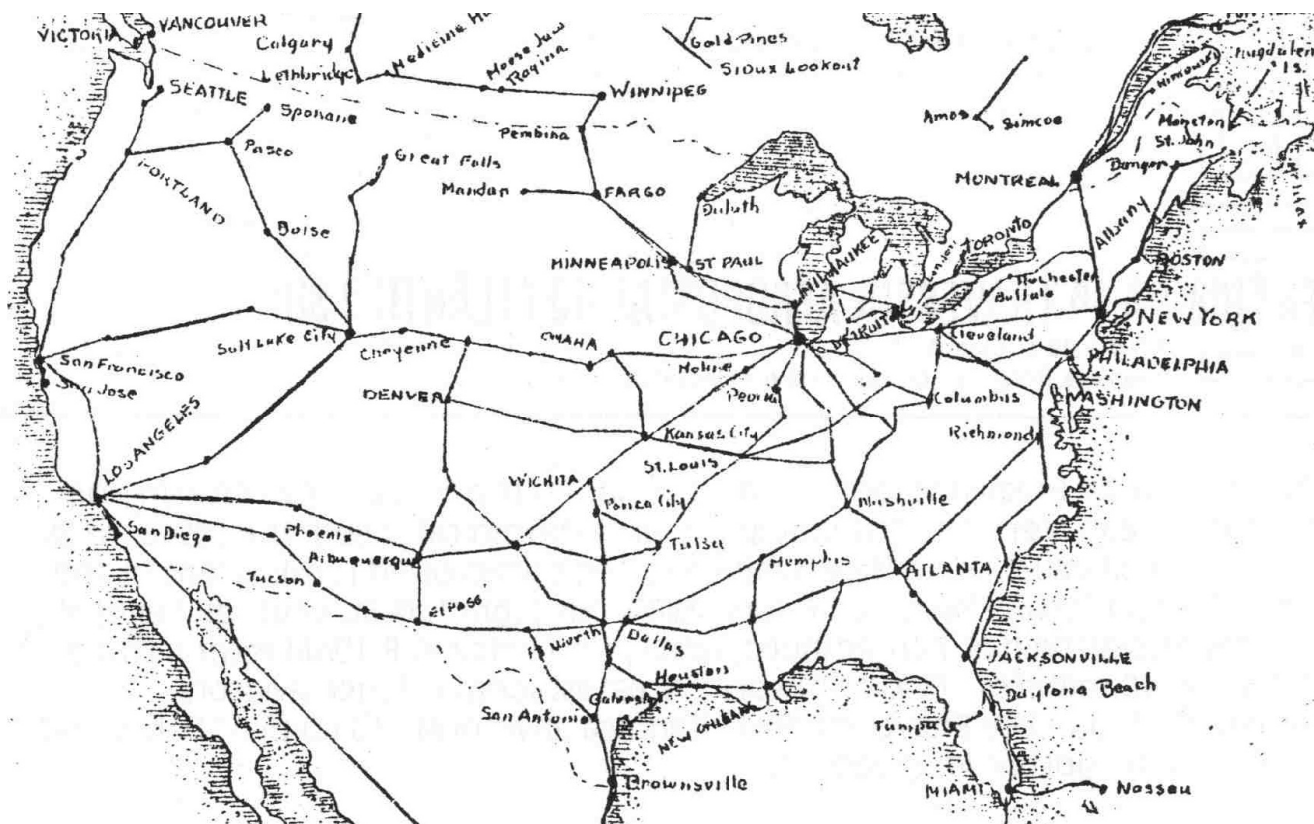


UPDATE ON THE "D.w." COVERS [Part 1] by Chris Hargreaves continued:

Southern part of the map produced by the Edmonton Post Office in September 1931.

**Cover 24**

Postmarked CLEVELAND.OHIO 5 JUN24 1.30PM 1931

Addressed to: Flying Officer Louis H. Brooks, Cormorant Lake, Manitoba

Endorsed at bottom left: Mile 42 Hudson Bay Railway Please Forward

Kevin O'Reilly wrote that: "I've attached a scan of that mysterious D.w. marking, on an incoming airmail cover from the US to an RCAF pilot doing aerial survey work in northern Manitoba in 1931. There are no backstamps or transit markings. It looks like the D.w. and "Via Air Mail" markings were applied at the same time using the same violet ink."

Cormorant Lake is shown by the star on the map above. In the summer of 1931 there was also a Canadian Airways Ltd. aircraft stationed there, as part of the company's forestry patrol contract with the Manitoba Government.

Continued

UPDATE ON THE "D.w." COVERS [Part 1] by Chris Hargreaves continued:**Cover 25** - from the collection of Murray Heifetz

Address and return address: W.C. DIMENT SENTALUTA SASK.

This is the only D.w. cover I have seen that can be linked to W.C. Diment!

Barry Countryman did some research into W.C. Diment, and sent me the following biography and conclusion:

William Charles Diment was born in London, England on October 14, 1890. In January 1910 the Lemberg, Saskatchewan resident applied for 160 acres under the Dominion Lands Act of 1872, but didn't fulfill the homestead obligations. He was in Stanley with his brother Frank in 1916 and working as a clerk in September when he enlisted at Indian Head in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The 217th (Qu'Appelle) Battalion sailed from Halifax to England aboard S.S. "Olympic" on June 2, 1917. Charles served in France and Belgium.

On November 1, 1923 he married Vera Nellie Luker. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Charles was the assistant postmaster in Sentaluta 1923-37, then postmaster till retirement in 1956. Sentaluta is about 85 km east of Regina. The usual duties of a prominent citizen: town council, Anglican church warden, Master of the Orange Lodge. After retiring on his 66th birthday Charles and his wife moved to Regina, where he died on February 12, 1970.

I originally researched W.C. Diment of Sentaluta, Saskatchewan in case he died at a relatively young age, thus unable to stamp a monogram on these air mail covers when they eventually came on the market. Although he died at 79 I don't believe it's his "D.w." marking: he used the name Charles; no stamp collector would cancel a stamp (Cover 2) he/she might need for an album or for trading.

There was considerable discussion as to whether the D.w. handstamp was above or below the postmark, when this cover was included in a presentation during last year's Day of Aerophilately in Toronto.

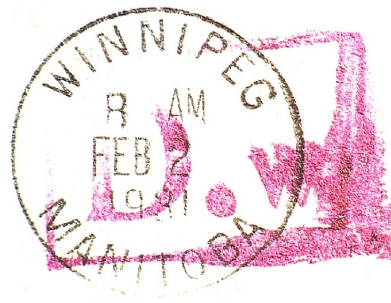
Although only a photocopy of this cover was available, the actual cover #9 (shown on page 18) was also part of the presentation, and was examined by many people.

The meeting was held at the Vincent Greene Foundation, and Garfield Portch very kindly examined Cover 9 using the Foundation's newly acquired *Foster & Freeman VSC6000/HS Video Spectral Comparator*. This is a very impressive piece of equipment, that can examine material under very high magnification, and/or using an extremely wide range of wavelengths of ultraviolet, infrared and filtered visible light. (There's a neat video describing the VSC6000 at http://95.131.69.196/~darrenc/video/V6_Demo.wmv)

However, the results of the analysis depended on which part of cover #9 one looked at!

On the screen of the VSC6000 the handstamp was changed to a bright pink, so that it stood out from the postmark. [A copy of this article with illustrations in colour, will be posted on the CAS website at www.aerophilately.ca]

The postmark was also turned into different colours, and where the cancellations overlapped, it always looked like the postmark was over the D.w. stamp.

**Continued**

UPDATE ON THE "D.w." COVERS [Part 1] by Chris Hargreaves continued:

However, when the images were enlarged to extreme magnification, (about 200x the original size), there are places where one gets a pink outline around the edge of the postmark. There are also places where there are traces of a pink line where the edge of the postmark should be, but the ink isn't.

The explanation for this pink line seems to be that the postmark was applied first, and the edge of the postmark cut slightly into the paper. Later, the D.w. handstamp was applied on top of the postmark, at which time some of the pink ink was absorbed where the paper had been cut, and ran along the edge of the postmark.



Given the ongoing debate about other aspects of the D.w. covers, it seems ironic but fitting that a high tech analysis is also inconclusive!

TO BE CONTINUED

If anybody has comments about the new and/or old information about the D.w. covers, please send them to the editor: Chris Hargreaves, 4060 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4Y4

Many thanks to Ron Barret, Bill Beaudoin, Julian Burgess, Bas Burrell, William Cochrane, Barry Countryman, Bob Dyer, Don Fraser, Dave Hanes, Neil Hunter, Steve Johnson, Gord Mallet, Ed Matthews, Denny May, Dick McIntosh, Jim Miller, Trelle Morrow, Peter Motson, Kevin O'Reilly, Rick Parama, Garfield Portch, Derek Rance, David Reynolds, Gray Scrimgeour, Norman Seastedt, Mike Shand, Ken Snelson, Dale Speirs, Hans Steinbock, Mike Street, John Symons, Robert Timberg, John Tyacke, Peter Wood, and the late Murray Heifetz, for their contributions to this ongoing enquiry.

There will be a Powerpoint Presentation on
NEW ISSUES IN FORENSIC PHILATELY by Garfield Portch
during the Toronto Day of Aerophilately on Sunday on November 3rd,
at the Vincent Greene Foundation, 10 Summerhill Ave., Toronto. The meeting begins at 11.15am.
Everybody welcome. For more information contact Dick McIntosh - mcintosh47@sympatico.ca