The Canadian Philatelist
Le Philatéliste canadien

November/December 2007 novembre/decembre - VOL. 58 • NO.6



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Revue de LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

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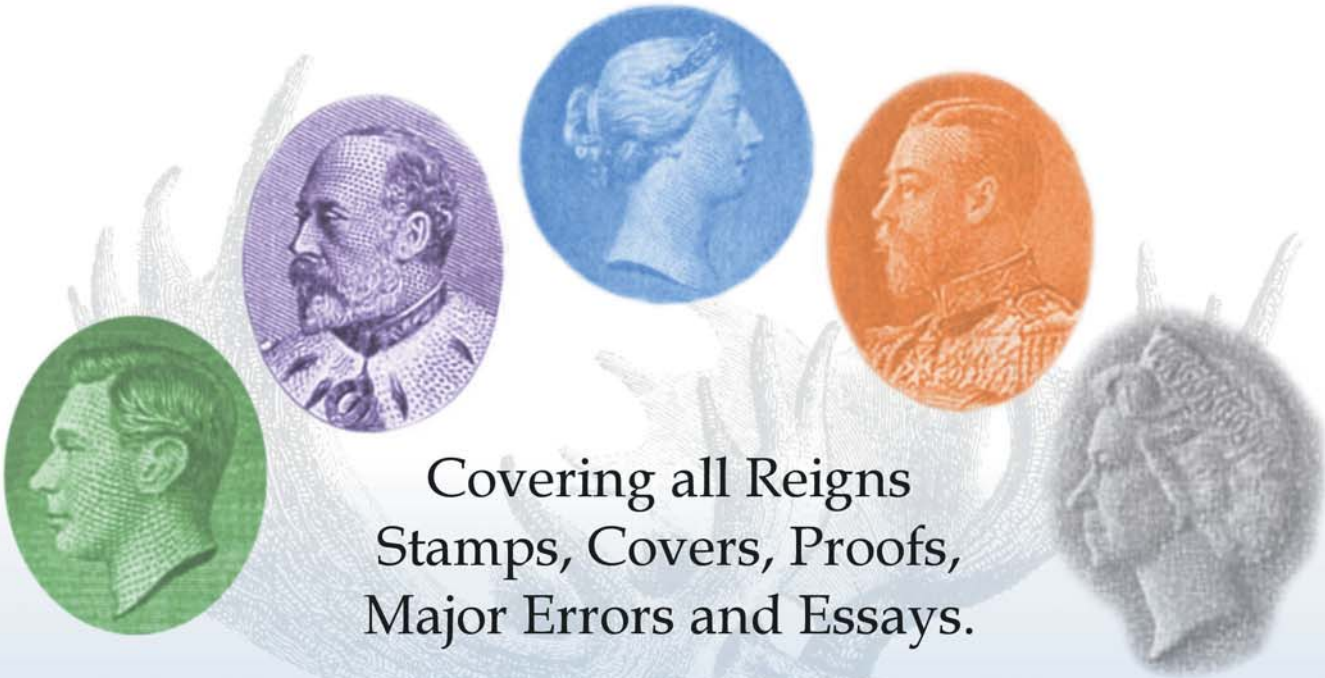
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R. F. Narbonne, FRPSC, McDonald Corners, ON
info@rpsc.org

Michael O. Nowlan, Oromocto, NB
mgnowlan@nb.sympatico.ca

George Pepall, Kitchener, ON
pepall@rogers.com

David Piercey, Edmonton, AB
david.piercey@epsb.ca

Editor – Rédacteur
Tony Shaman, FRPSC
PO Box 43103, Eastwood Square
Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9
tshaman@rogers.com

Associate Editor – Rédacteur Associé
Grégoire Teyssier, Sillery, QC
gteyssier@videotron.ca

National Office – Bureau National
Peter Butler, Director / Directeur
director@rpsc.org
Margaret Schulzke, Executive Assistant / Adjointe Exécutive
info@rpsc.org
P.O. Box / C.P. 929, Station, Succ Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1
Tel/Tél: (416) 921-2077
Toll Free / Sans frais: 1-888-285-4143
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THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA
LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DE PHILATÉLIE DU CANADA

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC) is the successor to the national society founded in 1887. Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in stamps. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced collector, The RPSC offers a number of services that will be of interest to you. Here are just a few:

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST **-** The international award winning bi-monthly magazine of The RPSC, it provides stamp collectors information and news – for members and from the members. Each year, the author of the best article published in *The Canadian Philatelist* receives the Geldert medal.

SALES CIRCUIT - The Sales Circuit is a useful method of disposing of surplus material and acquiring other material for your collection. Details on request.

ANNUAL MEETING - An annual convention held in a different locale each year provides an ideal opportunity to meet friends, exchange ideas, and get advice on your collection or exhibition at which exhibitors can qualify for international shows. You will also get a chance to visit a dealer bourse and attend interesting and informative seminars.

GROUP INSURANCE - Group insurance is available for members to obtain coverage for their personal collections. Chapters can arrange third party liability coverage to protect the club and its events. Both policies have substantially lower premiums than non-members would pay for similar packages. Details are available on both types of insurance, upon request, from the National Office.

CHAPTERS - The RPSC has a network of local clubs across Canada. Chapter meeting details are published in The Canadian Philatelist. A great way to network with other collectors in your area.

THE INTERNET - The Society has a Web site www.rpsc.org where members can find out about the latest developments, coming events and link up to many other stamp collecting sites. As a member, your e-mail and Web site address can be added.

OTHER SOCIETIES - As the national society for stamp collectors, The RPSC works in partnership with many other societies and associations, such as the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association and Canada Post Corporation.

CANADA POST - The Society maintains a Canada Post Liaison Officer in Ottawa to represent the Society, its members and chapters and collectors in general. Members may raise issues of mutual interest with Canada Post Corporation through this office.

Join The RPSC!

La Société royale de philatélie du Canada (SRPC) est la digne successeur de celle fondée en 1887. Tout individu intéressé par la collection de timbres-poste peut en devenir membre. Que vous soyez un collectionneur débutant ou chevronné, la SRPC vous offre une gamme de services qui sauront vous intéresser. En voice quelques-uns:

LE PHILATÉLISTE CANADIEN - Cette publication bimestrielle, primée au niveau international, offre aux membres des informations et des nouvelles sur le monde philtélique rédigées par ses membres. Chaque année, la médaille Geldert est décernée à l'auteur du meilleur article publié dans Le philatéliste canadien.

CARNETS DE TIMBRES EN APPROBATION - Ils sont disponibles sur demande. C'est une façon facile de disposer de matériel en surplus ou d'acquérir des nouvelles pièces pour sa collection.

RÉUNION ANNUELLE - Une convention annuelle se tient dans différentes parties du pays. Une exposition de niveau national fait partie intégrante de la convention et permet à l'exposant de se qualifier pour les expositions internationales. De plus vous pouvez y visiter les tables de négociants et assister à des conférences.

ASSURANCES - les membres peuvent obtenir une assurance-groupe afin de protéger leurs collections personnelles. Les chapitres peuvent souscrire une assurance responsabilité vis-à-vis des tiers pour protéger un club et les évènements qu'il organise. Les primes pour les deux polices sont de beaucoup inférieures à ce qu'un non-membre paierait pour un contrat similaire. Vous pouvez obtenir des renseignements sur ces deux types de police en vous adressant au Bureau national.

CHAPITRES - Des clubs locaux au Canada où les membres de La SRPC reçoivent un accueil chaleureux. Les renseignements sont publiés dans Le philatéliste canadien.

L'INTERNET - La SRPC a un site d'Internet www.rpsc.org où les membres obtiennent les informations à date, les événements philatéliques à venir et peuvent accéder à plusiers autres sites philatéliques.

PARTENARIAT - La Société a des ententes avec plusieurs autres sociétés et associations philatéliques, notamment l'Association canadienne des négociants en timbres-poste et la Société canadienne des postes (SCP).

POSTES CANADA - La SRPC a un agent de liaison situé à Ottawa pour représenter La Société, ses Chapitres, ses membres et les collectionneurs en général auprès de la SCP. Les membres peuvent soumettre des questions d'intérêt commun aux deux Sociétés par l'entremise de cet agent.

Joignez-vous à La SRPC

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The information collected on this form will be used for communications from The RPSC Office and its authorized suppliers. The Society publishes the name of each new member in *The Canadian Philatelist*. Your member information will be held confidential by the Society and will never be sold or traded to advertisers without your prior consent. If you have any questions, please contact The RPSC Office at 1-888-285-4143.

L'information fournie dans ce formulaire nous permettra de vous faire parvenir la correspondence de La SRPC et ses fournisseurs autorisés. La Société publie le nom de chaque nouveau membre dans *Le philatéliste canadien*. La Société assure la confidentialité de vos renseignements et s'engage à ne jamais les vendre ou les échanger auprès de fournisseurs et/ou d'agents de publicité sans avoir obtenu votre autorisation. Pour tous renseignements supplémentaires, veuillez communiquer avec La SRPC au 1-888-285-4143.

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La cotisation couvre une période de douze mois à partir de la date de publication initiale et/ou donne droit à six numéros du *Philatéliste canadien*. Payable en devises canadiennes si résident au Canada et en devises américaines (ou leur équivalent en dollars canadiens) autrement. Des adhésions à vie sont aussie disponibles.

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Chapter Liaison / Liaison avec les chapitres
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Conventions, Regional & Local Shows / Conventions, Expositions régionales et locales
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Historian / Historien
Charles J. G. Verge, FRPSC, FRPSL, Toronto, ON cjgverge@rogers.com

Insurance Plan / Plan d'assurances
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Charles J. G. Verge, FRPSC, FRPSL, Toronto, ON cjgverge@rogers.com

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Michael O. Nowlan, Oromocto, NB mgnowlan@nb.sympatico.ca

Sales Circuit / Carnets de timbres en approbation
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Slide Program / Diapothèque
Elizabeth Sodero, FRPSC, Halifax, NS sodero@ns.sympatico.ca

T.A.P.E. Executive Director / T.A.P.E. Directeur exécutif
Peter Butler, Toronto, ON pbutler@ilap.com

The Canadian Philatelist* / *Le philatéliste canadien
P.O. Box/C.P. 929, Station/Succ Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1
Editor / Rédacteur, Tony Shaman, FRPSC, PO Box 43103, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9
tshaman@rogers.com
Advertising: Jim Szeplaki (905) 734-0641, jims@trajan.ca

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Le Philatéliste canadien

Journal of The
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANADA

Revue de La
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November/December 2007 novembre/decembre - VOL. 58 • NO.6 (Number/Numéro 343)

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the cover / page couverture:

A cartoon-like image depicting Santa and his elves illustrates the letterhead design used by letter-writing "elves" employed at Canada Post's Québec Region in Montréal. In 1982 Canada Post took the Santa Letter-Writing program national and released a uniform design to replace the different designs on letters in use at various postal locations across the country.

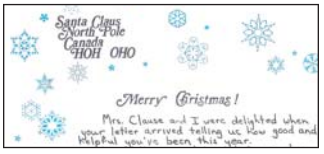
As indicated by the permit stamp imprinted on pre-national-era covers, the Post Office had absorbed the mailing costs for the regional initiatives even before the program went national. Local- and national-era covers alike show Santa's unique North Pole H0H 0H0 postal code.

Une image de style bande dessinée représentant le père Noël et ses lutins illustre l'en-tête du papier à lettre qu'utilisaient les lutins du père Noël employés par Postes Canada dans la région de Montréal au Québec. En 1982, Postes Canada a lancé son Programme de lettres au père Noël et a fourni un dessin uniformisé en remplacement des dessins qu'utilisaient les différents bureaux de poste du Canada.

Tel que l'indique la marque de permis imprimée sur les enveloppes d'avant l'institution du programme national, les bureaux de poste assumaient déjà les coûts d'affranchissement. Tant les enveloppes de l'époque locale que celles de l'époque nationale portent le code postal du pôle Nord H0H 0H0.



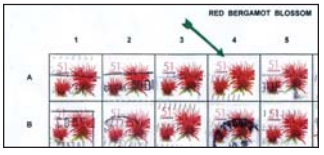
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EDITOR'S notes
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by / par Tony Shaman, FRPSC

For the benefit of members unable to attend Royal*2007*ROYALE in Toronto we have reprinted our Editor's Report as presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Report of the Editor

I am pleased to be able to report that the cosmetic changes to the magazine that we initiated a year ago appear to have been well received by readers. Nor have they caused undue problems or disruptions in the production process.

Readers may have noticed that we have stopped printing the Chapter Meetings column in each issue. It is now run in alternate editions with the freed-up space given to Peter Butler for his National Office report.

The additional editorial checks that we have added have had a significant impact in reducing the number of errors creeping into the magazine. For example, the Palmares reports, prepared by JJ Danielski, are virtually error free as are the listings in the Coming Events Calendar, checked by Doug Lingard before they see print. Assisting in line editing is George Pepall, whose professional background in education has been invaluable in taking the magazine to a level where we need no longer be embarrassed by those pesky "typos" and other careless errors. Readers will recognize the name as he wears several hats in The Royal. Besides penning his bi-monthly Chapter Chatter, this hardworking director also holds down the Chapter Liaison position and chairs the Anti-Theft Committee.

Our immediate Past President and resident bilingual expert Charles Verge assures me that the French text is up to snuff and essentially error-free. In addition to our translator's work being second to none, Ms. Charest is a most pleasant and cooperative individual to work with.

I need to express my thanks and appreciation to all these individuals for their continued support and dedication. Although we may never achieve a 100% error-free publication, it is the goal that we strive toward.

The Vermeil awards that we received at Washington 2006 and St. Petersburg 2007 reflect, I believe, the hard work that your team on the magazine invests in each issue.

In an effort to keep costs down, we did not use any copyrighted material this past year that had any costs associated with it. Everything that appeared in the magazine, including all artwork, was submitted gratis, mostly by members of the society.

Pour ceux qui n'ont pas pu assister à Royale*2007*Royale, nous publions à nouveau le Rapport du rédacteur en chef qui a été présenté lors de la réunion générale annuelle.

Rapport du rédacteur en chef

Je suis heureux d'annoncer que les changements esthétiques que nous avons commencé à apporter à notre revue, il y a un an, semblent bien accueillis par les lecteurs et qu'ils n'ont pas causé de problèmes inattendus ou d'interruption du processus de production.

Vous avez peut-être remarqué que nous avons cessé de publier la chronique sur les réunions des chapitres dans chaque numéro. Elle paraît maintenant en alternance avec la chronique de Peter Butler pour le Bureau national.

Les vérifications supplémentaires que nous faisons maintenant avant de publier notre revue ont considérablement réduit le nombre d'erreurs qui s'y glissaient. Ainsi, elles sont pratiquement absentes du Palmarès de JJ Danielski tout comme elles le sont des entrées du calendrier des évènements à venir, révisé par Doug Lingard. Et George Pepall nous prête main-forte dans l'édition ligne à ligne. Ses antécédents professionnels dans le domaine de l'enseignement ont été d'une aide précieuse pour porter notre revue à un niveau de qualité où nous n'avons plus à rougir de coquilles ni d'autres fautes d'inattention. Les lecteurs reconnaîtront son nom, car il cumule plusieurs fonctions à La Royale. En plus de signer la chronique mensuelle « Parlons des chapitres », ce directeur infatigable est chargé de la liaison avec les chapitres et préside le Comité contre le vol.

Notre président sortant et expert bilingue, Charles Verge, m'assure que le texte français est à la hauteur et exempt d'erreurs. En plus de réaliser des traductions sans pareilles, Mme Charest est très coopérative et travailler avec elle est un plaisir.

Je dois exprimer mes remerciements et mon appréciation à chacune de ces personnes pour leur soutien continu et leur dévouement. Il se peut que notre revue n'atteigne jamais l'absence d'erreurs à 100 %, mais c'est notre objectif.

Selon moi, les récompenses « Vermeil » que nous avons reçue à Washington en 2006, et à Saint-Pétersbourg en 2007, témoigne du travail ardu que l'équipe de rédaction investit dans chaque numéro.

En vue de maintenir des coûts réduits, au cours de l'année écoulée, nous n'avons rien utilisé qui nous aurait obligés à payer des droits d'auteur. Tout ce qui a paru dans la revue, y compris les œuvres artistiques, a été publié gratuitement et a été majoritairement soumis par des membres de la société.

The elimination of the magazine wrap has also saved us money and as far as I know there have not been any serious complaints by members. As the mailing label is relatively easy to remove with a hot iron there seems to be no reason why our current mailing method should not be continued.

Of course, the ultimate measure of success of *The Canadian Philatelist* rests with its readers. To be a meaningful publication, it must meet your needs. But those needs can be met only if you tell us what they are. We need to know what we do right and what needs to be changed. Remember, we are only as far away as your computer terminal, your telephone, or your nearest mail box.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tony Shaman,
Editor

Canada's Map issue, more correctly known as the 2-cent Imperial stamp, is undoubtedly one of Canada's most complex postage stamps. It is also one of its most intensively researched stamps. Ozzie Osborne presents yet another hypothesis to explain some of the issue's printing idiosyncrasies for your reflection. The stamp is also, as probably every collector knows by now, considered to be the world's first Christmas stamp and the article is, therefore, eminently suited for inclusion in our Christmas edition.

Although Charles de Gaulle was not the most beloved foreign head of state visiting Canada after his "Vive le Québec Libre" speech from the Montréal City Hall balcony, he was immensely popular in his native France. Dick Logan looks at the man and his lifetime of service to his country.

Collectors remain fascinated with the Red Calla Lily stamp and we present Part 2 of the monograph penned by Tony Edward, as well as a shorter manuscript by Tante Bon on the flower.

For postal history enthusiasts we have included two articles: Ken Lewis looks at mail sent by Admiral Dundas during his service in the Crimea, and George Arfken has penned a piece dealing with the ever-popular Wilson Patriotic covers and cards. Their vibrant colours undoubtedly contribute to their immense popularity.

Of course, Christmas would not be complete for most people without Santa and we have not overlooked the jolly old elf's appearance on these pages. Canada Post launched its national Santa Letter-Writing program in 1982 but postal employees answered youngsters' letters to Santa long before that. In this issue we look at some of those locally produced letters and how they might be differentiated from their national-era cousins. Perhaps some readers have information about what is surely one of Canada Post's most successful programs.

Lastly, a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanza, Eid ul Fitr, and a prosperous and fulfilling New Year to one and all! ✉

L'élimination de l'enveloppe de la revue nous a aussi aidés à économiser et, pour autant que je sache, n'a pas été une source de plaintes sérieuses de la part des membres. Comme l'étiquette postale est relativement facile à décoller avec un fer à repasser, il ne semble pas y avoir de raisons de ne pas conserver la méthode actuelle.

Mais bien sûr, l'évaluation ultime du succès du Philatéliste canadien appartient aux lecteurs. Pour que cette publication ait du sens, elle doit combler vos besoins. Mais cela ne sera possible que si vous nous en faites part. Nous devons donc connaître ce qui est bien et ce qui doit changer. N'oubliez pas que nous ne sommes jamais plus loin que votre ordinateur, votre téléphone ou la boîte aux lettes la plus proche.

Le tout respectueusement soumis,
Tony Shaman
Rédacteur

Le timbre carte du Canada, mieux connu sous le nom de timbre impérial à 2 cent est sans doute l'un des timbres canadiens dont la production a été la plus complexe. C'est également l'un des timbres sur lequel on a effectué le plus de recherches. Afin de nourrir notre réflexion, Ozzie Osborne avance une hypothèse de plus en vue d'expliquer certains aspects de l'unicité de son impression. Comme la plupart des collectionneurs le savent sans doute déjà, ce timbre est aussi considéré comme le premier timbre de Noël. Par conséquent, l'article s'intègre remarquablement bien à notre numéro de Noël.

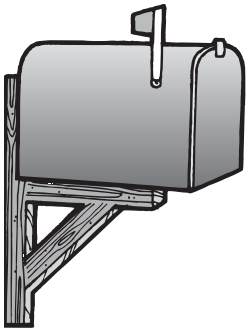
Dans un autre ordre d'idée, bien que Charles de Gaulle n'ait pas été le dirigeant étranger le plus aimé au Canada après sa déclaration « Vive le Québec libre » lancée du haut du balcon de l'hôtel de ville de Montréal, il était extrêmement populaire dans sa France natale. Dick Logan jette un coup d'œil sur l'homme et sur sa vie au service de son pays.

Les philatélistes sont toujours aussi fascinés par le timbre lys Calla rouge. Nous présentons donc la deuxième partie de la monographie de Tony Edward ainsi qu'un article plus court de Tante Bon sur cette fleur.

Puis, nous offrons deux articles à ceux que l'histoire postale enthousiasme : Ken Lewis examine le courrier que l'amiral Dundas expédiait alors qu'il était en service en Crimée et George Arfken nous parle des plis et des cartes patriotiques Wilson, toujours aussi populaires. Leurs couleurs brillantes contribuent sans doute à leur popularité.

Bien sûr, Noël ne serait pas complet sans le père Noël et nous n'avons pas négligé la présence du vieil elfe jovial dans nos pages. Postes Canada a lancé son programme de lettres au père Noël en 1982, mais les employés des postes avaient déjà, depuis belle lurette, commencé à répondre aux lettres adressées au père Noël. Dans le présent numéro, nous nous intéressons aux lettres écrites localement et à la façon dont elles pourraient se différencier de leurs cousines de l'époque nationale. Certains lecteurs ont peut-être de l'information sur ce qui, sans l'ombre d'un doute, est sûrement le programme le plus populaire de Postes Canada.

En terminant, joyeux Noël, joyeuse Hanoukka, Kwanza, Eid-ul-Fitr. Et à tous, une nouvelle année prospère et pleinement satisfaisante! ✉



in the MAILBOX
dans la boîte aux LETTRES

ROUTE DISPUTE

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading the final instalment of Ken Lewis' article on the *Graf Spee*, Vol. 58, No. 5. However, I am unable to comprehend the route to Europe he gives for the illustrated cover (Fig. 1), the date of which, although not stated, appears to be in 1942. By this date Italy was already at war with the Allies and thus its airline route (L.A.T.I) to/from South America had already been withdrawn. The only remaining airmail services east across the Atlantic were:

- Via New York and Pan Am FAM 18 to Lisbon on which route all mail was liable to censorship in Miami or, more probably, New York.
- Via Natal and Pan Am FAM 22 to W. Africa (Lagos) with an irregular air link to UK via Lisbon. Again, all mail being subject to censorship by the Allies.

Ken Lewis writes that the cover to Germany carried the typed instruction that it was to be sent "via Natal, Bolama, Lisbon, and further. The airport at Natal was used to supply the Allied troops in North Africa. This meant that there were regular flights operating between Natal and Bolama. From Bolama there were frequent flights to and from Lisbon". This statement is misleading.

It is clear from the transparent tape used to re-seal the cover that it was applied by the censor, probably at New York. And therefore carriage was north to New York and thence, by Pan Am FAM 18 to Lisbon.

Pan Am only commenced using Bolama for its FAM 18 service in February 1941, as an alternative route west over the Atlantic during the winter months to avoid adverse winds incurred on its trans-Atlantic route during the rest of the year. A route from S. America east to Bolama was never used.

In addition, most local S. American post offices seem to have been uncertain as to which S. Atlantic air routes continued in use throughout the war. What is clear, however, is that postal head offices usually ignored route direction endorsed by the sender without deletion, and forwarded mail by the most reliable route, i.e. North via FAM 18 (and thus subject to Allied censorship either in Bermuda post December 1941 or New York post 1941).

Sincerely,
Jack Ince
Stirling, ON

COLOUR ME (LESS) LILLY

Dear Editor,

Twelve pages of *The Canadian Philatelist* dedicated to the Calla Lily, Vol 58, No.5, makes for a very boring issue, I think. I find the stamp itself to be unattractive. Surely you could keep the topic to about four pages in one magazine. I was ready to toss the issue altogether. I certainly would not have purchased it at my local magazine store. You are lucky that I have a subscription!

I think it would also be nice if the magazine could put a little colour on the youth page (when its there) with a scan of a stamp or two to draw attention to the page by our youth. Black and white all over does evoke a bit of lower priority. After all, isn't our hope to attract more future collectors to the joy of stamp collecting? I found the rest of the magazine worth keeping.

Thank you for your confidence in us!

Martin Schofield
Saskatoon

COVER ME PLEASE

Dear Editor

Modern Day Covers:

I am interested in beginning a collection of modern day covers, and I've been looking (without success) for some sort of group or club involved in mailing covers to fellow collectors, and vice versa. I started in stamp collecting when I was 12, but gave it up after a few years. I remember learning of such clubs during that first "wave" of philatelic enthusiasm. And your organization seemed to be the appropriate forum to make my request. Any information you could supply me regarding "mail clubs" (yes, I googled that term, but found nothing) would be appreciated.

Kelly Halabura
s_stangle@hotmail.com.

MEMBERS, EXHIBITS, SPAIN & INFORMATION

Dear Editor,

The September/October issue of *TCP* arrived this morning – another good issue.

I have a comment on the photos on page 296 of the RPSL Centennial Exhibition.I think the group photo at the upper right is probably an accurate reflection on either the state of the hobby today, or a reflection on the membership of the "Royal Philatelic Society" – all old white guys! There is not one visible minority, female or young person in the entire group! I make no further comment (speaking, of course, as an old white guy!)

I am also attaching a scan of a stamp that came through the mail to me recently from a correspondent in Spain. I note that the stamp appears to be a commemmorative, but the date of

issue – not the postmark date – and the value are printed on. I have not come across this before and wonder if this is a common thing with European postal administrations. I note too that the date printed on the lower left of the stamp is the same as the postmark date, 30 July, except that the printed date is 30 JUL 00. Has anyone else reported this type of thing to you?

I have also noted your Editorial comments vis-a-vis exhibiting. The Barrie District Stamp Club several years ago went to an all-bourse show, simply because nobody was interested in putting up exhibits and it was too much of a hassle for the show chairman to keep after people all to no avail. The members seem happy with the present arrangement and we can sell two or three extra dealers tables in the space that used to be taken up with frames.



A comment as well on George Pepall's column re members lists. With the Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation being what it is, all people who compile and maintain lists of members have to be very careful that the lists do not get into wrong hands. First name and telephone number does guarantee a certain degree of anonimity, but these days on Canada411 all you have to do is key in the phone number and the name and address of the person who has that number, except for non-published numbers, comes right up. So stamp club officials need to be very alert as to who gets copies of their membership lists.

Cheers,
Mike Millar, FRPSC
Barrie, ON

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I would like to make collecting contacts in Canada to exchange stamps with. Please publish the following:

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news, views & HAPPENINGS
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An Amazing Find

The Postal History Society of Canada placed a short article with attachments on its Website concerning the recent discovery of a major Canadian philatelic artefact, a newspaper-postage booklet. The *Toronto Globe* used the booklet between 1895 and 1897. It shows the postage paid to mail newspapers to non-subscribers. Because *The Globe* was a large newspaper, these mailings were at times quite heavy.

In mid-1897, there was a special edition of *The Globe* commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and some of the pages in this booklet contain dollar-value Jubilee stamps, used properly to pay high postage rates. The PHSC was able to preserve the information in the booklet as scans and the entire booklet is shown as a reference on the PHSC Website www.postalhistorycanada.org/.

CAC 2006 Newsletter Competition Awards


Stamping Around

The SHOE BOX

President's Corner . . .

Upcoming Meetings

The American Philatelic Society's Chapter Activities Committee (CAC) has announced the awards in its 2006 Newsletter Competition. The 27 newsletters submitted by APS chapters in the competition were on display at StampShow 2007 August 9-12 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.

The purpose of the annual CAC competition is to spotlight stamp club and federation newsletter editors and acknowledge their hard work on behalf of philately. In addition to the awards themselves, each submission receives a judges' critique on newsletter content and format, with suggestions for possible improvements.

The 2006 newsletters were judged by a panel of three APS-accredited literature judges who are experienced writers. They were William H. Bauer of Unadilla, NY; Peter Martin of Danbury, CT; and Thomas C. Mazza of New York, NY.

The Chapter Activities Committee serves stamp clubs that are chapters of the American Philatelic Society.

Congratulations

PhilaJournal editor Garfield Portch and his two editorial assistants, Peter Butler and Ernie Nyitrai, are to be congratulated on earning a Vermeil medal for their publication in the American Philatelic Society Newsletter Competition for 2006. It garnered 81 out of a possible 100 points.

It was the first time that this relatively new philatelic publication had entered the APS Newsletter Competition. *PhilaJournal* is the official journal for 11 Toronto-area stamp clubs.

Best Joint Issues

Members of the International Philatelic Society of Joint Stamp Issues Collectors (IPS-JSIC) have chosen the following stamps as the Best Joint Issues for the year 2006.

Austria Post and Hong Kong Post are the recipients of the 2006 Best Joint Issue award for the Fireworks issue released on August 22, 2006. It was designed by Adolf Tuma (Austria) and Arde Lam (Hong Kong). It was printed by Österreichische Staatsdruckerei (Austria).

Second place was awarded to Finland and Sweden for the Suomenlinna issue released on May 4, 2006.

Third place was awarded to Canada and the United States for the Champlain issue released on May 28, 2006.

The selection was made from among 32 joint issues released in 2006 by 57 postal administrations representing 49 countries for a total 148 stamps and 34 souvenir sheets. Omnibus and territorial issues were excluded from the contest.

Virtual exhibits

The Internet address http://www.exponet.info includes a permanent, international, non-competitive exhibition named EXPONET. It is intended as a public display of high quality exhibits of all philatelic areas and time periods.

According to a press release, "The aim of the organizers of EXPONET is to provide a permanent presentation of high quality exhibits to facilitate on-line study for visitors throughout the world. It is not intended to compete with traditional classical exhibits, but rather to enable on-line viewing for everyone, regardless of distance, and thus take part in the support and propagation of philately."



Consistent Performer

The pictured medal, earned by your magazine at Saint-Petersburg 2007, is the sixth Vermeil award for *The Canadian Philatelist* since 2002. To remain a consistent, high award winner year after year would not be possible without the enthusiastic support of a great many people. Thank you, one and all.

- Editor

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The J.C. Wilson Patriotic Covers and Cards

By George B. Arfken and William S. Pawluk

With Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897 was a time of celebrating, rejoicing and feeling patriotic about the British Empire and about Canada. At this time or in January 1898, J.C. Wilson, a wealthy industrialist, started creating and selling patriotic envelopes and post cards[1]. The most comprehensive reference to the J.C. Wilson patriotics is a 1957 article by Henry Gates[2]. The vivid red British Ensign shown in Figure 1 was an early Wilson card. The words at upper left were taken from a popular song of the day. There were two basic types of the British Ensign, type I with the horizontal "The Flag that Braved" continuous and type II with the vertical "a Thousand Years" continuous.



Figure 1. The British Ensign, Type I, mailed as a private post card in Montreal, January 28, 1898.

Wilson advertised his patriotic cards and envelopes by private post cards of his own. Figure 2 shows the message side of one of Wilson's advertising cards.

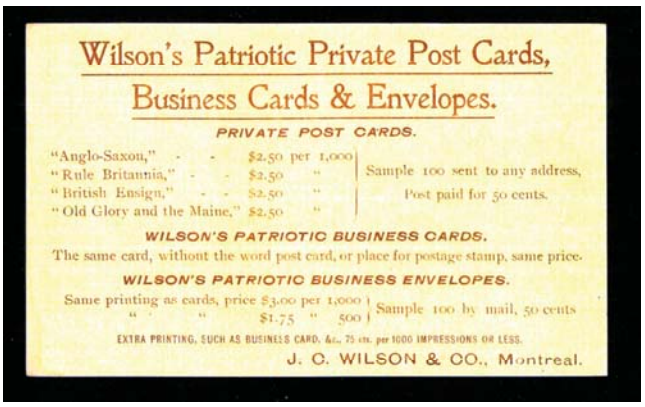


Figure 2. J.C. Wilson's price list for patriotic private post cards and envelopes.

The prices, $2.50 per 1,000 cards and $3 per 1,000 envelopes are pretty reasonable by today's standards. The four designs listed on the card were the first four Wilson designs issued. We show here these four designs and two other designs that were issued later.

With Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897 was a time of celebrating, rejoicing and feeling patriotic about the British Empire and about Canada.

The first design that Wilson listed on his advertising card was Anglo-Saxon, shown in Figure 3. The new Imperial stamp, issued to pay the two cent Imperial Penny Postage letter rate, paid the two cent UPU post card rate to New Zealand. "Gloria Mundi" may be translated as "Glory of the World".



Figure 3. Anglo-Saxon posted in Chatham, Ont., January 30, 1899 and addressed to New Zealand.

The private post card of Figure 4 was mailed in Toronto, June 19, 1898. The two-cent violet Maple Leaf paid the UPU post card rate. Although addressed to England, the card was sent first to (the Dead Letter Office ?), Ottawa. Until 1899, the front of a private post card in UPU mail was limited to the address and a return address. No advertising was allowed. Nevertheless this Anglo-Saxon card was forwarded to England without being charged the five cents per half ounce letter rate (perhaps because it was a patriotic card).

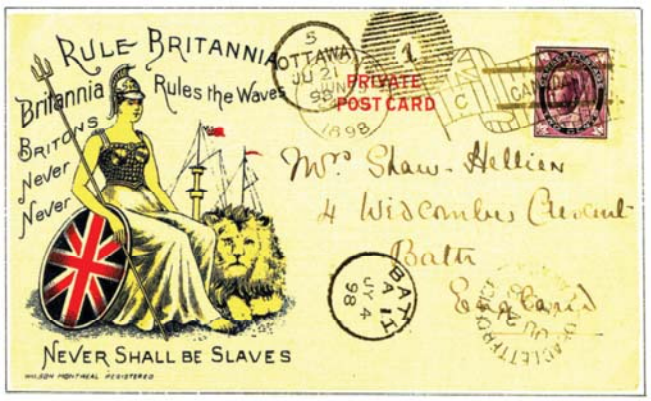


Figure 4. Rule Britannica, posted in Toronto, June 19, 1898 and addressed to Bath, England.

Gates[2] lists several varieties of this card. One involves the lion's left eye. On some cards the left eye is closed. Here it is open.

The Wilson cover of Figure 5 is remarkable both because of its design and because of its use. The two-cent Maple Leaf did not pay Imperial Penny Postage on this cover. Imperial Penny Postage did not start until Christmas 1898, three months in the future. Notice the address "P William Cassidy, Royal Berkshire Regt." This was a letter to a British soldier and was paid the two-cent soldier's letter rate. This may be the only letter to a British soldier in the Maple Leaf period.

The design is striking, a U.S. flag and at lower left "Maine". Wilson was expressing sympathy for the sinking of the U.S. battleship *Maine* February 15, 1898 in Havana harbor. This had triggered the Spanish American War. That war had just ended but Britain was moving into a war of its own in South Africa.



Figure 5. Old Glory and the *Maine*. This is a letter to a soldier, mailed in September 1898 and addressed to Barbados, West Indies. There is a Barbados 22 SP 98 Ship Letter backstamp. Courtesy of Charles A. Jacobson.

One of Wilson's most beautiful covers is shown in Figure 6. The Latin words may be translated "We love the Fatherland." Franked with a two-cent Numeral, this cover was addressed to Switzerland. At this time, 1901, the Canadian domestic rate was two cents per ounce and the Imperial Penny Postage rate was two cents per half ounce. However, the rate to Switzerland was the UPU five cents per half ounce. The cover was three cents short so the Canadian Exchange Office stamped it T/15, the 15 being the deficiency in French centimes. In Switzerland, the cover was marked with a blue 30 for 30 ctm to be collected, and 10 and 20 ctm Swiss postage due stamps were affixed.

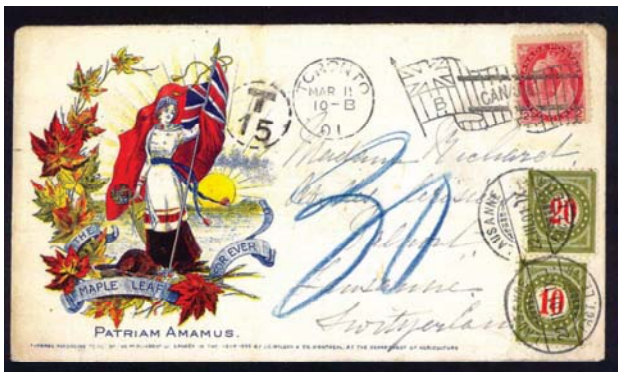


Figure 6. Wilson's The Maple Leaf Forever, posted in Toronto, March 11, 1901 and addressed to Switzerland. Franked with only a two cent Numeral, the cover was three cents (15 centimes) short paid. Doubled to 30 ctm as a penalty, the Swiss affixed 10 and 20 ctm postage due stamps (and collected 30 centimes).

With the stage for war set by the discovery of gold near Johannesburg, the South African War officially started on October 12, 1899. A Canadian military contingent left for South Africa on October 30, 1899[3]. Most of the Wilson patriotic covers and cards have a statement printed at the bottom giving the year of registration with the Department of Agriculture. The date on the cover of Figure 7 is 1900. Canada was already involved in the war.

With the onset of war, Wilson's patriotic covers changed from a general love of Canada to support for the Queen and military action. The three Latin words on Figure 7 become "She is the most noble of them." The cover was properly franked with a two cent Numeral booklet stamp paying the two cents per ounce domestic rate. ✉



Figure 7. The Queen, posted in North Sydney, Cape Breton, N.S., September 15, 1901 and addressed to Halifax.

REFERENCES

[1] This article was adapted from *A Canadian Postal History, 1897 - 1911* by Arfken and Pawluk.

[2] Gates, Henry *Canada Patriotics, The Wilson Series, The Congress Book*, 1957, 23rd American Philatelic Congress, (The Green Book).

[3] Robinson, William G. *Canadian Participation in the Anglo-Boer War, 1899 - 1902*, BNAPS 1996.



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Santa Reply Letters: *The Early Years*

Lettres-résponses du père Noel: *les premières années*

By/par Nick R. Bocker

In 1982 Canada Post took its Santa Letter-Writing program national. The program augmented its already successful Children's Literacy initiative but there were other reasons why a national program was introduced.

After the T. Eaton Company closed down its Santa letter answering service, and the post office ceased to forward youngsters' Santa letters to Department stores in 1967, thousands of those letters ended up in the Dead Letter Office. Post office officials did not feel very good about all those letters going unanswered and in January 1972 the editor of *Communication '72*, Canada Post's in-house publication, queried readers if there might be a better way of dealing with these letters.

Several readers submitted responses that the editor printed in the March 1972 issue. One reply came from a 15-year-old youngster. The young lady, the daughter of a Winnipeg postal employee, suggested that the post office recruit part-time "elves" to answer the letters with the Post Office picking up the postage cost. Judging by the way that the National Santa Letter-Writing program is being administered currently, it appears that Canada Post adopted the main points suggested by the Winnipeg youngster although it would be another ten years before the Post Office would launch the program nationally.

During that ten year interval, Canada Post employees in a number of communities in various parts of the country organized their own letter-answering programs with the help of the post office. Most notable among these efforts was the Québec Region where in 1973 postal employees, assisted by the Communications Branch, Montréal Division, answered about 2,000 children's letters, according to Jacques Filteau, a Canada Post retiree. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Santa Letter-Writing program in the Montréal area, Canada Post published a

En 1982, Postes Canada étendait son Programme de lettres au père Noël à l'échelle nationale. L'initiative d'alphabétisation des enfants qui était déjà un succès s'élargissait, mais là n'était pas la seule raison de la création d'un programme national.

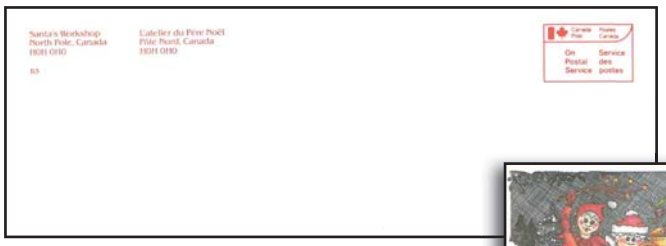
Quand la compagnie T. Eaton a mis fin à son service de réponses aux lettres adressées au père Noël et que Postes Canada a cessé de livrer les lettres des enfants aux magasins, en 1967, ces lettres se sont retrouvées par Milliers au bureau des rebuts. Les fonctionnaires de la poste étaient désolés de voir toutes ces lettres sans réponse. Aussi, en 1972, le rédacteur en chef de *Communication 72*, le bulletin interne de Postes Canada, a demandé aux lecteurs s'il n'y aurait pas une meilleure solution.

Plusieurs lecteurs ont alors fait des suggestions qui ont été publiées dans le numéro de mars 1972. L'une d'entre elles venait d'un jeune de quinze ans. La jeune demoiselle, fille d'un employé des postes de Winnipeg, proposait que le bureau de poste engage des « lutins » à temps partiel pour répondre aux lettres et qu'il en assume l'affranchissement. Si l'on en juge à la façon dont le Programme de lettres au père Noël est actuellement administré, il semble que Postes Canada ait adopté les principales suggestions de cette jeune fille de Winnipeg, même s'il a fallu attendre dix ans avant que le programme ne soit lancé à l'échelle nationale.

Au cours de ces dix années, des employés de Postes Canada de nombreuses collectivités, un peu partout au pays, ont organisé leur propre programme avec l'aide du bureau de poste. L'un des efforts les plus remarquables à cet égard a eu lieu au Québec où, en 1973, des employés des postes aidés par le Service des communications de la division de Montréal ont répondu à 2000 lettres, selon Jacques Filteau, un retraité de Postes Canada. Pour célébrer le 10e anniversaire du Programme de lettres au Père Noël dans la région de Montréal, en 1983, Postes Canada a publié un livret coloré à couverture rigide intitulé

colourful, hard cover booklet in 1983 entitled *Des fleurs pour le Père Noël*; the English version is titled *Flowers for Santa Claus*.

Figure 1 illustrates an example of a Santa letter prepared by Canada Post's Québec Region. No English version of this letter has been reported although a "blank" letterhead exists. From the imprinted permit stamp on the envelope in which these "local" Santa letters were sent, it is clear that Canada Post paid for the postage as illustrated in Figure 2. This practice continued after Canada Post took the program national in 1982.





Pôle Nord
Mois des neiges 1983

Bonjour mon petit amour,

Ha! Ha! Ha! Mon coeur de Père Noël est tout heureux de lire ta belle lettre. Je n'y réponds qu'aujourd'hui, car j'ai reçu des montagnes de messages.

Cette année, mes petits lutins loquins ont été vraiment gentils. Ils ont décoré de biscuits de pain d'épice l'énorme sapin de Noël du royaume des neiges. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Imagine-toi que la fée des étoiles ne retrouvait plus son grand chapeau... Oh, la la!... Ne l'en fais pas, on lui avait joué un drôle de tour.

Pour excuser mon retard, je t'envoie une autre surprise.

Amuse-toi bien!

Père Noël.

P.-S.: Un gros merci aux employés de la Société canadienne des postes de m'avoir transmis ta lettre et au Service des communications de la Région postale du Québec qui me donne l'occasion d'y répondre.

Figures 1 (right) and 2 (above).

Another local Santa letter, depicting a real live Santa and Mrs. Claus, was introduced for use in the Belleville, Ontario, postal region. It features then Letter Carrier Bruce Nickle as Santa. Sitting on his lap is his wife Marjorie dressed as Mrs. Claus (Figure 3).

Santa reading a letter is the design on the letterhead used by the post office in Halifax, NS, (Figure 4). The B3J 2B1 postal code on its accompanying cover identifies its Halifax origin (Figure 5).



December

Hello there!

You see, once again this year, the mailman found me...he's a very bright fellow! All of the elves were watching out for him because all of us here wanted to be sure we heard from you.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

The elves are busy in the workshop making toys, and Mrs. Claus is getting all my things ready for the long journey.

The North Star promised me that she would remind all of the stars to shine especially on Christmas night to light up my way.

Love,

Santa

Santa Claus

P.S. I'd like to say a big "thank you" to Canada Post for having forwarded your letter to me, and making it possible for me to answer you.

Mois des glaces

Bonjour toi,

Tu vois, cette année encore, le facteur m'a trouvé...il est très astucieux! Cependant, j'avoue avoir demandé aux lutins de l'épier, car je voulais m'assurer de bien recevoir ta lettre.

Ah! Ah! Ah!

Les lutins sont très actifs dans l'atelier à fabriquer les jouets, et Mme. Noël s'occupe de préparer mes objets pour le long voyage.

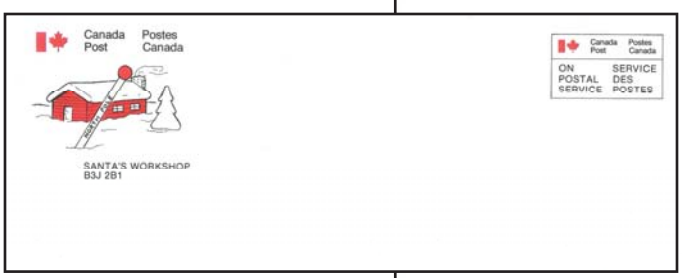
Le Grand Ourse m'a promis d'allumer un feu de joie la nuit de Noël pour éclairer mon grand voyage. Heureusement que les pendules ne marquent pas la même heure dans le monde entier, sinon je ne pourrais jamais faire ma tournée, car il y a tellement d'enfants.

Je t'embrasse très fort,

Père Noël

Père Noël

P.-S. Un gros merci aux employés des Postes canadiennes de m'avoir transmis ta lettre et me donner l'occasion d'y répondre.



Canada Post Postes Canada

SANTA'S WORKSHOP
B3J 2B1

Canada Post Postes Canada
ON POSTAL SERVICE
SERVICE DES POSTES

Figures 3 (left), 4 (right), and 5 (above).

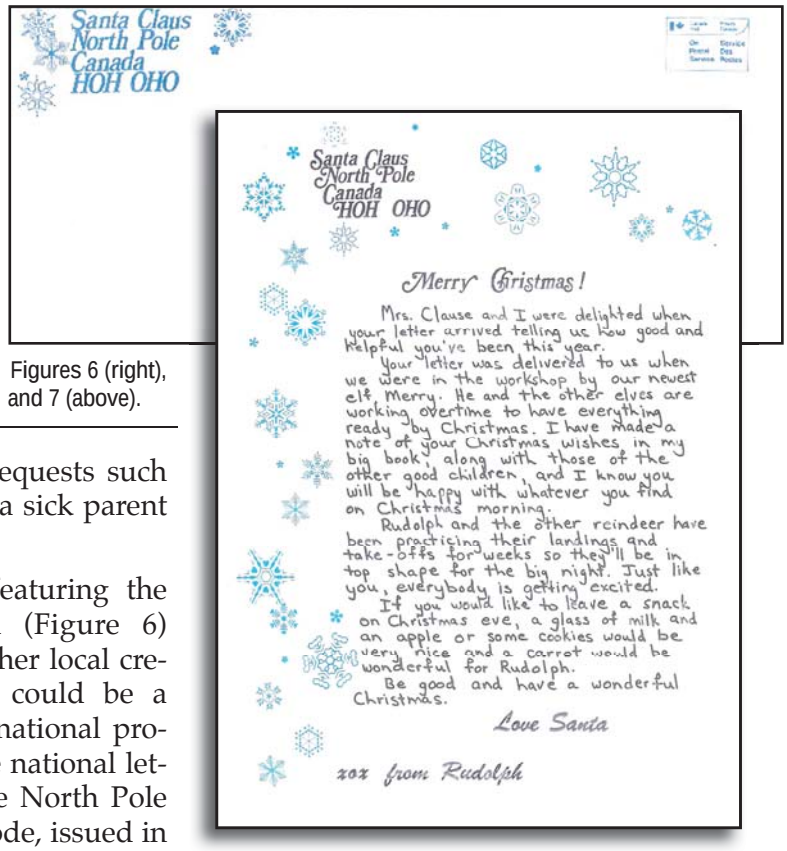
Des fleurs pour le père Noël; la version anglaise a été intitulée *Flowers for Santa* Claus.

La figure 1 illustre une lettre du père Noël rédigée par Postes Canada au Québec. On ne connaît pas de version anglaise de cette lettre, bien qu'elle porte un en-tête en « blanc ». D'après la marque de permis imprimée sur les enveloppes qu'utilisaient les services postaux locaux, il est évident que c'est Postes Canada qui payait l'affranchissement, tel que l'illustre la figure 2. La pratique s'est poursuivie quand Postes Canada a repris le programme à l'échelle nationale.

Une autre lettre locale montrant un vrai père Noël et sa mère Noël a été utilisée dans la région de Belleville en Ontario. Le père Noël y était représenté par Bruce Nickle, un facteur, avec sa femme, Marjorie, assise sur ses genoux, vêtue en M^{me} Noël (figure 3).

Halifax, N.-É., on utilisait un en-tête représentant le père Noël en train de lire une lettre (figure 4). C'est le code postal de l'enveloppe, B3J 2B1, qui nous révèle qu'elle vient d'Halifax (figure 5). Les en-têtes sans inscription étaient partie intégrante du programme (comme ils le sont toujours pour le programme national) ce qui donne aux lutins la liberté nécessaire pour répondre aux demandes particulières, comme les souhaits de retour à la santé pour un parent ou quelqu'un de la famille.

Blank letterheads were an integral part of the local Santa Letter-Writing program (as they still are for the national program) to give Santa's elves the needed flexibility for replying to letters with special requests such as the recovery of a sick parent or sibling.



Figures 6 (right), and 7 (above).

A Santa letter featuring the snowflake design (Figure 6) appears to be another local creation although it could be a candidate for the national program. It has all the national letter ingredients: the North Pole H0H 0H0 postal code, issued in both French and English, and comes with a cover with a matching corner card. (Figure 7) But because the image of Santa is missing it is suspect as a national letter. Furthermore, its design differs substantially from subsequent national letter styles which all feature a Santa image. It just does not quite "fit" the national letter style.

Another letter believed to have been used before the launch of the national program may also be a good national letter candidate (Figure 8). It has the requisite Santa image, the H0H 0H0 postal code, and a cover corner card that matches its letterhead design. The problem is that no French version of this letter has ever been reported. All letters from the national program are printed in both official languages and this omission makes it suspect as a national letter.

A similar problem exists with the black-and-white letter reproduced in Figure 9. There is nothing to eliminate it as a national program candidate



Figure 8.

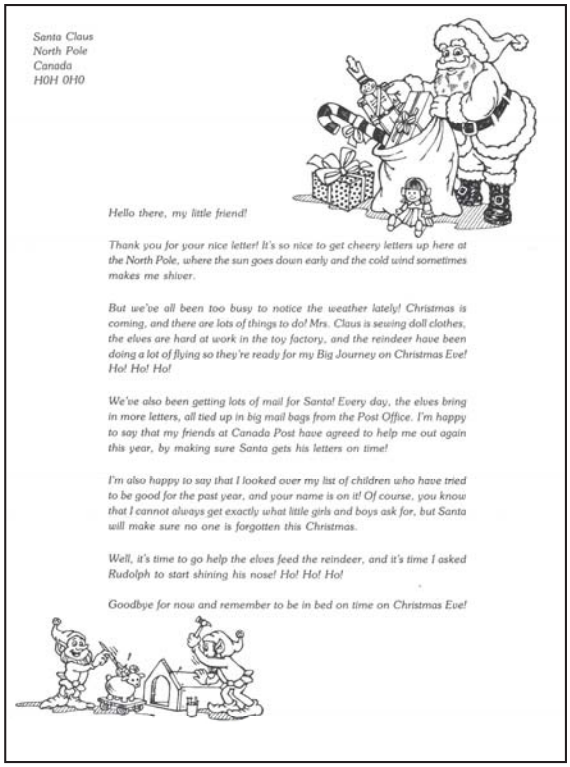
Une lettre sur laquelle était illustré des flocons de neige (figure 6) semble aussi être une création locale, mais il pouvait également s'agir d'une suggestion pour le programme national, car elle en possède toutes les caractéristiques : le code postal du pôle Nord, H0H 0H0, une version anglaise et une française, et une enveloppe assortie (figure 7). L'absence du père Noël nous fait cependant douter qu'il s'agisse d'une lettre nationale. De plus, le style diffère passablement de celui des lettres subséquentes portant l'image du père Noël. Il ne « colle » pas tout à fait.

Une autre lettre, qui semble avoir été utilisée avant le lancement du programme national, pourrait aussi être une bonne candidate à ce programme(figure 8). Elle porte l'image requise du père Noël, le code postal H0H 0H0 et est accompagnée d'une enveloppe assortie au dessin de l'en-tête. On ne lui connaît cependant pas de version française alors que toutes les lettres du programme national ont été imprimées dans les deux langues officielles. Une telle omission soulève donc un doute.

Le même problème se présente avec la lettre en noir et blanc de la figure 9. Rien ne l'exclut de la candidature au programme national, sauf le fait qu'elle est en noir et blanc. Aucun autre article de papeterie en noir et blanc n'a été signalé à ce jour. En outre, comme dans l'exemple précédent, il n'existe aucune version française connue.

except for being printed in black and white. No other national Santa stationery in black and white has thus far been reported. Furthermore, as in the previous example, no French version of this letter is known.

Information about the transitional era from the various local endeavours to the national Santa Letter-Writing program might not have been documented by Canada Post. If it was, it is not available to researchers. For that reason it is extremely difficult to determine which of these early Santa letters, if any, are from the national program. Until more information or sample letters and envelopes come to light, a definitive answer must be held in abeyance.


Santa Claus
North Pole
Canada
H0H 0H0

Hello there, my little friend!

Thank you for your nice letter! It's so nice to get cheery letters up here at the North Pole, where the sun goes down early and the cold wind sometimes makes me shiver.

But we've all been too busy to notice the weather lately! Christmas is coming, and there are lots of things to do! Mrs. Claus is sewing doll clothes, the elves are hard at work in the toy factory, and the reindeer have been doing a lot of flying so they're ready for my Big Journey on Christmas Eve! Ho! Ho! Ho!

We've also been getting lots of mail for Santa! Every day, the elves bring in more letters, all tied up in big mail bags from the Post Office. I'm happy to say that my friends at Canada Post have agreed to help me out again this year, by making sure Santa gets his letters on time!

I'm also happy to say that I looked over my list of children who have tried to be good for the past year, and your name is on it! Of course, you know that I cannot always get exactly what little girls and boys ask for, but Santa will make sure no one is forgotten this Christmas.

Well, it's time to go help the elves feed the reindeer, and it's time I asked Rudolph to start shining his nose! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Goodbye for now and remember to be in bed on time on Christmas Eve!

Figure 9.

Because there is a ten year period from the time that Canada Post employees, in cooperation with their local post offices, introduced their Santa letters in 1973 until the program went national in 1982 it is difficult to determine if the letters and stationery illustrated here are from the local or national programs.

Perhaps Canada Post will someday make its Santa Letter-Writing Program documentation available to researchers for study. In the meantime, the philatelic community must wait until more Santa material (letters, covers, thank you tokens and so on) is uncovered before the full story of Canada's Santa Letter-Writing program, a fascinating piece of Canadiana, can be told. ✉

Les renseignements sur la période de transition des programmes locaux au programme national n'ont peut-être pas été consignés par Postes Canada. Et s'ils l'ont été, les chercheurs n'y ont pas accès. C'est pourquoi il est très difficile de déterminer lesquelles de ces lettres, le cas échéant, proviennent du programme national. En attendant les échantillons de lettres et d'enveloppes ou les renseignements supplémentaires qui nous éclaireront, la réponse finale demeure en suspens.

Comme dix ans se sont écoulés entre le moment, en 1973, où les employés de Postes Canada, en collaboration avec leurs bureaux de poste locaux, ont commencé à répondre aux lettres pour le père Noël et celui où le programme national a été lancé, il est difficile de déterminer si les lettres et les articles de papeterie illustrés proviennent d'un programme local ou du programme national.

Postes Canada finira peut-être par mettre la documentation sur son Programme de lettres au père Noël à la disposition de la communauté philatélique afin qu'elle l'étudie. Entre temps, les chercheurs doivent attendre d'avoir accès à davantage de lettres, de plis, de jetons de remerciement, etc., avant que toute l'histoire du programme de lettres au père Noël, un élément fascinant de l'héritage canadien, ne puisse être racontée. ✉

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Admiral Dundas

By Ken Lewis

Admiral Dundas (Figure 1) was born James Whitley Deans on December 4, 1785. The young Deans, whose family held a barony, changed his surname to Dundas in 1808. In addition to serving on many naval ships he also served as a Member of Parliament. He died on October 3, 1862.

Early History

James W. Deans joined the Royal Navy as a volunteer Midshipman on March 19, 1799 at age 13. Although age 13 is regarded as young by today's standard, the rank of 'Boy' existed at the time. The youngest midshipman on record serving as a 'Boy' was eight years old. He served aboard *HMS Temeraire* at the Battle of Trafalgar.

During his first six years in the Royal Navy, Dundas saw service in the Mediterranean, west coast of France, and in the North Sea. Lord Keith promoted him to Lieutenant of the *Cambrian* on May 25, 1805. The following year he became Flag-Lieutenant to the Honorary George Cranfield Berkley for a few weeks before being promoted to Commander on the October 8, 1806. In 1807 he was actively employed in peace duties in both the Baltic and North Seas. It was on April 2, 1808 when he married his first cousin, Janet, the only daughter and heiress of Charles Dundas (Lord Amesbury) and it was at this ceremony that he took the surname Dundas. The convention was that if the family names of both the bride and the groom were to be linked, it would have taken the form of Dundas-Deans, and not Deans-Dundas. It was not the case in this instance and he took his wife's surname ahead of his own and became Deans-Dundas. Between 1815 and 1819 he commanded the *Tagus* frigate in the Mediterranean. During the years of 1830 and 1832 he was Flag-captain to Sir William Parker of the *Prince Regent*, which had a total of 120 guns. He went on to command the *Britannia* at Portsmouth as Flag-captain to Sir Philip Durham. Not content with his life in the navy, he became a Liberal Member of Parliament for Greenwich (1832 to 1834), Devizes (1836 to 1838), and again for Greenwich (1841 to 1852). While a Member of Parliament he sat on the board of the Admiralty for a few months in 1841, and again during 1846 to 1852. In January 1852 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, and by the end of the year he was promoted to Vice-admiral on December 17. When



Figure 1.

the Russian war broke out in the Crimea in 1854 he was based in the Mediterranean.

The Crimea

In 1854 Dundas held the Chief naval command during the summer and autumn of 1854. This included transporting the army to the Crimea, supporting the allies in the battle of the Alma, and engaging the sea-forts of Sebastopol on October 17, 1854. There was much criticism by Lord Raglan of his conduct with reference to the bombardment. Many journalists reported gossip from the camp but were ignorant of the many details that control the decisions of a commanding officer. Nevertheless, Dundas was a most estimable gentleman who was both brave and chivalrous. During this episode of the Crimean War, when he was in his 69th year, he lacked a younger man's energy to deal with the circumstances and resulting decisions. In January 1855, after completing his term of command, he returned to England and was succeeded by his second, Sir Edmund Lyons (later to became Lord Lyons). He was nominated for a G.C.B. (Knight

Grand Cross of the Bath) on July 5, 1855; his services were also acknowledged with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the Medjidie of the first class, and promoted to the rank of Admiral on December 8, 1857. Since his promotion to Admiral he played no sea-borne role with the Royal Navy, eventually passing away on October 3, 1862. Figure 2 shows some of the ships off the Crimean coast and army positions on the 20th day of the battle for the Heights of St. John. On the day of this battle, which lasted a mere three hours, the Russians were forced to withdraw.

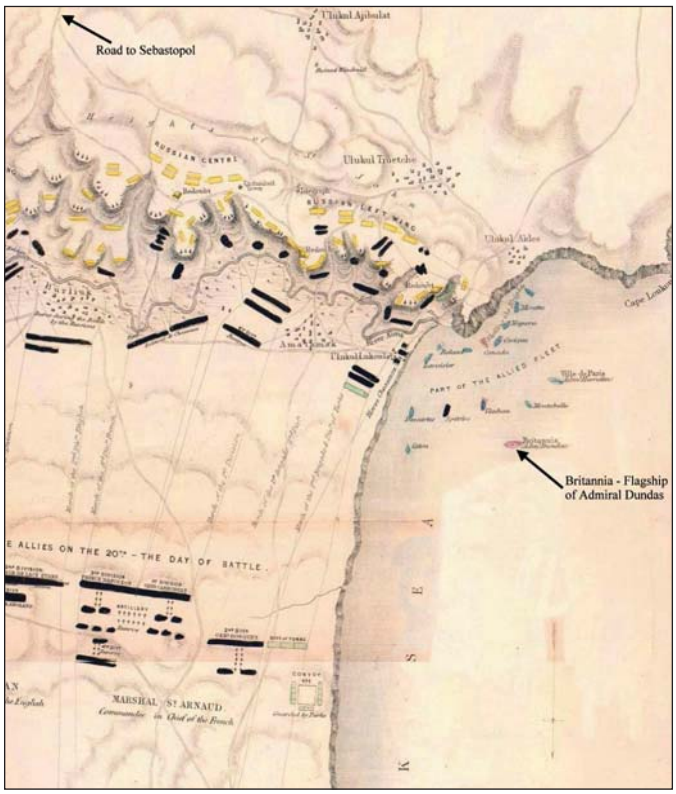


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

For interested readers, some of the ships under the command of Admiral Dundas in the Crimea, along with the number of guns, where known, in brackets after the name, were: *Tornado*, *Britannia* (120) [Flagship of Dundas], *Trafalgar* (120), *Queen* (116), *Agamemnon* (101) [Flagship of Sir Edmund Lyons], *Albion* (91), *Rodney* (90), *London* (90), *Vengeance* (84), *Bellerophon* (80), *Sanspareil* (70), *Arethusa* (50), and the *Briton*.

Marriages

Janet, his first wife, died in April 1846, and in August 1847 he married Lady Emily Moreton, who was the daughter of the First Earl of Ducie. Dundas, by his first wife, had a number of interests in large estates located in both Flintshire and Berkshire which he bequeathed to his grandson, Mr. Charles Amesbury Deans-Dundas.

Postal History

Figures 3 - 6 are examples of mail sent by Admiral Dundas during his time in the Crimea (Figures 3 & 4), and while an MP (Figures 5 & 6). Items 3 and 4 are shown as if opened out for easier viewing. There is another item of mail, shown in Figure 7, which deals with the wartime situation in Britain.

Military covers

Figure 3: A mourning cover that was sent in December 1854 by Dundas (from Finchley, London) to William Romani, Deputy Judge Advocate General, Head Quarters, Crimea. The cover was marked with a straight line 'Finchley' on the flap, and then delivered to the London Chief Office (St. Martins-le-Grand) for the cancellation of the three 1d red stamps. The numeral '19' in a diamond frame denotes that the General Post was dealing with the item, whereas if the District Post (Local) were involved the numeral '19' would have been in either a circular or oval frame. The first recorded numeral '19' cancel was in 1847 and a total of 18 different dies were used during the lifetime of that obliterator. This particular obliterator is recorded as being the sixth type and was used between May 1853 and April 1856. Also on the back, unfortunately part struck over the black edging on the

flap, is the datestamp that was applied by the same clerk who cancelled the stamps at the London Chief Office. The 'HA' on this datestamp are code letters for either the canceller or the duty. From this clerk the letter would have been passed to the Foreign Branch, which was in the same building, for dispatch to the Crimea.

Figure 4: This cover was sent by Dundas while in the Crimea to Thomas Smith, Crawley, Sussex, England. At the top left front is a manuscript inscription reading 'Via Marseilles', which meant that this letter was carried by ship from the Crimea to Marseilles, from there overland to Calais and across the channel at Dover. It was recognized that this route was substantially faster than taking the mail by ship all the way to England. The other inscription is the date of August 4th being the original posting date together with the receiving stamp in blue of Crawley dated September 18, 1854. Officers were not permitted to use the soldier's free rate and had to pay the 3d postage, which was cancelled with the '42' London (Paddington) obliterator. The back shows the London mark for the Inland Section for incoming mail and dated September 18, 1854. Also on the reverse can be seen the faint mark 'BRITISH ARMY/POST OFFICE' and the date 1854/SP 18.

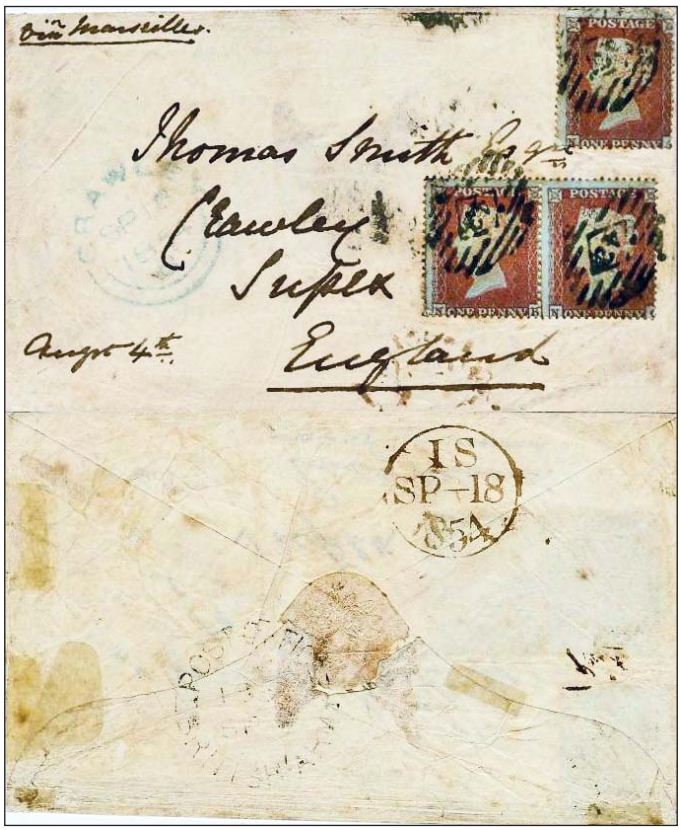


Figure 4.



Figure 5.


Figure 6.

Parliamentary covers

Figure 5: A cover sent by Dundas while a Member of Parliament representing Greenwich. The addressee was Dr. Lewisham, Bedford(?) Vicarage, Notts. Studying an early map of Nottingham shows the only vicarage noted as being on Bedford Road. The inscription at the top reads 'Hungerford, November eighth 1834', with the signature of Dundas. The red mark shows a free mark dated two days later. There are no markings on the back of this cover.

Figure 6: This cover was sent by Sir James Dundas, whilst a Devizes MP, to The Revd I Lord, Somerley [sic], Gr. [Great] Yarmouth, Norfolk. The top of the entire has the inscription reading 'London July sixth 1837', and the signature of Dundas. The red free mark (with crown) on the front is dated on the same day. As with Figure 4, there are no markings on the back.

Crimean War

The incident that started the Crimean War is not often mentioned, but was religious in origin. In June 1853 a dispute erupted concerning the keys of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Palestine, which included the city of Jerusalem, had been part of the Ottoman Empire since 1516.

In June of 1853 a rivalry that had been simmering for a long time eventually erupted. It broke out between the Roman Catholic priests under French patronage and the priests of the Russian Orthodox Church. A number of priests from the Russian Orthodox Church were murdered and their patron Tsar Nicholas I of Russia held the Turks responsible. The rest of the history has been well documented elsewhere, and will not be repeated here.

Figure 7: This printed wrapper was sent from Plymouth to Fox Brothers of Wellington (Somerset) bearing a 1d red postage stamp (SG 8, plate 161, with letters NL in the lower corners) is only just tied to the wrapper by the numeral obliterator '620' for Plymouth. The date has been applied to the back, and reads 'Plymouth SP/27/1853' in yellow. To facilitate easier viewing the wrapper has been opened and reads:

Mill Bay Soap and Soda Works,

Plymouth, 27th September 1953.

Sir,

The expectation of a War, added to the short supply, has produced a further increase in the value of Tallow, the price of Yellow Candle having reached 58s 6d per cwt.

We have this day advanced the prices of our soaps One Pound per ton.

Mill Bay 42s per Cwt

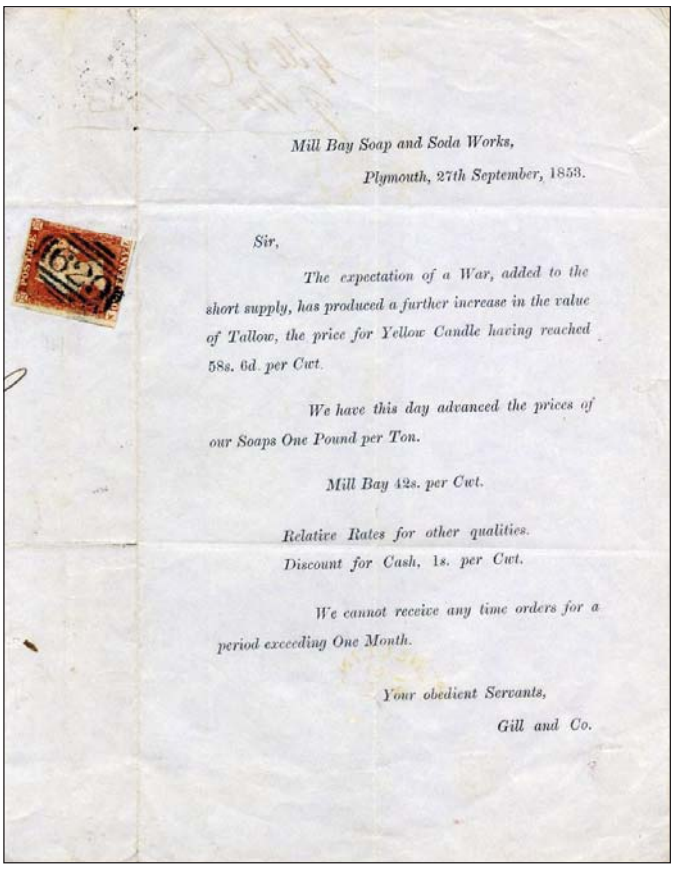
Relative rates for other qualities.

Discount for cash, 1s per Cwt.

We cannot receive any time orders for a period exceeding One Month.

Your obedient Servants,

Gill and Co.



Mill Bay Soap and Soda Works,

Plymouth, 27th September, 1853.

Sir,

The expectation of a War, added to the short supply, has produced a further increase in the value of Tallow, the price for Yellow Candle having reached 58s. 6d. per Cwt.

We have this day advanced the prices of our Soaps One Pound per Ton.

Mill Bay 42s. per Cwt.

Relative Rates for other qualities.

Discount for Cash, 1s. per Cwt.

We cannot receive any time orders for a period exceeding One Month.

Your obedient Servants,

Gill and Co.

Figure 7.

London Chief Office

Prior to sorting offices opening outside London, all mail was sent to London for distribution. As the volume of mail increased, the need for a large, self-contained building became essential. The result, the building to house the London Chief Office in St. Martins-le-Grand was constructed. It soon became one of the major landmarks and a 'must-see' for visitors to London. Figure 8 shows the front of the London Chief Office when it was first opened in 1829 and the arrival of the morning mail. At 8:00 p.m. the mail left the London Chief Office (Figure 9) by both mail carts and by mail coaches to all parts of the country. The mail carts were used to deliver mail to the mail coaches that started at other locations in London. Both the morning arrival and the evening departures of the mail to all parts of the country regularly attracted crowds of on-lookers. Every year, on the King's birthday, there was a parade by all the coaches, suitably decked out in ribbons and guards in their best uniforms, in front of the London Chief Office. This pageant attracted many spectators and was regarded as an event not to be missed. Not all mail coaches carried passengers as is usually portrayed by contemporary artists. They simply did not have space.

Conclusion

We should note that it is most unusual for a man to take his wife's name although the practice may have been more common in the 19th century. When the names of the two families are to be joined, the normal convention is to retain the male name and insert the female name before it and with a hyphen. This practice was reversed when Dundas married Janet, his first wife.

What is really amazing is that while the fighting in the Crimea was going on, there were ships on the Black Sea with tourists who were watching the battles. William Russell noted this observation in his many reports to *The Times* newspaper. These tourists came from many countries, but mostly from

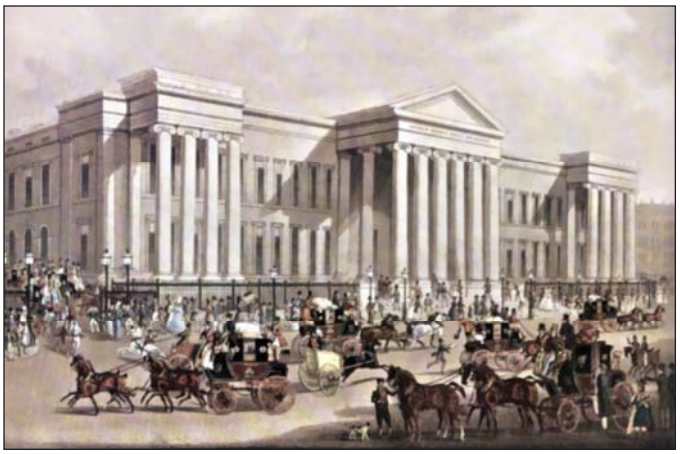


Figure 8.



Figure 9.

Britain, and made their way to a port on the Black Sea, usually Istanbul, known as Constantinople at the time, where they boarded ships that took them to watch the battles taking place. Allowing tourists to watch a battle today would be extremely dangerous and unthinkable. But back in the 19th century it was regarded as an adventure for the wealthy.

The potted history of the London Chief Office has been included to keep the article complete without entering into the intricacies of the postal system of the time. ✉

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William Russell, Special Correspondent of The Times **edited by Roger Hudson**

Acknowledgements

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Red Bergamot Blossom Stamp

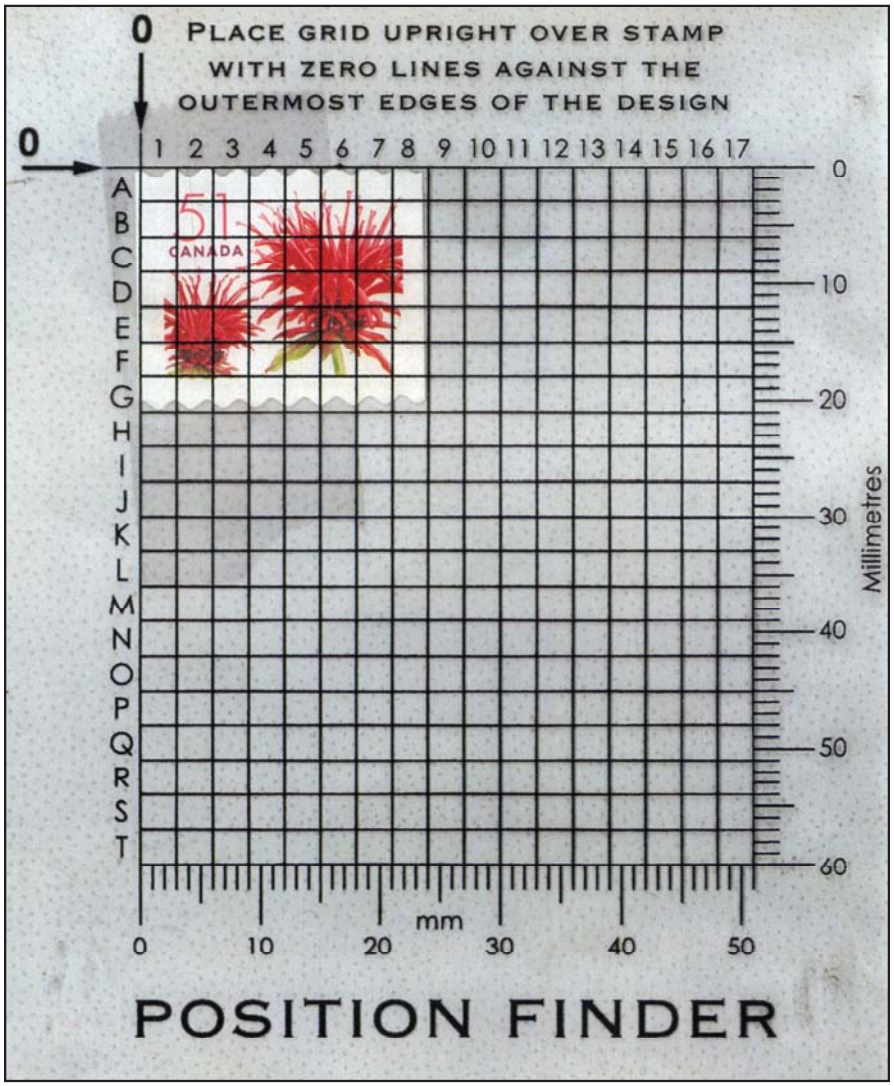


Figure 1.

By Ernie Wlock

Upon examining many hundreds, if not thousands, of Red Bergamot Blossom stamps, I found red dots or "fly specks" at various positions on some of them.

I felt it would be a challenge to use a position finder on a grid that covers the entire stamp and see if I could locate a red dot for each position. (Figure 1.)

A copy of the grid encompassing the stamp from 1 to 8 and from A to G is illustrated in Figure 2. There are five positions where the solid colour of the blossom blocks out any possibility of finding any dots, should they exist. No flaws have, therefore, been noted on the specific stamps marked "Solid Colour No Flaws". But that still leaves 51 positions that can be examined for ink-splattered dots.

Also pictured is an image (Figure 2) of the completed work on which I use green coloured arrows to indicate three sample positions. It should be noted that not all dots or "fly specks" show up as clearly as these but they are all clearly visible with or without the aid of artificial light or magnifiers.

This project may be an enjoyable challenge for other collectors to undertake. ✉

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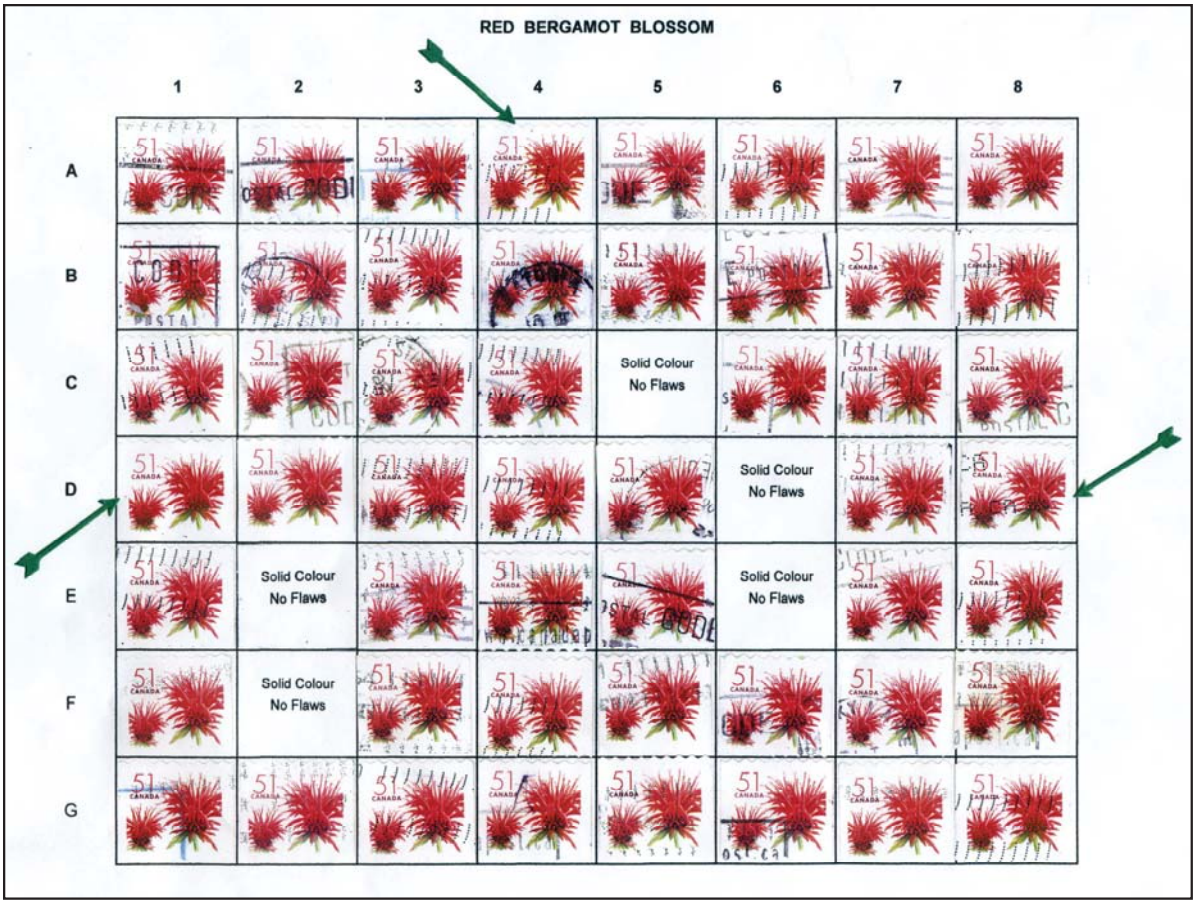


Figure 2. Fifty-six grid positions in total. Five positions are solid colour: C-5; D-6; E-2; E-6; F-2, leaving 51 positions to fill.



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What My Grandmother Did For Me

By (O.D.) Tante Bon

What my Grandmother did for me was leave her old envelopes to her son who, in turn passed them on to his children. Yes, we got my Grandmother's new and old stamped envelopes. There were a few choice ones in amongst many great ones. Thrilled, we are sure she attained immediate angelhood.

This is what she did for me. You remember the article "You Know I Love A Rose" (*TCP* Vol. 58, No. 2. page 82). Well, through her hand-me-downs one can clearly see "colour/print shift". For those who have not read the article, the stamp is the Red Calla Lilly, a domestic definitive stamp issued by Canada Post in December 2004 in coil form of 100 stamps with selvedge markings every ten stamps.



Figure 1. Dimensions 24x21. Tagging four sided line inside.

The stamps in the pictured four figures were scanned into a computer. Figure 1 is what we feel is the true stamp (disregarding the crease with broken surface first flower from right side). We have circled the distinctive part of the flower which helps follow what is happening. Figure 2 is of two stamps joined by the selvedge as shown on the right edge. Looking at the upper stamp, the circled portion is the same as our model stamp.



Figure 2. Dimensions 24x21. Tagging four sided.

The circled portion of the bottom stamp is much shorter. The stems and petals, starting with the first flower, left to right, also show colour outside the lines (green). The overall colour of the two stamps are different. Looking at 50 of the upper stamp, they are lighter than the bottom stamp. Figure 3 shows three stamps, all with the identical portions circled. The overall colour is different. The bottom stamp's flower is much

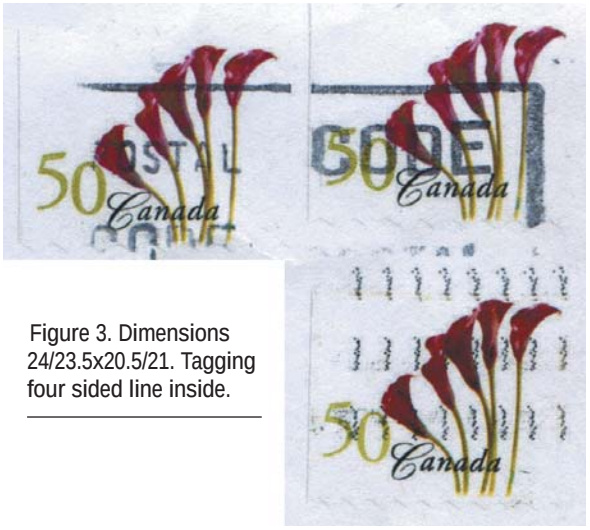


Figure 3. Dimensions 24/23.5x20.5/21. Tagging four sided line inside.

deeper than the top stamps. Of the three stamps, the stems and petals of first flower (left to right) show red colour outside the lines. Yet when comparing the 50 stamps, the top stamps are darker than the bottom stamp.

There is one more important feature to take into consideration: the distance from the zero in the 50 to the petal of the first flower, going from left to right. The bottom stamp, Figure 3, is the same distance from the zero to first petal as the stamps in Figure 2 yet the circled portion is different. Could this be the reason that the bottom stamp in Figure 3 is darker than the stamps in Figure 2? It is a very interesting stamp to study.



Figure 4. Dimensions 23.5x20. Tagging four sided extending down into top of stamp.

As a final benefit, we have included a stamp, shown in Figure 4, that has the circled portion extended. Note the colour change of the 50 and the flower, both petals and stems as compared to those in Figure 1. The distance of 50 to the petal of the first flower in Figure 4 is also different. It gives one a chuckle. Imagine what it would be like to quiz an expert gardener specializing in flowers on stamps? Especially one with a thorough knowledge of hybrids. ✉

The following article dealing with the 2-cent Imperial stamp, better known as the "Map" stamp by most collectors, initially appeared in the Map Stamp Journal, the official newsletter of the BNAPS Map Stamp Study Group. Because this stamp is considered as the world's first Christmas stamp the article nicely complements our Christmas issue.

The Centre Cross Dilemma

By Orville F. Osborne

Have you ever wondered why the centre cross "+" is at the centre of the Canada Map Stamp sheet? Or queried the reason for the Tonkin Gulf Dot?



Dot in margin between rows 5 & 6

Contemplation of these idiosyncrasies does suggest that perhaps there was a purpose for these marks and also that it seems reasonable that the function could have been related to the printing and/or design of the sheet.

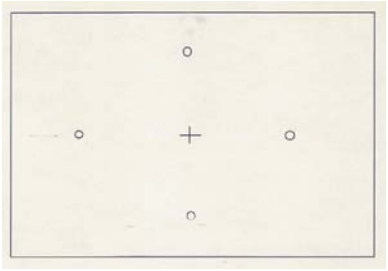
The other mystery surrounding this stamp is the lack of individual proofs of the Map Stamp. Fred Fawn's publication issued in June 2004 has illustrations of five engraved die proofs, and there are various quarter sheet proofs but apparently these are the only single or individual proofs. This is somewhat surprising considering the numbers that exist for other stamps produced in that same period.

There appear on the market from time to time, what are referred to as progressive proofs, but these items seem to have been cut from a larger sheet of stamps if one can draw any conclusions from the margins surrounding the individual items.

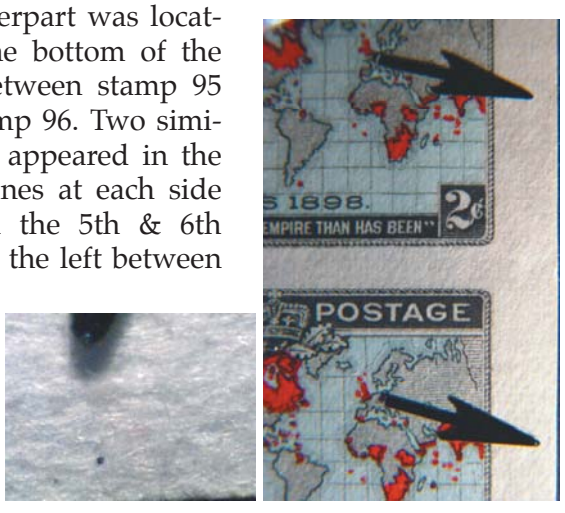
In a quest for possible answers to these questions the author happened upon a full sheet of imperforate Map stamps which had apparently emanated from that collection of full sheets that once hung in Sir William Mulock's office. It was while completing a detailed examination of this marvelous item that a myriad of facets about the layout and design of the stamp were discovered.

One of the various features of this sheet was a series of small dots that appeared in strategic positions within the sheet. Their location, and the precision with which they were positioned, was such that there could be no mistake about the intention that they had served a definite purpose.

However the purpose did not seem to have any relationship to the appearance of the stamp itself. One could only conclude that their function related to the structure of the plate.


Dots in sheet in relation to centre cross

What had been uncovered were four small dots, similar in size to the Tonkin Gulf Dot, and located in four precise locations. Two of the dots were dead centre in the margin between Stamp 5 and Stamp 6 and in line with the centre cross at the top of the sheet. A counterpart was located at the bottom of the sheet between stamp 95 and stamp 96. Two similar dots appeared in the centre lines at each side between the 5th & 6th rows on the left between



Dots in right margin of sheet

Stamps 51 & 61 as well as between stamps 60 & 70 on the right.

The next items detected were a series of 10 dots in a vertical row on the right side of the sheet: one dot beside each of the 10 stamps a specific distance out from the final stamp row locations 10 to 100.

While contemplating the explanation for these various dots, I began pondering the reason for these dots having appeared and it seemed reasonable to assume that they had to be made by small protrusions on the plate which were identical in height to the stamp itself. The next thought involved the purpose for these obtrusions to be there.

The first step in seeking the raison d'être for the 10 dots extending down the right side was to measure their distance from the edge of the contiguous row of stamps. What the first analysis revealed was that there was no relationship between the distance from the edge of the stamp but on further examination this analysis did reveal a relationship to the distance between the Tonkin Gulf Dots and the dots in the margin of the sheet. The distance between these 10 dots, measured vertically, was identical to the distance between the Tonkin Dots on a vertical row of stamps and further when measured horizontally the dots were an identical distance from the Tonkin Dots on the tenth row of stamps and also equal to the horizontal distances on all the Tonkin Dots on the various rows of stamps.



Vertical distance between dots in the margin.



Distance from Tonkin dot to margin dot.

A fascinating correlation but why should these dots be there and what purpose did they serve in this location? This was even more of a mystery. This query mandated a revisitation to the Tonkin Dots.

Previous theories suggested that the Tonkin Dot had been used as an anchor point to ascribe arcs for



Distance between Tonkin dots.

the layout of the Map Design when locating certain geographic positions, however, perhaps there was another purpose for this particular dot at this legendary geographic location.

As one analyses the Map Stamp's particular Mercator projection of the world one becomes conscious of the fact that the particular configuration utilized bestowed on the Tonkin Gulf a location that was equidistant from both the north and the south axis of the stamp. Utilizing this feature, if someone were to place a pin through the Tonkin Dot, you would discover that the stamp has identical proportions top and bottom when turned 180 degrees. Interesting, you might say but what relevance does it have to the dots?

Consider for a moment that the plate of 100 stamp dies is made up of 100 individual small plates that are the individual Map Stamps in the obverse design. Also consider the assembly of 100 of these miniature plates which had to be joined together to create the larger master plate. To attain this objective required a method of assemblage so as to ensure that these individual plates had to be affixed in a symmetrical pattern to ensure their perfect alignment.

To fully comprehend this accomplishment, imagine laying out a tile floor with individual pre-cut, square tiles. If one has ever done this task, one realizes the need to start with a perfectly square tile in the centre of the area and then work to the edges, carefully gluing each tile in place and also abutting adjacent tiles with edges perfectly matching. Now envision the small pieces of the mosaic that was to become the printing plate for the Map Stamp.

To accomplish this task some method was needed to layout a piece of metal to which could be affixed the individual plates. In contemplating this assignment one should focus on the securing of one initial stamp plate, not necessarily in the centre of the plate to which all are to be affixed, but perhaps at one side. How would the first one be affixed? Contemplating this assignment, it appeared certain that there had to be a connection between the plate

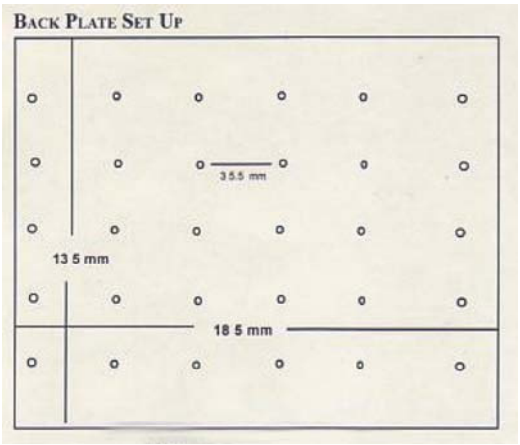


Plate with dowels to receivve the small plates.

and the map die. Then it occurred to me that if there were a dowel on the plate, and a slot on the Map die for the dowel, the mystery would be solved. The slot or hole in the Map Stamp die would be slid over the dowel and then affixed to the plate.

Thus, the solution as to how the printers affixed the map die to the plate. They designed a plate with minutely small, dowel like protrusions placed in lateral lines horizontally and vertically all equidistant from each other.

The miniature stamp size plate negatives to be used for printing the Map stamp also had a small hole drilled through the Tonkin Gulf. This hole or slot was then placed over the protruding dowel. Centering of the stamp was ensured through the rotational symmetry and alignment was achieved with the other protruding posts or dowels and each was aligned via the Tonkin Gulf Dot axis. Once affixed, via the dowel through the Tonkin Dot, the alignment of individual stamps with each other became possible. The positioning of the posts ensured the alignment of the row laterally. The reason that the Tonkin Dots appear in the printed stamps equal distances between the stamps and with each other is that the dowels or posts protrude to the height of the stamp die surface. Further micro-positioning was achieved by utilizing the centre line of latitude which is in the dead centre of the stamp die and extends across the full stamp width.

Having developed a raison d'être for the Tonkin Dots, the next quandary was a rationale for the centre line cross and the four dots between the rows and columns as well as a plausible reason for the quarter sheet proofs.

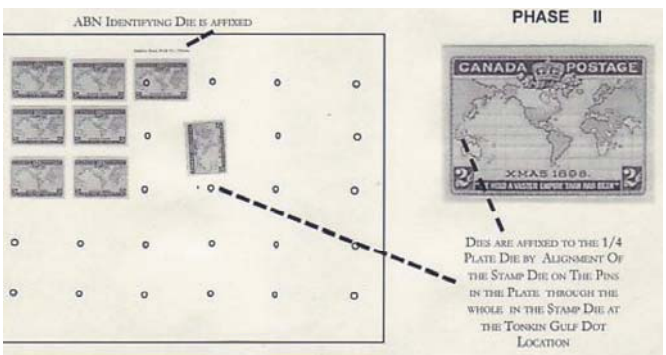
In a quest to find proof copies of the Map Stamp the one recurrent constant was the consistent appearance of quarter-sheet proofs as are set out in Fred Fawn's publication. While there have been suggestions that full sheet proofs exist, notably in the Canadian Archives, it does appear that the majority of final proofs are quarter sheets such as the quarter sheets of Plate IV as illustrated in Fred Fawn's volume of his Map Stamp Exhibit. There are, indeed, individual copies of the Map stamp at various stages of printing: in black, in black and red, in black and blue, but they all appear to have been trimmed from larger sheets of printed stamps. It definitely seemed that there was a message here.

While contemplating this assumption, and perusing the full sheet of stamps, we made a further observation.

There is a symmetrical appearance for each of the quadrants of the full sheet of 100 stamps. Each sheet divides proportionally into four plates of 25 stamps in rows of 5 by 5. To maintain symmetry, one could also note that the printer (American Bank Note Company) impression occurs above or below the centre row of each of the quarters.



The hole as drilled in the Tonkin Gulf.



The plate dies are affixed to the quarter plate.

THE METHOD USED TO LAYOUT THE FINAL PRINTING PLATES

Immediately above the centre row on the upper two quarters, (i.e. above row 3 and row 8 appears the printer's name) which is also symmetrical with the identical marking beneath the centre stamp, stamp 93 of the left quarter sheet and stamp 98 on the right-hand quadrant. This appears to support the theory that the full sheet was made up from

identical quarter sheets with the top two quarter-plates being identical as were the bottom two quarters: the only difference for the four plates being the location of the printer's plate name, either above or below the centre row of stamps, on a plate of 5 by 5 impressions.

This hypothesis also explains the reason for the quarter plate proofs. As the 5 by 5 plates were produced, proofs were pulled in the various stages, adjustments were made as required, and new proofs completed. When a final plate was deemed ready, the quarter plates would be mounted on a master plate for the production plate of 100 stamps.

This then set in motion a theory to explain the original enquiry which had to do with the analysis of the "+" centre mark cross and the four dots between the 5th and 6th rows horizontally and vertically. For the last piece of the puzzle we hypothesized that the small dies were assembled into the four plates of 5 by 5 or 25 stamps then, as each of blocks of 25 were approved from the various proofs, the four plates were assembled into the master plate of 100 and the centre cross and four dots allowed each of the quadrants to be perfectly aligned into their proper positions.

Now what about this strange row of 10 dots down the right side of the full sheet of stamps?

If the theory of the plates being produced in quarters was correct then the dots were really five dots in the upper plate and five dots in the lower plate that were still unused. The solution was, of course, alignment. When the individual stamp dies were aligned they were set up using the dowels or posts on the plate as alignment marks. The first stamp die would have four alignment marks to square to which would then diminish by one as each successive stamp die was attached. However, the fifth stamp die when affixed required at least a single alignment dot, hence the left over one that remained visible.

All of this ties together nicely except for one last item: the curvature of the plate needed to fit the rotary press as it would not be possible to bend a plate to fit the press after the full 100 stamp dies were attached without some distortion. Obviously, the explanation could have been that each of the stamp dies themselves was molded, as were the plates to which they were affixed, prior to the final attachment to the master plate.

The only remaining query then is which way to bend it. Perhaps the answer is in the plate cracks that have been observed in some of the Plate V stamps where some deep Vs appear in the bottom motto. These cracks hint that the bend occurred along the length and suggest that the bending was along the North/South axis. If so, it further suggests that the printing took place from west to east, that is the Singapore to Japan and the Pacific areas were printed prior to the eastern hemisphere.

Is this a plausible explanation as to some of the design constituents of the Map stamp? There is certainly adequate evidence to substantiate these theories.

There is no doubt that these theories will raise many questions and topics for discussion, but isn't that what this hobby is about? ✉







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CHARLES DE GAULLE:

To many people around world
THE GENERAL WAS FRANCE
during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s

By Richard Logan

Part I of II

Charles André Joseph Marie de Gaulle was born in the industrial region of Lille in French Flanders on November 22, 1890. His father, Henri de Gaulle, was a history professor in private Roman Catholic schools and had a great influence over young Charles. Of his mother, he said in his memoirs: "My mother felt an uncompromising passion for the fatherland, equal to her religious piety."

As a boy, he showed a passionate interest in history and the military. He read everything and formed an almost mystical conception of service to his country. It was not surprising that he opted for a military career. Following a preparatory year at Stanislas College in Paris, he was accepted in 1908 to the École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr – the French equivalent of West Point. He graduated in 1912 and joined the army as an infantry officer in the 33rd Regiment of Arras. His superiors thought him intelligent, hard-working, an original thinker who possessed great self-assurance. He would also prove himself as a man of outstanding courage.

Young Lieutenant Charles de Gaulle received his "baptême du feu" in World War I. He was wounded three times and left for dead at Verdun in 1916. Found alive by the Germans, he was transferred to Germany and served almost three years as a prisoner of war during which he made five unsuccessful attempts to escape.

When the war ended, he remained in the military. During the Polish-Soviet War from 1919 to 1921, de Gaulle volunteered for service in the Polish Army where he was an infantry instructor. In battle he distinguished himself and received the *Virtuti Militari*, Poland's highest military award.

On his return to France, he married Yvonne Vendroux on April 6, 1921 at Calais. Following a year's instruction at Saint–Cyr and a two-year course in military strategy and tactics at the École Supérieure de Guerre, a War College, he was promoted to the rank of major. In 1925 and 1926 he served on the staff of Marshal Pétain, the Vice-President of the Conseil Supérieur de la Guerre, the Supreme War Council in English.

From 1927 to 1929 he served in the French Army stationed in the Rhineland. There he became aware of the danger of German aggression and of the



inadequacy of France's defenses. Subsequently he spent two years in Beyrouth and following his promotion to Lt. Colonel he served four years as a member of the Conseil Supérieur de la Défense Nationale. Throughout the 1930s, he wrote books and numerous memoranda to his superiors defending the idea of a small professional army, mechanized and mobile in preference to the stagnant theories, exemplified by the Maginot Line. His views made him very unpopular with his superiors, especially Marshal Pétain.

At the outbreak of World War II he was only a colonel because of his bold views of the previous decade. Following the German breakthrough at Sedan in May of 1940, he was finally given command of the 4th Armored Division. On May 17, de Gaulle attacked the German tank forces at Montcornet. With little ground and air support he had little impact on the German advance. Later that month, on May 28, he forced the German armored division to retreat at Caumont and became the first and only French Commanding Officer to force a German retreat during the invasion of France. He was mentioned in dispatches as "an admirable, energetic and courageous leader."

On June 6, 1940, Premier Paul Reynaud, who had championed de Gaulle's ideas, appointed him Undersecretary of State for War and promoted him to provisional Brigadier General.

On June 17, the Reynaud government was replaced by Marshal Pétain who became premier and was committed to an armistice with Germany. Charles de Gaulle left for London, narrowly escaping the German Luftwaffe. De Gaulle had decided to reject French capitulation and set about building a movement to "fight the good fight."

On June 18, 1940, General de Gaulle broadcast the first of his appeals to the French people. Not many people heard his speech that night but the next day French newspapers printed excerpts from the speech and the BBC rebroadcast it for several more days. It remains one of the most famous speeches in French history. The basis of the speech was that "whatever happens, the flame of French resistance must not and shall not die."

De Gaulle soon became the very symbol of the "Résistance" and led the Forces Françaises Libres – Free French Forces.

On June 22, Pétain signed the surrender and became leader of the puppet regime known as Vichy France. On July 4, a French Court Martial sentenced Charles de Gaulle, in absentia, to four years in prison for treason. On August 2, he was condemned to death.

It was a good thing that de Gaulle had an absolute belief in his mission and a conviction that he possessed the qualities of leadership needed because he had no political status and was virtually unknown in England, France or in the United States. Both Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Winston Churchill found de Gaulle a different sort of ally. De Gaulle insisted at all times in retaining full freedom of action on behalf of the Free French, even when it might embarrass or inconvenience his partners in their war efforts.

Just about this time, Admiral Thierry d'Argenlieu wrote to de Gaulle saying that the Free French needed their own emblem to stand against the Nazi swastika. Vice-Admiral Emile Muselier, commander of the Free French naval and air forces, created an emblem in the form of a blue square with the red cross of Lorraine in the centre for the Navy and a Roundel with the same cross for the Air Force. The flag was modified a few months later, after it had proved to be too dark in colour. The final version ended up being the France







Tricolore with the red cross of Lorraine in the white band. The symbol was subsequently adopted by all the Free French. One of Winston Churchill's most remembered statements is: "Of all the crosses I have had to bear during the war, the heaviest has been the Cross of Lorraine."

Starting in 1942, de Gaulle's Free French gained power, winning over the French colonies in West Africa and established close ties with the underground Resistance Movement in France. Eleven month's later, when American and British forces landed in North Africa, they persuaded Jean François Darlan, head of the Vichy Armed Forces, to order a cease fire, in return for which Darlan was named High Commissioner for French North Africa. Following Darlan's assassination about a month later, the Allies named Henri Giraud as High Commissioner. Seeing this as an opportunity, de Gaulle moved his headquarters to Algiers in May 1943. He organized the French Committee of National Liberation, with himself and Giraud as co-chairmen. He soon eased out the less skillful Giraud.

By 1944 de Gaulle was recognized as the political leader of the Resistance Movement and in June of that year he transformed the Committee of National Liberation into the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

When France was liberated following Operation Overlord he quickly established the authority of the Free French Forces in France, thereby avoiding an Allied Military Government for Occupied Territories in France. He arrived on French soil one week after D-Day and on August 25, 1945 he entered Paris in triumph, moved back into his office at the War Ministry, thus proclaiming continuity of the "Third Republic" and denying the legitimacy of Vichy France.

Following the war, de Gaulle was unanimously elected President of the provisional government in October 1945. He led two successive provisional governments; however, on January 20, 1946, he resigned abruptly, apparently irritated with the political parties wanting to form a coalition government.

> His superiors thought him as intelligent, hard working, an original thinker who possessed great self-assurance. He would also prove himself as a man of outstanding courage.

He disapproved of what became, in November 1946, the Fourth French Republic and campaigned against the new constitution which he thought would lead to a repetition of the political and governmental inadequacies of the Third Republic. In 1947, he formed the Rassemblement du Peuple (RDP) Français (Rally of the French People). It was a movement that grew rapidly in strength and became a political party in 1951 when it obtained 120 seats in the National Assembly. The movement expressed de Gaulle's hostility to the constitution, to the party system, and to the French Communists in particular because of their loyalty to Moscow. He became dissatisfied with the RPF and in 1953 severed connections with them. In September 1955 the RPF was disbanded. ✉

The Saga of the Red Calla Lily - PART 2

By Tony Edward

In the previous section of this two part series, I discussed the papers and perforation sizes found on the 50¢, red, Calla Lily coil stamps. In this installment I explore the tagging, discuss some colour variations, examine the "Ski-slope" perforation variety found on my research hoard of stamps, then re-examine the stamps' perforations based on both my initial hoard and additional red Calla Lily stamps I have subsequently obtained from two supplementary bulk stamp purchases of these stamps.

Their Tagging

The Calla Lily stamps are tagged on all four sides of the stamp (GT4) with a fluorescent ink that glows with a brilliant yellow colour under the long wave UV light. Measuring the internal size of the rectangular tagging frames reveals two distinct sizes as shown in Figure 2-1. One frame size measures nominally 21.5mm wide and 16.5mm tall giving a thinner tagging frame; the other is about 20mm wide and 15.5mm tall. This thicker tagging border often shows a fine line rectangle over the frame, and which is slightly larger than the internal dimensions of the tagging frame, measuring more-or-less 21mm X 16mm.



Figure 2-1.

To measure the tagging size on these stamps, I made the viewing gauge shown in Figure 2-2. I selected two stamps with identical tagging frame dimensions. One stamp was cut in half vertically, the other bisected horizontally, and I glued these stamp portions onto the top side of a small piece of clear acetate sheet. I can now place a test stamp below the acetate sheet and, under the long wave UV light, slide the test stamp around between these half stamp sections to match the sizes of the fluorescence frames. Not all frames measure exactly the same size, and some variations in frame dimensions can be found. Other than the two tagging frame sizes, no significant patterns emerged from the tagging analysis.

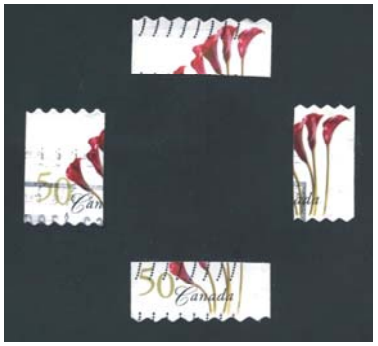


Figure 2-2.

The tagging frame on the top and bottom of the stamps overlaps the serpentine perforations on the attached gutter tabs, but the right and left sides of the gutter tabs are not tagged. Where the gutter tabs are still attached to stamps, the tagging frame width (top or bottom) can be measured accurately. On all the stamps I measured, the top and bottom frame lines are approximately 2.5 to 3mm wide. This 0.5mm variation is enough to account for the change in the vertical internal dimension of the stamp's tagging frame.

Several oddities were discovered in the tagging analysis. Nine stamps were found with an extra tag bar 7mm long and about 0.2mm wide extending horizontally across the middle of the stamps. This extra tag bar is about 6mm from the bottom frame line and starts about 7mm from the left frame line. It is perfectly horizontal and identical in position, length and size on all eight stamps in my possession. I call this the "Ribbon Bouquet" tagging variety because the line looks a little like a ribbon around the stems of a couple of the Calla Lilies. I have found this ribbon bouquet tagging irregularity only on stamps with 7½ x 7½ top and bottom perforations with one stamp still attached to a gutter tab at the top edge of the stamp. It is unclear whether this "Ribbon Bouquet" anomaly originates from the initial production runs (Unitrade's catalogues 2072) of Calla Lily stamps or if it comes from the latter production

runs (*Unitrade's 2006 catalogue* 2072b) although the relative quantity of stamps found suggests it may be from the initial production runs. Although I cannot photograph under UV light, Figure 2-3 shows a simulation of the abnormality.



Figure 2-3.

Five stamps were discovered with a small mushroom like protrusion about 1.5mm wide extending up about 2mm from the bottom frame line. I call this the "Mushroom Farm" tagging variety because the protrusion looks like an unopened mushroom growing from the frame line. This protrusion, about 3mm in from the bottom right corner of the tagging frame, is inclined at about 85 degrees and leaning to the right of the vertical. It is identical in size, shape and position on all five stamps in my possession. This "Mushroom Farm" anomaly has been found only on stamps with 8¼ x 8¼ perforations. It originates from the initial production runs (*Unitrade's catalogues* 2072) of Calla Lily stamps. Figure 2-4 shows a simulation of this aberration.



Figure 2-4.

Another unique tagging error surfaced: nine stamps were discovered with a tagging line horizontally across the middle of each stamp. These tagging bands are approximately 3mm above the bottom frame line, are about 1mm wide and have a misty appearance. When aligned side-by-side the fluorescent tagging lines form a perfectly horizontal line across the stamp row. This uniformity of the tagging band across all nine stamps suggests these stamps all originated from the same row of stamps on a single 1,000 subject sheet. I measured the width and perforation sizes of each stamp: every stamp measures 24mm wide, and the perforation size combinations range from 8 to 8¾, as shown in Table 2-1. The variation in the perforation size combinations suggests the perforations sizes must vary from stamp-to-stamp across a single row of stamp on a 1000 subject sheet.

Perforations						
On Top Edge	8¼	8½	8½	8½	8¾	8¾
On Bottom Edge	8	8	8½	8¾	8¾	8
Quantity of Stamps	1	1	1	3	1	2

Table 2-1.

Now Available

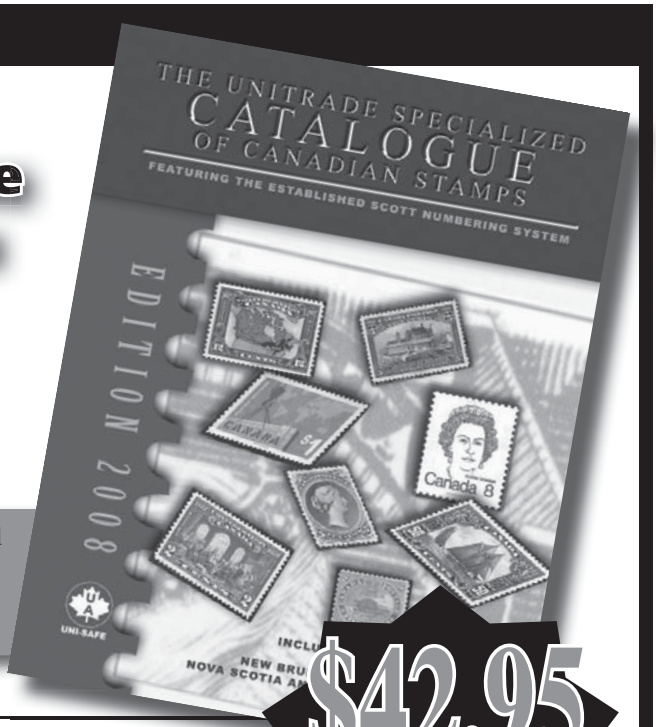
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Some stamps were revealed with the tagging frame shifted off centre, leaving no tag bar on one edge of the stamp. The missing tag bar occurred either on the top, bottom, left or right edges of the stamps. The question is: are these tagging faults constant varieties or inconsistent errors? The uniformity of the "Ribbon Bouquet" and "Mushroom Farm" tagging faults would suggest those stamps at least are constant varieties from the initial production runs of the Calla Lily stamps.

No tagging errors were found on any of the E-3 fluorescent stamps I examined. On the one E-3 fluorescent gutter tab I have the tagging frame measures 2.5mm wide on the bottom edge of the stamps. These factors suggest to me that the E-3 fluorescent stamp paper was used very early in the production cycle of the red Calla Lily stamps – before wear and tear manifest damage to the dies necessitating extensive cleaning of the printing equipment or replacement of printing components.

Their Colours.

As is common among stamps of the same denomination, different colour hues, tones, saturations or shades can be detected on the red Calla Lily stamps. Three colour varieties were detected with the red colour varying from a deep blood red, through a purple/red tone to an almost henna brown shade. Similarly, the green stems of the Calla Lilies can be found to vary in shade from bright green to dull olive green. Several intermediate tones can be detected in both of these colour variations. No specific relationship emerged between colour variations, tagging styles or perforation gauges, the colour hues occur on all combinations.

One clearly distinguishable colour pattern did emerge from the red Calla Lily stamps I have examined in considerable detail; it is what I call the "Green-Over-Red" form. The green colouring of ink used to print the Calla Lily stems appears to be printed on top of both the red ink of the Calla Lilies –this is particularly noticeable on the centre flower – and on top of the black ink of the **Canada** inscription. On both the red and black, the green ink appears as a pool of dots superimposed on the underlying red or black colours. I first noticed this Green-Over-Red relationship when examining stamps with the unaided eye, reviewed it under 8 power magnification then later confirmed the anomaly first by viewing the stamps under 25 power magnification, and later still, by scanning the images at 2400 DPI and enlarging a colour printout to 8½ x 11. The anomaly is shown in Figure 2-5, but the scanned images are not as clear as the actual stamp images. This Green-Over-Red anomaly is found on all identified perforation size combinations.



Figure 2-5.

Two apparent shift varieties were discovered: one has the perforations shifted up 2mm causing the bottom end of the Calla Lily stems to appear on the top perforations. This stamp is perforated 8½ x 8½ (*Unitrade's 2006 catalogue* first printing - 2072) and the bottom edge of the tagging frame appears to be central the Calla Lilies. The tagging frame is almost non-existent on the bottom edge of the stamp; it just clips the tips of the peaks on the bottom perforations and gives a very wide tagging bar at the top. The second stamp shows the perforations shifted down about 3mm causing the top 1mm of the Red Calla Lilies to appear on the bottom perforation. This second stamps is perforated 7½ x 6¾ (*Unitrade's 2006 catalogue* second printing - 2072a), and again the tagging frame on this stamp is central the Calla Lily image, appearing like an H on the stamp. On both of these stamps, the position of the tagging frame relative both to the pictures, and to the top and bottom perforations, suggests these are perforation shifts rather than print or tag shifts.

Their Perforations - Revisited.

Since performing the initial research for the paper, perforations and tagging of the red Calla Lily stamps as reported in Part 1, I have obtained two more bulk purchases of stamps and added a considerable number of additional red Calla Lily stamps to the research cache. I have not audited the most recently acquired stamps for carrier envelope fluorescences, but I have continued to monitor the quantities of both E-0 and E-3 fluorescent stamps obtained with the different combinations of perforations on the stamps. In total, the magnitude of E-0 and E-3 fluorescent stamps examined now stands at 9311 - E-0 and 205 - E-3, for a total of 9516 stamps. See Table 2-1. It is significant that, as the result of adding two additional harvests of stamps to the research cache, the quantity of stamps perforated 7½ x 7½ now exceeds 3,800 stamps, but only one stamp perforated 7½ top and bottom has been found on E-3 fluorescent paper. The addi-

Total Top and Bottom Perforations for Both E0 and E3 Fluorescent Stamps By Printing

On Top Edge of Stamp for Both E0 - E3 Fluorescences Totaled Separately

Perforation Count	First Printing						Second Printing						Total Stamps
	9	8¾	8½	8¼	8	7¾	7½	7¼	7	6¾	6½	6¼	
9	2-0	64-2	17-2	24-2									107-6
8¾	11-3	202-15	144-7	141-9	52-4	1-0							551-38
8½	30-2	93-3	439-44	240-16	71-5	46-5							919-75
8¼	5-0	44-3	224-17	116-11	78-7	17-2							484-40
8		63-5	102-4	56-1	48-2	12-0							281-12
7¾					11-2	14-1							25-3
							39-0	8-1		22-0			69-1
7½							3801-1	252-0	34-1	74-0	8-0		4225-2
7¼						56-0	81-0	130-0	122-3	48-1	23-2		418-6
7						14-0	16-0	100-0	626-6	401-2	83-0	16-0	1329-8
6¾						87-0	18-0	34-2	268-4	353-3	37-2		720-11
6½						10-0	10-0	26-0	53-2	35-0	53-1		177-3
6¼									6-0				6-0
Total Stamps	48-5	466-28	926-74	577-39	260-20	90-8	167-0	3965-1	550-3	1109-16	933-6	204-5	16-0	9516
	Total 2367 E-0 and 174 E-3 Stamps						Total 6944 E-0 and 31 E-3 Stamps						

Table 2-2.

tional stamps, uniformly perforated 7½ x 7½, considerably dilute the ratio of all other perforation combinations as well as dilute the E-3 fluorescent paper count.

Table 2-1 lists the current quantities of E-0 and E-3 stamps with the different combinations of perforation sizes, and segregates the stamps by the E-0 and E-3 fluorescences respectively. Compare Table 2-2 with Table 1-2 (Part 1) to see the increased quantity of perforated stamp combinations now identified in the E-0 and E-3 fluorescences categories. Chart 2-1 illustrates the current relative distribution of the quantities of all stamp perforations and fluorescence combinations pooled into one printing production run. No new perforation size combinations have been identified in the latest bulk purchases.

The data in Table 2-1 shows 3802 stamps perforated 7½ x 7½ and only 130 stamps perforated 7¼ x 7¼. *Unitrade's 2006 Catalogue* identifies the red Calla Lily stamp 2072b, released in February 2005, as being perforated 7¼. This data suggests that stamp 7072b should actually be listed as perforated 7½ top and bottom.

An oddity occurs on the Calla Lily serpentine perforations: an elongated serpentine slope appears between two stamps as shown in Figure 2-6. The *Unitrade Catalogues* classifies this as the "Ski-Slope" variety. I have found this "Ski-Slope" anomaly on both E-0 and E-3 fluorescent stamp papers. All ski-slope stamps are perforated 8½ on the conjoining, ski-slope, edges with the upper stamp perforated 8½ on its top edge and the lower stamp perforated 8¾ on its bottom edge, thus the ski slope variety occurs only on *Unitrade's 2006 catalogue* first printing (2072) of the Calla Lily stamps.



Figure 2-6.

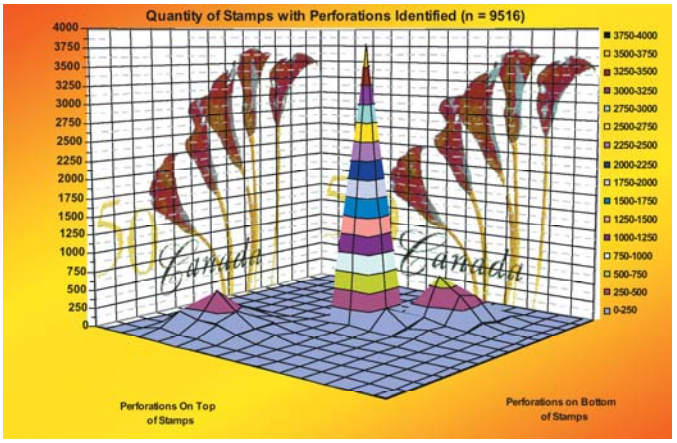


Chart 2-1.

The *Unitrade Catalogue* states that the ski-slope occurs "between the 3rd and 4th stamps above [a] gutter, [on] 1 in 10 rolls" on all three of the flower definitive coil stamps –- the 50¢, 85¢ and the $1.45 denominations - issued at the same time. (*The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. 2006 Edition. Page 429. And 2007 Edition. Page 424) If the ski-slope anomaly occurs on only 1 in 10 coils of the first printing of the Calla Lily stamps, this suggests that the printing process utilized 10 columns of stamps in each printed sheet, or 1,000 stamp subjects per sheet. In the article in *Details* magazine titled "For Lowe-Martin, Quality is a Pressing Issue", Joy Parks states: "Coils of Definitive stamps are made possible thanks to Lowe-Martin's Gallus web press, also recently acquired.

The web press allows for unlimited paper length, necessary for coils that are printed 10 stamps across in seven foot lengths,..." (Canada Post. *Details*. January-March 2006, Volume XV, Number 1. Page 11.) Although it is not clear if the Calla Lily stamps printed in 2004/5 were, in fact, printed on this "recently acquired" web printing press, the coil rolls would be very close to 7 feet long and 10 inches wide, plus printer's marginal waste.

My investigation into the ski-slope anomaly reveals some interesting dichotomies. If, as is stated in the *Unitrade Catalogue*, the ski-slope exists between the 3rd and 4th stamps above a gutter, this omits to define which of the possible 10 gutter tabs above which ski-slope occurs on a single coil of 100 stamps incorporating nine gutter tabs and two terminal tabs. Also, the 85¢ and the $1.45 stamps were issued in coils of 50 stamps not 100, and each sheet of 1,000 stamps would produce 20 coils of 50 stamps, giving a ski-slope ratio of 1 in 20 coils. Unless Lowe-Martin used only half the perforating machines to perforate the 85¢ and the $1.45 stamps. Unless, of course, the ski-slope variety actually occurs more than once on different rows or different columns, on the sheets of 1,000 stamps.

My research hoard of 50¢ Calla Lily stamps exceeds 9,000 randomly acquired subjects, representing more than 90 coil rolls or 9 sheets of 1,000 stamps. However, the ski-slope variety occurs only on the first printing of the Calla Lily stamps (perforated 8½ x 8½ or 8½ x 8¾) and table 2-1 reveals 2541 stamps on this category in my research cache. That represents about 25 coils of 100 stamps or 2.5 sheets of 1,000 subjects. In 25 coils I would expect to find 2-3 ski-slope pairs in 1 in 10 coils (4-6 ski-slope variety stamps), that is 2-3 stamps with the ski-slope on the bottom edge (the upper stamp of the pair) and 2-3 stamps with the ski-slope on the top edge (the lower stamp of the pair). My research hoard has produced 35 ski-slope variety stamps – more than 10 times the number to be expected. My ski-slope varieties include 18 stamps showing the ski-slope on the bottom edge, and 17 stamps with the ski-slope on the top edge, inclusive of 26 stamps in 13 relatively well matched pairs - two of which are shown in Figure 2-6. This quantity of stamps is statistically excessive to represent one stamp pair in 10 coil rolls in my hoard of randomly acquired stamps.

The 50¢ Calla Lily ski-slope stamps can be found with as little as one-half of a crest to as much as two full crests to the left of the ski-slope peak crest, counted on the lower stamp of the matched pair. The stamp pair on the left in Figure 2-6 shows the ski-slope valley centered over the 0 of 50 with 1¾ peaks to the left of the ski-slope on the lower stamp, while the stamp pair on the right show it centered over the 5 with only ½ of a peak showing to the left of the slope. I measured the width of each ski slope stamp and found a range from 23mm to 25mm with most stamps measuring 24mm wide. I found no relationship between each stamp's width and the number of serpentine peaks to the left of the ski-slope peak.

Stamp Combinations	Peaks to left of Ski-Slope							Total Stamps
	¼	½	¾	1	1¼	1½	1¾	
Pairs (Two Stamps)	1	1	2	1	3	2	3	26
Singles Top Stamp			2	2				4
Singles Bottom Stamp				1	3		1	5
Total Stamps	2	2	6	5	9	4	7	35

Table 2-3.

Table 2-3 shows the distribution of the peaks to the left of the ski slope on the lower stamps among my 35 ski-slope stamps. On all 35 ski-slope variety stamps, the picture and the tagging frames are typically central to the stamp, only the horizontal serpentine perforations appear to migrate across the stamps. No apparent relationship was found between the serpentine perforations and the tagging frame sizes. These findings suggest to me two possibilities: the horizontal perforations are cut across the stamp sheet of ten columns before the multiple column sheets are split up into the individual coils strips. The apparent migration of the ski-slope between crests then shows that the paper tends to wander left or right by up to 4mm ($^3/_{16}$ inch) before the individual coil strips are spliced, causing the ski-slope to appear to rove from one serpentine peak to another. In addition, possibly, the ski-slope variety actually occurs more than once, on different rows or different columns, on the sheets of 1000 stamps. That is 35 ski-slope stamps revealed from 2521 stamps statistically suggest six or seven ski-slope pairs per 10 coils, or six or seven ski-slope pairs per sheet of 1,000 subjects.

I need your help on this matter. We could verify the existence of more than one ski-slope variety if the ski-slope could be found at different locations on different coils. For example, the *Unitrade Catalogues* state that the ski-slope variety occurs between the 3rd and 4th stamps above a gutter. But if it occurred, say, between the second and third gutters (positions 23/24) and the seventh and eight gutters (positions 73/74) on different the coils from the sheet, this would verify the conjecture that maybe there are in fact more than one ski-slope pairs on a printed sheet of 1,000 stamp subjects. Alternatively, the ski-slope variety could exist in two different coil columns of the sheet but on the same stamp row, say positions 63/64 but in both columns 2 and 6 on the unspliced sheet. In this case, we would need to examine all the stamps above and below the ski slope anomaly and compare the perforation combinations between the coil columns. It is very unlikely, given the distribution

of 62 combinations of perforation sizes found, that the two different columns would contain exactly the same proportion of perforation combinations in precisely the same order. Can anyone locate the actual position of the ski-slope stamp, or stamps, on intact coils of 100 stamps, or identify the perforation combinations of all stamps above and below the ski-slope varieties?

Another unique perforation feature emerged on some stamps from the latest two bulk stamp purchases. As I compared the perforations of these newly acquired stamps against the existing hoard of research stamps I discovered several subjects with "Transitional Perforations". That is either the top or the bottom edges of the stamp contains serpentine peaks showing two distinct perforation sizes as revealed in Figure 2-7. The stamps shown in Figure 2-7 were all scanned at high resolution (2000 dpi), measured and the scanned images sized exactly the same size as the original stamps. When I had adjusted the stamps properly, I placed measurement lines, indicating the perforation peaks, above the stamps. I placed lines of the identical length on both the left and right side of each stamp to demonstrate the variability in the size of the transitional perforations. Notice that the left one of the two lines of equal length on each stamp either overshoots or undershoots one set of perforations.

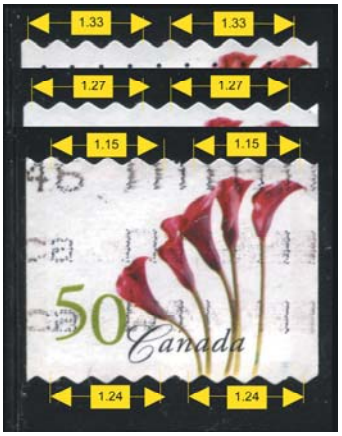


Figure 2-7.

These transitional perforations clearly indicate that the perforation sizes vary not only from perforation row to perforation row between stamps, but also vary in pitch across any one row of perforations on the sheet of coil stamps ten columns wide. These transitional perforations also account for why I experienced so much difficulty measuring and comparing some of the perforations on some of the stamps, as reported in Part 1 of this series. On some of the stamps, the transition from one perf gauge to another across the single stamp is so small as to be imperceptible to the unaided eye. It can be detected more easily using the side-by-side comparison of the stamps. This suggests to me that on a single sheet of 1,000 stamps, representing 10 coils, there could be several columns (coils) of stamps perforated 6¼ to 7¾ and several other columns (coils) of stamps perforated 7¾ to 9 in varying combinations of intermediate perforation sizes. That is, the full range of perforation sizes from 6¼ to 9 in ¼ increments could be represented on a single printed sheet of 1,000 stamps.

Their Printings

The *Unitrade 2006 catalogue* identifies that there were three printings of the Calla Lily series of stamps, although this designation has been discontinued in the 2007 edition of the catalogue. I believe, however, that the evidence suggests that there were not three printings of the red Calla Lily stamps, but only one, and probably consisting of several different production runs.

Let me quickly review the evidence discussed in these articles. First the objective evidence: 1. The red Calla lily stamps have been printed on two different fluorescences of paper: E-0 and E-3 on my envelope fluorescent scale. 2. The E-0 and E-3 paper fluorescences are distributed over the full range of perforation sizes and size combinations from 6¼ to 9 with increments of ¼. 3. The E-3 paper is considerably under-represented in stamps perforated 7½ on the top and bottom edges in that perforation size. 4. The stamps perforated 7½ are considerably over-represented in the third printing group. 5. The *Unitrade Catalogue* did not initially identify stamps with perforations of 7¾ or 7½ in either the first or the second printing groups. 6. All stamps perforate 7¾ or 7½ on either the top edge and/or on the bottom edge of the stamps create a perforation size link between *Unitrade's* 2006 first and second printing groups. 7. The distributions of stamps in the first and second printing groups are almost equally represented if the stamps perforated 7½ top and bottom are omitted from the count. 8. For every stamp's bottom edge perforation size, there are several corresponding stamp top edge perforation sized stamps, and visa versa. 9. All stamps perforations show variations in the consistency of their perforation pitches, except the stamps perforated 7½ top and bottom. 10. Transitional perforation stamps, with two different perforation gauges on either the top or the bottom edges, appear to exist in all perforation sizes. 11. On different production runs, the ink colours varied slightly giving rise to the red and green colour hue variations. 12. In one or more production runs, Lowe-Martin reversed the printing order of the colours producing the Green-Over-Red colour variety. 13. The existence of different tagging frame sizes on all stamps may indicate a change in tag printing dies on different print runs. 14. The existence of the "Mushroom Farm" tagging variety on only one perforations size, 8¼/8¼, and the "Ribbon Bouquet" only on relatively few stamps perforated 7½ x 7½, indicates a change in tag printing dies on different print runs, at least between the *Unitrade's* 2006 initial printings and the third printing.

Next, the anecdotal evidence: 15. The first bulk purchase of used stamps obtained by me produced the highest proportion of E-3 fluorescent stamps and the lowest quantity of stamps perforated 7½ on both the top and bottom edges than any successive bulk purchase. 16. All

subsequent bulk purchases of stamps produced consecutively smaller quantities of E-3 stamps and sequentially larger quantities of stamps perforated 7½ x 7½.

Finally the circumstantial evidence: 17. The second and third printing of the stamp were released in early and mid 2005 as mentioned in the 2006 *Unitrade Catalogue*, but a second or third printing of the Calla Lily stamps is not identified in the *Details* magazines from Canada Post, in 2005. 18. To be ordered, printed, delivered to Canada Post and distributed to Post Offices by February 2005, the second printing order would have had to be placed with the printers, by Canada Post, either before Christmas 2004 or at least very early in January 2005. 19. If Canada Post found it necessary to place a reprint order so early in the anticipated use period of the Red Calla Lily stamp, why did Canada Post so grossly underestimate their stamp requirements for 2005? 20. In the *Details* magazine, the quantity of Flower Definitive stamps printed is listed as being a "Continuous printing." (Canada Post. *Details*. January-March 2005, Volume XIV, Number 1. Page 9.) This suggests multiple production runs of a single print order of the stamps.

Based on the evidence revealed in this analysis I believe there was only one printing of the red Calla Lily stamps, but that this printing was completed in closely consecutive stages or production runs. I believe Canada Post would have initially ordered sufficient Calla Lily stamps to satisfy their 2005 needs. Lowe-Martin completed an initial production run using perforation dies measuring from 6¼ to 9 inclusive, showing considerable variations in the pitch of the perforations and these would have included a few stamps perforated 7½ top and bottom, but only a very few and unfortunately an unidentifiable quantity. This initial production run was printed on both E-0 non-fluorescent and E-3 fluorescent papers. Successive production runs were later continued to satisfy Canada Post's initial stamp order, but these continued production runs occurred entirely on E-0 non-fluorescent paper. At some time, maybe in conjunction with the installation of the "recently acquired" Gallus web press, Lowe-Martin installed new perforation cutting dies into the perforating machine, with perforations measuring uniformly 7½, and subsequent production runs consisted entirely of stamps with perforations measuring uniformly 7½ on both the top and bottom of the stamps and only on E-0 non-fluorescent paper. The "Continuous printing" order was delivered to Canada Post throughout 2005. This meant Canada Post had in stock Calla Lily coil stamps with perforations ranging variously from 9 to 7¾, and some with assorted perforations 7¾ to 6¼ both from the initial production run on both E-0 and E-3 fluorescent papers, and

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others uniformly perforated 7½ x 7½ from the continued production runs on only E-0 non fluorescent papers, for distribution throughout the Post Office System.

Note that I differentiate between a "Production Run" and a "Printing." To me a "Production Run" implies work done to complete a component part of a printing order. A "Printing" consists of the entire product, which maybe produced in several production runs, needed to fulfill a single "Printing Order". Thus, a "Printing" may consist of one or more "Production Runs" depending upon the size and complexity of the "Printing Order." Different "Production Runs" being necessitated by the need to periodically clean or otherwise service, the printing machines, resulting from a mechanical break-down or installation of replacement or new equipment. Based on my interpretation of the evidence, I conclude that Canada Post placed only one "Printing Order" with Lowe-Martin for the Calla Lily stamps. Because Canada Post placed only one printing order with Lowe-Martin, there was no prerogative for Canada Post to announce new printings of the stamps in *Details*. New printing orders, necessitation new printings, did not exist. I believe Lowe-Martin completed this printing order in several "Continuous printing" production runs, initially producing stamps perforated 9 to 6¼ inclusive in the first production run on both E-0 and E-3 fluorescent papers, then in subsequent production or runs, producing stamps uniformly perforated 7½ top and bottom and only on E-0 fluorescent paper.

If this one printing, multiple production runs, scenario is correct then the distribution of the stamp perforations divides into two distinct categories: one with stamp perforations potentially ranging in various combinations from 6¼ to 9 in 62 identified permutations of ¼ top and bottom increments, and a second grouping including stamps only perforated 7½ x 7½. The relative distribution of the identified combinations of 6¼ to 9 perforation stamps examined in this research would be as shown in Table 2-1 and Chart 2-1. The stamps perforated 7½ x 7½ from the latter production runs considerable dilute the ratio of stamps with other combinations of perforations from the first production runs.

To overcome the dilution I treated the stamps as a single printing, and assign an arbitrary 75 stamps to the 7½ x 7½ perforations group as having been created in the first production run. These 75 stamps represent the average of the eight cells surrounding the 7½ x 7½ perforations group in the Table 2-4. Table 2-4 shows the total quantity of 6¼ to 9 perforation stamps produced in the first production run and identified in this research as having the various combinations of perforations, with the nominal 75 stamps assigned to the 7½ x 7½ perforations group. Chart 2-2 illustrates these data and shows the relative quantities of each perforation size combination.

To determine the relative rarity of the different permutation of perforations based on the quantities of stamps identified in Table 2-4 I calculated the number of stamps

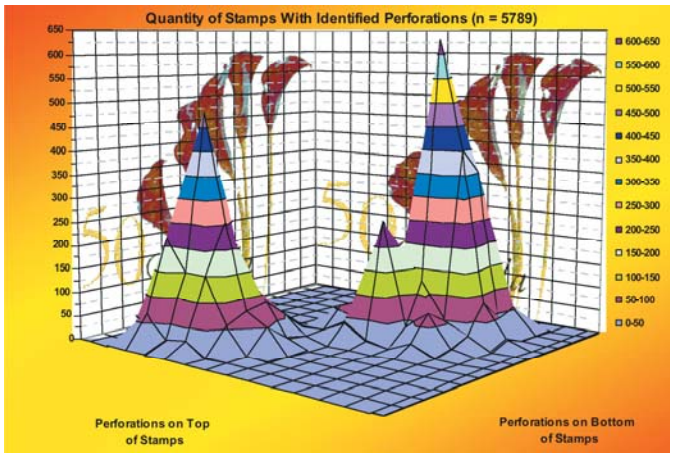


Chart 2-2.

Total Top and Bottom Perforations for Both E0 and E3 Fluorescent Stamps, Data Combined By Printing.
Nominal Stamps Assigned to 7_ /7_ Perforation Combinations

Perforation Count	On Top Edge of Stamp for Both E0 and E3 Fluorescences Totals Combined Combined as One Printing												Total Stamps
	9	8 3/4	8 1/2	8 1/4	8	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 1/4	7	6 3/4	6 1/2	6 1/4	
9	2	66	19	26									113
8 3/4	14	217	151	150	56	1							589
8 1/2	32	96	483	256	76	51							994
8 1/4	5	47	241	127	85	19							524
8		68	106	57	50	12							293
7 3/4					13	15	39	9		22			98
7 1/2						56	75	252	35	74	8		500
7 1/4						14	81	130	125	49	25		424
7						87	16	100	632	403	83	16	1337
6 3/4						10	18	36	272	356	39		731
6 1/2							10	26	55	35	54		180
6 1/4									6				6
Total Stamps	53	494	1000	616	280	265	239	553	1125	939	209	16	5789

Table 2-4.

Estimated Quantity of Top and Bottom Perforations Stamps Per 1000 Stamp For Both E0 and E3 Fluorescences Combined, Data Combined as One Printing

Perforation Count	On Top Edge of Stamp for Both E0 and E3 Fluorescences Totals Combined — Combined as One Printing												Total Stamps
	9	8 3/4	8 1/2	8 1/4	8	7 3/4	7 1/2	7 1/4	7	6 3/4	6 1/2	6 1/4	
9	1	11	3	4									19
8 3/4	2	37	26	26	10	1							102
8 1/2	6	17	83	44	13	9							172
8 1/4	1	8	42	22	15	3							91
8		12	18	10	9	2							51
7 3/4					2	3	7	2		4			18
7 1/2						10	13	44	6	13	1		87
7 1/4						2	14	22	22	8	4		72
7						15	3	17	109	69	14	3	230
6 3/4						2	3	6	47	61	7		126
6 1/2							2	4	10	6	9		31
6 1/4									1				1
Total Stamps	10	85	172	106	49	47	42	95	195	161	35	3	1000

Table 2-5.

with different patterns of perf's to be found on a single uncut sheet of 1,000 stamps. Table 2-5 indicates the calculated quantity of stamps to be found in a single sheet of 1,000 stamps with perforations ranging from 6¼ to 9 inclusive treated as a single production run issue, and shows the combinations of stamp perforations in ten coil rolls.

A remarkable statistic evolves from Table 2-5. The blue cells in all tables represent the perforation combinations listed in the 2006 and 2007 *Unitrade Catalogues*. The total quantity of stamps shown in the blue cells in Table 2-5 is 603. That is only three stamps in excess of 6 coil rolls! Similarly, the remaining cells total 397 – three stamps short of 4 coil rolls. I believe this statistic is far from coincidental, and in part validates the reliability of the findings of this research. The differences of 3 stamps in 600 subjects (½%) can probably be accounted for in the arbitrary 75 stamps I assigned to the 7½ x 7½ perforations groups.

Conclusions

Based on the detailed evaluation of a random selection of postally used stamps, this research has objectively found that the 50¢, red Calla Lily stamps were printed on two distinct fluorescences of paper, E-0 and E-3 on my 14-pont comparative envelope fluorescent scale. The anecdotal evidence of the different and diminishing quantities of E-3 fluorescent stamps obtained from successive bulk purchases of stamps suggests the fluorescent papers were used only on the initial production run of the stamps. My conjecture is that about 4% of the initial production run of the red Calla Lily stamps were produced on E-3 fluorescent paper as shown in Table 1-1 and Chart 1-2 (Part 1).

The research, once again, has demonstrated that the self-adhesive gum used on current stamps is impenetrable to even a harsh chemical like iodine, as demonstrated in Table 1-2 (Part 1). This study also demonstrates that some printing ink used in the production of modern stamps is also resistant to penetration of a harsh chemical like iodine. Therefore, I am confident the E-3 fluorescent stamp paper found on the red Calla Lily stamps is unlikely to be the result of chemical contamination of the stamps by fluorescent envelope pieces, or of external contaminating sources penetrating the face of the stamps.

At least two tagging frame sizes have been identified by this study. Internal tagging borders measuring about 21.5mm wide and 16.5mm tall, or 20mm wide and 15.5mm tall, have been identified. This suggests stamps with tag bars 3mm or 4mm wide. The 20 X 15.5mm tagging frame often shows an internal frame line covering the tagging border. Two tagging anomalies have been identified: the "Ribbon Bouquet" and the "Mushroom Farm." The quantity of these errors found suggest these tagging irregularities occur only once in 1,000 stamps and appear only from the initial production run on stamps with variable top and bottom perforation sizes.

The existence of 62 combinations of perforations measurements between the top and bottom of the stamps have been objectively identified in this research. Perforations range from perf' 6¼ to perf' 9 in ¼ changes and with different top and bottom combinations having been identified. Three distinct perforation groups have been classified by this research: Group one with perforations measuring from 9 to 7¾ on the top and/or bottom of the stamps. Group two showing perforations of between 7¾ and 6¼ on the top and/or bottom of the stamps. Both these groups have stamps with considerable variation in the uniformity of the perforations and have produced stamps with transitional perforations occurring on the top and/or bottom edges of the stamps in many perforation sizes. Group three stamps have been identified as having consistently uniform perforations measuring 7½ on both the top and bottom of the stamps.

The research has demonstrated that the quantity of stamps with any one perforation size on the top of the stamp is matched almost equally by a similar quantity of stamps with the same perforation measurement on the bottom edge of the stamp. Table 1-3 (Part 1).

This research was unable to determine if the three perforation groups represent three different printings of the stamps or different production runs of one printing. However, the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* (2006 Edition) identifies there were three printings of the red Calla Lily stamp. If *Unitrade's* 2006 three printings hypothesis is correct then this research has shown, in Table 1-3 and 1-4, and Chart 1-4 (Part 1), how the perforations between the three printings may have been distributed. The first printing (2072) of the stamps perforated from 9 to 7¾ on the top and/or bottom edges; the second printing (2072a) perforated 7¾ to 6¼ on the top and/or bottom edges. The first and second printing groups contained a mixture of both uniform perforations and transitional perforations in unidentified ratios. The third printing group (2072b) had stamps uniformly perforated 7½. The research has shown there are no less than 62 perforation combinations, 28 for the first, and 34 for the second printing and one for the third. This research has also shown the relative rarity of the different combinations of perforation sizes represented in the first and second printings as shown in Table 1-5 (Part 1).

If the perforation groups represent different production runs of a single printing, as implied in Unitrade's 2007 catalogue, then this research has demonstrated how the different perforations size combinations are distributed in the single production run in Table 2-3 and 2-4, and Chart 2-2 above. This research has proved that there are no less than 62 different perforation combinations, and has shown, in Table 2-4, the relative rarity of the different combinations of perforation sizes represented in the production runs for the red Calla Lily stamps. Compare Table 1-5 with Table 2-4 to determine how the classification into different printing groups or production runs changes the relative rarity of the combinations of perforation sizes.

Although stamp 2072b has been delisted from the *Unitrade's* 2007 catalogue, this research has demonstrated that stamp 2072b would be perforated 7½ x 7½, not 7¼ as listed in the 2006 edition of the *Unitrade Catalogue*, as indicated by the relative quantities of these two perforations size combinations in Table 2-1 and Chart 2-1 above.

This research has statistically established that the ski-slope anomaly may be present more frequently than the 1 in 10 rolls indicated in the *Unitrade catalogues*. This conjecture remains to be confirmed from intact coils.

The 50¢ Red Calla Lily stamps represent a considerable challenge to the serious philatelist. With 62 different perforation size combinations having now been identified, two different tagging frame measurements and two different paper fluorescences, plus a Green-Over-Red colour variety, the search permutations and variations seem endless.

This research has focused specifically on the 50¢, Red Calla Lily coil stamp. The 85¢ yellow Calla Lily and the $1.45 Blue Iris stamps were released by Canada Post at the same time. To the extent that all three stamps were produced from the same printing press, using the same tag printing dies to overlay the tagging, and the same serpentine cutting dies to cut the perforations, the features discussed in this study may be replicable on both the yellow Calla Lily and the Blue Iris stamps. However, the 85¢ yellow Calla Lily and the $1.45 Blue Iris stamps were produced in coils of 50 stamps. Both denominations have been identified with the "Ski-slope" variety. Does this imply that because 20 50 stamp coils can be produced from one sheet of 1,000 stamps, that the frequency of occurrence of the ski-slope variety on the 85¢ yellow Calla Lily and the $1.45 Blue Iris stamps is actually 1 in 20 coils, not 1 in 10 coils as reported in the *Unitrade Catalogue*? Does this imply that the 50¢ stamp coils contained two different ski-slope varieties in ten coils? Or does this imply Lowe-Martin used only half the perforating machine producing the higher denomination stamps?

Conclusions based on analysis of objective, anecdotal and circumstantial data are often counter-intuitive. Conversely, intuitive conclusions based on circumstantial evidence alone are ipsi-dixit. In either case, conclusions can be wrong. This may be particularly so in the case of the 50¢, red Calla Lily coil stamps. This research has probably raised more questions than it has objectively answered, therefore, I welcome remarks and informed debate about this research and the conclusions I have extracted. I can be contacted through this magazine, either directly or by a letter to the Editor. I would particularly like to confirm other copies of the errors and oddities discussed in the article, the recurrence, and the location on the coils, of the "Ribbon Bouquet" and "Mushroom Farm" tagging faults and particularly the location of the "Ski-slope" variety along the coils, or of the finding of other perforation measurements on these stamps. I would also like to confirm that the features discussed in this study can also be found on either, or both, the yellow Calla Lily and the Blue Iris stamps. Confirmation of the stamp positions of the "Ski-slope" varieties on all denominations of the flower definitive coil stamps would be appreciated. ✉

PALMARÈS / RÉSULTATS

This column reports the results of philatelic and literature awards in national-calibre exhibitions in Canada and the awards won by RPSC members, Canadian owned exhibits and exhibits of Canadian material in international exhibitions.

Cette chronique liste les résultats obtenus dans les expositions philatéliques et de littérature nationale et les expositions quasi-nationales d'intérêt aux lecteurs ansi que les résultats obtenus par les Canadiens, les membres du SRPC et les collections de matériel canadien dans les expositions internationales.

By J.J. Danielski

BNAPEX 2007, CALGARY, AB • AUGUST 31 AOÛT - SEPTEMBER 2 SEPTEMBRE, 2007

Jury: Dr David Piercey (Chair/ President); Bill Walton (USA); Mike Street; Apprentice/Apprenti:Tom Gosse
Exhibiting at BNAPEX shows is only open to members of the British North America Philatelic Society

Horace Harrison Grand Award:
Victor Willson - Canada 19th Century Non-Letter Mail

Reserve Grand Award:
Kevin O'Reilly - A Postal History of Labrador before Confederation

Gold /Or
- *Stephen Friedenthal - Slogan Postal Markings of Western Canada 1901-1919*
- *Peter Jacobi - The Historic Kootenays*
- *Herbert McNaught - Canada 1897 Diamond Jubilees*
- *Ian Mowat - Yukon Revenues*
- *Kevin O'Reilly - A Postal History of Labrador before Confederation*
- *W. G. Robinson - Canadian Military Presence in Siberia 1918-1920*
- *Brian T. Stalker - Conception Bay: Bay Railway Newfoundland 1896-1949*
- *John M. Walsh - Newfoundland Revenue Documents of 1898 Queen Victoria Revenue Issue*
- *Victor Willson - Canada 19th Century Non-Letter Mail*

Vermeil
- ***Marc Eisenberg - Canadian Dead Letter Office Envelopes*
- *Colin D. Lewis - Trans-Atlantic Mail 1810-1862 Newfoundland to Portugal and France*
- *W. G. Robinson - Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force in Canada 1917-1919*
- *Richard Thompson - The First Decimal Issue of Canada 1859-1868*
- *Harry Voss - Canadian Re-Entries 1852-1853*
- *John P. Wynn - Canada 1927 Confederation Anniversary Issue*

Silver / Argent
- *John D. Arn - Canada Environment Definitive Series*
- ***Earle Covert - Certified Mail - Regular, Contract, Special Order & Contract Certified, Certified Xpresspost*
- *Colin Pomfret - Some Canadian Military Mail 1865-1922*
- *Alex Price - CPR Telegraphs*
- *W. G. Robinson - Southwestern Ontario Railway Post Offices to 1867*
- *** Dr. Donald W. Thompson - Letters to and from the 1870 and 1885 Riel Rebellion, Northwest Canada*
- *Joel Weiner - The Centennial Booklets of Canada 1967-1973*

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The **Postal History Society of Canada** was founded to promote the study of the postal history of Canada and its provinces. It publishes the quarterly **PHSC Journal**, whose contents range from fully-researched feature articles to items of current interest – from the pre-stamp era through postmark specialties and regional histories to modern mail mechanization.

Each year the Society holds meetings at shows across Canada. The Annual Meeting is held in the early summer, and is supplemented by Regional Meetings, usually featuring postal history seminars given by Society members. Eight different Study Groups are devoted to the detailed examination of various specialized aspects of postal history.

Membership dues are $25.00 per year, with a one-time admission fee of $1.00. For a membership application form please contact the Secretary, Stéphane Cloutier, 255 Shakespeare St., Ottawa, ON K1L 5M7 Canada. E-mail: cloutier1967@sympatico.ca.

by "Napoleon"

Belgian Large Format Albert Semipostals

In 1915 Belgium released a set of three large-format semi-postals featuring King Albert I. The stamps were 5c+5c green, 10c+10c red, and 20c+20c violet.

The three denominations have three varieties in common. One variety is a white spot on the king's right shoulder. The approximate multiple over the basic stamps is 2.5 mint hinged (MH) and 6 used for the 5c green, 2 MH and 3 used for the 10c red, and 2 MH and 2.5 used for the 20c violet. The location of the white spot is marked with a white circle on the 10c of the paired 5c and 10c stamps.

NOTE: all value multiples for printing flaws are the same for every flaw of a given denomination.

The other two varieties are a coloured scar just below the lower lip and a misshapen button on the epaulette on the king's right shoulder. The location of the coloured scar is shown by a white oval on the 10c of the paired stamps and on the detailed image. The misshapen button looking like a "2" is at almost the same place as the white spot on the king's shoulder and is shown in a white circle on the detailed image.

The 5c green-and-red has two varieties not found on the other two denominations. The locations are marked with white circles on the image of the 12x14 perforation variety of the stamp. One variety has a SW-NE diagonal green bar across the upper left "5." The other variety has a large white spot inside the right inner frame line and the vignette.

The 10c red has a variety not found on the other two denominations. The variety is a long, horizontal V on the left side of the stamp somewhat higher than the ear. The location is shown by a white oval on the 10c red of the paired stamps and in the detail. Note that this detail lacks the coloured scar variety in the earlier detail.

Five perforation varieties exist. The normal stamps are perforated 14. The 5c exists perforated 12x14 (multiple of about 4 MH and 7 used). The 10c exists perforated 14x12 (unpriced either unused or used). The 20c comes with three non-standard perforations. When perforated 12, the multiples are 1 for MH and 2 for used. The 14x12 stamps carry multiples of 11 MH and 17.5 used. The best find would be the stamp perforated 11x12, with a multiple of 25 MH and unpriced used.

The image of the paired 5c and 10c stamps is a normal perf. 14 10c and a 12x14 perf. 5c. The perforated 12 edge is fairly easy to see in the image, and is readily found with a perforation gauge.

The Table summarizes the information.

Value Multiples Over Normal: Mint Hinged, Used			
Stamp	5c Green	10c Red	20c Violet
Normal, perf. 14	1, 1	1, 1	1, 1
All printing flaws	2.5, 6	2, 3	2, 2.5
Perforated 12x14	4, 7		
Perforated 14x12		unpriced	11, 17.5
Perforated 12		1, 2.	
Perforated 11x12			25, unpriced







Perf. 14 Variety locations.

Perf. 12x14



Narrow horizontal V left of vignette.



Coloured scar below lower lip.



White spot on shoulder.



Epaulette button looks like a "2".





As usual, colour images are available to those who e-mail me with requests (napoleon@voyager.net).

Transcribing Sounds

by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC

BRAILLE ALPHABET: Optical Aids



Eyeglasses, or lenses, are the primary device for correcting or assisting defective sight. The simplest lens is a piece of glass, methylmethacrylate polymer (lucite), or another suitable material with spherical, concave or plane surfaces. A lens forms an image, real or virtual, through the refraction of light.

Bifocal lenses have two surfaces on one lens, as per example on this page: one to correct distant vision, if needed, and the other to correct near, or reading, focusing. The distance vision is usually at the top and the near at the bottom, often in the corner of a lens.

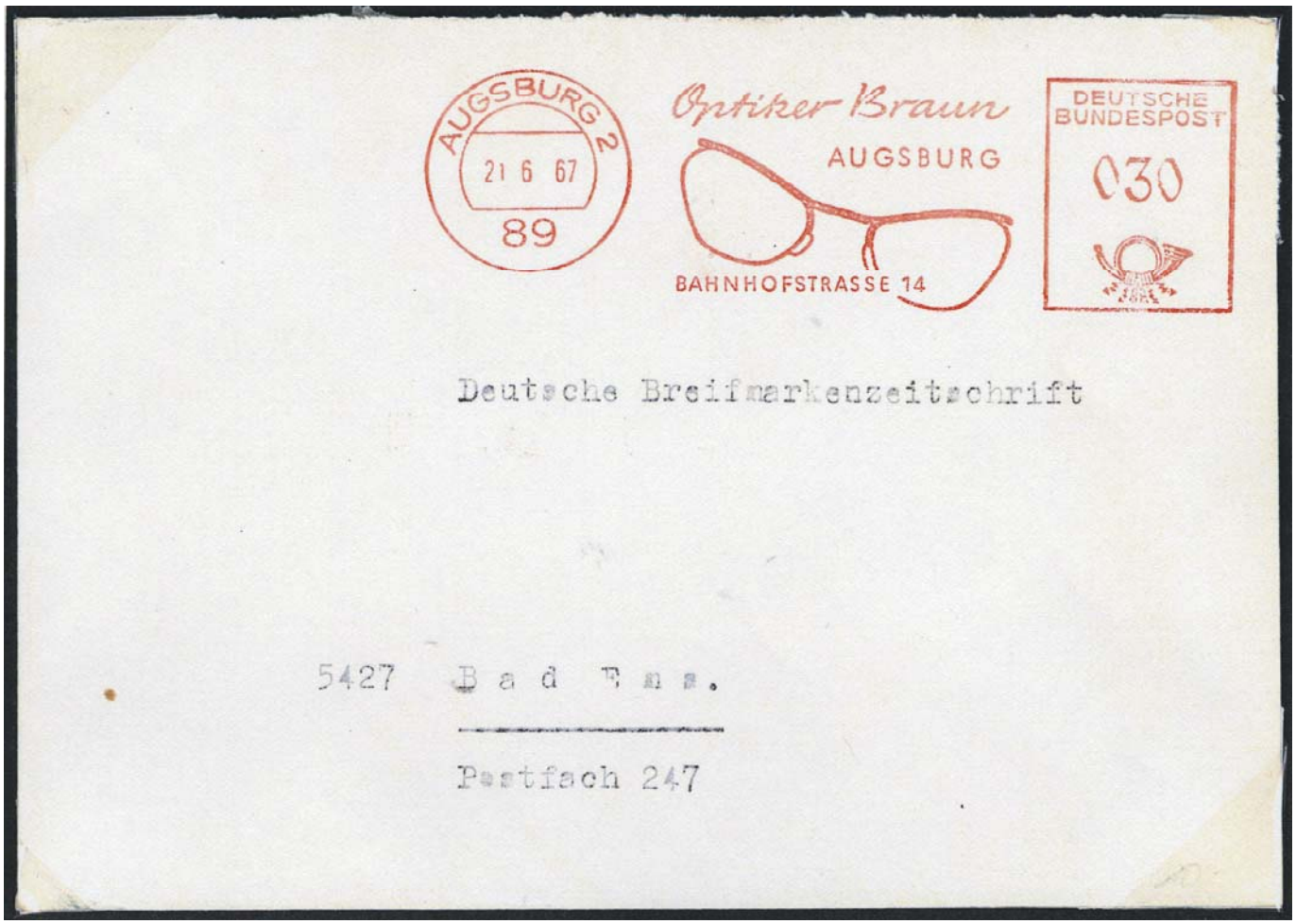


Eyeglasses are also used for the protection from injury in the workplace and outdoors from ultraviolet rays.



Contact lenses, as the name suggests, are fitted directly on the cornea and are removable for cleaning or replacement. Leonardo da Vinci had proto-type contact lenses on his drawing boards in 1508 to replace the various magnifying glasses. He was unable to implement his ideas due to lack of technology.

Rene Descartes, a century and a half later, aware of the work done by da Vinci, continued to speculate on their feasibility. It fell to Adolph Eugen Fick, 1829-1905, to invent the methodology of contact lenses in 1887 and August Muller in 1889 to produce the first lenses to correct myopia or nearsightedness.



Transcribing Sounds

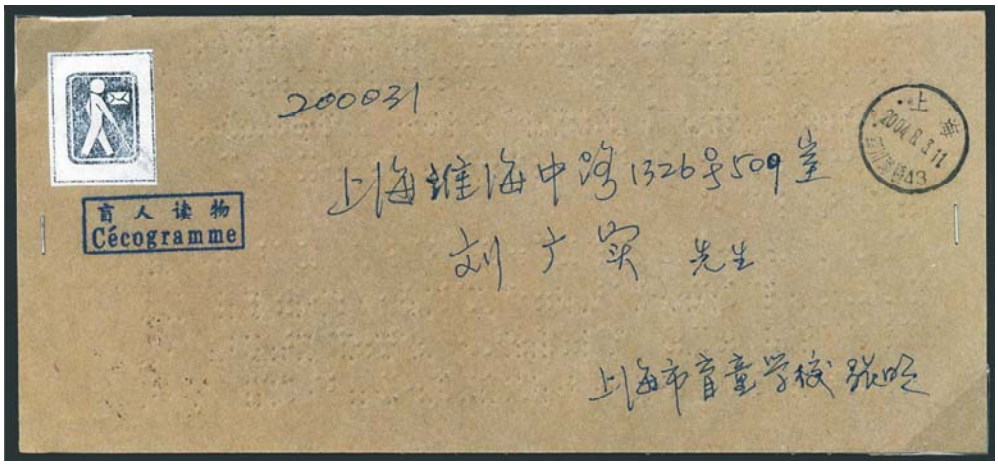
by Michael Madesker, RDP, FRPSC

BRAILLE ALPHABET: Postal Services to the Blind

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Cover courtesy of Mr. Liu Guangshi and Mrs. Huong Liao Li

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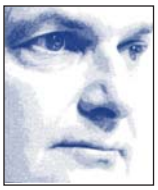
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PRESIDENT'S page
la page du PRÉSIDENT

by / par Rick Penko

GIVE A GIFT TO THE FUTURE

Unlike some other organizations, The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada does not have large endowments. We are very much dependent on the annual membership fee of our members. If membership grows, services can grow; if membership does not grow, services cannot grow. Even a stable membership, in the face of always rising costs, poses serious challenges to our Society.

Therefore, for The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada to provide its full range of important services – and to add new ones – it needs money. Our resources are limited, in part because philately has not had a tradition of philanthropy compared to that of some other organizations.

We must establish a tradition of philanthropy if our hobby is to survive and thrive in this the Society's second century.

This is the ideal time to contribute to your Society's continued success. Enhanced resources will enable The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada to do more to enhance the hobby that means so much to all of us.

I ask that you make every effort to make a gift to the Society, a gift that will benefit you, your fellow RPSC members and the future of the world's premier hobby.

Here's wishing a very Happy Holiday to you and yours.

Sincerely,
Rick Penko

UN DON POUR L'AVENIR

Contrairement à d'autres organismes, La Société royale de philatélie ne bénéficie pas du soutien de grandes fondations. Elle compte beaucoup sur les frais annuels d'adhésion de ses membres. Quand le nombre de membres se multiplie, les services offerts peuvent aussi se multiplier; mais dans le cas contraire, les services ne peuvent pas s'améliorer. Face à l'augmentation constante des coûts, même la stabilité du nombre de membres pose problème à cet égard.

Par conséquent, si La Société royale de philatélie du Canada désire continuer d'offrir une gamme complète de services et en ajouter de nouveaux, elle a besoin d'argent. Si nos ressources sont limitées, c'est en partie parce que la philatélie n'a pas de tradition philanthropique comme en ont d'autres organisations.

Nous devons donc instaurer une telle tradition si nous voulons que notre passe-temps survive et devienne florissant en ce deuxième centenaire de La Royale.

C'est maintenant le moment idéal de faire notre part pour que La Société royale de philatélie du Canada continue d'avoir du succès. L'augmentation de ses ressources lui permettra de faire davantage pour le passe-temps que nous chérissons tous.

Je vous demande donc de déployer tous les efforts possibles afin d'accorder un don à la société, un don qui vous sera profitable tout comme il le sera pour vos collègues de la SRPC et pour le passe-temps numéro un de la planète.

Avec mes meilleurs vœux de joyeux Noël et de bonne année pour vous et les vôtres.

Cordialement,
Rick Penko

MEMBERSHIP report
Des nouvelles de nos MEMBRES

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NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

The following applications were received and are herewith published in accordance with the Constitution. If no adverse reports are received within 30 days of publication, applicants will be accepted into full membership. Any objections should be sent to the National Office, P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1.

Les demandes d'adhésion ci-dessous ont été reçues et sont publiées en conformité avec la constitution. Si aucun commentaire n'est communiqué au Bureau national, (C.P. 929, Succursale Q, Toronto, ON, M4T 2P1) d'ici 30 jours, les adhérants seront acceptés comme membres.

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The RPSC YOUTHPHIL CLUB



Le CLUB TIMBREJEUNES SRPC



All those who write for a magazine or a periodical know that there is a long lead time between the time that a column is written and the time that it sees print.

For example, it is 31°C right now and very humid in St-Joachim. The philatelic season has not yet begun but I have to remember to send you my best wishes for the New Year.

This past summer I reflected on what had and had not been accomplished for youth philately in Canada, what is working well and what is not, and what we can do to improve the situation. My Annual Report has been presented to ROYAL*2007*ROYALE in Toronto and it may even have been acted upon by the time you read this.

Because of the usual long lead time from the time that articles must be submitted to the editor and the time that the magazine is mailed out to members, the thrust of this column will change significantly with the January/February 2008 issue. Instead of trying to keep up with news, we will supply general information and act as a contact for youth philatelic clubs.

So, if you have pictures of your club's members or of the activities organized by your club, you can send them to me along with a short explanatory note. We will also try to publicize every Youthphil club: those affiliated with RPSC as well as non-affiliate clubs.

Every issue of the magazine will be built around a general topic concerning youth philately. The January/February issue will discuss financing for our activities.

Once again, best wishes for 2008 and please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yvan Latulippe



Tous ceux qui ont déjà écrit pour une revue ou un périodique savent qu'il y a un énorme décalage entre le moment d'écrire ces lignes et le moment d'écrire ces et le moment où vous les lisez.

Exemple : il fait présentement 31°C à St-Joachim et pesamment humide. La saison philatélique n'est pas commencée et je dois tout de même ne pas oublier de vous souhaiter mes meilleurs vœux pour la nouvelle année qui va bientôt débuter.

L'été 2007 aura été l'occasion de réfléchir avec quelques amis sur ce qui est fait et ce qui n'est pas fait au niveau de la philatélie jeunesse au Canada, ce qui fonctionne, ce qui ne fonctionne pas, ce qu'on pourrait faire pour améliorer la situation. Le rapport annuel aura été déposé à l'assemblée générale annuelle de Toronto et quelques actions auront peut être même été entreprises.

Décalage oblige, la façon d'utiliser cette chronique changera substantiellement en janvier. Plutôt que d'essayer de garder un contact étroit avec l'actualité, nous miserons sur l'information générale et les contacts entre les clubs.

Ainsi, si vous avez des photos de votre groupe de jeunes ou d'activités organisées par votre club, vous pouvez me les faire parvenir avec une note d'explication. Nous allons aussi tenter de recenser tous les clubs de philatélie-jeunesse, autant ceux qui sont membres de la SRPC que ceux qui ne le sont pas.

Chaque numéro sera construit autour d'un sujet d'ordre général. Celui de janvier/février 2008 regardera le financement de nos activités.

Encore une fois, tous mes meilleurs vœux pour 2008 et faites-nous signe.

Yvan Latulippe







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coming EVENTS
CALENDRIER

To have your event listed in this section of The Canadian Philatelist, please send all details to The RPSC National Office, P.O. Box 929, Station Q, Toronto, ON M4T 2P1. Details may be faxed to 1-888-285-4143 or e-mail to info@rpsc.org. Information will not be accepted by telephone. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE RPSC.

Pour que votre événement soit listé dans cette section du Philatéliste canadien veuillez envoyer tous les détails au Bureau national de la SRPC, C.P. 929, Succ. 'Q', Toronto, ON M4T 2P1. Les détails peuvent être faxés au 1-888-285-4143 ou par poste-électronique à info@rpsc.org. Aucune information ne sera acceptée par téléphone. CECI EST UN SERVICE GRATUIT DE LA SRPC.

REGIONAL EVENTS / ÉVÉNEMENTS RÉGIONAUX

OCTOBER 27 OCTOBRE, 2007:
The Barrie District Stamp Club's 46th Annual Stamp Show and Bourse, 10 am to 4 pm, Aladdin's Banquet Hall, 41 Essa Road, Barrie, ON. Free admission and parking. Snack bar. For information call the Club President, Bruce Walter, (705) 735-6009.

OCTOBER 28 OCTOBRE, 2007:
Stamp show sponsored by the Saint John Stamp Club. 10 am to 4:30 pm at the Coastal Inn Fort Howe Hotel, Salons A&B. Dealers, displays, door prizes. Free admission. For information contact Jim Young at (506) 849-2250.

NOVEMBER 3 NOVEMBRE, 2007:
KENTPEX 2007 sponsored by the Kent County Stamp Club will be held from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Wheels Motor Inn, on the corner of Richmond Street and Keil Drive, Chatham, ON. Exhibits and dealers. Free admission and parking. For more information call Paul McDonell at (519) 354-1845 or e-mail pvmcdonell@sympatico.ca

NOVEMBER 10, 2007:
The annual Cambridge Stamp Club Show and Bourse will be held at the United Kingdom Club, International Village Drive, Cambridge, Saturday Nov. 10, 2007, 9:30 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Free parking, door prizes, auction, and lunch counter. 10 dealers. For more information, contact Godfrey Fearn, 519-623-4911.

JANUARY 12 JANVIER, 2008:
BRANTFORD STAMP CLUB SHOW will be held from 10 am to 4 pm at the Woodman Community Centre, 491 Grey Street at James Avenue, east of Wayne Gretsky Highway. Exhibits, 15 dealers, sales circuit, lunchroom, draws, Canada Post and show cancel. For information contact D. Lanyi at (519) 752-3868 or at shasland@kwic.com.

MARCH 29 MARS, 2008:
KAPEX 2008 will be held 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, (just north of Lansdowne Street). Featuring exhibits, dealers, door prizes, children's prizes, club sales and auction. Information from Rick Stankiewicz at (705) 295-6158 or stankiewiczr@nexicom.net

APRIL 19, 2008:
Stampfest, the Kitchener-Waterloo Philatelic Society annual show and bourse will be held at the Community Christian Reformed Church 1275 Bleams Road, at Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener, Ontario. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring an exciting dealer bourse, competitive exhibits, including one-page entries, free parking, free admission, hourly and special draws, stamp pull, lunch counter, and other surprises. For additional information phone Jim Oliver at 1-519-893-4092 or e-mail:jimoliver10@hotmail.com.

NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS NATIONALES

OCTOBER 25-28, OCTOBRE, 2007:
There will be a Digital Philatelic Exhibition as part of the ASDA's Fall 2007 Mega-Event at Madison Square Gardens in New York. Entry forms for digital philatelic studies (DPS) must be submitted by August 1, 2007. Information at www.asdaonline.com or from Colin Fraser at frasers@writeme.com or (845) 679-0684.

JANUARY 11-13 JANVIER, 2008:
AmeriStamp Expo 2008, the annual APS winter show and convention will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina. Information from Dana Guyer (814) 993-3803 ext. 207 or dana@stamps.org

MARCH 28-30, 2008:
The Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show 2008 will be held in the West Edmonton Mall Fantasyland Conference Centre, 3rd floor Europa Boulevard rooms 5, 6, 15,16. Hours: Friday Noon - 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Exhibits, dealers, youth stamp room, circuit books, seminars, auction and banquet. For information contact Keith Spencer at (780) 437-1787 or at keithr.spencer@shaw.ca.

MAY 3-4 MAI, 2008:
ORAPEX 2008, Ottawa's National Stamp Show, the 47th Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse with over 40 dealers and 150 frames of exhibits, will be held at the RA Centre Curling Rink, Saturday May 3, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday May 4, 10 am to 4 pm. The address is RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON. Those wishing to exhibit should contact Tom Hare at thare@sutton.com. For bourse information please contact Stéphane Cloutier at cloutier1967@sympatico.ca. FREE admission and parking. Dick Malott, Publicity Officer at (613) 829-0280 or rmalott@magma.ca.

MAY 16-18 MAI, 2008:
ROYAL *2008* ROYALE: The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's 80th Annual Exhibition and Convention will be held in Ste. Foy, Québec. Details to follow. Dates and locations for forthcoming years:
2009, St. Catharines, Ontario.
2010, Windsor, Ontario
2011, Montréal, Québec.

AUGUST 29-31 AOÛT, 2008:
BNAPEX+2008+NOVAPEX, the annual Convention of the British North America Philatelic Society, in Halifax, The host facility is The Lord Nelson Hotel, 1515 South Park Street, Halifax, NS B3J 2L2. General information may be obtained from Jack Forbes, (JAFRBS@aol.com) or Michael Peach (michael.peach@ns.sympatico), Dealer contact is Claude Michaud (jcm.ph@ns.sympatico.ca) and the Exhibits Chair is Gary Steele (gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca). The Convention is being held in conjunction with the Annual Exhibition of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club

MARCH 20-22, MARS, 2009:
The Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show 2009. Details to follow at a later date.

MAY 2-3 MAI, 2009:
ORAPEX 2009, Ottawa. Details to follow at a later date.

MAY 1-2 MAI, 2010:
ORAPEX 2010, Ottawa. Details to follow at a later date.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS / EXPOSITIONS INTERNATIONALES

MAY 14-18 MAI, 2008:
Tel Aviv Israel. WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP "ISRAEL 2008" under F.I.P. patronage will include all 10 F.I.P. philatelic competitive classes, as well as World Stamp Championship competition. Israel Trade Fairs & Convention Center, Tel Aviv. Commissioner: Dr. Jan J. Danielski, 71 Gennela Square, Toronto, ON M1B 5M7. Tel: (416) 283-2047, e-mail: jjad@rogers.com.

JUNE 20-28 JUIN, 2008:
Bucharest Romania. EFIRO 2008 World Philatelic Exhibition under F.I.P. Auspices. Commissioner: Charles J. G. Verge FRPSC, FRPSL, PO Box 66, Stn "Q", Toronto, ON M4T 2L7. Tel: (647) 344-0446 and E-mail cjgverge@rogers.com

SEPTEMBER 12-14 SEPTEMBRE, 2008:
Prague, Czech Republic, PRAGA 2008 World Philatelic Exhibition, covering FIP Classes of Traditional Philately, Postal History, Philatelic Literature and the experimental class of One Frame Exhibits. Commissioner John McEntyre, 707-3495 Mountain Street, Montreal, QC, H3G 2A5. Tel: (514) 845-2938. E-mail: jgmcentyre@hotmail.com.

MAY 8-15 MAI, 2010:
London 2010 Festival of Stamps will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1. Details at www.london2010.org.uk. Canadian commissioner not yet appointed.

OCTOBER 1-10 OCTOBRE, 2010:
PORTUGAL 2010, Parque das Nações, Lisbon, Portugal. Commissioner Charles J. G. Verge FRPSC, FRPSL, PO Box 66, Stn "Q", Toronto, ON M4T 2L7. Tel: (647) 344-0446 and E-mail cjgverge@rogers.com.

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USED, MIXED, 1,000 Canada Commemoratives, net $20. 1,000 small size regulars, net $7. C.W.O., postpaid, free price list. Patrick Cangley, 733 Terrill, A-2, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada J1E 1L8. Tel 819-562-8345 *v59n02*

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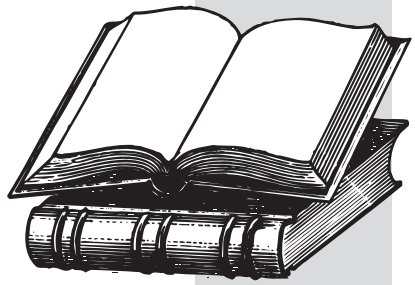
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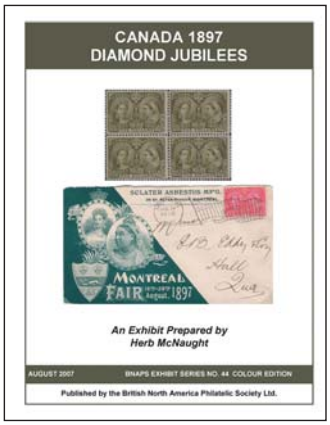
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BOOK REVIEWS
OUVRAGES PARUS





CANADA 1897 DIAMOND JUBILEES

By Herb McNaught. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society, 2007. Spiral bound, 180 pages. 8.5 x 11 inches. ISBN 978-1-897391-10-5 colour $120; ISBN 978-1-897391-11-2 B&W $34.95. Orders (Visa, Mastercard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus $2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order add 10% in Canada, 15% to the US, 20% overseas. GST is payable for Canadian orders. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. BNAPS books are available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A8, Canada; Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed via www.iankimmerly.com/books/

That this exhibit of 1897 Diamond Jubilee material is awe-inspiring is stating the obvious. Other than a couple of essays, nothing of any consequence is missing from this top award-winning entry. It has taken several Gold awards at the national level and a Large Silver at Tokyo 2002 and a Vermeil at Sydney, Australia, in 2005. It is noteworthy that it takes a higher award at each successive outing.

It is not often that one sees examples of the unique set of trial copy cards showing the index reference colour die proofs produced by the stamps' printer, the American Bank Note Company. These proofs were produced as colour reference guides for the printer that would ultimately be selected to print the stamps.

As might be expected of a top-flight exhibit, it includes not only a set of pristine proofs but also a complete set in pairs on India paper. The proof items displayed in the exhibit are truly remarkable. They include, for example, several blocks of numbered and unnumbered plate proofs printed on India paper, sunk on card, for presentation to the Postmaster General for approval.

Exhibits of the 1897 Diamond Jubilee issues are seldom encountered at stamp shows and it is appropriate that BNAPS decided to reproduce this outstanding entry in its Exhibits Series publications.

Post die and plate proof production items include a mint set of the issued stamps; a complete set of all 29 plate proofs, some in blocks of four, six, and 20 stamps; specimen overprints in serif and sans-serif letters; lithographed and engraved forgeries and a set of high value denominations.

The exhibit also includes a perfin stamp on cover, a study of re-entries material, a couple of 2-cent denomination bisects and, of course, a breathtaking array of fancy cancels on and off cover. Also, there is no shortage of fancy flag cancels, Ottawa crowns, duplexes, barred numerals, and bulls eyes.

The cover section of the exhibit is particularly rich with examples of domestic rate circular date stamps, split rings, street post office strikes, duplex hammers, and Jubilee flag cancels. Foreign destinations include covers to the U.S. Germany, England, South Africa and several other countries. Letter cards, registered mail and circular rate examples are particularly noteworthy.

Although it is not the function of a book reviewer to enumerate a list of an exhibit's content, we hasten to add that the foregoing examples are merely a random sampling of difficult-to-locate items. There are numerous other on- and off-cover items that illustrate why stamp collecting is, for many, an all-consuming collectibles passion.

Given the plethora of material comprising this exhibit, one wonders though why the exhibitor chose to include two identical, philatelically inspired, covers addressed to J.E. Burton of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, mailed on the same date. Or to show two identical The Alpha Chemical Co. covers. Both are addressed to the same addressee: (Mr. Andrew Malcolm) and both were cancelled in Berlin, Ontario, on July 13, 1897. Incidentally, they were mailed to St. John, NB, not Halifax, NS as indicated in their captions. A quick edit of the write-up might also have pinpointed typos such as Na Kusp for Nakusp.

However, there is much material in this exhibit that is remarkable and legitimately used, particularly the attractive corner card material and illustrated covers.

This is an exhibit that most collectors can only dream about. But that too is part of stamp collecting. For most of us, the items in this exhibit are well beyond reach and owning a copy of a full colour publication of the exhibit is a worthwhile alternative.

Tony Shaman



FANCY CANCELS ON CANADIAN STAMPS 1855 TO 1950

By D.M. Lacelle. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society, 2007. Spiral bound, 223 pages. 8.5 x 11 inches. ISBN 978-1-897391-09-9 $39.95; Credit card orders (Visa, Mastercard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus $2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order add 10% in Canada, 15% to the US, 20% overseas. GST is payable for Canadian orders. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. BNAPS books are available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A8, Canada; Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed via www.iankimmerly.com/books/

The second edition of Lacelle's Fancy Cancels adds several new sections that will appeal to collectors of this popular collecting specialty. First and foremost, the author has included a "rate factor" to give collectors an inkling of the rarity or scarcity of specific fancy cancels. Ratings go from one to six, with one being the most common. Strikes with a rate factor of six sell for about $40 and up.

Also new is an appendix that cross-references the original Day & Smythies catalogue numbers with the Lacelle numbers. Philatelists who assembled their collections prior to the Lacelle numbering system will appreciate this touch and find this listing quite useful.

This second edition, coming just over six years after Lacelle's first release, consists of about nine pages of introductory and explanatory remarks, five chapters of fancy cancel illustrations, 32-plus pages of previously listed deletions and miscellaneous cancels, seven appendices, and a two-page list of fancy cancel reference sources. Included in the reference section are the titles of auction catalogues of many of the "name" fancy cancel collections, including those assembled by Fred Jarrett, Stanley Cohen, John Siverts, and several other noted collectors.

One of the most important sections in the publication is the illustrated listing of deletions. These lists are examples of strikes that were previously thought to be genuine but have since been shown by the author to be either spurious or bogus. A more important function of this section is to eliminate duplication. Illustrations in the Deletions and Miscellaneous sections, shown at the bottom of each page, are reproduced at one half scale for ease of identification by readers.

The major part of the book is taken up by the 1,700-odd scanned fancy cancel images spread over about 75 pages. Opposing pages of the pictured images outline the text describing each illustrated strikes.

Readers currently using Lacelle's first edition will be interested in learning that this new edition also includes in excess of 60 previously non-identified fancy cancels that have now been identified and have a post office name; nearly 100 cancels have had their dates of known use expanded. Sixty new entries have been added to the Deletions and Miscellaneous section.

Scans, according to the author, have been done at 250 dots per inch and the result is a clear illustration that is easily identifiable by even novice collectors who will find this publication a useful tool. Long time collectors will be equally happy owning this update that the author concedes is a work that "will never be complete."

Complete or not, this newest book on the subject is one that no serious collector of fancy cancels of Canada can afford to be without.

Tony Shaman



JUST PERFECT: THE PATENTS AND POSTAL MARKINGS OF MACHINES INVENTED BY JOSEPH O. LAMOUREUX AND OMER FRANCOIS LEFEBVRE 1912-1980

By Reg Morris and Robert J. Payne. Published by the British North America Philatelic Society, 2007. Spiral bound, 262 pages. 8.5 x 11 inches. ISBN 978-1-897391-12-9. $49.95. Orders (Visa, Mastercard) will be billed for exact amount of shipping plus $2 per order. For payment by cheque or money order add 10% in Canada, 15% to the US, 20% overseas. GST is payable for Canadian orders. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from retail prices. BNAPS books are available from Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5A8, Canada; Phone: (613) 235-9119. Internet orders can be placed via www.iankimmerly.com/books/

For collectors of Canadian machine cancels, the importance of the Perfect rapid cancelling machine ranks right up there with the Imperial, Universal, Pitney-Bowes and, more recently, the Klussendorf desktop machines. Just Perfect reads like a detective novel.

Penned in a conversational style, the story traces the trials and setbacks of two Canadians determined to come up with a rapid cancelling machine that would compete with the best machines then in use. One of the inventors succeeded; the other did not.

In the early chapters we learn that Joseph Omer Lamoureux invented four distinctly different cancelling machines. Readers are left to wonder if he is the inventor of the "Perfect" machine. Then there is a second Montreal native, Omer Francois Lefebvre, 1912-1980, who was also working on a cancelling machine. Although the two men were undoubtedly aware of each other's work, they did not collaborate on any of their machines.

Then we learn of a third individual named Ohmer. He too was connected with the development of rapid mail marking machines. Although the spelling of the name Ohmer is slightly different from the other two Omers, both spellings derive from the same root: homme, the French word for "man." Ohmer, an American living in Dayton, Ohio, initially wanted his cancelling machine tested at the Paris Exposition in 1900. Although permission was granted there are no surviving covers, as far as we know.

Each of these three men, working independently, was more than a little anxious to sell his invention to a post office. Whose invention would become the "Perfect" machine? And just who came up with the Perfect name for the machine?

The book contains nine chapters, a six-page introduction, eight appendices, and 78 references for readers wishing to delve more deeply in the background of this fascinating story.

Chapter 5, titled "The Great Train Adventure, 1939, deals with, as readers might guess, the 1939 Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Accompanying their Majesties on the cross-country train trip was a Perfect machine with its own dedicated mechanic. Little wonder that the Royal Train cancels are so "perfect."

Much of the story deals with the "formidable" competition that the eventual Perfect machine faced in its attempts to replace the Universal Model G machines, of which 92 were still in operation across Canada at the beginning of 1926.

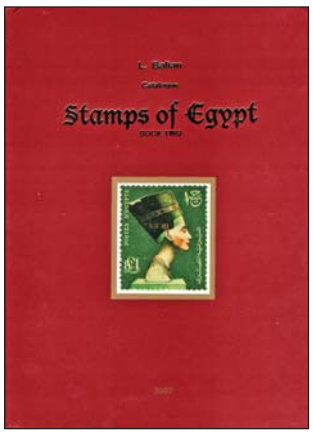
Collectors of Canadian machine cancels had noticed from time to time a postmark that somewhat resembled a roller cancel but was somehow different. Without giving away too much of the story, it is safe to state that machine cancel aficionados eventually determined that these enigmatic postmarks were made by one of the Lamoureux machines.

In 1927, one of Omer Lefebvre's machine designs was rushed into production to fill an order for 25 machines for the Canadian Post Office Department. The Perfect machine would prove so reliable that a small contingent remained in use until the early 1980s.

Machine cancel enthusiasts will revel in the plethora of technical data included by the authors. For example, the closing chapter lists the known dial die types, installation and de-installation dates by machine number, ditto for towns and cities listed in alphabetical order, earliest and latest known dates by office, by province as well as the Montreal and Montreal sub-office markings. No attempt was made to list slogans, according to the authors, as this information is readily available elsewhere.

Just Perfect is a work that should be on the bookshelves of every Canadian machine cancel collector. It is also highly recommended for collectors of Canadian postal history and for the general historian with an interest in the postal system of Canada.

Tony Shaman



STAMPS OF EGYPT BOOK TWO

By Leon Balian. Published by the author. 319 pages, 175 X 245 mm, hard cover with illustrated dust jacket. Price $US80 or £40 pounds sterling. Available from the author at 4010, Sources Blvd., #405, Dollard des Ormeaux, QC H9B 2C8, Canada, by telephone 514-684-2294, or from selected philatelic dealers.

This latest work by Leon Balian is, in one sense, a sequel to the author's Stamps of Egypt published in 1998. However, it is important to note that this newest edition contains much new information and material not covered in the 1998 work. It features, for example, a comprehensive listing of French Post in Egypt as well as a study of plate flaws. Also new is a listing of known varieties on commemorative issues released between 1940 and 1980.

The book is divided into five main sections, A to E, plus an introductory section. Included in the introduction section are forewords by John Sears, President, Egyptian Study Circle, and Dr. Sherif Samra, President of the Philatelic Society of Egypt. Information of a general nature explaining terminology used by the author, the identification of watermarks, and an illustrated explanation of the catalogue's layout follows.

Section A lists and pictures all of the Egyptian stamps that have been released since the publication of the 1998 catalogue. All stamps and miniature sheets up to and including January 2007 are reproduced in full colour.

Unlike major North American and European stamp catalogues where individual stamp illustrations are immediately followed by their catalogue numbers and descriptions, the author has opted to depict the stamp illustrations on the right-hand page in the book with their corresponding textual information printed on the facing page. This layout makes for a less cluttered look but may take a bit of getting used to by collectors who are accustomed to using the more traditional layouts.

Prices for stamps are given in U.S. dollars for used and unused copies in "fine" condition. First-day-of-issue covers are also fully priced. A fourth column of numbers presumably refers to the number of stamps printed for each issue although the catalogue does not make this clear.

Section B, according to the table of contents, provides a listing of the stamps issued from 1866 to 1998 although the listings themselves inexplicably cease with the stamps released in 1962. No explanation is provided for this apparent discrepancy in dates. Unlike section A, first-day-of-issue covers are not listed in section B.

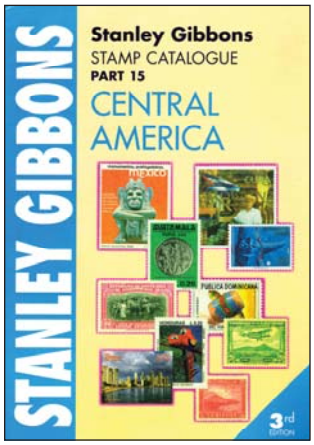
Readers should not be left with the impression that this work is merely a price list: it is much more than that. It is actually a handbook covering several specialized collecting areas in addition to a listing of the stamps of Egypt.

Section C, for instance, looks at French post offices in Egypt, including the forerunner period. Also included in this section are postage dues, postal stationery, essays, and proofs of French Alexandria and the postage dues and postal stationery of French Post Said.

Nor is short shrift given to printing methods used by security printers De La Rue and Harrison and Sons. Collectors will be pleased with the author's treatment of the printers' control numbers and the illustrated watermarks. No fewer than 27 pages are devoted to these and related topics covered in section D. Varieties, flaws and errors on modern issues, as referred to above, and a study of the airmail issue of 1933 complete a work that must surely have been a labour of love by the author.

In summary, this is a work that updates the 1998 catalogue with the addition of much new material. Printed on high-gloss paper, with pride of workmanship in evidence throughout publication, it is an attractively bound volume that bibliophiles will be proud to own and display on their bookshelves.

Tony Shaman



STAMP CATALOGUE PART 15 CENTRAL AMERICA

Published by Stanley Gibbons Publications. ISBN 10: 0-85259-648-0; ISBN 13: 978-0-85259-648-7. Soft cover, 422 pages, 297 X 210 mm; Retail price 39.95 British pounds. Orders can be placed by telephone: +44 (0)1425-472363 or by e-mail:sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk Also available from the publisher at 5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3SH or from www.stanleygibbons.com

The 3rd edition of *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 15 Central America*, the first reprint since 1984, is now available in vivid colour. Only a scattering of some of the earliest stamp issues are still shown in black and white. With the tendency of ever-more philatelic publications produced in full colour, this revamped catalogue, printed in ISO format A4 paper size, has not been left behind.

Prices of listed stamps have been totally revised as there have been huge price increases since this catalogue was last published more that 23 years ago. According to information provided by the publishers, listed prices for mint and used copies are for stamps in fine condition. Stamps of a grade better than 'fine' command a premium; stamps in poorer condition than 'fine' obviously sell for less.

With the release of this all-new 3rd edition, the stamps of the Canal Zone are included for the first time. Another improvement from the previous edition is the enhancement of cancellations that were used by the British Post offices during the 19th century.

Besides the postage stamps of the Canal Zone, countries listed in this latest edition are: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

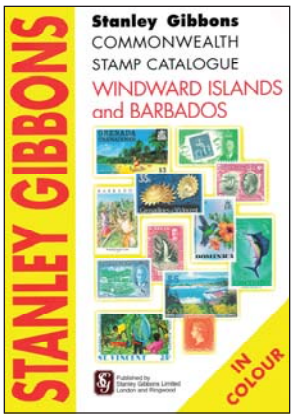
Also listed are Great Britain stamps used in specified post offices in Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama. Listed prices for these Great Britain stamps used abroad are for clearly cancelled specimens. Illegible cancellations and stamps that are poorly struck sell for much less, as might be expected.

The publisher's "General Philatelic Information and Guidelines to the Scope of Stanley Gibbons Foreign Catalogues" is equally beneficial and of equal efficacy for beginner and longtime collectors alike. This four-page section offers invaluable advice on how to make the best use of the information provided in the catalogue. A three-page International Philatelic Glossary of commonly used philatelic terms undoubtedly broadens this work's appeal to non-English-speaking collectors.

Catalogue users will also appreciate the extensive, page-numbered, table of contents.

Exquisitely prepared with pride of workmanship apparent throughout, this catalogue should prove its worth for both general collectors and for collectors with a specific interest in the stamps of Central America.

Tony Shaman



COMMONWEALTH STAMP CATALOGUE WINDWARD ISLANDS AND BARBADOS

Published by Stanley Gibbons, 2007. (5 Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hampshire, Great Britain, BH24 3SH) ISBN 10:085259-663-4; ISBN 13:978-0-85259-663-0. Glossy, limp bound cover, 226 pages; 220X297mm. Retail price £19.95. Telephone orders: +44(0) 1425-472363 or by e-mail: sales@stanleygibbons.co.uk or Internet:www.stanleygibbons.com

The first edition of the *Windward Islands and Barbados Commonwealth countries catalogue*, similar to other price lists in this series, is an all-colour effort. It lists the stamps of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Grenadines of St. Vincent. A two or three paragraph summary provides a concise overview of the postal history of each of these postal administrations.

Included in this first edition catalogue, in addition to the usual listings of used and mint stamps, fully priced for specimens in fine condition unless otherwise indicated, are major plate flaws, watermark varieties, and booklets. Post-1952 stamp issues were specially repriced for this all-new publication, whereas pre-1952 issues were taken from the *Stanley Gibbon 2007 Commonwealth and Empire Stamp Catalogue*.

As with other price lists in the single country catalogue series, this latest addition also includes the General Philatelic Information and Guidelines to the Scope of *Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogues*. The eight page section explains the company's pricing and guarantee policies, a guide outlining the factors that go into the determination of the various grades of the stamps listed in its catalogues, and a detailed outline of the catalogue in general. Another plus is a three-page International Philatelic Glossary of commonly used philatelic terms. It provides their English equivalents in French, German, Spanish, and Italian.

Given the extensive listings in the catalogue, it fully meets the needs of single country collectors. It will also appeal to topical and thematic collectors who require a reliable price guide for the stamps of the listed commonwealth countries.

Printed on high quality paper, this first edition publication offers users excellently reproduced images in full colour and in easy-to-read type.

This latest Commonwealth countries is ideally suited for collectors with an interest in the Windward Islands group of countries as well as for philatelists looking to expand their collecting interests.

Tony Shaman

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in my OPINION
a mon AVIS

by John Sheffield

It Ain't Peanuts

Several items have recently come my way that provide some insight into the health of our hobby.

For over 12 years *Linn's Stamp News* in Sidney, Ohio, has conducted an annual survey of the retail stamp market in the United States. The *Linn's* survey contained data provided by stamp dealers and others in the trade.

Survey results indicate a new high was reached in 2006 with retail sales approximating a whopping $1.1 billion. That is an increase of 16% over the previous year. This number includes $352 million in postage stamp sales and philatelic products from the United States Post Office. For the USPS that represents an increase of 32% over the previous year. Not too shabby an increase!

There are two other areas in the hobby that are showing obvious signs of growth. One is the prices obtained at auctions. There are many collectors at the high end of the market who are very active. Realizations at stamp auctions continue to bring strong prices for rarities, unusual items, or simply the very finest material.

The second area of increase, and likely a derivative of the first, is the continued increase in topical collecting. This is where the subject (or topic) of the stamp is more important than the value of the stamp. Another possible contributor to the increase in popularity of this area is the "one-frame exhibit." Topical collecting is a natural fit.

The *Linn's* survey itemized some estimated increases. In the area of auctions (public, mail bid sales, and Internet based auctions) there was a year-over-year increase of $38 million for total estimated realizations of $319 million. Internet retail sales showed a year-over-year increase of $10 million for total estimated sales of $65 million. These huge increases should come as no surprise when the Internet is factored into the equation. On any given day, there are usually over 200,000 philatelic items for sale on eBay alone.

Sales at bourses in the United States showed a substantial increase as well, showing a gain of $12 million for estimated total sales of $52 million.

To the best of my knowledge there is no other report or survey that comes close to surveying the "health of the hobby." Certainly there is nothing like this to measure the stamp market in Canada.

So how is the market in Canada?

I asked the largest stamp dealer in this country, Canada Post Corporation, to provide some data. Among other questions, I asked for the 2006-dollar volume of postage stamp sales and philatelic products. Search as I did through the 2006 Canada Post Annual Report, I could not locate this information. This was an item the representative from Canada Post was not at liberty to discuss. (Silly me for asking, I'm only a taxpayer.)

Certainly the scale in Canada is not what it is in the United States but Canada Post did provide some data that surely provides clues.

The representative stated that their two publications, *Collections* and *Details* are distributed to approximately 300,000 addresses worldwide. If one were to speculate that 20% of those receiving the publications purchased a matched set of plate blocks for each of the 2007 regular issues, the amount would be over $13 million.

Canada Post produces 50,000 Annual Collections, sold over a three-year period. At $60 a pop that's another $3 million.

They also state there are approximately 18,000 members of the Stamp Quest youth stamp club. Apparently there is only a 10% match to the main Canada Post mailing list, so this is an indicator of new, young collectors interested in the hobby.

Canada Post also produces a range of other philatelic products with First Day Covers being produced in quantities of typically 30,000 per issue but it can range as high as 200,000 in total for the Chinese New Year issues. As well, they are seeing a new, vitalized market for products like uncut press sheets. Many are complete sell-outs. Stamp and coin sets with numbered limited editions are popular and there is a growing market for the quarterly stamp packs.

Another interesting report is again from south of the border, this time from Wall Street. Two new individuals have joined the board of Escala Group Inc., one of the world's largest stamp firms. One is an investment banker, the other a mergers and acquisitions specialist. Knowing investment bankers as I do these types typically only like to get involved in "big deals." Escala is the parent company for H.R. Harmer, Inc. (which recently replaced the trading name Greg Manning Auctions), and Nutmeg Mail Sales. Although they reportedly have had some problems, they remain a very large stamp firm. Sales through this organization are in the millions of dollars annually. Given the size of the market is it any wonder the "boys from Wall Street" are taking a closer look.

Any way you slice the numbers, it ain't peanuts! ✉

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