

The Duplexes of the Eastern Townships

by Anatole Walker

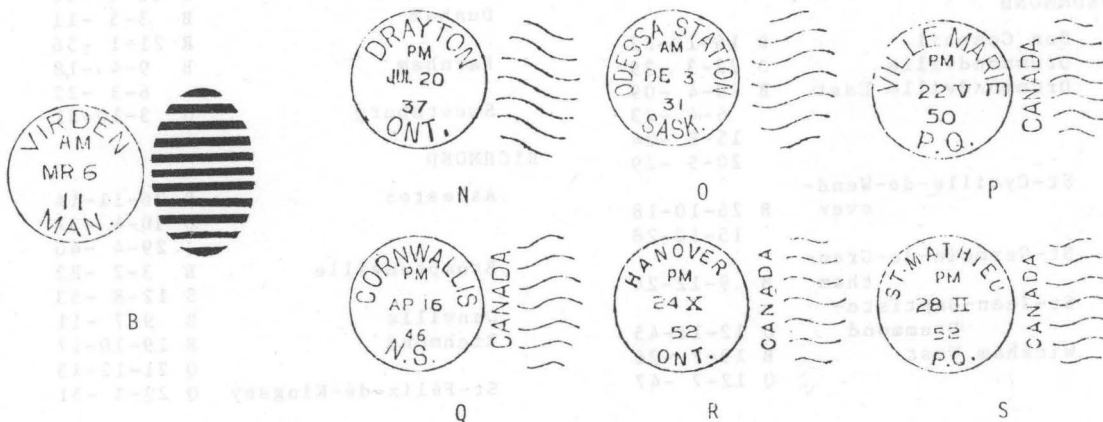
Translated by Mrs. Anna R.E. Brennan

The "duplex" is a cancelling device consisting of two parts: the date stamp and the obliterator. This type of device first appeared in Canada in 1863. According to Boggs (page 573) the first order was placed with D.G. Berri of London on 23 February 1860. The duplex served the dual purpose of dating the cover and 'killing' the stamp simultaneously. The obliterator ('killer' as it is commonly known) was round and had 12 to 14 bars of greater or lesser thickness.

At the end of the last century oval obl iterators appeared with nine to eleven horizontal bars. Smythies in his duplex canceller classification assigned the letter A to the first type mentioned above, and B to the second. For variations of these he used the letters up to M (inclusive). His work covered the period to 1902; since then other varieties of duplexes have surfaced which although Smythies may have known of he decided not to treat. These are the ones the obl iterators of which consist of wavy lines. The convex part of the curve of these wavy

lines can either be on the right or on the left. To continue with Smythies' classification I assign them the letters N to S thus: N and O for those in which there is nothing between the date stamp and the obliterator; P and Q when the word "Canada" is present and the height of the letters, as well as that of the date stamp, is 3mm or more; R and S when the letters are 2 to 2½ mm. high. The following postmarks illustrate this short description:

We come now to the Eastern Townships of Quebec. The time available for the preparation of this work did not allow the compilation of a valid inventory of the frequency of use of different types of duplexes. For this reason the following list is limited to the post offices of the Eastern Townships, listed by county, which received the double cancelling device during the period 1908 to 1962. Opposite each name appears the letter designating the type of duplex, followed by one or more dates of proof impressions. In effect this list is drawn from the Pritchard & Andrews Company Proof Impression Books, now located at the National Postal Museum, Ottawa.



ARTHABASKA

Arthabaska	B	25-4	-13
		6-4	-19
Maddington Falls	Q	23-9	-46
Princeville	Q	16-4	-46
		27-9	-52
St-Valère-de-			
Bulstrode	Q	16-10	-45
Victoriaville	B	13-11	-09
		12-3	-13
		20-3	-18
		9-2	-21
	O	14-2	-31
		6-7	-36
Warwick	B	18-5	-12
	O	1-5	-48

BROME

Austin	Q	11-7	-46
Eastman	B	2-2	-14
Fulford	Q	24-7	-46
Knowlton	B	28-1	-13
Sutton	B	23-2	-12
	Q	12-6	-47
West Shefford	B	29-1	-13

COMPTON

Bury	O	2-12	-44
Cookshire	B	3-2	-22
	O	22-5	-40
East Angus	B	3-6	-10
		12-9	-16
	N	15-4	-37
Sawyerville	B	15-12	-13
		9-3	-28
	Q	17-9	-48
Scotstown	B	6-10	-27

DRUMMOND

Bon Conseil	B	16-10	-22
Drummondville	O	22-3	-39
Drummondville East	B	20-4	-09
		6-4	-23
		15-8	-24
		20-5	-29
St-Cyrille-de-Wend-			
over	B	26-10	-18
		15-10	-28
St-Germain-de-Gran-			
tham	B	9-12	-24
St-Jean-Baptiste-			
Drummond	Q	12-11	-45
Wickham West	B	19-2	-26
	Q	12-7	-47

FRONTENAC

Lac-Mégantic	O	30-12	-40
St-Samuel-de-Gray-			
hurst	Q	4-10	-46

MEGANTIC

Black Lake	B	28-1	-13
		6-7	-19(2)
	O	2-2	-42
Inverness	B	25-8	-22
	O	30-11	-35
		29-1	-41
	Q	14-11	-52
Lyster Station	Q	8-11	-45
Plessisville	B	23-5	-12
		2-4	-21
	O	17-8	-39
Plessisville Station	O	17-7	-41
St-Ferdinand	B	9-7	-10
	N	5-10	-29
Thetford Mines	B	26-11	-08
		19-2	-15
		2-10	-22
	O	30-8	-39
	Q	30-11	-49
Thetford Mines West	B	16-10	-13
		22-3	-16
Thetford Mines Sub 2	Q	2-8	-46
Vimy Ridge Mine	Q	21-9	-45

MISSISQUOI

Bedford	B	19-8	-12
		26-5	-22
		16-11	-26
	Q	22-8	-52
	R	28-9	-54
Cowansville	B	12-3	-12
	O	26-4	-40
Dunham	B	3-5	-11
	R	21-1	-56
Farnham	B	9-4	-18
		6-3	-22
Sweetsburg	O	3-10	-31

RICHMOND

Asbestos	B	26-11	-14
	O	30-4	-37
		29-4	-40
Bromptonville	B	3-2	-22
	S	12-8	-53
Danville	B	9-7	-11
Richmond	B	19-10	-17
	Q	21-12	-45
St-Félix-de-Kingsey	Q	29-3	-51

Windsor B 19-6 -14
16-2 -26
Windsor Mills B 26-8 -11

SHEFFORD

Granby B 28-11-13
O 29-3 -34
14-5 -43
Q 11-10-47
R 14-10-54
1-12-54
13-2 -57
Granby, L.C. Depot Q 18-8 -25
Roxton Falls Q 28-6 -52
St-Joachim-de-Sheff-
ord Q 14-6 -46
Valcourt Q 23-2 -51
Waterloo B 10-7 -18
P 1-7 -50

SHERBROOKE

Compton B 20-7 -20
O 30-10-41
S 11-6 -53
East Sherbrooke B 26-9 -10
29-12-13
Lennoxville B 15-12-10
O 14-1 -38
Q 5-5 -47
Sherbrooke Aux.No. 4 Q 25-7 -45
Aux.No. 9 Q 28-12-45
Waterville B 31-5 -09
16-12-10
9-5 -19
O 24-5 -30

STANSTEAD

Ayerscliff B 2-8 -13
O 11-6 -37
R 27-11-54
Beebee B 6-2 -25
2-3 -28
Coaticook B 19-4 -13
2-3 -21
9-12-24
Katevale Q 17-8 -46

Magog B 15-10-09
16-9 -20
22-12-23

North Hatley O 15-4 -33
B 19-3 -09
30-12-12

N 6-8 -30
Q 30-6 -47
R 2-12-55
Rock Island B 29-12-20
N 3-3 -30
Q 14-9 -51
Stanstead B 2-5 -14
R 29-9 -56

WOLFE

Disraeli B 30-3 -12
9-9 -29
St-Gérard B 2-6 -26
Wotton B 30-5 -23

This list is not guaranteed complete, because the Proof Books are incomplete; as well, several omissions were deliberately made. The only task remaining is to compile an inventory of the marks found in collections. In this way the dates of the use of the devices enumerated above, and others whose existence is as yet unknown, could be discovered.

References

National Postal Museum, Proof Impression Books.
Boggs, Winthrop S., The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, U.S.A., 1945-46.
Smythies, E.A., Canadian Duplex Cancellations of the Victorian Era, 1860-1902, London, 1963.

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