

SYNOPSIS

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FEDERAL LAW STAMPS OF CANADA

PURPOSE: THIS TRADITIONAL ONE-FRAME EXHIBIT EXPLORES THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA LAW STAMPS OF CANADA, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS SUPREME COURT STAMPS. IT INCLUDES PREPRODUCTION MATERIAL SUCH AS PROOFS, SPECIMENS, AS WELL AS VARIETIES AND THE USE OF THE STAMPS ON SEVERAL SUPREME COURT DOCUMENTS.

BACKGROUND: IN 1875 LEGISLATION WAS PASSED ESTABLISHING THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA AND THE EXCHEQUER COURT. THE SUPREME COURT ACTED AS A GENERAL COURT OF LAST APPEAL WHILE THE EXCHEQUER COURT EXISTED TO JUDGE CLAIMS BY OR AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR MATTERS RELATING TO MARITIME, COPYRIGHT, PATENT AND TRADEMARK LAW AND FEDERAL TAXATION STATUTES. THE LEGISLATION ALSO AUTHORIZED SPECIAL STAMPS TO PAY THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FILING OF DOCUMENTS WITH THE COURTS, SUCH STAMPS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENTS. STAMPS WERE DISCONTINUED FOR THE EXCHEQUER COURT IN 1966 AND FOR THE SUPREME COURT IN 1970 AND THE PAYMENT OF FEES WAS MADE DIRECTLY TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUES FUND OF CANADA.

THE FIRST STAMPS WERE ISSUED IN 1876 AND SOME OF THE VALUES WERE USED IN THE SUCCEEDING REIGNS UNTIL SUPPLIES WERE DEPLETED. THE LAST RECORDED USE OF THE 20 CENTS VALUE WAS IN AUGUST 1966. THE FIRST ISSUE PICTURING YOUNG QUEEN VICTORIA WAS PRINTED BY THE BRITISH AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, MONTREAL IN SHEETS OF 40, 8 X 5. THE SECOND ISSUE DEPICTING THE WIDOW QUEEN HAD THE SAME 8 X 5 FORMAT BUT PRINTED BY THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, OTTAWA.

FIVE DIFFERENT PAPERS AND FOUR PERFORATION TYPES WERE USED FOR THE YOUNG QUEEN STAMPS. THE WIDOW QUEEN STAMPS WERE PRINTED ON A WHITE WOVE PAPER. EARLY STAMPS WERE CANCELLED BY MANUSCRIPT WITH A SIGNATURE AND DATE OR HANDSTAMPED BUT BY 1885 THE SUPREME COURT AND BY 1890 THE EXCHEQUER COURT WERE USING PUNCH STAMPS.

WHEN MORE THAN ONE STAMP WAS REQUIRED ON A DOCUMENT THEY WERE OFTEN OVERLAPPED BUT STAGGERED TO AVOID COVERING THE DOCUMENTS' PRINTED AREAS. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE SCARCITY OF USED MULTIPLES. DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO SCARCE, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE EXCHEQUER COURTS.

AT THE START OF WORLD WAR I A PRIZE COURT WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE EXCHEQUER COURTS TO HANDLE CLAIMS PERTAINING TO CAPTURED ENEMY SHIPS. LAW STAMPS WERE AUTHORIZED TO PAY THE DOCUMENT FEES. A SPECIAL "IN PRIZE" HANDSTAMP WAS PREPARED, AND STAMPS WERE OVERPRINTED ON A WHEN-NEEDED BASIS, THOUGHT TO BE A FEW BLOCKS AT A TIME AND PROBABLY NOT WHOLE SHEETS. THE FIRST OVERPRINTS WERE IN PURPLE INK BUT THEY WERE UNSATISFACTORY AND SO RED WAS USED, THUS ACCOUNTING FOR THE DUAL OVERPRINTS. THE STAMPS WERE FIRST USED IN JUNE 1916 FOLLOWED BY THE SINGLE RED OVERPRINTS IN AUGUST. THREE ENEMY SHIPS WERE INVOLVED, THE *OREGON* AND *LEONOR* DURING WORLD WAR I, AND THE *WESER* DURING WORLD WAR II. ONLY 160 DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECORDED BUT NOT ALL HAVE STAMPS.

DOCUMENTS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE PRIZE COURT, ARE QUITE ELUSIVE AS MANY HAVE BEEN LOST OVER THE YEARS. SURVIVING DOCUMENTS FROM THE FEDERAL SUPREME COURT AND EXCHEQUER COURTS ARE CONSIDERABLY FEWER IN NUMBER THAN FROM PROVINCIAL COURTS. USED STAMPS REMOVED FROM DOCUMENTS HAVE FURTHER REDUCED THE SUPPLY OF DOCUMENTS.

SELECTED FEE STRUCTURE – SUPREME COURT	
ENTERING APPEALS, JUDGMENTS, DECREES, ORDERS	\$10.00
ENTERING EVERY OTHER APPEAL, JUDGMENT, DECREES, ORDER	\$ 2.00
TO REGISTER A SECURITY PAYMENT PRIOR TO APRIL, 1923	\$ 0.50
TO REGISTER A SECURITY PAYMENT AFTER DECEMBER, 1923	\$ 1.00
TO REGISTER A NOTICE OF APPEAL, MOTION OR SIMILAR	\$ 0.10
TO PERFORM A SEARCH PRIOR TO 1892	\$ 0.10
TO PERFORM A SEARCH AFTER 1892	\$ 0.25

CHALLENGE. ACQUIRING SOME OF THE STAMP MATERIAL HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A CHALLENGE. HOWEVER, THE REAL CHALLENGE LIES WITH THE PRE-PRODUCTION MATERIAL, A FEW OF THE STAMPS AND DOCUMENTS. TO DATE MY RESEARCH HAS NOT FOUND ANY CENSUS DATA FOR PRE-PRODUCTION MATERIAL SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF DIE AND TRIAL COLOR PROOFS.

EXHIBIT PLAN: THERE ARE THREE PARTS TO THIS EXHIBIT AS SHOWN BELOW..

PAGES 1 - 11 INTRODUCTION AND YOUNG QUEEN VICTORIA STAMPS.
 PAGES 12 – 15 WIDOW QUEEN STAMPS
 PAGE 16 “IN PRIZE” STAMPS

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE MARKED WITH A RED STAR ★.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (ZALUSKI AND WALSH ARE SUGGESTED FOR JURY MEMBERS):

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*JOHNSON, R.A., *THE 1876 \$5 FEDERAL LAW STAMPS #0197*, BNA TOPICS, APRIL-JUNE 2002, PAGES 44 – 49.

*LUSSEY, HARRY W., *SMALL QUEENS AND REVENUES: DEBUNKING PERFORATION MYTHS*, BNA TOPICS, MARCH-APRIL 1993, PAGES 25-35.

WALSH, JOHN M., 2018 *BRITISH NORTH AMERICA STAMP CATALOGUE*, 11TH EDITION, WALSH’S PHILATELIC SERVICE, ST. JOHN’S, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA, PAGES 1534 – 41. NOTE: WELL-ILLUSTRATED.

ZALUSKI, EDWARD, *CANADIAN REVENUES, VOLUME EIGHT, FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL REVENUE STAMPS, MOST FRANKS, SEALS AND LABELS, AND WWII RATION BOOKS AND COUPONS*. CD/DVD, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, 2017. NOTE: THIS IS PREFERRED REFERENCE WORK ON THESE STAMPS AS IT PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION AND DATA. IT IS WELL DOCUMENTED AND VERY WELL ILLUSTRATED SHOWING MAJOR AND MINOR VARIETIES, PROOFS, ESSAYS AND SPECIMENS. ZALUSKI ON A DVD IS AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC RESEARCH LIBRARY.

CANADIAN LAW STAMPS OVERPRINTED “IN PRIZE” CASE NO. 3 – THE WESER, THE AMERICAN REVENUER, SEPTEMBER, 1977, PAGES 103, 107-109.

* THESE ARTICLES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA SOCIETY’S WEBSITE WWW.BNAPS.ORG.