

Revalued Canadian Postal Stationery

Correlation with Rate Changes (synopsis 2023)

Between 1899 and 1986 many items of Canadian postal stationery were revalued, usually by an overprint or, in some cases, for a rate increase, by addition of a second stamp image.

The present exhibit correlates revalued Canadian postal stationery with the rate changes that led to its production.

The reason that revaluation was more common for stationery than for adhesives is partly a consequence of the cost of production of stationery—it is less cost effective to simply discard envelopes or cards that no longer can serve a useful postal function—and is partly because stationery, unlike many adhesives, was produced to meet very specific postal purposes. There are items not only for the lowest weight-class rate for first class mail (general and local (drop letter)), but for third class (printed matter) mail, and for post cards. It is interesting that the first three revaluations illustrated in the exhibit resulted from rate *decreases*, whereas all later revaluations were for *increases*.

Nevertheless, applying a surcharge or second stamp impression to stationery usually is not as simple as applying an overprint to sheets of adhesives, and can be expensive. Not all rate changes have resulted in revaluation. Also, in a few cases rate changes occurred prior to the date on which a printed item originally was intended to be used, and such items are *only* known revalued.

Once a procedure was put in place, regular stock distributed previously to post offices often (not always) was recalled for revaluation. Sometimes little attention was paid to whether the recalled items were old stock from printings done many years previously. From a collector's point of view this resulted in the production of some very scarce revalued items. This is particularly the case for several pieces shown from the 1926 and 1968 revaluations. Not only regularly issued material was revalued. Substantial stocks of a few issues prepared to private order for firms or individuals were returned to Ottawa and modified to save a customer the trouble of adding adhesives. Similarly, stationery prepared for transmission of results from federal elections often was revalued.

Reference Materials

Walton, W. C., Covert E. L., *Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland 2019, 8th Edition*, The Unitrade Press, Toronto, ON (2019).

Chung, A., Machum, H. W. E., Narbonne, R. F., *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era in Canada 1952-2002 Part 1*, Adminware Corp., Winnipeg (2004).

Keane, F. W. L., Canada Notes on Postage Rates 1897 to 1951—A Revision, *BNA Topics*, Vol. 24 (1967), pp. 292-300.

Smith, R. C., Wawrukiewicz, A. S., *Canada Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1870-1999*, The Press for Philately, Snow Camp, North Carolina (2000).

website <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_federal_by-elections_in_Canada>, accessed March 2019.