


SYNOPSIS

Title: THE ½¢ QUEBEC TRICENTENARY - CANADA'S LAST ½¢ STAMP

Purpose: The exhibit illustrates the last ½¢ stamp issued by Canada Post as part of the Quebec Tercentenary Issue. This 1 frame exhibit has been assembled during the last 7 years. The special issue of postage stamps, known as the Quebec Tercentenary Series, was introduced as a feature of the celebration in July 1908. The demand for the new stamps was extraordinary, due to the historic festivities surrounding the founding of Quebec and by October 1908, the whole Tercentenary stamp series was sold out. It is this series that contained Canada's last ½¢ stamp.

Plan: The prologue, Section 1.0 illustrates the ½¢ stamps that preceded the Tercentenary ½¢ stamp. These include the ½¢ Victoria's: Large Queen, Small Queen, Maple Leaf & Numerical, as well as the ½¢ Jubilee. The exhibit also illustrates the Tercentenary stamp series on a philatelic cover franked with all of the stamps in the series as well as the envelope in which the stamps could be purchased from the general post office, Section 2.0.

The introduction of the stamp is illustrated with a block of 4 and imperforate pair Section 3.0. Important elements of the exhibit feature the ½¢ stamp and several die proofs, Section 3.1.. The display describes the design and production of the ½¢ stamp. The ½¢ Tercentenary is a dark brown image, of the Prince and Princess of Wales, printed from a single plate. The stamp series was printed on the usual white wove paper and were perforated 12.

This exhibit presents the left pane of 50, ½¢ stamps, a large and small die proof of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the major re-entry-#44, Section 4.0. As well domestic, foreign, and commemorative postal usages of the ½¢ stamp including registered mail along with other stamps in the Quebec Tercentenary Series. The die proofs and other scarce and/or important elements are identified with a crown. 

Usages: Domestic use is illustrated with late in period commemorative covers of the ½¢ boxholder and householder rates of 1940 and 1951. As well, domestic and USA letters and post cards are illustrated, franked only with the ½¢ Tercentenary stamp section 5.3.

Foreign mail to the USA and British Empire featuring the ½¢ and other stamps of the Tercentenary series are illustrated in Sections 5.4.1 & 5.4.2.

Postal rates for post card and letters along with postmarks are also identified for this period.

Observations: Large quantities of the ½¢ value were bought up by people who imagined it would be as rare as the corresponding value of the Jubilee stamps. However, two million Tercentenary ½¢ stamps were issued versus only 150,000 ½¢ Jubilee stamp, therefore the expected rarity and increase in value did not occur. Once

it was determined that the ½¢ stamp would not increase in value similarly to the ½¢ Jubilee stamp, many post cards and letters were festooned with ½¢ Tercentenary stamps to pay for domestic and international postage.

Importance: A number of items in the exhibit are identified as rare and important in the production and uses of the ½¢ Tercentenary Stamp. The exhibit uses Arial font to describe the elements on each page. Additional information is also provided in Arial font italics which is not specific to a featured element.

References: Much of the fact-finding for the exhibit was done by visiting online web sites and consultation with colleagues within the exhibitor's club. References (cited below) assisted in the preparation of the description and history of the ½¢ Tercentenary Stamp.

- <https://www.ottawaphilatelicsociety.org/resources/articles/king-edward-vii-issue-of-canada-1>
- The Project Gutenberg EBook of The Stamps of Canada, by Bertram Poole
- Canadian Philately – An Outline: A Summary of Collecting Areas and Interests of British North America Collectors http://www.bcphilatelic.org/pdf/BNAPS_BOOKLET.pdf
- Canadian Military History, Volume 8, Number 2, Spring 1999, p .53-58. The Quebec Tercentenary, 1908 Canada's First National Military Pageant, by Mark Reid