

## Interesting First Day Use

by Jane Sodero



Mailed from Toronto to Windsor, NS on February 18, 1955 without postage  
10c postage due paid upon arrival in Windsor and cancelled with a MOON  
GIVE FROM THE HEART TO ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL FUND slogan cancel  
used from February 3 – 27, 1955

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### Upcoming Shows

May 2-3, 2026	ORAPEX, Ottawa, ON
May 23-30, 2026	Boston 2026, Boston, MA
June 6-7, 2026	Salon du Timbre et du Vieux Papier de Québec, Québec, QC
June 12-14, 2026	Royal*2026*Royale, Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
Sept 17- 20, 2026	BNAPEX, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC

## Who are We?

We are the Elizabethan II Study Group under the auspices of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) — The Society for Canadian Philately.

Our journal, the *Corgi Times* is published six times a year.

We study all aspects of Canadian stamps during the Elizabethan-era — February 6, 1952 through September 8, 2022.

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## DUES

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## 50 Years Ago

March 1976

March 12 • 1976 Olympic Games, Place Ville Marie and Notre-Dame Church

March 12 • 1976 Olympic Games, Olympic Stadium and Velodrome



## Edmonton Spring National Awards

March 21-22, 2026

### Gold

David McLaughlin - Householder Mail in Canada 1889-1989

### Large Vermeil

Peter MacDonald - Canada's Centennial Year Christmas Issue  
*BNAPS John D. Arn White Queen Award*

### Large Silver

Dale Speirs - Postal History of The Calgary Winter Olympics  
*AAPE Jean Benninghoff Encouragement Award*

## From ORAPEX

2026 will mark the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ORAPEX, the Ottawa philatelic exhibition. ORAPEX is one of only a few national-level stamp shows held annually in Canada. Our show has two themes this year: "Aerophilately" and "Bytown" — the original name of Ottawa — which was founded in 1826, 200 years ago.

Saturday, May 2, 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday, May 3, 10 am - 4 pm

Nepean Sportsplex  
1701 Woodroffe Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K2G 1W2

The show features a wide range of competitive exhibits, society and study group meetings, and about 35 dealers from across Canada. Free admission and parking.

You'll find [more details on our new website](#).

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## Editor's Column

I hear that Spring is springing in some places but we have had a good amount of snow in the past few days in Halifax. Despite this, my mother's snowdrops are peeking through so the end of this very cold and snow filled winter in Nova Scotia must be close.

Show season has arrived with the Edmonton Spring National having taken place last weekend (see QEII era award winners on the previous page) and a good list of upcoming shows on the first page of this issue (page 35). There is no formal meeting scheduled for ORAPEX but your editor plans to be there so an informal meeting is possible.

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## BNAPS Virtual Exhibition and Conference, 31 January 2026

by Bob Elias

Thank you to those who prepared Elizabethan exhibits, those who gave presentations during our Show-and-Tell, and all who attended.

### Elizabethan Exhibits:

- 1) "The Canadian Centennial Coil Stamps 1967–1973: Some Production Varieties and Errors" by John A. Hall (1 frame, Gold).
- 2) "Variations in the Key of G" by David Biltek (1 frame, Silver).

### ESG Show-and-Tell:

- 1) Rob Lunn studies the Alouette II issue of 1966. His presentation focused on the challenge of finding and acquiring first-day covers and promotional material with French-language content.
- 2) Adri Veenstra illustrated Centennial coil stamps with tooth marks produced by vending machines in Niagara Falls and Hamilton. Andrew Chung remembered seeing such a machine in a department store in Hamilton.
- 3) Arnie Janson presented on several topics (see also his YouTube presentations):
  - a) Sinusoidal scratches on 8¢ Centennial coils.
  - b) 1994 Christmas stamps in unissued denominations (#1534ii, #1535ii) on a cover with cancellation date 24 December 1994.
  - c) 996 Christmas stamps (#1627as, date of issue 1 November 1996) on covers from two places in Quebec with an early cancellation date (23 October 1996). Arnie showed various other stamps cancelled on cover prior to their official date of issue.
  - d) Listed and unlisted varieties of the 1992–1998 Edible Berries definitives.
- 4) Jean Wang showed various items related to blood donor appointments dated 1960–1970 from Calgary, on postal stationery envelopes and cards as well as covers with postage stamps.
- 5) Gilles Morel compared stamps in the recalled and replacement booklets of the 2015 UNESCO World Heritage Sites issue, which have the incorrect ("Hoodooos") and correct Dinosaur Provincial Park images, respectively. He noticed a difference in the "CA" of CANADA.

## Canada Post Departmental Handstamps #29

by Gary Steele – previously published in *The Nova Scotia Post*, March 2026

This cover to Scott Base (New Zealand's Ross Dependency), Antarctica April 18, 1957 was sent to the Undeliverable Mail Office (UMO) from the Ottawa Post Office Registration Division (per handstamp) April 23. When the Ottawa UMO Return envelope was purchased, the original blueish cover was very fortunately inside (unfortunately no original correspondence included).

Scott Base still exists next to a small settlement called McMurdo Station. Plans for the station began in 1956 when the New Zealand Ministry of Works were given the task of designing the base for construction in 1957.

It appears that the addressee on the UMO Return envelope that William D. Christianson, from St. Catharines, ON was the original sender matching the St. Catharines barrel cancel. A notation to: D.L.O./No Such Address required the return of this original cover.

**OTTAWA, ONT.  
POST OFFICE.**

APR 23 1957

Registration Division.

Rectangle, 47x35mm  
No proof known.



As few people in the world knew of Scott Base, this letter bounced around between Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa eventually being handled on April 23, 1957 at the Registration Division in Ottawa, mailed out on the April 24. A full month later it shows up at the Toronto UMO on May 21 per circle handstamp No. 8 ERD of 2 known reports on the UMO Return envelope. The rare R Toronto U. M. O. registration handstamp No. 301 is also 1 of only 3 known and the ERD.

The end of this story is both having arrived at the St. Catherines PO on the May 22 with delivery of the blue cover back to the original writer.

Because the original cover was Registered it required the UMO to also return it by registered mail. A charge of 5 cents as indicated by the 4c and 1c postage dues. In this case it was not a requirement to charge for the 20c registration fee also.



## Canadian “Shortpaid for Air Conveyance” and three-bar jusqu’a markings in early 1954

by Robert J. Elias and John Aitken

When the Elizabethan II era began in 1952, unpaid or shortpaid air mail letters and post cards from Canada to international destinations (other than USA) were marked “T” at the despatching exchange office, with the amount of postage due expressed in centimes (1¢ = 3 centimes) [1, p. 112]. Figure 1 shows an example dated 21 November 1953, which was prepaid 60% of the required postage. In May 1954, the Post Office Department announced a change in this procedure [2, p. 9]. Air mail letters and post cards prepaid less than 75% of the required postage were to be sent by air from the office of origin to the despatching exchange office, but by surface beyond Canada. However, we have four covers indicating that the change in procedure was implemented earlier than the announcement. These covers were sent in early 1954 from eastern Canada to Europe (Figures 2–5). They are marked with text (Shortpaid for Air Conveyance. / Port insuffisant pour avion.) and with three-bar jusqu’a markings.



Figure 1 - Air mail post card sent on 21 November 1953 from Niagara Falls, ON, to Southern Rhodesia, prepaid 15¢ rather than the required 25¢ (i.e., 60% of required postage). Postage due was calculated as 10¢ deficiency × 2 = 20¢ × 3 = 60 centimes, marked as T 60 CENTIMES in Canada.

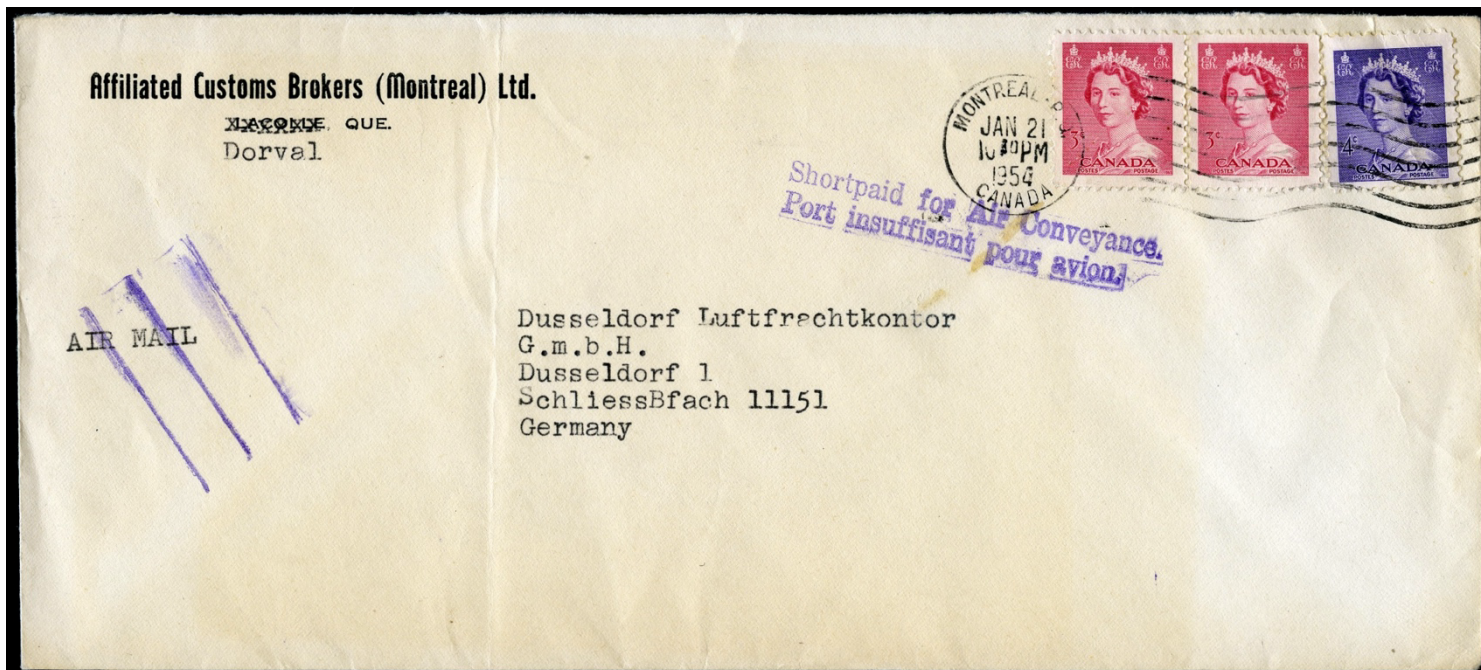


Figure 2 - Air mail letter sent on 21 January 1954 from Montreal, QC, to Germany, prepaid 10¢ rather than the required 15¢ per ½ ounce (i.e., prepaid 66% of required postage). Marked with text in purple, and jusqu'a marking in purple across AIR MAIL.



Figure 3 - Air mail post card sent on 16 February 1954 from Toronto, ON, to Sweden, prepaid 7¢ rather than the required 15¢ (i.e., prepaid 46% of required postage). Marked with text in red and green, and jusqu'a marking in green across By Air.



Figure 4 - Air mail letter sent on 18 February 1954 from Mouth of Jemseg, NB, to England, prepaid 10¢ rather than the required 15¢ per ½ ounce (i.e., prepaid 66% of required postage). Initially marked T 30c in Canada, for postage due calculated as 5¢ deficiency × 2 = 10¢ × 3 = 30 centimes. Subsequently marked with text in green, and jusqu'a markings in green across BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION label and voiding the postage due marking.



Figure 5 - Air mail letter sent on 19 April 1954 from Windsor, ON, to England, prepaid 18¢ rather than 30¢ for a presumably double-weight letter (2 × 15¢ per ½ ounce; i.e., prepaid 60% of required postage). Initially marked T in Canada, indicating postage due. Subsequently marked with text in black, and jusqu'a markings in black across VIA AIR MAIL and PAR AVION.

The text markings occur in purple, red, green, and black ink, but otherwise resemble one another closely (Figure 6). However, it is uncertain whether they were made using one or more than one device, or whether the covers were processed at one or more than one despatching exchange office. Figure 7 shows a comparable text marking in violet on a cover sent later in 1954. A backstamp in the same colour of ink suggests that the marking in this particular case was applied at Montreal, QC, which was a despatching exchange office for transatlantic mail [3, p. 10]. Unfortunately, the covers in Figures 2–5 lack such evidence. The particular combination of text and font used for the markings in Figures 2–7 has been dated to 1954 [4, p. 238], with examples also known from 1955 [5–7] and 1956 (Elias collection).



Figure 6 - Text on four international air mail covers prepaid less than 75% of the required postage, showing place and date of mailing (refer to Figures 2–5).



Figure 7 - Air mail letter sent on 9 November 1954 from Niagara Falls, ON, to England, prepaid 15¢ rather than 30¢ for a presumably double-weight letter (2 × 15¢ per ½ ounce; i.e., prepaid 50% of required postage). Marked with text, two-bar *jusqu'a* marking across BY AIR MAIL / PAR AVION label, and Montreal backstamp dated 16 November, all in violet.

*Jusqu'a* markings on the covers from early 1954 occur in purple, green, and black ink (Figure 8). They match the colour of text markings on the respective covers, although the cover from Toronto with both red and green text has only a green *jusqu'a* marking (Figure 3). *Jusqu'a* markings and text markings having the same colour of ink were presumably applied to a cover at the same time. Three types of *jusqu'a* markings can be distinguished (Figure 8). The first type (cover mailed 21 January 1954; Montreal, QC; purple) consists of three simple, thin bars. It resembles the illustration of an even earlier marking catalogued as CAN-C-3.3 (1953; Victoria, BC; black) [8]. The second type occurs in green on covers dated 16 and 18 February 1954 from Toronto, ON, and Mouth of Jemseg, NB, respectively. About midway along the length of the long bar on the right side, there is a distinct shorter bar to its left. This type resembles the illustration of a marking catalogued as CAN-C-3.4 (1954; Toronto; black, green) [8]. The third type of *jusqu'a* marking occurs in black on a cover dated 19 April 1954 from Windsor, ON. The bar on the left side has a small but distinct notch near the top. It is uncertain whether the three types of three-bar *jusqu'a* markings were made using different devices, or one or more devices that became damaged during usage. Various types of Canadian two-bar *jusqu'a* markings are known with dates of use “in the region of 1951–61” [9, p. 429; see also 8]. An example from late 1954 is shown in Figure 7.



Figure 8 - Jusqu'a markings on four international air mail covers prepaid less than 75% of the required postage, showing place and date of mailing (refer to Figures 2–5).

In conclusion, the Post Office Department announced in May 1954 that air mail letters and post cards to international destinations (other than USA), which were prepaid less than 75% of the required postage, were to be sent from Canada by surface means. However, that procedure had started prior to the official announcement. Our four examples, dated as early as 21 January 1954, are all marked with text (Shortpaid for Air Conveyance. / Port insuffisant pour avion.) and three-bar jusqu'a markings.

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