

CANADIAN METER STAMP NEWSLETTER

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NO. 56

EDITOR'S NOTES

Allan Draves now has the Canada Town List on the internet so you can check it and send in the name of new towns. The address is:- <http://www.draves.com/mss/cantown/cantown.htm>

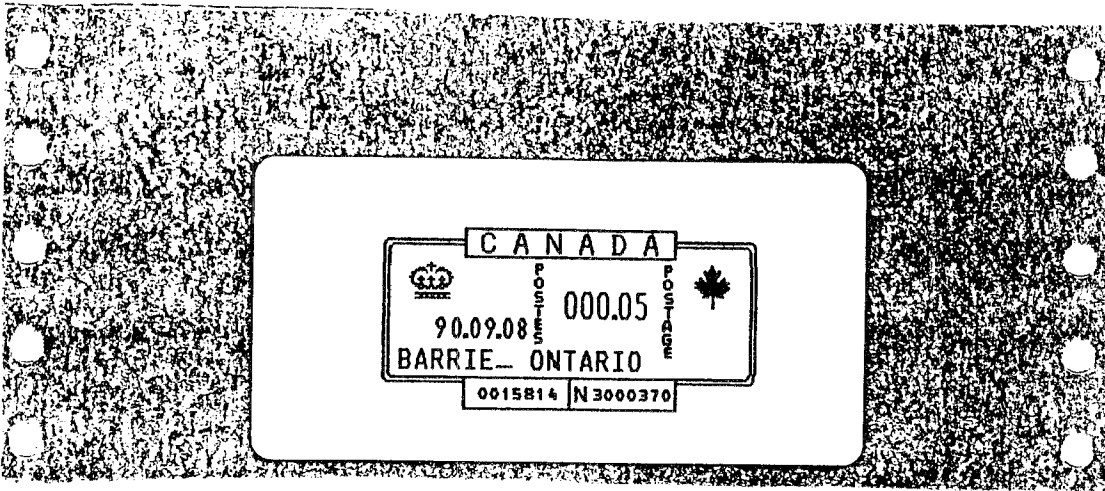
The next two issues will deal with the old Types 50 through 56 government meters and franks. The text will be based on my article "Free Franked Machine Imprints" published in Canadian Philatelist in Vol. 36, 1986. The article will be cut up to fit in the illustrations and additional material on use.

The issue begins with an historical overview of the Retail Postal Outlet registers. This system is now under review and I thought there should have some record of them before they fade into non-existence.

RETAIL POSTAL OUTLET LABELS

This short article is a summary of information concerning the labels used at Retail Postal Outlets. The concept of privatization of the post office function began with the establishment of the Canada Post Corporation in 1982. Franchised retail postal outlets were established in 1987. Many of these outlets were provided with a Siemens Nixdorf Point Of Sale Accounting System. The Nixdorf accounting register provided an adhesive label to affix to a cover in lieu of stamps or postage meter impressions. The register software was changed every time there was a change in postage rates. The first retail postal outlet was opened and the equipment tested at Halifax (N3000001) in the Spring of 1988, although N3000000 was used at Rideau East in Ottawa, and in Toronto by August of 1988. The Nixdorf peelable label was printed using a dot matrix printer. Each postal label was 80 mm wide by 40 mm high and was on a blue and light blue carrier paper which was 145 mm wide by 65 mm high. The carrier paper had sprocket holes at the left and right for feeding through the printer. This wide carrier and self adhesive label created a rather high waste of paper. The register image is 48 mm long and 24 mm high and has rounded corners.

The Nixdorf label contained standard information such as CANADA with a Crown and Maple Leaf. The name of the town, and later the Retail Postal Outlet, and generally the province. The value, to a maximum of \$999.99 and two identification tablets. The Nixdorf serial number block began at N3000000. The Retail Postal Outlet Number {which was the 5 digit Human Resource Inventory System number with a "0" prefix} was located in the left identification tablet. Date mark is: YY.MM.DD



Based on a survey of data in our Newsletter introduction of the system to the 1,309 retail postal outlets was rapid.

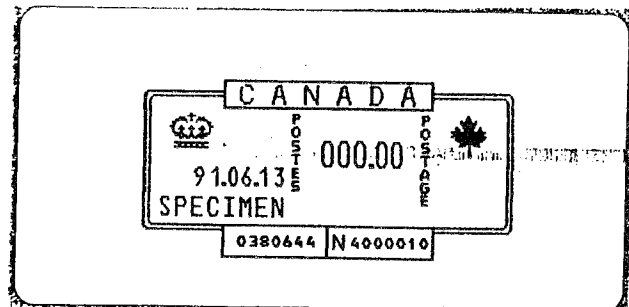
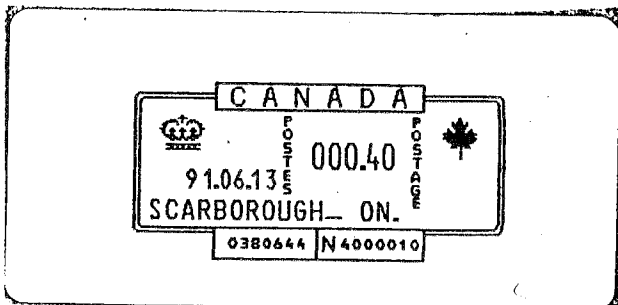
Summer	1989	there were	125
Fall	1989		175
Summer	1990		275
Fall	1991		385
Fall	1992		400

Highest serial number known in large format is N3000400.

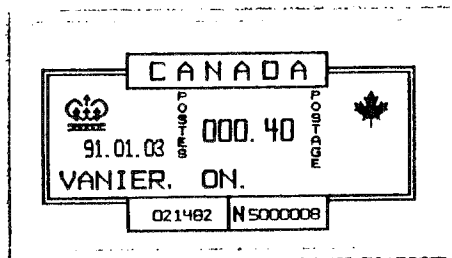
Labels added to collections during 1991 and 1992 have faded to be almost unreadable as the ink was absorbed by the paper. Labels collected after 1993 have tended to be more stable, but still tend to fade.

The carrier size was changed to save paper.

In late 1990 a short series having a Nixdorf serial block starting at N4000000 was used. There were only 30 printers in this series. The printers used were the old dot matrix printer with large carrier paper but were used with new format software. The labels and carrier paper were the same as the N3000000 series. The highest serial number is N4000030.



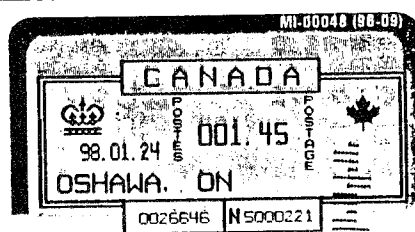
The Model CD72 laser printer was introduced in 1990. It produced a label 55 mm wide by 30 mm high and was on a 57 mm by 34 mm white carrier paper, a substantial saving in paper cost. The image is 48 mm wide and 24 mm high. There are minor difference with the crown and maple leaf compared to the N3 series.



The new identification serial block began at N5000000. Our Newsletter recorded their use as:-

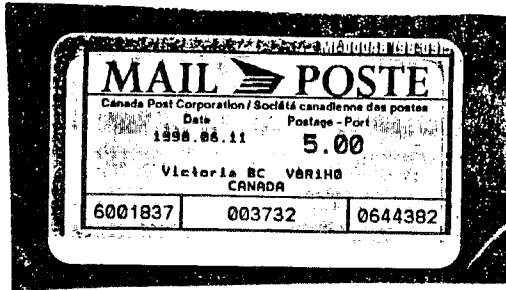
- Fall 1991 to 181
- Sep 1992 to 480
- Jul 1993 to 764

Many retail postal outlets purchased adhesive labels from an office supply business rather than from Canada Post Corp. To eliminate this practice the label was redesigned a security label with a silver band was added at the top and on the sides. A product identification number is printed at the upper right corner - MI-00048-(96-09). The post office now refuses to process any other type of label. The label is 55 mm long by 30 mm high. The image is similar to the previous label, 48 mm long by 24 mm high. The carrier paper is also the same size as the previous type. The serial number continues the N5000000 series. The date of introduction for this product appears to be September 1996.



Information on the previous labels were CANADA, the date of posting in European style YY.MM.DD, the RPN (HRIS) office number, the Nixdorf serial number, and the value.

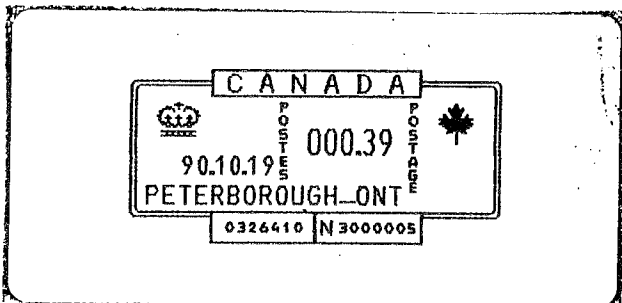
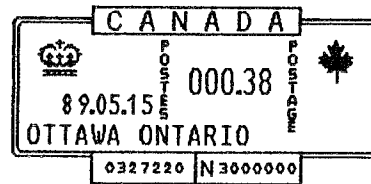
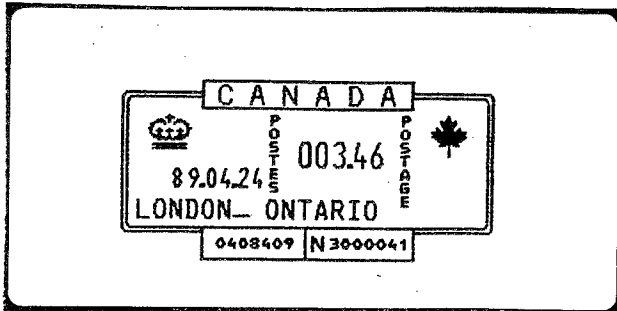
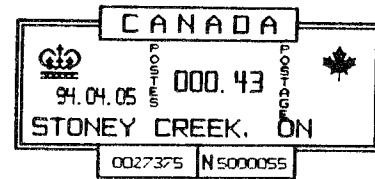
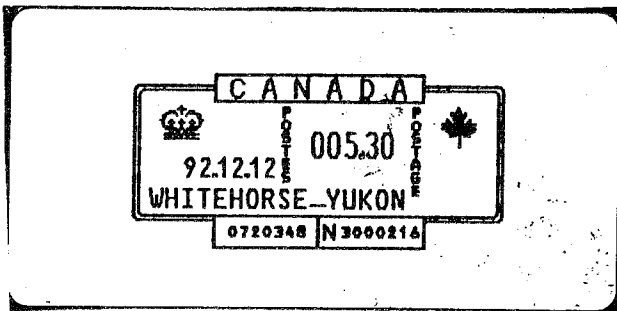
In the Summer of 1997 postage label machines were added to Canada Post Corporation outlets in what was termed the Retail Outlet Support System (ROSS). A new computer system was generated from several sources. The laser printer is no longer a Nixdorf and the serial number begins at 6000000.



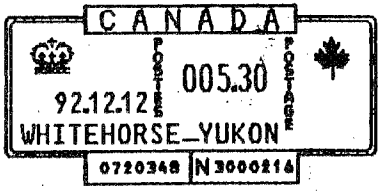
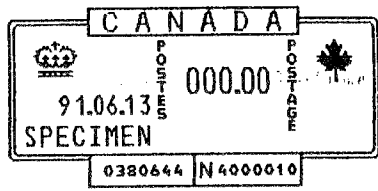
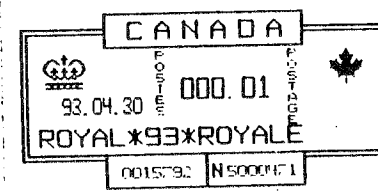
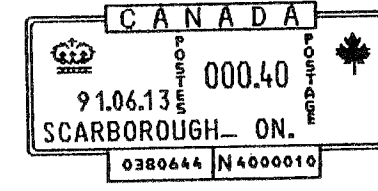
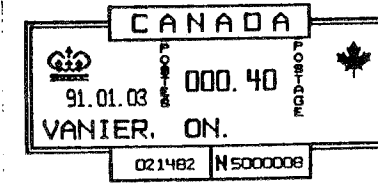
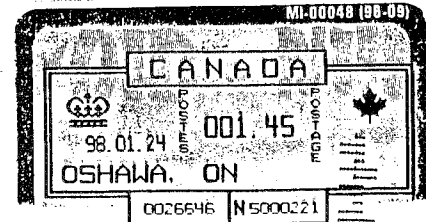
This new label contains additional and changed information. The year is now 4 digits to overcome any Y2 problem - YYYY.MM.DD. The value is reduced to 0.00. The place, province, CANADA and the postal code are included. In three tablets below are the printer serial number, the office transaction number and the office HRIS number. The transaction number is used to recover information regarding the sale.

The labels are 54 mm wide by 30 mm high having an image 48 mm long and 23 mm high.

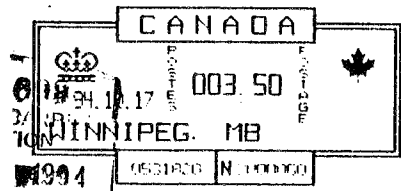
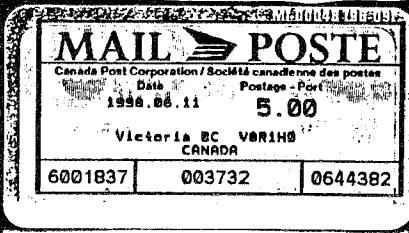

On all types, labels are available that read: COURIER INTL COURIER for Priority Courier International for outside Canada goes on way bill kept in the outlet; TEST; and SAMPLE.

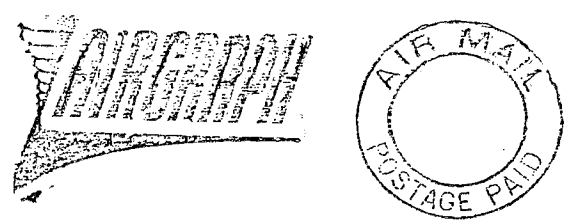
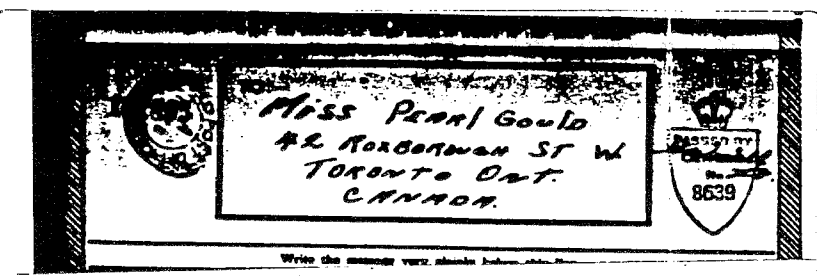


CMMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
N - 1		<p>Basic type:- Indicia with CANADA in a box above with the HRIS number and postage register number in a double box at the base. A double line having rounded corners surrounds the indicia. Within the line a Crown and Maple Leaf. POSTES is vertically between the A and N of Canada and POSTAGE vertically after the final A. The value 000.00 is between the date YY.MMDD at left. Indicia 48 x 34 on a 80 x 40 carrier paper. Printed by dot matrix. Series begins at N3000000.</p>
N-1-1		<p>SPECIMEN for the RPO location</p>
N-1-2		<p>Special townmark designation or design</p>
N-1-3		<p>As N - 1 except the series begins at N4000000</p>
N - 2		<p>Similar to N-1. Label is 48 x24 but on a carrier paper 60 x 33. POSTES is under the A of CANADA. Small difference in Maple Leaf and Crown. Laser printed. Series begins at N5000000.</p>
N-2-1		<p>As N-2 except silver security band around top and sides of the label. Size 54 x 29.</p>

CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
N-1-4		As N-1 except the series begins at N2000000. This is an error in the numbering system
N-3		New design. MAIL >> POSTES at top with silver security band at top and sides. Size 54 x 21. The value is 0.00 and the datemark YYYY.MM.DD
		



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V_MAIL or AIRGRAPHS
Ross Irwin

A form of franked mail was developed by the Eastman Kodak Co. and was used in World War II for V-mail, or Airgraphs. These were first used in the United Kingdom in April 1941 as a more reliable service to Middle and Far East theatres of war when there were many shipping losses in the Mediterranean and convoys around South Africa took 12 weeks more. Canadian troops in North Africa and Italy used this service.

Airgraphs were special letter forms which were photographed and reduced to a reel of film to save space. One pound of regular mail was 30 ordinary letters, or 168 Armed Forces Letters, or 3,500 Airgraphs. They were reproduced at the country of delivery. About 2250 letters were filmed each hour. The soldier could write as much as he liked within a space of 8 in x 8in.

The Airgraph was first used 15 Aug 1941 when the Queen sent an airgraph to Egypt. The service was extended from Australia to Canada on 2 Jul 1943. In April 1942, the Canadian Postal Corps HQ, London, suggested that an airgraph service to Canada be established since the USA had agreed to extend the Pan American "Clipper" service to Foynes, Ireland. Ottawa agreed to the service but pointed out that photoduplication services were not available in Canada - the film had to be processed at Rochester, N.Y. The first airgraph was sent to Canada August 6, 1942.

The system was promoted by the postal service since it saved much work however it was never a popular system. As more cross-Atlantic aircraft became available after 1944 the need for the service lessened. It ceased July 21, 1945.



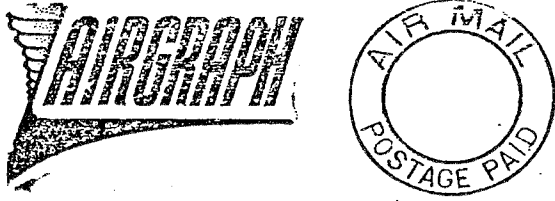
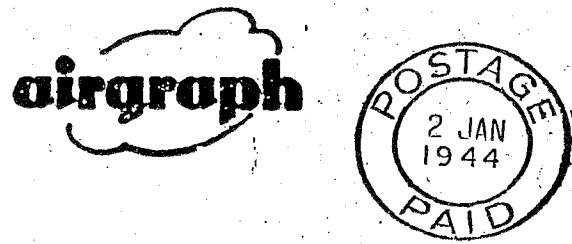

The airgraph was limited in size and had an address box at the top. The mark "Passed By Censor No. 0000" is at the right. At the left is a 6 digit register number to identify the airletter. This number was used by the processor to indicate the letter had been delivered and the original film could be destroyed.

The airgraph was contained in a "jacket" having an access window. Printed on this jacket was an indicia from a Pitney Bowes, Model AV-HB auxiliary printing head to record the number of impressions and to print the frank. Most indicia are printed upside down with respect to the window.

The townmark is a double circle, 27 / 18 mm, bearing the words AIR MAIL / POSTAGE PAID. The datemark is produced from loose type and varieties exist; however, the general form is MD/T/Y. The datemark may also be blank - these are often associated with a special Xmas printed Newsletter. Canadian indicia is generally in blue ink. There is no value printed.

To the left of the townmark is the word AIRGRAPH within a fancy winged design. About May 1943 the design was changed to the right side of the townmark. The overall length is 70 mm.

CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
AG - 1		<p>Basic type with Type 8 townmark and AIRGRAPH logo at right. Used Aug. 6, 1942 to Apr 1943.</p>
AG - 2		<p>Basic type with Type 8 townmark and AIRGRAPH logo at left. Used Apr 1943 to 1945.</p>
AG - 3		<p>Basic type but no datemark. Such covers were used for pre-printed Xmas cards and just bore the name of the person. No message.</p>
AG - 4		<p>British style Airgraph jacket, red ink, smaller townmark and font. Also used by Canadians attached to forces in the Middle and Far East.</p>
AG - 5	<p>No. 243</p> 	<p>British style Airgraph originally used in Great Britain.</p>

Free Franked Machine Imprints

by Ross W. Irwin

The Post Office Act for the regulation of postal services in Canada was passed December 12, 1867. It came into effect April 4, 1868. Franking and Free Mail Matter were covered in sections 24 through 35 of the Act. Section 25 exempted from Canadian postage:

all letters or other mailable matter addressed to or sent by any Department of the Government, at the Seat of Government at Ottawa, under such regulations as may from time to time be made by the Governor in Council.

The franking privilege predates Confederation. It was first introduced into both houses of the legislature, in April 1837, while sitting in session. The Post Office Department protested this privilege for the next 135 years.

FREE, meaning not subject to postage, was the usual handstamp marking. In later years, the word FREE was used with various designs indicating the source and date of the mailing.

Postage stamps were also used for government mail and in late 1920 postage stamps used by the office of the Receiver General and Assistant Receiver General were perforated using the 5-hole O.H.M.S. (On His Majesty's Service) perforator. Perforated postage stamps continued in use by these offices until July 1, 1939.

In 1937, the Auditor General remarked on the possible loss of postage through the use of ordinary postage stamps. The Deputy Post Master wrote a memo to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance on July 28, 1937, objecting to the use of overprinted stamps for general government use, but approved the perforating of them. Postage meters, or perforated postage stamps were recommended for smaller offices.

An Order-in-Council, dated June 29, 1939, approved the use of perforated postage stamps for general official use and made the Post Of-

fice Department responsible for the perforation and distribution of these stamps. The 4-hole O.H.M.S. stamps were used until September 1949. O.H.M.S. was overprinted on postage stamps from September 1949. When the bilingual policy concerning philatelic design was implemented in 1949 the letter "G", for Government in both official languages, was substituted. These date from the fall of 1950.

The Annual Report of the Postmaster General contained a general financial statement. Each year also it contained a statement dealing with the cost of the franking privilege. For example, the report for 1934/35 states,

If, however, the Post Office Department had been indemnified for the expense imposed upon it by the franking privilege enjoyed by the various departments of Government, the revenue would have been increased by approximately \$750,000, thusly increasing the surplus to the same extent.

By 1945 the cost of the franking privilege had reached \$4,700,000, and continued at well over \$4 million into the late 1950's.

The Canada Official Postal Guide, 1938-1939, details the restrictions to the franking privilege. Section 162 states "all letters sent from Ottawa...will be franked and certified (free of postage) as entitled to pass free...for the guidance of local post offices." Those entitled to the privilege were Letters sent to or by:

- Sec. 158 the Governor General
- Sec. 159 public departments at Ottawa of a Department character.
- Sec. 161 officers of the Senate and House of Commons and Librarian of Parliament.
- Sec. 163 Library of Parliament books
- Sec. 164 letters to or by members of

Senate or House of Commons while parliament in session and 10 days before and after.

Sec. 166 District Director of Postal Services, Dead Letter Office on Post Office business.

Sec. 170 Lists 31 departments, commissions and boards.

Sec. 172 Dominion Bureau of Statistics

In 1950 the Postmaster General wrote that the franking privilege at Ottawa included a large amount of free registered matter which placed a heavy burden on the postal service. The free franking privilege was originally not to apply to parcel post, airmail, registration and special delivery, stamps were to be used. Government mail which did not qualify for the franking privilege were required to pay full postage.

In 1962, Treasury Board asked the Post Office Department to estimate the value of free mail for each Government department, agency, board and commission, for annual estimates to be allocated to each department, etc.

Resulting from the report of the Glassco Commission all the costs of operation were to be borne by the individual departments and agencies. Bulk Postage Payment for Federal Mail became effective January 1, 1964. Over-printed "G" postage stamps were discontinued.

Standard envelopes were introduced as an economy measure instead of each department printing their own. The official endorsement consisted of a one-half inch high by one inch wide rectangle containing the words CANADA/POSTAGE PAID/PORT PAYE, with On Her Majesty's Service/Service de sa Majeste, to the left.

It was no longer necessary to apply a date cancel to government mail. If dating was desired a printing head was to be used. Rubber stamps were approved as a temporary measure on existing stocks of envelopes until new envelopes were available. Temporary measures ended January 1, 1968. Bulk payment of mail began March 12, 1970.

From April 1, 1972, the postage system for official mail reverted to the use of postage stamps, postage meters, and other normal methods of payment. All federal government departments were required to pay postage.

This was the result of the task force which produced the Blueprint for Change in 1968. It reviewed the mailing arrangements for departments and saw the need to assure adequate compensation for the service. The Post Office Act was amended to eliminate the franking privilege that departments had enjoyed since Confederation.

This article deals with general government mail in the period 1937 to 1973 where the franking privilege and postage paid was indicated by printing head.

HOUSE OF COMMONS AND SENATE FRANKS

The franking privilege was extended to members of the House of Commons and Senate, as well as officers of both Houses and the Librarian of Parliament, for mail sent from and to Ottawa when the House of Commons was in session and 10 days before and after.

Various forms of handstamps were used over the years to signify the date of posting, and the source of the mail. Each cover was certified as FREE of postage by means of a rubber stamp bearing the name or initials of the member. The latest date I have for this form of frank is March 30, 1949.



The House of Commons post office acquired a Pitney-Bowes Model RTPH auxiliary counting and printing attachment for their mailing machine. It was similar to that used in the USA for "penalty-privilege mail".

The indicia (Irwin, Type 51.1) consists of a single circle townmark, 20 mm in diameter, bearing HOUSE OF COMMONS-CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES. The date mark, DMY, with the month in serified Roman numerals, is similar to the Pitney-Bowes Model R postage meter date.

To the right of the townmark are seven horizontal lines with FREE on the second line, CANADA on the fourth, and FRANCO on the sixth.

A numeral, to the left of CANADA, is the hour of posting. This numeral was 3 mm high but was enlarged to 5 mm in 1972. Hours of posting seen are 8 to 22, probably others exist.

To the left of the townmark is a "postmark ad" bearing a replica of the Houses of Parliament. The dimensions of the "ad" varies due to the photo-reduction process used by Pitney-Bowes to make the slugs. The usual width is 40 mm. This length, and the setting, affects the over-all length which tends to be 92 or 105 mm.

Green ink has been used for this frank. Since February 15, 1975, the ink has been fluorescent. Impressions are usually on white envelopes, with a few on parcel post tapes.

The words FREE and FRANCO were left off unfranked mail. These words have not been used since mid 1974.

A close examination of current impressions indicate that the House of Commons post office uses about three different printing heads, each with a minor variation.



Above, an early example of the House of Commons Pitney Bowes printing head.

Below, an example of the revised House of Commons Pitney Bowes printing head with townmark 22 mm and large time mark and Parliament Building in the ad space.



A unique application for the promotion of a conference for the period April 1, 1981, to April 30, 1981. A special postmark ad was used in place of the Houses of Parliament. The postmark ad reads: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF / COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS / AND PRESIDING OFFICERS / APRIL 20 - 27 1981 / CANADA. A single unfilled maple leaf at left.



In 1984 the indicia of the House of Commons printing head was changed. The townmark is a single circle, 20 mm in diameter, bearing OTTAWA CANADA, which is more appropriate for foreign mail. The datemark is similar to the previous printing head.

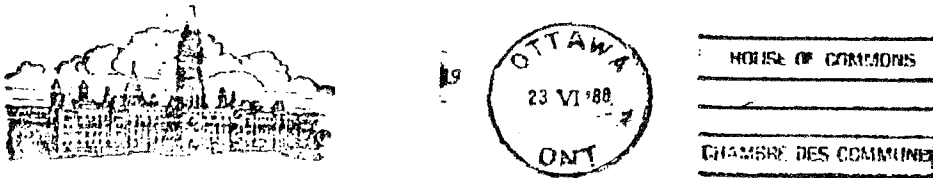
To the right, setting 6 mm, are five horizontal lines. Between the first and second is HOUSE OF COMMONS; between the fourth and fifth is CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES.

To the left of the townmark, setting 5 mm, is a small hour of posting numeral.

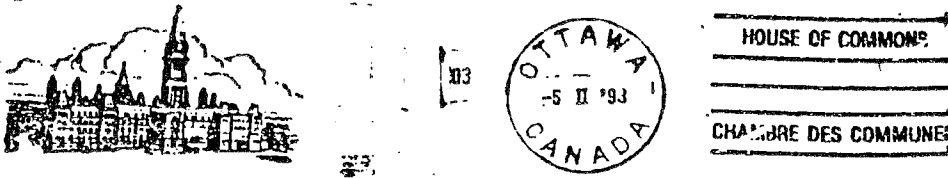
To the left of the townmark, setting 19 mm, is a replica of the Houses of Parliament. The indicia is 120 mm over-all. Ink is green fluorescent.

A special promotional postmark ad was used in August 1985. The ad reads: 74th Inter-Parliamentary Conference/2-7 Sept. 1985/Ottawa/74e Conference interparlementaire, with a maple leaf.

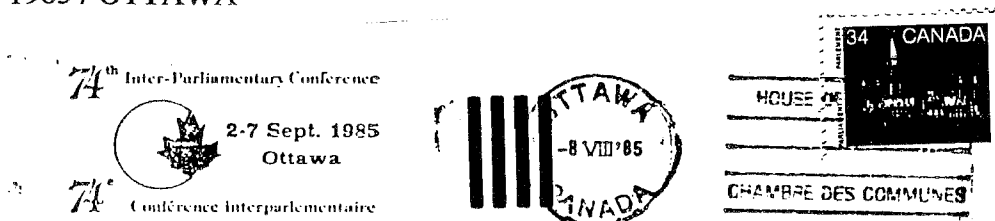
Indicia adopted in 1984, with ONT abbreviated as the province. Note time mark at left of TM.



Indicia used on one machine having CANADA in the townmark



Special promotional postmark reads 74 th INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE / 74 TH CONFERENCE INTERPARLEAMENTAIRE and a circle and filled maple leaf with the date 2 - 7 Sept. 1985 / OTTAWA



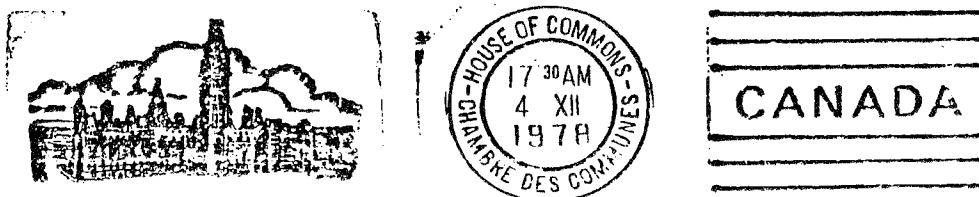
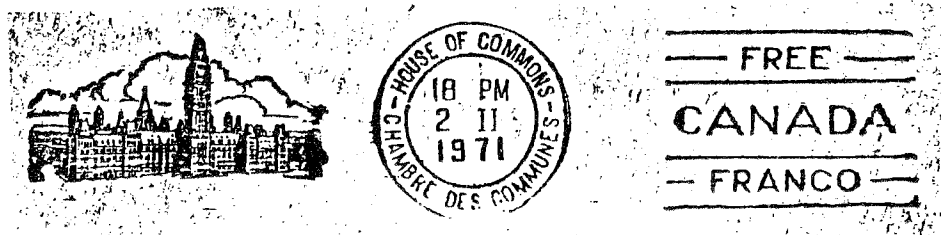
The House of Commons post office acquired an AVPH for a Pitney-Bowes Model F mailing machine. This machine was for the larger flats and oversize envelopes. Most covers are kraft envelopes.

The indicia (Irwin, Type 51.2) is a townmark with a double circle, 26 by 17 mm. The datemark is made of loose type and can be any arrangement, usually T/DM/Y.

Horizontal lines to the right contain the words FREE, CANADA, and FRANCO

similar to the smaller printing heads. The FREE and FRANCO were gone by 1975. Setting between the townmark and the bars is 33 mm.

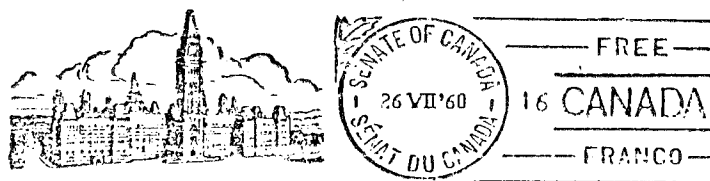
To the left, setting 40 mm, is a replica of the Houses of Parliament. The indicia is 120 mm overall, slightly longer in later years. The ink is green, fluorescent since 1975. The first use of this printing head is early 1965. The hour of posting is located in the datemark.

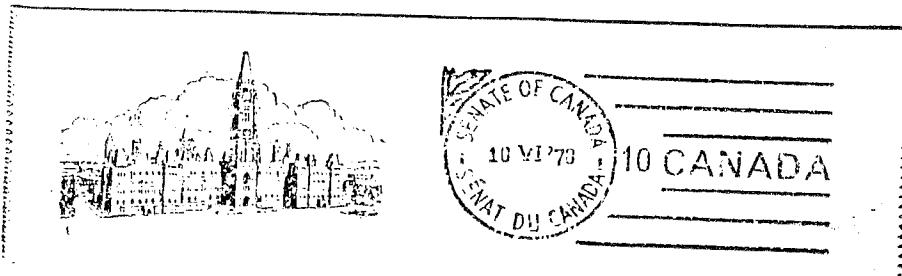


The Senate of Canada post office acquired a machine for franking Senate mail "as used in the House of Commons", in 1956. The townmark (Irwin, Type 52,1) bears the words SENATE OF CANADA-SENAT DU CANADA. The datemark is similar to previous printing heads.

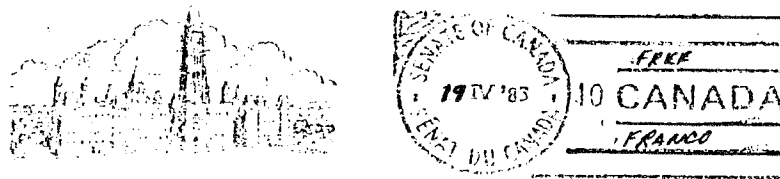
Horizontal lines to the right bear the words FREE/CANADA/FRANCO as the House of Commons, with the hour of mailing to the left of Canada. The hour of mailing was enlarged in 1977.

The indicia of the Senate frank was changed in 1985. The townmark is a single circle, 20 mm in diameter, with the words SENATE SENAT. The date mark is one line, DMY, with the month in Roman numerals with serifs, similar to Pitney Bowes Model R postage meters. To the right is CANADA with three horizontal lines above and below. The word FREE is on the second line, and FRANCO on the 5th line. The lines are 30 mm in length. To the left is a replica of the Houses of Parliament, setting 18 mm. Overall length of the indicia is 120 mm. Ink is red, fluorescent.

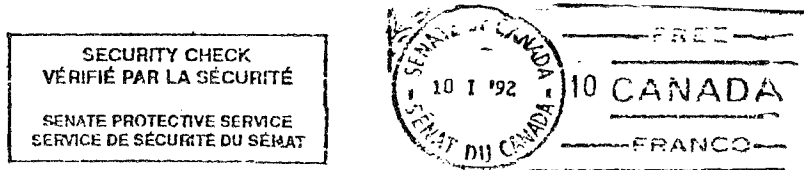




Revised indicia with larger fonts, also on a tape which is a scarce use.



New use but the Senator hand wrote "FREE and FRANCO" in the rate mark, also changed date.

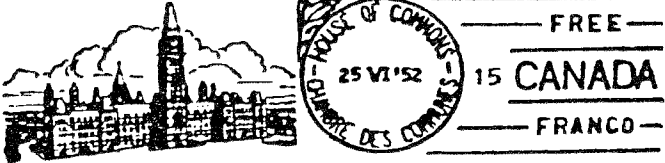
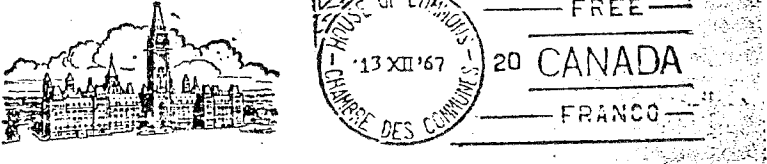
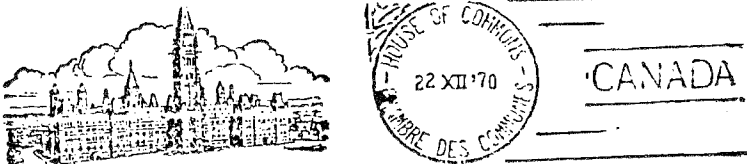

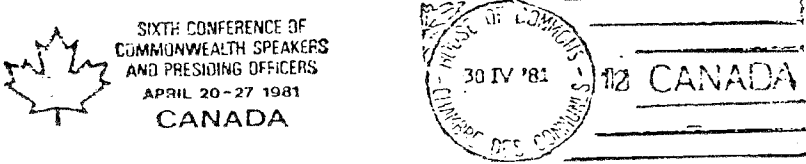


SECURITY CHECK in ad plate indicating the mail had been inspected before opening.


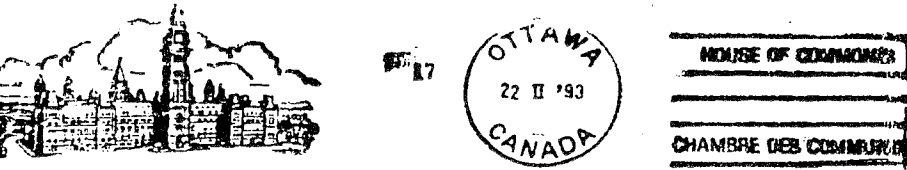

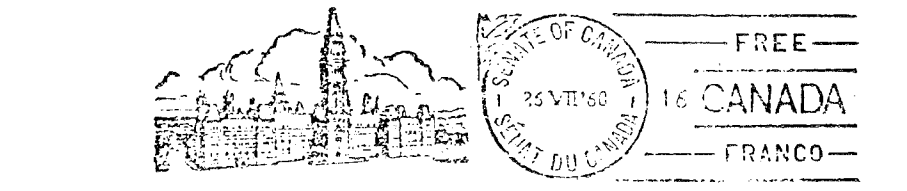

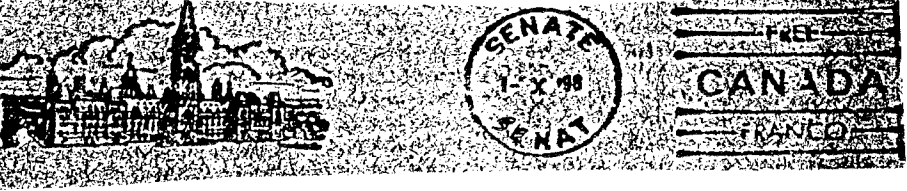


New style SENATE frank but including FREE and FRANCO in rate mark.

CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
P-1		<p>Basic type - Townmark SC with HOUSE OF COMMONS / CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES and the date DMY, month in RN. At right are 7 horizontal lines with FREE in the 3rd line and FRANCO on the 6th line, a number and CANADA are on the 4th line. In the ad space the main building of the Houses of Parliament. In green. Size:- 21 x 86.</p>
P-1-1		<p>As P-1 but FREE is on line 2 and FRANCO on line 6. Small differences in type font</p>
P-1-2		<p>As P-1 but lines 2 and 6 are incomplete</p>
P-1-3		<p>As P-1 but the words FREE and FRANCO are omitted.</p>
P-1-4		<p>As P-1 but the ad space advertises a conference</p>

CMSG METER CATALOG

Type	Indicia	Remarks
P-2		<p>Basic type - Townmark SC with OTTAWA ONT and the date DMY, month in RN. At right are 5 horizontal lines with HOUSE OF COMMONS between lines 1 and 2 and CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES between lines 4 and 5. In the ad space the main building of the Houses of Parliament. In green.</p>
P-2-1		<p>As P-2 but Townmark reads OTTAWA CANADA.</p>
P-2-2		<p>As P-2-1 except the ad space advertises a conference.</p>
S-1		<p>Basic type - Townmark SC with SENATE OF CANADA / SENAT DU CANADA and the date DMY, month in RN. FREE on line 2 and FRANCO on line 6. CANADA with a number at centre. Houses of Parliament in ad space. In red.</p>
S-1-1		<p>As S-1 but FREE and FRANCO are omitted.</p>
S-2		<p>Townmark reads SENATE / SENAT with date DMY. At right 6 horizontal lines with FREE on line 2 and FRANCO on line 5. CANADA at centre. In red. Houses of Parliament at left.</p>