The CANADIAN PHILATELIST



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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC.
SALES DEPARTMENT REPORT

April 18th, 1953.

April 1st, 1952, books on hand	694		
Books received from April 1st	1151		
	1845		
Books retired during the year	954	In circulation	891
Approximate value of books	$50,000.00	Average value	$30.00
Total Sales record for 12 months			$ 8,620.00

(Increase on year previous $1,670.00)

Sales Department, Bank Account

Apr. 1, '52 balance	$1,791.57	Cheques cashed	$6,802.25
Deposits to March 30	8,027.59	Outstanding	46.41
		Balance bank	2,970.50
	$9,819.16		$9,819.16

Sales Department Insurance Account

Apr. 1, '52 balance	$ 122.15	Safekeeping charges	$ 2.00
Deposits to March 31	382.69	Insurance policy	55.00
Coupons from bonds	10.50	Cash balance	458.34
	$ 515.34		$ 515.34

Actual Value of Account		Cash Balance	$ 458.34
Bonds Safekeeping Bank			350.00
			$ 808.34

Audited by C. F. FOSTER.

C. WOODHEAD,
Sales Manager.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I MUST, first of all thank the Directors of the Society for honouring me by electing me President of the Canadian Philatelic Society, something I certainly did not dream about at 10.30 a.m. on the morning of the 18th April, but which was a reality at 10.45. Why they picked on me, I do not know, for, in my opinion, the President of the CPS should be a man of influence in the Philatelic World, and outside of North Toronto, and perhaps Toronto, few of you have ever heard of me. However, I shall do my best to fill the post with credit and I do hope you will support me in every way possible.

Philately goes on and the Canadian Philatelic Society continues its good work. May I therefore be allowed to express some thoughts which are in my mind at the present time.

On three successive week-ends recently, the Grand Award at three different exhibitions was awarded to an exhibit of foreign stamps, Austrian Covers, First Issue of Czechoslovakia, First Issue of Norway, with the Jury, I believe, unanimous on each occasion. This is all to the good and it is to be sincerely hoped that a goodly number of Canadian collectors may thereby be induced to take a little more interest in the stamps of countries other than those of the Commonwealth. As that distinguished dealer and collector, Robson Lowe, said not long ago in a message to the Canadian Philatelic Society, philately in Canada is, and will continue to be, in an unhealthy condition, if more collectors do not take an interest in more foreign countries.

And frankly, I, and many other of my fellow philatelists, would like to see the complete disappearance of that state of mind, so prevalent in Canada, which classifies all material other than Canada and the Commonwealth, as "junk". Philatelically speaking, e v e r y country is as good as another, and many so-called collectors in Canada might do well to bear that in mind at all times.



L. M. LAMOUROUX
President
Canadian Philatelic Society

As you all know by now, next year's Convention will take place in Kitchener, Ontario, the home of as live a bunch of collectors as I have met anywhere, and I think we can anticipate a Convention that will be something out of the ordinary. In this respect, there is just one thought that I would like to leave with you at this juncture. The exhibition at the Toronto Convention was good as far as it went, but I do not think it was worthy of our NATIONAL Society, of our Canadian Philatelic Society. Now what about planning right now to put something in the Kitchener show next April? Mull it over this summer and start on it when the cooler days of fall will once more be upon us. And remember, this appeal is not being specially addressed to the Kitchener boys, but to you, and **you**, and YOU, **everywhere** in Canada, from Victoria to St. John's.

Yours philatelically,
L. Lamouroux,
President.

THE "TABLET" KEY TYPE STAMPS OF THE CROWN COLONIES

by Harold G. Gosney

This article was awarded the $10.00 prize for this issue. Members are invited to submit articles for publication.

THE Crown Agents' Bulletins have recently announced that the definitive issues of Queen Elizabeth II stamps for several of the Crown Colonies will be printed in the same designs as the King George VI sets now current. This policy of altering only the royal portrait is not new, as it was adopted for certain colonies during the change-over from King George V issues to those of our late King. It may, perhaps, surprise some collectors to learn that the Queen Elizabeth II stamps now in preparation for Leeward Islands will show Her Majesty's portrait in a frame design that has been in constant use since 1889. Certainly this is a record for longevity in stamp designs, surpassing even the Sudan "Camel Postman" which remained current for over fifty years.

A casual glance at the Key Type stamps of Leeward Islands may give the impression of monotonous repetition through the reigns of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V and King George VI. However, a closer examination of these apparently unattractive stamps will reveal a great many interesting variations in the issues of the Leeward Islands and of the other colonies which have used this design in the past.

PRINTERS: With only one exception these stamps were produced by Messrs. Thomas De La Rue and Company Limited, Bunhill Row, London. Founded in 1818, this firm had printed banknotes, notepaper, playing cards, etc., before undertaking their first stamp contract (the first Great Britain fourpence) in 1855. In 1879 they began production of stamps by typography in a standard design which could be adapted for more than one colony. The head of the Queen and the surrounding frame were printed from one plate, while the name of the colony at the top and the value at the bottom were printed from a second plate. This economical method of using "Head Plates" and "Duty Plates" also meant that the stamps could be printed in two colours and in different combinations of colours. Ten years later, in 1889, the first of the "Tablet" Key Types appeared, and it is these stamps—still current in 1953—that are the subject of this article.

Some time during World War II the London premises of De La Rue were destroyed by enemy bombing which caused extensive damage to their presses and their perforating machines. The 2c, 3c, 5c and 10c King George VI stamps of Mauritius were at that time printed on rough paper from the De la Rue plates by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company, of New Malden, Surrey.

DESIGNS: The "Tablet" Key Types are so named because of the tablets at the top and bottom of the design which contain the name of the colony and the value of the stamp. The main differences occur in the hexagonal value tablets which are centrally placed below the portrait. These are printed from the "Duty Plate" and may be divided conveniently into five groups:

1. Shaded with horizontal lines; colourless figures and letters.
1a. As number 1, but portrait in round frame.
2. Blank; inner frame line; coloured figures and letters.
2a. As number 2, but portrait in round frame.
3. Blank; no inner frame line; coloured figures and letters.

3a. As number 3, but portrait in round frame.
4. Blank; inner frame line; values in words instead of figures.
5. Solid; colourless figures and letters.

Type 1. This was originally used for the four high values of Gold Coast in September, 1889, and later for various values in seven other colonies. Queen Victoria, wearing a diadem, faces left on a shaded background, flanked by the words "Postage" reading upwards at the left, and "Revenue" reading downwards at the right.

A similar design with King Edward on a solid background, and with the crown placed below the name of the colony, was introduced in 1902. In that year it was used for seven of the colonies and in later years for six others.

The King George V portrait (Die I) first appeared in 1912. Die II came into use during 1921, and altogether eleven colonies had stamps of these two dies.

Only Leeward Islands and Mauritius had this type with the King George VI head. Issued for both colonies in 1938, they became obsolete for Mauritius when replaced by a pictorial set in July, 1950. The King's head faces to the right, and was taken from a portrait by Mr. Bertram Park, O.B.E.

Type 1a. The portrait of Victoria is in a round frame, flanked by tablets with the word "Postage" in each, and with different ornaments beside the value tablet. It was first used in 1890 for St. Helena, and Seychelles. Three Head Plates were employed. In Plate I there are lines of shading in the centre of the diadem beside the diamond-shaped jewel. Impressions from Plates II and III do not show these lines. Seven colonies had this design, although Turks Islands had only the one value (5d) issued in June, 1894.

The King Edward portrait has a solid background and the crown breaks the round frame at the top. First released for Cayman Islands in 1901, it appeared in 1902 for Gambia, and St. Helena; again in 1903 for Seychelles.

Just two colonies—Gambia, and Seychelles—issued this type with the King George V head, both in 1912.

Type 2. With the Queen's portrait this design was used for six colonies, first in 1894, for the 6d and higher values of Zululand.

In 1902 the King Edward head appeared for seven colonies and in subsequent years it was issued for seven more.

The King George V portrait (Die I) was first used in 1912 for ten of the colonies. In 1921 Die II was introduced, and a total of fifteen colonies used the two dies during this reign.

Originally released in 1938, stamps of Leeward Islands, and Mauritius, were the only ones of this type showing the George VI head.

Type 2 was the most widely used of all the Key Types, having been issued for twenty different colonies, and remaining in use during four reigns from Queen Victoria to King George VI. The Queen Elizabeth set to be issued for Leeward Islands will be of this type for some of the values.

Type 2a. First used with Queen Victoria head in 1897 for the rupee values of Seychelles, and for one stamp ($5.00) of Straits Settlements issued in October, 1898.

The King Edward portrait first appeared in December, 1901, on the one shilling of Cayman Islands; in 1903 for the 75c and higher values of Seychelles; and in 1904 for various stamps of Gambia.

In 1912 the George V head was used for the Seychelles higher values and for certain stamps of Gambia. In 1913 a 4d and a 6d were issued in St. Helena.

Type 3. British Honduras was the only colony for which this type was issued. It appeared with the Queen Victoria portrait for the dollar values of 1891, and the 5c of 1900. It was later used for most values of the Edward stamps, from 1902 to 1910.

Type 3a. Appeared only on the

British Honduras low values of 1891-1895, with the Queen's head.

Type 4. Used exclusively for the one shilling and the five shilling stamps of Leeward Islands, during four reigns, beginning in 1890.

Type 5. Three colonies used this type. Virgin Islands in 1904 with the Edward portrait; Seychelles, Sierra Leone, and Virgin Islands with the George V portrait in both Dies I and II.

Two different forms of Duty Plates were used for George V stamps of Ceylon (3c and 6c); Mauritius (12c); and Straits Settlements (25c). Some Gold Coast stamps have the name of the colony in larger letters than others of the same set. Another difference in design of the Duty Plate is found on the figure "1" of the one penny King George VI of Leeward Islands. There are two dies (A and B) listed in Gibbons' catalogue and described in fuller detail in the Commonwealth catalogue.

Better known by far than the differences listed above, are the variations which occur on the George V stamps for which two dies of the Head Plate were used. Descriptions and illustrations of the well-known Die I and Die II, with further subdivisions, can be found in both Gibbons' and Scott's catalogues. An additional item useful in quickly separating these two dies is not mentioned in either catalogue—the ornamental design at each side of the value tablet is noticeably thicker on stamps printed from Die II.

Sheets: Most of these stamps were printed in sheets of 120, divided by a gutter into left and right panes each made up of ten horizontal rows of six. In some colonies sheets of 240 (four panes) were used for the lowest values, of which larger printings were required. Nigeria issued booklets of twelve ½d and eighteen 1d stamps from 1914 to 1931.

Plate Numbers: Usual position of the plate numbers is above and below the second and eleventh vertical columns of the sheet. The numbers are white, in solid circles 11 mm. in diameter, surrounded by an outer ring. There is no printer's imprint.

Jubilee Lines: Parallel to the outer edges of the marginal stamps of each pane there are coloured lines known as "Jubilee Lines". They are so named because they first appeared on the set of stamps issued by Great Britain for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Their function is useful as well as ornamental, since by raising the inking rollers of the press to the level of the plate the Jubilee Lines protect the edges of the marginal stamps from damage and excessive wear. Originally the lines ran unbroken around the pane, but as this solid ridge created air-locks in the plate they were cut into the length or height of the stamps. The unbroken lines are called "continuous" and the interrupted lines are termed "co-extensive". On sheets of bi-coloured stamps there are sometimes two Jubilee Lines, one for the Head Plate and the other for the Duty Plate in their respective colours. Other sheets show that the Jubilee Lines have been used on only one of the two plates. All the single-colour stamps show only one line, although, with the exception of the George V 1c, 3c, 5c and 6c of Ceylon, they were normally printed in two operations — one press run being made for the Head Plate and a second for the Duty Plate.

Paper: The paper, which is supplied to the printers by the Crown Agents, may be divided into three categories. First the "ordinary" paper; then came the 'chalk-surfaced" paper, used mostly for the higher values as it is difficult to remove a cancellation in order to fraudently re-use the stamp. Chalk-surfaced paper may be distinguished by the fact that it shows a black line when touched with silver. Lastly, during World War II the "substitute" paper was introduced. This has a glossy surface similar to the "chalk-surfaced" but it does not react to the silver test.

The use of coloured paper has made possible a wider range of

colour combinations in sets of stamps having a common design. The first Key Types printed on coloured paper were the £1 of Gold Coast, and the £1 and £5 of Zululand, all on red paper, in 1894. All of the £1 Tablet Key Type stamps have been on red paper except the 1930 of Fiji. Blue paper first appeared for the 5c of British Honduras in 1900; yellow for the 10c Straits Settlements in 1902; and green for the ten shilling St. Helena in 1908. There is also yellow paper with white back; blue-green with emerald, green, and olive backs; green with emerald and with white backs.

Watermarks: The Queen Victoria issues and the early Edwardians were printed on paper watermarked "Crown over C A". In 1904 a new watermark "Multiple Crown over C A" was taken into use, and in 1921 the current "Multiple Crown, Script C A" with a different shaped crown made its debut. Only Virgin Islands conforms to the "rule" that all Multiple Crown C A stamps are from Die I, and all Multiple Crown, Script C A stamps are from Die II. There a few varieties of watermark known for the Key Types. British Honduras 1902 (2c and 5c) may be found inverted. Sideways watermarks have been recorded for Ceylon 1912-1925 (5c, 6c and 30c), and for the 3d Fiji of the 1912-1913 set.

Perforations: All of these issues printed by De la Rue have been perforated by comb machines gauging 14 all around, an exception being the four Mauritius stamps printed during the war by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Company, which were perforated 15 x 14.

Varieties: An interesting study may be made of the varieties, both constant and inconstant, major or "fly-speck", which occur as a result of these stamps having been produced by typography. Partially missing letters, broken frame lines, dots in the value tablet and name tablet, etc., abound throughout these issues, mostly on the Duty Plate. Two of the major varieties of Leewards George VI are listed in the Commonwealth catalogue—the "D I" flaw on the 1d, and the "broken E" on the 6d. Gibbons' Stamp Monthly has recorded instances of hand-painting by the printers to retouch certain flaws in stamps of this colony. Faulty registration of the Duty Plate is another cause of varieties, particularly when it occurs on bi-coloured stamps and thus superimposes one colour on the other.

Forgeries: Forgeries of the first £1 Gold Coast which was withdrawn and demonetized have been made from two shilling carmine and green of 1898 by fading out the value tablet and skilfully substituting the higher value. Seychelles 96c of 1890, and the IR50 and 2R25 of 1900 have been similarly faked on genuine low value stamps. Certain of the scarcer inverted or double surcharges have also been cleverly forged and are most difficult to detect.

To conclude this resume of the "Tablet" Key Types, it may be truly said that they were and still are a fascinating group to collect. They are plentiful, colourful, there are varieties for those who choose to hunt them, and unlike many of our modern commemoratives and pictorials they were issued to provide for genuine postal needs rather than to please collectors. Perhaps, after all, we won't find that new set of Queen Elizabeth for Leewards so dull when we remember that it is the last survivor of that large family of Key Types which, from time to time, served the Empire in twenty-four different colonies since the first ones appeared sixty-four years ago.

DE LA RUE TABLET KEY TYPES

Number of stamps for each colony according to Gibbons' Catalogue

	Queen Victoria	King Edward VII	King George V	King George VI	Total	Remarks
Barbuda	—	—	11	—	11	Overprint on Leeward Is.
Brit. Honduras	30	17	—	—	47	Only one with type 3,3a.
Cayman Islands	4	33	30	—	67	
Ceylon	—	—	85	—	85	Two dies of Duty Plate.
Fiji	—	21	52	—	73	Ornaments in name tablet.
Gambia	8	43	40	—	91	
Gilbert & Ellice Island	—	7	21	—	28	Edwards opt. on Fiji.
Gold Coast	18	35	40	—	93	
Grenada	8	20	—	—	28	
Leeward Islands	28	27	54	24	133	Shilling values in words.
Mauritius	—	8	49	20	77	Four stamps perf. 15x14.
New Hebrides	—	17	—	—	17	Overprint on Fiji.
Nigeria	—	—	60	—	60	
N. Nigeria	9	30	13	—	52	
St. Helena	7	6	4	—	17	
St. Lucia	—	24	34	—	58	
St. Vincent	9	17	—	—	26	
Seychelles	66	25	62	—	153	
Sierra Leone	13	40	39	—	92	
Sts. Settlements	8	33	54	—	95	Two dies of Duty Plate.
Togoland	—	—	29	—	29	Overprint on Gold Coast.
Turks Islands	1	—	—	—	1	
Virgin Islands	—	9	23	—	32	
Zululand	10	—	—	—	10	
	219	412	700	44	1,375	

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THE WESTMOUNT JUNIOR STAMP CLUB

by Michael Ashby, President

We would like to see more of our Chapter Clubs follow the lead of Westmount and encourage the Juniors, in their midst, to form their own clubs.

SEVERAL years ago some members of the Westmount Stamp Club got together and decided to found a junior group devoted to the same interests. From this group has grown one of the largest junior stamp clubs in North America.

The Westmount Junior Stamp Club, which is carried on under the sponsorship of the Senior Club, now has over two hundred active members. Entering Victoria Hall on Thursday evenings between seven and eight and seeing this large group, one wonders how so many boys and girls, all between the ages of eight and sixteen, are so interested in philately. Auctions, quizes and raffles are held regularly according to the desire of the members.

Following the lead given by the Seniors, the members raised a substantial amount last February for the Governor General's Fund for European Flood Relief and also participated in the purchase of the bok "The Royal Philatelic Collection", which was donated to the Westmount Public Library "as a token of appreciation for the help and encouragement given to Philately by the City of Westmount thus ensuring that present and future generations of philatelists may have this magnificent work available to them for reference and study."

In order to run this large club successfully, the senior group appoints two adult advisers. Each year the club elects its executive by secret ballot. Campaign speeches by the various candidates are given before the club. Last year a constitution was introduced which is simple but thorough.

The Westmount Junior Stamp Club is self supporting. Unlike most clubs it has never had to charge membership fees, thanks to the valued co-operation of the City of Westmount who provide accommodation for the meetings. Members donate gladly to club raffles and auctions. The name of the Westmount Junior Stamp Club has been heard throughout the world. This year the club decided to write to other clubs in the British Empire. This system has worked amazingly well and will be continued next season.

The 1952-53 executive consisted of President, Michael Ashby; Vice-president, Leslie Halpert; Secretary, Barrie Wilson; Treasurer, Ian Grant; Supervisors, Mrs. Betty Bay and Mr. L. Bentham and Membership-whip, David Mendleson. The latter's duty is to phone non-coming members for explanations. Most of the 1951-52 attendance and membership records have been smashed thus showing the continued expansion of the club.

CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual Meeting held at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto

17th April, 1953

The meeting opened at 8.30 p.m. with the President, W. H. Freeman, in the chair.

With an address of welcome to the members present, the Chairman ordered the reading of the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held at London, Ont., in April, 1952. The minutes were read by the Secretary, there being no business arising out of such minutes. It was moved by Mr. Haldimand, of Westmount, and seconded by L. M. Lamouroux, of Toronto, that the reading of the minutes be accepted. Carried.

President's Report—Mr. W. H. Freeman, the President, gave to the meeting, a very constructive report emphasizing the good and sound basis the Society now enjoyed. Moved by F. Green, Toronto, and seconded by Mr. Wm. Erbach, of Kitchener, that the President's report be accepted. Carried.

Secretary's Report—The Secretary, Mr. F. Green, reported in glowing terms the successful progress of the Society, as evidenced by the ever-increasing roll of members and the fact that, to date, twenty-three clubs have taken Chapterships in the Society. Mr. F. Green moved the acceptance of his report, which was seconded by Mr. C. Woodhead. Carried.

Treasurer's Report — Mr. F. Green, the Treasurer, reported his books and records had been audited and found in order. The London Convention 1952 Audit found the Society with a deficit of some $300.00. The position of the Society's Treasury as at 31st March, 1953 was "No debts" and a Bank Balance of $158.36. Moved by F. Green and seconded by Mr. R. Tipper, of Toronto, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried.

Sales' Manager's Report—Mr. C. Woodhead reported the Auditor's acceptance of his records and then proceeded to give the most successful report of the Sales service in the history of the Canadian Philatelic Society. One pertinent fact alone was that the first three months of this year the Sales were over $1,000.00 per month, a fine service to the members who bought and sold. Moved by Mr. C. Woodhead and seconded by Mr. A. K. Grimmer, of Temiskaming, that the Sales' Manager's Report be accepted. Carried.

Librarian's Report—Mr. Herbert Buckland, Librarian, reported all properties of the Society in good order and the receipt of very many fine additions to the Library, also an increasing interest in the Library by the members. Moved by H. Buckland, of Port Perry, and seconded by C. Woodhead of Toronto, that the Librarian's report be accepted. Carried.

Report of Clubs—The following members reported the well-being of the club they were representing:

Mr. V. Crouse, Windsor "Y" Stamp Club; Mr. N. Loveys, North Toronto Stamp Club; Miss M. M. Hanselman, Brantford Stamp Club; Mr. R. Haldimand, Westmount Stamp Club; Rev. Donald Goodger, Grand River Valley Association; Mr. W. Erbach, Grand Valley Stamp Club; Mr. Brian Smith, Chatham-Kent Philatelic Society; Mr. Douglas Patrick, C.B.C. Stamp Club of the Air; Mr. S. Shantz, London Philatelic Society.

General Business—Mr. A. K. Grimmer, of Temiskaming, asked if the Library was insured. In reply, the Secretary assured the meeting that a policy was held on all material in the Library.

Mr. R. Haldimand, of West-

mount, explained to the meeting that a National Stamp week was held in Montreal the past year, with very fine results, and suggested that this should become Dominion-wide under the sponsorship of the Canadian Philatelic Society. There was considerable discussion and it was moved by Mr. Haldimand, and seconded by Mr. Carl Jennings, of Hamilton:—That the Canadian Philatelic Society approach the Postmaster General with a view to the adoption of a National Stamp Week. Carried.

Flag Cancellation—An enthusiastic discussion took place on the possibility of securing from the Post Office administration a Flag Cancellation for the Coronation Stamp to be issued in June. It was moved by Mr. Carl Jennings and seconded by Mr. R. Haldimand—That the Canadian Philatelic Society take up this matter with the Postmaster General at Ottawa. Carried.

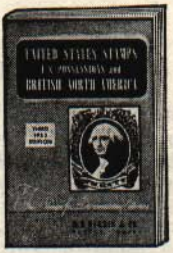
The President then asked the meeting to confirm the acts of the Directors during the past year, and a Vote of Confidence was moved by Mr. L. Lamouroux and seconded by Mr. A. H. Christensen, of Westmount. Carried.

It was moved by Mr. Haldimand and seconded by Mr. N. Loveys that the meeting adjourn. Carried. The meeting then adjourned at 9.40 p.m.

The next Annual Meeting of the Society will held in KITCHENER, Ont., in April, 1954.

Board of Directors for 1953-1954: President: L. M. Lamouroux, Toronto; First Vice-President: Miss M. M. Hanselman, Brantford; Second Vice-President: Mr. Wm. Gladish, Ottawa; Third Vice-President: Mr. A. H. Christensen, Montreal; Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. F. Green, Toronto; Sales Manager: Mr. C. Woodhead, Toronto; Librarian: Mr. H. Buckland, Port Perry, Ont.; Directors at Large: Messrs. W. H. Freeman, Toronto; D. Patrick, Toronto; V. Crouse, Windsor; C. S. Neville, Vancouver; W. A. Teare, Edmonton; Wm. Erbech, Kitchener.

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CANADA'S 1952 RED CROSS STAMP

by E. Rushton

Delving into the oddities of one of Canada's recent commemorative postage stamps.

MOST of you have, no doubt, read articles in philatelic periodicals at some time or other, on the findings of some person or persons who have delved into the hidden mysteries of some particular postage stamp. It is not that I consider myself an authority on this or any other subject, but rather, I feel that I would like to share, with others, my knowledge and experience with the Red Cross postage stamp.

Now this methodical study of one particular postage stamp for the novice, is a dead-end course unless he has some idea of how to go about uncovering every angle and fact relating to that particular stamp. This progressive step toward higher goals in the study of philately, separates the philatelist from stamp collectors, who, tend to accumulate colored adhesives for quantity and financial gain.

It was at exactly 8 a.m. on July 26th, 1952 that the Post Office Department of Canada issued, through the Post Offices, a double-colored commemorative-sized Red Cross postage stamp. This has started me hunting for oddities on these stamps which occurred during the printing.

The Red Cross stamp was issued to commemorate the 18th international Red Cross Conference held in Toronto and, incidentally the first time in the western hemisphere. The stamp measures about 33½ by 21½ m.m. in a horizontal format. This stamp is perforated 12 on all four sides on unwatermarked paper, in panes of 50 (5x10). The blue portion of this stamp was printed by the line engraved process while the Red Cross was super-imposed by the offset printing method. The blue color was printed in one operation and allowed to dry before adding the Red Cross in another and separate operation. This printing was all done by the Canadian Bank Note Company of Ottawa. The blue color is of medium blue but there are acknowledged shades in the first and second printing. The conspicuous Red Cross in the centre of the white sun-burst of the left-hand side, comes in, light medium and dark shades of scarlet-red. The cross is found in five general positions, off centre to top, left, bottom, right and dead centre.

As the Canadian Bank Note Company had very little experience in the offset printing method, difficulties of printing the cross in the red color by the offset method was experienced. The United States was trying to print a bi-colored stamp in the one operation at the time our Red Cross double-colored stamp was turned out. Daily humidity and temperature changes had to be taken into account, and apparently only a small portion of the full contract had been delivered up until June of 1952. The varieties that appeared in the first printing do not appear in the later printing. A careful layout of guiding dots and lines of the Red Cross had to be made to assure a well centred Red Cross.

The stamp was first printed in blue by the line engraved process in plates No. 1 and plate No. 2 while only one plate was used for the Red Cross itself. All guide lines and dots and other varieties, appeared not only in plate No. 1 but also in plate No. 2 and in the same positions on the stamp. The Red Cross must have been printed from only one plate, because the plate number on the lower left border of the L.L. pane is in a blue color.

Two red dots left margin, bottom, and, bottom margin, right and line between left cross	No.	41	L.L.
Red dot right margin, top	No.	43	L.L.
Red line right margin, top	No.	46	L.L.
Red dots bottom margin	No.	49	L.L.
Red dot bottom margin, right	No.	12	L.R.
Red dot in suns rays	No.	19	L.R.
Red dot left side of cross	No.	20	L.R.
Three red dots top margin, right	No.	29	L.R.
Red dot in suns rays	No.	30	L.R.
Red dot right margin, bottom and top	No.	32	L.R.
Red dots left margin, bottom and line in suns rays	No.	33	L.R.
Red dot below first A of Canada and top margin centre	No.	35	L.R.
Red dot right margin, bottom	No.	37	L.R.
Red dot in blue shading above cross, left	No.	39	L.R.
Red dot left margin, bottom and left of Postes	No.	46	L.R.
Red dot in top cloud	No.	48	L.R.
Red dot in top cloud	No.	1	U.R.
Two red dots below second cross, left	No.	3	U.R.
Red dot in suns rays	No.	4	U.R.
Red dot top margin, left	No.	7	U.R.
Red dot in suns rays above R in conference	No.	20	U.R.
Red dot right margin, centre	No.	28	U.R.
Red dot in blue shading left of cross	No.	41	U.R.
Red dot left margin, bottom	No.	1	U.L.
Red dot left margin, top	No.	6	U.L.
Red dot below cross	No.	26	U.L.
Red dot right margin, bottom	No.	31	U.L.
Red dot below cross, right	No.	32	U.L.
Red dots in blue shading, left of "4" and above first N in conference	No.	41	U.L.
Red dot in bottom cloud			
Red dot right centre of cross			
Red dot in blue shading left of "4" and above "T" of Internationale			
Two red dots in suns rays lower right and above "A" of Internationale			
Red dot below left of cross			
Red dot in blue shading above cross, right			
Red dot in suns rays above second "C" of Conference			
Red dot below "C" of Canada			
Two red dots to right of cross and one dot in suns rays			
Red dot in suns rays above T of Internationale			
Red dot top margin, centre			
Red dot in suns rays above O of Internationale			

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THE SOWER STAMPS OF FRANCE

A fertile field for specialization

by L. Lamouroux

These popular stamps of France lend themselves to a new field to give diversity to your collection.

IT IS HARDLY too much to say that while many collectors would like to specialize in some stamp or series of stamps, they are unable, or unwilling, to do so because of the high prices to which the classic and middle issues of most countries have been pushed, whether artifically or not it is not for me to say.

To take one of my favourite countries, France, it is not so very long ago that First Issues, Napoleons, Bordeaux and Third Republic issues were obtainable for a very modest outlay, and varieties and cancellations, could be picked up for a song. Alas, these days are gone for ever and the stamps themselves, and their varieties, are getting more difficult to find every day. Does that mean that the average collector of very modest means should abandon all ideas of specializing and leave it to the few philatelists who seem to be able to corner the market in some of the classics and middle issues?

By no means, and musing over these things, I decided that an issue such as the well-known SOWER stamps of France could offer a very fertile field for anyone who would like to undertake a bit of research on his own for a very moderate outlay. Just at the time these thoughts were going through my head, a remarkable book appeared in the French philatelic world, LES SEMEUSES, by Louis Barrier, and we hastened to send for a copy. It proved to be a clear and exhaustive study of these fascinating stamps. Although it is written in French, this should not deter my philatelic friends who have at least a High-school knowledge of French, and it certainly should help my fellow French-speaking philatelists in Quebec and elsewhere.

The famous Sower, "La Semeuse", was designed by Oscar Roty, a well-known artist, for a proposed medal, and later adopted for the French coinage, in those happy days when a franc was a franc and when those beautiful gold 10 and 20 franc pieces circulated freely all the world over.

To celebrate the dawn of a new century, new designs had been prepared for the French stamps, the "Blanc" and "Mouchon" types, but these were never satisfactory and after long discussions and arguments, it was decided to adopt Roty's "Sower", as used on the coinage.

The well-known engraver, Eugène Mouchon, was entrusted with the preparation of the stamps and, on the 1st April, 1903, the first value, the 15 centimes green, appeared, followed soon by the 10c. rose, 25. blue, etc. The first design had a ligned background, with the setting sun, and is known as the "Lined Sower", or "Semeuse lignée". The design is pleasing, but it lacks strength and the figures of value are not bold enough, and this gave rise to so much criticism that Mouchon was ordered to prepare a new design.

The new Sower came out on the 13th April, 1906, in the 10c. red value. The lines of the background had been removed, the setting sun eliminated and the figure, slightly shorter, placed on a pedestal. This is known as the "Sower with Ground", or "Semeuse camée avec sol".

However, this stamp was no

better received than its predecessor, and again Mouchon had to redraw it. This time the ground was removed, but the letters and figure of value were somewhat thin. This design is called the "Sower with thin figures" or "Semeuse camée à chiffres maigres". The first one appeared on the 28th July, 1906, in the 10c. red value, to be followed shortly after by a 35c. violet. These were the only two values issued in this Type, although much later, in 1927, in the preparation of some booklets with advertising tabs, the "Phéna" and Minéraline" booklets, this "thin figure" plate was again used for printing a 10c. green, which went unnoticed for a while and caused quite a stir in the French philatelic world at the time.

Still the design gave rise to criticism, mainly owing to the lack of boldness of the lettering and figures and once again Mouchon was commissioned to prepare a new die. In this new type, the letters and figures are much bolder, and these definitive stamps were destined to remain in use until 1939, when the 35c. green closed the procession, although in 1940, two or three of the values of which there were large quantities in stock were surcharged to meet a shortage in some values caused by the confusion of the war.

As may be imagined, a lifetime of over thirty years, coupled with the vast printings required by the French Post Office, resulted in a large number of varieties and shades.

Besides such varieties, the Sowers have been used for numerous other purposes entailing a surcharge or an overprint. In one case, one value was transformed into a commemorative by overprinting with the words "Bureau International du Travail" (International Labour Office), when a meeting of that organization was held in Paris. The Sowers have also been surcharged for use as semi-postals, for the benefit of the Red Cross in one case, and later in favour of the "Caisse d'Amortissement" (Sinking Fund). Incidentally these Sinking Fund stamps are the best of all from a value point of view.

A large number were used in some of the post-war administrations where French interests reigned, such as Memel, Cilicia, etc., and also in Algeria and Andorra. Many values were also overprinted with the words "ANNULE" and "SPECIMEN" for personnel instruction use.

A special 5f. and 10f. issue came out in 1928 in the shape of a miniature sheet in commemoration of the Strasbourg Philatelic Exhibition.

Many of the Sower have been overprinted for precancel purposes. The early ones bear the precancel "Postes Paris" or "Postes France", 1921 and 1922, but the majority have the usual semi-circular precancel overprint which has been current in France for some years. Some of these precancels, by the way, are quite scarce and highly priced, whereas the ordinary stamp is quite common.

Among other kinds which may be found are booklet stamps and panes, coils, papers, millésimes, dated corners, etc. Millésimes are the gutter pairs with the last figure of the year of the printing. About 1923, these were abandoned for "coins datés", where the date of the printing was inserted at the corner of the pane or sheet.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the gracious "Semeuse" is a fertile field for specialization which will well repay the enthusiast. And this field has the advantage that most of the stamps are quite common, although there are one or two values which are creeping up in price. Some of the specialized material will require quite a lot of hunting, and a few items may need a few hard-earned dollars to acquire.

I hope that these few lines will tempt some of our Canadian philatelists into going into some foreign field and thus inject into Canadian philately a very much needed shot of diversity.



Elizabeth II

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