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PRESS RELEASE

Understanding the Maple Leaves

At a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 6 March, David McLaughlin FRPSC, FRPSL used his thorough presentation to explain the intricacies of the production of the dies for 'The Maple Leaf Issue of Canada 1897-1898'. The stamps, depicting the portrait of Queen Victoria, feature the text 'CANADA POSTAGE' and the denomination within an oval surrounding the portrait, and a maple leaf in each of the four corners.

The process was far from straightforward, as David meticulously described, demonstrating 'great depth of knowledge and research' as acknowledged by Peter Cockburn FRPSL, giving the Vote of Thanks. As Peter noted, he had not realised that different engravers had been used for different parts of the dies. For example, in the surrounding oval, 'CANADA POSTAGE' was the work of one engraver, while a second completed the oval with the denomination.

In addition to presenting a wide range of die proofs, David also showed usage of the stamps on covers, in many cases bearing singles of the stamps to pay the correct rate. Following the introduction of the Imperial Penny Postage rate on 25 December 1898, use of the 3 cents value reduced dramatically, so stocks were overprinted '2 cents'. Examples were shown, including a block of four with the overprint inverted.

Following the Vote of Thanks, David was presented with a plaquette and certificate of appreciation by Simon Richards RDP, FRPSL, President of the Society.

