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Copies distributed: 110

## Canada Post 2020 New Issues

Post offices that I have visited in the Winnipeg area over the last few weeks (through the third week of May) are all saying that they cannot get supplies or the last stamp issues due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the four stamp issues for April and May include:

- Eid (Apr 24)
- V-E Day (Apr 29)
- Group of Seven (May 7)
- History of Radio (May 20)

The 'last' stamp issue that most post office outlets say they have received is the Dahlia stamp issue of March 2.

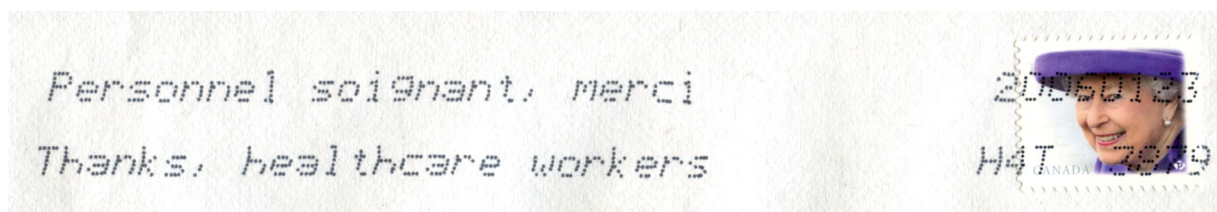
I was able to order on-line, and receive in my regular mail, the four new issues for April and May, but nothing is available directly from a post office.

If you are a collector of home-made first day covers, be aware that these are simply not possible for the latest stamp issues.

***Stop the press!** My local post office received their stock of new issues on May 26. It was great to see some colourful stamps on display.*

## Healthcare Slogan Cancel

In early May a new jet spray slogan cancel appeared on mail, as illustrated below. There is a date and machine code at the right.



Lowe-Martin Coil/Booklet Production  
See page 88

Sorry for the delay; this issue should have been distributed around the beginning of June 1.

**Keep safe and healthy.**

## 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](mailto: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.

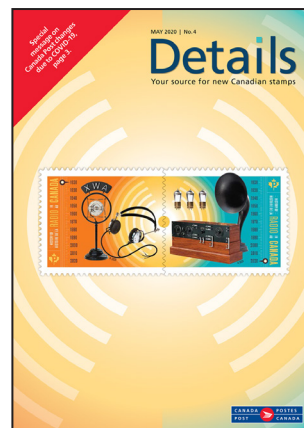
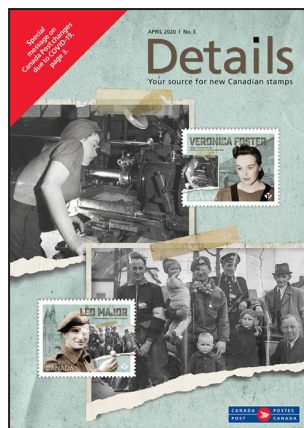
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## Canada Post News

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

### ► Digital-only Details

Canada Post's most recent two *Details* magazines (April and May 2020) are both *only* available in digital format, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### ► Queen Elizabeth II Booklet Reprint

The April 2020 *Details* magazine included a note that the 2019 booklet of 10 Permanent™ stamps featuring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (Scott 3137, first released January 14, 2019) had been reprinted in a limited run without the security feature underprint on the reverse of the adhesive. No reason was given for the need of this reprint.

This *Details* magazine was available online around April 23 or 24. We know of a collector who received his order May 11 — is that the earliest possible usage of this new variety?

Panes of this variety can be distinguished by the "C" vs "C" paper indicator.



## Corgi Times

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*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

❖ Welcome new members

François Deschamps (QC)

## 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.

2020

~~ORAPEX 2020: Ottawa, ON, May 2-3 SHOW CANCELLED~~

~~BNAPEX 2020: Halifax, ON, Sep 4-6 SHOW CANCELLED~~

## Error on V-E Day Booklet

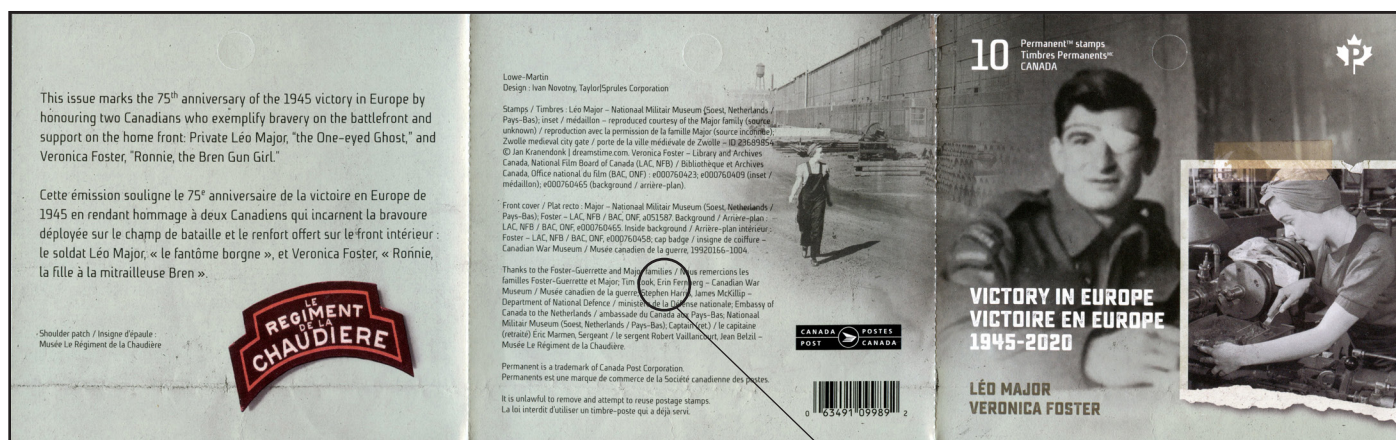
Yet another mistake has made it through Canada Post's proofing process of a new stamp issue. The correction notice, as it appeared in the March 2020 *Details* magazine, is illustrated at right.

The issue, perhaps the most historically important issue of 2020, included two stamps to honour Léo Major and Veronica Foster.



### CORRECTION

In the booklet credits for the stamp issue commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in Europe, we misspelled the name of Eric Fernberg, Collections Manager, Dress and Insignia, Canadian War Museum. We sincerely apologize for this error and reiterate our thanks to Eric Fernberg and his colleagues for their ongoing generosity of time and expertise in supporting our work.



Thanks to the Foster-Guerrette and Major families / Nous remercions les familles Foster-Guerrette et Major; Tim Cook, Erin Fernberg - Canadian War Museum / Musée canadien de la guerre; Stephen Harris, James McKillip - Department of National Defence / ministère de la Défense nationale; Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands / ambassade du Canada aux Pays-Bas; Nationaal Militair Museum (Soest, Netherlands / Pays-Bas); Captain (ret.) / le capitaine (retraité) Éric Marmen, Sergeant / le sergent Robert Vaillancourt, Jean Belzil - Musée Le Régiment de la Chaudière.

## 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 (5 designs)</li> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive coil of 100 (5 designs)</li> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive roll of 5,000 (5 designs)</li> <li>• \$1.07, self-adhesive roll of 50</li> <li>• \$1.30, self-adhesive roll of 50</li> <li>• \$1.94, self-adhesive roll of 50</li> <li>• \$2.71, self-adhesive roll of 50</li> <li>• \$1.30, self-adhesive booklet of 6</li> <li>• \$1.94, self-adhesive booklet of 6</li> <li>• \$2.71, self-adhesive booklet of 6</li> <li>• \$11.62 gummed souvenir sheet of 9</li> <li>• \$2.71 postal cards (one of each design) [set of 9 for \$21.68]</li> </ul> | 3221–25<br>3212–16<br>3207–11<br>3220<br>3217<br>3218<br>3219<br>3226<br>3227<br>3228<br>3206 |
| Jan 17 | Lunar New Year: Year of the Rat (2 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢) pane of 25</li> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet pane of 10</li> <li>• \$2.71, self-adhesive booklet pane of 6</li> <li>• \$2.71 souvenir sheet</li> <li>• \$2.71 (Rat) and \$2.65 (Pig) “transitional” souvenir sheet</li> <li>• \$32.52 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets</li> <li>• \$2.71 postal cards (one of each design)</li> </ul>  | 3229<br>3231<br>3232<br>3230<br>3230a   |
| Jan 24 | Black History Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10</li> </ul>  | 3233  |
| Mar 2  | Flower: Dahlia (2 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10</li> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive roll of 50</li> <li>• \$1.84 gummed souvenir sheet of 2</li> </ul>  |   |
| Apr 24 | Eid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10</li> </ul>  |   |
| Apr 29 | V-E Day, 75th Anniversary (2 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10</li> </ul>  |   |
| May 7  | Group of Seven, 100th Anniversary (7 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 7</li> <li>• \$6.44 gummed souvenir sheet of 7</li> </ul>  |   |
| May 20 | History of Radio (2 designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent™ (92¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10</li> </ul>   |   |
| Sep 21 | Canada Post Community Foundation   |   |
| Oct 15 | Diwali   |   |

| Issued                                 | Description            | Scott# |
|--|------------------------|--------|
| Following rescheduled, due to COVID-19 |                        |        |
|  | Legends of Ballet      |        |
|  | Medical Groundbreakers |        |
|  | 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: 1/8 page \$5.00; 1/4 page \$8.00; 1/2 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.



## A Heavy Letter

by: John Aitken

In case you can use a scan of an unusual item for your newsletter I am sending this along. It is a long piece of paper which I had to scan in two sections since all the stamps would not fit into one scan (Editor: it has been digitally re-joined).

I think it is payment for a first class letter weighing 17 lbs. + 6 ozs. (5 cents first ounce + 277 x 3 cents = \$ 8.36).

There is too much postage for it to be either a parcel or printed matter - e.g. commercial papers. A letter could weigh up to 66 pounds, but the maximum for parcels was 25 pounds. I wonder what was mailed?

## Wanted!



2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the "What Christmas Means to Me" Christmas stamp issue of 1970 — twelve stamp designs chosen from tens of thousands of submissions in the Canada Post Office stamp design project.

It would be great to dedicate the November–December 2020 *Corgi Times* to this stamp issue.

Won't you write a short (or long) piece on some aspect of this stamp issue? Suggested topics include:

- \* my favourite design (and why)
- \* first day covers
- \* constant varieties
- \* biographies of the twelve under-13 year old children
- \* se-tenant combinations used on cover
- \* what I remember about the day the stamps were released
- \* anything!

Please submit by November 1 (or even now!).





## Two Surface Covers to UK

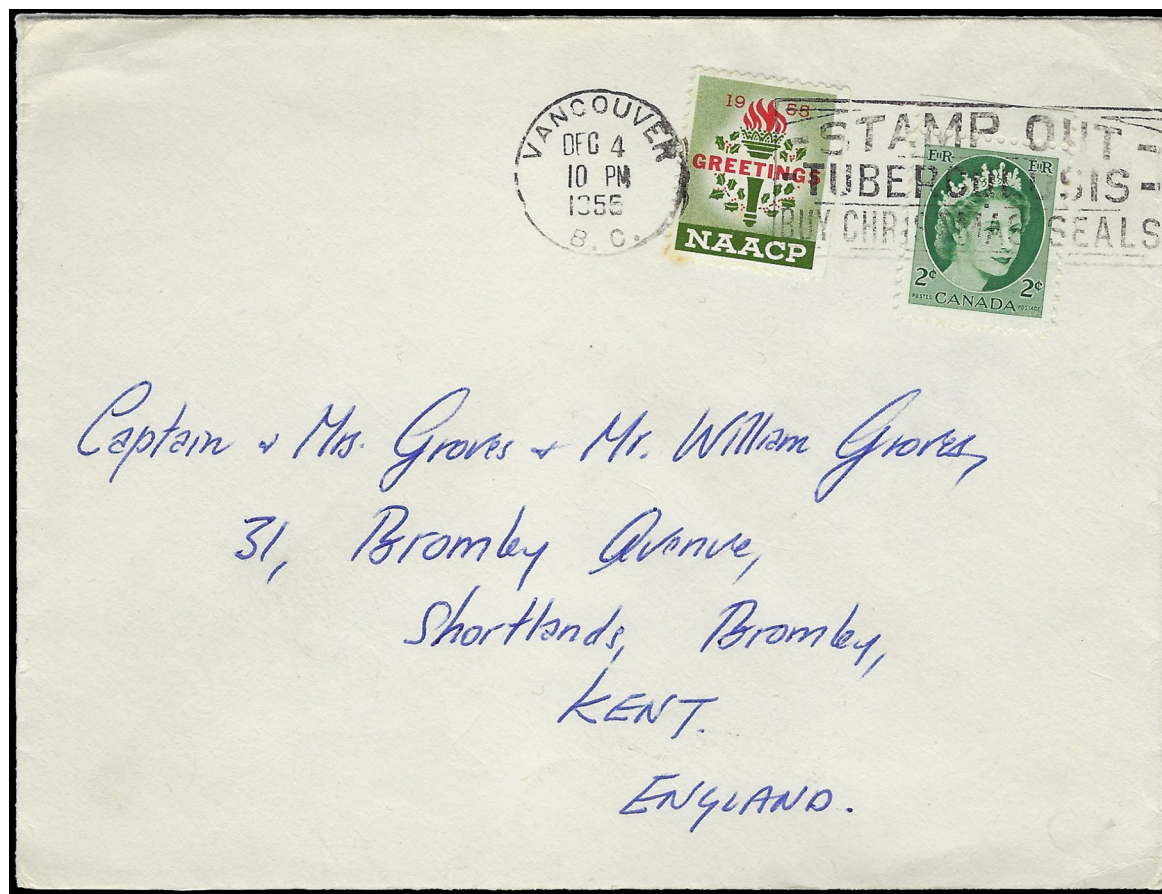
by: Ingo G. Nessel, FRPSC, FRPSL

Sorting covers and studying their rates, has led to frequent use of the landmark series of books entitled *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era from Canada 1952–2005* by Andrew Chung, the late Harry Machum and Roger F. Narbonne. This author has been pleasantly surprised on the depth of knowledge in these tomes. When trying to decipher a cover's franking the quick thing was to check the alphabetical table of contents to find, say Printed Matter, flip to the page and jump right to the rates listed by date. But there is a much deeper well of information to help you understand your covers. There is the description section, defining the basis and scope of the rates; then there is a section showing size and weight parameters, postage prepayment types, and options such as registration; and finally there is an additional information section arranged chronologically. These elements make for encyclopedic coverage of how the post office rating process functioned. It results in better understanding of our beloved Elizabethan covers.

In the early Elizabethan era, 1950's and -60's, overseas letters were able to be sent either by air or surface. The following two covers illustrate two surface rate categories of the period.

1) Surface Printed Matter was charged 2¢ up to 2 oz. Further rate steps were 1¢ for each additional 2 oz. This rate table was in effect for 13 years from 1951.04.02 until 1964.04.01. In the "additional information" section of the rate book, two key requirements for Printed Matter are listed as:

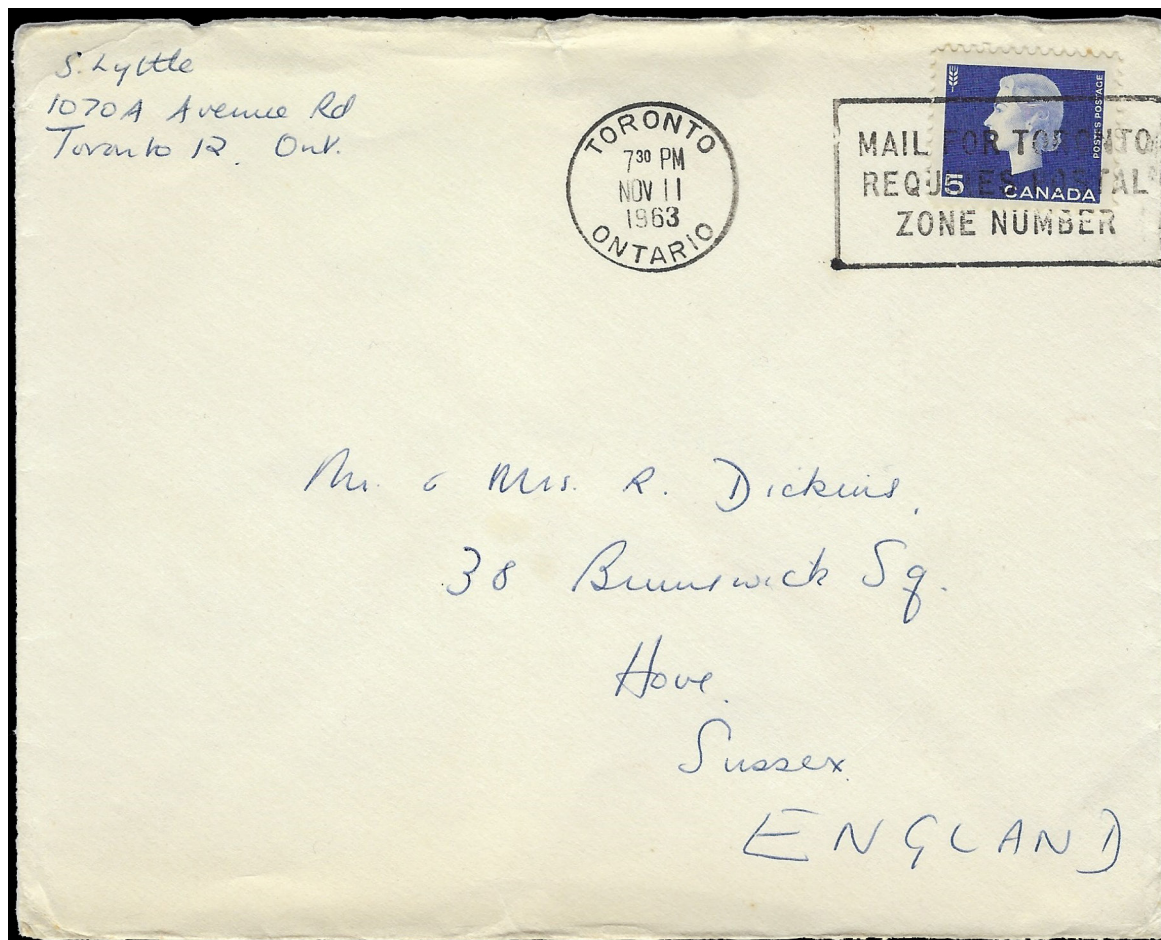
- Personal messages written on greeting cards were limited to five words and initials or less.
- That the envelope be unsealed in order for easy inspection of contents.



This unsealed cover was mailed from Vancouver on December 4, 1955 and addressed to England. Presumably it contained a Christmas card. The Printed Matter rate is paid by a marginal example of the 2¢ Wilding definitive, tied by the machine slogan "Stamp Out/Tuberculosis/Buy Christmas Seals". At first glance I was happy to obtain this obvious holiday mail with even a Christmas seal tied beside the stamp. But a closer look revealed that the label is not a Canadian Christmas seal, rather it has the letters NAACP and date 1955 in its design. It turns out that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an American organization, issued Christmas seals to raise funds from 1922 – 1977. A check of eBay and HipStamp revealed only 2 listings of these seals, neither of them the 1955 version. There is no

sender's name or address on the cover, so the reason for inclusion of this American Cinderella on the envelope mailed from Canada remains a mystery.

2) The second cover is an example of a surface rate Letter mailed on November 11, 1963 from Toronto to England. The 5¢ rate was for letters weighing up to 1 oz. to Great Britain (and a list of other countries). This example is franked by the 5¢ Cameo definitive which is tied by the machine slogan "Mail For Toronto/Requires the Postal/Zone Number" and indeed, the sender included their zone as "Toronto 12". Like the Printed Matter tariff, this rate was in effect for a long span of 14 years from 1954.04.01 until 1968.11.01. Considering that the Forward First Class Letter Rate of this period for domestic mail within Canada was also 5¢, the overseas surface rate was quite a bargain.



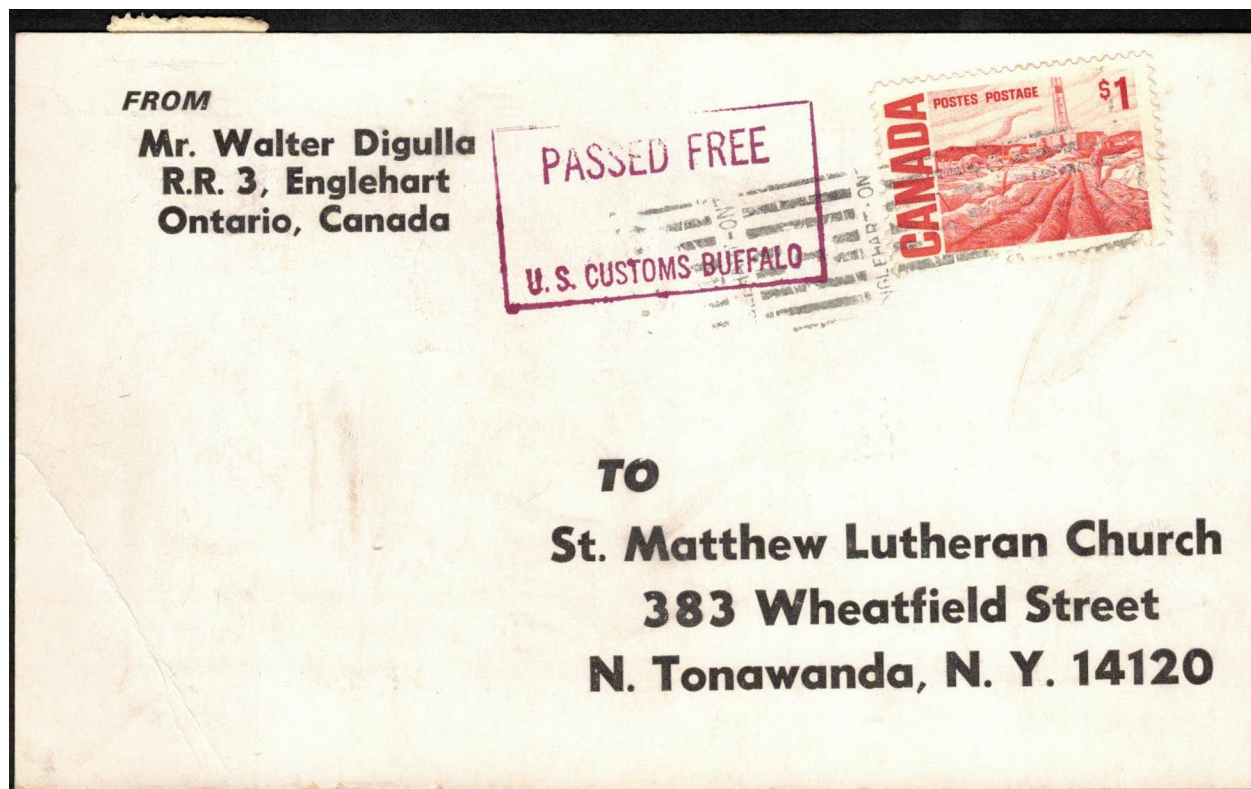
#### References

- 1) *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era from Canada 1952–2005, Volume Two*, Andrew Chung FRPSC, Harry W.E. Machum, Roger F. Narbonne FRPSC OTB, 2006
- 2) <http://myauctionfinds.com/2014/02/05/naacp-christmas-seals-the-women-behind-them/>

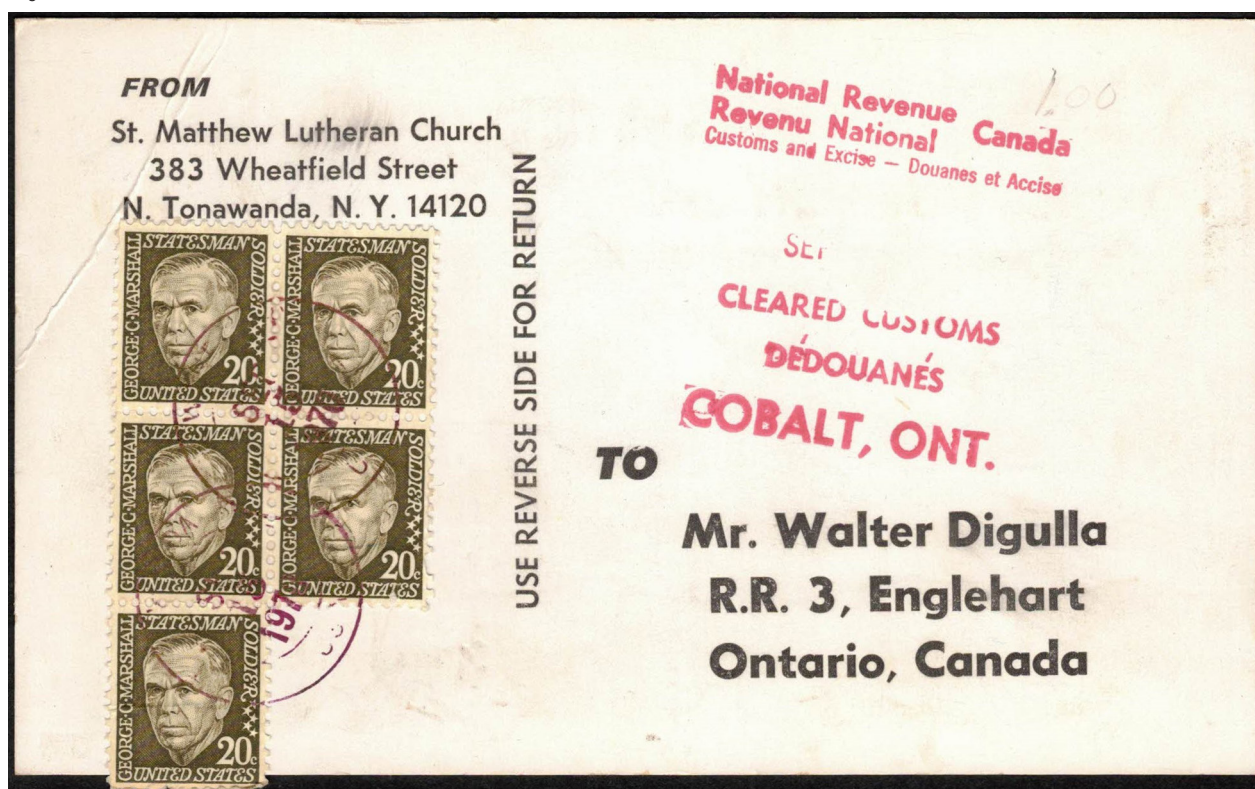


## \$1 Centennial Definitive Issue — A Random Selection of Uses / Rates Part 2

by: Scott Traquair



I believe this was a card attached to a book or film and it has been designed so that the recipient would just flip the card over, add appropriate postage, upon returning the item to the sender. A nice single \$1 Centennial. Paying either the 10 oz letter mail rate or the 2 lb parcel rate in 1970? Or did the recipient just pay the equivalent of the \$1 incoming US postage? Tied by an Englehart, ON roller cancel, date unreadable.





Source of rate information:

3 volume Chung / Machum / Narbonne  
"Postal Rates & Fees of the Elizabethan Era  
in/from Canada 1952-2002"

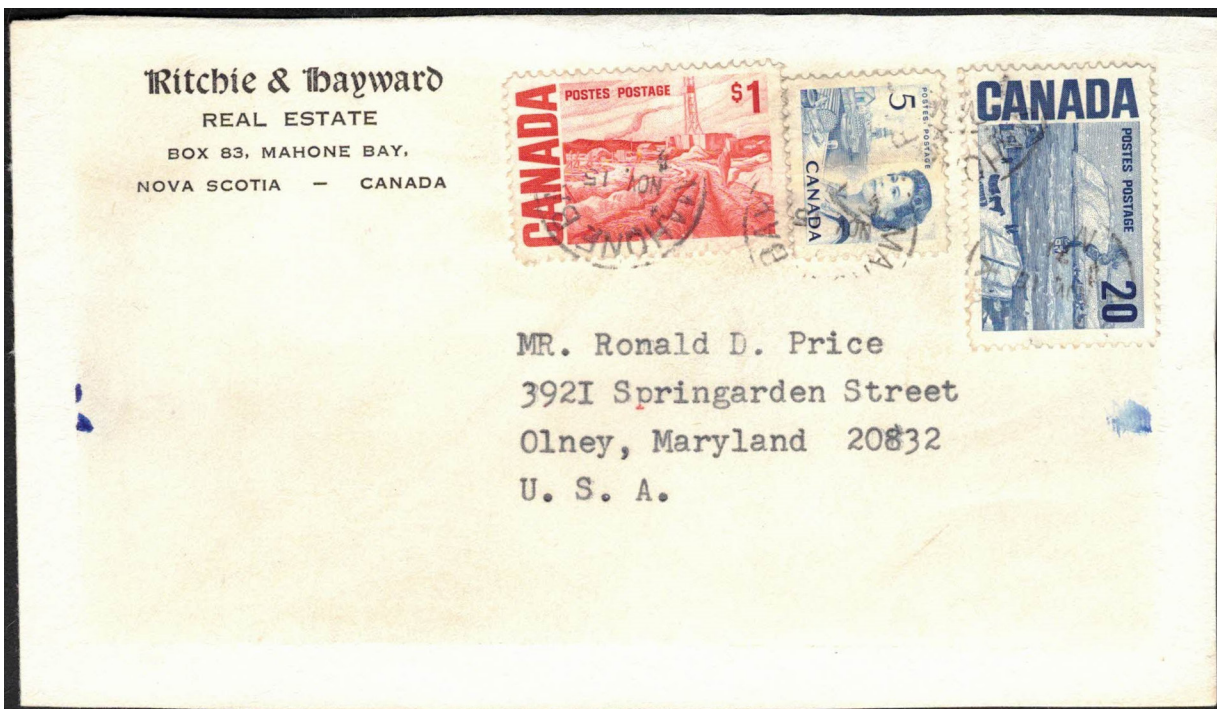


\$1.04 = 50 cents  
registration plus  
40 cents special  
delivery plus 14 cents  
for letter mail to 3  
ounces.





\$8.50 Money Packet rate =  
\$1.75 for first 8 ounces plus  
\$0.75 for the next 8 ounces,  
plus \$6.00 for the next 6  
pounds. Used to transport  
7 pounds of banknotes  
(\$16,600) from the Bank  
of Nova Scotia, Lewisporte  
Nfld to The Bank of Canada,  
St. John's Nfld Sept 16,  
1971.



\$1.25 = Surface  
Parcel rate to the  
U.S.A. for up to 5  
pounds. Used Nov  
15, 1971. This piece  
has evidence of  
tape around the  
edges as it was  
attached to the  
parcel.



RETURNED

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## Lowe-Martin Vertical Coil and Booklet Production, or

Orchid Flower Series - Revisited. Part 2

by: M. Zatka

[Part 1 appeared in the March–April 2020 *Corgi Times*.]

### \$1.49 (overseas) rate period (Set #2):



Figure 1

Four new values (Figure 1) were released in December 2005, as 51¢, 89¢, \$1.05, and \$1.49 stamps (Scott 2128–2131) in preparation for an early January rate change. A value fulfilling the “up to 100g” (oversize) domestic letter rate was added (\$1.05) to the set. This particular set was probably the most interesting of all that make up the Orchid flower coil series, though again in use for only one year. As in the previous set, booklet panes of six of the 89¢, \$1.05, and the \$1.49 values were released at the same time, and the same coil and booklet layouts/formats were used in production.

TRC (Coated) paper was used on the initial printings of three of the coil stamps and all three booklets, while the 89¢ coil stamp was printed on Fasson paper. A new printing of the 51¢ value in April 2006 replaced the TRC paper with Fasson paper, while the 89¢ value (oddly enough) was reprinted on TRC paper instead of Fasson starting in June of the year. The changes may have resulted from temporary paper shortages from one or the other paper supplier as additional printings were required during the year. The \$1.05 and the \$1.49 coil values remained on TRC paper through all reprints that took place. No paper changes took place on the booklets either (whether flagged by the printer, or not).

All of the stamps saw some particularly bad tagging quality when first issued and during all additional print runs, and to some extent ink colour consistency on the booklets (to be covered in that section). All values were phosphor tagged with generally weak, but highly variable intensity, bars. This appeared to be either due to the type and/or the amount of phosphor material applied, how evenly it was dispersed in the liquid solvent that makes up the phosphor ink, or the phosphor ink roller continuously running too dry to leave a proper, solid, tagging impression. For example, on a new, freshly opened, bundle of the booklets, the unevenness of the tagging went beyond just the two booklets from one revolution of the ink plate, and was continuously variable over all of the booklets in a bundle. This was never resolved during the entire the time this set of values was in use.

### Set #2 – coils:

All four values were initially produced using a new diecut mat #6, which ranged in gauge between 7.0 and 7.7 peaks. As new reprints were required, eventually a new mat (#7) was brought into service around June 2006 for the 51¢ value. This mat had an unexpectedly large diecut range between 7.2 and 9.3 peaks! The low number in the range was due to one cutter blade (one diecut row) being exceptionally coarse in gauge (7.2 to 7.45 peaks) as compared to the other blades that made up the rest of the mat (7.5 to 9.3 peaks). This particular blade did not appear to be reused from a previous mat as none match its measurements – why it was used, given it was so different, is unknown. Several distinct, additional, production runs were made during the rest of the year on the 51¢ value with this diecut mat, as recorded on stickers placed at the end of each box of 10 rolls, and the coil was widely available across the country until the rates changed.

An additional quantity of the \$1.05 value was produced using this new diecut mat on August 25 and 26, 2006, again as noted on coil box stickers (Figure 2). Unlike the 51¢ value, these additional coils did not start seeing distribution to post offices until late November 2006, about one month before the rates changed. Existence of this new production run was discovered by myself from a post office in Cornwall, Ontario, in mid-December. In the end it was reported to be available in only three post offices in southern Ontario, and reported in *Corgi Times* in the January–February 2007 issue. After the rates changed, as “remainder stock”, it was also found in May 2007, as a couple of rolls, at one post office in southern Saskatchewan (!), suggesting that at least some of these had been shipped to the Calgary depot used to supply western Canada post offices. Copies of this value produced with mat #7 are very scarce, including used copies!



Figure 2

A new production run of the 89¢ value was made on September 1 of the same year, but this time using an inverted form of mat #7 (named #7i). The mat, of course, has the same gauge as mat #7, but in reverse order when counting from the top stamp row to the bottom row. This value with the revised diecuts did not appear at post offices until sometime in October 2006, and then only on an exception-basis as few post offices appear to have received any (in eastern Canada only – none have been reported from western Canada). It was first discovered in November 2006. Most likely the remaining quantities of these stamps were destroyed as no longer required after the rates changed in January 2007.

Oddly enough, very few collectors appeared to notice these changed diecuts during 2006, and the stamps became quite hard to find after the rate change as the “old” values were withdrawn from sale. Awareness of the revised diecuts eventually spread in the spring of 2007, and by that time it was too late to find them in post office stocks. Since the 51¢ value was available for over 6 months, some additional copies of the value turned up in 2007, but the other two values remain rare (particularly the \$1.05, as noted above). The \$1.49 value was never produced with the new diecut mat.

The one row of very coarse diecuts on mats 7 and 7i caused a new recordable variety on the coils, and that is a “compound” diecut stamp. In perforating terms, from some classic stamp issues such as the 1882–98 New Zealand Queen Victoria issue and several US Franklin/Washington values, a “compound perforation” occurs where one side of a stamp is perforated in a gauge that is very different from the other side. Typically, this was caused by a temporary setting of a perforating drum, due to one row of perforation pins being substituted (perhaps for repairs) for a different one that happens to be of a significantly different gauge. The difference may be one or more perforation units on the same stamp. In this case, the coarse diecut blade on this mat had a gauge between 1.0 and 1.9 units less than the diecut blades above or below. The coarse diecut blade is positioned in row 5 on mat #7 (from top diecut on a gutter) and in row 7 on mat #7i. As such, a strip of four (with the diecuts in the middle) is not part of a gutter, but is located directly above or below a gutter strip of four, depending on the value (see Figure 3). A similar, but somewhat smaller, difference occurred on a later Orchid issue where again one cutter blade on the mat was temporarily replaced with a different one.

There is a similar variety on diecut mats #7 and #7i to the “ski slope”, but less pronounced. It has been dubbed the “ski bump” flaw, and as with the ski slope variety occurs only in one position on the diecut mat (column 1, row 9 on mat #7; col 10, row 3 on #7i). It is challenging to find it on a coil strip, so it is just mentioned for completeness.

The coil gutters contained the same text and traffic light information as in the previous set. On the first set, the information was centered within the height of the gutter, but for some reason the first ink plates used for the 51¢–\$1.49 coils had the information shifted closer to the top of the gutter. This was later repositioned to a centered inscription, requiring adjustment to the ink plate. The change took place likely in Quarter 1 of 2007, but some reprints with the new setting were not released until later in the year (i.e. the \$1.49 value). Due to the timing of the plate and paper changes, as well as reprints, some combinations have ended up being quite elusive, such as the 89¢ value on TRC paper with a ‘high’ inscription (Unitrade #2129v).

During one of the production runs on the 51¢ coil (not plated to a mat), the magenta ink became contaminated with what was likely the cyan ink, resulting in “purple” magenta ink, and giving rise to a strikingly brownish red-looking flower on the stamp instead of the normal pink. This is proven by the traffic light colours shown in Figure 4 (second dot from left), and certified by the Greene Foundation as genuine. It appears that not all of these error stamps were removed during production (if any), and at least some found their way into post office stocks. Only one error roll of 100 stamps has been reported back in 2007 from western Canada (none in the east), so some additional copies may still lurk in collections or other stamp stock. No such colour errors had been seen before, or since, in this series.

As before, diecut singles of the four coil stamps from quarterly pre-packs were produced using mat #6, in the same format as on the first set.

## Set #2 – booklets:

All of the booklets (BK318 – 320) were first issued with 4mm tagging, at times showing an extra ‘window’ of taggant on the inside edge of the phosphor bars on the stamps, looking like slight spillover of taggant beyond the actual thickness of the roller applying the bars. This extra ‘window’ made the tagging to appear thicker, at times as much as 5.5mm wide.



Figure 3



Figure 4



There were also problems with colour intensity on the stamps and the top (coloured) margin of the booklet, particularly on the 89¢ and the \$1.05 values. These were two custom colour blends that tended to noticeably vary over the various printings, and ranged from light/weak to intense dark. This led to booklets existing with very dark text and weak (light) values and upper margin, to the opposite (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5



Figure 6

The \$1.49 booklet also offered a surprise during the year, with a change in the ink plate layout. As first issued the "C" in the lower margin, representing the paper manufacturer's initial, was positioned directly above the "S" from one of the designers' names. Later in the year, the traffic lights and the "C" was moved slightly right so that it was now positioned above the "O" of the name. No explanation for the change (and an adjusted plate) was noted by Canada Post or Lowe-Martin. Lastly, the \$1.49 booklet also produced a major error of a type not seen before, or since. In this case, the left column of the booklet was completely missing tagging, which ended just to the right of the middle, vertical, diecut line (Figure 7). A part of one bundle of 50 of these was found at a Toronto post office — two other bundles in stock were checked, but all were normally tagged. No others were reported from anywhere else.

#### \$1.55 (overseas) rate period (Set #3):



Figure 8



Figure 7



A new set of Orchid definitives (Figure 8) was prepared in the fall of 2006 for new postal rates coming in early January 2007.

The coils for this rate change were issued on two different dates: the “P” coil (Scott 2187) came out early, on November 16, 2006, while the rest of the coils – 93¢, \$1.10, and \$1.55 (Scott 2195–2197) – followed on December 19. Booklets of the three upper values came out at the same time as the other latter coils. For the first time, the issued set also included a water-activated gum (WAG), perforated, souvenir sheet of all four values (Scott 2194). This is the only source of *perforated* versions of these definitives.

### Set #3 – coils:

All of the values were printed on Coated paper, with no changes during the entire period of use.

Initial printings of the stamps (coils and booklets) again had weak and highly variable tagging bars, but this changed to high quality and consistent, bright, bars at the end of the year on the “P” value and in February on the 93¢ and \$1.10 values (Figure 9). The \$1.55 value was also reprinted with the bright tagging on what appears to have been a one-day production run that took place on September 10, 2006, but the stamp was not actually distributed to post offices until very late in the year as additional quantities of the value were not needed until then. As a result, it is very scarce. There is anecdotal evidence from Canada Post<sup>1</sup> that the cancellation machines at the processing plants had difficulty with the weak tagging to properly locate and cancel the stamps producing an unacceptable amount of ‘skips’ (stamps with no cancellation), resulting in an urgent need to improve the tagging quality.



Figure 9

The initial diecut mat used on the “P” value was the “compound” mat #7i. This mat was in use during production runs of the stamp from September 6, 2006 through approximately September 22. On a subsequent production run on October 10 the mat was changed to a new one, mat #8, with a measurement range of 7.80 to 8.75. The weak tagging continued to be applied in production runs until late December/early January 2007, at which point new, bright, tagging was put in use. All of the initial print runs on the 93¢, \$1.10 and \$1.55 values were produced with mat #8 and weak tagging (through at least January 2007). The “P”, 93¢, and \$1.10 values during additional production (only in February) were diecut with a new and very short-lived mat #9. The mat had a diecut gauge range of 7.85 to 9.40, and a very peculiar feature in stamp column 5 – most of the stamps show a join of sorts as if two shorter, partial, cutter blades were brought together near the middle of the mat. The joins themselves are visible on the diecut pattern, as the ends do not fully line up in the wavy pattern cut into the stamps (Figure 10). The \$1.55 value was never reprinted during this time, so does not exist with this diecut variety. Stickers from boxes of 10 rolls show that the “P” value was produced with this mat on February 1, 2, and 8; the 93¢ value on February 23–25; and the \$1.10 only on February 9.



Figure 10

After February, mat #9 was replaced with a new mat #10, which was then used on all subsequent production runs of the “P”, \$1.10, and \$1.55 values until the end of the usage period (no additional quantities of the 93¢ appear to have been produced). The measurement range of this mat was similar to the previous ones (8.35 to 9.1) but biased towards the finer end, and was made with shorter distances between the peaks and valleys compared to previous mats (i.e. flatter).

A unique error was discovered on the “P” value in southern British Columbia in 2007. It consisted of a pair of rolls, unsevered between (Figure 11). The double roll pair was saved by the postal clerk for a local collector as it wasn't of use to regular post office customers. When unrolled, the middle of the roll shows indentation on the stamp paper made by the slitter wheel, but no cutting of the stamp paper itself. A strip from the unsevered coil roll has been examined and certified by the Greene Foundation as genuine. How can such an error get to a post office counter, you ask? Recall that the coil rolls are manually packaged in boxes of 10 rolls for shipping to post offices. During production and web slitting, for a very short period one slitter wheel must have engaged the stamp web only lightly (or been misaligned somehow) to leave a crease on the paper surface but not actually slit the web. The unsevered web would have been processed into a double roll and then inadvertently packaged in a box of 10 (I imagine that doing this manually must be a mind-numbing operation after a while). Did more of these exist? It's likely that yes, but all others may have been detected and removed as waste before packaging. Only the



Figure 11

one unsevered double roll has been recorded (an identical type of error was found on one roll of the \$1.80 Baby Animal coil years later).

As before, diecut singles of the four coil stamps from quarterly pre-packs were produced using mat #6, in the same format as on the first set.

### Set #3 – booklets:

The first issue of the 93¢, \$1.10 and \$1.55 booklets (BK343–345), as noted on the coils, was produced with very irregular, messy, and weak tagging, which at times left multiple, horizontal, “ghost” tagging bars on the panes (most frequently/notable on the 93¢ booklets). The tagging roller that applied the bars was approximately 3.5mm in width, but the messy nature of how it was applied made it look more like 4.0–4.5mm wide tagging. Some panes, especially the \$1.55 booklet, had what appeared to be wider ‘windowed’ tagging mentioned in the previous booklet set.

The Unitrade catalogue notes that two versions of the 93¢ booklet were found when first issued: some had the letter “C” printed to the right of the traffic lights in the bottom margin (presumably indicating Coated paper had been used), while others had an “F” next to the traffic lights suggesting Fasson paper had been used instead. In fact, both of these were produced on Coated paper, and the reason for the ‘F’ plate is not known (unless there *had* been plans to use Fasson paper for a reprint, but the paper was never used). However, all information I have on these ‘F’ booklets suggests these were released later (and not on the day of issue as noted in the Unitrade catalogue), as they all have different, higher quality, tagging from the messy and weak first version.

There is no recorded date when a new tagging mat and ink was placed into use on the booklets, but it likely coincided with the change on the coils later in 2006. The new tagging was wider (4.5mm) and overlapped the top and bottom pane margins more than the original printing(s). It was also very bright under UV light and consistent in applied intensity. To make it a bit more interesting, this new tagging was found on the three booklets in two different versions: dull in appearance (almost invisible), and very shiny (reflective if viewed at an angle against light). Both are relatively scarce as their availability was not widely noticed or announced by Canada Post.

All three booklets were initially released with a back cover that advertised the 2006 Annual Collection of stamps. On the 93¢ booklet, another unique error was found during the year, where the back-cover print was unsynchronized with the front of the booklet panes (Figure 12). All booklets were correctly cut based on the front layout, which resulted in the back print shifting down in several different versions. Figure 12 happens to also show mis-registration of the magenta and yellow colours relative to the cyan. This is the only time, so far in self-adhesive booklets, that the front and back of the booklet was not aligned, which makes for a very collectible variety. Later in 2007 the back covers of the three booklets were changed to the type used on the previous set, giving the current rates in English and French text.

In all, quality assurance in booklet production on this issue was much better than the previous one, and aside from the first tagging problems resulted in fewer shade and print variants.

To be continued with the next Orchid Flower sets in the next issue...



Figure 12

<sup>1</sup> Private discussion with a Canada Post employee in early 2008.



## Usages of the "A" Stamp

by: Robert (Bob) Anderson

Canada's non-denominated "A" stamp was issued December 29, 1981 to pay the new 30¢ up to 30 gram postage rate that was effective January 1, 1982. It was noted that this stamp was "for domestic use only". It had a short period of use since the majority of the denominated 30¢ stamps were issued May 11, 1982 with a 50¢ booklet printed by BABN issued March 1, 1982. However, the non-denominated stamp was well used within the Canadian postal system.

The "A" stamps were printed by British American Bank Note Co. (BABN) and Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN) for use on the issue date. The BABN stamps (plate 1 only) were on coated paper and have a clean, glossy appearance while the CBN stamps (plates 2 and 3 plus 100-stamp coils) were on uncoated paper with a dull and rough appearance.

### Domestic Mail:

As noted above, the "A" stamp was issued three days before the postal rate increase. Therefore, it is assumed that the earliest date of use would be in early January 1982. That is true only if used to pay the new postage rate. The example in Figure 1 shows usage on the day of issue but the "A" pane stamps (CBN printing) pay the registration fee of \$1.50 that was in effect from April 1, 1979 to December 31, 1981 and the 17¢ stamp pays the postage up to 30 grams from July 1, 1979 (beginning of metric weights) to December 31, 1981. It is interesting to note that the stamps were cancelled at Oshawa ON and the registration handstamp was applied at Whitby ON.

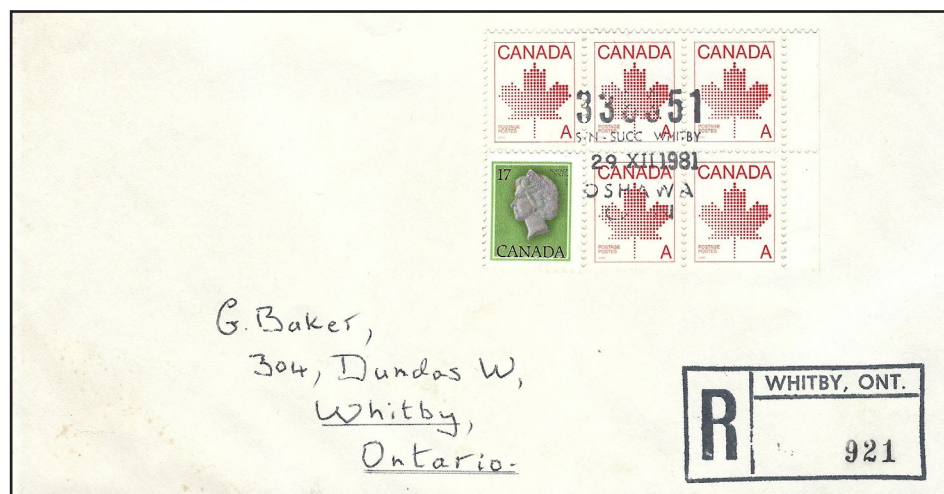


Figure 1

The example in Figure 2 illustrates a BABN printed pane stamp on a domestic letter from Nairn Centre ON to Toronto ON dated February 23, 1982. Figure 3 is a post card from La Pocatiere QC to Montreal QC with a CBN printed pane stamp. Post cards were incorporated into the first class letter rate on November 1, 1968.

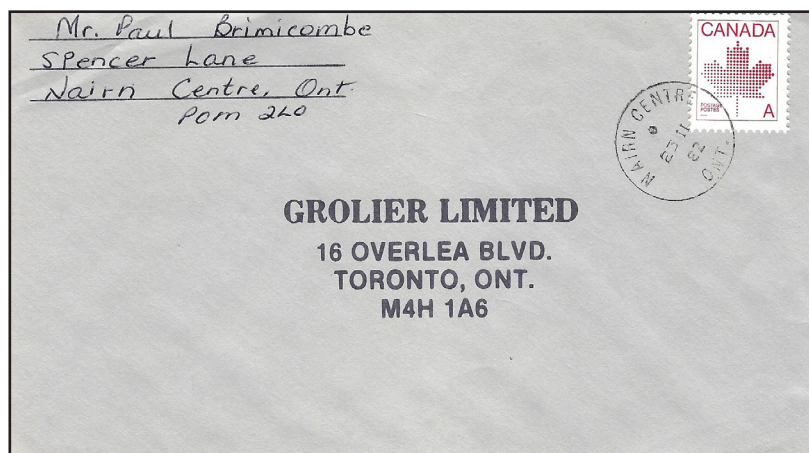


Figure 2

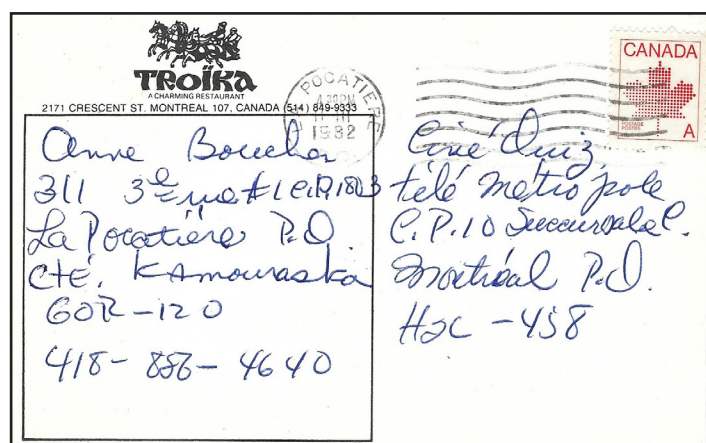


Figure 3

The "A" stamps were used on registered and special delivery letters to pay the postage. Figure 4 shows a registered letter from Paris ON to Hamilton ON with a pane stamp printed by CBN. The registration fee was \$1.85 with up to \$100 indemnity from January 1, 1982 to January 14, 1983. Figure 5 is an example of a special delivery letter from Fairmont Hot Springs B.C. to Toronto ON dated October 28, 1982 (outside the in-period use and still valid postage) using a CBN printed coil stamp for postage. The special delivery fee was \$1.00 from April 1, 1979 to January 14, 1983.



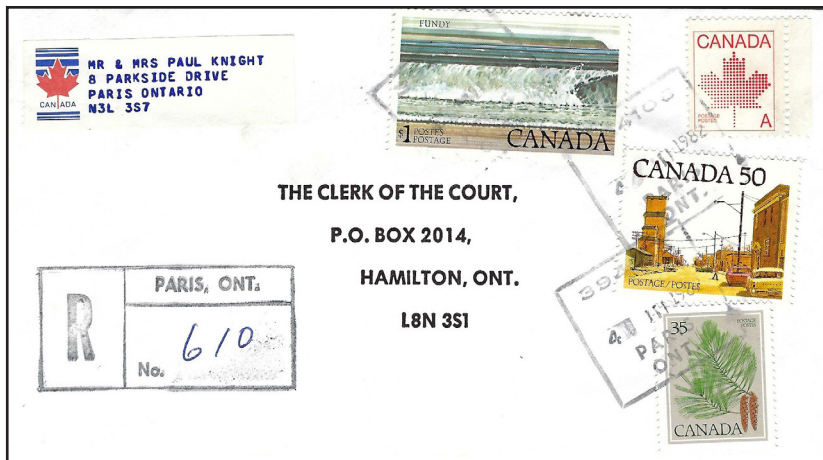


Figure 4



Figure 5

The "A" stamps were also used on postage due notices. Figure 6 shows a pair of CBN printed pane stamps dated March 5, 1982 used to pay the 60¢ postage due as noted in manuscript above the stamps. Figure 6a shows the reverse of the postage due notice.

After the bulk of the denominated 30¢ stamps were issued on May 11, 1982, the "A" stamps continued to be used. Their use has been found to be common through the remainder of 1982 and well into 1983 and beyond.

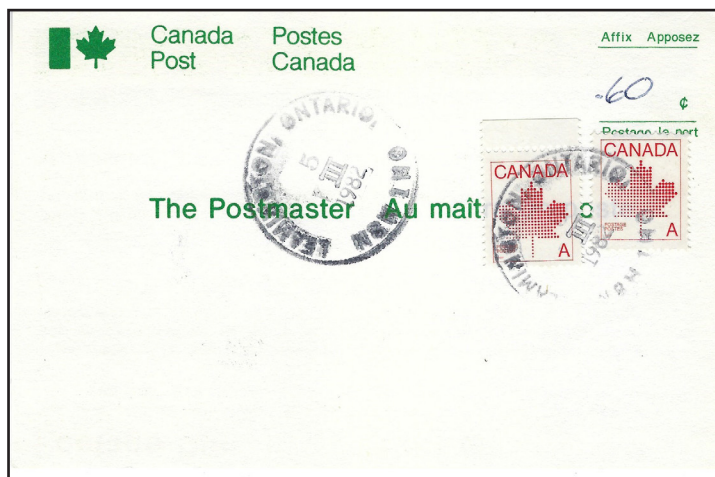


Figure 6

These stamps are still valid to pay postage with a value of 30¢. The example in Figure 7 is dated October 23, 2001 and was sent from Stoney Creek ON to Scarborough ON. A BABN printed stamp was used but short paid the postage rate of 47¢ by 17¢. The "POSTAGE PAID / PORT PAYE" in the postmark indicates that postage due was not collected. If it was collected then it would have been 64¢, deficient postage (17¢) plus postage (47¢) as of September 1, 1985.

#### Cross Border (to U.S.) and International Mail:

Canada post issued an information pamphlet about the "A" stamp prior to the release of the stamps. It stated "Because of conventions of the Universal Postal Union, the body that regulates the exchange of mail among countries, the "A" stamp may be used for postage within Canada only, and should not be used on mail to other countries". The intent of the UPU was, and is, to have denominated stamps used on mail sent outside a country.

#### Cross Border Mail:

Since the postage rate was updated for domestic mail, it was also increased for mail to the U.S. The new first class letter rate for up to 30 grams and post cards was 35¢. Figure 8 illustrates the use of a BABN pane printed stamp valued at 30¢ on a first class letter from Sackville NS to Billingham Washington. The letter was short paid 5¢ but not charged 10¢ postage due. The post card in Figure 9 illustrates another example of short paying the postage by 5¢ and not charged postage due. The post card was sent from Brantford ON to Brandenton Florida and is dated February 24, 1982 with a CBN printed pane stamp.

Canada Post did not always miss charging postage due on short paid letters. Figure 10 is an example of a short paid letter that was caught and charged the 10¢ postage due. The pane stamp printed by BABN was applied at Langley BC (the date is unreadable). Figure 11 illustrates the convenience overpayment of a first class letter because

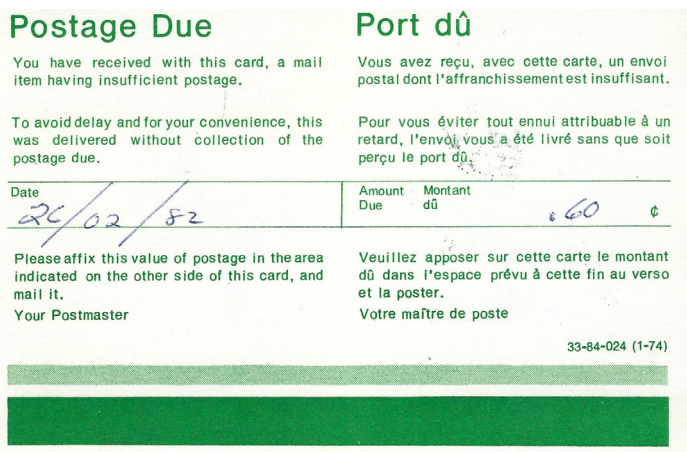


Figure 6a



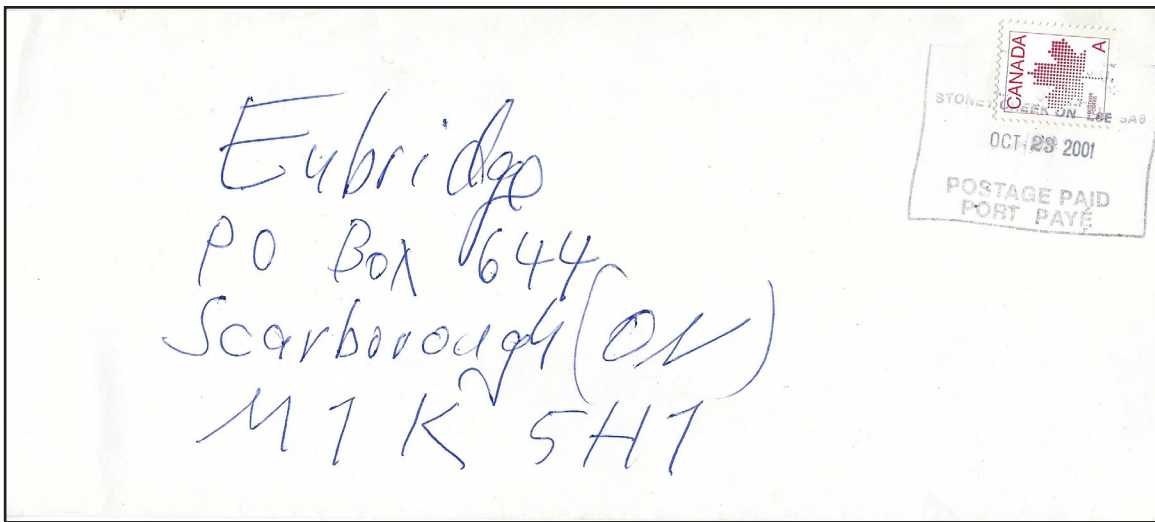


Figure 7

the sender may have had only "A" stamps available at the time. The two pane stamps were printed by CBN and overpaid the postage to the U.S. by 25¢. The letter dated May 19, 1982 was sent to Bellevue Washington.

Examples of registered and special delivery letters have not been found.

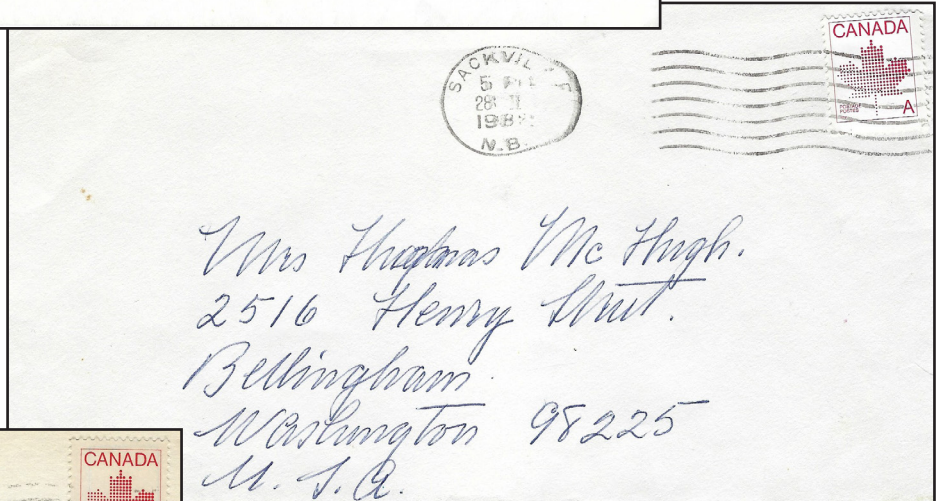


Figure 8

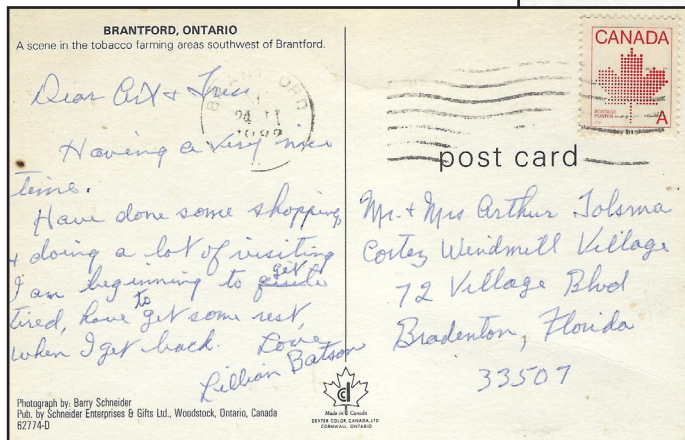


Figure 9

The first example, Figure 12, is dated May 10, 1982, the last day of in-period use for the "A" stamps. The letter was sent from Fort St. John BC to Berlin Germany and was paid 60¢ by a pair of CBN pane printed stamps. Figure 13 is a post card sent from Eastman QC to Embrach Switzerland dated June 2, 1982. The single pane printed CBN coil stamp pays 30¢ of the 60¢ postage but was not noted as postage due. The post card may have been dropped in a street letter box and with no return address the authorities forgave the 30¢ short payment and forwarded the card with the boxed "CANADA / POSTAGE PAID / PORT PAYE".

### International Mail:

The same rules applied to all international mail as that directed to the U.S.; do not use the "A" stamps. However, it will be shown that letters and post cards were sent with "A" stamps to international destinations. The international postage rate was increased on January 1, 1982 from 35¢ to 60¢ for up to 20 grams for first class letter and post card mail.

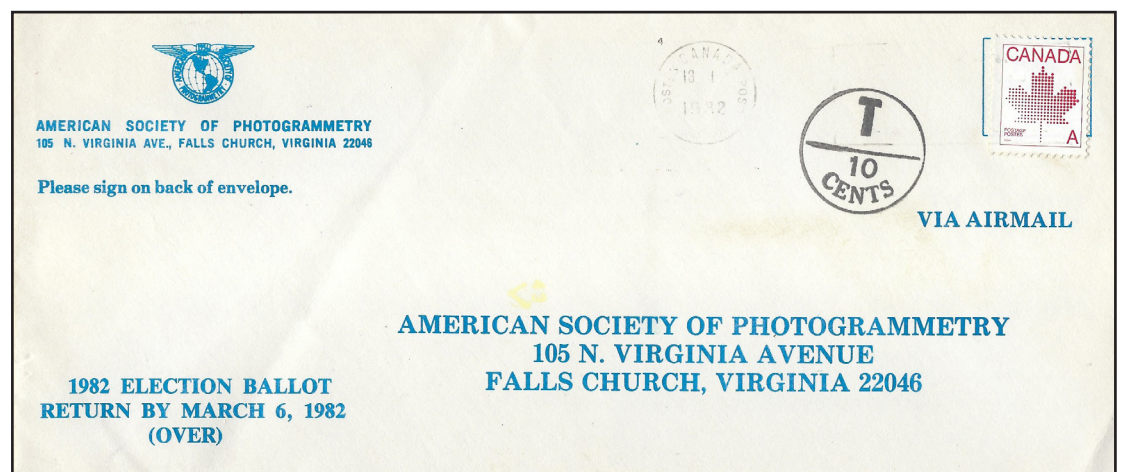


Figure 10





Figure 11



Figure 12

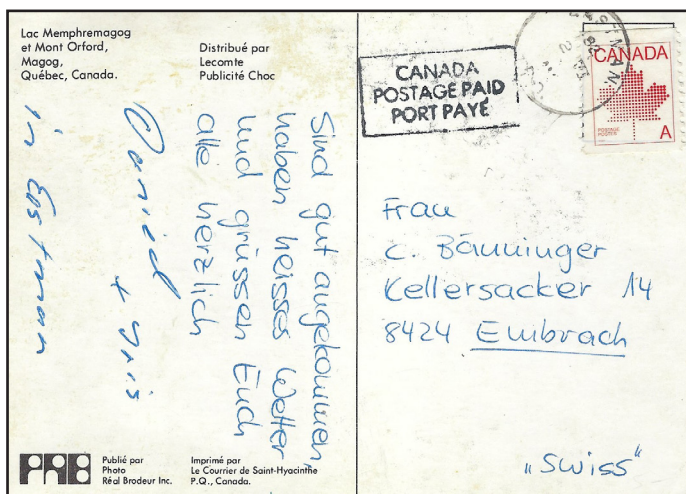


Figure 13

The final example, Figure 14, illustrates the transition from the non-denominated “A” stamp to the denominated 30¢ stamp. Both pane stamps were printed by BABN and the 60¢ postage was deemed to be paid in full. The letter was dated June 21, 1982 and was sent from L’Assumption QC to Turku Finland.

Registered and special delivery examples of international use have not been found.

#### References:

1. *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era from Canada, 1952–2005, Volume 1 Part 1*, 2004, by Andrew Chung, Harry W. E. Machum and Roger F. Narbonne
2. *Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era from Canada, 1952–2005, Volume 2*, 2006, by Andrew Chung, Harry W. E. Machum and Roger F. Narbonne
3. *Environment Definitive Series 1977–1987* (Second Edition, draft), 2018, by Robin Harris
4. Canada Post Information Pamphlet, 1981
5. Andrew Chung for postage due details re: the example in figure 7

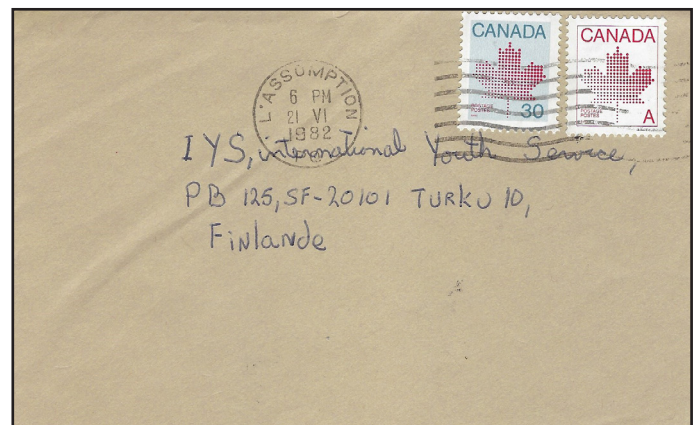


Figure 14