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Copies distributed: 133

John D. Arn White Queen Award

The “White Queen Award” was developed in 2004 by the Elizabethan II Study Group founder John D. Arn. Upon John’s death in 2012, the award was renamed to the John D. Arn White Queen Award

The sole purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage exhibitors who have worked hard for excellence of presentation of Canadian Elizabethan II material.



The guidelines for the award have recently been updated to clarify a couple of points, including the time period of Canadian Elizabethan material that can be included in a qualifying exhibit. See page 27 for the updated guidelines.

Thin Issue

Not sure what we can say that hasn’t been said before. We have repeatedly asked for articles from our members and virtually none have been forthcoming. The Canadian Queen Elizabethan II time period encompasses over 2,600 different stamp designs. Surely we can find something to write about with this number of stamps at our disposal?

Unitrade 2024

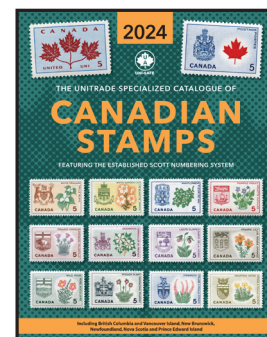
The 2024 *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* began shipping around the end of October 2023. Retail price of this edition is \$74.95.

Unitrade Associates has a note on their website which reads:

After more than 50 years in business, the owner of Unitrade Associates is retiring in November, 2024 and has put the business up for sale.

It has been our pleasure serving the stamp and coin collecting community throughout the years and hope that we have left an enduring legacy with our quality products and one-of-a-kind customer service.

Thank you for your patronage.



A Christmas Angel Story
See page 28

Season's
Greetings



Who are We?

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

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

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

BNAPS

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Annual Dues

All addresses: C\$10.00 for a one-time application fee charge; free for all following years 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.

Articles with no by-line are written or compiled by the Editor. All articles are ©2023 by the author and/or the Elizabethan Study Group.

Study Group Business

❖ *Welcome* new members

Ross Elliot (Ontario)
Curtis Gidding (Illinois)

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.

2024 BNAPEX: August 23–25, Kingston, ON

50 Years Ago

November 1973

Nov 7 • Christmas
Nov 28 • Algonkian Indians



December 1973

(none)

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 may *not* be included and may likely result in the article not being printed.

John D. Arn White Queen Award

Details also available on our website: adminware.ca/esg

Purpose:

To recognize and encourage exhibitors who have worked hard for excellence of presentation of Canadian Elizabethan II material.

Criteria:

The Elizabethan II Study Group (ESG) “John D. Arn White Queen¹” may be awarded at any local, regional or national show provided:

- there are a minimum of two Canadian Elizabethan II exhibits² in competition
- in the event of only one Canadian Elizabethan II exhibit the White Queen may be awarded provided the exhibit received at least a Silver award and in the opinion of the jury otherwise meets the criteria
- Canadian Elizabethan-era *literature* is also eligible, provided there are a minimum of two Elizabethan II-era literature entries in a recognized literature competition (if only one title is entered, then it must have received at least a Silver award and in the opinion of the jury otherwise meets the criteria)

It is intended by ESG to have excellence in presentation rewarded regardless of the medal level awarded the exhibit. The “White Queen” need not automatically go to the highest medal level exhibit. It should be awarded to the exhibit that best exemplifies the high standards of philatelic exhibit presentation using the following criteria:

- **Layout** — the balanced and eye appealing arrangement of exhibit pages; highlighting of an exhibit’s material.
- **Title page** — provides the viewer with a logical roadmap to follow in viewing the exhibit. It is written in concise, yet descriptive terms.
- **Logic of presentation** — the flow of pages in telling the material’s story is logical. The material is pertinent to and within the parameters set down by the title.
- **Write-up** — is pertinent, brief, non-redundant and provides meaningful information.
- **Neatness** — the pages are clean. The write-up method is neat and tidy. The mounts are subtle and even.

The decision of the judges is final.

The award winner will receive the “White Queen” pin (illustrated above) at the time of exhibiting. Upon receipt of the show’s final Award Report, a first-time “White Queen” award winner will receive free membership with the Elizabethan II Study Group and receive the *Corgi Times*, the award-winning newsletter (multiple-time award winners may receive more than one pin). It is crucial that the exhibitor’s complete address be provided on the Award Report form.

Pin Distribution Contact (via BNAPS):

David Freeman

E-mail: dfreeman@latitude.ca

Exhibit Award Reports:

Robin Harris

PO Box 2243

Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0
Canada

E-mail: corgi@adminware.ca

All “White Queen” Award reports must be returned to Robin Harris at the address noted above.



1 John D. Arn was the founder of the Elizabethan II Study Group and the first editor of the *Corgi Times* bi-monthly newsletter. In Canadian philately, the “White Queen” is the nickname given to a spectacular missing colour error on the 14¢ Queen Elizabeth II issued in 1978 whereby the entire red background of the design is missing.

2 An Elizabethan II exhibit must be entirely from Canada Post material released and/or postally used during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. That is, between February 6, 1952 and September 8, 2022.



A Christmas Angel Story – in philatelic terms

by: Mirko Zatka

With Christmas coming around once again, it's time to tell you a story. Not just any story though – one that I consider to be the best stamp detective story I ever participated in. Remember those murder mystery dinners you can attend – well this is a true philatelic gem.

This year is the 25th anniversary of a lovely set of Christmas stamps portraying an angel (released November 6, 1998). The issued values were 45¢ for the first class domestic rate (Scott 1764), and 52¢ for USA (1765) and 90¢ for the international rates (1766), produced in sheet and booklet form. The stamps saw normal distribution and usage as seen during any other previous Christmas.

Fast forward a few weeks to mid-January 1999. I received a call from a part-time dealer in Ontario asking me whether I knew that two different perforations existed on this set of stamps. My answer was a mystified *no*, as I never noticed any differences in the stamps, even though I checked a number of post offices during the Christmas period around Calgary. It turned out that the security printer, Ashton Potter, did indeed use two different perforators to produce the issue – one with a 13.1x13.1 gauge, and the other with 13.1x13.6 gauge. So what difference does one-half of a perforation make? Well, *exactly* one additional full perforation hole on the vertical side of the stamps (26 vs 25). Not only was the 45¢ sheet value affected, but so were each of the three different booklets.

So now the hunt started. In normal years it would not have been difficult to find remainder stocks at post offices, but January 1999 was different. As the rates increased that month to 46¢, Canada Post allowed retail post offices to return unsold stocks for a refund – which is something they had not done in the past. As luck would have it, almost all seem to have exercised this option and residual stocks of the Christmas stamps disappeared from counters almost overnight. By the time I started to look for them in the third week of January, I found very few stamps or booklets remaining in post offices. In the end, the 52¢ and 90¢ booklets with the finer, 13.1x13.6 perforation turned out to be the scarce ones (Unitrade 1765as and 1766as). This version is known only in sealed (field) stock. On the 45¢ booklet it is the coarser (13.1) perforation that is scarce (Unitrade 1764as). It exists in both sealed, and open (philatelic), booklet versions. Quantities found of these particular booklets later turned out to be very low and the booklets, even now, continue to be in demand in the marketplace.



I never did find any of the 45¢ sheet stamps with the finer (13.1x13.6) perforations (Scott 1764b), and for myself the story seemed to end here. None of my collector and dealer colleagues who aware of this story fared any better. But hold on – this was only the prologue. Fast forward again - this time to August 1999.

My family was vacationing for a few weeks in Oakville at my parents' and sister's places. Days were hot, pool temperature was comfortable, and the sun was shining – a far cry from winter and those Christmas stamps. By the time summer rolled around that year, it became very clear that the 45¢ sheet value with 13.1x13.6 perforation was a modern rarity, as only around 250 mint copies had been located by that time across the country. And I still hadn't found any!



As is my habit, I checked a few post offices in the Oakville area to see if they happened to have had any old stocks of stamps. None had the Christmas stamps, but as I discussed this issue with the owner of one retail post office, I asked him where his normal stamp stock gets delivered from by Canada Post. I was desperately trying to unlock this puzzle, if there was any time left to do so. His answer was Ottawa, that all of the stamps come from the warehouse depot there. On further prompting, he also said he could try to get additional stock of the 45¢ sheets, if I wanted some and he was still able to order them. I agreed but didn't hold out much promise - a

few days later I checked back with him. "No, not available anymore" was the answer. Well so much for that, I figured.

A day later on Thursday, while pool-side, the stamp continued to chew away at me and I started thinking again. That particular weekday is actually quite important as you'll find out a bit later! There had to be a way to find these stamps! So - *what if* I drove to Ottawa; *what if* I checked

with Canada Post where the depot is; *what if* they still had some in stock, and *what if* they would sell them to me? As a professional engineer I am trained to solve problems, you see, and this was a major one.

Turning to my dad who was at the time in his seventies, I asked if he wanted to go on a road trip for a couple of days. After all, living in Calgary made it difficult to see and talk with my dad as frequently as I would have liked to, and I figured that if nothing else it would be a great father and son bonding trip. Surprisingly, he thought this might be fun (he was a stamp collector...), so early Friday morning we loaded up the car and set out for Ottawa (though my mother *did* think we were nuts...). On the way we stopped in Kemptville for lunch, and happily there was a Crown post office nearby. The postmaster was a very friendly lady with whom we had a great chat about, you guessed it, the Christmas stamps. She had only first-day covers of the issue left, and after checking those we sadly left empty-handed.

We made it to Ottawa a little after 1pm, and immediately made for the main post office on Sparks Street. None of the postal clerks knew anything about where stamps are distributed from to post offices, so again, we were shutout. Then it dawned on me that the local phone book may have more info. In the middle of Sparks Street mall, a payphone in one hand and white pages in the other, I proceeded to work through the list of Canada Post corporate addresses and phone numbers in Ottawa to see which might be the sought-after spot. I didn't have a cell phone at that time, so the old-fashioned way had to suffice! With the list of numbers in the phone book and information the Oakville post office individual was able to give me, I eventually narrowed it down to one number that looked promising, so I called it. A lady receptionist picked up the phone and after I sheepishly stumbled through my story, she indicated that while this was indeed the depot but it was not open to the public. She couldn't tell me where it was and she couldn't really help me. After some more pleading, dragging my retired father into the story and the distance driven for this sole purpose, she said she would try to find out more about the stamps and whether the depot even had any left. After waiting on the line for a few minutes, she returned and confirmed that they still had the stamps but that they were in the process of packaging them for destruction. Further pleading (whining?) on my part, explaining how they could perhaps see if they had the correct stamps (I gave them a fool-proof way by counting the vertical perforations) and that to make it worth their while I would be willing to buy a whole pad of 50 sheets

of the "correct" ones, resulted in her agreeing to go back and check with the warehouse workers whether they still had any boxes open where they could check the stamps. She told me she would try to have the information to me in about one and a half hours, and to call her back – it was now about 2pm Friday afternoon!

After a very anxious and exact 90 minutes, I called back and she told me they indeed had the stamps I was after, *perfs and all!* The problem was, she said, that they don't sell to the public, so there was no way for me to get them from the warehouse. Close to panic by that time, I remembered the nice postmaster we met earlier in the day in Kemptville and suggested that perhaps she could arrange to have the pad of sheets shipped to the post office there, and I would purchase them from the postmaster. The lady at the depot indicated this could work and that they could send the stamps to Kemptville for my payment and pickup on Monday. Unfortunately, the combination of this being a Friday, my promise that I would be back with dad on Saturday, and our return flight to Calgary the following Tuesday made the offer clearly unworkable.

Explaining my dilemma, I asked cautiously if I could perhaps leave my credit card info with her for the postmaster in Kemptville, and the stamps could then be sent to me in Calgary by the Kemptville post office after they received them on Monday. She thought this might also work and asked me for the

Kemptville post office phone number. Which of course I didn't have! No matter, she said, she might be able to find it. She put me on hold and some 5 minutes later got back on the line. She had found the number and called the post office, but the postmaster had already left for the day by that time (she started very early each morning). Undeterred, she found the postmaster's home phone number and called her there to see if she would agree to the idea (talk about customer service beyond the expected!). The lady was, fortunately, at home and having remembered us from the morning agreed to the idea (it was after all \$1,125 worth of stamps so not a bad sale for any post office!). After passing on my credit card information and home address, we ultimately agreed that the warehouse would send the stamps to Kemptville, where they would be re-directed to me in Calgary. This was all solved by about 4:30 in the afternoon. The best value I ever received for two quarters in one payphone! And huge 'thank you's to the very patient, understanding, and supportive individual at Canada Post's distribution depot who, no doubt, had never faced a call such as mine before!



Rare inscription block

For the rest of the day and Saturday morning, dad and I spent touring Ottawa, but I must admit my mind was elsewhere. We got safely back home, and on Tuesday our family flew back to Calgary. Wednesday on, I eagerly went by my post office box each day to see if a large envelope had turned up yet. The expected package finally arrived on Friday. As I picked up the envelope I was intently focusing on the contents – this was either the “pot of gold at the end of the rainbow”, or a very expensive package of discount postage (dad and I did have a great time though, so that part alone was worth the two-day trip). I gingerly opened the envelope and found a sealed package of the 45¢ sheet stamps, with cardboard inside on either side of the pad, but with the cardboard cut away at one corner on the face side showing one full stamp (that is how they are normally distributed). I very clearly saw pen marks on the loose, transparent, plastic wrap where someone had counted the holes along the vertical edge, just like I had asked them to do. I then counted the holes myself - 25! I just received \$1,125 in “discount” postage. Remember your feeling if you ever bought an expensive stamp at auction for an absolutely dream price that turned out to be a faulty, or the wrong, stamp?

In the end I was able to return the full pad at my post office, since the original came from a crown post office so I lost no money. I only had to find a way to get back the Ontario PST that somehow also ended up tacked on to the price of the sheets. This was later accomplished through the visitor tax refund program.

The established story on this stamp variety is as follows: based on where mint copies have been purchased and where the stamps were used on commercial mail, the rare perf variety was supplied only through the Ottawa distribution centre to post offices in eastern Canada, and only to those post offices that re-ordered additional 45¢ sheet stock in early to mid-December 1998 (the stamp was issued in early November). None appear to have been distributed to western Canada. None of the stamps sold through the Philatelic Centre were of the rare variety and none were used on Official First Day Covers. Used copies turned up for a while in stamp kiloware, mostly with southern Ontario cancels indicating that a good number of post offices had at least a few of these at one time or another.

Now, 25 years after the discovery, a few more sheets of these have been found over the years, but the 13.1x13.6 perforated 45¢ Angel from sheets continues to be a very premium stamp. A couple of Ontario collectors later told me that they noticed the perforation differences during that December, but alas, thought the perf 13.1x13.6 version to be the common one so they never bought any. By the time they realized the error of their thinking, all were gone from post offices. A good friend of mine had the (mis?)fortune of buying a mint block of four, and then having two of them cancelled with nice CDS cancels. Though scarce used, and even more desirable as a choice stamp, the value of a used copy is still far less than that of its mint counterpart.

How could such a common stamp disappear so quickly, and completely, from post offices creating such a rarity? We will never fully know why the variety came to be, but we have a true story of perhaps the most intense hunt for this stamp.

Best wishes to all for the holiday season, and happy stamping!

Maple Leaves in Winter

A *possible* constant variety on the 7¢ Maple Leaves in Winter stamp of 1971 (Scott 538) has been forwarded to us by a collector. It consists of a grey line extending vertically downwards from the end of the stem of the bottom leaf.

We are looking for confirmation of this variety, and a position location on the pane of 50.



Possible constant variety?



Articles Urgently Needed

Post-Elizabethan New Issues

No. 7 • November–December 2023

Supplement to *Corgi Times*, bi-monthly journal of The Elizabethan II Study Group

Buffy Saint-Marie

Canada Post released a single commemorative for Buffy Saint-Marie on November 19, 2021. Some controversy with regards to Buffy Saint-Marie's Indigenous identity has recently appeared in the news.

Information in Canada Post's *Details* magazine, which is likely based on a 2018 authorized biography, states she "was raised by adoptive parents in New England and was probably born at the Piapot First Nation in Saskatchewan". Saint-Marie claims she was adopted, and does not know where she was born or who her biological parents are.

On October 27, 2023, CBC News published Sainte-Marie's official birth certificate. It indicates that she was born in Stoneham, Massachusetts, to her white, supposed adoptive parents, Albert and Winifred Santamaria. Her name on the birth certificate is given as Beverley Jean Santamaria.



Details – Oh Where Oh Where Are You!

Over the last couple of years we have raised concerns with both the amount, and timeliness, of new stamp information that is forthcoming from Canada Post. This has been even more concerning this year as the year comes to a close. As of late October, only four *Details* magazines for 2023 have appeared, with the last (June-July) highlighting the three stamp issues from June and July.

Stamp issues have appeared in August, September and October ... but no *Details* magazine to provide us with any information on the stamps.

What about next year's program? Years ago we would hear about the complete upcoming year's stamp program by the fall, at the very latest. We note that in late October the United States Postal Service announced their 2024 stamp program, along with images of each stamp issue! Please Canada Post ... can stamp collectors here in Canada not receive the same kind of information?

RIP, Canadian Philately (1851–2023)

Well, we had a good run, although the last year has been particularly tough to swallow.

A mailing from Canada Post received in the first week of November 2023, simply titled "Stamps", notes that the *Details* magazine, and how new stamp announcements have been made to stamp collectors since the 1950's, has come to an end.

It appears that collectors will now be forced to go online to obtain new issue information. And we use that word "new" a bit loosely considering that much of the information we have seen over the last few months has not been released until the day of (or later!) for new stamps. A far cry from the good 'ol days.

Perhaps it is only fitting that, along with the ever aging stamp collector, Canadian philately is also coming to an end.

A very sad time for Canadian stamp collectors. RIP, Canadian philately.

Of course the above is a bit of 'tongue in cheek'.
Stamp collectors will ensure that philately continues.

How do you feel about the demise of the *Details* magazine and the lack of timely new stamp information from Canada Post?
We really would like to hear from *you*!

Under the Hood

Take out your ultraviolet light and view the recent Diwali and Hanukkah stamps (of 2023) in a dark room. The Diwali stamp certainly lights up brightly. The lit candles on the Hanukkah stamp are a very nice touch.

Well done Canada Post!



Sutherland Die Cut Variety

Please take a look at your Donald Sutherland booklet(s) (released October 19) and see if you have a possible constant die cut anomaly on one of the stamps.

The stamp with the variety is the upper right stamp in the booklet pane of 10 stamps. There are two “nearly missing” sections in the die cutting at the upper left corner of the affected stamp.

This is the first kind of example of a partial missing die cut that we can recall being reported on a Canadian commemorative stamp.

We are looking for examples from other parts of Canada.



Mona Parsons

Issue date: November 7, 2023

This issue includes a self-adhesive booklet of 10 stamps as well as a water-activated gum pane of five stamps.

The fourth Quarterly Pack for 2023 included only single stamps of each variety, rather than including the full special pane of five stamps as was done in years past. For collectors of the Quarterly Packs this results in a nice savings in price (some \$3.68).



Pane images shown at 33%



2023 | 3 Stamps of Canada Quarterly Pack

Issue date: mid-October 2023

The third quarterly pack of 2023 was made available on the Canada Post website toward the middle of October. It is advertised as having the stamps issued from July through September and is priced at \$15.64.

There are three stamp issues included:

- Let's Take the Ferry! (five singles and souvenir sheet)
- Quebec Feminists (vertical strip of three)
- Truth and Reconciliation (block of four)



2023 | 4 Stamps of Canada Quarterly Pack

Issue date: mid-November 2023

The fourth quarterly pack of 2023 was made available on the Canada Post website toward the middle of November. It is advertised as having the stamps issued from October through December and is priced at \$16.30.

There are seven stamp issues included:

- Donald Sutherland
- Willie O'Ree
- Madonna and Child
- Holiday: Winter Scenes
- Mona Parsons
- Diwali
- Hanukkah



Canada's 2023 Stamp Issues

Illustrated here are the 34 Canadian stamps from 2023. They have been grouped into “annual issues” (this page) and the “others” (next page). It is interesting to note that 12 of the stamps – nearly a third – specifically honour an individual.

All images are shown at actual size.



Black History Month: Chloe Cooley



Flower: Ranunculus



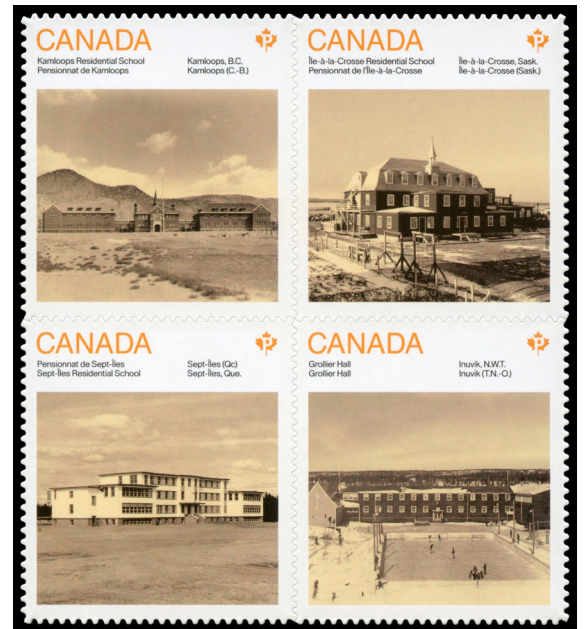
Eid



Canada Post Community Foundation



Indigenous leaders



Truth and Reconciliation



Madonna and Child



Diwali



Hanukkah



Holiday: Winter Scenes



King Charles III



Mona Parsons



Animal mothers and babies



RCMP 150th Anniversary



Denys Arcand



Donald Sutherland



Willie O'Ree



Quebec feminists



Let's take the ferry!

2023 Stamp Poll

Most favourite _____

Least favourite _____

Most necessary _____

Least necessary _____

2023 Christmas Seals from across Canada

by: *Andrew Chung, FRPSC*

2023 was another unprecedented year if you collect Christmas Seals. There are now eight different issues compared to seven last year and five the year before that. Festive holiday greetings!

	Name	Location	Pane Format/Designs
1	BC Lung Foundation	Vancouver BC	Pane of 36, 12 designs
2	Alberta Lung	Edmonton AB	Pane of 36, 12 designs
3	Lung Saskatchewan (Lung Sask)	Saskatoon SK	Pane of 40, 20 designs
4	The Lung Association, Manitoba The Canadian Lung Association†	Winnipeg MB Ottawa ON	Pane of 35, 15 designs
5	Lung Health Foundation	Toronto ON	Pane of 36, 12 designs
6	Association pulmonaire du Québec	Montreal QC	*
7	New Brunswick Lung Association	Fredericton NB	*
8	Lung NSPEI (Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island)	Halifax NS	Pane of 36, 12 designs

† serves Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador

* illustrations not available at this time



BC Lung Foundation (full pane of 36)



The Lung Association, Manitoba (full pane of 35)
The Canadian Lung Association

Images at 50%



Lung NSPEI (full pane of 36)



Lung Health Foundation (full pane of 36)



Alberta Lung (full pane of 36)



Lung Saskatchewan (full pane of 20)

2023 Christmas Card

by: Andrew Chung, FRPSC

Here you see a “Merry Christmas” post card I received on December 4 delivered by Canada Post from the Member of Parliament of my riding in Hamilton, Ontario, illustrating stamp art on the message side at the upper right. A wrapped gift is pictured on the left stamp and a leaping reindeer is pictured on the right stamp. The reindeer image is strikingly similar to the 2007 Christmas Issue (Scott 2239). The only difference between the two is the shape of the antlers.



Scott 2239