

SPECIMEN STAMPS

By Al Carroccia

I recently added to my collection of British Commonwealth QEII stamps. Included were examples of specimen stamps. In 1879 the Universal Postal Union (UPU) required its member postal administrations to send in examples of its stamps, so the stamps could be distributed to other member states to aid in the detection of forgeries. The stamps were not valid for postage and were overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN". Where English is not the common language, stamps were overprinted with the language of that country.



Some examples have the name "SPECIMEN" perforated (perfins):



Collecting specimen stamps is a specialty. There are different varieties of overprints and perfins. Interestingly, some specimen stamps are worth more than the originals intended for postage! If you happen to see a specimen stamp in the Club auction, grab it and check it carefully!

RICHARD HEDLEY LIBRARY

Long-time members of the Buffalo Stamp Club will fondly remember Richard Hedley. He was very active in club activities, served on the Board of Directors, and was elected President of the club. His daughter, Debby Hedley-Dove, who lives in Portsmouth, Virginia, inherited his philatelic library. She recently communicated with the Buffalo Stamp Club with this message:

"I have some books and magazines that I wondered if any of your members might be interested in having. They belonged to my father, Richard P. Hedley, who was long affiliated with and a past president of the Buffalo Stamp Club, and who died in 1995. He was a British North America collector and, if I remember correctly, a stamp authenticator and I hope these materials may be useful to someone."

Those interested in purchasing any of the materials listed below may contact Debby directly via email at titwdoct@hotmail.com. If you have any questions that I can help with, I'm happy to help – Alan Davis

- 1) Atlantic Mails: A History of the Mail Service Between Great Britain and Canada to 1889
by J.C. Arnell and K.S. Mackenzie, published by National Postal Museum, Ottawa, Canada 1980 (\$10 + shipping)
- 2) New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980
John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr., published by American Philatelic Society, State College, PA 1982 (\$6 + shipping)
- 3) Scott's Standard Postage Stamps Catalogue, European Countries and Colonies and the Independent Nations of Africa and Asia 1959 Vol II, published by Scott Publications, Inc., NY NY 1958 (\$3 + shipping)
- 4) The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada Vol I, by Winthrop S. Boggs, published by Chambers Publishing Company, Kalamazoo, Michigan 1945 (\$6 + shipping)
- 5) Standard Postage Stamps Catalogue 1941, published by Scott Publications, Inc., NY, NY, 1940 (\$4 + shipping)
- 6) Stanley Gibbons' Postage Stamp Catalogue 1964, Part 1 British Commonwealth, Ireland and South Africa, published by Stanley Gibbons LTD, 391 Strand, London 1963 (\$6 + shipping)
- 7) Newfoundland Air Mails 1919-1939 With Additional Notes on Subsequent Flights and Air Stamps, Revised and Updated 1984, by C.H.C Harmer, published by American Air Mail Society, Cinnaminson, NJ, 1984 (\$6 + shipping)
- 8) Newfoundland Air Mails 1919-1939 With Additional Notes of Subsequent Flights and Air Stamps, by R.E.R. Dalwick and C.H.C. Harmer published by H.R. Harmer LTD, 41 New Bond Street, London, 1953 (\$5 + shipping)
- 9) Canada, The Fifteen Cents of 1868 by L. Gerald Firth, Privately Printed, 1963 (\$7 + shipping)
- 10) Canada Notes on the 1911-1925 Series, by George C. Marler, published by the Committee on Philatelic Research and Literature of the American Philatelic Society, 1949 (\$6 + shipping)
- 11) The Essays and Proofs of British North America compiled by Kenneth Minuse and Robert H. Pratt published by Sissons Publications, LTD, 1970 (\$7 + shipping)
- 12) Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving by James H. Baxter, published by The American Philatelic Society, August 1939 (\$7 + shipping)
- 13) The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973 by Ed Richardson F.R.P.S.C., published by the British North America Philatelic Society, 1974—paperback (\$6 + shipping)
- 14) The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland by Winthrop S. Boggs, published by Chambers publishing Company, Kalamazoo Michigan, 1942—paperback (\$6 + shipping)
- 15) B.N.A. Topics, Official Journal of the British North America Philatelic Society: Vol 41, 1984; Vol 42, 1985, Vol 43, 1986 (\$3 each + shipping)
- 16) Canadian Registered Letter Stamps & Cancellations 1875-1902 by E.A. Smythies F.C.P.S. and A.F. Smith, A Handbook of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain—paperback booklet (\$5 + shipping)
- 17) Canadian Flag Cancellations (reprint edition) based on articles from "Popular Stamps", published by A.L. McCready, Cobden, Ont. 1956—paperback booklet (\$5 plus shipping)
- 18) Stamps, The Weekly Magazine of Philately: 1986—April 26, May 24, June 21, July 19, August 16; 1987—January 31, March 28; 1988—January 2, January 30. All contain columns entitled "Canada and British North America" written by Richard P. Hedley. (\$4 all plus shipping)