F/L J. J. CHARRON, RCAF (BNAPS 1525)

Determining the DAY on Cancellations

FOR SOME YEARS I have been writing up my collection of dated Canadian stamps. It often intrigued me to know on what DAY of the week the cancellation took place, knowing the date, month and the year of the cancellation.

Not possessing any 19th or early 20th century calendars, a mathematical means of determining the day must be used. In seeking a solution, a few problems had to be contended with: (a) distinguishing between normal and leap years, and (b) the irregular number of days in each month throughout the year. However, we do have a starting base for our calculations. First, every four years we have a leap year, and, secondly, the weeks are constant, i.e. seven days each.

Thanks to some ingenious person, a list of 'Month Factors' has been tabulated and we have the following method by which may be ascertained the DAY of the week in any given year over a widely extended period of time. To find the DAY of the week on which fell Dec. 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor) we proceed thusly:

1. To the last two digits of the year, add ¼, i.e., 41+10 (dropping the remainder) 51
2. Month Factor for December 6

MONTH FACTORS	
Apr.-Jul.-=0	*If leap year*
Jan.-Oct.=1	Jan.=0
May=2	Feb.=3
Aug.=3	
Feb.-Mar.-Nov.-=4	
Jun.=5	
Sep.-Dec.=6	

3. Date of month (7th) 7
4. Adding these three figures, we have .. 64
5. This sum divided by 7 (days in week) .. .. 9; REMAINDER ....1. This remainder gives us the number of the DAY of the week, in this case 1, being the first day or Sunday. Should the remainder be 0, it is Saturday.

To establish the day for the years 1800 to 1899 (19th century), simply add 2 to the remainder, and for those in the 18th century, add 4.

The above method is no longer valid for dates prior to and including Sept. 2, 1752, as the 'Old Style' calendar was used, the 3rd to the 13th of September having been suppressed to compensate for an annual error accumulated as years rolled on.

Now, we can go ahead and insert the DAYS of our dated copies: e.g. 3c Small Queen dated Oct. 21, 1872, would fall on Monday. ★

'Strand of Hair' and Re-entry Varieties on the 1c Small Queen

THE 'Strand of Hair' variety on the 1c Small Queen has been well known to specialists in this stamp for many years. P. J. Hurst's very fine article concerning this flaw in the October 1956 issue of BNA TOPICS pinpointed the position as being No. 13 on the pane.

The full sheet of 100 stamps from pane 'C' with 'Strand of Hair' variety in No. 13 position which was discovered at the time was considered the final word to its position on the pane. For the last year or so a doubt has crept into my mind when this variety was also discovered with a prominent re-entry at the lower portion, especially the bottom frame line.

I have in my possession several copies in singles and also in strips with the earliest dated MY 24, 96. My latest acquisition is a vertical strip of three with the bottom stamp showing both the 'Strand of Hair" and re-entry varieties. Therefore this stamp cannot possibly be No. 13 on the pane. The only conclusion that can be drawn at this time is that there are two 'Strand of Hair' varieties, one with and one without re-entry, eminating from two different positions on the plate.

Upon comparison, 1c stamps with the 'Strand of Hair' variety, with and without re-entry show the 'Hair' flaw in identical positions on the Queen's head.

I believe there is a good chance that the 'Hair' variety as we know it now is part or parcel of the re-entry. Can anyone contribute more data on this, and perhaps the puzzle can be solved. — S. Lukow (No. 1012). ★