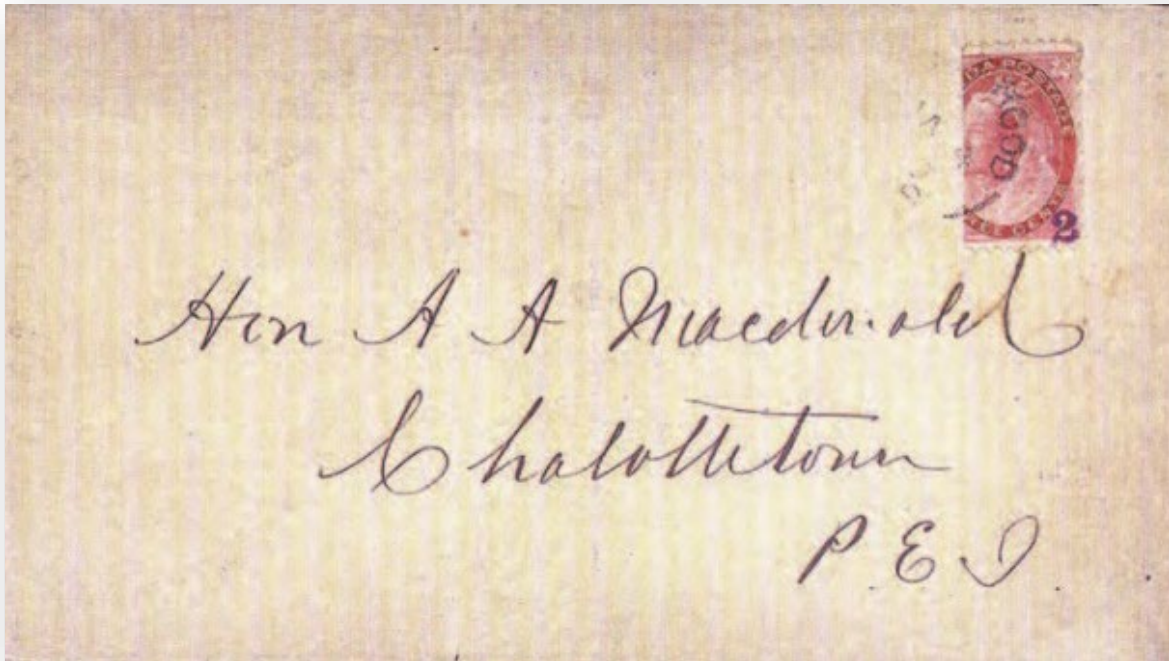


The Port Hood Provisional Stamps of 1899

A Literature Review and Census

Gordon Smith



The Postal History Society of Canada

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All comments, additions, and corrections will be greatly appreciated by the author in writing to gs@postalhistory.ca.

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Preface

The Port Hood Provisional stamps (Scott / Unitrade 88B and 88C) were created in Port Hood, Nova Scotia Canada on January 5, 1899, and have caused much controversy and discussion ever since. When the sudden announcement in a change of rates from 3 cents to 2 cents caused a shortage of the 2 cent stamps, the postmaster in Port Hood took 3 cent stamps and split them into one-third and two-third pieces, where the two-thirds represented a 2 cent stamp and the one-third represented a 1 cent stamp. While bisect stamps had been tacitly accepted in Nova Scotia for many years at this point, what made these cut stamps unusual was the postmaster's application of a handstamp to provide the value of each stamp.



Credit: Harris, 2022



Credit: Bigalke, 2021

There have been many references in various stamp journals and books over the last 120 years written about the Port Hood Provisionals, often by prominent philatelists. The digitization of journals back into the 1890's, the creation of union catalogues for various collections of philatelic literature, and improved communications over the internet has enabled the review of over 60 primary source articles. This monogram reviews comments from all the articles and includes comments from Canadian stamp collectors, postal historians and dealers as to the authenticity of this altered stamp. Comments have been recorded by well known philatelists as to their personal opinion if these are genuine postal adhesives or fakes and whether they should be listed in stamp catalogues or not.

This monograph also presents a census of the stamps, stamps on piece, and covers containing the Port Hood Provisionals.

An annotated bibliography of the written references can be found at the end of this document.

Introduction

Port Hood is located on the west coast of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia (see Figure 1). The Mi'kmaq, the First Nation in the area, called the area Ke'kwiamkek, meaning the great sandbar which once linked the mainland to Port Hood Island. After 1500, Basque, Portuguese, French and English whalers, sealers and fishermen regularly visited the area on a seasonal basis. France established a settlement in the area circa 1720 to quarry stone for the construction of Fortress Louisbourg located on the other side of Cape Breton Island, and to build boats. They named the area Juste au Corps which the English translated as Chestico. The British formally called the area Port Barrington until renaming the community Port Hood in 1820 in honour of Viscount Samuel Hood, who was commander in chief of the Navy of North America from 1767 until 1770. United Empire Loyalists began arriving in the area in 1786.

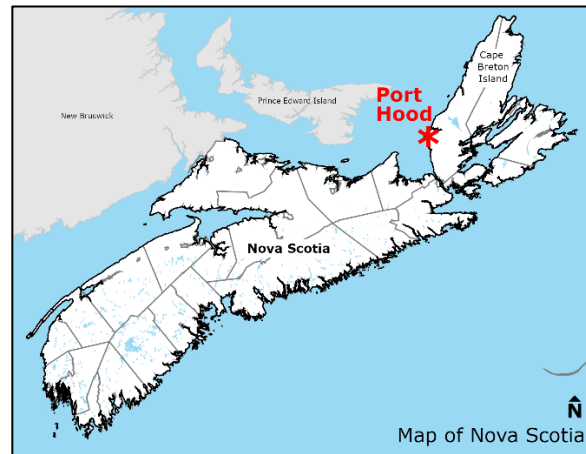


Figure 1: Location of Port Hood



Figure 2: John MacKay
(Beaton Institute, 2024)

A postal Way Office was opened in the community in 1829. The Way Office was converted to a Post Office on 6 July 1841 and the Way Office Keeper, J.D. Tremain, continued as the new Postmaster.

John MacKay (see Figure 2) was the fifth postmaster for the community and held that position from August 1, 1897, to October 22, 1900, when he resigned. Mr. MacKay was a well known and respected citizen in Port Hood where in addition to being the postmaster. He was also the Clerk of the County Court, a municipal Councillor for Port Hood, and proprietor of the McKay House Hotel. Mr. MacKay was the postmaster when the three cent Queen Victoria numeral adhesives were bisected and had handstamped numerals applied to create the one and two cent provisionals.

Discussion Based on Review of Articles about Port Hood Provisional Covers

The Evolution of the Story of the Creation of the Port Hood Provisionals

Initial articles provide descriptions of the provisional stamps and quote information from letters from various correspondents and the Port Hood postmaster. Speculation about their creation doesn't really begin until Poole (1916) in which W. H. Harrington, a senior clerk in the Post Office Department in Ottawa in a letter dated March 30, 1904 states that "It appears that the Postmaster of Port Hood, N. S., ... acting on the advice of some stamp fiend apparently, cut up a sheet or so of stamps to make twos and ones" and that the postmaster almost lost his job over it. The letter goes on to state that the Department "never got hold of any of the mutilated stamps."

The involvement of Donald A. King who was a prominent philatelist and active dealer that worked for the Halifax Post Office, is not mentioned until Jarrett (1929). Jarrett states that King made enquiries about the creation of the provisionals and the Post Office Department conducted an investigation and sent an inspector to Port Hood. The inspector took possession of all used and unused copies of the provisionals that were remaining, and they were eventually destroyed. However, a few of the covers were sold to Stanley Gibbons before the postal inspector arrived and that these items were backstamped with the firm's name. Miller (1929) repeats this story using very similar language and quotes Jarrett's (1929) statement that the inspector took possession of all used and unused copies of the provisionals and that they were eventually destroyed.

Interestingly, Peach (2021) mentions that when King became aware that there was going to be a shortage of the ½ and 6 cent Jubilee stamps, he wrote to the postmaster in Port Hood asking him to send all of these values that he had. This would seem to indicate that the Port Hood postmaster at the time, John MacKay, may have had a relationship with Donald King. Could King be the "stamp fiend" described in Harrington's letter (Poole, 1916) that encouraged MacKay to create the provisional stamps as a philatelic venture?

In his BNA Record of December 1930, Jarrett recounts a whimsical and somewhat imaginary account of the creation of these provisionals, wherein the postmaster claiming time off for illness is actually away rabbit hunting and the "youthful" postal assistant, "being philatelically inclined and having no restraining influence, got out his scissors" and created the Port Hood Provisionals to sell to Stanley Gibbons. He goes on to state, in contrast to his book, that it was Donald King, not just a postal inspector, who went to Port Hood to seize the unauthorized stamps and brought them back to Halifax where they were "burned in the fireplace." In the January 1931 issue of his journal, Jarrett asserts that there was an official enquiry made in the House of Commons regarding the Port Hood Provisionals and that the Postmaster General stated that while the stamps were "not sanctioned by the Government", they had been accepted as postage. A review of the Hansard for the Canadian House of Commons from 1899 to 1904 reveals no such enquiry.

In 1937, Pollock makes that case that someone convinced the postmaster in Port Hood that there would be a shortage of 2 cent stamps due to the change in postal rates. Blair (1938), Holmes (1943), Pollock (1944) and Stephenson (1951) more-or-less repeat Jarrett's story of the creation of these stamps. In 1948, Jarrett repeats his statement that Donald King was sent to Port Hood to investigate the affair but adds that King didn't take the items he brought back to Halifax when the postmaster there offered them to him before tossing them in a fire. Poole (1953) also repeats Jarrett's original story, but contends that what happened to the unused leftover stamps is unknown and that it is unlikely that they were "destroyed then and there" as that would have left the postmaster's accounts unbalanced and it was in order to keep his books straight that created the stamps in the first place. More recent articles such as Munden (1987) and "Canada: Un timbre coté" (1988) continue to repeat Jarrett's account making it the accepted story of the creation of the Port Hood Provisionals, although there is no evidence that it is accurate.

Interestingly, O'Keefe (1985) repeats the story of the unauthorized creation of these stamps but she states that Donald King sent inspector CJ MacDonald (this is the first mention of a name for the inspector), who confiscated all the remaining bisects and destroyed them. O'Keefe repeats that the postmaster had already sold some stamps and covers with the bisect on them to Stanley Gibbons before the inspector arrived and that these covers can be identified by the Stanley Gibbons name on the reverse. O'Keefe states that the postmaster used most of the provisionals to send covers to his friends and local businesses.

Disagreements as to Legitimate Use or Philatelic Creation

Since their creation, philatelists have been arguing whether the Port Hood Provisionals were produced legitimately by the post office in town or as philatelic curiosities for personal enrichment by an employee.

While there is no mention of Port Hood, the appearance of 3 cent stamps bisected in one-third and two-third portions, some bearing 1 cent or 2 cent surcharges corresponding to their size, was first described in a note by E.B. Evans (1899a) in the January 1899 issue of *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, quite an amazing coincidence, considering that the stamps were only produced on the 5th of January of that year. Notice was sent to Stanley Gibbons via a letter franked with a two-third portion of the stamp. In this article, Evans describes the creation of these stamps as a "horrible" occurrence.

Another nine articles describing the stamps appeared in the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* and various other journals before the end of 1899 (Castle, 1899a, 1899b, 1899c, Coulter, 1899, Macdonald, 1900, Purvis, 1900), describing the stamps, correcting information about the appearance of the stamps, and indicating that their creation was not authorized by the Post Office. The *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* of March 1899 (Evans 1899b) is the first article stating that Port Hood was the location where the surcharges were applied.

In April 1899, Evans (1899c), the author of the original report in the January 1899 issue of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* and the subsequent update in March 1899, quotes an extract

from a letter from the postmaster of Port Hood, which states that the change in postal rates caused the office to run out of 2 cent stamps and that to keep accounting straight, he cut 3 cent stamps into one-third and two-thirds pieces. The postmaster goes on to say that it was done for one day only and he estimates that there were about 100 one-cent and 200 two-cent bisects used, mostly for delivery within Canada. About 100 each of each value of the bisect were marked with the figures 1 and 2, and were placed on envelopes for delivery throughout Canada. The postmaster states that these were the only provisional stamps used by the Port Hood office. The letter from the postmaster appears to have been written in response to a letter to him and it talks about the 1 and 2 marks being “as you describe”.

Calman (1899) states in the April issue of the *American Journal of Philately* that the “surcharges are absolutely unauthorized and unworthy of recognition.” R. Rudificus in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* of May 1899 states unequivocally that the “split provisionals” were fakes, based upon an announcement by the federal government that stamps were unauthorized and letters having them should have been charged double rate when delivered. However, by June 1899, Evans's (1899d) opinion of the stamps appears to have changed and he states that “it should not be considered too serious an issue if a postmaster who runs out of 1 cent stamps bisects 2 cent stamps to keep the accounting straight.”

W. J. Wurtele in the *Montreal Philatelist* of April 1900 states the Port Hood Provisionals “are no more deserving of collection as postage stamps than the hand stamp or pen mark on an envelope would be if no stamp or portion of a stamp had been affixed.” This statement provides an interesting insight into the difference between collecting stamps and collecting postal history from the era.

J.M. Horsley, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London read a paper at the Society in which he states that the creation of the Port Hood Provisional was “absolutely unauthorized” and that they should not be recognized, even though they have been recorded in the journal of the Society.

Clifton A. Howes, the world-renowned philatelist, author, expert and editor, in his 1911 book, *The Postage Stamps of Canada*, repeats earlier correspondence about the Port Hood Provisionals that states that they are unworthy of collections as stamps.

Poole (1916) repeats the correspondence, but in addition, he concludes with a quote from a letter dated March 30, 1904, in which W.H. Harrington of the Post Office in Ottawa states that the Superintendent of the Stamp Branch never issued or recognized the Port Hood provisionals, that the postmaster in Port Hood almost lost his job over the creation of the bisects, and that the Post Office “Department never got hold of any of the mutilated stamps.”

In this book, *Stamps of British North America*, Jarrett (1929) says collectors should not collect unused copies and should be extremely careful when considering covers. He states that a few covers were sold to Stanley Gibbons before the post office inspector arrived and that these were

stamped with the firm's name on the back of the cover, which would suggest that he considered the covers to be legitimate. However, in the December 1930 issue of his journal, *Jarrett's B.N.A. Record*, Jarrett (1930) states that "The stamps and covers are bogus" and that future editions of his book will demote them from a full listing to a note.

Miller (1929) repeats that Stanley Gibbons obtained a few copies of the stamps and that those handled by them, especially the covers, have the stamp of the firm name on the reverse side. Millar based his study on covers that were loaned to him from A.F. Lichenstein. All were dated January 5, 1899, and included covers with right and left 2 cent (two-third) surcharges as well as 1 cent (one-third) portions used together to make up the 2 cent rate. There were no covers with a use of the 1 cent singly. Millar states that since the "stamp is listed in all the catalogues", it has "philatelic recognition" even though it was not sanctioned or authorized by the postal administration.

In 1937, Pollock states that "a few copies" of the Port Hood Provisionals "did postal duty (probably on philatelic mail)" as a means "to validate the rest of the stock which was promptly offered to dealers." Pollock believed that the instigator of the idea may have been a speculator looking to profit from the scheme. He states that the items were probably originally recognized by Stanley Gibbons to create a market for the items, and since demand has been great for the pieces, "the provisionals have attained the status of classics." Pollock concludes his discussion of the Port Hood Provisionals by stating that the covers are of interest as postal history, but that the stamps off-cover "are officially a fraudulent item" and easily forged.

Holmes (1943) has little time for these stamps calling them "freaks that anyone could make."

Boggs (1945) states that these provisional stamps are "entitled to high consideration, equal to that of any other Canadian bisect" and makes a multifaceted case for the legitimacy of these provisionals. He supports his argument by stating that while all Canadian bisections are against Post Office regulations, the bisection of stamps was an old habit in Nova Scotia and across Canada. He supports the postmaster's contention that they were unable to obtain sufficient 2 cent stamps in time to meet demand due to the distances to Halifax or Ottawa where supplies could be found. He states that the stamps were created to meet a rate and were used for one day only. If the purpose was speculation, more would have been surcharged and they would have been used for a longer period. He states that there should be no suspicion that Stanley Gibbons obtained a few copies and that collectors should be pleased that they had the foresight to get and preserve them.

Cryderman (1947) states that "deciding when a bisect or split is legitimate is somewhat difficult." If all bisections are to have met a required rate and been authorized by the Post Office, then no Canadian bisect is legitimate. However, some bisections are highly sought after by collectors and while they are not legal *per se*, "they are at least collectible, on cover only, of course, if they were not manufactured for philatelic purposes." Therefore, the question is whether these covers were philatelic creations. Cryderman's article refutes the reasoning from Boggs that distance from supplies and short notice required the creation of these stamps and further states that letters without stamps could have been forwarded to Halifax as paid accompanied by the correct funds and had

stamps applied there. The author goes on to state that the foresight and ingenuity required to prepare the stamps and have the various colours of ink on hand, should have been sufficient to resolve the shortage within legal means. The article also rebuts the idea that the small number of items created means that they were not created by a speculator by stating that a small number of covers at high prices or many covers at low prices could net the same return. The fact that Stanley Gibbons managed to obtain some covers before the Post Office Inspector shut things down shows that the creator knew what they were doing and quickly cashed in.

In a letter referencing Cryderman (1947), Pollock (1948) agrees with Cryderman's evaluation that the Port Hood Provisionals are collectible oddities. Pollock states that the "mutilations were [unquestionably] the product of a philatelic mind".

Stephenson (1951) categorically disagrees with Holmes' contention that the stamps are fakes and says that he believes that the postmaster issued them in good faith and the Post Office Department delivered them without charging post due, thus implicitly condoning their use. He says that anyone who has one on cover, well-tied with a cancel and certified "has a prize well worth possessing."

As an interesting aside, Stephenson (1953) quotes a letter he received from E.K. Allen describing a cover with bisects in the same format as those from Port Hood but postmarked from Mulgrave NS on January 3, 1899. Allen states that Dr. Whitehead examined the piece and did not think that the postmark was faked.

In 1953, Poole argues that the creation of the Port Hood Provisionals was not untoward, since as Boggs (1945) states there are many bisected Canadian stamps that were created against regulations and that some of those stamps are held in high regards by philatelists.

Through the mid-1950's, there are a number of articles such as Stephenson (1953), "Beware of Bisects" (1955), and Bonnar (1956) describing other bisects that moved through the mails in Nova Scotia. These articles tacitly support the contention that the Port Hood Provisionals should not be considered illegitimate solely on the basis of being bisected stamps.

In 1957, Lee-Jones accepts Jarrett's assertion that these were philatelic creations and supports this contention by questioning how Stanley Gibbons ended up with a monopoly on the pieces.

While not explicitly stating it, Patrick (1959) appears to support the creation of the provisionals as legitimate by stating that "almost all of the low denominations in Canadian stamps issued prior to 1900 had been bisected and therefore used provisionally."

In 1963, Richardson does not feel that Stanley Gibbons should have listed the Port Hood Provisionals and justifies his statement by saying that the rate went into effect on January 1st and that gave the postmaster 4 days to order additional supplies of the 2 cent stamp from Halifax which was only 24 hours away by train. He further states that even their inclusion in Boggs (1945) does not make them legitimate.

In his contribution to the HALPEX '65, Maritime Philatelic Exhibition Booklet, Gyorfí states that the speed this information reached Stanley Gibbons and the fact that the letter containing this information was mailed with Port Hood Provisional stamps would support Jarrett's contention that their creation was a speculative venture.

Lowe (1973) provides a description of the creation and layout of these stamps. He provides values for them based on a number of recent auctions but goes on to state that "The Port Hood provisionals are of poor parentage and many students have considered them to be an illegitimate issue." He states that expertizations are "usually valueless" and that he has "seen more forged Port Hood Provisionals with forged cancellations with certificates of genuineness than [he has] seen of genuine provisionals."

Stulberg (1977) generally discusses the value of covers with bisected stamps and states that the Port Hood Provisionals command significant prices at auction. While the article states that bisects were never accepted by the Canadian Post Office as legitimate payment for postage, there were situations where postmasters did create these stamps and the rate reduction of January 1899 was the "one change that brought about the greatest number of examples of divided stamps". The article concludes that covers containing postage due stamps are of greater interest to collectors since "they show the proper application of postal regulations."

In 1983, Herst states that the Port Hood Provisionals lost official acceptance when the Scott *Catalogue* mentions them with a footnote indicating that they were prepared without official sanction.

Munden (1987) repeats the story of the creation of these stamps and he states that they were not authorized by the Post Office. He states that he has also heard from an apparently reliable source that the creation of these stamps was just a hoax by a schoolboy using a toy stamp pad. Munden (1987) states that he is undecided as to the legitimacy of these stamps and states that the postmaster could have gotten two cent stamps from nearby post offices, marked the covers with a paid manuscript, his initials and a datestamp, used up the one cent stock or trisected the three cent stamp, used the two cent pieces and sent the remaining one thirds to the Post Office with an explanation. He contrasts these arguments with the statement that "bisecting and trisecting were an old, established tradition in the Maritimes."

Robertson (2002) provides information about the general situation with postal rates and printings leading up to the postmaster's creation of the provisionals. The article misidentifies E.S Sweet as the postmaster of Port Hood and misattributes his letter regarding the creation of provisionals at Cross Roads Country Harbour to Port Hood. It then continues by attributing information from the letter from the postmaster at Port Hood identifying the quantities of provisionals made and the statement that they were made to keep his accounts straight to Sweet as well. Robertson states that while these items have been disparaged by "so-called serious collectors", they have become more

sought after over time. He states that the most sought-after examples of the Port Hood Provisionals have stuttered or doubled overprints of the numbers.

The discussion of the Port Hood Provisionals is contained within a larger article by Arfken and Pawluk (2009) that provides a general description of the January 1, 1899, rate reduction from 3 cents to 2 cents. The article supports the opinion that the time between the announcement of the rate change and its implementation was so abrupt that a shortage of 2 cent stamps was created. The authors recognize the “notoriety” of the Port Hood post office’s “unauthorized but creative solution”. They quote Jarrett’s “hostility” to the bisections with his later acknowledgement that they were accepted to pay for postage and Boggs endorsement of the collection of these covers.

A Somewhat Quantitative Analysis of Opinions

The previous section provides a qualitative overview of the discussions about the legitimacy of the Port Hood Provisionals. Table 1 provides a more quantitative analysis which indicates that the various authors are fairly evenly split in their opinions.

Table 1: Number of Articles Regarding the Legitimacy of the Port Hood Provisionals

Opinion	Number
Legitimate	19
Not legitimate	21
No Opinion / Undecided	12
Not Applicable (i.e. description of items at auction, description of forgeries, etc.)	11
Total	63

Table 2, which is based on an analysis of people whom I anecdotally consider to be significant authorities on Canadian philately based on their publishing record or recognition by other philatelists, indicates that more of these experts feel that the stamps are illegitimate.

Table 2: Listing of Major Philatelists’ Opinions
regarding the Legitimacy of the Port Hood Provisionals

Major philatelists supporting Port Hood Provisionals as Legitimate	Major philatelists Feeling that the Port Hood Provisionals are Philatelic Creations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winthrop Boggs, 1945 • A.E. Stephenson, 1951, 1953 • Lowe, 1973 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J.M. Horsley, 1907 • C.A. Howes, 1911 • Bertram W.H. Poole, 1916 • Fred Jarrett, 1930, 1931, 1948 • L. Seale Holmes, 1943 • Walter Pollock, 1944, 1948 • Ed Richardson, 1963








Census of Port Hood Provisional Stamps and Covers



My review of articles and auctions has revealed 57 different Port Hood Provisional items including 14 mint, unused or off-paper stamps, 18 stamps on piece and 15 covers in in various. Eleven of these items have been identified in the articles and auctions as fakes or forgeries. One has been identified in an article as a fake, but that identification is suspect. One is an unattributed sketch presented in a popular American newspaper series similar to Ripley's *Believe it or Not*.

The following presents all the illustrations that I been able to obtain. Quality of the images varies depending on the source. For ease of reference a label has been provided under each image. The item outlined in blue is the unattributed sketch. The item outlined in orange has been described as a forgery, but the description is suspect. Items outlined in red are described as forgeries or fakes in at least one of the listings describing them and the labels are preceded by the letter F. Otherwise, the labels work as follows:

- The first letter describes the type of item: M = mint, unused or off-paper stamp, P=stamp on piece, C=cover
- The first number describes the value of the stamp: 1=1 cent (one-third bisect), 2= 2 cents (two-thirds bisect), ST=se-tenant pair of 1 cent stamps
- The second letter describes the position of the stamp: L=lefthand side, R=righthand side
- The second number is assigned sequentially as items are identified to differentiate them from other items of the same type

Left 1 cent Mint or Off-paper

			?		?		created image	?		
M1L1	M1L2	M1L3	M1L4	M1L5	M1L6	M1L7		M1L8	FM1L1	FM1L2

	
FM1L3	FM1L4

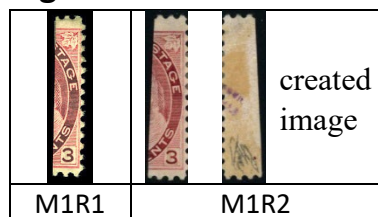
Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M1L1	Jarrett, 1929		Not applicable	
M1L2	Boggs, 1945		Not applicable	

Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M1L3	Harmer-Sale 1898, Part 2-May 19-23, 1969-Lot 825	Signed Stanley Gibbons, however, description states "The "I" overprint is in a fugitive blue ink, and in the case of the Dale stamps the color is quite faint. It is unlikely therefore that any Committee would be able to express a positive opinion." And offers the stamp as is.	Realized US\$750	C\$6,469.41 ¹
	Harmers-Sale 2988- October 8, 2008-Lot 189	Stanley Gibbons guarantee backstamp 2002 Brandon Certificate	Sold with a mint copy of 2 cent right, whole lot went for US\$8,000	C\$12,114.49
	Eastern Auctions-May 29 – 30, 2014-Lot 212	Stanley Gibbons guarantee backstamp 2002 Brandon Certificate	Sold with a mint copy of 2 cent right, whole lot went for C\$26,000	C\$34,125.18
	Siegel Auction-Sale 1178-March 13, 2018-lot 1261	Stanley Gibbons Backstamp 2002 Brandon Certificate 2014 VGG Certificate (only one done for this stamp by VGG)	Sold with a mint copy of 2 cent right, whole lot went for US\$29,000.	C\$43,503.51
M1L4	Harmers-January 21, 1929		Realized £75	
M1L5	Harmers-23 March 1932		Realized 60 guineas (equals £66)	
M1L6	Putticks-December 14,1937		?	
M1L7	Colonial Stamp Co.- May 20, 2021-Lot 387-Lefthand portion of mint pair, ex. Dale Lichtenstein		Net \$75, 020	

¹ Conversions of historical US Dollar and British Pound amounts back to 1953 were completed using <https://fxtop.com/en/historical-currency-converter.php?A=825&C1=USD&C2=CAD&DD=30&MM=10&YYYY=1986&B=1&P=&I=1&btnOK=Go%21>. Conversion of historical Canadian dollar values to 2023 Canadian dollar values was completed using the Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator found at <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/related/inflation-calculator/>. Conversion of historical amounts prior to 1953 to Canadian dollars was completed using <https://www.historicalstatistics.org/Currencyconverter.html> unless noted differently.

Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M1L8	Stanley Gibbons, 1904 Price List		Offered at £6	C\$1,330.51 ²
FM1L1	FAKE- described as such in Stamp Review, Feb 1938		Not applicable	
FM1L2	FORGERY-being sold as such by Deveney-July 5, 2017		Asking C\$75	
FM1L3	Philatelic Foundation 8226	Philatelic Foundation is of the opinion that this is a counterfeit.	Not applicable	
FM1L4	Philatelic Foundation 25606	Philatelic Foundation is of the opinion that this is a counterfeit.	Not applicable	

Right 1 cent Mint or Off-paper



Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M1R1	Philatelic Foundation 68022	PF denotes as genuine	Not applicable	
	Philatelic Foundation 472542	PF denotes as genuine	Not applicable	
	Harmer Schau-June 27-29, 2008-Lot 771, Sale 78 Ex. Ferrari	1976 Friedl certificate 1978 PF certificate	Realized US\$6,613	C\$9,162.18
M1R2	Colonial Stamp Co.- November 10 - Lot 352	Created by splitting MST2 Signed Peter Holcombe Signed Stanley Gibbons	Price US\$45,000 (Net est. \$75, 020) Apparently not sold	
	Colonial-Auction 138, May 11, 2023-Lot 352	(image created form image of MST2)	Net est. \$75, 020 Not sold	

² Other calculators used in this table didn't go back far enough for this item, therefore <https://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/ukcompare/> was used to calculate value of GBP (£), then that to Canadian dollars, and then used same calculators as other conversions in this table.

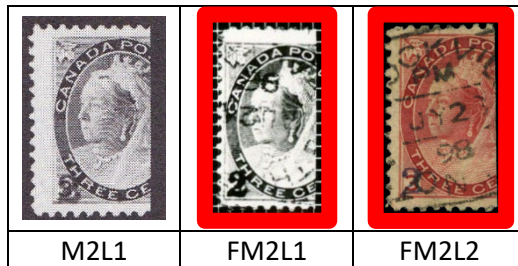
Se-tenant Pair of 1 cent Mint or Off-paper



Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
MST1	Ferrari Sale-18-20 June 1924-Lot 56		Sold with mint right 2 cent stamps for 5,300 francs (approx. US\$286.20)	C\$4,655.99
	Illustration in Lowe, 1973		Not applicable	
MST2	Howes, 1911		Not applicable	Not applicable
	Harmer-Dale Lichtenstein Auction No. 7, Jan 30, 1970-Lot 1516	Harmer states "The "1" overprint is in a fugitive blue ink, and in, the case of the Dale stamps the color is quite faint. It is unlikely therefore that any Committee would be able to express a positive opinion. This lot is therefore accompanied by a certificate from us that the item came from the selection of these provisionals in the Dale Collection."	Realized US\$600	C\$4,922.89
	Aurora-Spring 2003 Stamp and Collectibles, Mar. 12, 2003-Lot 0153	Incorrectly identified as ex. Ferrari, Lot 56, 1924	Realized US\$2,500	C\$5,545.52
	WIP Stamps, April 15, 2020	Stanley Gibbons handstamp 2020 VGG certificate	Realized US\$25,000	C\$40,548.77
Split and sold by Colonial Stamp Auctions, see M1R2				

There are anecdotes of a vertical pair that has been separated and sold individually (Hasid, 2022a), but no evidence of such a piece has been found in writings or auction listings. There are also anecdotes of J. Sissons possessing a mint strip of four Port Hood Provisional stamps (Hasid 2022b), although this must have been a block, as the cutting of the stamps to produce the provisional would not have allowed the creation of such a strip. Again, no evidence of such a piece has been found in writings or auction listings.

Left 2 cent Mint or Off-paper



Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M2L1	Canadian Philatelist, 1959		Not applicable	
	H.R. Harmer Ltd., Edward Granger Sale, October 13-14, 1958-Lot 208		Realized £260	C\$7,231.76
	Harmer-Dale Lichtenstein Auction No. 7, Jan 30, 1970-Lot 1517		Realized C\$400	C\$3,047.52
	Sissons-Sale 341-Oct 23, 1974-Lot 166		Realized C\$700	C\$4,361.54
FM2L1	PF Certificate 25607	Certificate denotes it as having a counterfeit surcharge	Not applicable	
FM2L2	PF Certificate 517889	Certificate denotes it as having a JY 2, 98 cancel	Not applicable	

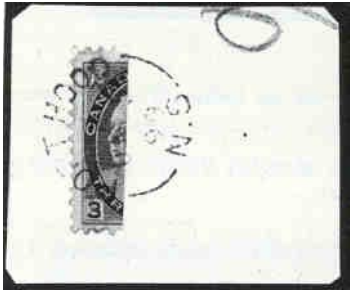

Right 2 cent Mint or Off-paper






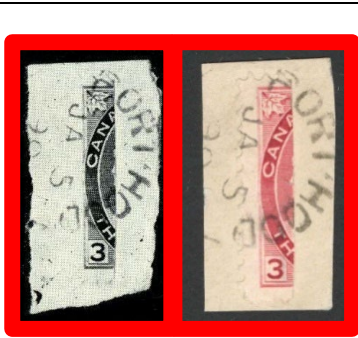

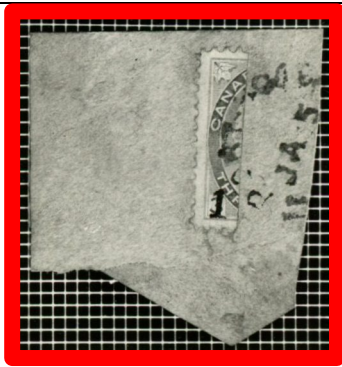
Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M2R1	Howes, 1911		Not applicable	
	Boggs, 1945			
M2R2	Ferrari Sale-18-20 June 1924-Lot 56		Sold with se-tenant pair of 1 cent stamps for 5,300 francs (approx. US\$286.20)	C\$4,655.99
	Lowe, 1973		Not applicable	

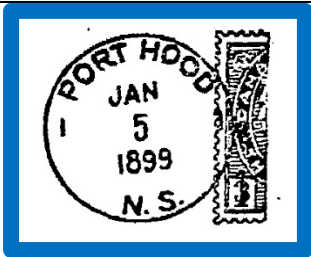
Item	Provenance	Comments	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
M2R3	Jarrett, 1923		Not applicable	
	Jarrett, 1929		Not applicable	
M2R4	Harmer-Sale 1898, Part 2-May 19-23, 1969-Lot 827	Signed Stanley Gibbons	Realized US\$700	C\$6,038.09
	Harmers-Sale 2988- October 8, 2008-Lot 189	Stanley Gibbons handstamp 2002 Brandon certificate	Sold with a mint copy of 1 cent left, whole lot went for US\$8,000	C\$12,114.49
	Eastern Auctions-May 29-30, 2014-Lot 212	Stanley Gibbons guarantee backstamp 2002 Brandon certificate	Sold with a mint copy of 1 cent left, whole lot went for C\$26,000	C\$32,505.28
	Siegel Auction-Sale 1178-March 13, 2018-Lot 1261	Stanley Gibbons guarantee backstamp 2002 Brandon certificate 2014 VGG certificate (only one done for this stamp by VGG)	Sold with a mint copy of 1 cent left, whole lot went for US\$29,000.	C\$43,503.51
M2R5	Lowe, The Isleham Collection of British North American Postage Stamps-30 October 1986-Lot 2129	Signed Stanley Gibbons	Realized US\$825 (including 10% buyer's premium)	C\$2,734.57
	Commentary No. 53 - The Port Hood Provisional Stamps, 17 November, 2003		Not applicable	
	Philatelic Foundation 168452	Incorrectly described by Pugh as having Philatelic Foundation Certificate number 183916. PF describes it as having a diagonal crease.		
M2R6	Spink-Auction 14027-June 19, 2014-Lot 1149		Sold as part of larger lot that realized £1,200	
FM2R1	FORGERY-being sold as such by Deveney-July 5, 2017		Asking C\$75	

Left 1 cent on Piece

		?
P1L1	FP1L1	FP1L2

		
FP1L3	FP1L4	FP1L5

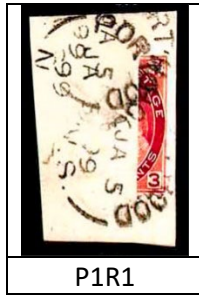
		
FP1L6	FP1L7	FP1L8


IP1L1

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
P1L1	Lowe-Burrus BNA-Sales 2249+2250-April 2, 1963-Lot 262		Jan. 5, 1899	£420	C\$12,245.09
	Christies Robson Lowe – October 30, 1986-Lot 2128	BPA certificate, date not provided		US\$52.005	C\$1,738.85
FP1L1	Lowe-Sale 2538-Feb 24, 1965-Lot 345		Jan. 5, 1899	£540	C\$15,159.71
	FORGERY-denoted as such in Lowe 1973		No date provided	Not applicable	
FP1L2	FORGERY attributed to Frodel-Lee-Sale 102-September 28 & 29, 2001-Lot 3808	88B on piece	?	Part of larger lot which realized C\$50	C\$79.80
FP1L3	Ken Pugh - FORGERY-Origin unknown	Pugh notes, "This cancel was never used in Port Hood and red ink was never used. The surcharge is not made with a rubber stamp as is the genuine."	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP1L4	FORGERY-All Nations Stamp & Coin Auction 1423, Aug 26, 2023-Lot 33	Note perforations on left (cut) side	Not shown	C\$82.00	C\$82.00
FP1L5	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 202370	Philatelic Foundation notes that the surcharge and postal markings are counterfeit.	Unreadable	Not applicable	

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
FP1L6	Harmer-Sale 1898, Part 2-May 19-23, 1969-Lot 826	Harmer is very cautious about this stamp. Description states "The "I" overprint is in a fugitive blue ink, and in the case of the Dale stamps the color is quite faint. It is unlikely therefore that any Committee would be able to express a positive opinion." Goes on to state that since stamp is tied, it presents "less difficulty" in authentication.	Jan. 5, 1899	US\$2,000	C\$17,319.21
	Philatelic Foundation 79674	This certificate from Philatelic Foundation provides opinion that this is genuine usage		Not applicable	
	Philatelic Foundation 579234	Note trimming since Harmer auction. This certificate from Philatelic Foundation provides opinion that this is <u>not</u> a genuine usage.		Not applicable	
FP1L7	Philatelic Foundation 37715	Philatelic Foundation denotes this as having a counterfeit surcharge and cancellation.	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP1L8	Philatelic Foundation 74577	Philatelic Foundation denotes this as having a counterfeit surcharge and cancellation.	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
IP1L1	Centerville Daily Iowegian and Citizen, 22 August, 1936	Illustration obviously based off FP1L3	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	

Right 1 cent on Piece





Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
P1R1	Canadian Philatelist, 1959		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	H.R. Harmer Ltd., Edward Granger Sale, October 13-14, 1958-Lot 207			Realized £230	C\$6,420.30
	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 53058	PF denotes as genuine		Not applicable	
	Sissons-Sale 341-Oct 23, 1974-Lot 165			Realized C\$600	C\$3,722.89
	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 183915	PF denotes as genuine		Not applicable	
	Siegel Auctions-May 22, 1996-Sale 778, Lot 610	1976 PF certificate 1987 PF certificate		Realized \$2,600	C\$6,259.86
	Weeda Stamps, 2009			Sold for C\$5,600	C\$7,602.81

Se-tenant Pair of 1 cent on Piece







Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
PST1	Eastern Auctions Ltd., Public Auction 857 -June 13, 2019-Lot 286	1978 RPS of London certificate	Jan. 4, 1899	Realized C\$2,000	C\$2,297.40


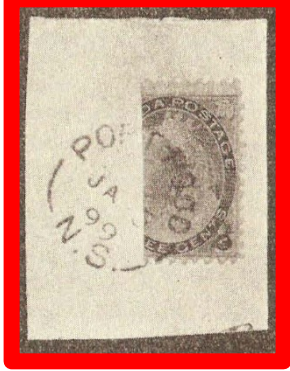
Left 2 cent on Piece

	
P2L1	FP2L1


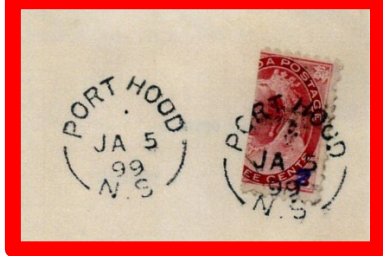

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
P2L1	Eastern Auctions Ltd., Public Auction 857 -June 13, 2019-Lot 287	Signed on back by CJ Phillips 1959 BPA certificate	Jan. 5, 1899	Realized \$4,750 as per text, but info under image at end shows \$5,625 (second value possibly inclusive of premium?)	C\$5,456.32 (C\$6,461.43)
FP2L1	Ken Pugh - FORGERY attributed to Fred Eaton, Jr. and later falsely attributed by Eaton to Andre Frodel			Not applicable	

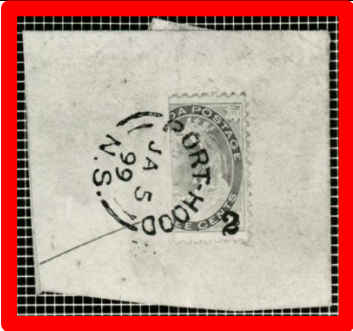


Right 2 cent on Piece

			
P2R1	P2R2	P2R3	P2R4

?		
P2R5	P2R6	FP2R1

	
FP2R2	FP2R3

		
FP2R4	FP2R5	FP2R6

		
FP2R7	FP2R8	FP2R9

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
P2R1	Boggs, 1945		No date provided	Not applicable	
	Poole, 1953	Poole credits his illustration to the Philatelic Foundation	Jan. 4, 1899	Not applicable	
	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 196				
	Daniel Kelleher Auctions-March 29-30, 2014-Sale 651, Lot 3233	1946 PF certificate		Realized US\$2,200	C\$3,023.18
P2R2	Timbroscopie, December 1988 Potentially is piece sold in Paris in June of 1987 for 21,500F	Calves mark on front. However, this mark could be suspect. ³	Jan. 4, 1899	Not applicable	
P2R3	Lowe-February 7, 1968-Lot 1389	Ex. Godden collection	Jan. 5, 1899	Assuming £400 based on note in Lowe, 1973 (need to confirm price realized)	C\$8,760.65
	Maresch-October 7 & 8, 1997-Lot 770	1968 BPA certificate		Realized \$650	C\$1,114.59
P2R4	Spink Lionheart Part II-November 14, 2013-Lot 3139	2008 RPS certificate	Jan. 5, 1899	Realized £1,900 off web. US\$3,111 out of catalogue.	C\$4,112.61



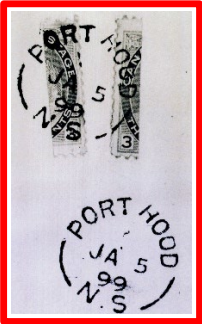
³ : Philatelic Experts, Notes on the Experts, <https://www.filatelia.fi/experts/notes.html>, retrieved 4 May 2023. See also <https://www.filatelia.fi/experts/namesa.html> for additional information.

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
P2R5	Kelton and Soan- February 1924 (mentioned in Miller, 1929)		Jan. 3. 1899, But Miller thinks this must be an error since correct date is Jan. 5	Realized US\$53.00	C\$937.77
P2R6	Firby - Sale Jan. 30-31, 1998, Lot 128	1925 Stamp Trade Protection Certificate (was identified as a forgery in Robertson, 2002, but article is riddled with errors so opinion is suspect)	Jan. 4, 1899	Estimate C\$1,500	Estimate C\$2,579.41
FP2R1	Lowe-Sale 2538-Feb 24, 1965-Lot 346		Jan. 5, 1899	Realized £340	C\$9,544.94
	FORGERY-denoted as such in Lowe 1973		No date provided	Not applicable	
FP2R2	FORGERY attributed to Frodel-Mitchell, 1976- Nova Scotia Fakes & Forgeries		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	FORGERY attributed to Frodel-Lee-Sale 102- September 28 & 29, 2001-Lot 3808	(Have no image so it is supposition that it is this piece)		Part of larger lot which realized C\$50	C\$79.80
FP2R3	FORGERY attributed to Frodel-Archives Canada- accessioned 1992	Ken Pugh asserts that this is a Fred Eaton forgery, that Eaton falsely attributed to Frodel	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP2R4	FORGERY-Corbitts-April 2, 2019-Lot 703	This has the postmark that Ken Pugh attributes to Fred Eaton.	Jan. 5, 1899	Sold with forgery of left and right 1 cent on piece, whole lot went for £40	C\$79.71

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
FP2R5	F. Servas / Ken Pugh-FORGERY attributed to Fred Eaton, Jr. and later falsely attributed by him to Andre Frodel	Handstamped on reverse, "FORGERY / ANDRE FRODEL"	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP2R6	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 17718	Certificate denotes it as a counterfeit	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP2R7	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 74578	Certificate denotes it as a counterfeit surcharge and cancellation	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP2R8	Philatelic Foundation Certificate 319317	Certificate denotes it as a counterfeit surcharge and cancellation	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
FP2R9	Philatelic Foundation certificates 79673 and 579835	Certificate 79673 indicates as genuine, while later certificate 579835 indicates as <u>not</u> genuine	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	

Left and Right 1 cent on Piece

			
P1P1	FP1P1	FP1P2	FP1P3

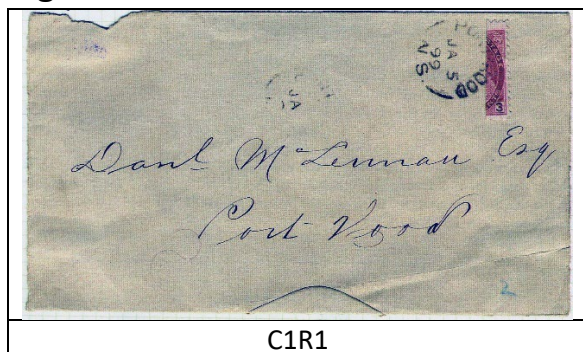
		
FP1P4	FP1P5	FP1P6

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
P1P1	Boggs, 1945		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	Siegel Auctions-29 September 1994-Sale 762, Lot 2244	Description does not list Bühler or Calves marks.		Realized US\$2,400	C\$5,829.90
	Auktionhaus Christoph Gartner-February 7, 8 and 18 to 22, 2019-Sale 43, Lot 11731A	2018 Brandon certificate. However, certificate states 'the right hand bisect does not have the "1" surcharge, is not postmarked and does not appear to belong.' Backstamp from Bühler and front mark from Calves. Both of these marks could be suspect. ⁴		Realized €6,300	C\$10,837.84
FP1P1	FORGERY-Corbitts-April 2, 2019-Lot 703		Jan. 5, 1899	Sold with forgery of right 2 cent on piece, whole lot went for £40	C\$79.71
FP1P2	FORGERY-Being sold as such by Longley Actions-Sale 19-Sept. 24-25-2010-Lot 1005		Jan. 5, 1899	Estimate C\$75	C\$100.24
FP1P3	F. Servas / Ken Pugh-FORGERY attributed to Fred Eaton, Jr. and later falsely attributed by him to Andre Frodel	Handstamped on reverse, "FORGERY / ANDRE FRODEL"	Jan. 5, 1899	Not Applicable	
FP1P4	John Jamison / Ken Pugh-FORGERY attributed to Fred Eaton, Jr. and later falsely attributed by him to Andre Frodel		Jan. 5, 1899	Not Applicable	

⁴ : Philatelic Experts, Notes on the Experts, <https://www.filatelija.fi/experts/notes.html>, retrieved 4 May 2023. See also <https://www.filatelija.fi/experts/namesa.html> for additional information.

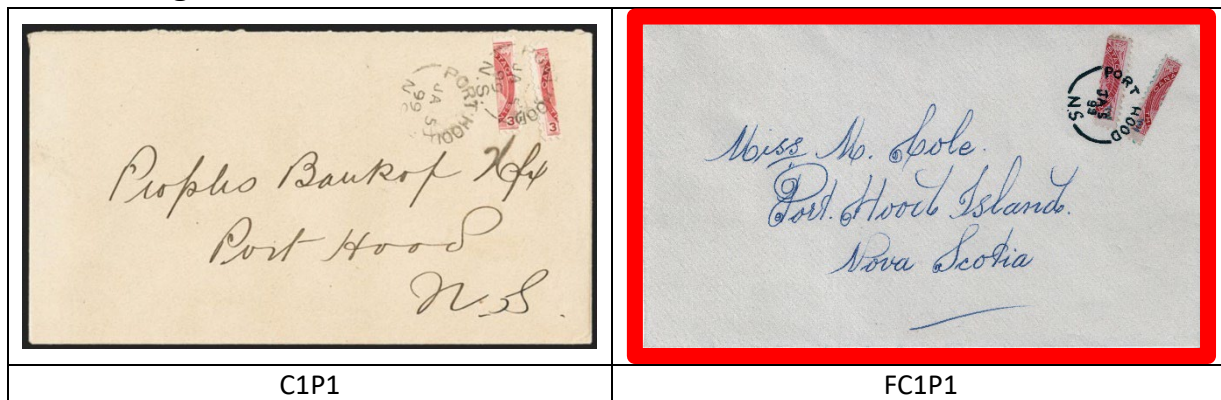
Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
FP1P5	John Jamison / Ken Pugh-FORGERY attributed to Fred Eaton, Jr. and later falsely attributed by him to Andre Frodel		Jan. 5, 1899	Not Applicable	
FP1P5	R.W. Mitchell / Ken Pugh-FORGERY attributed to Fred Eaton, Jr. and later falsely attributed by him to Andre Frodel, Image courtesy of Longley Auctions	Handstamped on reverse, "FORGERY / ANDRE FRODEL". 1c. surcharges lacking	Jan. 5, 1899	Not Applicable	

Right 1 cent Cover



Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
C1R1	Royal Philatelic Collection at 78th Convention of RPSC-September 28 to October 1, 2006		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	

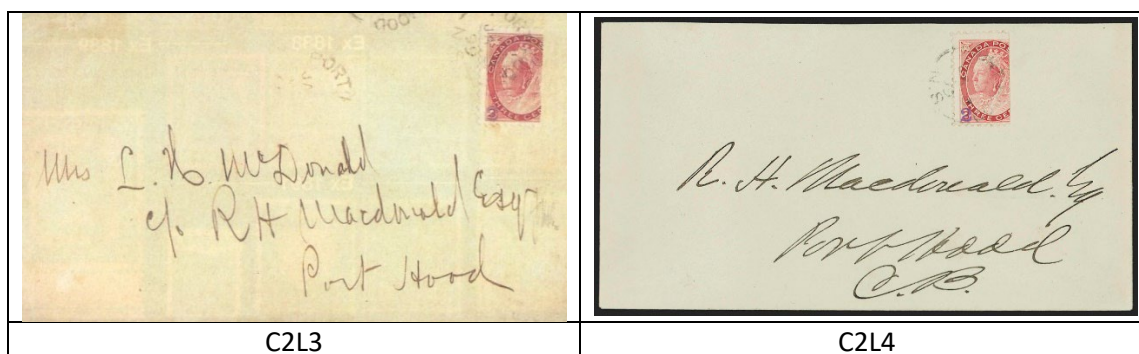
Left and Right 1 cent Cover



Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
C1P1	Miller, 1929		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	Philatelic Foundation 34974			Not applicable	
	Harmer-Dale Lichtenstein Auction No. 10, Dec 8, 1970, Lot 836	Signed Stanley Gibbons		Realized US\$1,900	C\$14,826.34
	Siegel Auctions- June 14-15, 2016- Sale 1130, Lot 1269	Signed Stanley Gibbons 1971 PF Certificate, however certificate does not mention Stanley Gibbons backstamp		Realized US\$5,750	C\$8,986.24
FC1P1	Collection of Author	Fake created by Rev. Nathaniel Cole	Jan. 5, 1899		

Left 2 cent Cover





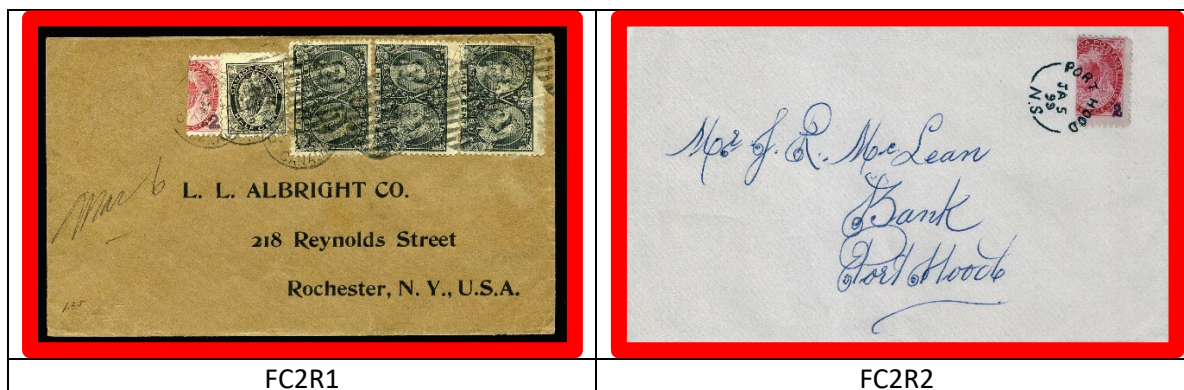
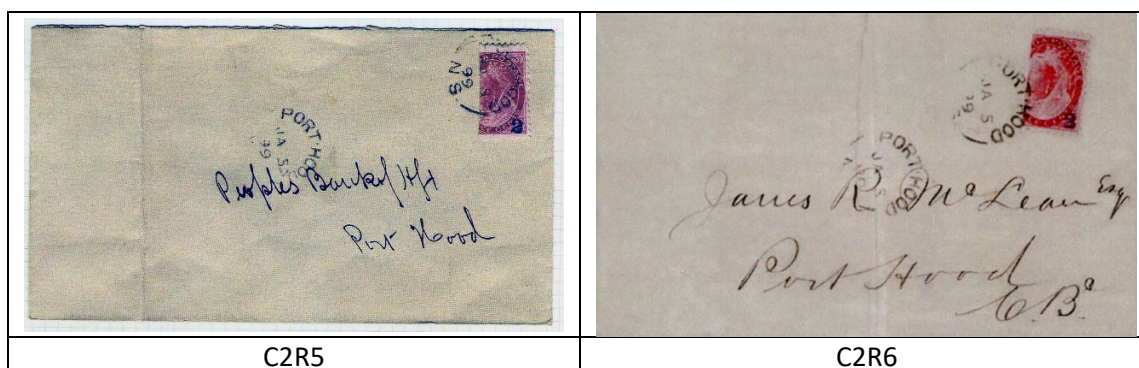
Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
C2L1	Boggs, p.337	SG not mentioned	Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	C\$9,432.53
	Harmer-Dale Lichtenstein Auction No. 7, Jan 30, 1970- Lot 1518	Signed Stanley Gibbons		Realized US\$1,150	
C2L2	Siegel Auctions- November 21, 1967-Lot 173	SG not mentioned	Jan. 5, 1899	Realized US\$1,800	C\$16,847.13
	Siegel Auctions- March 24, 1970- Sale 371, Lot 261	Signed Stanley Gibbons Ex. Bingham		Realized US\$1,800	C\$14,768.67
C2L3	Miller, 1929		Date not discernible	Not applicable	

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
	Harmer-Sale 1898, Part 2-May 19-23, 1969-Lot 828	Signed Stanley Gibbons	Title of section indicates Jan. 5, 1899	Realized US\$2,700	C\$23,380.92
	O’Keefe, 1985		Article mentions date of Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	Status Auctions-March 19, 2015-Lot 1938-Image	“Exp” Stanley Gibbons 1975 Jakubek certificate 2006 BPA certificate	Jan. 5, 1899	Realized AU\$13,993	C\$16,761.22
C2L4	Philatelic Foundation 13830		Date not legible	Not applicable	
	Siegel Auctions-March 25, 1975-Sale 468, Lot 258	PF Certificate	No date provided	Realized \$3,000	C\$16,616.45
	Siegel Auctions-May 15, 1999-Sale 811, Lot 277	With Stanley Gibbons and Weill backstamps, 1961 PF Certificate	Jan. 5, 1899	Estimate US\$6,000 to \$8,000. Not sold.	Est C\$14,750.72 to C\$19,667.63
	Spink Shreves-September 2008-Lot 2277	Signed Stanley Gibbons, and “RHW CO (Weill)”, 1961 PF Certificate		Estimate US\$2,500 to \$3,000. Not sold.	Est C\$3,669.49 to C\$4,403.39
	Brixton Chrome-Canadian Philately Blog 2015		No date provided	Not applicable	
C2L5	Lowe-Burrus BNA-Sales 2249+2250-April 2, 1963-Lot 263		Jan. 5, 1899	Realized £450	C\$13,119.75
	Matthew Bennett Auctions-April 24, 2004-Lot 1786			Realized US\$5,000	C\$10,113.93
C2L6	Maresch-Private Treaty Sale 1-1977-Lot 178	BPA Certificate, date not provided	Jan. 5, 1899	Estimate C\$2,500	Estimate C\$11,921.30
	Spink Shreves Galleries-May 8-9, 2009-Sale 113, Lot 455	Signed Stanley Gibbons 1997 BPA Certificate		Realized US\$4,000.	C\$6,303.11
	Grosvenor-September 23, 2009-Lot 249	1997 BPA Certificate		Realized £3,500	C\$8,344.37

Item	Provenance	Comments	Date	Price realized	2023 Can\$ Value
	Eastern Auctions Ltd.-June 13, 2019-Lot 288-Highlands Collection Part 3-Lot 288	Stanley Gibbons backstamp 1997 BPA Certificate		Realized \$7,250, but info under image shows \$8,590 (2nd value possibly inclusive of premium?)	C\$8,328.07 (C\$9,867.32)
C2L7	Philatelic Foundation 30827	Notes double surcharge		Not applicable	
	Harmer-Sale 1927-Dec 9, 1969-Lot 328	Signed Stanley Gibbons "Foundation" Certificate, date not provided, assume Philatelic foundation	Jan. 4, 1899	Realized US\$3,800	C\$25,952.70
	Siegel Auctions-June 26-27, 2013-Sale 1049, Lot 1086	Signed Stanley Gibbons and Bloch 1969 PF certificate 1983 Friedl certificate		Realized US\$5,750	C\$7,555.23
C2L8	Philatelic Foundation 246826		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	Ken Pugh			Not applicable	

Right 2 cent Cover

C2R1	C2R2
C2R3 (only partial image available from source)	C2R4 (only partial image available from source)



Item	Provenance	Comment	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
C2R1	J.N. Sissons-Jun 24-26, 1974, Lot 194	Stanley Gibbons guarantee mark	Jan. 4, 1899	Realized C\$1,200	C\$7,445.78
	Phillips-Jacoby Ltd.-April 30, 1976, Lot 302 9	1974 BPA certificate (Mentions Jan. 7 arrival mark on reverse)		Estimate C\$1,500	Estimate C\$7,598.36
	Wm. H.P. Maresch Auctions -October 23 & 24, 1991-Lot 604	Stanley (Gibbons) guarantee in violet 1991 BPA certificate (Mentions Jan. 7 arrival mark on reverse)		Realized C\$4,250	C\$8,007.62
	Commentary No. 53 - The Port Hood Provisional Stamps, 2003			Not applicable	
	BNA Topics, Vol. 66, No. 1, January-March 2009, Whole No. 518			Not applicable	

Item	Provenance	Comment	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
C2R2	Harmer-Dale Lichtenstein Auction No. 10, Dec 8, 1970, Lot 837		Jan. 4, 1899	Realized US\$1,150	C\$8,973.85
	Siegel Auctions- March 23, 1977 - Sale 510, Lot 242	Royal certificate which states" ... apparently genuine but used a day before the usually accepted date." Description states "In our opinion, Undoubtedly Genuine & Exceedingly Rare"		Realized US\$3,250	C\$16,253.11
C2R3	H.R. Harmer Auction. Mar 14, 21 and 22, 1932. Lot 594		Jan. 5, 1899	Don't know	
	H.R. Harmer Auction. Dec 16-17, 1935. Lot 110			Don't know	
C2R4	Miller, 1929		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	Harmer-Sale 1898, Part 2-May 19-23, 1969-Lot 829	Signed Stanley Gibbons		Realized US\$4,200	C\$36,370.27
	O'Keefe, 1985		Article mentions date of Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
C2R5	Royal Philatelic Collection at 78th Convention of RPSC-September 28 to October 1, 2006		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
C2R6	Philatelic Foundation 13791		Jan. 5, 1899	Not applicable	
	J. Jamison / Ken Pugh	Roughly opened left side of cover has been trimmed		Not applicable	
FC2R1	FORGERY- Maresch Sale 535- April 26, 2017-Lot 808	Very poor quality	Not applicable	Realized \$80	C\$95.30

Item	Provenance	Comment	Date	Price Realized	2023 Can\$ Value
FC2R2	Chased as fake - collection of Author	Fake created by Rev. Nathaniel Cole	Jan. 5, 1899		

I have identified additional faked covers in the literature, e.g. Sparks sale 21, but I have not been able to obtain images.

Discussion Based on Census of Port Hood Provisional Stamps and Covers

Addressees

Despite the Port Hood Postmaster asserting that envelopes bearing the provisionals were mailed throughout the Dominion (Evans, 1899c), the census of covers only provides examples to addresses in Port Hood and to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Table 3, an examination of covers in which an addressee is visible, shows that 14 out of 15 covers were mailed to 3 to 4 people with the surname MacDonald or to the People's Bank of Halifax in Port Hood where Reginald, the son of Senator MacDonald of Charlottetown worked (Local Briefs, 1900).

Table 3: Addressees of the Port Hood Provisional Covers

Addressee	No. of Covers
MacLennan	1
Peoples Bank	5
McLean – Bank	1
R.H. MacDonald -People's Bank	1
c/o R.H. MacDonald	1
R.H. MacDonald	1
Macdonald	1
Senator Macdonald	1
Hon. Senator Macdonald	1
Hon. A.A. Macdonald	1
Pieces showing "nald"	1

There is a distinct lack of variety in the receivers of the covers and while the original necessity to make provisional stamps to meet the new rate could be seen as legitimate, the lack of a variety in the people, businesses and destinations receiving the covers would strongly point to them as philatelic creations made by or under the influence of one person.

Thoughts on Forgeries

Jarrett (1929) states that a few covers were sold to Stanley Gibbons before the post office inspector arrived and that these were stamped with the firm's name on the back of the cover. Dealers and expertizing committees consider the presence of a Stanley Gibbons handstamp on the back of the cover or stamp to confer legitimacy on Port Hood Provisional items. In reviewing the census of material, the following items are identified as having the Stanley Gibbons backstamp:

- Left 1 cent mint: M1L3
- Se-tenant Pair of 1 cent Mint: MST2
- Right 2 cent Mint: M242, M2R5
- Left and Right 1 cent Cover: C1P1
- Left 2 cent Cover: C2L1, C2L2, C2L3, C2L4, C2L6, C2L7
- Right 2 cent Cover: C2R1, C2R4

Jarrett (1929) says collectors should not collect unused copies and should be extremely careful when considering covers. Pollock (1937) states that these stamps on cover may be of interest to the “extreme specialist”, but off-cover the stamps are “officially fraudulent” and since the surcharge was made from rubber type, it is easily forged. Blair (1938) cautions that there are many forgeries of these stamps, especially unused copies and suggests to not purchase used copies unless they are on cover and even better, come with a guarantee. Holmes (1943) calls these stamps “freaks that anyone could make.” Pollock (1944) says that the stamps are impossible to expertise and that “anyone with unused copies of the ordinary 3c. red, making sure that he had stamps from the same plate, and worn to about the same extent, could make all the “Port Hoods” he might want, with just a pair of scissors, a purple stamp pad, and a box of rubber dates”. Boggs (1945) says that used copies equalling 2 cents, the appropriate postal rate at the time, should be tied to covers dated January 5, 1899. Click (1946) states that while there are a few properly used Port Hood Provisionals tied to cover, they are easily forged.

Ken Pugh, an expert on Canadian fakes and forgeries, states that the bisect stamps alone do not carry sufficient evidence to determine their genuineness and provides an excellent illustration of this contention (Pugh 2020a). While both stamps illustrated in Figure 3 were judged genuine by recognized professionals, Pugh asserts that both cannot be genuine due to “their obvious differences”. The surcharge handstamps are different fonts and colours.



Figure 3: Illustration of Two Port Hood Provisionals Off Cover Illustrating the Challenge of Determining Genuineness (Pugh 2020a)

Richardson (1963) mentions that poorly made forgeries of the stamps are quite common. They were apparently made in the Toronto area and he considered them to be poor forgeries because they are “invariably” on used copies with the wrong date and even portions of the wrong town name or province showing. However, he goes on to describe two much better pieces that he added to his reference collection. One was two-thirds on a large piece tied with the correct type of Port Hood NS cancel of Ja 5 99. The stamp had a forged “2” surcharge on it and the cancel was well forged as well. The other forgery contained two righthand one-third portions surcharged with a “1” handstamp. The cancel was an “almost perfect” forgery of the cancel illustrated in Boggs (1945).

Lowe (1973) states that he has “seen more forged Port Hood provisionals with forged cancellations with certificates of genuineness than [he] has seen genuine provisionals. Lowe states that the test to determine genuine is so simple that he will not provide it as that would enable forgers to do a better job. Ariel Hasid of WIP International and Canadian Philatelic Expertising Service has

indicated that he feels that legitimate Port Hood Provisionals on piece should have the top to the postmark pointing to 3 o'clock (Hasid 2022b).

“Canada: Un timbre coté” (1988) states that it is important to get copies of the Port Hood Provisionals authenticated. Robertson (2002) states that high quality forgeries have been created including forgeries created by cutting genuine stamps, applying forged overprints and striking with the genuine canceller. He states that the forgeries are “detectable when compared to the genuine provisional stamps”.

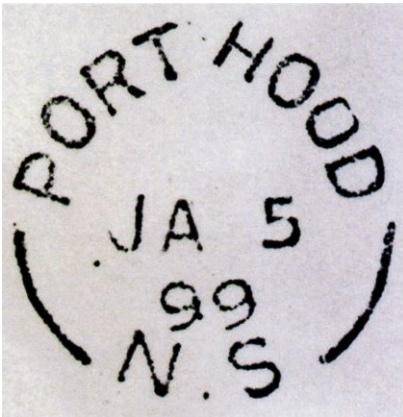


Figure 4: Fake Cancellation

Pugh (2020b) attributes the postmark illustrated in Figure 4 to Fred Eaton. Pugh describes the postmark as a broken circle, 20.5mm in diameter with the second “O” of “Hood” being flat at the top, the left side of the bottom curve of the “5” extending past the vertical stroke of the number, the “S” of “N.S” appearing to be inverted, no dot at the end of “N.S”, and no dot between the “T” and the “H”. Pugh states that most of these cancels on fakes are very cleanly struck. The postmark can be seen on the forgeries listed as FP2R2, FP2R3, FP2R4, FP2R5, FP2R9, FP1P1, FP1P2, FP1P3, FP1P4, FP1P5, FP1P6, and FP2L1.

Pugh asserts that Eaton created the majority of the fakes on piece, which he later falsely attributed to Andre Frodel and that Eaton hand stamped many of these pieces on the reverse with “FORGERY / ANDRE FRODEL” to avoid problems with the law (Pugh 2022b). While Library and Archives Canada corroborates Pugh’s assertion about Eaton’s attribution of many of his forgeries to Frodel and the backstamping of them to indicate that they were Frodel’s creations (Bone, 2023), it still attributes FP2R3 to Frodel.

Pugh does not consider any Port Hood Provisional cover “entirely genuine” (Pugh 2020c). While “genuine covers” are listed in Scott, he feels that their status is dubious. Pugh suggests that it is possible that when the Maritimes agent for Stanley Gibbons Ltd. heard of the provisionals, he travelled to Port Hood where he obtained some covers backdated to January 5 from the postmaster and some genuine provisionals that the postmaster still had. Most of these covers were reportedly sold by Stanley Gibbons to Ferrari and later Alfred Lichtenstein. Pugh states that these covers never travelled through the post. Pugh states that he, like many other postal historians, does not recognize these favour covers as “completely legitimate”, but he also states that there are many other favour covers, that are accepted by leading philatelists as philatelic rarities.

Reviewing the items in the census, very few forgeries appear on cover and those that exist are very crude creations. This would indicate that high levels of caution should be exercised when buying Port Hood provisionals as stamps or on piece.

Dates

The Port Hood postmaster, quoted in a letter a portion of which is reproduced in the April 1899 issue of the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* (Evans, 1899c), states that he produced the provisionals for one day only. Unfortunately, he does not provide the date. It is possible that he made this statement to try to limit the reprimand he might receive for having contravened regulations for a longer period.

The first reference to a date for the creation of the provisionals is Horsley (1907) in which he describes showing a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of London a Port Hood Provisional cover dated January 5, 1899. Howes (1911) reports that M.H. Horsley, who was a Fellow Society, showed this cover, making this, in Howes opinion, “doubtless the ‘one day’ that they were employed.” Following these first two mentions of a date, the following authors also quote January 5, 1899 as the date of creation:

- Horsley (1907)
- Miller (1929)
- Jarret (1929)
- Blair (1938)
- Holmes (1943)
- Pollock (1944)
- Boggs (1945)
- Cryderman (1947)
- Patrick (1959)
- Richardson (1963)
- Gyorfi (1965)
- Lowe (1973)
- Gillam (1976)
- O’Keefe (1985)
- Munden (1987)
- “Canada: Un timbre coté” (1988)

Miller (1929) states that all copies he examined were from A.F. Lichtenstein’s collection and all were dated with the “correct” date of January 5. Although Boggs (1945) states that “used copies must be on covers dated 5 Jan. 1899”, he does illustrate an example of right two-thirds on piece that has a date of 4 January, although this has only become apparent with more recent higher resolution scans of the piece that more clearly show the date.

The first mention of a cover bearing a postmark of January 4, 1899, is found in Stephenson (1951) where he states that he has seen a cover with this date and he has no reason to doubt its genuineness. In 1953, Stephenson mentions in a letter to the editor that he has heard about another piece of a cover with stamps bisected in the same way the Port Hood Provisionals but with a postmark of January 3, 1899, from Mulgrave NS and he suggests keeping “a very open mind as to the actual first day of issue of these stamps.” However, since Stephenson’s letter makes no mention of

surcharges applied to the bisects, this could just be a bisect created by the Mulgrave post office and not be a Port Hood Provisional.

Poole (1953) denotes January 5 as the issue date although he illustrates his discussion with a piece that he acknowledges as being dated January 4. Robertson (2002) does not state a date of issue, but also uses an illustration of a Port Hood Provisional that he lists as dated January 4.

While the *Unitrade 2023 Catalogue* (Harris, 2022) states that the editors have seen covers dated Jan. 4 and 5, the Scott's Specialized Catalogue (Bigalke, 2021) says that the Port Hood Provisionals were prepared and used on Jan. 5. The Scott *Catalogue* goes on to state that the "Covers reported to date were backdated and never saw postal use."

Based on a review of known covers, all those with a date of January 4, 1899, i.e. C2L7, C2R1, C2R2, are addressed to Senator A.A. MacDonald in Charlottetown. They are also the only known covers addressed outside of Port Hood. Despite the writing of the name having some different shaped letters, the writing of "Charlottetown" and the province especially the "E" look similar on all the covers. Item P2R1, a righthand 2 cent on piece, dated January 4, 1899, also appears to have the same handwriting as the covers.

Given that all these items have received expertizing certificates from various organizations and that two of them, C2R1 and C2R2, have Stanley Gibbons backstamps, the unusual date and same addressee would point to these items being philatelic creations, perhaps made before or after the Port Hood postmaster created "legitimate" bisects.

If we accept the premise that these items are philatelic creations, then items with similar handwriting, but not addressed to Charlottetown, i.e. P2R2, C1P1, C2L2, C2L3, C2L5, C2L6, C2R4, and C2R5 could also potentially be considered philatelic creations. Items C2L2, C2L3, C2L6, and C2R4 also have Stanley Gibbons backstamps.

So, are the Port Hood Provisionals Worthy of Collecting?

While this consideration is open to individual opinion, Miller (1929) acknowledges that the stamps and covers were not authorized by the Post Office, but since they are listed by all major catalogues at the time, they have “philatelic recognition”. Cryderman (1947) states that bisects on cover are collectible only if they are not philatelic creations.

Port Hood Provisional stamps and covers occupy places of distinction in the collections of well-known and well-regarded collectors like Queen Elizabeth II of England, and Dale and Lichtenstein. The material demands high prices at auction and private treaty sales. The Port Hood Provisionals are worthy of forgeries by the likes of Frodel and they continue to be listed in major catalogues like Scott, Stanley Gibbons, Unitrade, and Lowe. Undoubtedly, the story of their creation and the provenance of various pieces adds to their cachet and consequent value. They continue to command high prices in United States and Europe, but ultimately, value comes down to having a willing seller and willing buyer that agree on a price.

The first listing of a Port Hood Provisional, M1L8, shows up in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of July 1914, offered at £6, which is equivalent to Canadian \$1,330.51 today. Unfortunately, there is no image of the stamp provided so it is not possible to provide a comparison to what that stamp may have commanded more recently.

Thirteen Port Hood Provisional items have been sold at two or more auctions allowing an analysis of price differentials. Table 4, on the next page, shows the trends of the prices between the two most widely separated dates of an item being sold at auction. For items P1R1 and C2L6, differentials have been separated out where prices have trended differently (up or down) between auctions. The changes should only be used to look at general trends because given the highly variable time period, normalization of the data would not provide more meaningful results. In general, out of 17 situations, the value of the item has increased seven times and decreased nine times. Items with a larger spread in the dates of sales appear to have a more positive increase in value, although there are a few outliers like P2R3 which showed an 87% drop in value over a 31-year spread, C2L7 which had a 70% drop in value over a 44-year spread, and C2L6 which showed a 32% increase in 4 month spread. Expertizing or the presence of a dealer’s mark does not seem to make a marked difference in how items hold or increase in value.

Table 4: Changes in Value of Port Hood Provisionals at Auction

Item	Date of First Price Realized	Date of Later Prices Realized	Percentage of Change	Expertizing or Dealers' Marks
M1L3 / M2R2	2002	2018	+384.2%	SG, Brandon, VGG
MST2	1970	2003	+112.6%	SG, VGG
M2L1	1958	1974	-39.7%	
P1L2	1963	1986	-85.8%	BPA
P1R1	1958	1974	-42.0%	
	1974	2009	+204.2%	PF 1976 & 1987
	1958	2009	+118.4%	PF 1976 & 1987
P2R3	1968	1997	-87.3%	BPA
P1P1	1994	2019	+185.9%	Brandon, Bühler, Calves
C1P1	1970	2016	-39.4%	SG. PF
C2L5	1967	1970	-22.9%	SG
C2L3	1969	2015	-28.3%	SG, Kakubek, BPA
C2L5	1963	2004	-22.9%	
C2L6	2009, May	2009, Sept.	+132.4%	SG
	2009, Sept.	2019	-0.02%	SG, BPA
	2009, May	2019	+132.1%	
C2L7	1969	2013	-70.1%	GS, PF, Bloch, Friedl

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Evans, E. B. (Ed.). (1899a). Canada. *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, January 1899, 9(103), 112.

This is the first report of the shortage of 1 and 2 cent stamps caused by the change in postal rates from 3 cents to 2 cents, and that some offices used 1/3 and 2/3 bisects to make up the shortfall.

While there is no specific mention of Port Hood, Evans states that this information was sent in by a correspondent who mentioned that "in some places these divided stamps ... were employed without further alteration, but in others ... they were surcharged with a figure "2" in purple, upon the figure "3" of the larger portion, or ... the word "one" in green upon the smaller part, or ... when thirds of two adjoining stamps were used for 2 c. each part was impressed with a figure "2."

Evans states that the letter received was franked by a 2/3 portion stamp, so they "fear that this horrible tale is true."

Evans, E. B. (Ed.). (1899b). Canada. *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, March 1899, 9(105), 146.

Evans corrects his statement from his previous article that multiple offices used "surcharged fractions" and that the provisional stamps appear to only have been used in Port Hood, "where the Postmaster apparently did not consider it safe to use divided stamps without some distinguishing mark."

Evans states that he has seen other copies of the covers since and that the figure "1" was used, not the word "one" as previously reported.

Calman, H. L. (Ed.). (1899). Notes. *American Journal of Philately*, April 1899, 180.

Calman states that the journal is aware of Canadian stamps "cut into halves and thirds and surcharged with reduced values" and that they were "informed, upon good authority, that these surcharges are absolutely unauthorized and unworthy of recognition."

Castle, M. P. (1899a). Canada. *The London Philatelist*, April 1899, 8(88), 108.

Castle states that they learned 'from a contemporary that the recent bisected provisional stamps with reduced values are "absolutely unauthorised and unworthy of recognition." This is a direct quote from Calman (1899).

Also mentions that Mr. D.A. King forwarded copies of the 3¢ envelope and letter card, both surcharged "2¢." in large type. These are not Port Hood provisionals.

Evans, E. B. (Ed.). (1899c). Canada. *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, April 1899, 9(106), 159.

Evans quotes an extract received from a correspondent from a letter from the postmaster of Port Hood, which states that change in postal rate caused the office to run out of 2¢ stamps and that to keep accounting straight, he cut 3¢ stamps into $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ pieces. It was done for one day only and the postmaster estimates that there were about 100 '1¢' and 200 '2¢' bisects used, mostly for delivery within Canada. About 100 each of each value of the bisect were marked with the figures 1 and 2, and were placed for delivery throughout Canada. The postmaster states that these were the only provisional stamps used by the Port Hood office.

The letter from postmaster appears to have been written in response to a letter to him and it talks about the 1 and 2 marks being "as you describe".

Castle, M. P. (1899b). Canada. *The London Philatelist*, May 1900, 8(89), 133–134.

Castle, while stating that the letter was supplied to the journal by a correspondent, quotes the same letter provided in Evans, April 1899 from the postmaster of Port Hood justifying his actions.

Rudificus, R. (1899). From Canada. *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, May 18, 1899, 13(20), 187.

Rudificus states unequivocally, based upon an announcement by the federal government that stamps were unauthorized and letters having them should have been charged double rate when delivered, that the "split provisionals" were fakes.

Evans, E. B. (Ed.). (1899d). Canada. *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, June 1899, 9(108), 191.

Evans mentions that the surcharged provisionals were not the only bisected stamps that originated at Port Hood and mentions a cover dated July 27, 1898 with a 2 c. stamp divided diagonally. Evans posits that it should not be considered too serious an issue if a postmaster who runs out of 1 c. stamps bisects 2 c. stamps to keep the accounting straight.

Castle, M. P. (1899c). Canada. *The London Philatelist*, July 1899, 8(91), 194.

Castle quotes correspondence received by the journal stating that the provisionals of Jan. 5, 1899, were not the first time that bisects were produced in Port Hood and the writer of the letter describes a cover from July 27, 1898, with a 2¢ stamp bisected diagonally. This information seems identical to that from Evans (1899d).

Castle states that they have seen the 2 c. and 6 c. of the 1868 issue and the 2 c., green of the 1868-76 issue, bisected either vertically or diagonally. It is unclear if these are from Port Hood in particular.

Coulter, R. M. (1899). More Canadian Surcharges. *American Journal of Philately*, August 1899, 344.

This article is a reprint of Post Office circular regarding “Surcharge of Unissued Remnant of 3¢ Stamps” from R.M. Coulter, Deputy Postmaster General, which informs postmasters that the Post Office Department will be surcharging red coloured 3 cent letter cards, 3 cent stamped envelopes and 3 cent postage stamps to denominate them with a value of 2 cents. This action would bring the colour of these items in line with the Universal Postal Union’s stipulation of red as the colour for domestic rate postage stamps, which was required by Canada’s change of domestic postal rates from 3 cents to 2 cents on January 1, 1899.

Purvis, W. S. (1900). Notes on Canadian Stamps. *The Philatelic Advocate*, March 1900, 8(3), 81.

Purvis, in this article in a journal from Berlin, ON., states that the bisected stamps should not be considered fakes unless it can be proven that their use was absolutely unnecessary. Purvis interviewed a nearby postmaster who stated that with the sudden announcement of the change in rates, he was short of 2 c. and 1 c. stamps that could be used to cover the 2 c. rate. The postmaster communicated with other nearby post offices who informed him that they were in a similar situation and that they would also have to bisect stamps if a supply of 2 c. stamps was not received swiftly.

Wurtele, W. J. (1900). Editorial: The Canadian Provisionals of 1899. *The Montreal Philatelist*, April 1899, 10(21), 118.

Wurtele contends that the creation of these “fractional stamps” was unnecessary and since they were never sold to the public, they “cannot be properly called stamps at all.” It advocates being wary of potential fakes.

Wurtele notes that they are aware of only one office in Canada, Port Hood, that created these fractional stamps and that this was done in direct contravention of postal regulations. It states that the proper practice would have been to send the envelopes on with money for proper postage to be affixed.

While Wurtele acknowledges that the postmaster was trying to ensure that his accounting book stayed in balance, he did it in an “antiquated and unlawful way”.

Wurtele also concludes that these stamps are “are no more deserving of collection as postage stamps than the hand stamp or pen mark on an envelope would be if no stamp or portion of a stamp had been affixed.”

McDonald, H. A. (1900). Correspondence to the Editor. *The Montreal Philatelist*, May 1900, 2(11), 137.

McDonald supports Port Hood postmaster's contention that they ran out of stamps. It quotes correspondence from the postmaster of Cross Road, Country Harbour, who says, that they got such short notice of the change in rates that he split 1c. and 2c. stamps.

Local Briefs. (1900, August 31). *The Morning Guardian*, 5.

This short piece quotes the North Sydney Herald stating that Senator MacDonald was visiting son in Port Hood and that Reginald MacDonald is an agent of the People's Bank at Port Hood.

Horsley, J. M. (1907). Notes on the Stamps of Canada. *The London Philatelist*, April 1907, 16(184), 89.

In this paper, read at the Royal Philatelic Society of London on January 7, 1907, JM Horsley recounts a brief version of the story of the creation of the Port Hood Provisionals, mentions a cover that he is showing dated January 5, and states that these items were unauthorized and therefore should not be recognized.

Howes, C. A. (1911). The "Numerals" Issue, 1898-1902. In *Canada: Its Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery* (pp. 170–174). The New England Stamp Co.

In this book, Howes reprints portions of the January, March and April issues of Stanley Gibbons *Stamp Monthly* describing the provisional stamps, where they were used (Port Hood) and the postmaster's justification of his actions.

Howes states that Mr. Horsely has a copy on an original cover with a postmark of January 5, 1899.

Howes goes on to quote from Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News (May 1889) that states that the Canadian government announced that they were not authorized and that the covers should have been charged double rate upon delivery.

Howes contends that the stamps may be interesting as curiosities and that they are not worthy of collecting.

Poole, B. W. H. (1916). Chapter XVIII-The Bi-sected Provisionals. In *The Postage Stamps of Canada* (pp. 56–57). Severn-Wylie-Jewett.

In this chapter of his book, Poole repeats the portions of the letters that were quoted in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journals for January, March, April, and June 1899. He goes on to repeat the letter regarding Cross Road, Country Harbour that was published in Wurtele (1900). He also quotes Wurtele's (1900) contention that the creation of these "fractional provisionals" was unnecessary and they are unworthy of collection as stamps.

Poole concludes with a letter, dated March 30, 1904, in which W.H. Harrington of the Post Office in Ottawa states that the Superintendent of the Stamp Branch never issued or recognized the Port Hood provisionals, that the postmaster in Port Hood almost lost his job over the creation of the bisects, and that the Post Office “Department never got hold of any of the mutilated stamps.”

Severn-Wylie-Jewett, the publishers of the book were also the publishers of Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News.

MacDougall, J. L. (1922). John MacKay. In *History of Inverness County Nova Scotia* (p. 280). Sandy Group, 1999 (2nd Printing); Chestico Museum.

This piece provides a short history of John McKay. The piece does not mention John MacKay’s role as postmaster, nor does it mention the controversy generated by his creation of the Port Hood provisional stamps. It mentions that his son, Daniel J. MacKay, was a postmaster in Port Hood.

Jarrett, F. (1923). Unauthorized Provisionals. In *Postage Stamps of Canada* (p. 56).

Jarrett states that the provisionals were created by the postmaster’s assistant and the Donald A. King was sent to Port Hood about the matter, that King “seized all copies that were “in possession of the enterprising philatelist who made them” and that these copies were later burned in Halifax. He states that “although not authorized that prepaid postage at the rates they represented.” The article provides illustrations of examples of the left hand 2 c. and the right hand 1c. bisects and Jarrett lists that the 1 c. surcharge was in blue and that the 2 c. surcharge was in violet.

Nottingham Evening Post. (1927, January 17). *Nottingham Evening Post*. Chestico Museum.

This short piece mentions that Harmers sold “two rare portions of stamps” for £10 the previous day. The article states that the stamps were created in Port Hood due to a shortage in the supply of stamps and that the value of the original stamp has increased “some 800 times”.

Jarrett, F. (1929). Port Hood Provisionals and Queen Victoria Numeral Issue. In *Stamps of British North America* (pp. 79, 106,124). Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1975.

Jarrett on page 79 discusses “bisecteds” of the Queen Victoria numeral issue in general and states that they were “unauthorized but were sometimes accepted in full payment of the rates they represented when put in the mails by collectors and dealers.”

However, he does not mention the Port Hood Provisional in this section, but rather dedicates a whole section to it on page 106. Jarrett states that Donald A. King heard about the matter and made enquiries. The post office then sent an investigator to Port Hood who took possession of a small number of used and unused copies that were remaining and they were later destroyed.

Jarrett says collectors should not collect unused copies and should be extremely careful when considering covers. He states that a few covers were sold to Stanley Gibbons before the post office inspector arrived and that these were stamped with the firm's name on the back of the cover.

Jarrett lists that both surcharges are in violet. He states that complete covers with the correct postmark command good prices and he provides values for these covers with the 1/3 bisect on cover paying 1c. valued at \$175 as compared to the 2/3 bisect which is only valued at \$90. While he provides a value for a used copy of a bisected rose-carmine 3c.

Hull Daily Mail. (1929, January 22). *Hull Daily Mail*. Chestico Museum.

This short piece mentions that Harmers sold a third of a stamp marked "1d" used at Port Hood for £75 the previous day.

Miller, M. (1929). Canada-Port Hood Bisect. *American Philatelist*, 42(8), 505–508.

Miller states that the postmaster bisected "about 3 sheets of the 3c carmine Queen Victoria numeral issue of 1898". Miller repeats the story of Donald A. King making enquiries and the sending of a postal inspector to Port Hood (Jarrett, 1929). He quotes the postmaster's letter printed in Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal of April 1899 (Evans, 1899c) providing his justification for the creation of the provisionals. Miller quotes from Jarrett (1929) stating that all copies on hand were taken into possession by the inspector and eventually destroyed. He also repeats that Stanley Gibbons obtained a few copies of the stamps and that those handled by them, especially the covers, have the stamp of the firm name on the reverse side."

Miller then goes onto explore the layout of the bisected stamps and provides an illustration of the "Possible Scheme of Bisection". He is the first to create this layout which is quoted in subsequent articles. He goes onto to state that he believes that the postmaster surcharged the bisects with a handstamp to prevent people from using cancelled copies of the stamps.

Miller based his study on covers that were loaned to him from A.F. Lichenstein. All were dated January 5, 1899, and included covers with right and left 2c. (2/3) surcharges as well as 1c. (1/3) portions used together to make up the 2c. rate. There were no covers with a use of the 1c. by itself.

Miller states that since the "stamp is listed in all the catalogues", it has "philatelic recognition" even though it was not sanctioned or authorized by the postal administration. He stated that the stamps on cover are much more valuable than copies off cover or on piece and provides quotes of values from various catalogues.

1c on 2/3 of 3c. (sic., should be 1c on 1/3 of 3c.)

	Unused	Used
Scott, No. 85b	(US\$)200.00	(US\$)150.00
Gibbons, No. 169		£30.00
Yvert, No. 74	Fr. 15,000.00	Fr. 7500.00
Kohl, No. 65 ⅓	M. 500.00	M. 500.00
Jarrett, No. 230c		cover (C\$)75.00
Bright, No. 111b		

2c on 1/3 of 3c. (sic., should be 2c on 2/3 of 3c.)

	Unused	Used
Scott, No. 85c	(US\$)125.00	(US\$)75.00
Gibbons, No. 170		£15.00
Yvert, No. 75	Fr. 6,500.00	Fr. 2500.00
Kohl, No. 65 ⅓	M. 400.00	M. 300.00
Jarrett, No. 230d		cover (C\$)75.00
Bright, No. 111c		

Miller ends with a description of various recent sales and prices realized.

Jarrett, F. (1930). Port Hood Provisionals. *Jarrett's B.N.A. Record*, 1–2.

Jarrett refers to a recent article on the Port Hood Provisionals (likely Miller) and states that the author did not deal extensively with topic. He states that “The stamps and covers are bogus” and that future editions of his book will demote them from a full listing to a note.

He goes onto to give an imaginary account of how the stamps came to be and says that the assistant postmaster created them to sell to Stanley Gibbons. In contrast to his book (Jarrett, 1929) which stated that an inspector visited the post office and collected the remainders, Jarrett in this article states that it was Donald A. King who went.

Jarrett, F. (1931). Port Hood Bisect. *Jarrett's B.N.A. Record*, 2.

Jarrett asserts that there was an official enquiry made in the House of Commons regarding the Port Hood Provisionals and that the Postmaster General stated that while the stamps were “not sanctioned by the Government”, they had been accepted as postage. A review of the Hansard for the Canadian House of Commons from 1899 to 1904 reveals no such enquiry.

Scott, R. J. (1936, August 22). Scott's Scrapbook. *Centerville Daily Iowegian and Citizen*, 6.

In this piece, which is similar to the Ripley's Believe It or Not pieces that used to appear on the comics page of many newspapers, Scott provides a hand drawn facsimile of a Port Hood provisional stamp with an inaccurately laid out postmark.

Pollock, F. W. (1937). The Stamps of the Dominion of Canada. In F. W. Loso (Ed.), *The Stamp Collectors' Round Table*. Frederick A. Stokes Company; Western Philatelic Library.

In this article, Pollock makes that case that someone convinced the postmaster in Port Hood that there would be a shortage of 2 cent stamps due to the change in postal rates and that “a few copies” of the Port Hood Provisionals “did postal duty (probably on philatelic mail)” as a means “to validate the rest of the stock which was promptly offered to dealers.” Pollock believes that it is possible that the instigator of the idea may have been a speculator looking to profit from the scheme. Pollock goes on to state that the items were probably originally recognized by Stanley Gibbons to create a market for the items, and since demand has been great for the pieces, “the provisionals have attained the status of classics.” Pollock concludes by stating that the covers are of interest as postal history, but that the stamps off-cover “are officially a fraudulent item” and easily forged.

Duchess's Stamps. (1937, December 10). *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*.

This short piece in the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of December 10, 1937, mentions that the stamp collection of the late Duchess of Bedford, whose death was presumed following the disappearance of her aeroplane, was being sold at Puttick's of Bond St. on Tuesday, 14 December, 1937, and that the collection contained two examples of the Port Hood provisional issue.

Blair, A. (1938). Unusual items: Port Hood provisionals. *Stamp Review*, 2(2), 19.

Blair describes copies of the Port Hood provisionals that appeared in the J. Insley Blair and the Duchess of Bedford collection sold at auction by Puttick's of Bond Street in November and December, 1937. The Blair copy was mint and fetched £30 for the “2” in violet on $\frac{2}{3}$ of 3c.; those of the Duchess of Bedford were used and fetched £34 for the 1 " in blue on $\frac{1}{3}$ of 3c., and £19 for the “2” surcharge. Blair states that a mint guaranteed copy of the “1” surcharge is worth about £40.

Blair states that no other provisional issue in the Empire has received such condemnation, mostly due to how easily forged the stamps are.

Blair goes on to tell the accepted story of the creation of the stamps and states that they appeared on January 5, 1899. He states that several covers were sold to Stanley Gibbons before the inspector arrived and those copies have the firm name stamped on their backs.

Blair cautions that there are many forgeries of these stamps, especially unused copies and suggests to not purchase used copies unless they are on cover and even better, come with a guarantee.

Blair mentions that a double surcharge of the “2” exists, but it is exceedingly rare.

Blair illustrates a copy of a left one third copy, but states that it is a fake based on the overprinted “1” measuring 3½ rather than 3¾mm.

Hamilton, P. (ca.1940). Check List Port Hood Provisionals. In Canadian Stamps. (p. 53).

Hamilton states that the Port Hood Provisionals were created to meet “an alleged shortage of 1 and 2 cents stamps.” He goes on to describe the stamps and states that they were surcharged with violet numerals. A post office inspector was sent to investigate. All copies on hand were impounded and later destroyed. A few copies got into circulation and genuine copies are “exceedingly rare.”

Holmes, L. S. (1943). The “Numeral” Issue of 1898, Chapter 35. In *Holmes Handbook and Catalogue of Canada and British North America* (pp. 111–113).

Holmes states that these stamps were created on January 5, 1899. He states that they were used on outgoing mail for local delivery, and does not mention wider delivery. He repeats the story that an inspector was sent from Halifax to collect any remaining stamps and that those were taken to Halifax and destroyed.

Holmes has little time for these stamps calling them “freaks that anyone could make.”

Pollock, F. W. (1944). The Port Hood “Mutilateds” of Canada. *Stamp Collectors Fortnightly*, 50(1279), 41.

In this article, Pollock repeats the story of the production of the Port Hood Provisionals whereby a collector encouraged the assistant postmaster to create them. Additional information / conjuncture is added by stating that the assistant postmaster who created them used rubber slugs from a date stamp to imprint the ‘1’ and ‘2’ on the stamps and mailed some covers using these stamps to give them a semblance of validity. Pollock also posits that the collector who had these items produced may have been the person who contacted the Post Office headquarters to ensure that the stamps remained scarce.

Pollock states that there was no justification for the creation of these stamps based on any potential scarcity of 2c. stamps, saying that there were over 19,000,000 copies of the 1c. Map Stamp of 1898 issued in December 1898 and over 72,000,000 copies of the 2c purple issued in late August 1898. This, however, does not account for potential local shortages as outlined in other articles like MacDonald 1900.

Pollock calls these stamps a “private creation”, stating that the assistant postmaster made these stamps against regulations. Pollock states that the stamps are undeserving of the title “Provisionals” which is “a word of generally good character and altogether flattering” of these items.

Pollock says that the covers may be of interest to “extreme specialists” and that the limited supply would cause items to have high prices, but that “fantastic” prices such as \$1,250.00 for the 1c. item and \$500.00 for the 2c. in unused condition is unjustified. The stamps are easily forged and it is not possible to expertize them.

Boggs, W. S. (1945). Chapter XVII-The Port Hood Provisionals. In *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada* (pp. 335–337). Quarterman Publications, 1975 (2nd printing).

Boggs repeats the story of the creation of these stamps and quotes the letter from the postmaster providing his explanation for their creation. He also states that the postmaster felt that it would be good to have some distinguishing mark on the provisional stamps that would be used on letters going outside the country. However, I have not found any Port Hood provisional covers addressed outside of Canada.

Boggs repeats the information in the postmaster’s letter that only 300 stamps at most were cut and that of those, only about 100 of each were surcharged.

Boggs goes on to support these provisional stamps as “entitled to high consideration, equal to that of any other Canadian bisect” and makes a multifaceted case for the legitimacy of these provisionals. He supports his argument by stating that while all Canadian bisections are against Post Office regulations, the bisection of stamps was an old habit in Nova Scotia and across Canada. He supports the postmaster’s contention that they were unable to obtain sufficient 2c. stamps in time to meet demand. He states that the stamps were created to meet a rate and were used for one day only. If the purpose was speculation, more would have been surcharges and they would have been used for a longer period. He states that there should be no suspicion that Stanley Gibbons obtained a few copies and we should be pleased that they had the foresight to get and preserve them.

Boggs repeats a portion of the diagram provided by Miller (1929) to illustrate the pattern of bisection. He states that the numeral ‘1’ surcharge was greenish blue and that the ‘2’ was in violet.

Boggs provides a listing of both unsurcharged and surcharged stamps. He states that used copies must be on a cover dated Jan. 5, 1899 and there must be two $\frac{1}{3}$ of the 1c. on a genuine cover. He reports that a double surcharge of the 2c. known, but since the ‘2’ was created with a handstamp, it is of little significance.

Click. (1946). Great Scott (part 3). *BNA Topics*, 3(2), 31.

Click describes the Port Hood Provisionals as abominations and says that these “monstrosities” should not be included in any catalogue. Click states that the stamps were not authorized by the Post Office and that they are easily forged. Click does not understand why unused examples are catalogued at 2.5 times the value of used ones. Click does admit that there some properly used Port Hood provisionals tied to cover, but that there are very few. Based on the article, it can be construed that Scott at the time catalogued these stamps for \$1,250.

Cryderman, M. W. (1947). The Port Hood Affair. *BNA Topics*, 4(11), 145.

Cryderman repeats the story of the creation of the Port Hood Provisional stamps but limits the date of use to January 5, 1899, and requotes the postmaster's letter explaining his actions. The layout of the bisections is explained verbally and eight possible varieties of the stamps are listed as follows:

1. Left $\frac{2}{3}$, unsurcharged.
2. Right $\frac{2}{3}$, unsurcharged.
3. Left $\frac{2}{3}$, surcharged 2 in violet.
4. Right $\frac{2}{3}$, surcharged 2 in violet.
5. Left $\frac{1}{3}$, unsurcharged.
6. Right $\frac{1}{3}$, unsurcharged.
7. Left $\frac{1}{3}$, surcharged 1 in greenish blue.
8. Right $\frac{1}{3}$, surcharged 1 in greenish blue.

Cryderman states that "deciding when a bisect or split is legitimate is somewhat difficult." If all bisections are to have met a required rate and been authorized by the Post Office, then no Canadian bisect is legitimate. However, some bisections are highly sought after by collectors and while they are not legal per se, "they are at least collectible, on cover only, of course, if they were not manufactured for philatelic purposes." Therefore, the question is whether these covers were philatelic creations.

Cryderman refutes the reasoning from Boggs (1945) that distance from supplies and short notice required the creation of these stamps and further states that letters without stamps could have been forwarded to Halifax as paid accompanied by the correct funds and had stamps applied there. Cryderman goes on to state that the foresight and ingenuity required to prepare the stamps and have the various colours of ink on hand, should have been sufficient to resolve the shortage within legal means. Cryderman also rebuts the idea that the small number of items created means that they were not created by a speculator by stating that a small number of covers at high prices or many covers at low prices could net the same return. The fact that Stanley Gibbons managed to obtain some covers before the Post Office Inspector shut things down shows that the creator knew what they were doing and quickly cashed in. Based on this reasoning, the stamps and covers should be considered the work of "some ambitious philatelist".

Cryderman states that the listing of these items in the Gibbons and Scott *Catalogues* should not provide them with legitimacy and that the items should be considered interesting oddities, collectible as such, ... provided they are correctly dated on cover."

The editor of the journal adds a note stating that much of the information in this article was obtained from Boggs' (1945), Jarrett's (1929) and Howes' (1911) books.

Jarrett, F. (1948). Letter to the Editor. *BNA Topics*, 5(2), 14.

In his letter referencing Cryderman (1947), Jarrett endorses the conclusion that “whatever Interest the postmarked covers may arouse as curiosities, the cut-up pieces of otherwise good 3c stamps were worthless Items that any amateur could prepare in any quantity. He supports this conclusion by discussing miniature printing kits that people could get by mail order and that the typeface of the rubber stamps were identical to those used to surcharge the provisional stamps.

He states that Donald A. King was the inspector sent to Port Hood to investigate the situation and as a prominent philatelist at the time, would likely have kept some copies of the stamps.

He also refutes the contention that the postmaster would not have been able to get appropriate stamps in time to meet a shortage by stating that supplies were obtained from Halifax and a simple telegram would have ensured that the stamps arrived the next day.

Jarrett concludes that Stanley Gibbons was hoodwinked, Scott’s “perpetuated the hoax” and that neither was willing to admit their mistake.

Pollock, F. W. (1948). Letter to the Editor. *BNA Topics*, 5(2), 14.

In his letter referencing Cryderman (1947), Pollock agrees with Cryderman’s evaluation that the Port Hood Provisionals are collectible oddities. Pollock says that people knew that the rate change was coming and that the postmaster in Port Hood had 4 stamps that could be used to make up the 2c. rate without mutilating a stamp of higher value (the regular 1c. and 2c. stamps, the 2c. Map stamp, and the ½c. stamp). So, the fact that the postmaster in Port Hood ran out of the 2c. stamps was surprising.

Pollock states that the “mutilations were [unquestionably] the product of a philatelic mind” and refers to an “official letter” that Poole references that states that the Port Hood postmaster acted “on the advice of some stamp friend”. He goes on to say that he has heard suggestions that that person was in fact the one who notified Ottawa of this issue, so as to be assured of controlling the total supplies of the stamps and covers.

MacDonnell, A. P. (1949). Short Sketches of Old Time Residents of Port Hood; of Events that occurred in the Past; and Things of the Long Ago. Chestico Museum.

This typewritten manuscript provides a short history of the McKay (sic.) family in Port Hood. The piece does not mention John MacKay’s role as postmaster, nor does it mention the controversy generated by his creation of the Port Hood provisional stamps. Information is provided on various locations of the post offices in town.

Stephenson, A. E. (1951). The Maple and Numeral Provisionals, 1899. *Maple Leaves*, 3(8), 133.

Stephenson is the founding president of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain and was made a Fellow of that Society in 1946.

Stephenson repeats the story of the creation of these stamps paraphrasing the information provided by the postmaster about the need, the numbers created, and that he issued unsurcharged bisects for use within the county but felt that mail going to other parts of the country required an overprint to “avoid doubts as to the validity of payment of the postage.” He also repeats the verbal description of the layout of the bisections. Stephenson is supportive of the contention that the need for the stamps was genuine as the notice of the change in rates was short and the distance from Ottawa, the supply centre, to Port Hood was vast.

Stephenson categorically disagrees with Holmes’ contention that the stamps are fakes and say that he believes that the postmaster issued them in good faith and the Post Office Department delivered them without charging post due, thus implicitly condoning their use.

While he states that the provisionals were said to have been used on January 5, 1899, only, he records that he has seen one copy dated the 4th and he feels that it is genuine. Stephenson acknowledges that fakes could easily be passed off but says that a “collector who gets one on cover, well-tied and certified, has a prize well worth possessing.”

Stephenson, A. E. (1953). Port Hood Provisionals, 1899. *Maple Leaves*, 4(6), 144.

In this short article, Stephenson quotes a letter he received from E.K. Allen, a member of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Allen describes having some bisects in the same format as those from Port Hood tied on piece by a Mulgrave NS postmark dated January 3rd. Allen suggests that the sender purchased the stamps in Port Hood but did not mail the letter until they got off the ferry from Cape Breton in Mulgrave. Allen states that Dr. Whitehead examined the piece and did not think that the postmark was faked. Based on this information, while Stephenson acknowledges that he has not seen the piece described by Allen, he recommends keeping an open mind about the first day of issue of these stamps.

Poole, B. W. H. (1953). Those Controversial Port Hood Bisects. *Scott’s Monthly Journal*, 34(4), 83–84.

Poole states that there is disagreement about the status of these provisional stamps but asserts that “the suspicion of philatelic influence [cannot] be regarded as definite grounds for their nullification.” He feels that the “detractors do not present any real facts that the postmaster was swayed by philatelic influence, nor show that he exceeded his authority by bisecting the stamp ...”. He states that while bisecting stamps in Canada was a fairly common practice, imprinting the value was uncommon.

Poole says that what we know about these stamps is from the original Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal articles published in 1899. He states that Howe quoted these articles in his book in 1911 but didn't add any new information.

Poole then repeats the story of the creation of these stamps, and states that on the morning of January 5, 1899, the postmaster ran out stamps. He then describes the creation of the stamps including the colour of the overprinted values and number of copies produced. He asserts that the "split stamps were not sold to the public, but were affixed by postal employees to letters handed in for mailing on that day only (Jan. 5, 1899)." Poole quotes the postmaster's statement that the provisional stamps were used on letters that were delivered throughout Canada [verify statement] and that it is known that several were sent to England as well.

Poole states that despite a lack of information regarding what happened to the unused stamps, it is unlikely that they were destroyed on the spot, since that would have thrown off the postmaster's accounts and it was to keep the books balanced that they were created in the first place. He also states that the fact that these surcharges can be easily reproduced by others is not a reason to remove their listing in catalogues, as there are many other overprints, not handstamps and printed that would fall into a similar situation.

Poole refutes that assertion by the Superintendent of the Stamp Branch in 1904 that the Port Hood Provisionals would have been treated as any other mutilated stamp by pointing out that letters with these stamps on them travelled through the post without postage due or other indication that they were invalid.

Poole completes his article by quoting Boggs (1945) who points to other Canadian bisects that are highly regarded and assert that since the period of use is so short, that speculation could hardly have been the motivator for their creation.

Poole provides an image of the right $\frac{2}{3}$ on piece with a partial word 'nald' in the lower left corner. The photo is listed as courtesy of The Philatelic Foundation.

Bain, Rev. J. S. (1955). Bringing News about People and Stamps. *BNA Topics*, 12(3), 82.

Bain quotes more or less the entirety of Evans' (1899a) piece in the Stanley Gibbons "Monthly Journal" providing the first report of the Port Hood Provisionals. He then goes on to point out some interesting fact including the rapidity with which this information was sent to Stanley Gibbons in time for publication in the January issue which means that the information must have been received less than 3 weeks after the Provisionals were produced and that the letter that contained the information was posted with the Provisional stamps. Bain then wonders if this cover is still in existence and states that "it would be a classic in more ways than one."

Daggett, H. M., Jr. (1955). Progressive Index for Volume 12 to April 1955. *BNA Topics*, 12(5), 134.

This issue of the journal provides an index listing the article by Bain (1955) in the March 1955 issue of the journal. It also lists Miller (1929) as an article that can be borrowed from the in the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) library.

Tomlinson, F. (Ed.). (1955). Beware of Bisects! *Maple Leaves*, 5(9), 273.

Tomlinson shows a cover that was imprinted with a post due handstamp clearly showing that the bisect it contained was rejected by the Canadian Post Office as means of payment. However, the postal authority cancelled the bisect, making it possible to cut the envelope removing the portion with the potage due handstamp, leaving the bisect on piece, and appearing to have been accepted as legitimate payment of postage.

While Tomlinson does not mention the Port Hood Provisionals, this could be relevant to the many cut pieces containing cancelled examples of these bisects.

Scott, B. (1955). Most collectors ... *BNA Topics*, 12(11), 362.

Scott does not mention the Port Hood Provisionals specifically, but provides illustrations from around the same period containing stamps that have been bisected. Scott makes the case that not all covers containing bisected stamps are collector made, that bisecting was a legitimate practice and, also that postmasters sometimes overprinted bisects with numerals so that their value could not be mistaken.

Bonnar, J. J. (1956). A Numeral Issue Bisect. *Maple Leaves*, 6(2), 39.

Bonnar describes a cover from Frizzleton to Mabou containing a 10c. bisected to create a 5c. stamp. He reviews the qualities of the cover and declares that it is unlikely that it is a philatelic creation. While he acknowledges that the post office did not authorize the creation of bisects, he states that many nonetheless travelled through the system.

Duncan, R. (1957). Clippings from B.N.A. Magazines, No. 42-Canada-Port Hood Bisect. *Maple Leaves*, 6(8), 237–239.

This piece is contained in a series that reproduces information from earlier articles in different journals and is an exact duplicate of the article by Miller 1929.

Lees-Jones, R. W. T. (1957). The Port Hood Bisect. *Maple Leaves*, 6(10), 290.

In this article in response to Duncan 's 1955 reproduction of Miller's 1929 article, Lees-Jones reproduces the articles provided by Jarrett in December 1930 and January 1931 that questions the necessity of the creation of these pieces, but notes that they were possibly accepted by the

Postmaster General as legitimate forms of payment, although no evidence of this assertion is provided.

Lee-Jones accepts Jarrett's assertion that these were philatelic creations and supports this contention by questioning how Stanley Gibbons ended up with a monopoly on the pieces.

Patrick, D. (1959). Canada's Provisional Stamps. *Canadian Philatelist*, 10(1), 26–27.

Within this article providing a general description of the provisional stamps created in Canada, Patrick discusses those created in Port Hood as the best-known unofficial ones. Patrick states that the reduction of the rate for domestic letters from 3c. to 2c. on January 1, 1899, created an unusual demand for 2c. stamps, and the postmaster "ordered" his assistant to create the stamps by splitting 3c. stamps into $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ pieces that were surcharged in violet with new 1c. and 2c. values.

While not explicitly stating it, Patrick appears to support the creation of the provisionals as legitimate by stating that "almost all of the low denominations in Canadian stamps issued prior to 1900 had been bisected and therefore used provisionally."

Richardson, E. (1963). #688-Counterfeit Port Hood Provisionals. *Canadian Philatelist*, 14(6), 265.

Richardson states that poorly made fakes of the Port Hood Provisionals are quite common and that there were a number of these made in the Toronto area a few years previous. These fakes are on used copies with the wrong date and even with portions of the wrong "town" or province showing in the postmark."

However, he recently added two pieces to his reference collection. One was a $\frac{2}{3}$ provisional stamp with a forged "2" surcharge tied to a large piece with an extremely good, forged the Port Hood postmark of January 5, 1899. The second is a piece with two righthand $\frac{1}{3}$ pieces surcharges with "1" also tied to a piece with the high-quality postmark forgery.

While no illustrations are provided, Richardson states that the cancelation "is an almost perfect forgery of that illustrated on pages 336-337 of Boggs' "Canada"."

Richardson does not feel that Stanley Gibbons should have listed the Port Hood Provisionals and justifies his statement by saying that the rate went into effect on January 1st and that gave the postmaster 4 days to order additional supplies of the 2c. stamp from Halifax which was only 24 hours away by train. He further states that even their inclusion in Bogg's does not make them legitimate.

Gyorfi, Dr. A. W. (1965). About Cape Breton Provisionals and Bisects. *HALPEX '65, Maritime Philatelic Exhibition Booklet*.

Gyorfi reproduces the letter from the postmaster in Port Hood stating his reason for creating the provisional stamps and the numbers that he produced.

Gyorfi acknowledges the controversy that these stamps have produced.

He reproduces a portion of Evans 1899a describing the bisecting of the stamps and quoting correspondence that describes the surcharging. He states that the speed this information reached Stanley Gibbons and the fact that the letter containing this information was mailed with Port Hood provisional stamps would support Jarrett's contention that their creation was a speculative venture.

Gyorfi also relates the story of the Port Hood provisional postmarked January 3, 1899, in Mulgrave as reported by Mrs. E.K. Allen to A.E. Stephenson (1953) as peculiar. He also describes the cover with the 10c. bisect that was sent from Frizzleton to Mabou that was discussed by Bonnar 1956.

Smith, P. W. (1967). John MacKay. In *The Smiths of Cape Breton* (p. 263). City Printers, 1985 (2nd Printing).

This piece provides a short history of John McKay. The piece does not mention John MacKay's role as postmaster. It mentions that his son, Daniel J. MacKay, was a postmaster in Port Hood and attributes the creation of the Port Hood provisional stamps to him. Smith states that some Port Hood provisional stamps were sold on the "London exchange" on January 24, 1947, for £155 (\$620.00).

Hicks, D. H. D. (1968). A Cross Roads, Country Harbour Provisional. *BNA Topics*, 25(6), 129.

Hicks refers to "Jarrett (page 79)" (Jarrett 1929) and how "unauthorized bisects" of the Victoria numeral issue "were sometimes accepted in full payment of the rates they represented when put in the mails by collectors and dealers."

Hicks states that the sudden change in rates announced on December 29, 1898 with an effective date of January 1, 1899, caused post offices to run out of 2c. stamp. Hicks feels that the post offices could have run out of stamps and that the bisects were valid because multiple post offices took the action of creating bisects. By showing that the population of Country Harbour was 705 and Port Hood was 1,891 in 1901, he appears to be suggesting that, as a result of its higher population, that Port Hood was just as likely as Country Harbour to have run out of stamps.

The Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F. Lichtenstein Collections, Sale 5, British North America, Part Two. (1969, May 19).

This sales catalogue states that “The ‘1’ overprint is in a fugitive blue ink and that in the case of the Dale stamps the color is quite faint. It is unlikely therefore that any Committee would be able to express a positive opinion.” Therefore, to demonstrate their provenance, the items with these stamps were offered “as is” with a certificate indicating that they were from the Dale collection.

Advertisement for H.R. Harmer Catalogue for sale on December 9-11, 1969. (1969). *BNATopics*, 26(11), 296.

This short piece announces an HR Harmer auction where a left hand $\frac{2}{3}$ Port Hood provisional with a double surcharge will be on the blocks. It states that the piece listed by Stanley Gibbons but unpriced was expected to fetch around US\$5,000.

The image does not provide a good copy of the postmark, but the portion of the writing that can be seen would appear to be the end of the name MacDonald.

Lowe, R. (1973). The Port Hood Provisionals. In *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps 1639-1952: Vol. V-The Empire in North America* (p. 217). Robson Lowe Ltd.

Lowe repeats the story of the creation of these stamps, quoting Boggs (1945). He then provides a modified image of the bisects used numbers to show the value of the stamps as they were cut. He describes the surcharging but only provides information on the different colours in the valuation table. Lowe then quotes the postmaster’s letter describing the number of stamps that were created. He states that Donald A. King investigated and destroyed all the unused and used copies that were found. However, some covers were sold before the investigation to Stanley Gibbons who stamp their name on the back the these covers.

Lowe then provides the following values that he states were based on auction realizations on the dates provided (m/yy).

Description	Unused	On piece
"1" in blue on $\frac{1}{3}$ 3c.	£315 (5/69)	£1150 (5/69)
"2" in violet on $\frac{2}{3}$ 3c.	£29 5(5/69)	£400 (2/ 68)
Number Issued: about 100 of each.		

Varieties: “2” double.

Pairs: “1” £250 (1/70)

Covers: 1c. (2) £800 (12/70), 2c. £1150, £1750 (5/69); £650 (1/70), £485 (12/70)

Lowe goes on to provide information about forgeries starting his discussion by saying that “The Port Hood provisionals are of poor parentage and many students have considered them to be an illegitimate issue.” He states that expertizations are “usually valueless and that he has “seen more forged Port Hood provisionals with forged cancellations with certificates of genuineness than [he has] seen of genuine provisionals.” He states that the test to determine genuine is so simple, he will not provide it as that would enable forgers to do a better job.

Mitchell, R. (1976). Frodel Port Hood Bisect Forged Cancellation. In *Nova Scotia Fakes & Forgeries* (p. 11). Scotia Stamp Studio.

Mitchell provides an illustration of a “Frodel Port Hood bisect, backstamped FORGED SURCH – FORGED CANCELLATION – ANDRE FRODEL”

Gillam, L. F. (Ed.). (1976). Those Controversial Port Hood Bisects (reprint) [Review of *Those Controversial Port Hood Bisects (reprint)*, by B. W. H. Poole]. *Maple Leaves*, 16(3), 59.

Gillam begins with an exact reprint of Poole, 1953. This is followed by Gillam’s comments regarding a Port Hood provisional piece that was sold by Phillips-Jacoby Ltd. of Montreal at auction on April 30, 1976. The cover was dated January 4, 1899, with a postmark that protruded to the left of the stamp and was addressed to the Hon. A. A. Macdonald at Charlottetown, PEI. Gillam notes that both Stanley Gibbons and Poole, 1953 denote January 5, 1899, as the date for the use of these stamps, but notes that the illustration in Poole is postmarked January 4, 1899. Gillam finds it interesting that both covers were addressed to names ending ‘nald’ perhaps indicating they were both addressed to the same person. While Gillam acknowledges Poole’s 1953 and Boggs, 1945 “spirited defence of the legitimacy of these bisects”, he states that there are still “some intriguing and unanswered questions” such as why (if it is in fact the case) were two of such significantly stamped letters sent to the same person on the same day. Gillam concludes by asking if Mr. Macdonald was a stamp collector or are we just surmising too much?

Stulberg, F. (1977). Half a Stamp is not Better than One. *Canadian Philatelist*, 28(2), 101,103.

Stulberg discusses the value of covers with bisected stamps and states that the Port Hood Provisionals command significant prices at auction. While Stulberg states that bisects were never accepted by the Canadian Post Office as legitimate payment for postage, there were situations where postmasters did create these stamps and the rate reduction of January 1899 was the “one change that brought about the greatest number of examples of divided stamps”. Stulberg concludes that covers containing postage due stamps are of greater interest to collectors since “they show the proper application of postal regulations.”

Herst, H. (1983). Proof stamps mistaken for real thing. *The Canadian Stamp News*, 8(3), A9.

Herst discusses the removal of the listing of the Port Hood provisionals from the *Scott Catalogue*. He says that the stamps were listed as official issues for years despite having been made with no

authority. While Port Hood was not the only post office to bisect stamps, it was the only one to surcharge the provisional stamps with a number to indicate the new rate. Herst feels that if it was a speculative venture to create philatelic novelties that the postmaster would have prepared more than 300 copies.

He says that the de-listing of the Port Hood provisionals from the Scott *Catalogue* has removed “what official acceptance philatelists were wont to give them in past years.” As of that date, the provisionals were only mentioned in a footnote, indicating that there were prepared and used without authorization.

He states that the stamps were only used on January 5, 1899.

Gilles, A. (Spring/Summer 1983). Port Hood Provisionals. *Chestico Museum & Historical Society Newsletter*, 1-2.

This article is basically a reprint of information from Patrick, 1959 and Boggs, 1945. However, it does mention that the editor of the newsletter received a copy of an article that appeared in a number of newspapers including the Toronto Globe and Mail that mentioned these stamps. The article also contains an undated reprint of an obituary for Daniel J. MacKay, who was postmaster when the provisionals were issued.

O’Keefe, D. (1985). Canada Stamps Split in Thirds. In *Linn’s Philatelic Gems: Vol. II* (pp. 32–33). Linn’s Stamp News;

O’Keefe describes the unauthorized creation of this stamps by the postmaster at Port Hood. She states that Donald King sent inspector CJ MacDonald (this is the first mention of a name for the inspector), who confiscated all the remaining bisects and destroyed them. She goes on to state that the postmaster had already sold some stamps and covers with the bisect on them to Stanley Gibbons before the inspector arrived. The covers can be identified by the Stanley Gibbons name on the reverse. O’Keefe states that the postmaster used most of the provisionals to send covers to his friends and local businesses.

O’Keefe quotes the Stanley Gibbons catalogue as pricing the 1c. on 3c. at £3,500 (approx. US\$4,600) and the 2c. on 3c. at £3,000 (approx. US\$4,000). She states that Scott lists the items but does not provide values.

Munden, C. (1987). The Port Hood Provisionals. In *Post Offices of Cape Breton, Vol. 1, Inverness County* (Vols. 1, Inverness County, p. 122). Scotia Stamp Studio.

Munden repeats the story of the creation of these stamps and he states that they were not authorized by the Post Office. He says that only those stamps cancelled on January 5, 1899, are authentic. He states that he has also heard from an apparently reliable source that the creation of these stamps was just a hoax by a schoolboy using a toy stamp pad.

Munden states that he is undecided as to the legitimacy of these stamps and states that the postmaster could have gotten two cent stamps from nearby post offices, marked the covers with a paid manuscript, his initials and a datestamp, used up the one cent stock or trisected the three cent stamp, used the two cent pieces and sent the remaining one thirds to the Post Office with an explanation. He contrasts these arguments with the statement that “bisecting and trisecting were an old, established tradition in the Maritimes.”

Canada: Un timbre coté à la proportionnelle. (1988). *Timbroscopie*, 53, 72–73.

In this article in the French magazine, *Timbroscopie*, the author tells the story of the creation of the Port Hood provisionals, their layout, number of copies and some sales to Stanley Gibbons, however, he states in error that the postmaster was Winthrop S. Boggs!

They state that the surcharge on the 2c. portion was in red, while the surcharge on the 1c. portion was in purple. They state that the stamps were created without authorization as was the case in a number of other post offices, but what makes these unique is the imprinting of the surcharge.

The author cautions that it is important to get these stamps authenticated.

They provide an illustration of a stamp that was sold in Paris in June of 1987 for 21 500 F, about 2/3 of the current catalogue price of 32,500 F.

Herst, H., jr. (1990). Change doesn't always come easy. *Canadian Stamp News*, 14(18), 5–6.
This is an exact duplicate of Herst (1983).

Robertson, I. S. (2002). New postage rate left Port Hood postmaster short, so he improvised. *Canadian Stamp News*, 27(1), 10, 24.

Roberston provides information about the general situation with postal rates and printings leading up to the postmaster's creation of the provisionals. Roberston misidentifies E.S Sweet as the postmaster of Port Hood and misattributes his letter regarding the creation of provisionals at Cross Roads Country Harbour to Port Hood. It then continues by attributing information from the letter from the postmaster at Port Hood identifying the quantities of provisionals made and the statement that they were made to keep his accounts straight to Sweet as well.

Robertson states that while these items have been disparaged by “so-called serious collectors”, they have become more sought after over time. He states that the most sought-after examples of the Port Hood provisionals have stuttered or doubled overprints of the numbers.

Robertson states that high quality forgeries have been created including forgeries created by cutting genuine stamps, applying forged overprints and striking with the genuine canceller. He states that the forgeries are “detectable when compared to the genuine provisional stamps”.

Canadian Stamp Auctions Ltd. (2003, November 17). *Commentary No. 53—The Port Hood Provisional Stamps*. Canadian Stamp Auctions.

http://www.canadianstampresearch.com/Commentary/Number_53.htm

This article describes the two Port Hood provisional lots in the Christie’s Robson Lowe auction of October 30, 1986. It quotes the *Unitrade Catalogue* that says that the covers were dated January 4 and 5, 1899 and that the surcharges on the 1c. are in blue and on the 2c. are violet. It quotes the catalogue value for each of the stamps on cover at US\$6,250. The article goes on to show of a cover from the JN Sissons auction of June 25, 1974, and a piece from the R Maresch & Son auction of October 7, 1997.

Holmes’ 1943 text, opining that the stamps were not worthy of collecting, is quoted at length. This is followed by an extensive quotation of Boggs 1943, including a portion of the letter from the postmaster in Port Hood justifying his action, which offers a more positive assessment.

The article ends by offering congratulations to the postmaster for solving his shortage of stamps by creating the surcharged bisects.

Aucoin, M. (2003). *Port Hood Stamps of 5 January 1899 Caused Controversy* [Review of *Port Hood Stamps of 5 January 1899 Caused Controversy*, by L. F. Gillam & B. W. H. Poole]. *Participaper*, 24(5), 6.

This article is an exact copy of the reprint of Poole, 1953 that was found in Gillam, 1976 including Gillam’s editorial comments. The article contains an introduction by the editor of the *Participaper* explaining that John Gillies, editor of the Chestico Museum newsletter found the article in a copy of *Maple Leaves* that was being sold at a used bookstore in Halifax.

Royal Philatelic Collection at 78th Convention of RPSC-McLennan Cover. (2006). *Royal Philatelic Collection at 78th Convention of RPSC*.

In this booklet illustrating a portion of the royal philatelic collections that was shown at the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada Convention in 2006, two samples of Port Hood provisional covers that reside in the Queen’s collection are shown. No descriptive text is provided.

Arfken, G. B., & Pawluk, W. S. (2009). *The January 1, 1899 rate reduction from 3¢ to 2¢*. *BNA Topics*, 66(1), 518.

The discussion of the Port Hood Provisionals is contained within a larger article that provides a general description of the January 1, 1899, rate reduction from 3c. to 2c. Arfken & Pawluk supports

the opinion that the time between the announcement of the rate change and its implementation was so abrupt that a shortage of 2c. stamps was created. Arfken & Pawluk recognize the “notoriety” of the Port Hood post office’s “unauthorized but creative solution”. They quote Jarrett’s “hostility” to the bisections with his later acknowledgement that they were accepted to pay for postage and Boggs endorsement of the collection of these covers.

Frank, Dr. J. (2014). International News, Letter from London. *South African Philatelist*, 90(6), 159.

Frank describes Her Majesty the Queen’s exhibit of ‘Canada and its Provinces’ which opened the Royal Philatelic Society of London’s 2014-15 season. Frank mentions that some Port Hood Provisionals were shown, and that they are considered by some Canadian authorities to be contentious.

Brixton Chrome. (2015, September 18). *The 1898-1902 Numeral Issue*. Canadian Philately - The Stamps and Postal History of Canada 1851 to Present. canadianphilately.blogspot.com/2015/09/the-1898-1902-numeral-issue.html

This article, posted on September 18, 2015, mentions the Port Hood Provisional as part of a larger description of the Numeral issue of 1898 to 1902. It provides a very general description of the unauthorized creation of the stamps and states that they are exceedingly rare. It provides an illustration of a cover “recently sold at a Spink sale”.

This could be reference to lot 2277 in Spink Shreves 2009 sale. Check later Spink auctions to see if this was re-sold.

Pugh, K.W. (2020a). Fake Port Hood Provisional Cancellation - F.E. Eaton. *Series II – Release 22*.

Pugh describes a fake Port Hood cancel often used on fakes of the Port Hood Provisional. Pugh describes the postmark as 20.5mm in diameter with the second “O” of :Hood” as being flat at the top, the left side of the bottom curve of the “5” extending past the vertical stroke of the number, the “S” of “N.S” appearing to be inverted, no dot at the end of “N.S”, and no dot between the “T” and the “H”. Pugh states that most of these cancels on fakes are very cleanly struck. Pugh provides illustrations of the three genuine split ring cancellations of port Hood for the reader to compare and contrast against.

Pugh, K.W. (2020b). Genuine Port Hood Provisionals - Or Not?. *Series II – Release 21*.

In this piece, Pugh shows two 2c. lefthand bisects and states that due to their obvious differences, both cannot be equally genuine and that it may be likely that neither are, despite one be expertized and the other being described as genuine by a well-established New York auction house. Pugh goes on to state that the bisected stamps off-cover do not inherently provide enough evidence to

certify them as genuine. Pugh states that the stamps must be tied to a cover with all postal markings intact to verify their status.

Pugh, K.W. (2020c). Port Hood Provisional “Favour” Cover. *Series II – Release 22.*

Kenneth Pugh is recognized as a leading expert in Canadian philatelic fakes and forgeries. Pugh does not consider any Port Hood Provisional cover “entirely genuine.” While “genuine covers” are listed in Scott, he feels that their status is dubious. Pugh states that when the Maritimes agent for Stanley Gibbons Ltd. heard of the provisionals, he went to Port Hood and obtained some backdated covers from the postmaster and some genuine provisionals still in stock. Most of these covers were reportedly sold by Stanley Gibbons to Ferrari and Alfred Lichtenstein. Pugh states that these covers never travelled through the post. Many postal historians, including Pugh, do not recognize these favour covers as completely legitimate, but there are many other philatelic rarities, also favour covers, that are accepted by leading philatelists.

Pugh, K.W. (2020d). Port Hood Provisionals - Genuine “Favours”. *Series II – Release 22.*

Pugh considers it equally possible that Port Hood Provisional covers could either be favour covers that were obtained shortly after January 5, 1899, and backdated or genuinely used through the post on that day.

Hahn, C. M. (2021, December 12). Part 7—*The Jazz Era*. U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, New York Chapter. www.nystamp.org/postal-history-articles/part-7-the-jazz-era/3/

Hahn states that Mr. Curie, the Collectors Club President in 1926, had rarities including the Port Hood provisional and he sold his collection in the spring of 1939 in London.

Library and Archives Canada. (2023, February 10). *Port Hood Postmasters List*. Collection Search-Post Offices and Postmasters. [https://recherche-collection-search.bac-](https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=posoffposmas&IdNumber=14424&q=port%20hood)

[lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=posoffposmas&IdNumber=14424&q=port%20hood](https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=posoffposmas&IdNumber=14424&q=port%20hood)

This webpage provides a listing of the postmasters in Port Hood from 1868 until after 1973.

Bone, James. (2023, March 15). Faked, forged and counterfeit stamps at Library and Archives Canada. Library and Archives Canada Blog.

thediscoverblog.com/2023/03/16/faked-forged-and-counterfeit-stamps-at-library-and-archives-canada/

Bone provides a short biography of Andre Frodel, who was a well known forger living in Vancouver, as a boarder of Fred Eaton. Bone states that Frodel was likely making forgeries for Eaton who was probably selling them as genuine. Eaton donated his forged materials to the National Postal Museum, but he appears to have falsely attributed them to Frodel, who being dead

could not contest this attribution. Many of Eaton's donated items are marked on the back as being forgeries by Frodel.