



CANADIAN REVENUE NEWSLETTER

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Canadian Revenues, Volume Five: The Atlantic Provinces

(Includes Provincial Amusement and Sales Tax Tickets)

by Edward Zaluski

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Provincial Tobacco Tax Colours on Federal Excise Stamps (2)

As of April 1st, 2012, Québec added their official tobacco tax colour to the Federal excise stamps affixed to tobacco products that require coloured provincial markings. The new stamps are blue and marked 'QC'. A three month transition period, in which either the new stamps or the old coloured tear-tape could be used, ends July 1st, 2012, for the following tobacco products:

- Cigarettes (including pre-portioned tobacco sticks)
- Fine Cut Tobacco (shredded tobacco for cigarettes)

Unlike the other provinces (CRN № 76, p. 4), Québec will also require the use of its stamp on cigars. This will be mandatory as of October 1st.

Other tobacco products, such as raw leaf, pipe (coarse-cut), snuff and chewing tobacco, sold within the Province will continue to stamped with peach-coloured 'Canada' excise stamps. – C.D. Ryan

Reference

- - Revenu Québec. *Identification of Tobacco Products*. www.revenuquebec.ca/en/entreprise/taxes/tabac/identification-produits.aspx (29 June 2012)

Alberta Hunting Stamps Verification Project Details on page 10.

Red Weights & Measures Stamp (Continued from page 2.)

Principal Sources of Stamps and Stamp Images

- - Stock of E.S.J. van Dam Ltd.
- - Collection of Fritz Angst.
- - *ReveNews* and Auctions Catalogues of E.S.J. van Dam Ltd.
- - Catalogues of Robert A Lee Auctions.
- - *Canadian Revenues*, Vol. 2, First Edition, 1989, by Edward Zaluski
- - Photocopies enclosed by Harry W. Lussey with the First Series of *Canadian Revenue Newsletter* (Bill Rockett, Editor).
- - Article by Harry W. Lussey in *BNA Topics*, July-August 1986, Vol. 43, № 4, pp. 37-39, entitled "The Mysteries of the 'Crown' Weights & Measures: Part 2 – The Red No-Denomination Stamp."
- - *Canadian Revenue Newsletter*, № 8, p. 2; № 10, p. 2; № 76, p. 5.

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British Columbia Angling Stamps: A Revision

Clayton Rubec

The current catalogue listing (van Dam 2009) of British Columbia federal and provincial angling revenue stamps requires revision. This article is based on a more detailed discussion in my book (Rubec 2011) as well as on research facilitated by the British Columbia Ministry of Natural Resources in Victoria and by several colleagues listed at the end of the text.

British Columbia Pacific Salmon Conservation Angling Stamps

It was first pointed out by Zaluski (1994) that some of the British Columbia Chinook Salmon Conservation Stamps are incorrectly identified in catalogue listings. Only the five **non-tidal** salmon stamps listed in van Dam (2009) (BCF1b, BCF2b, BCF3b, BCF4b and BCF5b, issued from 1989 to 1993) are properly identified as provincial fisheries licence stamps for use in inland waters (this is discussed further below). All other stamps in this group (BCF1 to BCF23) should be listed as federal stamps used to validate tidal waters salmon fishing licences issued by the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The 1990 provincial non-tidal salmon stamp (van Dam BCF2b) is shown below in Figure 1.

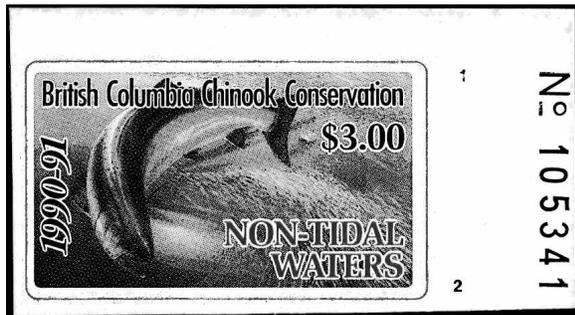


Figure 1: 1990 BC Non-Tidal Chinook Salmon Conservation Stamp.

The confusion in some listings however is quite understandable. This series of Pacific waters fishing stamps, starting in 1989 and continuing through 2012, was initiated as a joint project by the federal and provincial governments and the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF). Its primary objectives were to validate fishing licences and to raise funds for salmon conservation management projects.

All of the stamps since 1989 have been based on a common annual art design contest, and up to 1993 the same printers and a common format of production and distribution were used each year. In 1994, the need for a provincial non-tidal salmon stamp was superseded by new provincial fisheries management regulations. The project since then has been a fully federal DFO-PSF initiative. From 1989 to early 2010, the PSF also had been selling the left over federal and provincial stamp stocks to philatelists for all years as an additional fund-raising tool. Regrettably, this is no longer the case.

What is also interesting is the recent identification of two federal *Chinook Salmon Licence Validation Stamps* that predate the 1989 program. However, they appear to have been strictly licence tags, not having a conservation element. Figure 2 shows both the yellow and the pink-red versions of this 1988 stamp. A 1988 federal *Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence* used only in British Columbia waters is illustrated in Figure 3. This example has one yellow stamp attached.

I have recently been provided with a copy of a second example of a 1988 licence issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, but this one has two light pink-red stamps attached (courtesy of **Dale Stover**). It is speculated that the two stamps are indicative of a "doubled-up" licence valid for 20 fish. The two licences that I have seen are otherwise identical.

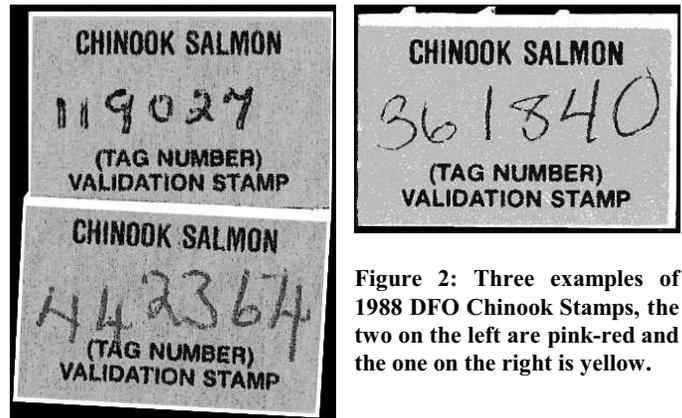


Figure 2: Three examples of 1988 DFO Chinook Stamps, the two on the left are pink-red and the one on the right is yellow.

Fisheries & Oceans TIDAL WATER SPORT FISHING LICENCE	Pêches & Océans PERMIS DE PECHE SPORTIVE DANS LES EAUX A MAREE	
Agency #/Agence # 2025		
Valid from/Valide du 98 07 30		
For the period of April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989 Pour la période du 1er avril 1988 au 31 mars 1989		
RESIDENT OF CANADA / RESIDENT DU CANADA		
Family name/Nom de famille	Senior annual/Senior annuel \$ 5.00	
Given Name/Prénom	Adult annual/Adulte annuel \$10.00	
Street Address/numero, rue	Adult 1 day/Adulte 1 jour \$ 3.50	
City/Ville	Juvenile annual/Juvenile annuel Free	
Province/Province/State	NON RESIDENT OF CANADA	
Country/pays Zip/Postal Code/Code Postal	Annual \$35.00	
Telephone	5 day \$17.50	
Birthdate/Anniversaire	4 day \$14.00	
	3 day \$10.50	
	2 day \$ 7.00	
	1 day \$ 3.50	
	Juvenile annual Free	
Signature of Licence Holder	SENIOR - 65 yrs & over/Senior 65 ans & plus JUVENILE - under 16 yrs/Juvenile moins de 16 ADULT - 16 yrs to 64 yrs/Adulte 16 a 64 ans	
RETAIN THIS LICENCE - return may be requested for statistical purposes. GARDER CE PERMIS - il peut être demandé à des fins statistiques.		
SALMON CATCH RECORD/ENREGISTREMENT DES PRISES DE SAUMONS Any Chinook Salmon kept by the licence holder shall be forthwith recorded on this licence. (See Regulation guide for map of Statistical areas) / Tous saumons Quinnet retenus par le détenteur de ce permis doit être immédiatement enregistrer sur ce permis. (Voir le guide des règlements pour les carte des régions statistiques.)		
STATISTICAL AREA	LOCATION/ENDROIT	CHINOOK CONSERVATION TAG
23	FRANKLIN R. 35	361340
23	Harbour	(TAG NUMBER) VALIDATION STAMP
		DATE #
		22/8/98 3
		29/8/98 4
		5
		6
		7
		8

Figure 3: 1988 green Federal Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence with one yellow Chinook Salmon Tag.

Discussions about the history of these stamps with retired DFO staff from British Columbia indicates they were used only in 1988, and were called the "Plastic Chinook Tag Management Tool." The objective behind the development of these tags was to assist in the enforcement

of daily and annual limits that were in place for sport-caught Chinook at that time. The theory behind this approach was similar to that in use for hunting of big game species in various provinces throughout Canada and states in the United States (i.e. you harvest your fish or animal and attach either a paper or plastic tag to it to validate that you had a licence for it).

In 1988, every person fishing for Chinook salmon (e.g. all recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fishers in both tidal and non-tidal British Columbia waters) was provided with plastic tags that they had to attach to all Chinook salmon that they caught. The tags were usually strung through the gills and out the mouth of the fish and then locked. Recreational salmon anglers were each provided with 10 plastic tags when they purchased their *Tidal Water (e.g. saltwater) Sport Fishing Licence*. In addition to the affixed tag, the fish also had to be recorded on their tidal water angling licences. Failure to do so could result in a person being charged with contravening the regulations.

The "Tag Number" shown on the 1988 Chinook stamps is the number that was imbedded on each plastic tag was issued to the angler when he/she purchased their angling licence. It appears that commercial and Aboriginal fishers could purchase additional clutches of 10 tags and thus stamps (e.g. 20 tags resulted in two stamps on the licence).

The Chinook plastic tag program only lasted one season due to the myriad of problems that this approach created, particularly in the commercial and Aboriginal chinook salmon fisheries. Retired staff of Fisheries and Oceans Canada feel that the program actually worked well in the recreational salmon fishery but the anglers were not really keen on it. After the 1988 season, a decision was made to abandon the program.

There are two varieties of the stamps related to the plastic tags: black type on yellow or red paper. Otherwise they look identical. However, there is no consensus on the actual meaning of these colours, with two

explanations offered:

- Some DFO staff recall that: (a) sport fishing (recreational) users got tags that were yellow, while (b) commercial and Aboriginal users got tags that were red; but...
- Others recall that: (a) the yellow tags were used for Chinook caught inside the Strait of Georgia, and (b) the red tags were used for Chinook caught outside the Strait of Georgia.

It is more likely the first idea is correct because, generally in North America, hunting and fishing licence validation tags have been more often linked to the *type* of user rather than *geographic location*.

British Columbia Provincial Angling Stamps

From 1987 to 1993, the Province of British Columbia issued paper angling licences requiring no stamps to fish except for six particular species in non-tidal waters:

- (a) Steelhead, (d) Shuswap Lake Char,
- (b) Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout, (e) Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout,
- (c) Sturgeon, (f) Non-Tidal Salmon.

The exact years in which provincial licences with these stickers were required for the six fish species are not clear yet. Stamps specifically for Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout and Shuswap Lake Char have not been recorded but stamps for the other four species have been seen and are described in Table 1 at the end of this article. Most of these stamps are identical in basic concept to the provincial hunting stamps used in British Columbia from 1987 to 2012 (see Rubec 2011). Some of these angling stickers are illustrated below in Figure 4. The five separate Non-Tidal Waters Chinook Salmon stamps discussed in the previous section are also found on provincial angling licences in this same period but for fewer years (1989 to 1993 only). An example of Angling and Chinook stamps on a full licence is shown in Figure 5 below.

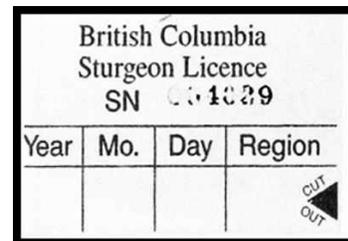
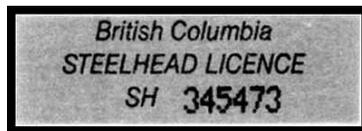
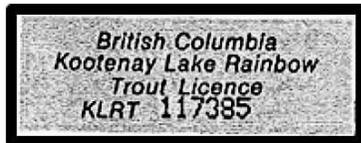


Figure 4: British Columbia Angling Stamps used 1987-1993.

Province of British Columbia
ANGLING LICENCE (ANNUAL)
 (Non Tidal Waters only)
 Licence Number: **A721006**

ISSUER CHECK (✓)
 RESIDENT
 RES. SENIOR CITIZEN
 NON RESIDENT (CDN)
 NON RESIDENT (ALIEN)

THE PERSON NAMED IN THIS LICENCE CERTIFIES BY HIS SIGNATURE BELOW THAT HE MEETS THE SPECIFIC RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS OF THE RESIDENCY CHECKED (✓) BY THE ISSUER OF THIS LICENCE.

SIGNATURE OF LICENCEE

PRINT - DO NOT WRITE LICENCE MUST BE CARRIED ON YOUR PERSON WHILE ANGLING

LAST NAME [Redacted] **FIRST NAME** **INITIAL**
 [Redacted] **Street** **NUMBER**
 [Redacted] **Fraser St.**
TOWN / CITY **PROVINCE / STATE / COUNTRY**
Abbotsford
POSTAL / ZIP CODE

ISSUE DATE
 92 / 4 / 1
 YEAR MONTH DAY

VALID TO
 93 / 03 / 31
 YEAR MONTH DAY

BIRTH DATE
 [Redacted]
 YEAR MONTH DAY

SEX **AGENCY CODE**
 M F **46**

LICENCE \$107
HABITAT CONS. FUND \$
FEDERAL GST \$
GST REG. NO. R107864738

SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES / STAMPS
 LICENCE \$ FED. GST \$
British Columbia STEELHEAD LICENCE SH 292171
British Columbia Conservation \$3.00 1992-98 NON-TIDAL WATERS

NON REFUNDABLE NON TRANSFERABLE
WARNING: AN ADDITIONAL (SUPPLEMENTARY) LICENCE IS REQUIRED FOR STEELHEAD ANGLING. FURTHER LICENCES MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED FOR OTHER SPECIES AND WATERS (DETAILS IN FRESHWATER FISHING REGULATIONS SYNOPSIS).

Figure 5: 1992 British Columbia Provincial Annual Angling Licence with Steelhead and Non-Tidal Chinook Conservation Stamps.

In 1994, the Province replaced all of these provincial angling stickers and the non-tidal salmon stamps with a single, annual *British Columbia Conservation Surcharge Stamp* (several versions are shown below in Figure 6). It is still in use. Anglers simply buy one of these stamps for each of the same six restricted species they wish to catch and add it to the general provincial angling licence (Figure 7 below). For cataloguing purposes, a listing of British Columbia angling stamps is proposed in Table 1. All are listed using a common “BCA” prefix to distinguish them from earlier listings. Styles listed are as discussed in Rubec (2011).

Summary

There have been at least 27 basic types of provincial angling stamps issued by the Province of British Columbia since 1982. Two additional federal Salmon licence validation stamps for 1988 are identified in this article. Existing catalogue listings of the provincial angling stamps of British Columbia are incomplete. Provincial conservation angling surcharge stamps are still in use.

A new catalogue listing is thus proposed here for the three types of provincial fishing stamps used in British Columbia:

- Recreational angling for restricted species, 1987-1993,
- Non-Tidal Chinook Salmon Conservation, 1989-1993, and,
- Conservation fishing surcharges, 1994-2012.

Separation of the federal tidal waters salmon issues from 1989 to 2012 is also required.

A wide variety of sizes, colours, printing varieties and licencing documents provides a rich environment to attract collectors of Canadian

revenue stamps. I invite correspondence with anyone with additional examples of the provincial British Columbia angling stamps (1987 to 1993), provincial Conservation Surcharge Stamps (1994 to 2012) and the 1988 federal Chinook Salmon stamps discussed here.

Acknowledgements

I must extend my thanks to **Patsy Twaddle** and **Audrey Fanthorpe** of the British Columbia Ministry of Natural Resources in Victoria, British Columbia; **Rod Silver** of Victoria, British Columbia; **Dale Stover** of East Moline, Illinois; the family of the late **Ian McTaggart-Cowan**; and **Erling van Dam** of Bridgenorth, Ontario for their assistance with the development of Rubec (2011) and my additional research for this article. New information on the 1988 federal Chinook Salmon Validation Stamps was provided to me by six former Fisheries and Oceans Canada employees: **Elmer Fast**, **Wayne Saito**, **Wilf Luedke**, **Gerry Kristianson**, **Brian Riddell** and **Jim Van Tine**, with the assistance of **Rod Silver**.

References

- - McTaggart-Cowan, I. 1987. *Some New Developments in Canadian Wildlife Revenue Stamps*. BNA Topics 44(6): 22-25, November/December 1987.
- - Rubec, C. 2011. *The Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Stamps of Canada*. BNAPS. Ancaster, Ontario. 436 pp.
- - van Dam, E.S.J. 2009. *British Columbia Fishing Stamps*. pp. 158-159 in *The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue Including Wildlife Conservation Stamps*. The Unitrade Press, Toronto, Ontario.
- - Zaluski, E. 1994. *Canadian Revenues, Volume: British Columbia and Yukon Revenue Stamps and Most Federal Franks, Seals and Labels*. Right Road Printing Ltd., Nepean, Ontario. pp. 46-48. Ottawa, Ontario



Figure 6: British Columbia Conservation Surcharge Stamps, 1995 (green), 1996 (green) and 2008 (red).

<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Angling		Fee	\$ 14.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eight Day Angling		HCF Surcharge	\$ 9.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual Angling		Sub Total	\$ 23.00
<input type="checkbox"/> B.C. Senior		GST	\$ 1.61
<input type="checkbox"/> B.C. Disabled		Total Payable	\$ 24.61
<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Licence		GST REG. NO. R107864738	
CONSERVATION SURCHARGES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Steelhead	<input type="checkbox"/> Shuswap Char		
<input type="checkbox"/> Non Tidal Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/> Shuswap Rainbow Trout		
<i>Conservation Surcharge Stamp</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Kootenay Rainbow Trout	Vendor Number 7167111		
ENV/L/P 0071 (03/95)			

Figure 7: 1995 Conservation Surcharge Stamp used for Non-Tidal Salmon on an annual British Columbia Provincial Fishing Licence (top half folded under).

Table 1: British Columbia Provincial Angling Licence Stamps 1987-2012:

A) British Columbia Angling Licence Stamps (1987-1993)

Proposed Catalogue №	Year(s) Seen	Species	Stamp Colour	Description	Size(s) (mm)	Style (after Rubec 2011)
BCA1	1992 1993	Steelhead	Blue	3 lines, 2 nd line upper/lower case 3.5mm unserifed control №, 6 digits, prefix "SH."	40x14 to 41x15	4
BCA1a	1991 1992 1993		Light Blue	3 lines, 2 nd line all upper case, 3.5 mm unserifed control №, 6 digits, prefix "SH."	42x13 to 45x13	3
BCA1b	1988			3 lines, top two are all unserifed caps 2 mm letters, control №, 6 digits, prefix "SH."	34x10	4
BCA2	1992 1993 1994	Sturgeon	Pink	5 lines, 3.0 mm serifed upper/ lower case, bold Roman control №, with prefix "SN", 6 digits.	45x23 to 47x29	5
BCA3	1988 1989 1990 1991	Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout	Green	4 lines, all lines narrow spacing, Control № 6 digits, prefix "KLRT." 3 rd line touches top of control no.	42x15	4

Other restricted fish species stamps may exist but have not been seen.

B) British Columbia Non-Tidal Waters Chinook Salmon Conservation Stamps (1989-1993)

Proposed Catalogue № [Existing van Dam (2009) Catalogue № in brackets]	Year(s) Seen	Colour	Description	Size (mm)
BCA4 (BCF1b)	1989	Multi-colour	Same design as federal Tidal and Junior Angler stamps of same years	51x29
BCA5 (BCF2b)	1990			
BCA6 (BCF3b)	1991			
BCA7 (BCF4b)	1992			
BCA8 (BCF5b)	1993			

C) British Columbia Conservation Surcharge Stamps for Restricted Fish Species (1994-2012)

Proposed Catalogue №	Year(s) Seen	Colour	Description	Size(s) (mm)
BCA 9	1994	Green	1 line, text only	48x9
BCA10	1995	Green	2 lines, text only; and 1 line, text only	35x9 also seen 48x9
BCA11	1996	Green	1 line, text only	44x9
BCA12	1997	Not seen		
BCA13	1998			
BCA14	1999			
BCA15	2000			
BCA16	2001		Light Blue	2 lines, text and control no.
BCA17	2002	Orange	2 lines, text and control no.	38x9
BCA18	2003	Green	2 lines, text and control no.	38x9
BCA19	2004	Mauve	2 lines, text and control no. (bold, widely spaced)	38x9
BCA20	2005	Dark Blue	2 lines, text and control no.	38x9
BCA21	2006	Brown	1 line, text only (example seen has no control no.)	38x9
BCA22	2007	Orange	2 lines, text and control no.	38x9
BCA23	2008	Red	2 lines, text and control no.	35x9
BCA24	2009	Red	2 lines, text and control no.	38x9
BCA25	2010	Not seen		
BCA26	2011			
BCA27	2012			

**The Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Stamps of Canada:
Errata and New Discoveries**

While my book has only been in print ten months, it has had the desired effect of ferreting out a great deal of new information on these neglected revenue and cinderella stamps. There have been some very nice reviews but nothing is ever perfect. Should you own a copy of this book, I would be happy to share an Errata (two pages) and New Discoveries text (three pages) with you. – rubec@rogers.com

Information Wanted:

Québec and New Brunswick Hunting Stamps

While I was preparing my book, I was surprised how little information I could find on Québec and New Brunswick hunting stamps. In the book, I illustrated four Québec hunting permit stamps but I have never seen one in person. Please contact me if you have hunting stamps from these provinces or information concerning their use – rubec@rogers.com

Cinderella Corner: George Shaw's Radio Stamps

Clayton Rubec

George M. Shaw was a young boy of 12 living on Saint George Street in Toronto in 1925. Like many boys and girls of his age, he had a fascination with the new technology of broadcast radio. His parents had given him a three-tube Westinghouse Regenerative Radio for Christmas in December 1924, so he avidly started listening to radio stations in his room at night from about 9 P.M. to midnight. Many of his friends also were hooked on the radio, often using crystal radio sets. At those hours, reception usually improved for far-away stations. I did the same thing in the 1960s at that age but with a beat-up plastic AM radio that my aunt left at our house.

In 1925, the interest of youngsters in radio listening coincided with the invention of Verified Reception Stamps by two companies based in Chicago, Illinois: the EKKO Company and the P.M. Bryant Company. Philatelists often turn their noses up at a lot of items based on what they see listed in catalogues, ignoring other material. Unfortunately, this means stamps such as the "radio" stamps collected by George Shaw are regarded as not worthy of a stamp collector's time. Like my book (Rubec 2011), this article discusses another neglected area of Canadian philately.

The EKKO Stamps

In the early days of radio, listeners like young George Shaw, were encouraged to identify the signal range of stations by their verification of radio show broadcasts. This was initiated during international radio reception tests conducted up to the 1926-1927 period.

The EKKO Company, based in the Harris Trust and Savings Bank Building, 111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois, developed an advertising gimmick for subscribing radio stations by issuing Verified Reception Stamps (Figures 1 and 2) starting in 1924. The stations purchased the stamps from the EKKO Company for distribution to their verified listeners. Listeners would submit the day, time and content of a station broadcast by mail to those radio stations along with ten cents and, in return, receive a letter with a Reception stamp.

Over several years, the EKKO Company published a listener's kit and a series of albums in both hardcover and paperback editions. Drummond (2011) notes that at least 18 editions of this album exist. This was the *EKKO Broadcasting Station Stamp Album* (Figure 3 overleaf) with pages for stamps, tables listing radio stations by city and a map of their locations. EKKO also offered to directly provide a stamp to a listener if a radio station was not participating in its project.



Figure 1: EKKO Verified Reception Stamp for Station WWAD in Pittsburgh, USA



Figure 2: EKKO Verified Reception Stamp for Station CNRA in Moncton, NB

The Eagle EKKO stamps for US stations (Figure 1) were produced by the American Bank Note Company Ltd. as high quality engraved issues. The Beaver stamps for Canadian stations (Figure 2) were produced by lithography. They are uniformly 25x40 mm in size with straight edges to the sheets. EKKO stamps were produced in a common format then overprinted with the words "Verified Reception Stamp" in capital letters under the call-sign of the station. The stamps come in a host of rich colours, with the set-up of stamps on the album's pages chosen to ensure a nice distribution of colours. American and Canadian EKKO stamps have been seen in many shades of purple, red, orange, light and dark blue, green, grey and yellow. The radio station call-sign was printed in black, red or dark blue on Canadian EKKO stamps. Participating stations in the EKKO scheme were located in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

Initially, 18 radio stations were involved but this number grew quickly to an estimated 844 radio stations between 1921 and 1929. Most American EKKO stamps have the eagle design (Figure 1) and most of the stamps for Canadian radio stations show the beaver (Figure 2). Some EKKO stamps exist with hand-stamped or hand-printed radio station letters instead of professionally printed letters. All of the EKKO stamps were perforated. Some EKKO issues are also known with "SPECIMEN" hand-stamps. As noted, the company promised any listener who was refused a stamp from a non-participating radio station that they could write EKKO in Chicago. They would get a custom made stamp, which may explain why some of these hand-stamped EKKO examples exist.

The company's list of stations in October 1924 comprised 55 Canadian stations, and none from other nations except for the USA. By February 1925, a similar list from EKKO listed 68 Canadian and many US stations, plus 35 more from Argentina, Cuba, France, Great Britain, Mexico, New Zealand, The Philippines, Australia and the US territories of Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

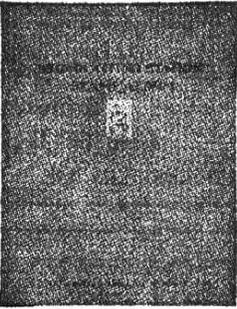
At least 83 Canadian radio stations with four-letter call signs starting with "CF--", "CH--", "CJ--", "CK--", "CM--", "CN--", and "CP--" had EKKO Verified Reception Stamps. EKKO stamps were also issued by a few Canadian radio stations with only three call-sign letters (such as "CKY" and "VAS") and by early amateur radio stations with numbers and letters in their call-signs (such as "10BP" and "10BQ"). Other three-letter radio station call-signs starting with "CM-", "CY-" or "CZ-" were Mexican radio stations. Two of those (CMC and CMX) were stations in Havana, Cuba that received EKKO radio stamps using the Canadian beaver design.

Some of these radio stations still are on the air across Canada. Various call-signs went off the air over time but reappeared years later in other cities, since the Government often reissued defunct call-signs with new broadcasting licences. A group of stations from "CNRA" through "CNRX" were connected to the Canadian National Railway, while the Canadian Pacific Railway only created one radio station (CPRY).

After 1925, the EKKO Company diluted the idea by distributing stamps directly to collectors for a fee, so they could "complete" their collections. This was likely in response to a competing scheme established by the P.M. Bryant Company (see below). The EKKO scheme pretty much died out by mid-1931. The Great Depression forced people to hang onto their dimes and improved radio technology reduced the interest in this short-lived fad. Today the stamps are highly sought after by radio enthusiasts but, curiously, not by philatelists.

In 1925, George Shaw was one of the collectors who put these stamps into an album that of course focussed primarily on the radio stations that had bought into the scheme. During the period of February to July 1925, George listened to radio stations all over Canada and the

Nov. 1924



**Have you
your
EKKO
Broadcasting Station
Stamp Album?**

Here's what every radio fan has wanted—a convenient, permanent and authentic means of recording all stations heard over your set. The Ekko Album contains spaces for a stamp from each of more than 650 stations. These stamps are verified and prove your reception of the station.

Proof of Reception cards are furnished with the album. Send the card to the station, together with ten cents, to cover cost of verification, give facts which prove you have heard their broadcasting. In return they send you their verified stamp as evidence of actual reception. The stamps are beautifully engraved in different colors, an individual stamp for every station showing the call letters.

The album is 9½ x 11 inches, handsomely bound in a two color cover. It contains 96 pages, with spaces for stamps of all recognized stations arranged alphabetically by states and call letters. Also an alphabetical list of the official names and other interesting features of stations, as well as a convenient log.

See your dealer today, get a copy of the Ekko Album and start a collection of these stamps. You will find this a new and fascinating method of verifying the stations you hear. If your dealer cannot supply you, sent direct on receipt of price. Money back if not satisfied.

Price \$1.75

THE EKKO COMPANY
111 West Monroe Street, Chicago

Figure 3: 1924 advertisement of the EKKO Company for their Verified Reception Stamps and Album.

United States. He also managed to tune into stations from Cuba and possibly Spain during his late night listening. One wonders what his mother thought of all this but we assume she tolerated the active young brain at work.

George likely acquired his radio kit from EKKO's Canadian distributor, Burnddept of Canada Ltd. (with offices in Montréal, Toronto and Winnipeg), who ran ads in newspapers (Figure 4 above). The kit included a 95-page hard-covered album, with 69 pages devoted to spaces for stamps from radio stations, 14 pages of radio station call-signs listing the city and wavelength of known stations, and a 10-page "Radio Log."

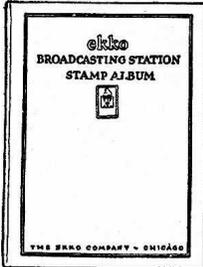
His EKKO kit also included a set of 10 "Proof of Reception Cards." George would mail off a Reception Card to each radio station with details of the broadcast that he had heard. Like his pals, he had to include a dime to request a radio stamp. The Reception Card included a slot for the dime and fold-over adhesive paper to help seal in the dime. In his Radio Log, George wrote down the date he heard the station and the date he received a stamp.

In the six-months George was listening, he recorded 140 stations and received a total of 128 stamps. A few stations not participating in the EKKO Company stamp project, returned his dime. He dutifully mounted the stamps in his album. He also cut out corners from the mailer envelopes from the radio stations that responded, attaching these scraps of paper with sewing pins to three fascinating pages.

Prove Your Long Distance Radio Records

*Don't let yourself be classed with anglers
—be able to prove what you say.*

The Ekko Album will prove you have heard every station you say you have heard—if you really heard it.



Start your collection of verified reception stamps, in your Ekko Broadcasting Station Stamp Album, to-day.

\$2.50 March 1925

EVERY ALBUM is complete with 20 proof-of-reception cards. Also map, station data, logging records, and spaces for stamps. Fill in details of the program heard on one of these cards. Mail it with ten cents to the station, and they will send you a verified reception stamp, and a new card, so you always have 20 cards on hand. Stations not yet in on the scheme will verify your reception, and, upon receiving proof of reception and the ten cents, we will send you the stamp for that station. However, practically every station of importance will send their stamp direct.

Get your Album from your local dealer. If he cannot supply, send \$2.50 direct to us mentioning his name, and we will mail your copy prepaid.

SOLE CANADIAN DISTRIBUTORS:

BURNDDEPT OF CANADA LIMITED
130 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Montreal TORONTO Winnipeg

Figure 4: 1925 advertisement of the Burnddept of Canada Ltd, Canadian distributor of EKKO stamps and albums.

The Bryant Stamps

The second company that issued "radio" stamps was the P.M. Bryant Company based at the Wrigley Building in Chicago, Illinois. Its stamps feature radio towers on the left and right sides of a world globe featuring the Western Hemisphere and "BRYANT RADIO" at the top. Examples are shown in Figures 5 and 6 below. They are a bit smaller than EKKO stamps, being 26x32 mm in size and come in a variety of rich colours such as olive green, purple, dark blue, blue-green, dark



Figure 5: Bryant Radio Stamp for Station CJCA in Edmonton, AB



Figure 6: Bryant Radio Stamp for Station CFCT in Victoria, BC

green, yellow, chest nut brown, orange and red. The words “Verified Reception Stamp” were omitted at the bottom, where only the radio station call-sign was added.

Unlike the EKKO scheme, collectors simply stuck Bryant stamps into their album if they heard a radio station (or even if they did not). The Bryant Company issued over 600 stamps for radio stations in Canada, the USA, Cuba, Mexico, England and the Philippines. Bryant sold their stamp albums from 1925 to 1927 for \$1.00 with a complete set of its own stamps. Their album was entitled *The Ideal Radio Stamp Album and Log*. Like the EKKO company, several editions of these albums exist. One such album (Bryant Company 1925) had a hard cover printed in blue and 44 black and white pages including spaces for 795 stamps from the USA, Canada, Cuba, Great Britain and Mexico. The back of the album included six pages of lists of radio stations by country and five pages for a Radio Log.

Discussion

Both the EKKO and Bryant companies had stopped selling stamps by 1931 but “new” finds seem to have been created into the 1950s and a few radio stations still had stock to give away into that period. Blank Bryant stamps were issued with the albums so that collectors could add stamps for stations licensed later. These turn up on eBay occasionally. While Bryant stamps are less common than EKKO issues and may command higher prices on eBay, all of these stamps are difficult to find. Drummond (2011) includes a rarity index for all listed stamps.

Some Canadian and US radio stations also issued their own stamps with designs not originating with either the EKKO or Bryant initiatives. Canadian examples include CKAC that produced a bilingual stamp printed by La Presse in Montreal (Figure 7) and one from CHNS in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The author is aware of nine “independent” Canadian radio reception verification stamps but more may exist.

In later years, non-participating radio stations in the United States used American Bank Note Company unfinished EKKO proof stamps that had been overprinted. These remainders of the EKKO stamps had been apparently sold off and continued to be overprinted privately in the United States (and likely for some Canadian users). This continued for many years after the two projects were terminated by the competing companies. Some of the later users of these stamps were actual radio stations but some were vendors just interested in just creating “new” collector versions.

Several larger (69x56 or 56x69 mm) stamps issued in the 1950s by radio stations CKY/CKX of Winnipeg and Brandon, Manitoba feature winter and summer recreational scenes. These items were inscribed “Manitoba Calling” and “Manitoba Telephone System” (MTS). However, these are not Verified Reception Stamps but promotional items for the MTS that owned these radio stations. One of these is illustrated in Figure 8.



Figure 7: Radio Stamp for Station CKAC in Montréal, QC



Figure 8: Promotional Stamp for Manitoba Stations CKY & CKX

Stamps for Canadian Stations

There are at least 89 Canadian EKKO stamps: 84 feature the Canadian beaver design and five feature the United States eagle design (Figure 9). There are also 87 Canadian Bryant stamps, and nine Canadian independent stamps. The Independent stamps come in a variety of sizes and perforations.

In total, there are at least 185† confirmed “radio” stamps from 83 Canadian radio stations. However, Drummond (2011) notes that there might be stamps from another 29 Canadian radio stations. These additional stations could have distributed EKKO and/or Bryant stamps but none of these items have been seen to date. After more than 80 years one might assume this would have occurred by now but who knows? At least 40 Canadian radio stations used stamps produced by both the EKKO and Bryant companies.



Figure 9: EKKO Verified Reception Stamp for Station CFKC in Thorold, ON. This station used a purple hand-stamp on a US eagle design.

Overall, the total number of Canadian Verified Reception Stamps may exceed 200 to 250 and a few forgeries probably exist. Numerous varieties in colour shades, printing, hand-stamped information, related documents and ephemera exist. In the USA, some of these stamps have been seen with perforation errors. Hence, these problems may exist on Canadian stamps too. These constitute an attractive range of things about these stamps that can help to build an interesting collection. Beyond Canada, the total of stamps from all countries involved with the EKKO and Bryant projects, plus independent stations, likely exceeds 1700.

Verified Reception Stamps have been observed for the following number of radio stations in 47 cities across Canada:

Brantford ON (3)	London ON (3)	St-Hyacinthe QC (1)
Burketon Station ON (1)	Moncton NB (1)	Saint John NB (2)
Burnaby BC (1)	Mont-Joli QC (1)	Saskatoon SK (4)
Calgary AB (9)	Montréal QC (6)	Scarford Station QC (1)
Charlottetown PEI (1)	Moose Jaw SK (1)	Sudbury ON (1)
Chatham ON (1)	Nanaimo BC (1)	Summerside PEI (1)
Edmonton AB (4)	Nelson BC (1)	Toronto ON (19)
Fleming SK (1)	New Westminster BC (1)	Thorold ON (1)
Fredericton NB (1)	Olds AB (1)	Unity SK (1)
Glace Bay NS (1)	Ottawa ON (4)	Vancouver BC (9)
Halifax NS (2)	Prescott ON (1)	Victoria BC (3)
Hamilton ON (4)	Preston ON (1)	Windsor ON (1)
Iroquois Falls ON (1)	Québec QC (4)	Wingham ON (1)
King City ON (1)	Red Deer AB (1)	Winnipeg MB (2)
Kingston ON (2)	Regina SK (4)	Yorkton SK (1).
Kitchener ON (1)	St. Catharines ON (1)	

No verified reception stamps from radio stations in Newfoundland are known despite the fact that at least five radio stations aimed at the listening public came on the air here between 1924 and 1932.

Final Notes

These unusual stamps served a legitimate promotional use but were not government-issued. The EKKO stamps initially were a direct revenue-generating scheme as stamps were sold to radio stations. Both EKKO and Bryant stamps were also sold directly to individual collectors through the companies’ offices in Chicago.

All known (185)† and other possible Canadian “radio” stamps are based on my correspondence with several stamp dealers, publications such as Lucier (undated) and Drummond (2011), and various eBay articles. Colours cited to describe these stamps are sometimes a bit difficult to verify as I was looking at scans and photocopies. Thus, some stamps noted as “orange” but might be closer to “red”. Similarly, colours such as olive-green, grey and light brown are difficult to correctly distinguish unless the stamp is in front of you. Colour variations may be due to variations between different printings. Many stamps with “SPECIMEN” and call-sign hand-stamps would be easy to create, thus some of these must be considered suspect.

There is a wide interest in all things radio with many regular postal issues commemorating radio broadcasting. Some national governments have also required the purchase of special revenue stamps to validate licences to operate a radio. This short look at Verified Reception Stamps illustrates that collecting them can be a challenging field for stamp collectors. It certainly was for a young Toronto lad named George M. Shaw in 1925. The scope of the Canadian material is smaller than that for the United States. There are also a few EKKO and Bryant stamps from other countries. For the Canadian material, it is possible to consider creation of a basic collection of all varieties in a reasonable period. An 11-page list of known and possible Canadian Verified Reception Stamps can be obtained by me by email:

rubec@rogers.com.

Acknowledgements

The Author thanks **Robert Lucier** of Orford, New Hampshire, **Erling van Dam** of Bridgenorth, Ontario and **James Drummond** of Porter Ranch, California for their direct or indirect assistance in acquiring research material for this article.

Addendum

† Since submission of this article, an excellent publication has appeared: *Field Guide to the Cinderella Stamps of Canada*, by Ronald G. Lafrenière (2012), published by Bird Bear Press, Verdun, Québec. The book includes sections on Canadian EKKO and Bryant stamps. Correspondence with Mr. Lafrenière has revealed several additional colour varieties of the Canadian Bryant stamps. These increase the total number of distinct verified reception and other “radio” stamps to 190. More likely exist!

References

The author acknowledges drawing on the following excellent publications and web-articles to prepare this article:

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- - Unknown Author. 1924. *Stamp Collecting is Latest of Fads: Stations to Give Stamps as Proof of Hearing*. News clipping, October 18, 1924. Unknown Toronto newspaper.
- - Unknown Author. Undated. *Early Canadian Radio Station List*. <http://jeff560.tripod.com/canada.html>.

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Alberta Hunting Stamps Verification Project

It has long been recognized that the existing extensive listings of Alberta Hunting stamps (in **Erling van Dam's** and **Ed Zaluski's** publications) are in some cases incomplete, in error, or in need of clarification. I and several colleagues have initiated a project to attempt a revision of the Alberta list but we need a bit of help. We will add unlisted stamps, delete non-existent stamps, edit descriptions and edit fee values assigned to the stamps. Alberta licences that exist only in a stampless card format will be extracted and listed separately. To support the existence of these Alberta stamps, I am building a digital image library of them. I have about 400 stamps as colour images so far. All *CRN* readers possessing Alberta Hunting or Resource Development stamps are invited to contact me and identify holdings that might fit the following:

Special, Non-Resident Canadian or Non-Resident Alien stamps, any year, 1964-1997.

- 1- Any stamp you think is not listed or is incorrectly listed in van Dam (2009).
- 2-Any stampless Alberta licences (usually in card format).
- 3-Any Youth Resource Development or Youth Hunting (such as Whitetail Deer, Elk or Mule Deer) stamps, any year.
- 4-Any Duplicate stamps.
- 5-Any printing errors.

If your description fits a blank, I will then ask you send me a digital scan by email or a colour photocopy by regular mail. I will happy to reimburse you for postage and copying costs. I will keep track and we will acknowledge all contributors to the project (unless you direct otherwise of course). Many thanks.

Clayton Rubec – rubec@rogers.com.