

## **Synopsis**

### **Canada 1949-1951 Definitive Issue**

#### An exhibit of issues, rates, and usages

#### **Purpose**

This exhibit illustrates the 1949-1951 King George VI issue of Canada from the period November 15 1949 to April 30 1953. Known as *Postes-Postage* issue, the exhibit shows stamps “with” and “without” *Postes-Postage* printed.

#### **Background**

Following the World War II, Canada wanted to return to an image of King George VI in civilian clothing for its stamps. These were planned for release on June 16, 1949 to honour the King’s birthday; however it was felt that the words *Postes-Postage* should be included to reflect Canada’s bilingual nature. The stamps had been printed “without” these words, as it was thought it would simplify the design. A new series was prepared “with” the words included and released on November 15, 1949 – known as the “revised design”. It was then announced that since a number of the original “unrevised” design had been printed they would be released for sale in January 1950. Colour changes in keeping with the requirements of the UPU were issued in 1951. Only the 2c and 4c were issued. Plans were laid to release new colours of other denominations but the death of the King on February 6, 1952 put an end to those plans. The effective last day of this issue is April 30 1953 since definitive stamps depicting Queen Elizabeth II were issued on May 1 1953.

#### **Exhibit Plan**

The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Frame 1: Pre-production and production material, Regular Issue 1¢ to 4¢ plates, varieties and single usage
- Frame 2: Regular Issue 4¢ to 5¢ plates, varieties and single usage; Booklets; Coils
- Frame 3: Officials; Precancels; Surface Rates - Domestic 1st Class
- Frame 4: Surface Rates - Domestic; International
- Frame 5: Air Mail Rates - Domestic; International

The exhibit introduces this issue and includes the revised and unrevised design and colour changes. The Plate blocks show the reason and use of plate control numbers. Each denomination of stamp is then followed by examples of use. Stamp booklets, coils, official, and precancels are discussed. Rates and usages of both surface and air mail are given to illustrate the extent of coverage.

#### **Observations**

Many exhibitors have exhibited the releases of these issues as narrow windows for with *Postes-Postage*, since the without *Postes-Postage* was released only a few months later; however, when considering the release dates of various plates, the “with” *Postes-Postage* stamps are easily shown to extend throughout the complete study period, including the release the colour revisions, and of new plates released after the King’s death in February 1952.

#### **Items of Impact in the Exhibit**

Only a small number of sheets of the 4c revised colour change Plate 6 were printed before the plate broke (BNA 1955). Covers are common in the domestic and United States material. Rates to foreign destinations are abundant however this issue is more commonly found as a make-up to an airmail rate rather than a surface rate to foreign destinations.

Ellwood (2006) and Godfrey (2006) discussed the 4c revised colour change and could not find any stamps or covers cancelled prior to August 30 1951 even though this stamp was issued on July 25, 1951 (LAC 2016; Unitrade 2021). This exhibit shows an Aug 15 1951 cancel on this stamp (red border). A dramatic ink smear is shown also for this stamp in a block of 8 (red border).

Die proofs of this series are available, however in limited quantity. The black and blue 5¢ die proofs are shown – one of six documented copies of this type. Acknowledgement of Receipt cards are known to be used but are rarely seen.

Other items of significance are indicated with a red dot.

### **Philatelic References**

Ellwood, Andy, *1951 Definitive Issue Dates in Question*, in King George VI Post & Mail, BNAPS King George VI Study Group Newsletter, S, Prest ed.; January – April 2006 Issue 8 pg 1

Godfrey, Eldon, *The 1951 4c Orange* in King George VI Post & Mail, BNAPS King George VI Study Group Newsletter, S, Prest ed.; September - December 2006 Issue 10 pg 9

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) Collections: Stamps and Stamp Products. <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Home/Search> accessed May 20023

Smith, Robert C. and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, Canada – Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees 1870 – 1999; The Press for Philately, Snow Camp North Carolina, 2002

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, 2021 Edition; Robin Harris, ed.; Unitrade Press, Toronto, ON

BNA Topics various:

Vol 6 No. 60 pg 119, June 1949;

Vol 6 No. 63 pg 206, November 1949 The Plate Six Stamped

Vol 112 No. 125, pg 173-174, Jun 1955