

Synopsis

A. Purpose of Exhibit

This Display Exhibit shows examples of *Varieties, Errors, Oddities, Freaks and Counterfeits (VEOFC's)* from the Canadian Coil Stamps produced by Canadian Bank Note Co.(CBNC) in the range from the .06 cent Orange Centennial to the .46 cent Red Flag. For simplicity, in this document and in the Exhibit, all the VEOFC's will be referred to as Varieties.

Canada Post (CP) decided, starting with the .06 cent Orange Centennial, to discontinue marketing coil stamps in rolls of 500 for bulk mailers and to target the general public with rolls of 100 stamps, paying the First Class Letter Rate. CBNC was awarded the contract.

CBNC decided to introduce major upgrades in their production/printing procedures and equipment. They introduced continuous web printing (a.k.a. big rolls of paper), a new harrow 10 x 12 perforator and a roulette system to produce batons of 10 rolls of 100 stamps, in wrappers, that could be separated readily into individual rolls of 100. Part way through the production of the .08 cent Black Centennial, they introduced GT2 Tagging by lithography (1). These general procedures were followed through the life of the contract.

Very early on, it became apparent that CBNC quality control was ineffective and that CP was willing to accept a defective product. As time passed and subsequent stamp values were produced, it also became apparent that the designs were going to very ordinary and repetitive, and pure functionality was the intent. The New Issues were boring.

This Exhibit will show the results and the real challenge to get VEOFC's and later the C's which are much more interesting and to try to explain the how/why they occurred.

The current catalogues don't include listings for most of the Varieties in this Exhibit. This type of Display Exhibit was chosen because it fits the flexibility needed to show items based on their production characteristics rather than the traditional dates and values. The Exhibit provides a record (however transient) of the changes in technology and marketing, for this group of stamps, that were new starting with this contract and replaced when self adhesives were introduced.

B. Challenge Factor

Since many/most of these pieces in the Exhibit are the result of some type of failure, they exist in from as few as one, two or three values or only occurred as few as one, two or three times, but usually infrequently in all values across the whole range. There isn't any real homogeneity in the mix, but considering the multi millions of stamps printed, all are relatively rare and some are extremely rare.

The availability of the Varieties is limited by several factors.

1. Many collectors and dealers consider them "Printers Waste" and do not bother with them.
2. Most Canadians (as evidenced by the number used on letters) considered them to be poor quality but used them for postage so the survivability rate, as mint, is certainly very low from the general public.
3. Many of these pieces were stashed in collections, at the time of issue, as much as 50 plus years ago so the quantities of each Variety, in circulation, are severely limited. Now some are dribbling onto the market.
4. Especially with the closure of Saskatoon Stamp Centre, there are few dealers who make any effort to stock the Varieties. Thus, most show up in auction catalogues, in sales lists or on E-bay with a few at stamp shows. Most sales tend to be opportunistic and sell as quickly as possible rather than as part of the usual market place.
5. Many offerings are poorly or mis-described. (You can kiss a lot of frogs before you find a Prince)

There are no planned announcements for these Varieties. To find these pieces requires constant (daily ebay) scanning of the various market places to locate them. To acquire the pieces for this Exhibit, when these Varieties do appear, the competition for them can be fierce.

This collection has been assembled over a period of almost 55 years.

The Research on this series was difficult because of the lack of meaningful information made available, because of security, from CBNC. To state that they were introducing continuous web printing is not very informative. Study of high speed commercial lithographic printing gave a flavour of what CBNC might be trying to do and clarified what was right and what could go wrong. Several diligent philatelists especially Leopold Beaudet (2) , who was given access to the Postal Archives, published information in considerable detail about the Continuous Web set up. E.R.Toop (3) did a retrospective review on CP's assembly and use of the Test Coils in their promotion of the new .06 cent orange Centennial stamps in rolls of 100 in plastic dispensers. Review of contemporary issues of Society Journals provided a running account of events.

C. What is Presented

The principle theme of this Exhibit is to show the best Examples possible of the VEOFC's across the range of values by Variety type. No attempt is made to present Varieties arranged by stamp face value.

Imperforate Pairs which are complete (? Who knows what will show) are used to present the range of values and colours rather than "Normal" stamps.

Wherever available, larger multiples are included to more clearly show the Varieties as well as to show off more spectacular pieces. Varieties of Tagging (4) are generally shown with adjacent UV light photos/photocopies/ mock ups when Tagging is the principle Variety. If the principle Variety is Perforation and the Tagging is incidental or insignificant, it will sometimes only be described.

A number of very uncommon Varieties, that almost never would get catalogue recognition, which are peculiar to a somewhat rudimentary Rouletting procedure, are featured. They are rare because they occur infrequently and because they would likely not be recognized and thus have a low survivability rate.

Double perforations were so expertly faked(5) they have been largely rejected by most buyers and sellers. The listings were removed from Unitrade in 1999. They receive only minimal special coverage to show what genuine pieces probably look like.

For the purposes of this Exhibit, small spacing and jump varieties as listed in catalogues are considered to be minor variations in the normal printing process and are not included. The so-called "fly speck" varieties are also omitted.

D. Organization

CBNC printed Test Coils(4) to enable the introduction of the new equipment and processes and which were also used in the marketing strategy of CP. This is followed by General Specifications for the stamps which will avoid unessential repetition of detail that is of little consequence to the story of the Exhibit. Next, the Exhibit will follow the steps of Stamp Production: Varieties in Printing, Tagging, Perforating and Rouletting. Covers (envelopes) that show the actual use of Varieties are included in each associated chapter where available. Counterfeits are highlighted. The Exhibit will close with a few whimsical items and a Post Script to close out this range of stamps which was replaced by self-adhesives.

E. Material Highlights

Many exceptional items are included. Imperforate Pairs of all values are included in Banners to show design and colour; particularly the .06 cent Orange and Black, the .07 cent Green and the three .08 cent Blacks and the .37 cent Rolland paper. A strip of 25 of the Imperforate .32 cent Leaf (p 18) is one of only 3 reported. Print "jumps or gutters" are reported for only 3 values.... the .06 cent orange, the .38 cent dark green and the .45 cent blue green. The .38 cent and the .45 cent are included (p8-9). Less than 10 of each are believed to exist. A strip of 4 of the .06 cent orange (p10) has repeating images of the design on the gum. In modern continuous web printing, this is very rare because the ink has to be applied to the compression (support) roller before the stamp paper passes the printing plate and is printed. This could have been a one time event for the .06 cent. Two fold overs (p 10), which have to be extremely rare in web printing, are shown in Chapter 2.

1. Housemann, E. H. *Ottawa Tagging*, BNA Topics V30 No1 1973, 4-7,11. CBNC using lithography for Tagging using OP2, 1972.
2. Beaudet, Leopold, *Centennial Stamp Production*, Centennial Definitive Series 1967-1973 by D. Robin event for the .06 cent..
3. E. R. Toop, *Canada's Test Coils of the 1960s*, Canadian Philatelist, Vol 39,#3,P186-191
4. Ken Rose, *Canadian Tagging Errors, 1995 Edition*. Edited by George Dunsey and John I Jamieson.
5. Beaudet, L & Jamieson, J., *Fake Canadian Double Perfs*, Canadian Philatelist, Vol 48 No 5, Sept-Oct 1997