

Synopsis for: Alouette: Canada's entry into the "Space Race"

Treatment and Importance

This exhibit is developed as a traditional format for modern philatelic material. It flows from production material, non-constant varieties, first day covers, rates and usages. The period is 1966 for the most part so as to avoid overlapping with later commemorative issues as much as possible.

What is not in the exhibit:

- No pre-production material is known in private hands.
- No constant varieties exist for this issue.

On September 29, 1962 Canada became the third country to have a domestically designed and built satellite in space, following only the Soviet Union and the United States. Canada didn't issue a stamp for the first satellite. Instead, Canada issued a stamp in 1966 to commemorate Alouette II, the second Alouette satellite.

The Alouette II stamp is the first space themed stamp issued by Canada and therefore an important beginning to any Canadian space themed collection/exhibit.

Philatelic/Subject Knowledge and Personal Study and Research

Detailed study on the satellite and the stamp issue, along with rates and cachets of this time period, has been undertaken. This is shown in the writeup in the exhibit. A listing of the more prominent references is located at the end of this synopsis.

Personal research includes a scientific study of the so-called "aniline variety". The original research will show that no aniline examples of this issue exist and will explain why it has been mistaken as such.

On going discussions with the stamp's engraver, Yves Baril, have also taken place. In addition to the signed CBNC cover, Mr. Baril describes the process he used to treat the printing plate so that it would hold more ink and therefore produce the deep blue colour of the stamp. Research of his personal diaries kept at the National Archives also provided addition details on the design of the stamp.

Rarity and Condition

Modern philatelic material, particularly covers with proper rates and usages, can be quite a challenge to acquire. More common First Day Covers (FDCs) are less rare; however, the hand drawn FDCs are unique and French language covers have a very high challenge factor. French language cachets appear to have a much lower production number than their English language counterparts.

Condition is very good as to be expected with modern material.

Synopsis for: Alouette: Canada's entry into the "Space Race"

References

General Knowledge:

Government of Canada Alouette I and II, <https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/satellites/alouette.asp>

First Day Cover:

Dickinson, Gary Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1977. 2020, British North America Philatelic Society.

Hillger, Don and Garry Toth Collective Philatelic Works (of Two Meteorologists) Alouette and ISIS series <https://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/dev/hillger/Alouette.htm#non-alouette>

Philatelic:

Canadian Philately, Elizabethan-era Definitives. Canadian Postage Stamp Postal Rates. https://adminware.ca/checklist/chk_rate.htm

Baril, Yves Personal notebooks on the engraving process for Canadian stamps from 1953 – 1996. Library and Archives Canada. Archives / Collection and Fonds. Reference number: R13163-1-3-F