

WIDE & NARROW VARIETIES OF PREFIX W ON COUPONS PRINTED BY CTC

by Don Roebuck #848

The prefix W appears on five of the coupons printed by Canadian Tire Corporation: the orange and black Gas Bar coupons CTC 2-D and CTC 4-D, the Sandy McTire coupons MP1B-IOW and MP2C-5W, and the Gas War coupon GW002.

There are two major varieties of this prefix: a wide W, which is about 4.4 mm wide, and whose lines are at an angle

of about 15 degrees to the vertical, and a narrow W, which is about 3.7 mm wide, and whose lines are at an angle of about 12 degrees to the vertical.

Which variety appears where? Here is what I have found in my own rather incomplete collection, supplemented by the illustrations in the Bilodeau Guide, 6th Edition:

Coupon with one W:	CTC 2-D			
wide W				
narrow W	(x)			
Coupons with two W's:	CTC 4-D	MP1B 10W	MP2C 5W	GW 002
two wide W's				x
two narrow W's	(x)	x		x
left wide, right narrow				
left narrow, right wide	x			x

(I have put parentheses around the ones that I have only seen in the Bilodeau Guide, because I'm not absolutely sure about them. It's hard to measure something accurately when it's printed in halftone dots, especially when it's scaled down.)

And now it's up to other collectors to fill in the gaps. (I'll keep the records, so send photocopies to Don Roebuck, 110 Dewbourne Ave., Toronto, Ont., M6C 1Y7.)

There also seem to be some minor differences among the W's, of both major varieties. (For example, the mid-point

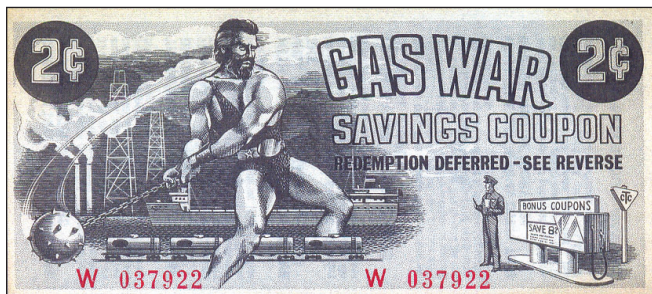
of the W may be flatter, or rounder, or more pointed.) In my personal opinion, these minor differences are not significant from a collecting point of view, but they might be useful if, for example, you were trying to determine how many of these coupons were printed on a sheet. (There is, arguably, a third major variety of the CTC's prefix W: the huge W that appears only on the problematic Sasaki-Muncaster orange and black Gas Bar coupons. From the illustration in vol. 2, no. 2 of the Collector, I'd say that it's about 5.8 mm wide. It's also taller than the other prefix W's.)



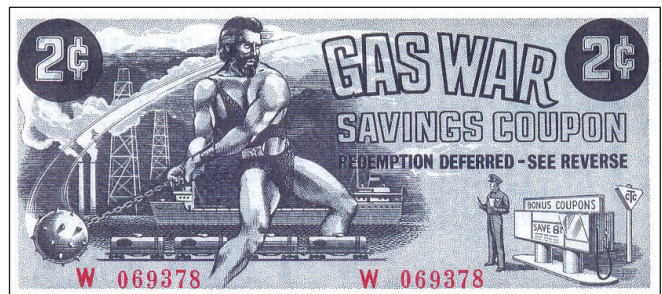
CTC 4-D with left W narrow, right W wide



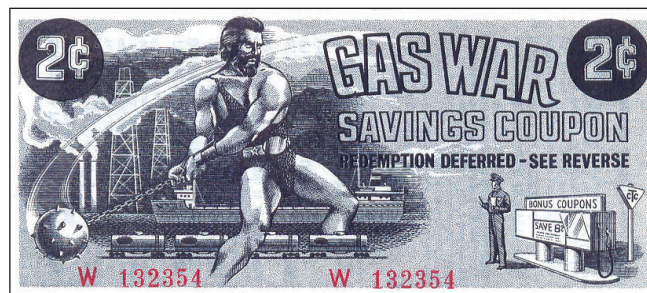
MP1B-10W with both W's narrow



GW002 with both W's wide



GW002 with both W's narrow



GW002 with left W narrow, right W wide