

The Elizabethan II Study Group Newsletter

Under auspices of BNAPS — The Society for Canadian Philately



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Copies distributed: 107

Postal Rate Increase: 2020

Canada Post raised postal rates on January 13, 2020 and a new group of nine designs in the *From Far and Wide* definitive series appeared on the same date. The usual group of coils, booklets, souvenir sheet and prepaid post cards include:

- (five) PermanentTM stamps are valued at 92¢ (up from 90¢)
- single stamp postage is now \$1.07
- \$1.30 is the domestic Lettermail[™] rate for 30g up to 50g and the USA Letter-post rate for up to 30g
- \$1.94 is the domestic Lettermail[™] rate for 50g up to 100g and the USA Letter-post rate for 30g to 50g
- \$2.71 is the Letter-post rate to other international destinations for up to 30g



When does the old postage rate of \$1.05 equal the same as the new postal rate of \$1.07?

Here in Manitoba, the cost of mailing a single letter when one visits a post office, and does not have a stamp, will actually cost the *same amount* after the rate change, even though the face value of the stamp has risen from \$1.05 to \$1.07 ... how can that be, you ask?

Consider the following:

1.05 + 5% GST (0.05) = 1.10. You pass the clerk a loonie (1) and a dime (10¢). Done.

\$1.07 + 5% GST (0.05) = \$1.12. Because of "penny rounding", you will only be charged \$1.10. *The same overall cost to you before the rate increase.*



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.

BNAPS

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Annual Dues

All addresses is C\$10.00 for distribution of *Corgi Times* via a PDF download.

Payment by PayPal is preferred: ESGTreasurer@rogers.com

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...

Details

Except for the rate-change definitives released in mid-January, it has been actually relatively quiet with new Canada stamp issues lately. Two *Details* magazines have been distributed so far (as of mid-February).

The January 2020 | No. 1 *Details* arrived in the mailbox *after* all of the stamps included within the magazine were issued. For some reason Canada Post felt the designs of the Year of the Rat stamps were not to be made public until the day of release of the stamps. Even the placemats that are displayed at Canada Post outlet counters had the Year of the Rat stamp image 'hidden'.

Thankfully, the January-March 2020 | No. 2 *Details* was made available prior to some of the included stamp issues being released. In addition, this year's *Details* are 'announcing' more timely issue dates of upcoming issues.



Corgi Times

Editor: Robin Harris PO Box 2243 Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0 Canada E-mail: corgi@adminware.ca Phone: (204) 268-9395 *Corgi Times* is produced with Adobe InDesign CS6® for Windows. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor at the address above. Electronic format is preferred but not required. Scanned illustrations (300dpi, colour, actual size, JPEG or TIFF, black background) should be sent as separate files from text files. Lower quality images will *not* be printed and will likely result in the article not being printed.

Study Group Business

New members

(none at this time)

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.

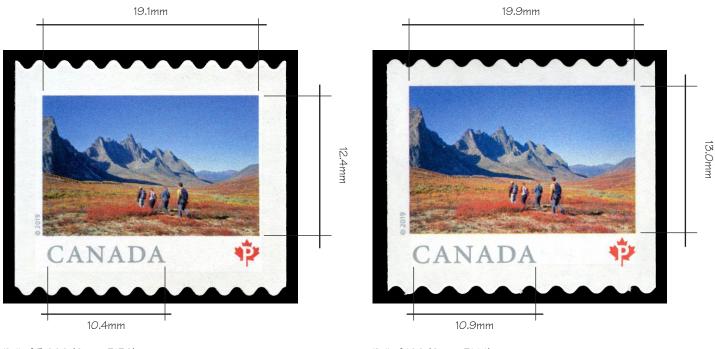
2019 ORAPEX 2020: Ottawa, ON, May 2–3 **BNAPEX 2020**: Halifax, ON, Sep 4–6

From Far and Wide: Design Size Differences

ESG member Jean Wang has pointed out the following intriguing design feature found on the 2019 *From Far and Wide* Permanant[™] coils.

For some reason, the designs from the rolls of 5,000 are **smaller** than the designs from the rolls of 100. *Fascinating*.

It turns out that the same size difference happened with this year's 2020 *From Far and Wide* coils ... but this was not seen on the first series of *From Far and Wide* stamps issued in 2018.



Roll of 5,000 (Scott 3139)

Roll of 100 (Scott 3144)

This becomes the **fifth** way to differentiate between *From Far and Wide* single stamps from rolls of 100 and 5,000: (1) die cutting gauge¹, (2) appearance of die cutting nibs [on rolls of 100]¹, (3) orientation of repeating Canada underprinting², (4) direction of curling of stamps when wet³, (5) design size.

Endnotes:

- 1 Lowe-Martin Serpentine Die Cutting, www.adminware.ca/LoweMartin.
- 2 Repeating Canada Underprinting, Corgi Times, Jul-Aug 2019, pages 6–11.
- 3 Canada's Mega Roll Stamps, Corgi Times, Nov-Dec 2019, page 35.

Canada Post 2020 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 13	From Far and Wide definitives (9 designs) Permanent[™] (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 (5 designs) Permanent[™] (92¢), self-adhesive coil of 100 (5 designs) Permanent[™] (92¢), self-adhesive coil of 5,000 (5 designs) \$1.07, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.30, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.94, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$2.71, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.30, self-adhesive roll of 50 \$1.30, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$1.94, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$1.94, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$1.94, self-adhesive booklet of 6 \$2.71, self-adhesive booklet of 6 	
Jan 17	Lunar New Year: Year of the Rat (2 designs) • Permanent [™] (92¢) pane of 25 • Permanent [™] (92¢), self-adhesive booklet pane of 10 • \$2.71, self-adhesive booklet pane of 6 • \$2.71 souvenir sheet • \$2.71 (Rat) and \$2.65 (Pig) "transitional" souvenir sheet • \$32.52 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets • \$2.71 postal cards (one of each design)	
Jan 24	Black History Month ● Permanent [™] (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10	
Mar 2	Flower: Dahlia (2 designs) • Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.84 gummed souvenir sheet of 2	
Apr 20	V-E Day, 75th Anniversary	
Apr 24	Eid	
May 7	Group of Seven, 100th Anniversary	
May 20	History of Radio	
TBD	Legends of Ballet	
Jun 30	Vintage Travel Posters	

Articles Urgently Needed

Elizabethan II Marketplace

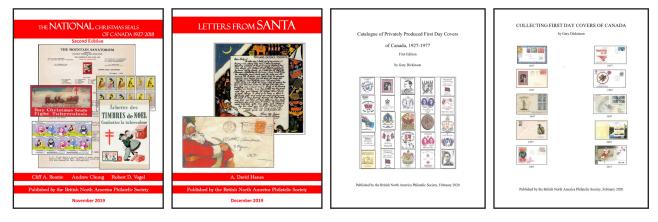
Classified listings in the Market Place are \$1.00 for 25 words. Additional words are 5¢ each. Camera ready display ads (preferably 300dpi, black and white tiff scans) pertaining primarily to the Elizabethan era will be accepted at the following rates: ½ page \$5.00; ½ page \$8.00; ½ page \$15.00 and a full page at \$30.00. 25% discount for four consecutive insertions of the same ad. Full payment must accompany ad. Payment in Canadian funds to: Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: Robin Harris, PO Box 2243, Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0, Canada.

ESG/BNAPS Publication Promotion

Previous special ESG member pricings of BNAPS-produced publications have proven to be quite successful, so the Study Group has decided to extend the promotion to other newly released BNAPS volumes with Elizabethan-era references.

To take advantage of this offer, you must be a current ESG member, and must send your order to our treasurer, Derek Fleming, 854 Silver Birch Trail, Mississauga, ON L5J 4C1, Canada [e-mail: derek525@rogers.com]. You must include your BNAPS number, your mailing address, and the title(s) of the publication you wish to order. Please note as well whether you want the black and white or the colour edition, where both are offered. Derek will then order the book on your behalf from the BNAPS Book Department. The ESG will cover (subsidize) the remainder of the cost, including sales taxes, postage and handling. Limit of one copy of each book per ESG member. This is an ESG initiative, not a BNAPS one. To take advantage of this offer you must request your book via Derek. You may pay for your order by cheque, payable to the ESG, or by PayPal by addressing your payment to <u>ESGTreasurer@rogers.com</u>. Note that PayPal payments will appear on members credit card and/or bank statement as "Paypal*Elizabethan".

As you are likely aware, BNAPS announced recently that Longley Auctions is the new distributor of BNAPS books [https://longleyauctions.com/].



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	List Price	ESG price
<i>The National Christmas Seals of Canada</i> 1927 <i>-</i> 2018 <i>Second Edition</i> , Cliff A. Beattie, Andrew Chung and Robert D. Vogel. A profusely illustrated and amazingly detailed catalogue of all the different aspects of the Christmas Seals released in Canada since 1927. 2019, Spiral bound, 182 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-02-7. Stock # B4h099-1.	\$38.00	\$25.00
<i>Letters from Santa</i> , David A. Hanes. A very colourful journey through the Christmastime letters from Santa Claus to children originated by the T. Eaton Company in the early 1900s, and later by the Robert Simpson Company and the Canada Post Office, continuing into the 1960s. 2019, Spiral bound, 104 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-03-4. Stock # B4h100-1.	\$32.00	\$21.00
<i>Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada,</i> 1927-1977, Gary Dickinson. An illustrated catalogue of the first day covers produced by private individuals and organizations for Canadian stamps issued over five decades. 2020, Spiral bound, 222 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-05-8. Stock # B4h101-1.	\$44.00	\$29.00
<i>Collecting First Day Covers of Canada</i> , Gary Dickinson. A comprehensive overview of collecting and studying first day covers for Canadian stamp issues. 2020, Spiral bound, 144 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-06-5. Stock # B4h102-1.	\$36.00	\$23.00

2020 From Far and Wide Definitives: Tagging Elements

The new *From Far and Wide* definitives, issued January 13, 2020, have various repeating tagging elements along the top and bottom of each souvenir sheet and booklet stamp (similar to the 2018 and 2019 sets).

Illustrated below are each of the nine different stamps showing the respective tagging elements.



Carcajou Falls (NT) Tagging: waterfalls



Kootenay National Park (BC) Tagging: mountain range



Swallowtail Lighthouse, Grand Manan Island (NB) Tagging: lighthouse



Cabot Trail, Cape Breton Island (NS) Tagging: highway along shore



Abraham Lake (AB) Tagging: methane gas bubbles



Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Park (SK) Tagging: sand dunes



Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park (YK) Tagging: house



French River (PE) Tagging: fishing boat



Îles de la Madeleine (QU) Tagging: cliffs

2020 From Far and Wide Definitives: Hidden Text

Hidden micro printing text noting site location



New Meter/Postal Indicia Postal Rates (2020)

Postal rates rose January 13, 2020 for businesses/individuals using meter/postage indicia for lettermail. Here is a summary of the last few years of meter rates.

It would be very difficult to assemble an example of each of these for a philatelic exhibit. Examples of the 'higher-value' items are likely quite difficult to obtain.

Meter Domestic Lettermail TM rates							
	0-30g	to 50g	to 100g	to 200g	to 300g	to 400g	to 500g
Mar 31/14	0.75	1.15	1.60	2.60	3.65	4.15	4.45
Jan 12/15	0.77	1.18	1.65	2.68	3.76	4.27	4.58
Jan 11/16	0.80	1.19	1.71	2.77	3.89	4.42	4.74
Jan 16/17	0.82	\downarrow	1.76	2.85	4.00	4.54	4.87
Jan 15/18	0.84	\downarrow	1.79	2.91	4.08	4.63	4.97
Jan 14/19	0.87	1.23	1.85	3.00	4.21	4.77	5.12
Jan 13/20	0.89	1.26	1.89	3.07	4.31	4.88	5.24

Meter USA Letter-post rates							
	0-30g	to 50g	to 100g	to 200g	to 500g		
Mar 31/14	1.15	1.60	2.50	4.52	9.05		
Jan 12/15	1.18	1.65	2.58	4.66	9.32		
Jan 11/16	1.19	1.72	2.68	4.85	9.69		
Jan 16/17	↓	1.77	2.75	4.98	9.93		
Jan 15/18	↓	↓	↓	\downarrow	Ļ		
Jan 14/19	1.23	1.84	2.87	5.19	10.35		
Jan 13/20	1.26	1.89	2.94	5.32	10.61		

Meter International Letter-post rates							
	0-30g	to 50g	to 100g	to 200g	to 500g		
Mar 31/14	2.20	3.19	5.19	9.05	18.10		
Jan 12/15	2.27	3.29	5.35	9.32	18.64		
Jan 11/16	2.36	3.42	5.56	9.69	19.39		
Jan 16/17	2.42	3.51	5.71	9.93	19.87		
Jan 15/18	\downarrow	↓	↓	↓	↓		
Jan 14/19	2.52	3.66	5.95	10.35	20.70		
Jan 13/20	2.58	3.75	6.10	10.61	21.22		

89¢ meter rate (domestic 0–30g), effective January 13, 2020



Computer Vended Postage: 2020

The postal rate increase on January 13, 2020 resulted in the "kiosk" stamps (computer vended postage) having the denominations increased to reflect the new postage rates. Except for the cost to purchase, there is no change in the PermanentTM-rate kiosk stamps.

- \$1.30 is the domestic Lettermail[™] rate for 30g up to 50g and the USA Letter-post rate for up to 30g
- \$1.94 is the domestic Lettermail[™] rate for 50g up to 100g and the USA Letter-post rate for 30g to 50g
- \$2.71 is the Letter-post rate to other international destinations for up to 30g

Non-philatelic usages of these stamps are likely quite scarce and very difficult to find.



Family Feud Canada

The February 4, 2020 airing of *Family Feud Canada* included this question: If **Canada Post** issued a scratch and sniff stamp to commemorate our country, what would it smell like?



Top five answers: maple syrup, pine trees, bacon, beaver, poutine.

Some 1960's Rate Covers

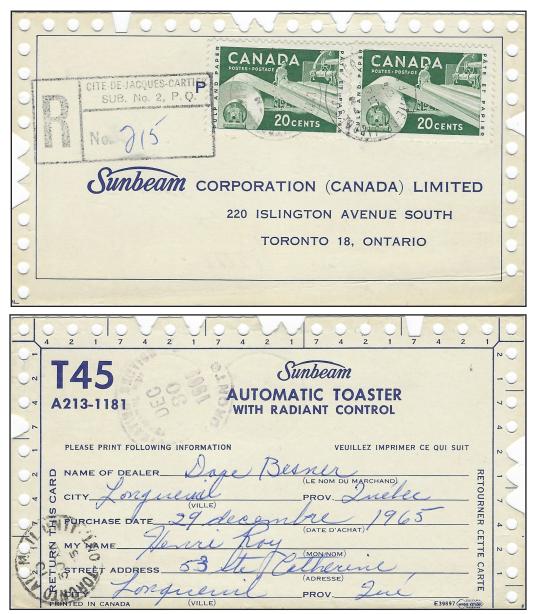
by: Ingo Nessel, FRPSC FRPSL

Here are four covers that illustrate a variety of rates during the 1960's. I find rating covers to be a stimulating exercise that brings post office workings and past practices of postal patrons to life. Studying covers is the joy of postal history.

1) 40¢ registered domestic letter in the form of a punch card sent from Cité De Jacques Cartier, Québec to Toronto in 1965. The card is a warranty registration for an "Automatic Toaster with Radiant Control." The rate is constructed as follows: 5¢ for the first ounce plus 35¢ for registry for up to \$25 indemnity. This is nicely franked with two of the 20¢ Paper Industry medium value definitive. The domestic post card rate at the time was 4c but it seems that the postal clerk who rated this cover felt that punch cards did not qualify as post cards.

> This cover inspired me to reflect about the age of early computers of the 60's in contrast to the omnipresent computing power we hold in our hands today.

 27¢ registered airmail letter to the U.S.A. Sent from the Montreal branch post office of Saint Laurent to California in 1961. The rate is made up of 7¢ for the first ounce (a rate



unchanged since 1943) plus 20¢ registry fee for \$25 indemnity (another old rate, in effect since 1951). An elegant rate construction was used by combining the 25¢ Chemical Industry medium value definitive with the 2¢ Wilding definitive. According to transit postmarks, the long journey in those pre-jetliner days took three days. Not bad, compared to today's erratic Canada-USA postal transit times. In recent years I have experienced transit times ranging from 5 to 20+ days.



Corgi Times January–February 2020

3) 20¢ airmail letter from Kenora, Ontario to Sweden in 1969. It is franked with a partial booklet from the Centennial definitives, with 3 x 6¢ and 1 x 1¢ and the advertising label supplemented by the top 1¢ stamp to make 20¢. The rate is a mystery as the correct rate would be 15¢ per ½ ounce to "B" countries which include Europe. The corresponding rate to "A" countries (West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America) is 10¢ per ½ ounce so it could be an incorrectly rated double weight letter. But the cover has its contents and weighing it showed it to be less than ½ ounce total. Overpayment for convenience is always a possibility, but the separate addition of a 1¢ stamp above the se-tenant block speaks to this 20¢ rating being made purposefully. We will likely never know why.

NOP AVOID DELAY 730 PM ADDRESS MAIL JUN 13 TO STREET 1969 AND NUMBER Hun Ove Nilgson Killa Högen 7 B. Västra Frähunda SWEDEN. USE POSTAL MONEY ORDERS ÉVITEZ LES PERTES SERVEZ-VOUS DE MANDATS-POSTE NADA CAN 6 PAR AVION VIA AIR MAIL CORR

4) 50¢ registered airmail letter to Sweden in 1966. Mailed from Flat Valley, Saskatchewan it is an attractive example of a single franking of the high value 50¢ Textile Industry definitive of 1953. The rate consists of 15¢ per ½ ounce plus 35¢ registry fee for up to 25 francs indemnity. Finding clean covers with single franked high values is challenging.

Atlas Cutlery Co. 50. SSWVE DEN RTERS MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS 341. 2ND AVENUE SOUTH SASKATOON SASK. CANADT 806 DUCHESS ST. SASKATOON, SASK. 435 AKTIEBOLAGET FERRATOR 14 Gillenstiersgatan STOCKHOLM (0)Sweden Flat Valley, Bask. No PAR AVION



Finding this one for a reasonable price during my 2019 visit to Sweden was gratifying.

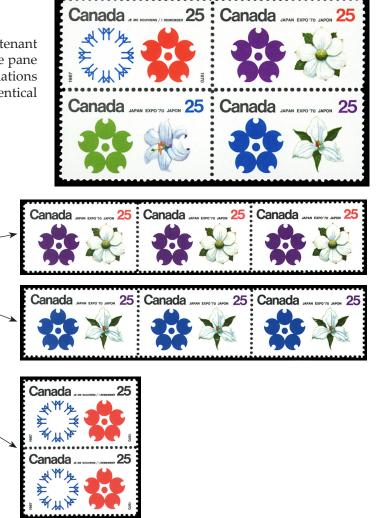
Expo '70 — 50th Anniversary

1970 marks the 50th anniversary of the issue of the se-tenant set of Expo '70 stamps by Canada Post (Scott 508–511). The pane of 50 stamps produced quite a number of se-tenant combinations as well as one identical vertical pair (Scott 508) and two identical horizontal strips of three (Scott 509 and 511).

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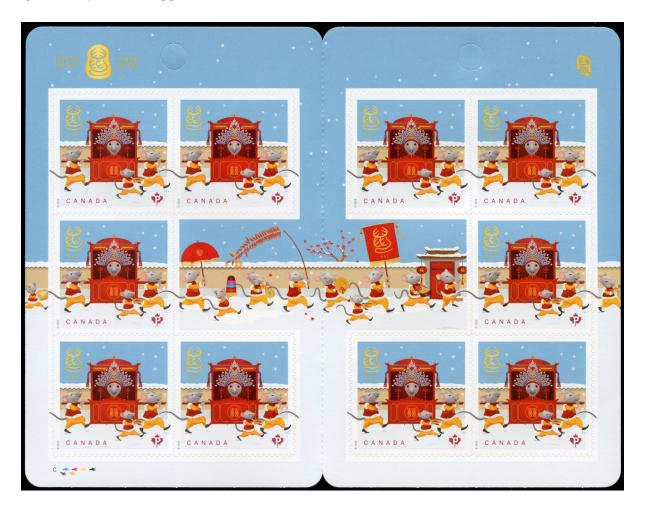


Year of the Rat – Die Cutting

by: Robin Harris

Colour Innovations, Canada Post's newest printer of postage stamps, is up to their 'ol multiple die cutting tricks again.

This year's Year of the Rat stamp exists with two different die cutting patterns. The five stamps from the left side of the self-adhesive booklet of 10 begin with a *valley* at the upper left corner while the five stamps from the right side of the booklet begin with a *peak* at the upper left corner.





Valley at upper left



Peak at upper left

2019 Christmas Die Cut Varieties

by: Robin Harris

The three 2019 *Shiny and Bright* Christmas stamps (Permanent[™], \$1.27, \$2.65) each exist with two different die cutting varieties.

Singles of the stamps, as issued in the full booklets, start with a *valley* at the upper left. The single die cut to shape stamps distributed via the 2019 Quarter 4 quarterly pack, start with a *peak* at the upper left.

Excluding the Petro-Canada stamp inverted die cut variety from 2000, I think this is the first time that a non-coil die cut to shape single stamp supplied in a quarterly pack has had a different die cutting compared to the previously issued stamp(s) [or have I forgotten any?]





Corgi Times January–February 2020

An interesting trip to a Canada Post Kiosk location

by: Anonymous

After putting up long enough with winter doldrums, I figured I was due for a trip to a Kiosk machine location I had not been to for a long time. I also needed the new 2020 rate stamp labels, so off I went.

On arriving, I was assured by the staff that the Kiosk printer was working properly. The first two smaller orders for other collectors went just fine and the strips came out as expected. I then paid for my larg-ish order, and off the printer went. After receiving all of the "P" and the \$1.94 strips, it then stopped a couple of strips short of the \$1.30 quantity I had ordered (no \$2.71 strips yet). The Kiosk computer screen indicated it was "Printing Stamps".

The light above the printing slot on the device was flashing like it does when operating, but nothing moved. After a few minutes the computer screen went black and then some Windows program screens opened up, including a Microsoft screen etc. It looked like the system was trying to reboot itself, but this led nowhere (kind of fun to watch though, as the various program screens flashed by...). Then the screen went back to showing "Printing Stamps", but again nothing happened on the actual printer.

The odd thing is that the machine just sat there from that point – no indication that it was out of labels or that there was some kind of a problem. If this had happened while the post office branch was closed (the Kiosk stations are available 24/7), the buyer would have been out of luck for the rest of the owed stamps and their postal value.

After waiting a few more minutes, I asked if the person who looks after the machine at the post office could please come by and figure out what was happening – though I already suspected what the problem was (the strips that had come out were very curved).

The individual (to protect the innocent), opened up the printer section and found that the blank label roll was empty (which confirmed my suspicion). At that point I had a fleeting thought that I should buy some lottery tickets given the odds of running into an empty label roll during my specific visit – note how large a new roll is (Figure 1)!

The only part of the original roll left in the printer was a strip of three – the bottom label was properly printed, the middle label only had the 14-digit code on it, and the top label was blank (Figure 2).

On back of the strip was the remaining glue and paper as the strip tore itself off the cardboard core that the labels are wound on (just like regular rolls of definitive stamps sold at post offices) (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Full roll.



Figure 2. End strip.

Figure 3. End strip (back side).

The postal employee brought back a new box with a full roll of labels. Interestingly, this stock was still the original supplied to the post office in December 2016! Either they had a lot of these blank rolls on hand, or sales have been a bit sluggish...

The new roll was mounted in the machine, only to discover after feeding the printer that it was installed in a reversed position (i.e. the backing side was the front for printing)¹. After figuring this out, the roll was switched around and the start of the label roll fed carefully back into the printer, but for some reason the feeder didn't react to the inserted label strip and didn't reset itself for operation. After explaining that I was from out of town and would REALLY like to complete my order (I was still out a few hundred \$\$ worth of label strips to complete the order²), the individual agreed to make a service call. Being told that this location was a priority service site for Canada Post, the service person arrived in two hours (most of which time I waited at the location). They opened up the stamp portion of the device again, and relatively quickly got the

printer section fixed. In this case, once the start of the roll strip was inserted, the printer feeder quickly grabbed the strip, fed a few labels in, reversed back a label or so, and was set to go. This appears to be all the printer needs to align itself on the labels.

Once the machine was closed, it immediately started to print some strips, the first of which had 6 labels on it – the proper five values printed normally, and a blank label in the middle. I saw the same thing two years ago in a similar situation when a Kiosk printer had been opened and then restarted – the first strip seems

it is an interesting process! It gives the service

individual the ability to print



to always be 6 labels (with a blank one), and after that all print correctly in fives. These initial strips were likely part of an order I had placed while the unit was out of service... I had gone away for ~30 minutes when the service call was first made, and when I returned the Kiosk computer was showing the normal screen that it is ready to take a new order. Thinking the service fellow must have been really quick and fixed it while I was away, I purchased two sets of strips just to see what was happening. Of course, nothing happened - the machine was still broken - but I did get a new refund for the purchase. Oops; with apologies to the Post Office staff person...

The strips that started coming out after the printer was put back in service must have been from the small order that I never received, but since I had already

been refunded the original purchase, I could not purchase these particular strips. As it turns out, any strips with values that are produced by the Kiosk machine without direct payment through the machine cannot be bought as they cannot be financially accounted for by the local Kiosk post office – revenue from the Kiosk stamp sales is handled differently than any other sales at the Post Office. These few strips came out with a different top label than the first part of the larg-ish order I had placed, which was not of any use to me for set completion, but was of interest simply because the strips started with a different label. After asking the service person and the Canada Post employee if the printer could be adjusted to print with the same top label as my original order had (so I could complete my sets), the machine was then put into a calibration mode by the service individual. Having not heard of, or seen this before,

CALIBRATION STAMP

CALIBRATION STAMP

Figure 4. Calibration stamps.

"calibration stamp labels" to check adjustments made to the printer and also to align it to a specific top label. The first calibration strip it produces contains three labels – any other ones after that are a pair. I was fortunate to be allowed to photograph these for illustration (Figure 4). There is no way for the unit to only print a single calibration label.

Once the printer was set to the proper top label (it took a bit of time to figure out how many labels had to be printed during calibration to get the right one at top), the machine was closed up. I purchased a new set of stamp labels to be sure all was working fine – and it was. I was then able to obtain (purchase again) the remaining label strips from the original order to make up the required sets. The remaining part of the original order I had placed before the labels ran out had disappeared into an electronic void – not to be seen again out of the Kiosk machine.

What I had thought would be a long trip to a distant Kiosk location turned out to be quite educational. I think many stamp collectors are interested in HOW a stamp production process works and how machines such as the Kiosks operate. Specialists, of course, are interested in many product variants just to be able to describe how the production process or materials may change over time on a particular issue (especially definitives that may get reprinted several times during their period of usage), and when/how such a process sometimes goes awry. I would like to sincerely thank the post office staff at the Kiosk location, as well as the service individual, for the ability to see how servicing of these machines is done, and permission to obtain photographs of some of the strips the Kiosk machine produced during this time. It was well worthwhile to make the trip!

Endnotes:

1.

- As I discovered earlier in 2019 at a different Kiosk location, if the roll is inserted this way the Kiosk can operate normally and print whatever strips are ordered, but all of the strips come out completely blank, as the device cannot print on a nonthermal paper surface such as the label backing paper (Figure 5). I did, at that time, notify the post office staff of the problem and they shut the machine down.
- 2. Cost of the missing strips had been refunded to me by the post office.



Figure 5. Blank stamps.

Canada Post Christmas Post Card (2019)

This past December (2019) Canada Post mailed out a 'Christmas greeting card' to (some?) people on their mailing list. It is not known if USA or International customers were mailed a card (help!).

The stamp indicia shows the design of the Permanent[™] 2019 Christmas stamp design (reindeer) while the reverse side shows cropped designs from the three different *Shiny and Bright* Christmas stamps. We believe an English and French version were distributed.



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