

The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of six blue postage stamps. Each stamp is rectangular with a perforated border and features a central shield emblem. The shield contains a crown at the top, a ship in the middle, and a fish at the bottom. The words "BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE" are arched across the top, and "THREE PENCE" is arched across the bottom.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA & VANCOUVER ISLAND

by

Tom Meyerhof

5 December 2019

HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



1858 Map of British Columbia

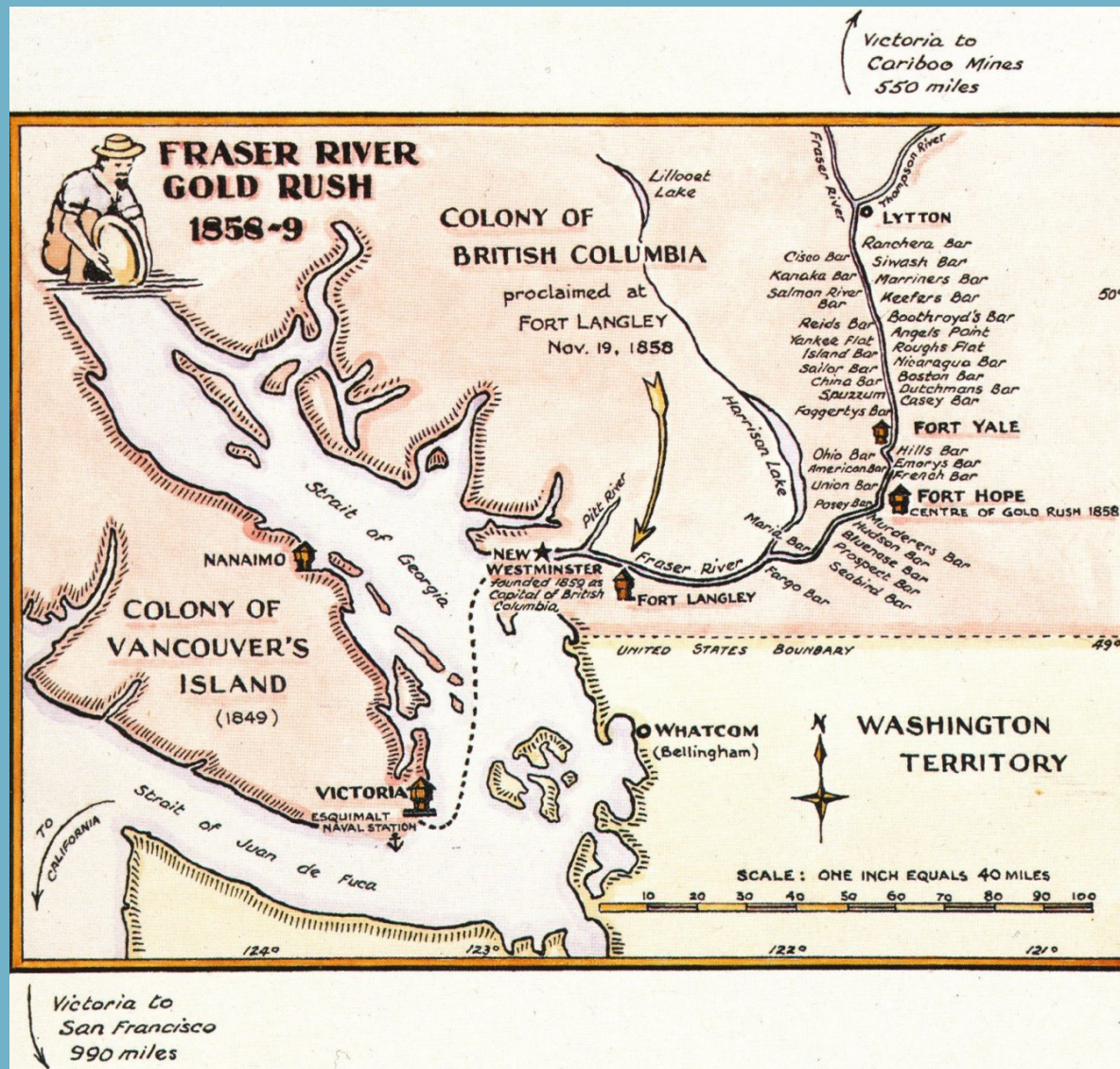
Date	Event
1849, Jan	Vancouver Island Becomes a Crown Colony
1858, Apr	Fraser River Gold Rush
1858, Aug	British Columbia Becomes a Separate Crown Colony
1860, Apr	First Joint 2½d Stamp Issued
1860, Jul	Separate Postal Administration Created for Each Colony
1862, Jul	Cariboo Gold Rush
1865, Sep	Vancouver Island Issues 5¢ & 10¢ Stamps
1865, Nov	British Columbia Issues 3d Stamp
1866, Jan	British Columbia Adopts Decimal Currency
1866, Aug	Colonies Unite as British Columbia
1867, Apr	Postal Services United
1869, Mar	Surcharged Cents Stamps Issued
1871, Jul	British Columbia Joins Confederation
1871, Aug	Canadian Stamps Sold in British Columbia

BRITISH COLUMBIA BECOMES A CROWN COLONY



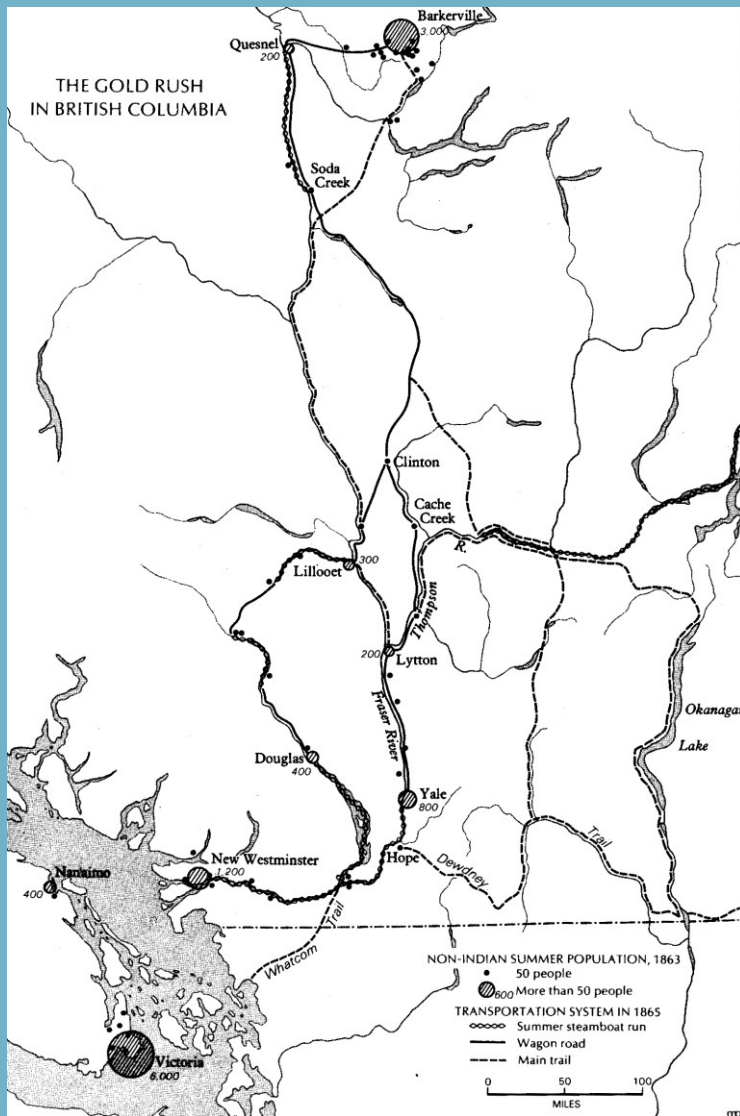
Governor James Douglas in the Big House at Fort Langley Reading the Proclamation that Declared British Columbia a Crown Colony, 19 November 1858

MAP AT THE TIME OF THE 1858-59 GOLD RUSH



Fort Langley was the Capital of British Columbia In 1858











NON-INDIAN POPULATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Town	1863 Summer Population	1867 Population
Barkerville	3000	1000
Clinton	50	50
Douglas	400	0
Esquimalt	50	400
Hope	50	200
Lillooet	300	250
Lytton	200	300
Moodyville	0	200
Nanaimo	400	700
New Westminster	1200	600
Quesnel	200	50
Soda Creek	50	50
Victoria	6000	3800
Yale	800	500

British Columbia Joined Confederation in 1871

SUMMARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA & VANCOUVER ISLAND STAMP ISSUES

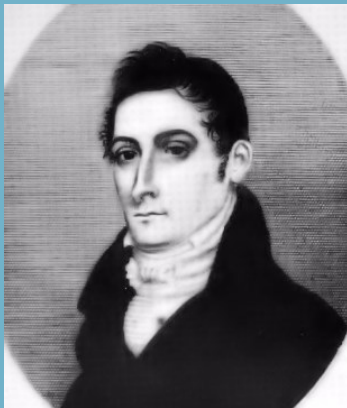
Issue Date	Stamp Design					
March 1860						
19 September 1865 - perf 14 + imperforate	 					
1 November 1865						
1868 - 1871 perf 14 12 March 1869 - perf 12½						

All Stamps were Printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd., London, England

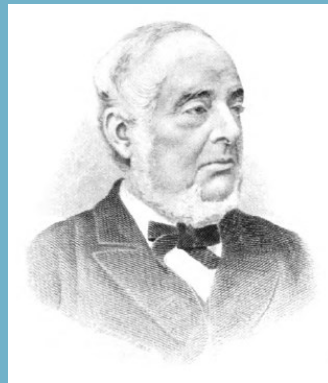
DE LA RUE & CO. LTD., LONDON, ENGLAND



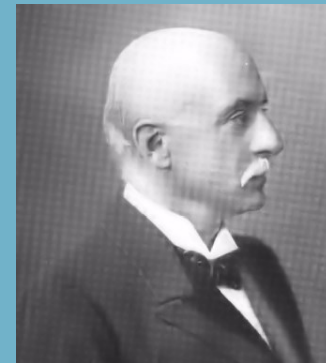
De La Rue Printing Works, 110 Bunkhill Row, 1856



Thomas De La Rue, 1793-1866



Warren De La Rue, 1815-1889

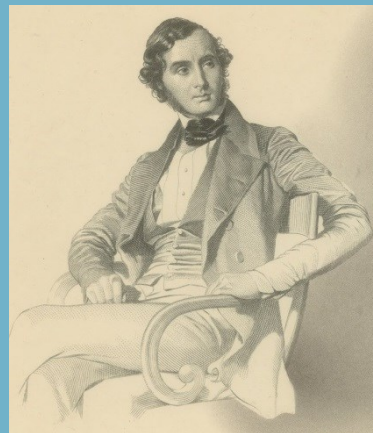


Warren William De La Rue, 1847-1921

DE LA RUE - YOUNG QUEEN VICTORIA HEADS



1837 Wyon Medal



Jean Ferdinand Joubert, 1810-1884



1855 – Original Die Used for GB
Diadem - Crosses & Roses



1860 - First Colonial Die Used for BC & VI
Diadem - Cross, Fleur-de-Lys & Shamrock



1865 - Second Colonial Die Used for VI
Diadem - Balls, Thistles & Shamrock

DIE PREPARED FOR JOINT BC & VI STAMP



Original GB Die with Diadem
Removed, 3 April 1859



Progressive Die Proof for Re-
engraved Diadem, September 1859



Finished Die Proof for Re-engraved
Diadem

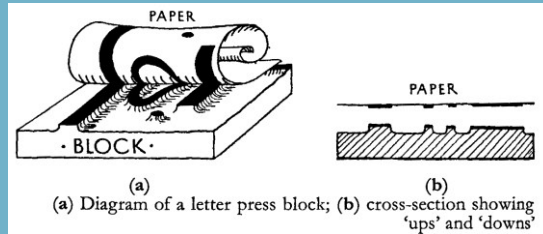


Unfinished Die, 24 November 1859

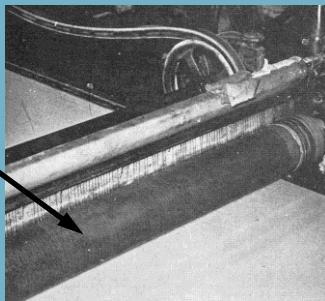


Issued Stamp, March 1860

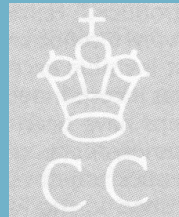
DE LA RUE PRINTING PROCESS FOR BC & VI STAMPS



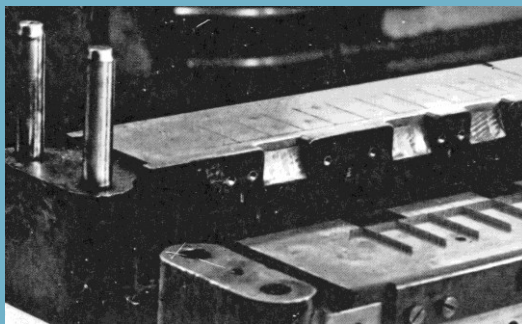
Relief or Surface Printing Process



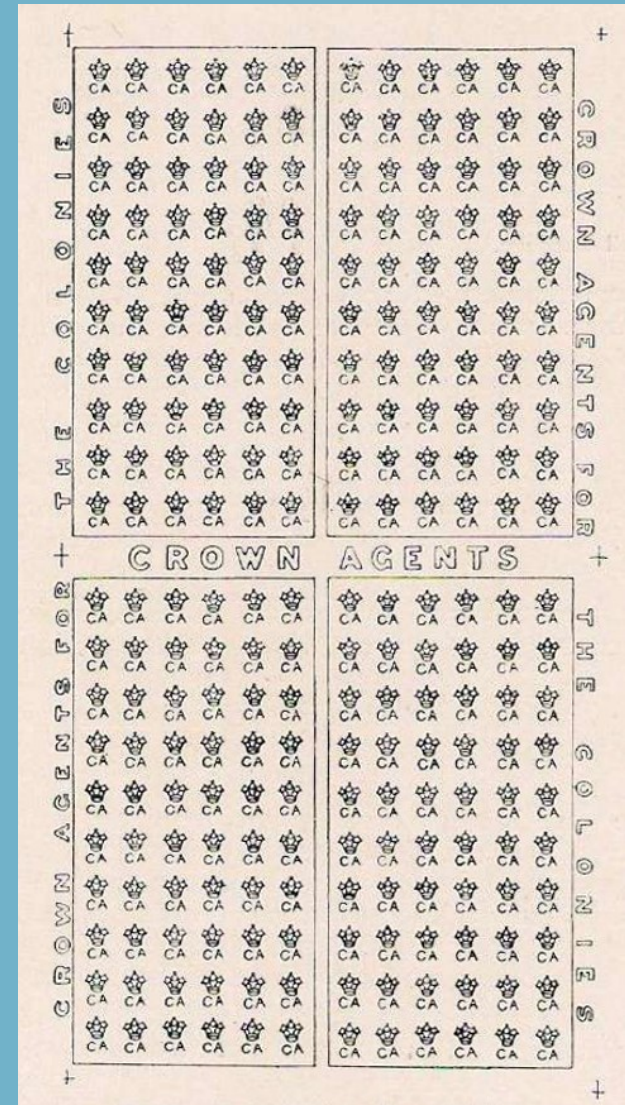
Dandy Roll with Multiple Watermark Images on Wire Mesh



CC Watermark Found on Most BC & VI Stamp Issues



Single Line Comb Perforator - disassembled
Hole Plate (top), Pin Plate (bottom)



De La Rue Crown Agents Sheet Layout
for 240 Subjects in Four Panes

1859 UNISSUED JOINT STAMP OF BC & VI



Strip from Bottom Right Pane of Unissued Imperforate Sheet



Various Specimen Overprints

1862 Reprint

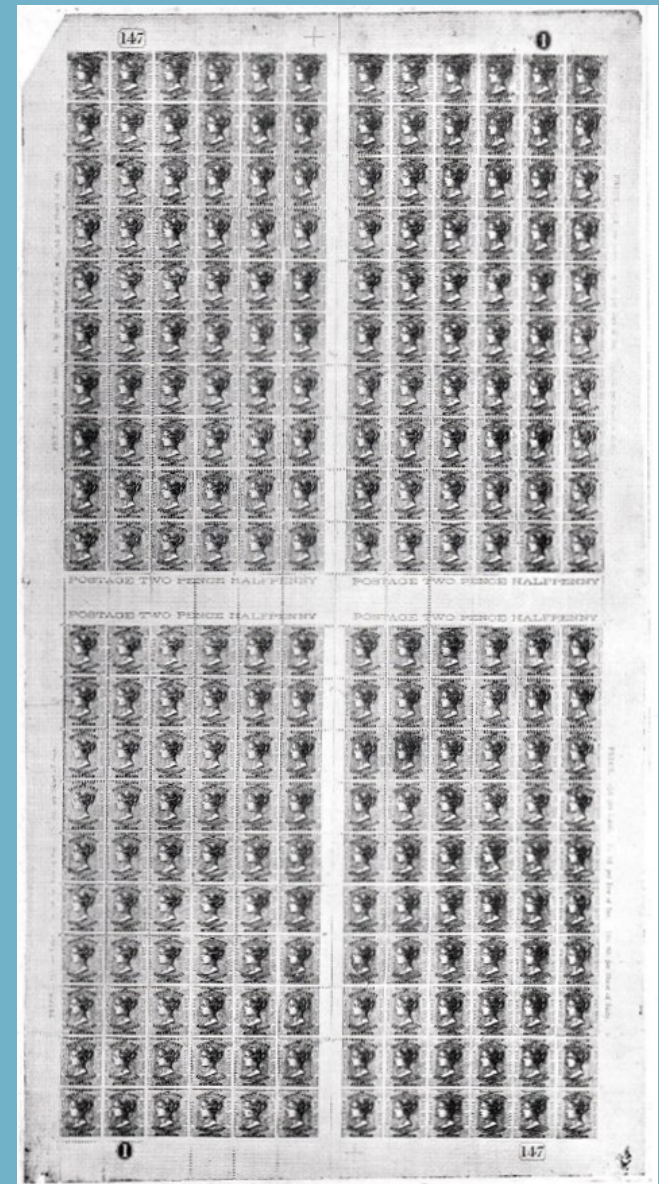
LAYOUT OF 1860 JOINT STAMP ISSUE OF BC & VI



Block from Left Centre of Sheet



Lower Right Block from Lower Right Pane



Only Known 2½d Stamp Sheet - "The Mayfair Find"

SOME 2½d SHADES

1860 - THE 2½d. PERFORATED 14: UNUSED SHADES

THE colour for this stamp was taken from the Crown Agent's 1860 "Scheme of colours for denoting various values of Colonial Stamps: - 2½d. Pale Pink."

Although only one printing was made (981 sheets probably took two days) several mixes of colour were used, resulting in a diversity of shades.



Brownish-rose, the colour of the imperf. imprimatus



Deep brownish-rose



Dull brownish-rose



Rose



Bright rose



Pinkish-rose



Orange-rose, near to colour of the imperf. orange-brown sheet.



Dull lilac-rose



Pale brownish-pink



(Note: Dull dingy shades predominate; deep bright colours are rare).

SOME 2½d PLATE FLAWS & PRINTING VARIETIES

1860 - 2½d. Perf. 14 (Continued).

1860.

2½d. PERF. 14: PRINTING AND PERFORATION VARIETIES.

THERE are few varieties - only a very occasional printing flaw or perforating error can be found.



Heavy Chis Weak Chis
-effect of ink and pressure in printing.



Dot over crown

Gutter margin - originally 1/8th of stamps had wide margins, but they have since been removed



Dot in ear

Normal perforation.



Dot in neck

Originally gutter margin at right, perf. poorly taken.



Doubling of frame

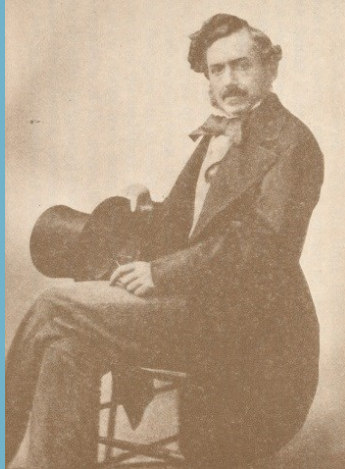
Margin at right scissor trimmed.



Stamps 2mm. shorter than normal, due to stamping error.

Note
This 2½d. B.S. was the first stamp of that value - as the next 1871 when 2½d. GB appeared as "Very Fine".

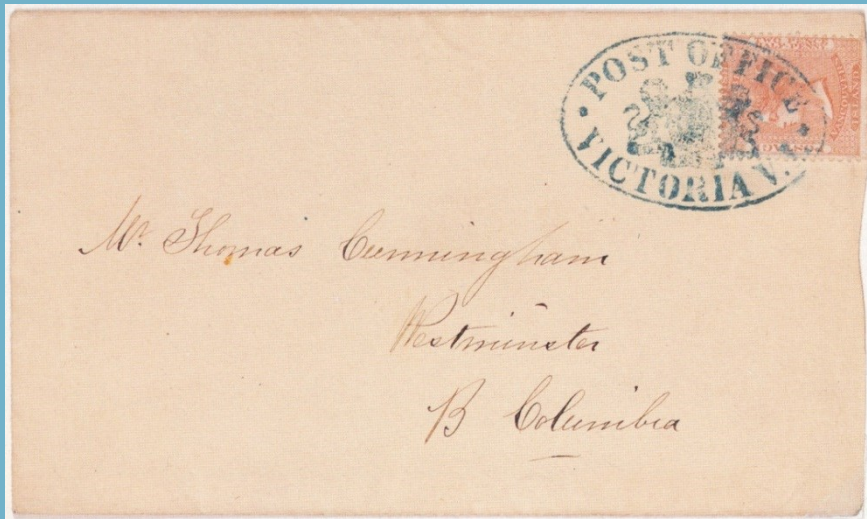
1860 JOINT STAMP ISSUE OF BC & VI



William Driscoll Gosset, Acting Postmaster General, British Columbia & Vancouver Island
June 1859 - July 1860



Victoria Post Office Built in 1858 (photo taken 1871)

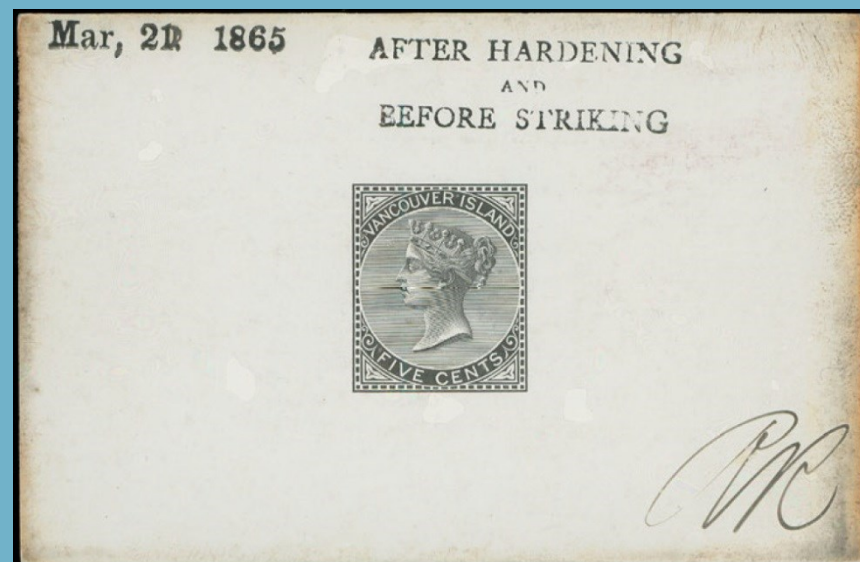
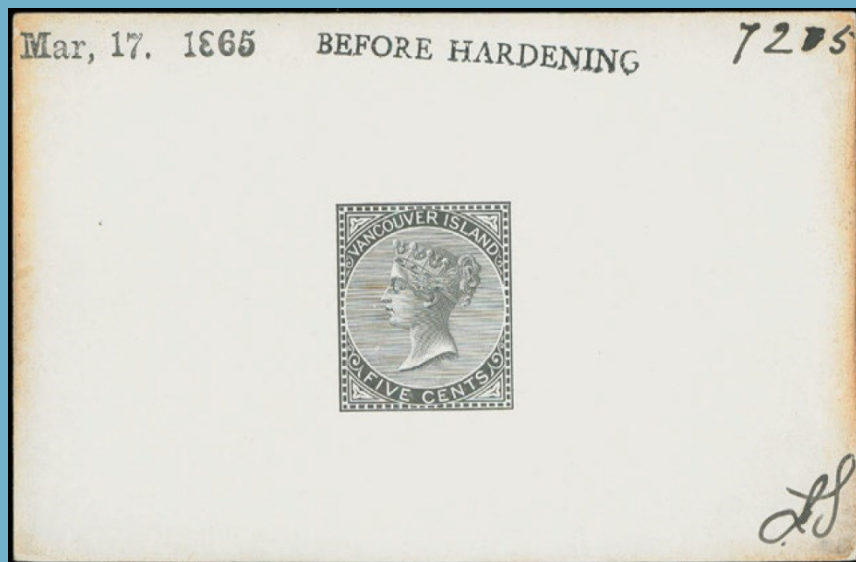


Inter-Colonial Cover with 2½d Stamp



Double-weight Cover with 5d to Pay Colonial Portion

1865 5¢ QUEEN VICTORIA VANCOUVER ISLAND STAMP



Proofs Taken Before and After Hardening the Die

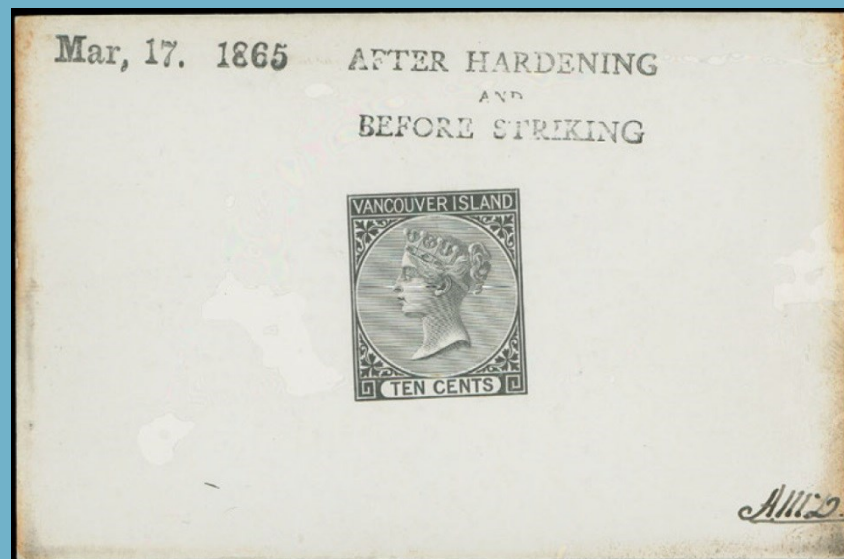


De La Rue Reference Copies



Issued Stamps

1865 10¢ QUEEN VICTORIA VANCOUVER ISLAND STAMP



Proof Taken After Hardening the Die



De La Rue Reference Copies



Issued Stamps

SOME 10¢ PLATE FLAWS & PRINTING VARIETIES

1865

THE TEN CENTS VANCOUVER ISLAND PERF 14 - VARIETIES

PLATE VARIETIES



Broken circle, constant



Corner flaw - see imperf



Damaged frame

PRINTING FLAWS



Blotch front of chin



Dot in LAND



Dot in G

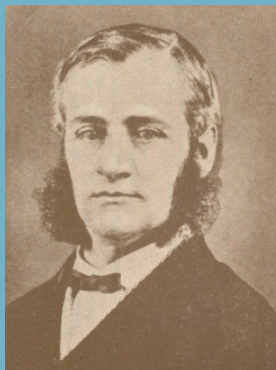


White streak

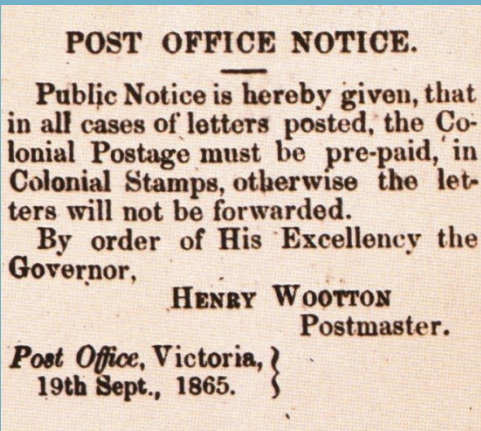
INVERTED WATERMARKS



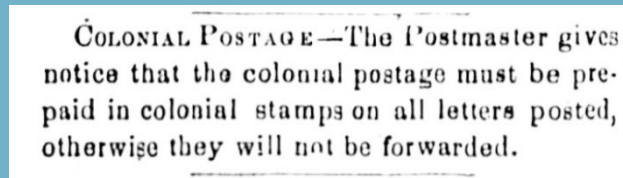
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VANCOUVER ISLAND STAMPS



Henry Wootton, Vancouver Island Postmaster
October 1861 - November 1866



Newspaper Announcement
in Victoria Daily Evening Post



Newspaper Announcement
29 Sep 1865 in The Daily British Colonist

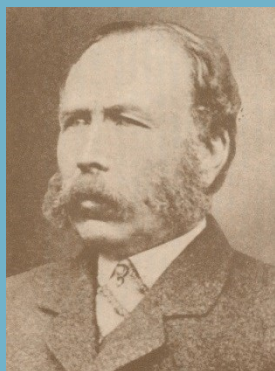


Intercolonial Cover Rated 35¢ in Imperforate Stamps



Cover to England Rated 30¢ in Perforated Stamps

PRELUDE TO THE NEXT BRITISH COLUMBIA STAMP



Warner Reeve Spalding, New Westminster PM, Apr - Nov 1859,
British Columbia Postmaster, Jul 1860 - Mar 1864,
Postmaster General British Columbia Apr 1864 - Apr 1866

PUBLIC NOTICE.

FROM and after the 1st January, 1863, all letters and papers leaving the General Post Office, New Westminster, will have the date on which they are dispatched stamped on the envelope.

WARNER R. SPALDING, J.P.,

Postmaster General, B. C.

General Post Office, New Westminster, 30th Dec., 1862.

The Government Gazette, British Columbia
vol. 2, no. 10, 8 August 1863

PUBLIC NOTICE.

On and after the 20th day of June 1864 all letters and mail matter liable to postage must be prepaid.

Until other stamps shall have been substituted there will be issued for the prepayment of postage the postage stamps at present in use bearing the mark 2½d, for which the sum of three-pence will in future be charged.

WARNER R. SPALDING,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
May 13th, 1864.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS.

1. Every Postmaster will consider himself the Agent of the Department in regard to its affairs in his immediate vicinity, so far as to carefully observe, and promptly report to it everything tending to affect its interests, efficiency, and utility.

2. It is especially expected that he will keep a vigilant eye upon the manner in which the Mails are carried to and from his Office. This is amongst the most important of his duties.

3. If a Mail Carrier, having the Mail in charge, become intoxicated, he will instantly dismiss him, employ another at the expense of the Contractor, and report the facts to the Department.

4. He will report promptly all irregularities of Mail Carriers in charge of the Mail, and the causes when known.

5. If the Mail be carried on horseback, he will see that it be properly secured from wet.

6. He will also observe how Mails are carried by any Steamer landing near his Office, and will report to the General Post Office every case in which he finds them exposed on deck, or not secured in some proper place under lock and key.

7. Postmasters will be careful to report all instances in which the Mails are carried, without being secured from the weather, as above directed.

8. When the Mail stops over-night, where there is a Post Office, it must be kept in the Office.

9. Postmasters will report any irregularity in the arrival of the Mails at their Station.

WARNER R. SPALDING, J. P.,
Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
British Columbia,
1st July, 1862.

First Instructions to Postmasters to
Regulate Express Company Performance

3d BRITISH COLUMBIA STAMP



Royal Engineer Uniform Button,
1855 to 1901



Pen & Ink Sketch
for Proposed Stamp



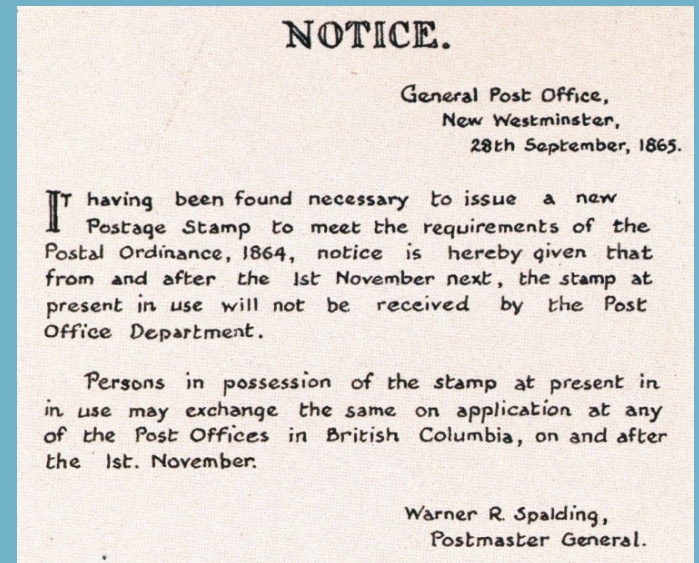
Progressive Die Proof



Finished Die Proof



Issued Stamp

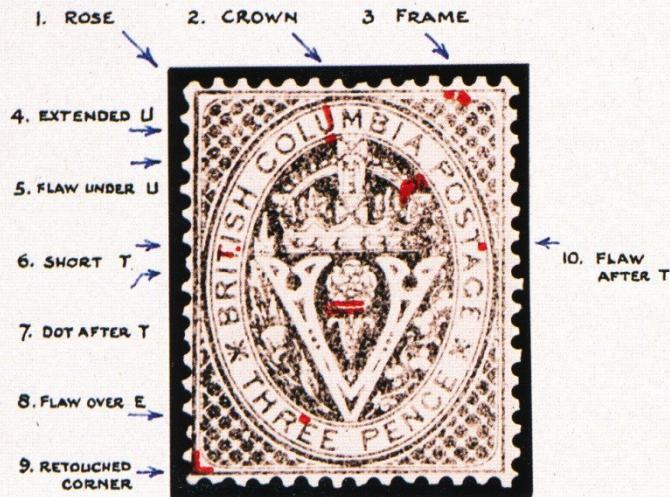


Public Announcement of 3d Stamp (transcription)

SOME 3d PLATE FLAWS & PRINTING VARIETIES

1865-69 - THREE PENCE: PLATE VARIETIES AND FLAWS

Ten plate flaws appear to be constant on the 3d. plate, including later surcharged printings.



Due to the excellence of De La Rue's printing, plate varieties are rarely found on their surface printed stamps.

(1) BARS THROUGH ROSE



4th stamp in bottom row of upper left pane.

(2) BROKEN CROWN



Position unknown (see also cover pp 96).

(3) BROKEN TOP FRAME AT RIGHT



Position not known.

(4) "U" EXTENDED TO OVAL FRAME



Position not known.

3d BRITISH COLUMBIA STAMP PRINTINGS



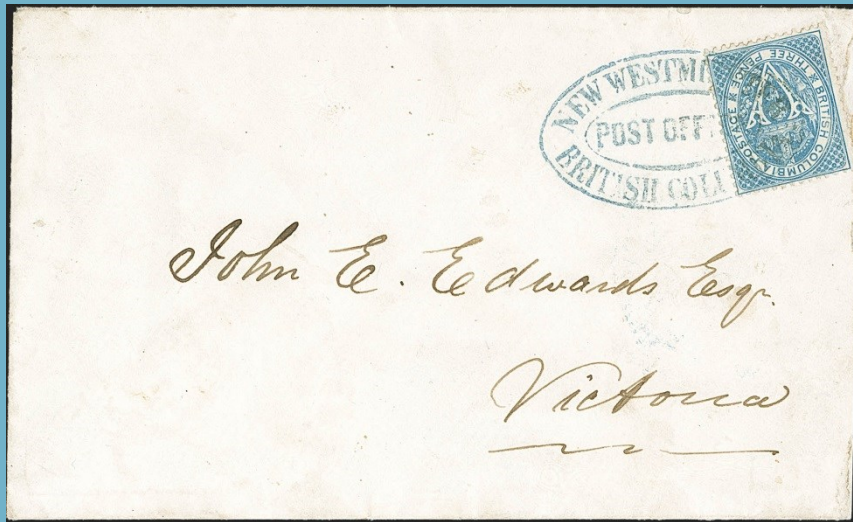
Blue Shade - 1865



Pale Blue Shade - 1867



Part of Marginal Watermark "CROWN COLONIES"

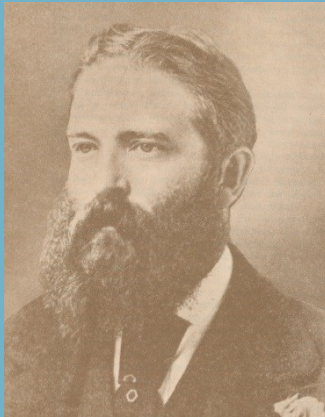


Intercolonial Rate – New Westminster to Victoria
(backstamped 7 Nov 1866)



Intercolonial Rate - Victoria to New Westminster
(1 Mar 1866)

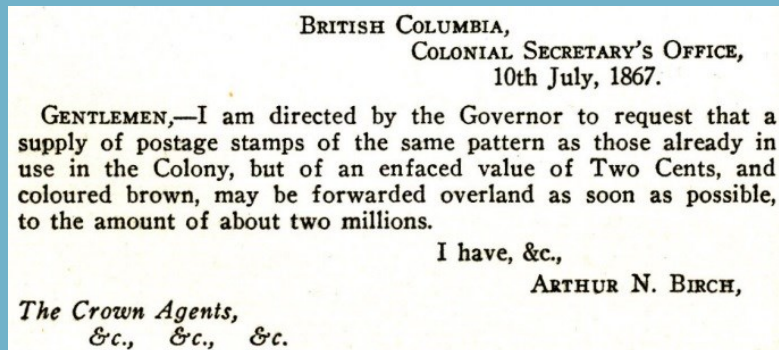
REQUEST FOR 2¢ VALUE STAMP



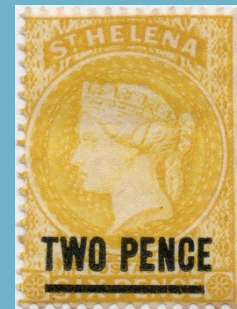
Arthur Thomas Bushby, Acting Postmaster General,
British Columbia April 1866 - July 1871



New Westminster Post Office, about 1871



1867 Request for 2c Overprinted Stamp



St Helena - Issued 1864
Line Perforated 12½



BC - Issued 1868
Comb Perforated 14

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DECIMAL VALUE STAMPS

BRITISH COLUMBIA,
COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
12th November, 1868.

GENTLEMEN,—A recent change in the postal system between this Colony and the Mother Country renders it necessary to provide postage stamps of various denominations not now possessed by the Colony.

The Governor hopes, however, that it will not be necessary to provide more than one die of a distinctive pattern which will answer for all the denominations of stamps required, no value being engraved on it but the different values being overprinted as has recently been done in the case of the Two Cents stamps; and the various stamps being distinguished by the different colours.

It may be, however, that even the fresh expense of one new die will be avoided by utilizing the existing die, in removing therefrom the words "Three Pence" and thus leaving a blank space upon which the value of the stamps can be overprinted. If this course is found practicable I am to request that it may be adopted. I attach in the margin a specimen stamp to illustrate more clearly what is proposed.

The quantities of stamps and the different denominations required are as follows:—

Colour.	Number of Sheets Required.				Denomination.
Green	500 sheets of 240 multiples from B.C. postage plate to be overprinted with words.....				One Dollar.
Lt. Yellow	1500	do.	do.	do.	Fifty Cents.
Blue	2000	do.	do.	do.	Twenty-five Cents.
Orange	1000	do.	do.	do.	Ten Cents.
Red	1000	do.	do.	do.	Five Cents.

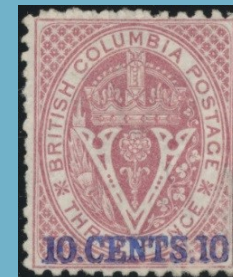
As the stamps are pressingly required I have to request that they may be forwarded as soon as completed via Panama and that an invoice be transmitted to the Customs House at San Francisco through the hands of the forwarding agents in London.

I have, &c.,

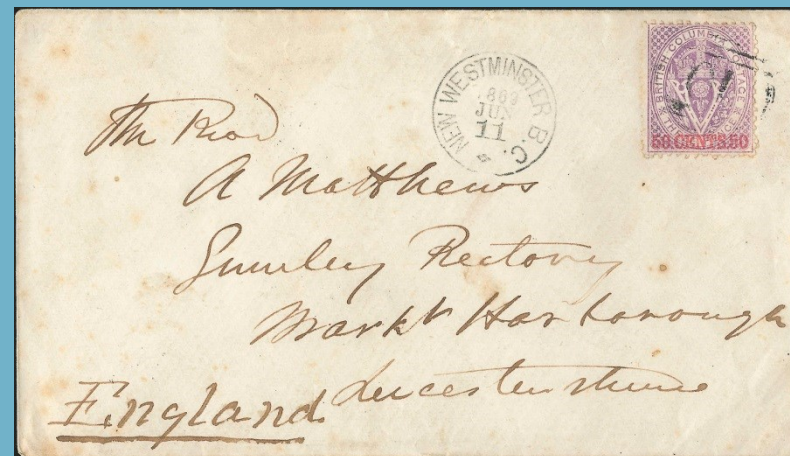
WILLIAM A. G. YOUNG.

The Crown Agents for
the Colonies.

1868 Request for 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1 Values

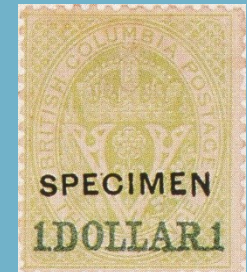
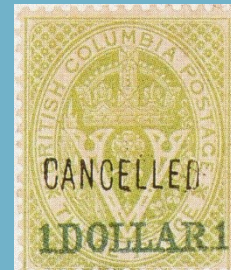
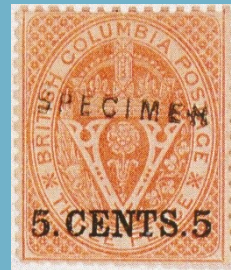
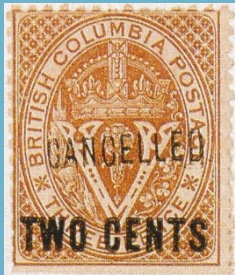


First Sheets of All Values - Line Perforated 12½



Cover to England Rated 50¢, Postmarked 11 June 1869

FURTHER SHIPMENT OF SURCHARGED STAMPS



Overprinted De La Rue Record Copies



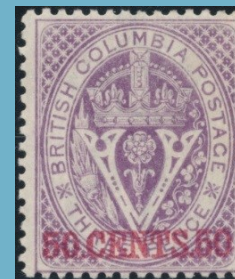
Issued 29 May 1869



Never Issued



Issued 21 July 1869



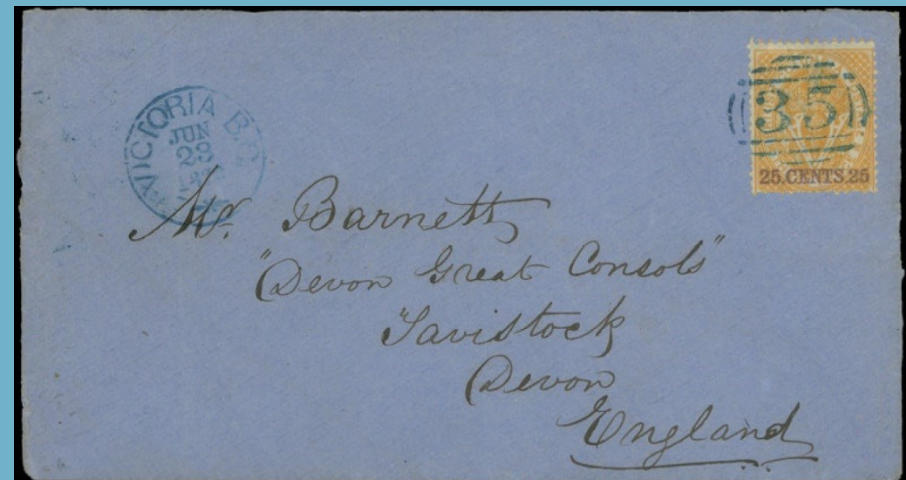
Issued 23 February 1871



Never Issued



Victoria Drop Letter Rated 5¢, Postmarked 12 Sep 1870



Cover to England Rated 25¢, Postmarked 23 Jun 1870

February 13

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE
5 CENTS

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE
10 CENTS

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE
25 CENTS

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE
50 CENTS

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAGE
1 DOLLAR

LONDON: 110 BUNHILL ROW, E.C.

February 13 1869.

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,

DRS. TO THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO.

DATE. *British Columbia Plate Stamps. Duties 5^c 10^c 25^c 50^c & 1.* PRICE. £ s. d.

Feb 13 Making 100 print Forms of 60 Multiples. 5 Cents. ✓ 12
10 . ✓ 12
25 . ✓ 12
50 . ✓ 12
\$ 1. ✓ 12

Printing from the original Plate and overprinting with the Duty Plates the following Stamps. viz-

N ^o of Sheets	Duty.	N ^o of Stamps	Total Stamps.
1038	5 Cents	240	249. 120 ✓
1028	10. .	.	246. 720 ✓
2092	25 .	.	502. 080 ✓
1569	50 .	.	376. 560 ✓
570	1 Dollar	.	122. 400 ✓
6237			7,496. 880. ✓ 1/8 124 14 9

Case re.

11

186 5 9


NB. 20 Sheets of each of the above five duties was sent by mail on a previous occasion and are included in the above invoice.

AVAILABILITY OF CANADIAN STAMPS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Post Office Affairs.

Gilbert E Griffin, Esq, Post Office Inspector of the Western Division of Canada, who came on the Sparrowhawk, will at once proceed to put Postal matters in this Province upon a satisfactory basis. Mr Griffin, who will remain in the Province a few weeks, has been thirty years in the Postal service of Canada and is a brother to Wm Henry Griffin, Deputy Postmaster General of the Dominion, and to Mr Griffin whose name has passed into history from his connection with the origin of the San Juan dispute. A contract has been made by Mr Griffin with the owners of the Prince Alfred for a semi-monthly mail service between San Francisco and Victoria, the steamer to leave San Francisco on the 1st and 15th of each month and to remain at least 48 hours at Victoria. The contract will last four months. The Canadian Postal Rates come into operation to-day, so that, in place of paying the late high rates, we shall pay on letters 3 cents to any part of the Province and Canada, and 6 cents to the United Kingdom and the United States. Postal cards may be had at the Post Office by means of which short messages may be sent to any part of Canada for one cent. The full postal rates were published in *The Colonist* a few days ago.

Newspaper Article, The Daily British Colonist
15 August 1871



Post Office Notice.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS are now for Sale at the Victoria and New Westminster Post Offices.

The Rate of Postage to all places in the Dominion of Canada is **THREE CENTS** prepaid—**FIVE CENTS** unpaid—per half ounce.

The Rate of Postage to the United States is **SIX CENTS** prepaid—**TEN CENTS** unpaid—per half ounce.

The Rate of Postage to the United Kingdom is **SIX CENTS**.

All Newspapers to places in the Dominion of Canada must be Prepaid **ONE CENT** each.

To places in the United States **TWO CENTS** each.

To the United Kingdom **TWO CENTS** each.

Postal Cards can be used only to places in the Dominion of Canada—the face of the Card must contain only the address; the back of the Card can have anything written or printed on it. The Cards can only be used once and must have nothing whatever attached thereto, and nothing written of an immoral or improper character.

The Post Office Inspector has an Office at the Victoria Post Office and the public are invited to apply to him for any information they may require.

GILBERT GRIFFIN,
Post Office Inspector.
Victoria, B. C., 16th Aug, 1871. aul7 3t

Newspaper Notice, The Daily British Colonist
16 August 1871

BRITISH COLUMBIA & VANCOUVER ISLAND STAMP QUANTITIES

Denomination	Issue Date	Quantity Printed	Quantity Issued	Remainders
2½d	March 1860	235,440	235,440	0
5¢	19 September 1865	114,000	114,000	0
10¢	19 September 1865	111,360	45,929	65,431
3d blue	1 November 1865	111,360	111,360	0
3d light (pale) blue	19 July 1867	1,063,440	209,635	853,805
2¢ surcharge p14	22 January 1868	2,115,600	73,375	2,042,225
5¢ surcharge p12½	12 March 1869	4,800	4,800	0
10¢ surcharge p12½	12 March 1869	4,800	3,700	1,100
25¢ surcharge p12½	12 March 1869	4,800	4,800	0
50¢ surcharge p12½	12 March 1869	4,800	4,800	0
\$1 surcharge p12½	12 March 1869	4,800	3,046	1,754
5¢ surcharge p14	29 May 1869	244,320	28,887	215,433
10¢ surcharge p14	Not Issued	241,920	0	241,920 ⁽¹⁾
25¢ surcharge p14	21 July 1869	497,280	33,016	464,264
50¢ surcharge p14	23 February 1871	371,760	1,557	370,203
\$1 surcharge p14	Not Issued	117,600	0	117,600 ⁽¹⁾

(1) According to Deaville a quantity of the 10¢ and \$1 values is thought to have been sold to stamp dealers before being destroyed.

DESTRUCTION OF SURCHARGED BRITISH COLUMBIA STAMPS - I


British Columbia Postage Stamps in hand at the Colonial Secretary's Office on the 24th August 1871.

Denomination	Number Sheets	Number in each Sheet	Value	Specimens:
<p>Certified that the above stamps were this day destroyed by fire in my presence, with the exception of 60 (sixty) of each denomination preserved as specimens.</p>				
Victoria		(Sgd)	Charles Good,	Colonial Secretary

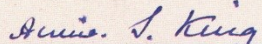
Copy of Destruction Certificate Dated 24 August 1871
Retained in Victoria, BC

OLD COLONY POSTAL STAMPS. — Postal stamps of the defunct colony of British Columbia, representing twelve thousand five hundred dollars, have been handed over to Mr Griffin for destruction.

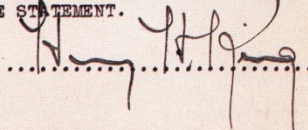
Newspaper Article, The Daily British Colonist
25 August 1871



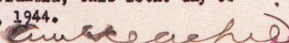
THIS BRITISH COLUMBIA STAMP WAS RETAINED
BY MY FATHER, MR. HENRY WOOTTON, POSTMASTER,
AT THE TIME THE COLONIAL STAMPS WERE BURNED
AT BEACON HILL PARK, VICTORIA, VANCOUVER ISD.,
ON AUGUST 24TH./1871.


 ANNIE SANSEBURY KING
 VICTORIA, B.C.
 JUNE 22/1943.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I WAS PRESENT AND DID SEE THE
WITHIN NAMED ANNIE S. KING, MY MOTHER, AFFIX HER
SIGNATURE TO THE ABOVE STATEMENT.



Declared before me by Henry H. King
at the City of Victoria, Province of
British Columbia, this 28th. day of
September, 1944.


 A Notary Public in and for the

Affidavit Concerning Stamp Destruction
by Henry Wootton's Daughter Dated 22 June 1943

DESTRUCTION OF SURCHARGED BRITISH COLUMBIA STAMPS - II

*Robert Jeffrey
Post Office*

British Columbia Postage Stamps in hand at the
Colonial Secretary's Office on the 24th August 1871.

Denomination	Number Sheet	Number in each Sheet	Value
\$ 1.00	490	240	= \$117.00.00
50	2117	"	= 254040.00
25	1882	"	= 112920.00
10	500	"	= 12000.00
5	610	"	= 7320.00
Total			\$ 503880.00

*Witnessed that the above Stamps were this day
destroyed by fire in my presence, with the
exception of 50 (only) of each denomination
preserved as specimens.*

*Victoria
26th August 1871*

*Charles Ford
Colonial Secretary*

Destruction Certificate Dated 26 August 1871



Pen-cancelled Record Copies of Stamps Destroyed
26 August 1871

BRITISH COLUMBIA & VANCOUVER ISLAND FORGERIES



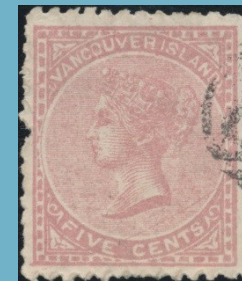
Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



Reproduction cut
from 1954 book



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type II)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type II)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



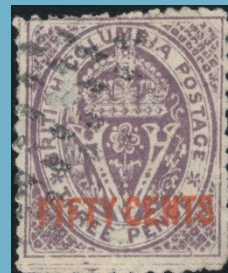
Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type II)



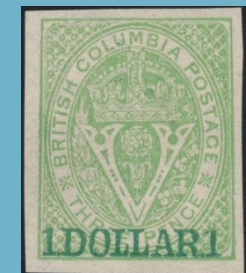
Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type I)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type II)



Spiro Lithograph
(Pugh type II)



Eaton Lithograph
(Pugh type IV)

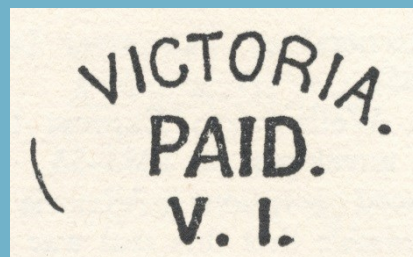
BRITISH COLUMBIA & VANCOUVER ISLAND HANDSTAMPS



Victoria 1858-59



Victoria 1858-59



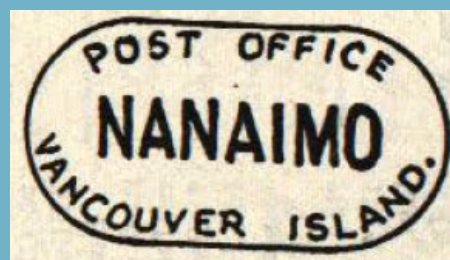
Victoria 1859-60



Victoria 1860-71



Victoria 1863-71



Nanaimo 1863-71



New Westminster 1860-71



New Westminster 1863-68



New Westminster 1868-71

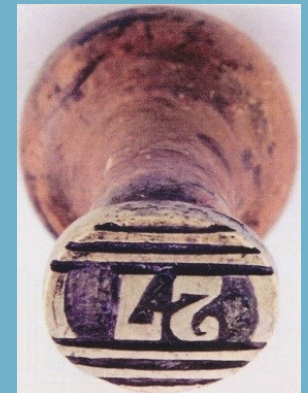


New Westminster 1871



Victoria 1868-71

NUMERAL CANCELS & ASSOCIATED TOWNS



Canceller
(defaced)

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