

# THE 'Q' DATESTAMPS

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The formation of the Canadian Confederation meant the end of the division into Canada East and Canada West. This is why, soon after 1 July 1867, specifically on 10 August, George William White, secretary to the Postmaster General (then Sir Hector Louis Langevin), requested Berri of London to replace the letters 'C.E' and 'C.W.' by 'Q' and 'Ont'. At the same time he included his requisition No. 102 (Fig. 1) for 6 datestamps with 'Q'. It is to be noted that two types of datestamps were then requested: 'Dated Stamps' and 'Common Stamps'. Each of the former must have been accompanied by a set of date slugs, while the latter, most probably for economic reasons, were to receive manuscript dates.

Other requisitions in the RG-3 collection at the Public Archives in Ottawa have been scrutinized. The series continues up to No. 106, dated 17 January 1868, but there are others, unnumbered, whose dates are given in the accom-

panying chart which represents our present knowledge of the 'Q' Datestamps.

The particular case of Franklin Centre must be dealt with. No requisition has been found for this post office, which was opened on the same day as St-Mathieu and St-Tite-des-Caps, 1 February 1868. Franklin Centre received a 'Q' datestamp, but apparently not the other two. Were they not candidates for the same datestamp? To these two must be added the names of Danford Lake, Lake Matapedia and St-Edouard-de-Frampton, whose post offices were established during the same period. Opening dates for other post offices, although not essential to the purpose of this article, have been added to complete their individual stories.

The production, if not the use, of 'Q' datestamps was shortlived. Starting with 1868 no lists accompanying the requisitions can be found, and the proof impression books up to 1876 have yet to be unearthed. 'Q' was succeeded by 'QUE',

*Requisition No. 102*

<i>Dated stamps</i>	
<i>Aston Station.</i>	<i>Q.</i>
<i>Blairton</i>	<i>out.</i>
<i>Boynston.</i>	<i>Q</i>
<i>Green Bay</i>	<i>Re-</i>
<i>Leith</i>	<i>out-</i>
<i>Loos</i>	<i>out-</i>
<i>Common stamps</i>	
<i>Grantley</i>	<i>Q</i>
<i>St Leonard</i>	<i>Q</i>
<i>St-Wincelias</i>	<i>Q</i>

1. The first requisition for 'Q' datestamps

POST OFFICE	OPENING DATE	REQ. NO.	REQ. DATE	EXISTING COLLECTIONS	REMARKS
ADAMSVILLE	1852-10-06		1867-10-15	1872, 1899 1910	'QUE' strike known in 1894, but 'Q' handstamp returned; 'QUE' handstamp proofed 1880-06-21.
ASTON STATION	1867-08-01	102	1867-08-10		'QUE' handstamp proofed 1880-06-21.
BERTHIER	1832-01-06		1867-08-23	1882	This is Berthier-en-Bas.
BOYNTON	1867-08-01	102	1867-08-10		
CHELSEA	1837-02-06	106	1868-01-17	1874	Recorded by Campbell. 'Q' handstamp proofed 1889-06-21, 'Recut'.
DANFORD LAKE	1868-04-01				A 'Q' datestamp is possible.
ESCUMINAC				1875	Recorded by Campbell. 'QUE' handstamp proofed 1880-03-02.
FATHER POINT	1863		1867-12-31	1897, 1900	
FRANKLIN CENTRE	1867-02-01			1871, 1883	
FROST VILLAGE	1836	105	1867-12-20		
GRANTLEY	1867-10-01	102	1867-08-10	1876	Recorded by Carstairs. This post office was, however, located in Ontario. Handstamp was ordered as a 'Common stamp'.
LAKE MATAPEDIA	1867-10-01				A 'Q' datestamp is possible.
MELBOURNE	1835-07-05	103	1867-10-04	1869-1877	'Q' handstamp proofed 1877-12-03.
MONTREAL	1763	105	1867-12-20		
NAPIERVILLE	1832-08-06	106	1868-01-17	1868	'QUE' datestamp proofed 1876-06-07.
NORTH NATION	1867-08-01	102	1867-08-10	1875	Recorded by Carstairs. 'QUE' handstamp proofed 1892-09-02.
MILLS					
PARKHURST	1868-01-01	106	1868-01-17	1890	
PEARCETON	1867-09-01	103	1867-10-04	1899, 1905	
PIMLICO	1867-08-01	103	1867-10-04		Ordered as 'Common stamp'.
ST-EDOUARD-DE-FRAMPTON	1868-03-01				A 'Q' datestamp is possible.
ST-JEAN-BAPTISTE-DE-MONTREAL	1868-01-01	106	1868-01-17		Recorded by Campbell.
ST-JEAN-BAPTISTE-DE-ROUVILLE	1837-02-06	106	1868-01-17	1875	Recorded by Carstairs.
ST-LEONARD	1868-08-01	102	1867-08-10	1868, 1875	Ordered as 'Common stamp'.
ST-MATHIEU	1868-02-01				A 'Q' datestamp is possible.
ST-SIMON	1846		1868-01-31	1879-1880	This is St-Simon-en-Haut.
ST-TITE-DES-CAPS	1868-02-01				A 'Q' datestamp is possible.
ST-WENCESLAS	1867-08-01	102	1867-08-10		Ordered as a 'Common stamp'.
WRIGHT	1861-07-01	103	1867-10-04		



2. Reproductions of some of the postmarks in the Authors' collections.

and when possible the proof dates of the latter have been given. As for the 'P.Q.' datestamps, they appear in mid-September 1912 in the Pritchard & Andrews proof impression books.

The postmarks above, taken mostly from our own collections, illustrate some 'Q' datestamps. We feel sure that the chart compiling our data is incomplete, and we invite anyone with pertinent information to contact us via the magazine.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Record Group 3, Post Office Department; Public Archives, Ottawa.
2. *The 'Q' datestamps*, Dr. M. W. Carstairs, *Maple Leaves*, Vol. 15 #11

(Editor's Note: The French version of this article was published in the June-July 1984 issue of *La Philatelie Au Quebec*.)



3. The Berthier 'Q' Postmark