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Copies distributed: 113

John D. Arn White Queen Award

Congratulations to ESG member Larry Margetish for winning the ESG **John D. Arn White Queen Award** at ORAPEX 2019 for his 8-frame exhibit titled *Canada's Caricature and Landscape Issues*

Shown at right is Larry in front of the first frame of his exhibit. He has some very interesting items in his collection.



Details of this award can be found on our website:
www.adminware.ca/esg/whitequeen.htm

Vancouver Asahi: Variety

2019-2020 Dues are due by June 30
Please do **not** remit until you receive a notice that will be sent in the coming weeks. Read more details on page 83 of this issue.

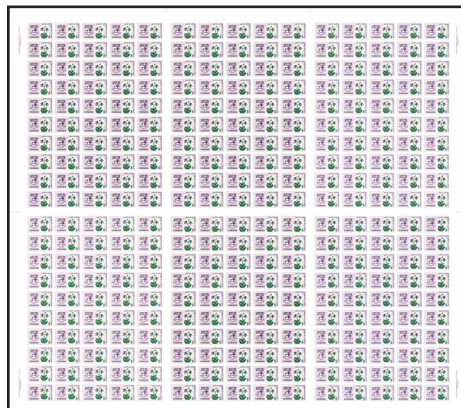
[The ESG 'year' ends June 30th]

Online stamp newsgroups have reported what appears to be a constant variety on the recently issued Vancouver Asahi stamp (April 25, 2019).

A lengthy horizontal blue line, extending to the left near the top of the baseball, can be found on the stamp immediately below the “colour dots” on the right hand panel of the booklet.



As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words...



Floral Uncut Press Sheets
See page 94



The Stamp Community Forum (stampcommunity.org) and Stampboards (stampboards.com) have both reported this variety. It seems the variety only appears in certain bundles of booklets, but it has been reported across Canada.

Thanks to Mark Wrobel for the image of the variety above. If any reader has seen this variety, your editor would like to know where you purchased the booklet.

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 6 times a year.

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Annual Dues

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If by cheque, please make cheques payable to "The Elizabethan II Study Group" and send to Derek Fleming, Treasurer at the address noted above.

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Canada Post News

Here is what Canada Post is up to these days...

► 2019 Commemorative Envelopes

The April–June 2019 | No. 4 *Details* notes that there are three recent commemorative envelope issues (a check on the Canada Post website shows that the first of these are no longer available!):

Fusiliers du St-Laurent 150th anniversary

Issue date: April 6, 2019

With the motto *J'y suis en garde* ("I am on guard"), the Fusiliers du St-Laurent, based in Rimouski, Quebec, have served with distinction in many Canadian operations, at home and abroad, since their founding on April 9, 1869.



Fusiliers Mont-Royal 150th anniversary

Issue date: April 26, 2019

The Fusiliers Mont-Royal call home Montréal's historic armoury on Pine Avenue. Founded on June 18, 1869, the regiment traces its heritage to earlier local militias. In 1879, it chose the motto, *Nunquam Retrorsum* ("Never backward").



Princess Louise Fusiliers 150th anniversary

Issue date: June 7, 2019

Based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Princess Louise Fusiliers were officially created on June 18, 1869. Not long after, the regiment was named in honour of Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, who was Canada's vice-regal consort at the time.



► D-Day 75th Anniversary

Well, the 75th Anniversary of D-Day has passed (June 6, 2019) **without** any commemoration by Canada Post. A huge oversight.

Corgi Times

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Study Group Business

❖ Welcome new members

(none to report)

Planning Calendar

This is a listing of major exhibitions and bourses with a large content of both Canadian Exhibits and Canadian dealers.

The goal is to list events far in advance to encourage either exhibiting or attendance and preferably both.

2019

BNAPEX 2019: Ottawa, ON, Aug 30–Sep 1

ESG Dues

The ESG “year” runs from July 1 through June 30 of the next year. That means that the 2019–20 dues are becoming due in just a couple of weeks. **Hold the horses!**

The ESG Executive has agreed that 2019–20 will be the *last year for paid dues*. Membership in subsequent years will be **free** to all for the electronic PDF distribution of the *Corgi Times* (with the same pre-requisite, like all BNAPS study groups, that one must be a member of BNAPS).

Please do not remit any dues until you receive a formal dues notice. Some members have already prepaid for next year — we do not want you ‘over paying’. Only those members whose membership runs out at June 30, 2019 will be charged a final renewal of just \$10 for the PDF *Corgi Times*. In subsequent years, the ‘dues’ renewal form will become a ‘I want to stay a free member of ESG’ renewal form.

Thanks Canada Post

by: Robin Harris

On May 3, 2019, just prior to the ORAPEX 2019 show in Ottawa, Canada Post hosted a tour of the Lowe-Martin printing plant to about 17 eager philatelists (see Leopold Beaudet’s report on page 85 of this issue). [Thanks to ESG member Doug Lingard for arranging this visit.]

At least six of the stamp collectors that took part in this tour are members of The Elizabethan II Study Group. We were like kids in a candy store ... and, like kids, we couldn’t touch anything! Our time with Canada Post and Lowe-Martin was nearly three hours, with a good portion of that on ‘the floor’. At the time of our visit we were able to see the *From Far and Wide* 2019 coils being printed and the upcoming July 24 “Bears” booklet issue being folded and packaged (and a sneak peek of the Bears uncut press sheet).



A special thanks to Jim Phillips, Director, Stamp Services, Canada Post for giving these collectors a look at the Lowe-Martin plant. It was fantastic.

While in Ottawa to give a couple of presentations at the ORAPEX show I took the opportunity to visit Library and Archives Canada and view selected press sheets ... looking for confirmation of certain constant plate varieties. A couple of these ‘reconstructed’ sheets are included in this issue, with more to come! There were some surprises on what was seen.

And a second thanks to Canada Post for the “Sweet Canada” stamp issue of April 17, 2019. My all-time favourite dessert, the Nanaimo bar (albeit an *odd-looking* one illustrated on the stamp), has now appeared on a Canadian stamp. My second-favourite dessert are my wife’s homemade butter tarts, which was another treat included in this stamp issue. (I should probably reverse that order of favourites, in case my wife reads this!)



Canada Post 2019 Stamp Program

Issue dates are subject to change by Canada Post. Shaded entries are changed/new from the last time we presented this list.

Issued	Description	Scott#
Jan 14	Queen Elizabeth II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 	3137
Jan 14	From Far and Wide (9 designs) [new definitive series] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 (5 designs) Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive coil of 100 (5 designs) Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive roll of 5,000 (5 designs) \$1.05, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.27, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.90, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$2.65, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.27, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$1.90, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$2.65, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$11.37 gummed souvenir sheet of 9 \$2.65 postal cards (one of each design) [set of 9 for \$21.20] 	3153–57 3144–48 3139–43 3149 3150 3151 3152 3158 3159 3160 3138
Jan 18	Year of the Pig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢) pane of 25 Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet pane of 10 \$2.65, self-adhesive booklet pane of 6 \$2.65 souvenir sheet \$2.65 (Pig) and \$2.50 (Dog) “transitional” souvenir sheet \$31.80 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets \$2.65 postal cards (one of each design) 	3161 3163 3164 3162 3162a
Jan 25	Black History Month: Albert Jackson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 	3165
Feb 14	Gardenia (2 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.80 gummed souvenir sheet of 2 	3169–70 3167–68 3166
Mar 27	Canadians in Flight (5 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 \$4.50 gummed special sheet of 5 	3172–76 3171
Apr 17	Sweet Canada (5 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 \$4.50 self-adhesive souvenir sheet of 5 	
Apr 25	Vancouver Asahi Baseball Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 	
May 23	Endangered Turtles (2 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 \$1.80 self-adhesive souvenir sheet of 2 	
Jun 17	Historic Covered Bridges (5 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent™ (90¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 \$4.50 gummed souvenir sheet of 5 \$2.65 postal cards (one of each design) 	
Jun	TBA	
Jul 24	Bears (4 designs)	

Latest Canada Post issue: Endangered Turtles



Articles Urgently Needed

Tour of the Lowe-Martin Printing Plant

by: Leopold Beaudet and Robin Harris

Introduction

On 3 May 2019, Lowe-Martin gave a group of about 20 philatelists a tour of the plant where it prints postage stamps. The two authors were part of the tour, which was organized by Doug Lingard through Canada Post in advance of ORAPEX 2019. Canada Post was represented by Jim Phillips, Elia Anoaia, Elizabeth Wong, and Tammy Poulin. The tour was given by Ian Hetherington from Lowe-Martin. This article describes the tour.



Figure 1. The group on the tour of the Lowe-Martin printing plant.

Preamble and Q&A

Before the tour, Jim Phillips, Director, Stamp Services, discussed Canada Post's stamp printing contracts and some of the challenges it and its printers have overcome.

Lowe-Martin printed the Millennium book that Canada Post published for the Year 2000 Millennium stamps. Ashton Potter printed the stamp sheets in the book as well as the separately issued miniature sheets of four. Lowe-Martin decided to expand to the stamp printing business, and was awarded its initial stamp contracts from Canada Post in 2002. The first stamps printed were:

- Tulips, issued 3 May 2002
- Corals, issued 19 May 2002
- Public Services International Congress, issued 4 Sept. 2002

Since its first foray 17 years ago, Lowe-Martin has enjoyed growing success, having printed many Canadian stamps and won stamp contracts from over 50 countries. It prints both gummed and self-adhesive stamps, produces first day covers, and prints personalized postage for several countries. It uses state-of-the-art lithographic



Figure 2. Some of the first stamps printed by Lowe-Martin in 2002.

printing processes, including 10-micron stochastic screening for colour shading, a Heidelberg ten-colour sheet-fed press for sheet and booklet stamps, and a seven-colour web-fed press for coils cut into rolls of up to 5,000 stamps.

Canada Post currently contracts with three stamp printers:

- Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN) of Ottawa
- Lowe-Martin of Ottawa
- Colour Innovations Inc. of Toronto

The printing of each stamp is subject to competitive tender, except:

- Coils – printed exclusively by Lowe-Martin because it has the only press capable of producing coils in the format required by Canada Post
- Engraved stamps – printed exclusively by CBN at its Ottawa printing plant because it has the engravers and an intaglio printing press

For the past seven or eight years, CBN has printed lithographic stamps through its division, CBN Commercial Solutions (formerly McAra Printing), in its Calgary printing plant.

Canada Post mandates that stamp paper for self-adhesive stamps have a water-soluble layer to make it easier for collectors to soak them off envelopes. Paper with this soluble layer is more expensive, but Canada Post mandates it for the benefit of stamp collectors.

Canada Post specifies that self-adhesive stamps be perforated rather than have straight edges. It favours perforations and the wavy line simulated perforations because:

- It makes the stamps look like stamps rather than labels
- It is a security feature because the perforations are much harder to reproduce than a straight-line kiss cut.

Lowe-Martin uses Tullis-Russell C-grade paper (hence the “C” to designate the paper in the inscription) for Canada Post stamps. Canada Post specifies optically dead paper so that its letter processing machines can detect the tagging against the dead background. Cheaper paper has optical brighteners in it. Optically dead paper is difficult to obtain because it is almost impossible to thoroughly clean the optical brightener chemicals from large vats of pulp with optical brighteners.

Tullis-Russell is a British company (website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tullis_Russell). It bought Coated Papers, a previous supplier of Canadian stamp paper, in 1989. Typical lead time for paper supplies is eight weeks. The paper requires 44% to 48% humidity. Once it arrives at the printing plant, it has to be acclimatized before being used. Lowe-Martin has humidifiers in the plant for climate control.

There are no Canadian manufacturers of stamp paper at the present time, and U.S. manufacturers are not interested in supplying the relatively small quantity of paper required to print Canadian postage stamps.

Canada Post has ongoing concerns about stamp counterfeiting. In its quarterly meetings with the stamp printers, the incorporation of new security features in stamp printing is always an agenda item. The printing on the back of self-adhesive stamps is one such security feature since it makes the stamps harder to counterfeit.



Figure 3. Repeating ‘Canada’ underprint.

Tour of the plant

Plate setting area

The first stop on the tour was the “plate setting area” (a computer workstation in an office) where stamp designs are processed to produce lithographic printing plates. Since the work is done on computers, the first step is to digitize the design to a resolution of 600 dpi or better. The stamp design may be retouched (to remove unwanted features, for example) and the colour corrected under the direction of the Canada Post Stamp Design Manager and the stamp designer. Variables that influence colour are the appearance of the stamp image on a computer screen, the stamp paper, and the printing process. The colour selected for the computer image has to factor in the downstream effects introduced by the paper, ink, and printing press.

The image is then separated into its constituent colours (black, cyan, magenta, and yellow for a four-colour stamp). Stochastic screening is applied to the image for each colour. This converts the image into a random array of dots, 10 microns in diameter, that provides the shading when printing by lithography. The more dots in a particular area, the stronger the colour in that area.

The image quality is so good that the faces of people in a group photo reproduced on a stamp can be recognized. Such images are examined closely to see what people are wearing and possibly obscure people's faces.



The black box on the stamp is the area shown in the bottom images.

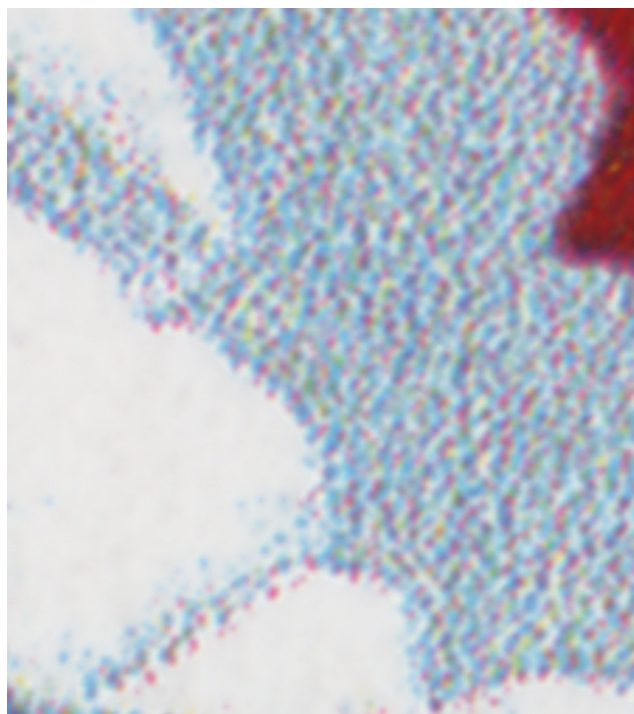
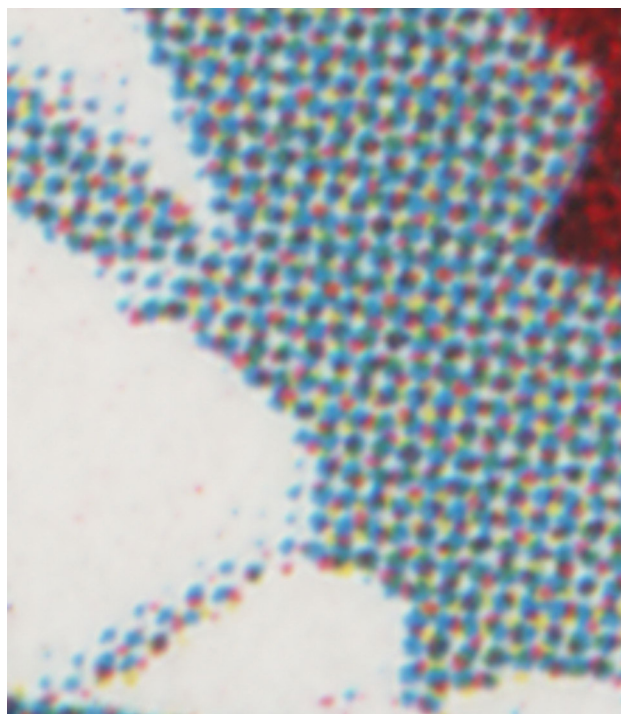


Figure 4. Comparison of half-tone screen (on the left) and stochastic screen (on the right) on the 1995 45¢ Flag definitive. The stamp with the half-tone screen was printed by Leigh-Mardon of Australia and the one with the stochastic screen was printed by CBN.

The screened image of each colour is used to produce the printing plate for that colour using direct computer-to-plate (CTP) technology. CTP technology was developed in the 1990s, and supplanted film-based technology. In both cases, the image to be printed is transferred to an aluminium plate with a light-sensitive emulsion coating. The key difference between the two methods is how the emulsion is exposed to the image.

For film-based technology, all the elements that appear on a plate (the multiple stamp images for a specific colour and the marginal markings) are reproduced on a film negative. A separate negative is produced for each colour. The film negative is exposed to the plate through a light source using a piece of equipment known as an imagesetter. The plate will pick up ink only in the areas where it is exposed to light (the clear areas on the film negative).

CTP technology eliminates the use of film. The plate image for each colour is produced on a computer. The image is transferred to a platesetter. The platesetter uses a laser to imprint the image onto the emulsion coating on the plate.

Lowe-Martin processes stamp images on a Macintosh computer running several commercial image editing programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. At the time of the tour, the press sheet for the Bears stamps to be issued on 24 July 2019 was displayed on a computer monitor to demonstrate some of the image processing work.

There are at least two pre-press milestones where Canada Post meets the printer to approve a new stamp before it goes into production. The first is the 1st Essay stage where the printer produces a one-up or more impressions of the stamp for review by Canada Post. If significant concerns are raised, an event that rarely occurs, there may be a 2nd Essay stage. The printer then produces a wet-trap proof that is typically the same size as the final plate for approval by Canada Post. Once approved, the stamp goes to production.

Heidelberg ten-colour sheet-fed press

Lowe-Martin has several offset lithographic printing presses. It uses a ten-colour Heidelberg Speedmaster sheet-fed press to print sheet and booklet stamps. Heidelberg is a German manufacturer of printing presses.

The plates for offset lithography are thin aluminum sheets (about 1/16" thick). A separate plate is required for each colour. The dark areas on the plate pick up the ink from the ink fountain. The plate transfers the ink to an intermediary roller or "blanket" that deposits it (prints it) on the sheet of paper, hence the term "offset lithography". The aluminium plates do not come into direct contact with the paper.

A lithographic plate can typically print 75,000 to 80,000 sheets. One set of plates is sufficient to print today's commemoratives since less than 80,000 sheets are printed. Definitives are typically printed four times per year. Because aluminum plates can be easily scratched or otherwise damaged, a new set of plates is prepared for each printing.

When a rate change occurs, Canada Post will issue a contract for very large quantities of definitives in advance of the rate change. In the period before the next rate change, Canada Post monitors its stock of definitives closely, and fine-tunes the number of stamps ordered so as not to have an oversupply of previous rate stamps when the rate change occurs. Canada Post may issue several small orders during this period depending upon supply and demand. Of course, this is less of a problem with the "P" stamps.

The phosphor tagging on stamps counts as a colour, and thus requires its own plate. The tagging on a stamp is nearly invisible, but the phosphor ink is white in ink containers. The ink formulation is proprietary and was developed especially for Canada Post.

An initial set-up is required for each new printing on the Heidelberg press to achieve colour registration and proper inking. Typically, this produces 500 to 1,000 waste sheets that are destroyed.

Lowe-Martin buys the ink it uses, but may mix inks to achieve a specific colour shade.

At the time of the tour, the press was being used for a commercial print job, not to print stamps. Not all ten colour units were in use.

Images of the printing press are available on the Heidelberg website:

- https://www.heidelberg.com/ca/en/products/press/sheetfed_offset/spedmaster_cd_102/product_information_10/product_information_15.jsp
- https://www.heidelberg.com/ca/en/products/press/sheetfed_offset/spedmaster_cd_102/downloads_17/downloads_10.jsp

Web-fed press for coils

Lowe-Martin prints coil stamps on a seven-colour narrow-web UV litho press. Lowe-Martin bought the 10-inch wide press specially to produce Canada Post coils. It holds better colour registration than wider format web presses.

At the time of the tour, a roll of the "From Far and Wide" 2019 definitive coil stamps was being printed. All seven colour units were in use: black, cyan, magenta, yellow, red (for the maple leaf icon on Permanent stamps), grey, and phosphor tagging. The tagging counts as a colour.

A large roll of paper is mounted at one end of the printing press. As the roll is unwound, the web of paper goes through several tension units before reaching the printing units. A critical part of the process is getting the tension right when the paper is being fed into the press.

The web of paper is adjusted forwards and backwards from one colour unit to the next to register for the next colour to be printed. A lamp between colour units dries the ink after printing. The registration is monitored through a large camera as the final colours are printed. A UV lamp mounted after the tagging unit allows the pressman to verify visually that the tagging has been printed. A large magnifying glass is also mounted above the roll at the end of the press. The pressman can move the magnifying glass back and forth along the width of the web to check the printing quality.

The web-fed press has a station at the end that kiss-cuts the stamps in the roll (that is, it produces the wavy-line “perforations” that separate the stamps and allow them to be lifted from the liner or backing paper. The kiss-cutting is produced by a platen “perforator”. On the platen perforator is affixed a thin plate on whose surface are ridges of metal that form the wavy line “perforations”. The height of the ridges is equal to the thickness of the stamp paper. The plate with the ridges can be used for about one million impressions. After kiss-cutting, the web is wound back into a roll.

The wavy line perforator for the coils is fixed on the press by hand, so the kiss cutting may be off by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. This is accepted as a tolerable printing variance, but some stamp collectors may view the offset as a variety. Care is taken with the design of coil stamps to minimize colour registration problems.

At the end of the printing press were two rolls that had passed through the press. One was a roll of coil stamps. Sticking out of the roll at various points were pieces of red paper. As the roll is being printed, a pressman inspects the stamps for printing anomalies. If an anomaly is spotted, the press is not stopped. Instead, the pressman places a piece of red paper on the roll where the anomaly occurred to flag that part of the web for removal in a subsequent processing step.

The second roll consisted of waste paper. On most coils of 50 or 100 stamps, there is no waste paper between adjacent stamps in the roll; however, on the rolls of 5,000 stamps intended for large-volume mailers and the roll of coils used to pay the rate to mail a single domestic letter (\$1.05 as of 14 January 2019), paper around the coil is removed to provide a leader for easy removal of each coil stamp from the liner. This waste paper is removed from the roll of coils by the press and wound into a second roll.



Figure 5. From Far and Wide coils printed by Lowe-Martin.



Figure 6. Coil strip (from roll of 5,000) with paper removed between the stamps to ease the removal of the stamps from the liner.

Finishing machine for booklet stamps

After sheets of stamps are printed on the Heidelberg press, they are kiss-cut on a different machine, and then taken to a booklet finishing machine. The finishing machine for booklet stamps cuts the sheet into individual booklets and folds them if they are issued in folded format.

An operator at the end of the machine gathers the booklets in bundles of 50, binds the booklets in each bundle with an elastic band, and puts the bundle on a skid.

At the time of the tour, booklets of the Bear stamps to be issued on 24 July were being produced.

Finishing machine for \$1.05 coils

The finishing machine cuts the large roll into individual rolls of 50 coil stamps.

Regular coil finishing machine

The large rolls of coils paying the “P” rate and the over-weight, U.S., and international rates are taken from the web-fed press and mounted on a finishing machine. The machine unwinds the roll and feeds the web through several units. Defective segments of the roll flagged by the pressman are removed. A unit on which are mounted ten inkjet cartridges

prints a number on the back of selected stamps in each roll of coils to indicate the number of the stamp in the issued roll of 50 or 100.

Other units slit the web into individual rolls with a ribbon of waste paper at each side of the web, apply a bit of glue to attach the coil to the cardboard tube found in the centre of each roll of 50/100 stamps, cut each roll into the issued rolls of 50/100 stamps, and apply a clear wrapper on which is printed a UPC label to the roll. The ribbon of waste paper is gathered at the end of the machine and destroyed. There is a UV lamp mounted on the machine to allow operators to verify again that the tagging was printed properly.

Ten finished rolls are pushed out into a trough that can hold at least 20 rolls. An operator manually places ten rolls, five at a time, into a cardboard box. To ensure that the correct number of rolls is in the box, each box is weighed after the rolls are put in. The difference in weight between nine and ten rolls is obvious.



Figure 8. Coils packaged in a cardboard box of ten rolls.

Ten of the small coil boxes are put into a second box. Four of these boxes are placed into a third box. The third box contains 400 rolls of coils. 56 of these boxes are stacked on a skid.

The coils are shipped to post office outlets in the small boxes of ten rolls.

Perforator

Lowe-Martin bought its perforating machine from German manufacturer WISTA GmbH (website: <https://www.wista.com/eng/startpage.php>). An operator manually places one to four sheets into the machine's feeder, ensuring that the sheets are positioned correctly with no skew. The machine feeds the sheets through the perforator and perforates them.

The machine perforates the stamps using a perforating die with rows of perforation pins mounted on it. The length of the die is limited by the length of the machine. The width varies depending upon the dimension of the stamps being perforated. Different perforating dies are required for different stamp sizes. One die can cost between \$25,000 and \$80,000.

At the time of the tour, the operator demonstrated the machine by perforating blank sheets of paper.

First day covers

Typically Canada Post contracts the stamp printer to produce the first day covers for the stamps it prints. Affixing the stamp(s) to the FDC envelope is a manual operation. At the time of the tour, two operators were affixing Picture Postage stamps to envelopes containing invitations to an event.



Figure 7. Coil strip with a number printed on the back.

The process for producing FDCs involves the following steps:

1. Print the FDC envelope design on sheets of paper. This is done on a multi-colour lithographic press.
2. Die cut the sheets into the shape of unfolded envelopes.
3. Fold the die-cut sheets into envelopes.
4. Manually affix the stamp(s) to the envelope.
5. Print the first day cancel. Lowe-Martin does this on a Heidelberg lithographic press (an older press, not the one used for stamp printing). The cancelling is not done using a traditional postmarking device.

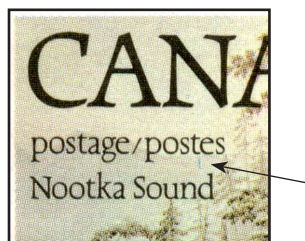


Figure 9. First day cover produced by Lowe-Martin for the Sunflower stamps issued on 3 March 2011. The cover illustrates the press used to print coil stamps.

Nootka Sound (Captain James Cook): Constant Variety

Jonathan Woensdregt of Weeda Stamps (weeda.com) passed along a newly discovered constant variety found on the Nootka Sound stamp (Scott 764), one of a se-tenant pair issued on April 26, 1978 to commemorate Captain James Cook.

He reports it as “a vertical blue stroke under the ‘t’ of ‘postes’, from position 19 (in the upper right corner inscription block). I have several copies but it is not found on every pane.”



Editor's note: I was able to find this variety on 5 used copies (including a used inscription block) out of about 320 examples.

1980 Christmas – Greeting Cards: Press Sheet

by: Robin Harris



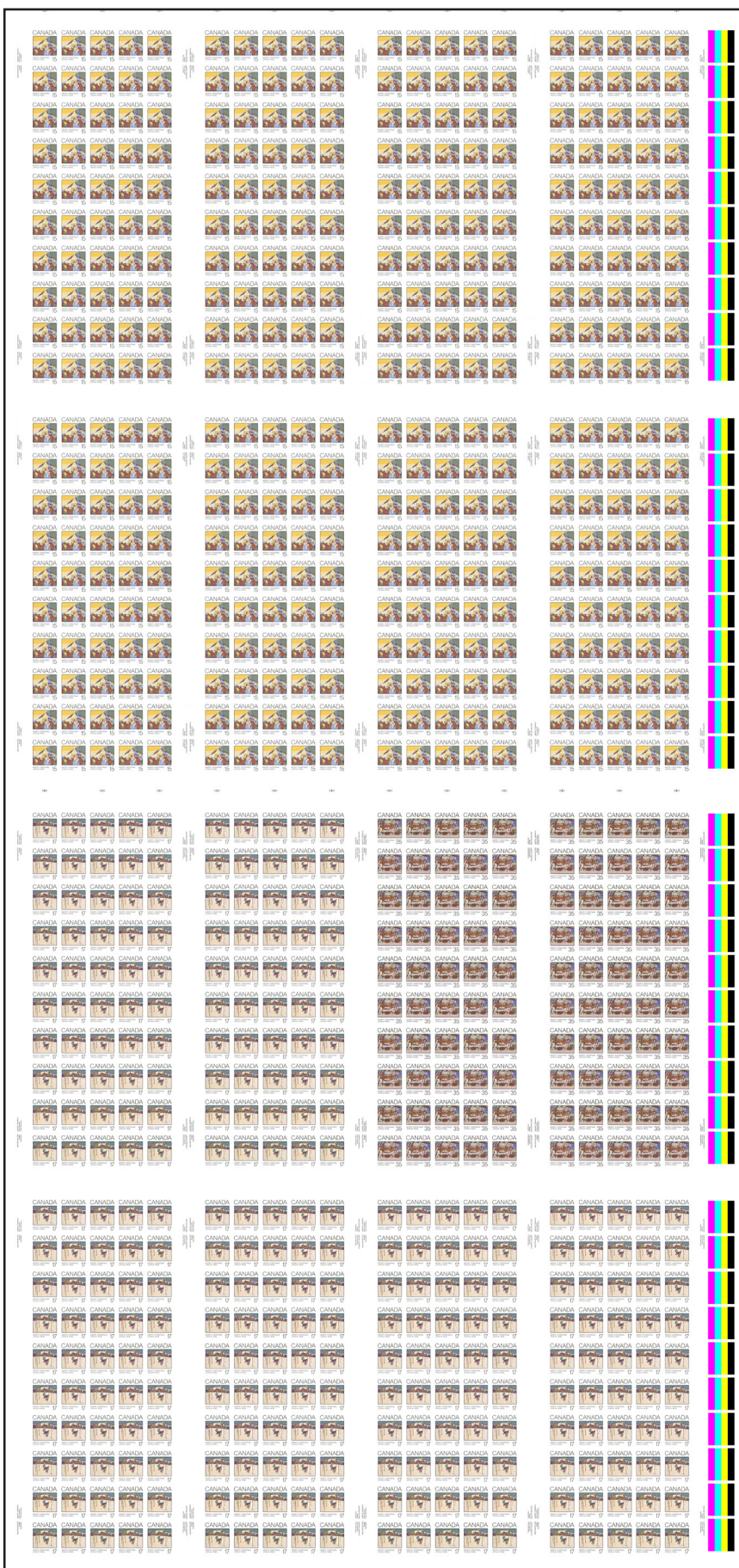
Illustrated is a digitally re-created press sheet of the 1980 Christmas stamps (Scott 870–872). This extremely large press sheet includes all three values on the same sheet.

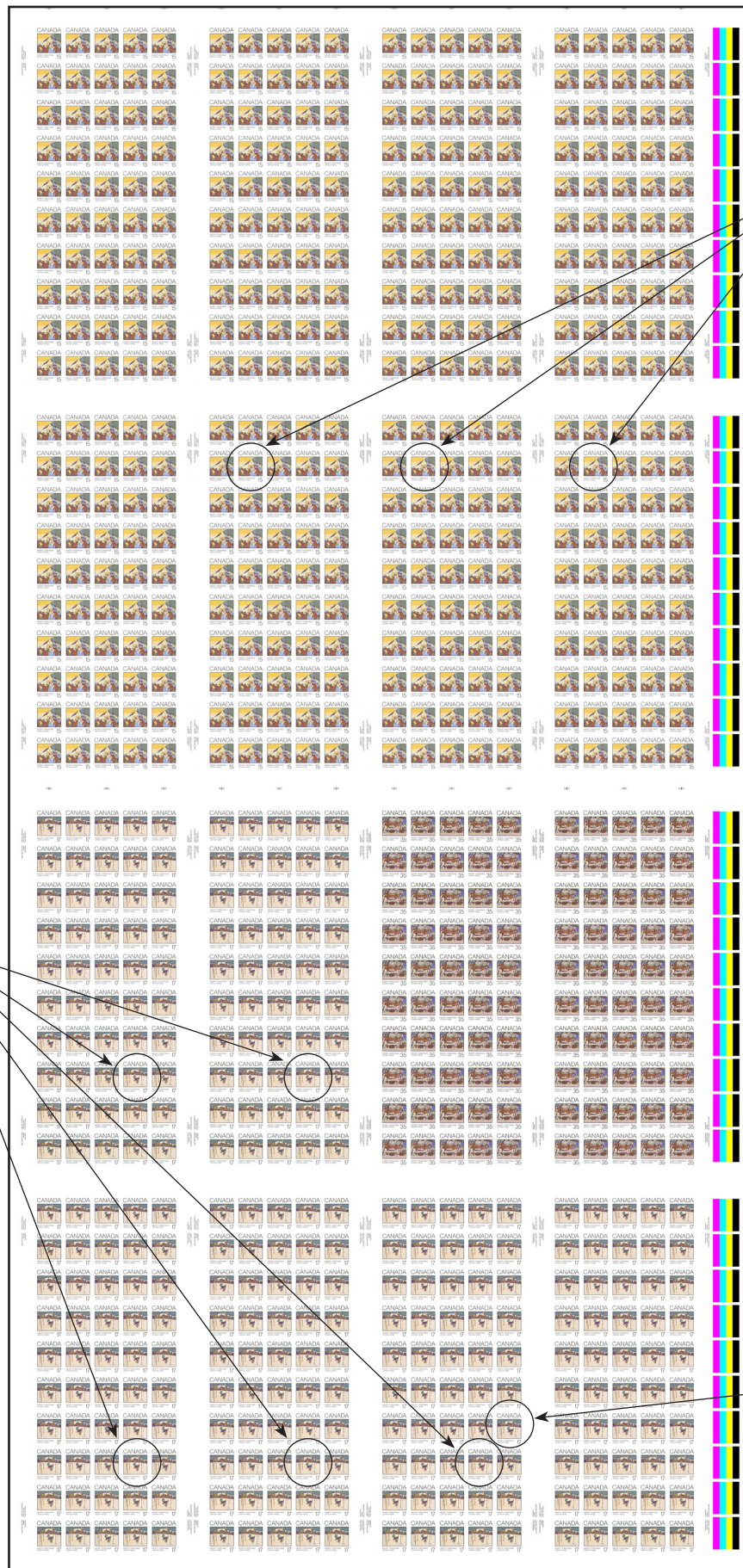
I viewed the original press sheet at the Library and Archives in Ottawa on May 2, 2019.

The size of the sheet is approximately 620mm x 1310mm (about 24½" x 51½").

The press sheet is comprised of 8 panes of the 15¢ value, 6 panes of the 17¢ value and 2 panes of the 35¢ value. It was quite a surprise to see all three values included on the one press sheet.

The purpose of requesting the press sheets of these three values was to confirm the plate positions of the Unitrade-listed varieties. A listing of these constant plate varieties are illustrated and 'positioned' on the following page.





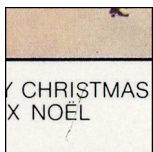
15¢ Christmas



870ii
Pos. 7

Observed on
3 of 8 panes

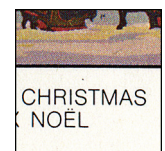
17¢ Christmas



871i
Pos. 39

Observed on
5 of 6 panes

35¢ Christmas



872i
Pos. 1

Not observed

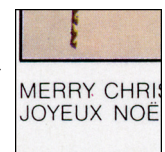
17¢ Christmas



871ii
Pos. 8

Not observed

17¢ Christmas



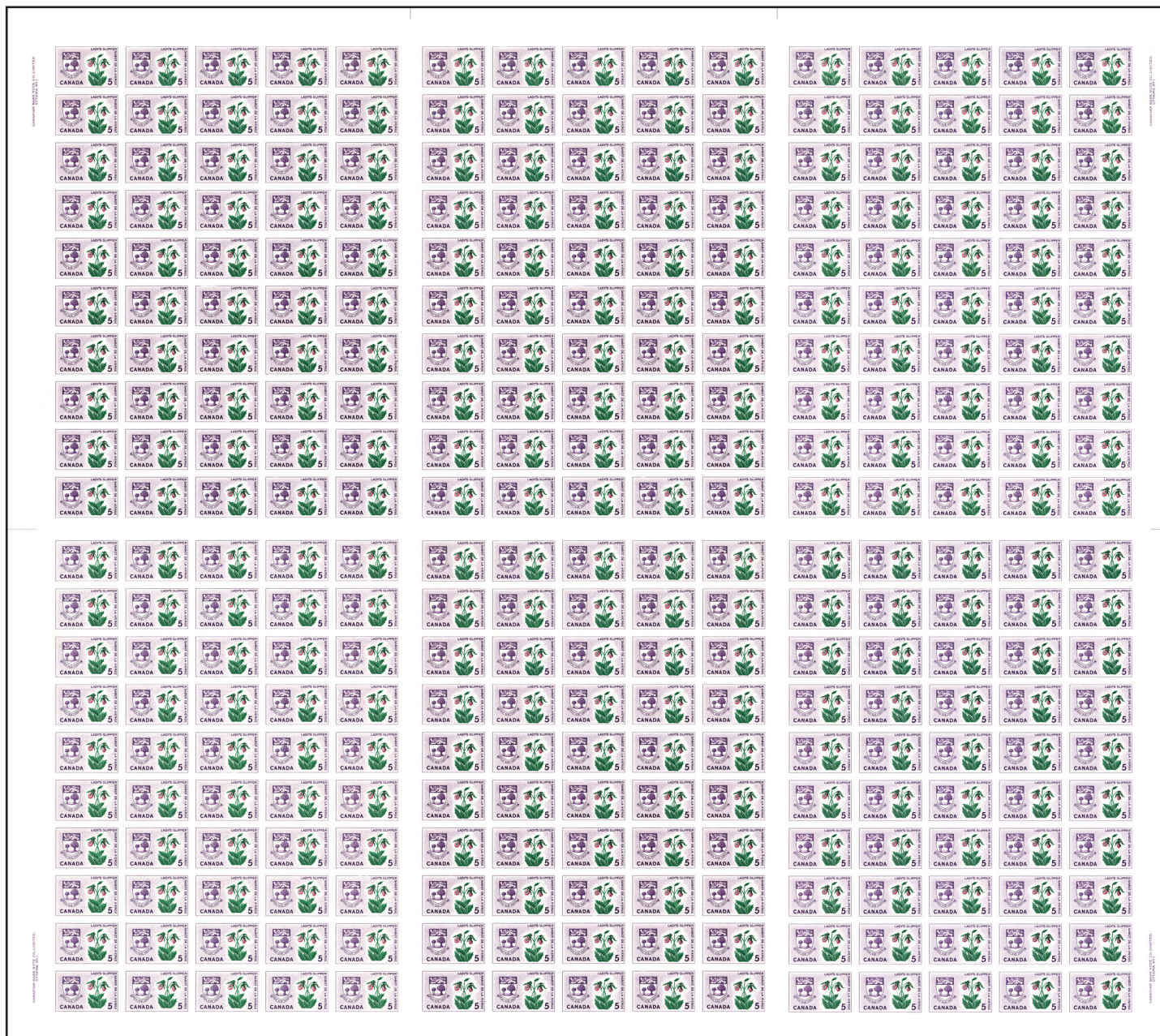
871iii
Pos. 35

Observed on
1 of 6 panes

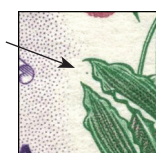
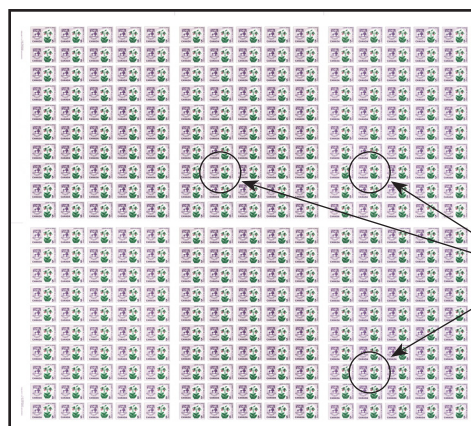
1964–66 Floral Press Sheets

by: Robin Harris

All of the **Floral Emblems and Coats of Arms of the Provinces and Territories** stamps, issued in 1964–1966, have the same 6-pane sheet layout (2 rows x 3 columns).

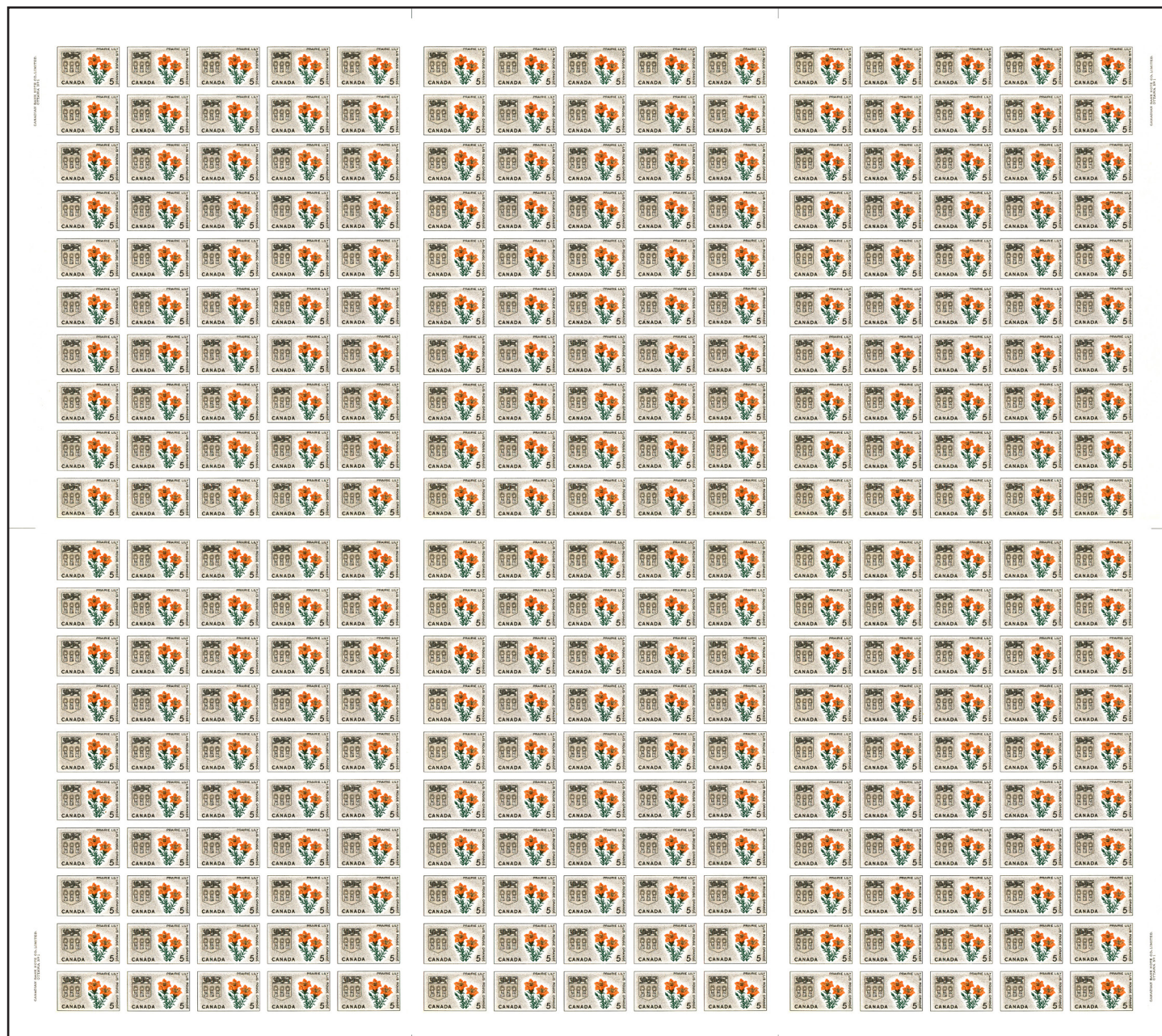


The **Prince Edward Island** stamp (Scott 424), issued July 21, 1965, has one reported constant plate variety in the Unitrade catalogue: “green leaf pollen”, found at position 37 of only three of the six panes on the press sheet.



424ii
Pos. 37

Observed on 3
of 6 panes



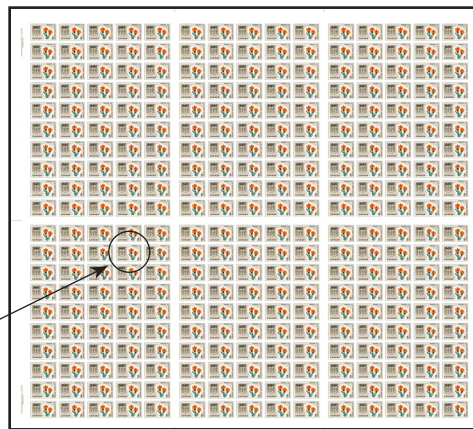
The **Saskatchewan** stamp (Scott 425), issued January 19, 1966, has three reported constant plate varieties, as noted:

- broken leaf (pos. 9; lower left pane only)
- green pollen (pos. 25; every pane)
- stem pollen flaw (pos. 30; all but lower right pane)



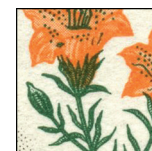
425ii
Pos. 9

Observed on 1
of 6 panes



425iii
Pos. 25

Observed on 6
of 6 panes



425iv
Pos. 30

Observed on 5
of 6 panes

"A" Stamp Paste-up Pair

by: Robert (Bob) Anderson

Canada's first non-denominated stamp, the "A" stamp, was issued December 29, 1981 to pay the first class domestic letter rate starting January 1, 1982. The new rate was a major issue because of the proposed increase from 17¢ to 30¢. There were public protests, letter writing and long discussions in Parliament about the amount of the increase and the impact on the public and any decrease in the viability of Canada Post. The increase was approved but not until after the deadline required to design, to manufacture and to deliver the stamps to the various post offices and sub-post offices across Canada. Hence the non-denominated stamp with a value of 30¢.



There were two printers selected to provide the volume of stamps required. British American Bank Note Company (BABN) produced plate 1 sheet stamps on coated paper using a web printing (large roll paper) process and Canadian Bank Note Company (CBN) produced plates 2 and 3 sheet stamps on uncoated paper using the sheet printing process. CBN also produced the coil stamps on uncoated paper using the web printing process.

The sequence of the printing process for the BABN printing was: 1) applying the fluorescent tagging; 2) printing the engraved image of the stamp; and 3) perforating.

A major printing error developed with the BABN printing when a tear occurred in the paper roll and had to be repaired. The roll could not be removed and discarded because of the labour and paper roll costs involved. The tear is evident on the front and back of the stamps as shown in figures 1 and 2. There is a minor perforation shift of 1 mm to the right. It is not known if the perforation shift is caused by the tear. The repaired stamps have the same frame measurements as the normal stamps printed by BABN. The tagging has a small gap as shown in figure 3 and indicates that the tear may have occurred after the tagging process and before the perforation step.

The only remaining question is "How many paste-up pairs exist?" The Eastern Auctions catalogue description noted that "...perhaps five such blocks displaying this printer's repair exist." It is believed that this doubling occurs at the point where the end of one roll was joined to the beginning of the next as the web was being fed through the press. This join between rolls should have been removed after the stamps were printed and the web guillotined into sheets.

The November-December 2018 *Corgi Times* (page 46) illustrated the standard configuration of the BABN cylinder. It shows there are three panes around the circumference of the cylinder by two panes along the axis. If the origin of the variety is due to splicing two rolls together then there could have been two panes or ten pairs with the variety. Of course, it is possible that one pane could have been culled by BABN, or bought at a post office and used by someone mailing letters oblivious to the variety.

It would be worthwhile to determine a count of this variety. Please forward a scan of your paste-up pair in an email noting "A Stamp Paste-up Pair" in the subject line of the email to brantph@rogers.com.

Also, I am trying to acquire mint, never hinged stamps with the following: a) the strip of 4 narrow spacing varieties (#908ii and #908v); b) the "hook tag flaw" (#907iv); and c) the untagged error (#907 T1a). Please forward a scan of the Item(s) and the price for each in an email noting "A Stamp Errors" in the subject line to the above email address.

A special thank you to Andrew Chung and Leopold Beaudet for their assistance in the development of this article.



Figure 1 (front)

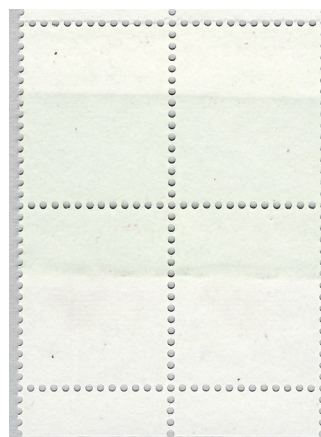


Figure 2 (back)



Figure 3 (tagging)