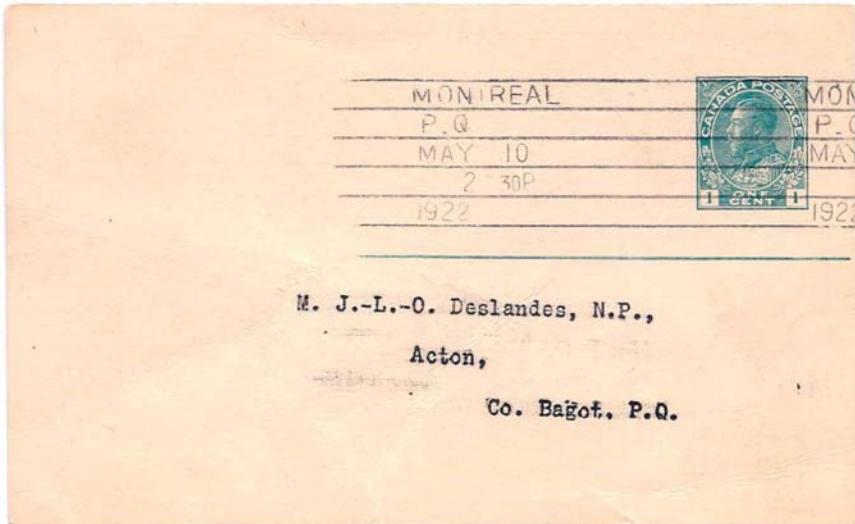


# Un nouveau Lamoureux

Hugo Deshaye and Rob Leigh

The post office at Montreal is known to have experimented with postal cancelling machines developed in the 1920s by Joseph O Lamoureux. These are thought to be forerunners of the Perfect machines adopted for extensive use by the Canada Post Office beginning in the 1930s. Reference 1 includes an extensive account of both the Lamoureux and Perfect machines. It identified nine types of postmarks made by the Lamoureux machines between May 1922 and January 1926 [1]. For earlier reports on these experimental machines, see references 2-6.



**Figure 1.** The new Lamoureux discovery showing date, time and year in the indicia.

We are now able to report on the discovery of a new example of a Lamoureux cancel, and the earliest use of the machine on 10 May 1922. This brings to fifty the number of reported Lamoureux covers of all types. Not only is this cover the earliest known, it has features that are not shared by any other example. As we will explain in detail, the postmark is identical to those made by Types 1 and 3 but, unlike those types, it includes *both the date and time* within the postmark.

Given this discovery, it is natural to revisit the type classification of Reference 1. We have examined carefully the one known example of Type 1 and the four known examples of Type 3. We believe that Type 1, Type 3, and the new example were all made by the same cancellation die. In Reference 1, Type 1 was identified as having five horizontal lines with the text MONTREAL / P.Q. / / / 1922 / repeating periodically. Careful examination reveals that there is, in fact, a very faintly printed sixth line at the top. Type 3 is classified as having

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six lines with just the text / MONTREAL / P.Q. / / / /, *i.e.*, without any date or year information at all. The four recorded examples of the Type 3 were all used on CPR financial statement postal cards, dated 28 February 1923 on the back. Given the error in the number of lines in Type 1, we carefully measured various properties of all six of the postmarks and found that they are identical. The distance from the bottom line to the fifth (which is clearly printed in all examples) is 19mm (24mm is the distance from first to sixth). The text within the lines is repeated in all examples, every 64mm (measuring from the M of MONTREAL to the next), the font being the same in each case.



**Figure 2.** Examples of Type 1 and 3 Lamoureux postmarks. In Type 1 (one example known, CPR statement dated 29 May 1922), the year 1922 appears within the postmark. In Type 3 (four examples recorded, all attributed to 28 February 1923), no date, time or year appears.  
(Scans courtesy of WC Walton).

In figure 3, we show sequentially the Type 1, the new one, and the Type 3. We have lined them up, left-to-right, to show that the 64mm period is consistent. Although it probably does not show in the printed version, a top line, indicated by an arrow, is just visible in the Type 1 example.

It seems clear then that all of these examples were made by the same cancellation die, with varying amounts of date and time slugs included. Given this, it would be appropriate to re-label them sub-types; say, Types 1a, 1b, and 1c.

An extensive account of all recorded examples (including cover scans) of Lamoureux cancels is maintained at the website of the Postal History Society of Canada:

<<http://postalhistorycanada.net/php/Machines/Lamoureux/>>



**Figure 3.** Three examples lined up to show periodicity, which is about 64mm.

We wish to thank the respective owners for making high-quality scans available to us.

## References and endnotes

- [1] Reg Morris, *Just Perfect*, British North America Philatelic Society, 2007.
- [2] Edward Goodale, "History of Rapid Cancelling Machines, part 2", *Popular Stamps*, March 1943, pp. 16-17.
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- [6] David F Sessions, *The Early Rapid Cancelling Machines of Canada*, Canadian Philatelic Society GB and Unitrade Press, Toronto, 1982.