

# CANADIAN PHILATELY – AN OUTLINE

A Summary of Collecting Areas and Interests  
of British North America Collectors



John Burnett, Gray Scrimgeour, and Victor Willson

Published by the British North America Philatelic Society Ltd.

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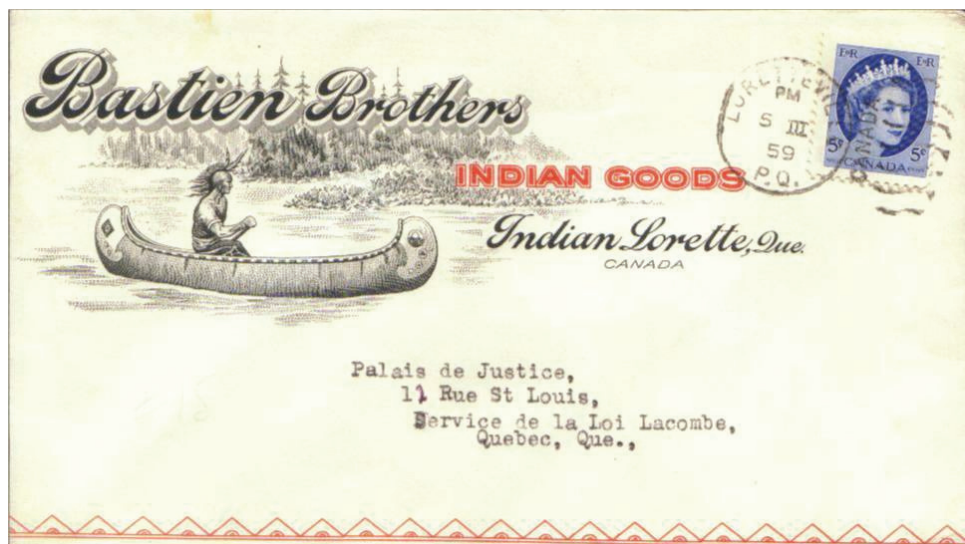
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# CANADIAN PHILATELY – AN OUTLINE

John Burnett, Gray Scrimgeour, and Victor Willson



A summary of collecting areas and interests  
of British North America collectors

Including stamps and other philatelic material of  
Canada

British Columbia and Vancouver Island

New Brunswick

Newfoundland

Nova Scotia

Prince Edward Island

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Philatelic Society, 2008

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## I. PURPOSES OF THE HANDBOOK

In 1981 Ed Richardson completed a project he had conceived and written himself to introduce the variety of collecting available in Canadian philately. One author (Vic Willson) participated marginally as a new collector of Canada but as an experienced editor and writer in social science research. That work, *Canada–B.N.A. Philately (an Outline)*, was intended for the neophyte, or the collector who collected “by Scotts” as Ed noted, to introduce them to the many collecting areas available to them. Ed was uniquely situated to write the pamphlet. No one, not even Fred Jarrett, collected more broadly than Ed Richardson, who once told Vic he had over 250 different, separate collections in all areas of Canada and its British North America (BNA) relatives, the colonies of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Vancouver Island-British Columbia when they were separate stamp-issuing entities.

Ed’s product was supported and printed by the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS), Ed’s primary philatelic affiliation. BNAPS provided the 64-page booklet to new members. It became a classic soon after its issuance, and no other society or collecting group has produced anything comparable. Perhaps because Canada (and BNA) is sufficiently circumscribed yet still broad, it can be reasonably presented in such an overview form.

We have tried to summarize what can be found in each topic we have listed. This is *not* an encyclopedia—it does not give all information about the stamps or topics we discuss. We do try to give you the reader a sense of what will be needed to focus on each topic, including general statements about rarity, expense, or availability (these three are not the same thing; some very rare items catalogue for little because few people seek them out). Ed noted that Canada did not have the equivalent of the *U.S. Specialized Stamp Catalog*, but his booklet went far beyond what commercial specialized catalogues, even the U.S. specialized, have published.

## II. SPECIALIZATION: What is it? An Example

The history of stamp collecting began with the pasting of 1d black stamps on walls in London, England in the 1840s. After a few other countries issued stamps, collecting progressed to pasting the stamps in ledger books. By the 1860s, sellers of stamps began advertising the sale of postage stamps of the world. Collecting became quite popular, and collectors tried to get an example of each stamp from issuing countries around the world, including both postage stamps and tax stamps. A few collectors in the 1800s began to require that the stamps remain on letters, called entires or covers. Some collectors only sought stamps from one country or political entity, such as the British Empire. This is how our specialization began.

Today specialization is a necessity for any collector because the time of being able to assemble a strong general, worldwide collection is past. Specialization means that one studies a particular aspect of collecting and seeks detail to the greatest possible extent. The choice of area is dictated by the availability of material, the costs associated with acquiring it, and the time and knowledge needed to make an in-depth study. In that sense, specialization has taken on the elements of research in

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any discipline. One need not conduct research to have a successful specialization, but it is often the case that new discoveries are made in the process of finding and adding material. Consider specialization in the Edward VII issue of 1903–1911. A comprehensive collection could include the following:

Essays: drawings, compositions, die essays in various colors

Die proofs: trial colors, finished colors, in large and small formats

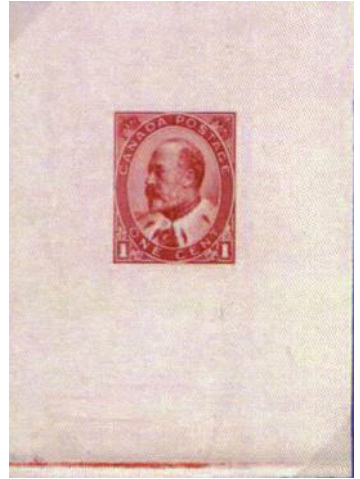
Plate proofs and imperforate printed stamps

Issued stamps, used and unused in single and multiple stamp formats

Specimen stamps, plate layout markings such as numbers and letters, multiples showing plate layouts

Plate varieties, re-entries, paper varieties such as paper type and color/tint, perforation varieties

Booklets and booklet panes, plate layout: imperforate tete-beche pane



Coil stamps: experimental coil stamp strips, paste-up pairs and strips

Cancellations on stamps, on multiples, and on covers used in period

Stamp usages on cover: principal uses for each stamp, make-up rates for covers showing changes in rates, and covers showing destinations and routes

Territorial and provincial usages on stamps and covers

Precancels and perfins on stamps

Postal stationery: envelopes, postal cards, postbands, wrappers, die proofs of envelopes

Permit mail examples

A number of Edward issue collections have been formed over the last 50 years, including those of George Marler, Ed Richardson, Harry Lussey, and most recently the “ASTOC” collection of Alan Selby. All included material from most of the listing above. Other specialty areas are quite different. For example, a specialization in squared circle cancellations will typically include for each cancellation:

Proof cancellations if they exist

Early and late dates of usage

Time markings

Significant wear or changes made to the canceling device

Usage on stamps contemporary to the period of use

Usage on covers contemporary to the period of use

Combination covers with two different cancels.

Since there are well over 300 different squared circle cancels spanning the early 1890s into the Edward period for some and much later for a few (some with many time marks), the number of possible items to collect is in the thousands. In the past, several very extensive collections have been formed, notably that of Jim Hennok as well as those of Nels Pelletier, Glenn Hansen, and Jim Moffat.

Specialization is what you make it. There are no rules for collecting, and

collectors are free to define their collections as they wish. They should have a moral responsibility to share things that they learn with others, although the idiosyncratic nature of collecting sometimes makes it a very solitary and contemplative effort. While we wish all the collectors would share their knowledge, it often is lost and it must be rediscovered.

Although one can accumulate a specialty

collection alone, this is much more difficult than collecting in concert with others through collector societies, study groups, stamp clubs, and newsletters, books, and stamp and auction catalogues. All of these provide information on the subject. No serious collector works without a reference library. It may consist of notes, articles, or the materials mentioned above, but such material is critical to understand and extend the specialty area. For example, knowing the proof dates for squared circle devices permits the search for early uses and the detection of flaws and breaks in devices.

This booklet elaborates some of the specializations the reader can study. The journey never ends, and there is no such thing as completion in any significant specialty field. New discoveries are still being made in every aspect of BNA philately. You are invited to join that exciting search. Even if you do not make a discovery yourself, you will participate in the understanding of Canadian history and development. Good hunting.





## Exhibiting

A few comments on exhibiting: collecting is not the same as exhibiting. Collections often include multiple examples of the same type of item, while exhibiting requires selecting special examples from the collection. Some collectors mount collections



and exhibits separately, with reference material, duplicates, and unattractive but essential items kept in the collection but seldom displayed. Exhibiting may not be for everyone; it is usually competitive, and not all collectors have a desire to be competitive. While a collector can do as he wishes, when exhibiting the collector must follow certain rules and requirements for acceptance in a show, and further requirements if one desires high-level awards. For new exhibitors, there can be hard lessons to learn. They know their material well, and organize it according to their interests and knowledge. Unfortunately, that knowledge does not always translate into a meaningful visual display. Having every known cancel on one stamp is a wonderful collection but for general viewers it can make an incredibly boring exhibit. Major criteria considered by judges in making their assessments are—in order—material (its condition, difficulty of acquisition, and suitability), proper description of the material, and its organization. However, exhibiting is a visual activity. An exhibit should have visual attraction and tidiness as well as show the particular important elements of the chosen topic. Various national groups as well as the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors have provided information on effective exhibiting. We note this as experienced exhibitors. While we have had our

share of triumphs, we also have had the experiences of awards significantly below what we expected. Almost invariably, our own limitations in conveying the intent and information have led to the level of award we received. Once you have specialized sufficiently, sharing your knowledge and philatelic material with others can be accomplished through exhibiting. Remember that all exhibitors had to start once—had to try that first, experimental exhibit.

### **Writing about Stamps**

A note about writing: when you have achieved a level of knowledge about your collecting area so that you know what you have, what you do not have, and what there is to obtain, you might get the writing bug. Writing about your material can accomplish many purposes. One is to share your knowledge with others. Another is to promote your own material. Expertise usually requires significant investment. Inevitably your material will need to be sold or given away, perhaps for charitable contributions. Making more people aware of its significance has the potential to generate new collectors for it. The development of new collectors raises the competitive prices for your material, especially the items limited in number or availability. Finally, writing about your material can be its own reward. Even if you have never written before, editors of stamp magazines and society journals are generally very supportive of new writers and they can help you develop your skills.

### **Organization of This Work**

This booklet follows the general principle that Ed Richardson began, to provide a brief summary of the collecting areas that we and our friends who reviewed the table of contents determined to be currently active. We changed the order of topics a bit from Ed's. For one thing, rather than start with reference information, we put it at the back, instead focusing on the kinds of things a new collector might choose. With that in mind, we reversed the stamp collecting topics, beginning with the most modern material and working back toward the earliest stamps. Since stamps are the area most collectors begin with, they precede more specialized kinds of collecting. With this modified order, we make no claim about importance or interest.

### **Acknowledgements**

We want to thank all the folks who so graciously gave of their time to help us. First, we owe a debt of gratitude to Bill Pawluk, who as President of BNAPS simply said "This is good for philately" and "I support you in this endeavor," and to BNAPS for the money the society put up to see this book published. We must also acknowledge the support of the two BNAPS Study Group Chairmen, Jim Hansen and Barry Brown, who did all they could to get study group members to support our effort. Others we must acknowledge for their work are Chris Anstead, Cec Coutts, Bob Dyer, Charles Firby, Bob Forster, Dale Forster, Maurice Guibord, Peter Jacobi, Stephen Prest, Chris Ryan, Mike Street, and C. A. Stillions. We apologize for any omission we have made from this list. We want also to especially thank our two coauthors, without whose help and expertise this book would never have gotten off the ground. Errors and omissions remain the responsibility of the authors.

### III. 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ELIZABETHAN STAMP ISSUES

#### Queen Elizabeth II Era

Starting in 1953 and still today, the stamps and postal history of the era of Queen Elizabeth II are the most popular and largest collecting area within Canadian philately. We have elected to break this Elizabethan era into three time periods.

#### 1953–1978, the Early Years

During the early years of Elizabeth's reign, six sets of definitive stamps were issued.



Each is readily available and there are no real rarities in the group. There are many recorded instances of mis-perfs, missing colors, and other small printing irregularities. This was the era when phosphorescence made its debut, so a black light (ultraviolet lamp) becomes a requirement for the collector.

Commemorative stamps abound for the collector who wishes to form a topical collection. One particular series that has continued into today's stamps is the "Wildlife" series. Canada also issued its first se-tenant commemorative stamps, a block of four dedicated to recreational sports.

There is one big rarity in the commemoratives—the famous St. Lawrence Seaway invert. This is an expensive stamp for a collector to obtain.

One particularly popular set of stamps was issued in 1967 to honor Canada's Centennial. Study groups in several societies support research on this Centennial Issue alone.

In 1976, the Olympics were held in Montreal and there are many collectible stamps honoring this event, including Canada's first semi postal stamps. These semi postal stamps are not very expensive but finding them on cover is a tough search because they were not very popular with Canadians.

### 1979–1994, the Middle Years

Four new definitive series of stamps were issued in the middle years, and many of these definitives included the new Canadian flag. Canada's new flag first made its appearance on a stamp in 1967, and the use of the flag in designs for definitive stamps continues. Canadian stamps with her new flag are an area of Canadian philately that begs some serious study. These stamps are colorful, some are quite small, and many designs are found with multiple values on them. These stamps were produced as booklets, coils, and sheet stamps.

Canada Post averaged thirty-some commemorative stamps per year during this period, and many of these stamps have ongoing themes. One could collect stamps dedicated to subjects such as aircraft, the arts, or Canadian Indian Artifacts. Some of the stamps produced for the art series are wonderful oversized examples that present a terrific page display. The celebration of Canada Day on July 1 each year has seen on occasion as many as 12 commemorative stamps issued as a se-tenant block at one time.

The collector who is trying to figure out what topical they might look into would be wise to use a catalogue such as *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, where they will find a handy listing of the various topicals available to them for study. A number of other catalogues are available for this purpose.

A number of high-value definitive stamps were issued. These stamps are relatively easy to find on cover or parcel wrapper because the postage rates in Canada have risen regularly, making the use of such high-value stamps a common occurrence. Many varieties such as imperforate or part perforate stamps, missing colors, misprinted or doubled printings, untagged errors, etc. occurred during this period due to quality control problems in printing.

During the Elizabethan era, we saw a great jump in the number of miniature panes and souvenir sheets issued by Canada Post. We fear many of these were created for the stamp collector; finding them used correctly for postal purposes and in period is very difficult.

The Elizabethan era has seen a surge in the number of booklets issued. Some are what Canada Post calls "Prestige" booklets; these honor a particular company such as Canadian Tire and have a number of pages telling the story of the company. These have not proven particularly popular with the general collector but the companies honored have used the stamps and they are out there to be collected.

Regular booklets are also being produced at an ever-increasing rate. The collector who elects to collect booklets should consider two copies of each booklet, one to show it as it was sold closed and one to show it in exploded (taken apart) form. Used panes can also be collected on- and off-cover, but are difficult to find except as collector-generated items.





### 1995 Onward, the Later Years.

One of the most significant issues of this later era was the “Historic Land Vehicles” issue that came out over a four-year period (from 1993 to 1996) with individual souvenir sheets of six. The difficulty with this series is that there were 25 stamps



issued and only by purchasing the final full pane could one get the Bricklin SV-1 Sports Car stamp. This stamp will prove to be a difficult find for the collector.

Another great series was started in 1997; the Lunar New Year stamps ran annually through 2007. These stamps won many awards for design over the years, and generally were well accepted by the public. There are some minor varieties available but none would break the bank.

The International rate stamp of the Lunar New Year commemorative stamps was available only on the souvenir sheet from 1999 onward. This makes them hard to find properly used postally on mail going overseas. Collectors of modern Canadian stamps will find that there are stamps that are less common than most.

In 1998 Canada started issuing some very well designed and oversized high value definitive stamps, including the \$8 grizzly bear definitive stamp. This stamp was recently voted Canada’s best designed and most popular stamp. This was the first time a new design had replaced the venerable Bluenose stamp as Canada’s most popular stamp.

Canada’s issues for the Millennium could create a full collection. On September 15, 1999, Canada Post issued a limited edition book containing 2 stamps per page, limited to 200,000 copies. A few of these stamps have found their way onto mail, so used stamps and covers can be found but they are not common. The cataloguing companies were not going to assign catalogue numbers to these stamps because of their limited release. As a result, Canada Post reissued these stamps in 17 blocks of 4 over a 3-month period in 2000.



Canada Post continues to issue great numbers of good looking stamps as single stamps, coil stamps, booklets, souvenir sheets, and miniature panes. There are many new theme stamps being produced today: Canadian universities, movie stars, entertainers, hockey players, and the very popular birds series to name a few.



Modern postal history is not as easy to collect as you might think. Fewer people use stamps and fewer post offices apply stamps at the counter. Finding these stamps properly used in period to foreign destinations is a very challenging task because commercial mail is most commonly franked with meters. Meter covers are certainly collectible, but such mail does not have the wide interest that stamped mail does.

### **Other Collectible Elizabethan Era Material**

As Canada delved into the technique of phosphorescence on stamps, the initial trials were less than successful because the phosphor bled into the stamps, creating an unreadable bar. These early stamps were put in “Cello Paqs” (see section X), and these packed stamps have become very collectible.

The earlier stamps of the Elizabethan era saw a number of stamps overprinted either OHMS or G for official use. Some of these overprints are quite hard to find because there are some printing varieties.

Many collectors like to collect the four corner plate blocks of stamps. We do not find plate numbers on all stamps but there is usually some form of mark in the selvedge of the stamps. With the advent of very high value stamps such as the \$8 grizzly bear, the sheet quantity has been low. This stamp was issued in a sheet of four only.

In the later period of the Elizabethan era, Canada Post has issued stamps that are neither square nor rectangular. These include balloon stamps that are triangular, mountain stamps that have the profile of a mountain, a round stamp in the shape of a golf ball, some miniature panes that require the selvedge to complete the picture, and both the Year of the Ram and the Youth Sports stamps that defy description.

## **IV. 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY EDWARD/ GEORGE V/ GEORGE VI STAMP ISSUES**



### **The Stamps and Philately of King Edward VII**

*Stamps.* Stamps for the era of Edward’s reign were delayed for several years after his accession, probably to use up the many Victoria stamps already in stock. The only definitive series was issued between 1903 and 1908. Values of 1, 2, 5, 7, and 10¢ were issued in 1903, while 20¢ and 50¢ values were delayed until 1904 and 1908 respectively, until stocks of high value Victoria stamps

were used up. Essays, die proofs in black and in various colors, and plate proofs are found for these values in different numbers and variety. Stamps are collected as singles, blocks, and plate number blocks. Many plates were used for the 1¢ and 2¢

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values. Booklets were printed from special plates and are expensive. Coil stamps were first experimented with for the 2¢ value, and most are great rarities. The lower values have some printing varieties to collect.

The second commemorative series was issued in 1908 for the tercentenary of the discovery of Canada by Cartier. A series with ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, and 20¢ stamps was issued. Essays, die and plate proofs, and imperforate varieties are collected. There also are plate number blocks to collect.



Postage due stamps were introduced in 1906. There have been excellent collections formed from the various issues, produced until 1978.

*Postal History.* As with Victoria material, Edward definitive covers to destinations other than the U. S., United Kingdom, Germany, and France are generally scarce to rare. As in the Victorian era, covers to exotic destinations are

hard to find. Registered material to foreign countries is a bit more obtainable than in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but still scarce. Domestic mail includes special delivery, registration, and rare insured mail. Insurance became available at a varying fee depending on value, and covers with either Insured or Assuré stickers, or manuscript docketing, are expensive. The 20¢ and 50¢ are scarce to rare on cover. Registered bank mail for bundles of bank notes or gold are the most common domestic usages. The 20¢ can be found used overseas paying triple UPU rate with registration. Few examples of the 50¢ used on overseas mail exist.

**Tercentenary Issue.** The Tercentenary issue celebrated 300 years of Quebec's founding through a set of 9 commemorative stamps, including ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, and 20¢ values issued in July 1908.

*Preproduction.* Essays of the ½¢ and 2¢ exist. Trial color die proofs exist of all values, as well as small and/or large die proofs of all values.

*Production.* Stamp sheets were 10 x 10 with an imprint at the top. Imperforate stamps exist for all values, both un gummed and gummed, probably one sheet of each. Re-entries are found on the ½¢, 1¢, and 5¢ stamps. The ½¢ stamp only had real postal purpose for a short time, as the under-1oz newspaper rate was eliminated in May 1909.



Postal history of this issue is difficult to collect because there was little usage to foreign countries; it is expensive when located. The 15¢ and 20¢ are particularly difficult to find on cover for non-philatelic use.

### **The Stamps and Philately of King George V**

*Admiral Issue.* During its 17-year life, the Admiral issue saw major advancements as well as a few setbacks in stamp-printing technology, and many innovations in postal operations. Including color changes, there were just 22 designs, but with booklets, coils, new and modified dies, over 700 plates, overprints, new printing techniques, and postal rate changes, there is a wealth of material to collect and study. Even today, almost a century after the first stamps in the series were issued, significant new discoveries are being made. Although more than 15 billion Admiral stamps were produced, many varieties are amazingly scarce and a challenge to acquire.

The Admiral period starts in December 1911 with the 1¢ green and 2¢ carmine. Nominally it ends in 1928, when the KG V Scroll definitives appeared, but the Admirals were not entirely replaced by their Scroll counterparts until 1929, and one Admiral stamp, the 3¢ carmine perf 12 by 8, was issued in 1931 (printed in 1926).

The design, common to all values, shows King George V in an admiral's uniform, hence the name of the issue. The King's vignette is based on a composite of two photographs, one by W. & D. Downey and the other by H. Walter Barnett. The vignette was engraved by Robert Savage of American Bank Note Co. (ABN) in New York. ABN printed the stamps at its facilities in Ottawa, which became a subsidiary, the Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN) in 1923.



The initial issue (in December 1911 and January 1912) consisted of seven values (1¢ green, 2¢ carmine, 5¢ blue, 7¢ bistre, 10¢ plum, 20¢ olive, and 50¢ black) that replaced the KE VII issue. As a result of postal rate changes, four new denominations were issued and some existing stamps underwent color changes. In an unsuccessful experiment, the 3¢ carmine was overprinted 2¢ in 1926.

Several Admiral stamps were issued to pay war taxes imposed by the Special War Revenue Act that took effect on April 15, 1915. A 1¢ green War Tax stamp was issued to pay the war tax on first class mail, both domestic and to preferred-rate destinations (U.S., Mexico, and British Commonwealth). On January 1, 1916, this stamp was replaced by a 2¢+1¢ denomination that covered both the domestic rate and the war tax. Some Admiral stamps were issued to pay war taxes on other than postal services. A 2¢ carmine War Tax stamp paid the "stamp tax" on cheques and other financial instruments. Its postal usage was quite small. The Inland Revenue Department overprinted the 5¢ blue, 20¢, and 50¢ Admiral stamps with the words "War Tax" and "Inland Revenue War Tax" for fiscal usage, and in a circular to



postmasters dated May 20, 1915, the Post Office stated that these stamps were not acceptable for the payment of postage.

ABN prepared a master die containing the design elements common to all values. The printer then produced a secondary die for each value on which the missing features (primarily the denomination) were engraved. During the course of making plates, ABN found that the upper right vertical line inside the frame grew progressively weaker on the secondary dies. To correct this defect, ABN strengthened the line by retouching many subjects of many plates, notably plates 19 and 20 of the 5¢ violet and plate 9 of the 20¢. For the 1¢ green and 2¢ carmine, ABN retouched the die itself. Stamps from the original die and the retouched die are readily distinguishable. ABN also produced new dies during the course of printing the 1¢ yellow, 3¢ carmine, and the 2¢+1¢ War Tax. The 2¢+1¢ War Tax was printed in carmine and brown. Both colors exist in Die I and Die II printings.

A variety of die proofs exists although quantities are very low. There are proofs created both before and after the die was hardened, proofs of dies that were never used in production, proofs in unissued colors, proofs in black, and proofs of unissued stamps.

Admiral stamps were issued in three formats: panes of 100, booklets, and coils. Most of the panes were printed from plates of 400 subjects. The initial printings of the 5¢ blue, 7¢ bistre, 10¢ plum, 20¢, and 50¢ were from plates of 200 subjects. Two plates of the 1¢ green, plates 43 and 44, also had 200 subjects. Some sheet stamps were produced from plates manufactured expressly for coils.

Initially the plates of 400 had a horizontal and vertical gutter separating the panes. At the beginning of 1914, ABN did away with the gutters. The sheets were guillotined into panes before they were perforated so the space between adjacent panes was not perforated. As a result, from 1914 onwards, the stamps bordering an adjacent pane had a straight edge along the border.



The stamps were printed on unwatermarked, vertical wove paper. At least three values, the 2¢ carmine, 2¢ green, and 10¢ blue, also exist on a horizontal wove paper, but are scarce. Initial printings of the 1¢ green and 2¢ carmine booklet stamps were issued on horizontally wove paper, but they are scarce too. The consistency and thickness of the paper varied over the life of the issue. There are well-known,

fairly common thin paper varieties on the wet printings of the 2¢ green and the 5¢ violet. This paper is readily distinguishable by the grain of the paper, which appears



as a lattice pattern when held to the light. There are less well-known and relatively scarce thin paper varieties on the dry printings of the 2¢ green and 7¢ red brown.

The Admiral sheet stamps were perforated by a line perforator after they were guillotined. The gauge varied from 11.7 to 12.0. The value quoted in the catalogues, 12, is a nominal value.

With such a large number of stamps printed over such a long period, there were inevitable color shades. Among the most elusive are the 2¢ pink and the 7¢ sage green. ABN imported the ink used to print the stamps from Germany. This source was cut off during the First World War, so ABN had to switch to other suppliers and ink formulas. This gave rise to some of the shade variations. It also gave rise to an interesting but little known fluorescent ink variety on the 2¢ carmine and 2¢ War Tax. The 3¢ carmine exists only with this fluorescent ink.

The Admiral plates featured several sought-after marginal markings. During the KE VII period, ABN started punching printing order numbers on the plate, usually near the plate imprint, and this practice continued for several years into the Admiral period. If a plate was used to fulfill more than one order, the previous number was typically defaced and the new number added. A few plates have three to four of the order numbers.

Until 1916, plates had an imprint in the top margin of each upper pane and in the bottom margin of each lower pane. In late 1916, ABN began putting a band of lathework or engine turning at the bottom of the sheet and the plate imprint below the lathework. When the sheet was guillotined, the bottom of the lathework and the bottom plate imprints were cut off. The lathework was probably added as hold-down strips, holding the sheet onto the plate during printing. Six different lathework patterns were used, ten if inverted designs are also counted. In 1922, ABN began adding pyramid lines (a long horizontal line with six vertical lines of decreasing length) in the middle of the left or right margin of the pane as a perforation guide. Towards the end of 1922, ABN also added an inscription that read R-GAUGE in the top right margin of the lower right pane. The lathework, pyramid lines, R-GAUGE inscription, and imprints in the bottom margin of the lower panes were all done away with when ABN switched from the wet to the dry printing method beginning in 1923. Many of the marginal markings are quite scarce and highly sought.



The Admiral issue saw some major advances in stamp production during its 17-year life. As already mentioned, some initial Admiral printings were made from plates of 200 (on a flat bed press). The move to larger plates of 400 subjects and a sheet-fed rotary press began with the low values of the Edward VII period. Except for the 50¢, ABN moved exclusively to plates of 400 by the end of 1913.

In 1915, ABN experimented with the use of multiple-subject dies and transfer rolls. ABN produced a transfer roll of ten subjects, two along the axis by five around the circumference, that it used to manufacture plates 87 and 88 of the 2¢ carmine. ABN also produced a transfer roll of five subjects to manufacture plate 90.

The experiment was apparently unsuccessful because ABN reverted to the traditional single-subject die. CBN repeated the multiple-subject experiment for plates 171–173 of the 3¢ carmine in October 1925; however these plates were manufactured near the end of the Admiral period and were never put into production.

Prior to the Admiral era, the normal printing technique was to print stamps on moistened ungummed paper. After printing, the paper was dried, gummed, guillotined, and perforated. This is the wet method of printing alluded to above. In 1905, during the Edward era, ABN experimented with printing the 2¢ value on dry, gummed paper; however it wasn't until 1922 that ABN began using the dry method in production and 1926 before the switchover was complete. The 1¢ yellow, 2¢ green, 3¢ brown, 4¢, 5¢ violet, 7¢ red brown, 10¢ blue, 20¢, 50¢, and \$1.00 sheet stamps, the 1¢ yellow, 2¢ green, and 3¢ carmine coil stamps, and the 2¢ green booklet pane of six were printed by both methods. Stamps printed by each method can be identified by their width. Paper shrank perpendicular to the grain as it dried. Since, with very few exceptions, the paper was vertical wove, stamps printed by the wet method are narrower than those printed by the dry method. Although this is a classic method of distinguishing between the two methods, it can be tricky because stamps printed by the wet method, especially those printed shortly before the transition, vary in width.

Initially, ABN affixed one or two plates to the press. Around 1923, the newly formed CBN gradually began affixing up to three plates on the press. One can deduce when the switchover occurred by the date of approval of the plates. Plates were mostly approved in pairs until 1923, at which point they began to be approved in triplets.

In 1927, CBN began chrome plating the plates. A thin layer of chromium was deposited on the plate by electrolysis to protect its surface. The chromium could be removed and re-deposited several times during the life of the plate. This reduced plate wear, which meant that plates could be used for longer print runs, thus cutting down on the number that had to be manufactured.

The 1898 QV Numeral and 1903 KE VII issues each saw one booklet variety, consisting of two panes of six of the 2¢ value. The Admiral period heralded many more, all selling for 25¢, 1¢ above the face value of the stamps. There were booklets with four 1¢ panes of six, two 2¢ panes of six, two 3¢ panes of four, and a combination booklet with one 1¢, one 2¢, and one 3¢ pane of four. For the first time, booklets with French text were issued. Most booklets are scarce. Besides the stamp panes, the booklets had covers, glassine interleaving, and “information pages.” The booklet contents were stapled together. Early booklets had tape over the staple.

Some 1¢ and 2¢ King Edward VII stamps from sheet stock were issued in roll format as an experiment, but the mass



production of coils began in the Admiral period. There were two formats, endwise rolls and sidewise rolls. Endwise rolls, in which the stamps were wound vertically, were intended for stamp vending machines and some stamp affixing machines. Initial 1¢ green and 2¢ carmine endwise coils issued in 1913 were perforated 8 horizontally. The gauge was subsequently increased to 12. Sidewise rolls were issued in far greater quantities than were endwise rolls. The stamps were wound horizontally, and were intended for stamp affixing machines. The sidewise coils all were perforated 8 vertically.

Most coils were prepared from sheets of 400 that were perforated in one direction only and guillotined in the other. Strips of 10 or 20 were joined together at the pane margin to produce rolls of 500 stamps. Although special plates were manufactured to facilitate coil production, ordinary sheet stock was sometimes used. In fact, the 2¢ green and 3¢ brown endwise coils were produced entirely from sheet stock. There were also two stamps from coil stock issued in sheet format, the 2¢+1¢ carmine in July 1916 and 3¢ carmine in 1931. Both stamps came from sidewise coil stock that had been perforated 8 vertically and subsequently perforated 12 for release in panes of 100. In addition, a small quantity of the 2¢+1¢ carmine from coil stock was perforated 12 by 12.

In July 1918, some 1¢ green endwise coils were punched with two large holes on top of the regular perforations. This was done as an experiment to facilitate dispensing in stamp vending machines. This experiment was not successful, and it was suspended after only two days. So-called provisional 2¢ carmine coils were produced from fully perforated sheet stamps. It has been argued that these coils were produced for philatelic purposes.

In January 1924, 250 sheets (100,000 stamps) of the 3¢ carmine and, in October 1924, 125 sheets (50,000 stamps) of the 1¢ yellow and 2¢ green sheet stamps were released through the Philatelic Agency in imperforate format. Two hundred copies of the 4¢, 5¢ violet, 7¢ red brown, 8¢, 10¢ bistre brown, 20¢, 50¢, and \$1.00 were also issued imperforate by favor. Some imperf sheets of the 1¢ yellow from coil stock were also released.



In 1924, 2,200 stamps of the 1¢ yellow, 2¢ green, and 3¢ carmine coils printed by the wet method were issued in sheet format, imperf by perf 8. In 1925, the Post Office released another 100,000 stamps of the 1¢

yellow and 2¢ green coils in the same format, but these were printed by the dry method, so they are readily distinguishable from the first release. Imperforates and part perforates of the coil stock of the 2¢+1¢ brown were also released by favor. Finally, an imperforate part sheet of three booklet panes was released by favor and cut up to produce imperforate tête-bêche booklet panes. The panes are the 1¢ yellow and 2¢ green in panes of six and the 3¢ carmine in panes of four.

*Postal History.* The Admiral period includes World War I (with military, POW, and censored mail), and shows rapid post-war inflation with several rate changes. It has perhaps the most advertising covers available. Machine slogan cancels started in 1912, bringing a new collecting area. New rate structures such as money packets were added, and rural route and parcel post mail was extended, as was insurance for parcels. Special delivery rates increased, and were extended to the U. S. The registration fee increased. Pioneer airmail was flown, and special stamps were printed for airmail.

### **Confederation Issue of 1927**

A set of five ordinary stamps and one special delivery stamp was issued to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada with the two Maritime Provinces, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The set featured 1, 2, 3, 5, and 12¢ stamps plus a 20¢ special delivery (SD) stamp. The latter is probably the most attractive of all the Canadian SD stamps with its depiction of Mt. Robson with a biplane overhead, train below, a rider, and a dog sled team, all depicting carriage of the mails. The 12¢ stamp paid registration and domestic 1 oz. letter postage, and it has a map of Canada with the three original provinces bolded in dark blue while the rest of Canada is in a lighter shade. This was the second map stamp of Canada, and map stamps are a highly collected topical area worldwide. Quite a few other maps of Canada and its provinces can be found in later stamp issues.

In addition to plate number blocks and First Day Covers (FDCs, covers postmarked on the day of issue), imperforate, horizontally imperforate, and vertically imperforate varieties exist for all values. FDCs are fairly expensive, and are among the first to be found with special envelopes privately produced for the occasion. Collectors had begun to take notice of dates of issue of stamps, and what became a major collecting area and source of revenue for post office administrations worldwide began.

### **Historical Issue of 1927**

At the same time the Confederation Issue was placed in post offices, another issue of three stamps, values 5, 12, and 20¢ with busts of various politicians, was issued. Since these values duplicated those of the Confederation issue, the reason for issuance was clearly political. The set actually was developed for release earlier, in 1926, but was delayed to coincide with the Confederation date of issue. As with the Confederation stamps, plate number blocks, FDCs, and the imperforate varieties are available for collectors.

### Scroll Issue of 1928

The series that replaced the Admirals as the definitive set of stamps for ordinary postage use is termed the Scroll issue due to the design, with its scrolled ribbon at the top of each stamp. Values were created for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 20, 50¢, and \$1. In addition, the first airmail stamp was issued in a scroll format in 1928 in a 5¢ value. The 50¢ stamp is called the Bluenose, shown here, based on the famous racing yacht of the same name. It has consistently been considered the most beautiful Canadian stamp, only recently disputed by the \$8 Grizzly Bear stamp. The lower values up to 8¢ depict a bust of a mature King George V in royal regalia in a size the same as the Admirals, while the higher values are larger in size. They depict a variety of Canadian scenes.

This series is very collectible, with plate number blocks, FDCs, imperforate and part perforate pairs, and blocks all available. Coil stamps of the 1 and 2¢ values were produced, and these are collected in strips of 4. Paste-up strips (where the coil strip from the end of one printing strip was glued to the end of another) are collected on these coils.



Booklet panes of the 1, 2, and 5¢ stamps were produced, and tete-beche blocks can be obtained, although they are expensive. A few complete tete-beche two-pane blocks exist, one pane inverted with a gutter between the two panes. John Cooper recently exhibited a highly complete showing of this issue with virtually all such material included.

### Arch Issue of 1930

Another definitive set was produced with an almost identical bust portrait of King George V surrounded by an arch with “postage,” “Canada,” and “postage” in the arch. At top left and right were maple leaves. The arch motif was maintained only for low values of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8, and 10¢ values, while higher values included the maple leaves and a scroll at top. These values were 12, 20, 50¢ and \$1 as well as a new 5¢ airmail stamp.

### Other King George V Issues

The George V Medallion issue of 1932 consisted of low-value stamps (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8¢) with a portrait of the King and a 13¢ stamp showing the Quebec Citadel. The 1, 2, and 3¢ stamps had coil versions. The George V Pictorial issue appeared in 1935. Again, the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8¢ stamps bear a portrait of the King. The 10, 13, 20, and 50¢ and \$1 stamps are pictorial, with the 10¢ stamp depicting a Mountie on a horse, the 13¢ the Founding Fathers at the Charlottetown Conference, and the other three Canadian scenes. This issue set the style for future definitive issues, with portraits used for low-value stamps and pictures for high-value stamps. Commemorative stamps were issued in the 1930s depicting a number of different



subjects. The George V Silver Jubilee in 1935 was celebrated by the entire British Empire and Commonwealth countries, and Canada issued a set of stamps with 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, and 13¢ stamps. The commemoratives are much more limited in additional material available, and essays and proofs are rare.

### The Stamps and Philately of King George VI

The reign of King George VI commenced December 11, 1936 and concluded upon his death on February 6, 1952. The King George VI era was dominated by the



events of WWII. Wartime actions disrupted postal services worldwide. The war created a sense of urgency needed to quickly advance airmail services for both official mail and mail to and from troops overseas.

*Stamps.* The first stamps featuring the image of King George VI were issued on April 1, 1937 (the 4, 5, and 8¢ values were issued on May 10, 1937), the so called “Mufti” series.

These low value stamps were followed in

1938 by high-value stamps required for parcels and expensive airmail rates to places like India and Australia. Many highly regarded collections have been put together using these issues. Also issued on May 10, 1937 was the stamp commemorating the coronation of King George VI. Three stamps that commemorated the visit of the King and Queen to Canada were issued in 1939. These Royal Visit stamps and their postal history are great collectibles, and many first-class exhibits have been put together around the Royal Visit. Two further series of stamps, the 1942–43 War Issue and the 1949–51 set, were issued during the George VI era.

Six other commemorative stamps were issued in the 1947–49 period, including one stamp to mark the occasion of Newfoundland’s joining the Dominion of Canada in 1949. Four stamps were issued in 1951 to commemorate the centennial of the first postage stamp in Canada. Various lower-value stamps were available to the public, in booklet and coil form in addition to sheets of 100. Postage stamps were also overprinted for government use, and precancelled for use by private-sector companies. Stamps were also perforated with initials for both government use and private companies. Each of these sectors represents a really interesting collecting area for the collector interested in a new specialty.

*Postal History.* The pursuit of postal history aspects of the George VI period is similar to the study of any other period. It starts with the identification and study of postal rates to Canadian and overseas destinations for the different types of services available. These include the differentiation by delivery methods (surface and airmail, parcel post, special delivery, etc.), requests for registration to provide proof of delivery or indemnification if lost, and other specialized services. From this base, you may delve into further detail of mail routes, post office cancellations and markings, and treatment of undelivered mail.

The George VI era spans the disruptive times of WWII, and therein lie many areas of in-depth study. It has long been recognized that mail delivery to the troops in wartime contributes to their morale, so many efforts were made to ensure the timely delivery of mail to the armed forces. War also creates prisoners of war and internees, and mail to and from these unfortunate people has a special meaning, as does mail whose trip was interrupted by the war. In a sense there is no limit on the direction postal history may lead or the depth of research or detail any particular study may evolve.

Specialized organizations such as the George VI, World War II, and Military Mail Study Groups of BNAPS provide a venue for stamp collectors and postal historians to expand their knowledge.



## V. 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DOMINION PERIOD: CANADA, NS, NB, PEI, NF, & BC STAMP ISSUES

### Canada: Large Queen Period, 1868–1872



*Stamps.* On April 1, 1868, Canada issued its first Dominion set, called the Large Queens (or Large Cents) stamps. This series included a ½¢ (black), 1¢ (red brown), 2¢ (green), 3¢ (red), 6¢ (brown), 12½¢ (blue), and 15¢ (gray lilac), all with the same portrait of Victoria. They were to be used in the newly united provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Their use in British Columbia barely took place with its joining Canada in 1871, and use in PEI was limited by its Confederation in 1873. The newly acquired Manitoba and North-West Territories saw little use since the next stamps, the Small Queens, were already issued for some values. In 1869 the 1¢ was reissued in yellow since the brown color was often confused with the 3¢ red. In late 1875 the need for a 5¢ stamp arose with the reduction in letter rate to the U.K. Therefore, a 5¢ stamp, prepared earlier but not issued, was put into usage.

*Preproduction.* This issue has many proofs. There is a ½¢ essay in several colors. Die proofs of each value are known in black and various colors; few exist and they are expensive. Plate proofs in a variety of colors are more affordable. The British American Bank Note Company produced trade sample sheets in brown, black, red, green, and blue, so that 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢, 6¢, 12½¢, and 15¢ values are found cut from them. Only a few intact sheets remain. Progressive die proofs exist of the 5¢. An essay by the National Bank Note Co. of NY is found in various colors and can be considered with this issue.



*Stamps.* The stamps are found in distinct printings. Sheets were produced in a 10 x 10 format. About 6.7 million ½¢ stamps were produced, about 9.6 million 1¢, split between the red and yellow printings (probably 4.6 to 5 million), 10.3 million of the 2¢, 22 million of the 3¢, perhaps 5 million of the 5¢, 9.4 million of the 6¢, just under 2 million of the 12½¢, and 2.4 million of the 15¢. The first printing occurred on a thin paper. Later printings used various papers, of which about 10 are listed, including a watermarked paper for all values. The ½¢ is by far the rarest, with fewer than a dozen copies known, of which only 3 or 4 are mint. Laid paper is also found the 1¢, 2¢ (only 3 examples recorded), and 3¢; the latter the commonest. In the 1870s another watermark with “Alex. Pirie & Co.” is found on the 15¢, rare and expensive, especially unused. Plate varieties exist for most issues, some of which are catalogued, including major re-entries for the 2¢, 6¢, and 15¢, as well as other dots, missing lines, extra lines, etc. Stitch watermarks are known on some issues.





Mint stamps are inexpensive for the ½¢ and 15¢ (except for early printings of the latter), and moderately expensive for 2¢, 3¢, and 12½¢ stamps without gum. Original gum generally raises the price significantly. The 6¢ is perhaps the rarest to find mint OG, with the 5¢ close behind, even though the latter was used several years after the 6¢ was exhausted. The ½¢ was used into the 1880s, the 12½¢ and 15¢ even longer, with 15¢ usages found into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Mint or used blocks of the 2¢, 3¢, 5¢, and 6¢ are rare and expensive, mint blocks of the 12½¢ only slightly less so, while the ½¢ and 15¢ can be obtained relatively easily except for early printings. The scarcest is the 1¢ yellow, with only 3 mint blocks and 2 mint strips recorded.

*Cancels:* The duplex cancels issued late in the Pence period were commonly used, along with 7-ring cancels. A few of the 4-ring cancels of the late Pence period were also continued. In 1869 the 4-rings were replaced with 60 2-ring cancels allocated to



the 60 largest towns in order. Most were used into the 1870s, with the town for one number (17) still not known. A few others, such as 20 and 50, are rare on any Large Queen. Town dated cancels can be found on stamps, even though supposed to be struck only on the cover. Many fancy cancels were used starting in 1868. The towns Toronto, Ottawa, and Kingston quickly replaced their 2-rings with carved cancels using their number. Other towns adopted many designs. Many of these cancels were carved into corks or wood and did not last long. This is a highly collected and sought aspect of Large Queen collecting. Railroad cancels are also highly sought.

*Rate studies:* *Domestic, Other BNA Colonies, U.S., U.K., Worldwide Covers.* With the relatively short period of use of Large Queen stamps, rate covers other than simple 3¢ domestic covers tend to be expensive. A comprehensive collection of rates can include envelopes (covers) to the U.S. (moderately expensive), to B.C. (only a few 6¢ covers known), to California before the intercontinental railway (scarce), to the U.K. (moderately expensive), and to European countries (rare and expensive), Australia

(rare), or a handful of other destinations such as India, Siam, and China. Surprisingly, quite a few 15¢ covers to New Zealand are known due to a correspondence of a publishing company. A recent survey of 15¢ covers has produced over 300 items spanning 30+ years. Wrappers or circulars are relatively common domestically, primarily using the 1¢ yellow, but all other such usages and destinations are rare and expensive. For example, the ½¢ is not hard to find used as a pair or part of a larger rate, but single usages properly paying the newspaper rate for items under 1 ounce can be listed on one hand.

*Auxiliary Services.* Domestic registered letters can be found, although they are not cheap, while those to the U.S. are scarce, and to other destinations quite rare. Registration paid with stamps adds a significant cost to any domestic items over paid cash items. Registered covers to the U.K. are very scarce in the primary Large Queen period, and even into the early 1870s are scarce to rare as the rate changed and the Small Queen stamps replaced the Large Queens.

### **Canada: Small Queen Period, 1870–1897**

Similar in design but smaller than the Large Queens, the Small Queen stamps feature the young Queen Victoria on the design. Why small, you might ask? These stamps first introduced in 1870 were made smaller as a cost savings measure, as well as providing additional printing capacity to satisfy increased demand for postage stamps due to the newly introduced requirement to prepay letters. By 1875 letters had to be prepaid only with stamps. In fact, the new small size of the stamps became pretty much the size of all future definitive stamps until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Preproduction.* Essays were produced by the Canada Bank Note Company in a bid to obtain a printing contract for the new issue to be produced. These include 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, and 15¢ values. They are not particularly scarce. The British American Bank Note Co. also produced essays in ½, 1, 2, and 12½¢ values. The BABN got the contract to print the new series of stamps, and produced die proofs in various colors. Impressions on a card stock were printed by BABN to advertise their printing capabilities, and single values as well as combinations of various stamps of the Large and Small Queen issues and Canada revenue stamps can be found in red, black, and green. A few complete sheets are known. Other colors also are known for various denominations.

*Stamps.* Of all the stamps produced by Canada, the Small Queen definitives are one of the most popular sets collected over the last 150 years. The original set was available in denominations of ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 10¢, an 8¢ value was added in 1893, along with two higher value 20¢ and 50¢ stamps called the “Widows Weeds.” These are sometimes grouped with the Small Queens, but these stamps are larger and of a completely different design that is almost identical to revenue stamps issued in the 1870s. Adding Widow Weeds to your Small Queen collection is a collector’s choice.



The Small Queens were the longest-lived stamps in Canadian postal history. Over their 27-year life, many printing orders were let, and this resulted in many identifiable colors and shades of those colors. This wide difference in colors and shades was because there were three distinct printings of the Small Queen stamps. First printed at Ottawa from 1870–1873, the stamps were then printed in Montreal between 1874 and 1889. The government contract required the printing move back to Ottawa in 1887, but a fire at the printer's building there delayed that move until 1889. This resulted in the 1888–1889 printings made at the *Montreal Gazette* newspaper. These include a noticeable carmine shade of the 3¢ stamp. The final printing of this 3¢ stamp occurred at Ottawa between 1889 and 1897.

Another consequence of having various printing locations is the fact that different gums and papers were used at each site. These can be valuable tools to help the collector identify their stamps by period of use. Similarly, because changes occurred to perforating machines, numerous perforations exist. The most important is the 3¢ perforated gauge 12½, one of the two or three jewels in the crown of any Small Queen stamp collection.

A person wanting to put together a collection of Small Queen stamps is faced with major challenges: does he or she collect all the stamps, preproduction items (essays and proofs), just one stamp (including color varieties and shades), perforations, paper differences, just one printing, or probably the hardest of all—examples of the various plates which in most cases requires acquiring multiples of the stamps? All the collecting possibilities exist and are available through dealers and fellow collectors. The great variety of material itself has been daunting to potential authors of a comprehensive work on the set, so the book has never been produced. The mint stamps for the early printings have become expensive, and imprint and marginal number inscriptions even more so. Used stamps remain very affordable, even in multiples, as do on-cover usages for all but the 10¢. It is possible to put together a very respectable collection of all the stamps used, with all major perforation variations (except the perf 12½) for under one hundred dollars by judicious purchasing from dealers and online auction sources.

Among the errors and varieties among the different issues, none is more dramatic than the 5 on 6¢ error found in the Ottawa printings of the 6¢. In correcting flaws or wear in plates at the time, it was a general practice to use a master die on the existing plate. By mistake, the 5¢ master was somehow struck onto the 6¢ plate, misaligned so that the top part of the 5¢ die can be seen somewhat below the top of the 6¢ design. Only a few examples have surfaced, since this error existed in only a couple of the 6¢ impressions. Other errors and plate flaws exist in most other values, but none is as dramatic.

One of the interesting and least studied topics is the correspondence between production of the Small Queens and concomitant production of revenues. Many of



the issues of both have paper, color, and perforations in common for similar times of printing. This remains an active area for investigation.

*Cancels.* The early Small Queen period also coincides with the height of the fancy cancel production by postmasters. This area is popular, with numerals, geometrics, letters, leaf designs, crowns, and names and initials all found on stamp and cover. The 2-ring numerals started in the Large Queen period are all found in the 1870s on Small Queens, and even a few of the 4-rings from the Pence and Decimal periods were still in use. The most popular cancellation-collecting area began in the early 1890s with the so-called Squared Circles. These cancels include over 300 towns or variations in some towns in two types, the “thin bar” and “thick bar” versions. Collectors seek the cancels with time (hour or AM or PM designations), year of use on various stamps, and on-cover use.

A similar intense interest is found in collecting railroad cancels, which reached their height of variety during the Small Queen period. Railroad Post Office (RPO)



collectors seek varieties of the cancels, usage on various stamps, and usage between towns on the routes, for example.

Within BNAPS, there is an active Large and Small Queens study group and membership is advised. This forum allows members to share information and publish latest discoveries (there are always new discoveries being made, discussed, and written up for the collector). There are many articles on the Small Queens available to help the collector; these can be found on the internet and in various hobby journals.

*Postal History.* Collecting postal history from the Small Queen era (1870–1897) is a joy, and a never-ending quest. The era spans the period from 1870 to about 1897. There are both domestic and foreign rate covers to be found; this is the first era for which an extensive showing of destinations and rates can be made. Rates were

classified as first class (letters), second class (newspapers), third class (printed matter), fourth class (parcel post), and fifth class (samples and material open to inspection). After admission into the UPU in 1878, there were a whole bunch of new letter and 3<sup>rd</sup> class rates to the various countries. Since there is much less material available before 1878, such covers are much more expensive, except to Great Britain. Because of the extended life of this issue, most rates are available through dealers and auctions; acquiring out-of-the-ordinary covers is a challenge. Covers to the U.K., France, and Germany after 1878 are common, most of the other European countries are affordable, but covers to Asia, Africa, South America, or Oceania are expensive throughout the 19<sup>th</sup>-century period.

Each value of the Small Queens has its own collecting challenge. The ½¢ was used on newspapers and junk mail, and single usage examples of the stamp are not common and moderately expensive. The 1¢ was used mostly for drop letters (kept at the post office for pick up) and advertising material. The 2¢ was used for letters delivered to addresses in the larger cities, for registration in the early period, and as a make-up stamp. The 3¢ was the basic letter rate stamp, while the 5¢ was the foreign letter rate stamp after 1878. The 6¢ paid the early rates to the U.S. and England, later the double letter rate, while the 8¢ was issued in 1893 to pay the registered domestic letter rate. The 10¢ paid double UPU letter rates and registered foreign letters, and was a make-up for higher-rate material such as parcel post. The 20¢ and 50¢ Widow Weeds stamps were used as make-ups for high value mail or for paying newspaper bulk rate mail fees, parcel post fees, or mailing of large volume advertising-rate mail.



There are many philatelic gems in the Small Queen postal history era and they are expensive. A good example of a gem would be the 5¢ UPU rate addressed to the Canadian Voyageurs in Egypt (see Section XIV on military mail). One might also look for *soldier's and sailor's mails*, which were reduced-rate letters sent from the field by members of the armed forces. Prior to Confederation with Canada, one can find *preferred rate* covers to Prince Edward Island (before July 1873), British Columbia (before 1871), and Newfoundland (before 1877), and for a short period in the mid-1870s to France and Germany. All of these are scarce to rare, but can sometimes be discovered in dealer stocks, as the authors have done over the years. Canada was growing at a tremendous rate during this time, and the volume of mail increased

exponentially from 1870 to 1897. Illustrating this growth can be a good learning experience and an enjoyable project.

During the Small Queen era, the West was just opening up and territorial mail to both Canada and the United States is very collectible. Until the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885, mail to the western U.S. and Canadian West from Winnipeg onward had to go through the U.S. via Chicago and St. Paul. Some mail went by steamboat up the Missouri River to Fort Benton, Montana, then by wagon into the interior of the North-West Territories. Such mail evokes the romance of the historic American West.

Another seminal event in the history of western Canada has postal history memorabilia. The Riel Rebellion of spring 1885 (there was an earlier rebellion in 1870, but only a handful of covers are known) produced letters and a few post cards to and from soldiers sent to put down an attempt by the mixed-blood Métis and Native Peoples of the prairie region to establish a separate government. At this time, most of the mail had to travel through the U.S., demonstrating the need for an all-Canada transportation system. The CPR was almost complete then, and indeed was finished later in the year.



One of the really nice things about a collection of Small Queen covers is the number of advertising covers one can find. This is an era when advertising on envelopes came into its own due to improved printing methods, and one can put a nice collection together of such covers. Similarly,

many fairs and exhibitions were beginning to use covers as advertising, and one can start this area in the Small Queen period, although the peak occurred in the Edwardian period.

A collection of advertising covers is an area of the Small Queens that is not necessarily expensive. Collecting "non letter mail" from the era (the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Class rates), things such as circulars, parcel post, and newspaper wrappers, can all add to a collector's enjoyment. Generally speaking, every good dealer in Canadian material can support your collecting needs from the Small Queen era. Major auction houses regularly sell higher priced material, and internet auctions now provide yet another source of material.



## Canada: Leaf and Numeral period (including the Jubilee and Map Stamps), 1897–1903

*Jubilee Issue.* In 1897 Queen Victoria celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> year of her reign, and Canada honored this event with a commemorative set of stamps, its first foray into commemorative stamps. The values included ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 20, and 50 cent values, and 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 dollar values. The total value was quite expensive



for the time, and even though the numbers issued ranged from 13,500 for the \$3 to 20 million of the 3¢, sales of the complete set languished even into the 1930s. Speculators made a run on some values such as the 6¢, so getting complete sets was not easy. The first day of issue was June 19, and first day covers are known for some of the values. While the lower values had ordinary postal usages, few of the values over the 20¢ could be

used to pay anything other than bulk rates for newspaper mailings. Philatelic uses of all values are known on cover. Recently, a complete receipt book containing almost all values paying mailings of newspapers around the time of the Jubilee was discovered. Collectors seek the low values with cancellations such as squared circles and town cancels.

*Leaf Issue.* Beginning in late 1897, the long-used Small Queen definitives were replaced by a new set termed the Leaf issue, so called because maple leaves are in each corner of the stamps. Values of ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10¢ values were issued for the most-used rates. If needed, higher rates could be paid with 20¢ and 50¢ Widow Weed stamps or Jubilees. The series was quickly criticized by French Canadian writers, who noted there were no numeric values, only written English text for each stamp value. This caused the series to be quickly replaced by a revised set, the Numeral issue discussed below. Most values had an effective usage of about a year.



The short life-span of the Leaf issue produced some hard-to-find usages of the various higher values, particularly in the time-frame in which they were the primary definitive. As with the Small Queens and Jubilees, cancel collectors focus on squared circles, town cancels, and other less-used cancel types. A few plate errors can be found on some values, as well as plate proofs and imperforate stamps (one or two imperforate sheets of each value were released, either by accident or as favors to selected officials).

Due to the reduction in domestic letter rate, many 3¢ values were stocked in post offices with little use. These were overprinted **2¢** or **2 CENTS** in 1899. A similar situation and overprinting occurred with the 3¢ of the Numeral issue. There



are some spacing variations in the overprinting. An enterprising postmaster at Port Hood, NS cut up 3¢ values he had on hand in early 1899 and handstamped them with 1¢ and 2¢ purple values, claiming he had no stamps available. These were not authorized but are still collected (at expensive prices) as the Port Hood provisionals. Exhibit judges have mixed views about their validity, since there was significant philatelic tangling of the whole situation by certain stamp dealers.



*Numeral Issue.* The replaced values were slightly different, since the domestic letter rate dropped from 3¢ to 2¢ on Jan. 1, 1899. Values included the ½, 1, 2 (in two colors, red and violet), 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 20¢. The color change was required when the domestic basic letter rate dropped, because red was being commonly used by UPU countries to denote the basic domestic rate. The purple 2¢ stamp was used from September 1898 to late August 1899, when the red value was introduced. All values except the 20¢ can be found on cover, although certain values are expensive used singly on covers.

In addition to plate proofs and imperforate stamps, a new format for booklets of the 2¢ red stamp was introduced in 1900. Booklets and panes are quite expensive due to scarcity. The production format led to tete-beche panes, which are extremely rare. Booklet stamps on cover also are highly sought, but they are much more affordable. Cancels on stamps follow the earlier issues. Plate markings in selvedge on strips and blocks are collectible. There are plate errors on some low values.

*Map Stamp.* Perhaps the most interesting stamp from the 19<sup>th</sup> century for Canada, if not the whole of collecting, was printed in December 1898 to frank the upcoming

“Penny Imperial Postage” movement. The basic postage rate from Canada to Great Britain and certain British Possessions was reduced to 1 penny, equal to 2¢, beginning December 25, 1898. The stamp had been promoted by Postmaster William Mulock as a map of the British Empire in red on a



background of black outlines of the continents with blue or lavender oceans. The effect was striking. This stamp is a must for Christmas topical collectors and map stamp collectors worldwide. Canadian collectors seek early uses of the stamp, usage on cover to various Empire countries, and usage on cover to foreign destinations. The stamp was printed on five plates, and plate numbers are sought. Many plate

varieties due to the complex printing process of three colors are sought and collected. There are plate varieties due to re-entry and retouching, including doubling of some areas, as well as imperforate stamps. Design proofs, die proofs, and plate proofs in various states are recorded and collected. Full sheets are still available, although scarce to rare, and blocks can be purchased without great expense. Cancels include squared circles, town cancels, and precancels.

## VI. 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DECIMAL PERIOD: CANADA, NS, NB, PEI, NF, VI & BC

### Canada

*Stamps* were changed from pence to cents on July 1, 1859, with 1¢ (newspapers, printed circulars, and drop letters), 5¢ (domestic, letter rate), 10¢ (U.S. letter rate), 12½¢ (letter rate to the U.K. via Canadian ship), and 17¢ (letter rate to U.K. via New York) issued. In 1864, a 2¢ stamp was issued for soldier's letters and for circulars to the U.K.

*Preproduction (Proofs and Essays)*. A variety of trial color die proofs for all stamps exist in brown, red, blue, green, and black, as do trial color plate proofs and plate proofs in issued color. Some have SPECIMEN overprinted in red or black. One can build an extensive showing of these, but they are not cheap.

*Production (Plating, Errors, Varieties)*. Several researchers have done extensive plating of these stamps, and they have recorded many plate varieties. These stamps were all perforated about 11¼ to 12 depending on the printing order. Imperforate sheets of all except the 5¢ were issued; the few remaining examples are rare and expensive. The stamps were printed on sheets of 10 x 10 stamps. Mint blocks and multiples are rare and expensive, while used blocks are more common, although scarce. Imprints



of the printer can be found on stamps from all four sides of the sheet. The 2¢ is the most expensive, as about 850,000 were issued, compared to 27.5 million of the 1¢, almost 40 million of the 5¢, 5.7 million of the 10¢, 3.2 million of the 12½¢, and 600,000 of the 17¢. While one might expect the 17¢ to be more costly, apparently many more were saved on mail to England than

the 2¢. Mint copies of the 17¢ are generally tougher to find than any other stamps except the first printing of the 10¢ issued in a black-brown ink. These are often confused with the much more common brown 10¢ stamps, and buying a true 10¢ black-brown should be either accompanied by a certificate or after experience in seeing them.