

Canada's 1955 Kayak Hunter – Synopsis (Updated Aug 22, 2023)

This traditional exhibit explores the issue and use of the Kayak Hunter stamp through both first day covers and postal uses. In 1955, the 10¢ Kayak Hunter replaced the 1950 10¢ Fur Resources stamp. The stamp was designed by noted Canadian war, northern and commercial artist Harold Beament (1898 – 1984). It was replaced in 1967 by the Centennial issue.

Treatment/Importance

The Kayak Hunter, even though it was a higher value stamp, was widely utilized as it was the only 10¢ stamp issued in Canada between 1955 and the Centennial issue of 1967. The exhibit shows first day covers to a variety of destinations before looking at the use of the stamp on both domestic and international mail. In addition to regular and airmail rates, the stamp was used to cover a variety of postcard, special delivery, registration, 'avis de reception', postage due, parcel and other special rates.

Philatelic/Subject Knowledge

The inclusion of a full range of FDCs is unusual in Canada but in the 1950s private FDC producers were very popular so this adds to the story of the stamp and of the atmosphere of collecting new issues at that time. Where available information is included about the PDC producers, printing method and print run.

The stamp was overprinted with "G" for official use - some examples of these are included. *Perfins are not included in this exhibit.*

In addition, to the exhibitor's knowledge, no pre-production or production material for this stamp is in private hands. Several items are listed as being in Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa including sketches and proofs.

Personal Study and Research

As a modern (Elizabethan) issue, there is little material devoted to this stamp. As a result, the exhibitor has tried to pull together information from a variety of sources including rate books, the Elizabethan and FDC study groups of BNAPS as well as comments made about the issue in 1955 in the philatelic and general press of the period, which were generally positive. In some cases, research about the sender and/or recipient has helped to identify the rate.

Rarity/Condition

The exhibitor has been collecting this material for about 15 years. Finding a wide range of foreign destinations and interesting uses has been a challenge. While some material could be found at most shows which would fit this exhibit, finding the breadth of material shown here would be difficult to achieve.

Resources:

Chung, Andrew, Machum, Harry W.E., Narbonne, Roger F. **Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era in Canada 1952-2002**. Volumes 1 and 2.

Dickinson Gary. **Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1977**. BNAPS Publication.

Dickinson Gary. **Collecting First Day Covers of Canada**. BNAPS Publication.

Elizabethan II Study Group - <http://adminware.ca/esg/>

First Impressions. Newsletter of the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group.

Smith Robert C. and Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S. **Canada: Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1870 - 1999**. The Press for Philately, 2002.