

SYNOPSIS : Vending Automation of Canadian Postage

Purpose:

To show the evolution of Vended Postage dispensing from the early 1900's Victorian and Edwardian through the latest kiosk stamps issued in 2016 and currently available. Examples of Canada Post's early test coils are followed by computer vended postage labels and stamps from 1995 through 2013 including the rates, usages and varieties of the Kiosk pilot programs.

Challenge Factor:

The early experimental coils from Victorian and Edwardian periods are shown with the exception of the Edward 89xxx and 90xxx. The labels from the first two trials (1995 and 2008) shown are very rare and only a few examples exist. The second trial shows a label from the first day of which 6 are known to exist and include a postally used example from 2008. The labels from both printings of the 2013 trials are readily available. Labels were found with guidelines on every 16th label at either the upper right, or upper left of the label on the rolls through early April when the guidelines were modified. Labels with upper left guidelines are rarer than the upper right guidelines – with the 2012 rates, only machines in Vancouver and London had upper left guidelines, while for the 2013 rates, labels with guidelines in the upper left are rarer than upper right guidelines as fewer machines had rolls with upper left guidelines (Vancouver, Montreal and London). Since the majority of labels produced were for the basic 3 rates (domestic, US and International), the number of labels of other rates with guidelines are harder to find. Obtaining properly dated covers is difficult. In most cities the Canada Post cancelling machines were programmed to NOT cancel the stamps – the stamps contain a 2D barcode and cancellations render the 2D barcode unreadable. The majority of covers were produced by collectors themselves – going through the mail (with cancels and routing barcodes on the bottom of the envelopes) hence some names of collectors are on the covers. NO covers of the Non Standard rates are known of the 2012 30 day period. The 2016 kiosk trial is rarest for the 18 digit codes which were only available for 7 days in Vancouver. Rare items have a red matting around them.

What is Presented:

The exhibit starts with examples of early test coils from the Victorian, Edward and Admiral periods. In the Admiral era coil vending machines dispensed the 1st class postage rate, and these coils can be identified by “gripper” cuts in the coils usually at the perforations, but sometimes at other points in the stamp. A version of automation is then shown from the mid 1940's with a product called MailoMat, then trials from the mid 1990's which include the dispensing of panes through bank ATM's and a 2007 dispensing trial in southern Ontario. This is followed by 2 kiosk trials in 2012 and 2016. For the 2012 trial 17 of the 18 rates that could be produced in the 2012/2013 trial are shown. Availability of the initial 6 non-standard rates Excluding the 1.22 rate from the first 2012 issue is limited to 3 known sets and several additional 1.29, 2.10 and 2.95. NO Examples are known of the 1.22 rate. All other values are shown, including guidelines, covers and varieties of the various labels. The 2016 kiosk is shown with the preliminary 18 character codes on the Vancouver issues, followed by t4 digit codes then used in Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto.

Organization:

The material is presented sequentially by issue date, with labels, varieties followed by covers for each issue.

Bibliography/References:

The Admiral Issue of Canada, George Marler, August 1982

BNA Topics

Vol 2, #10, Whole #19 (Oct 1945), p. 83(2)

BNA Topics

Vol 33, #1, Whole #351 (Jan/Feb 1976), p. 14(2)

BNA Topics - Vol 70, #4, Whole #537 (Oct/Dec 2013), p. 4(2)

1995 Kiosk Demonstration – Andrew Chung

Pitney Bowes self-service kiosk by Earle Covert

BNA Topics, Volume 66, Number 2, April-June 2009.

2008 Kiosk Trial - Karim Roder, Andrew Chung

Canadian Stamp News Volume 38 Number 10, Bret Evans

Canadian Stamp News Volume 38 Number 13, Ian Robertson

Canadian Stamp News Volume 38 Number 14, Mirko Zatka

2012-2013 Kiosks in "Philabec", v. 1, no. 1, Sept 2013, <http://www.philabec.com/doc/Philabec-2013-09.pdf>

Vending Automation of Canadian Postage

The Post Office has attempted to dispense stamps to the public in a cost effective manner for over 100 years now. The method chosen was to create strips of stamps in a roll (coil) that could be distributed through a machine/dispenser. In this exhibit you will see the progression running through mechanical dispensing through electronic dispensing.

The first part of the exhibit shows a variety of coil stamps starting from the Victorian, Edwardian and Admiral periods. Actual usage examples are relatively easy to be seen in the Admiral period and you will see various examples of these stamps postally used. Other later periods are difficult to identify, but we know coils continued to be dispensed. A coil machine from the 1950's is shown in the exhibit.

A 1940's automation called Mail-o-Mat is shown, before we move to electronic dispensing in the 1995 with panes of stamps being distributed at bank ATM machines – the panes were made the size of paper currency for this trial.

In 2007 the first trial of computer dispensing of labels was done in southern Ontario and you will see pictures of this trial and a few examples of usage for these rare stamps.

Canada Post in conjunction with Wincor Nixdorf installed kiosk style dispensers in December 2012 at locations in Toronto, London and Vancouver. The dispenser used stamps that came on a coil of 5000 stamps per roll with the stamps having the Maple Leaf design along with CANADA. The denomination and 2D barcoding were applied when the stamps were printed by the customer. The initial rates produced were 61c, \$1.05, \$1.80 which could be easily selected by the customer, other rates requiring a package of the correct weight at the time of printing were \$1.22, \$1.29, \$2.10, \$2.95, \$3.40 and \$3.65 – these 6 rates are very rare. When the postage rates changed in mid January, the machines then printed .63c, \$1.10, and \$1.85 as basic rates, and \$1.26, \$1.34, \$2.20, \$3.05, \$3.50 and \$3.75. In the spring additional kiosks were installed in Montreal, Bramalea, and Victoria making a total of 20 locations. The test was abruptly halted at the end of July 2013 much to the surprise of collectors. Examples of two earlier tests are shown on the next 2 pages, one being a demo, and one a 3 month trial,.

This program abruptly ended in July 2013 and the machinery was removed. In the fall of 2015 Canada Post launched a Concept postal facility in Richmond Hill where customers could print parcel labels and ship them without assistance from postal employees. First class mail was NOT included in this trial but examples of Priority, Xpresspost and Parcel post are shown. In the fall of 2016 Concept offices in Vancouver, then Edmonton and Toronto launched. These facilities produced kiosk stamps in just 4 denominations including the P stamp, \$1.20, \$1.80 and \$2.50 rates. Examples of these stamps and usages complete the exhibit and leave us with where we are today waiting to see if this is expanded beyond the 3 facilities.

PLAN

Frame 1

- 1.0 - Introduction and Index
- 1.1 - Edwardian 1c & 2c Experimental
- 1.2 – Admiral Period
 - 1.2.1 - 1c Green and 2c Red Test
 - 1.2.2 - Gripper Stamps
 - 1.2.3 - Gripper Usage
- 1.3 – Post Admiral Coil Dispensing
- 1.4 - MailOMat
- 1.5 - 1995 Postal Conference
- 1.6 - 1998 ATM
- 1.7 - 2008 Southern Ontario Test

Frame 2-3

- 2.1 - Kiosk 2012
 - 2.1.1 - Stamps
 - 2.1.2.– Guidelines
 - 2.1.3 – First Day Covers
 - 2.1.4 – Usage
 - 2.1.5 – Special Kiosk Services
- 2.2 – Kiosk 2013
 - 2.2.1 - Stamps
 - 2.2.2.– Guidelines
 - 2.2.3 – Variety and Test Stamps
 - 2.2.4 – First Day Covers
 - 2.2.5 – Usage

Frame 4-5

- 3.1 – Concept Stores
- 3.2 - Kiosk 2016 Vancouver 18 digit codes
 - 3.2.1 – Stamps
 - 3.2.2 – Varieties
 - 3.2.3 – Usage
- 3.3 – Canada Post
 - 3.3.1 – Post Office strip and FDC
 - 3.3.2 – Other FDC
- 3.4 – Kiosk 2016 Vancouver 14 digit codes
 - 3.4.1 – Stamps
 - 3.4.2 – Varieties
 - 3.4.3 – Usage
- 3.5 – Kiosk 2016 Edmonton 14 digit codes
 - 3.5.1 – Stamps
 - 3.5.2 – Varieties
 - 3.5.3 – Usage
- 3.6 – Kiosk 2016 Richmond Hill 14 digit codes
 - 3.6.1 – Stamps
 - 3.6.2 – Usage
 - 3.6.3 – Parcel and Express Services