINE
VANANDA	BELLEVILLE +	ST-JEAN-SUR-
	CONSECON	RICHELIEU
MAN STE ROSE	DENFIELD	ST-PAUL-DE-
DU LAC	HARROWSMITH	JOLIETTE +
TEULON		
NFLD CURLING-CORNER		SASK CUMBERLAND
BROOK +		HOUSE
NWT RANKIN INLET		PARLIAMENT FRANK
		SENATE / SENAT

+ Not in the Postal Directory, but verified by photocopy.

+ + + + +

Please report any new U.S. and Canada towns to:  
Alan Draves, P.O. Box 190, New Knoxville, OH 45871.

Please include the EXACT spelling of town as shown in the town circle, and meter number (if legible) in all reports.

+ + + + +

TOWNMARK LISTINGS

A few new townmark listing additions and corrections have been drawn to our attention, as listed below. Is it safe to say we've now completed a listing for all varieties and towns etc. for Irwin types 1-10?

Irwin Type 7

Additions: THREE RIVERS QUE.  
ST. ANSELME STATION QUEBEC  
TECUMSEH ONTARIO  
TORONTO ONTARIO.

Corrections: ST. JOHN'S QUEBEC  
WINDSOR MILLS  
QUEBEC + +

Irwin Type 8

Additions: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TORONTO, ONT.  
SCARBOROUGH C

EARLIEST SLOGAN??

The illustration below is an early use of a slogan on an Irwin type 5.1. Its interesting in that the townmark is Ottawa CANADA likely a special use. While not the earliest slogan used it's nice. Could we illustrate earlier slogans in future newsletters??

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC  
CONFERENCE  
1932

Irwin Type 12

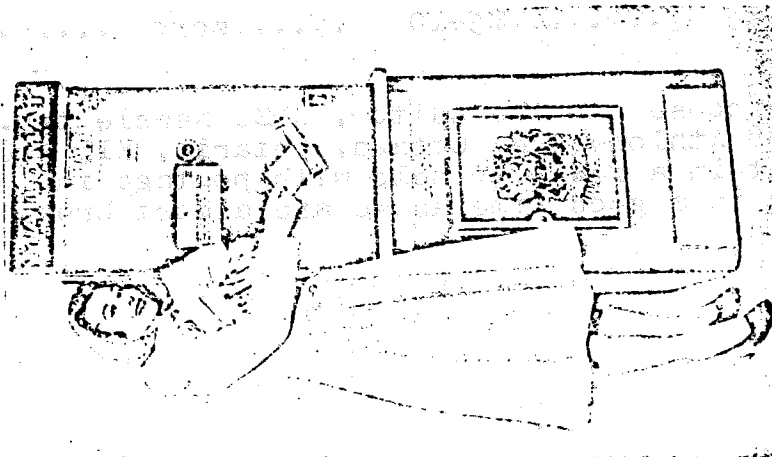
Additions: MONTREAL QUEBEC (E missing in Quebec)  
TORONTO ONTARI (last O missing in Ontario)  
POINTE-CLAIRE-DORVAL (E in Pointe reads as F) PQ  
VANCOUVER BRITISH COLUMBIA (odd I and M)  
QUEBEC QUEBEC. (additional mark after.)

Correctinns: POINTE-CLAIRE-DORVAL PQ  
MONT-LAURIER QUEBEC

All theabove thanks to the digging of Bob Kitchener.

A nice item with a specimen on a type 11.5 Mailomat used on a rare French language advertising card (illustration below is reduced obviously).

CANADIAN POSTAGE METERS LIMITED  
AT POINT OF MAILING

**Le "MAILOMAT"**

est une boîte à lettres payante pour ceux qui ont des lettres à poster—mais qui n'ont pas de timbre. C'est une espèce de "bureau de poste automatique" qui poste vos lettres non affranchies.

Pour poster une lettre: (1) déposez votre pièce de monnaie à l'endroit désigné, (2) signalez le montant exact de l'affranchissement et (3) insérez votre lettre dans l'ouverture aménagée à cet effet. L'appareil fera le reste: il prendra automatiquement votre lettre, y imprimera le timbre et le sceau postal et la conservera jusqu'à ce qu'on l'enlève. . . L'appareil imprime des timbres de 1c. à 95c., y compris les timbres de poste aérienne, de livraison spéciale, etc., sans charge additionnelle d'affranchissement.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON CMSG NEWSLETTER

Name.....

Address.....

Do you find the CMSG Newsletter useful and interesting?

.....always           .....sometimes           .....never

Do you feel it is worth continuing?

.....yes           .....no           .....don't care

When was the last time you contributed financially to the Newsletter?

.....several years ago       .....recently       .....never

Would you like to continue receiving the Newsletter?

.....yes       .....no

Do you have specific suggestions for the future direction, content or format? If so please list below.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What do you consider a maximum annual membership fee to the CMSG (including 3-4 Newsletters annually) should be?

.....under \$5       .....\$5-10       .....zero       .....over \$10

Please send your response to the Editor, CMSG Newsletter, (Clayton Rubec), 488 Athlone Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 5M8. If you have not sent in a few \$ to help with postage in recent memory, this is a good time as we are almost broke again. Many thanks.