

CORGI TIMES

THE ELIZABETHAN II STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Shortly after Pacific '97 the United States Postal Service announced (September 1997) plans to sponsor and manage an international stamp exhibition once every five years. The announcement stated the first of these events would be World Stamp Expo 2000 in Anaheim, California.

Those plans are alive and well. World Stamp Expo 2000 will be held July 7-16 at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California. The American Philatelic Society has extended World Series of Philately status to the 250 frame exhibition planned for the event. The winner of the grand award will be eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions competition in 2001. The prospectus may be obtained from the APS, P. O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 or telephone 814-237-3803 or fax 814-237-6128 or e-mail stampshow@stamps.org. The deadline for entries is March 15, 2000 and early submission is recommended. The event will include more than 200 dealers and 100 postal administrators from around the world. World Stamp Expo may be reached at P. O. Box 44403, Washington, D. C. 20025-4403.

On October 12 Canada Post released The Millenium Keepsake. This is reported and described on pages 22 & 23 in the 1999 New Issues program. Postal Stationery collectors should note that the Keepsake includes a "pre-stamped postcard for mailing anywhere" and it is my understanding this postcard may not be separately available.

BNAPLEX '99 in Vernon, B. C. in September was a very successful convention. The registered attendance exceeded St. John's, Newfoundland - will over 200.

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In addition some 75 to 100 attended the show for 1 to 2 days. There were over 15 dealers in the Bourse and while I have lost (for the present at least) my listing, there were some 200 frames of material on exhibit. Included were two QEII period exhibits. John Hillmer received a silver for his showing of a selection of his Caricature material. The Saskatoon Stamp Centre entered a five frame exhibit of major Elizabethan period errors from the J. D. Maas collection which received a gold. I am sure both TOPICS and BNA Portraits will each have much more detailed reports. BNAPEX 2000 will be held in the Chicago area on Aug. 31 through Sept. 2.

Unfortunately, Harry Machum, the main speaker for the Study Group meeting was forced to cancel at the last minute due to an unfortunate accident. Luckily, all is now well, and Harry reports he is as good as new. The one frame Semi-Postal exhibit which I showed at the meeting was subsequently entered in the Spokane "Apple Harvest 99" show and received a Silver. As discussed in the Study Group meeting the Judges unanimously agreed the exhibit suffers from the lack of significant covers. We did have a new member sign on at the meeting: Vernon Richards, 1113 548 Dallas Road, Victoria, B. C. V8V 1B3. Somehow his primary areas of interest were not noted and this will be reported at a later date.

There was a very limited response to the request for information and input of how best to shape our efforts to continue the joint Study Group auction program. Many thanks to those that did add their thoughts. For the present we have concluded that we will not attempt another large auction in early 2000. Instead we will embark on an experimental program and be guided by the results of that effort. These plans have been reviewed with the Centennial Study Group and they will continue to be a vital participant in this program.

There are two elements to the experimental program. The primary change is to remove the minimum lot value from all postal history lots. This will open up opportunities for both buyers and sellers of such material especially material from the late 1980's as well as the 1990's where minimums well under \$15.00 are applicable. The minimum lot value of \$15.00 (Cdn) will continue to apply to stamp lots. All other auction provisions are the same as in the past.

The other change being considered is whether or not to continue to run a regular auction or convert to a private treaty listing or perhaps a combination of the two. In order to maintain this flexibility it is important in sending material to the auctioneer that in addition to minimum lot values being indicated the consignee also indicate "*the fair retail value*" which will be used if it is decided to undertake a private treaty listing.

Accordingly, material for the forthcoming offering (auction) should be sent to Harry Machum, P. O. Box 123, Little Current, Ontario KOP 1K0 to arrive no later than Dec. 20. Based on material on hand the next issue of Corgi Times in late December will announce in detail this initial "experimental" program.

Let me conclude these notes by reporting a bit more on our Apple Harvest show. The show follows the APS judging guidelines. The jury was excellent and was fully oriented to offering constructive suggestions to all exhibitors. We use a three-man jury which was comprised of Douglas and Nancy Zelinski Clark from Athens, Georgia and Dr. Hugh Johnston from Spokane.

For a long time several of us have been frustrated with the mail-in exhibiting process - you mail in your exhibit and with it's return you receive the show program, the show palmars, your ribbon and of course any prizes you may have won. But since you were unable to attend the show or the judges critique you knew absolutely nothing more about your material than before the show.

This year we asked our Judges to prepare a brief set of comments (positive comments) on each exhibit where the exhibitor was not present for the critique. The rules for this document were simple. It was to be prepared in the spirit of being helpful, it was to be short and concise (suggested limit of a maximum of three comments), and once completed it was not to be signed and no copies maintained by any Judge. Likewise no copy of these reports were retained in our show files. The judges elected to prepare reports on all exhibits. The report was strictly for the exhibitor's consideration in his/her future exhibiting. Exhibitor response has been outstanding and this will be a feature of all future Apple Harvest shows.

We continue to receive each year a number of requests for articles on exhibiting. These are generally broad requests as opposed to specific requests on any one aspect or problem encountered in exhibiting. Adopting a page from the old adage - "A picture is worth a thousand words" - starting in the next issue we will undertake a program of showing a series of pages from a number of exhibits. This will be spread out over the next several issues. Anyone who has a few pages (one, two up to four) from his/her exhibit which are utilizing a bit of unique treatment is requested to send photocopies and a few brief descriptive comments to the Editor to be included in this program.

jda

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* ANNUAL DUES: US and Canadian addresses US \$11.00. Canadian addresses option of CAN \$15.00. All others US \$16.00. Please make checks payable to "The Elizabethan II Study Group" and send to John D. Arn, Editor at the above address.

BACK ISSUES: Sample or Single issues US \$2.50. Vols. I through V (Six issues each including Addendums and Index of each Volume) US\$13.00 each. Vol. 1 through V (New consolidated 5 year Index) US \$6.00. Vol. VI (168 pages) US\$16.00.

SEE PAGE 20 FOR DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR 2000 JOINT AUCTION.
AUCTION LOTS ARE DUE IN LITTLE CURRENT, ONTARIO BY DEC. 20

SECTION I - GENERAL - CANADA 1999 NEW ISSUE PROGRAM

(Estimated Face Value - one each - 77 items \$34.93 - Excl. Millennium Collection & Keepsake)

<u>Date of Issue</u>	<u>Denomination/s</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Jan. 8	46¢ - Domestic rate - Comm.	Year of the Rabbit
Jan. 9	95¢ - Souvenir Sheet - Comm.	Year of the Rabbit
Feb. 17	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Definitive	Theater of the Green Curtain - Montreal
Feb. 24	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 4 Se-tenant	Four Different Birds - Commemoratives
Feb. 24	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 2 Envelopes	A No. 8 & a no. 10 - hairy woodpecker & great fly catcher
Mar. 9	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	Univ. of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology
Mar. 19	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	Marco Polo - Cargo Sailing Ship
Mar. 31	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 4 Se-tenant	Scenic Highways - 3rd set & last year
Apr. 1	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	Canada's Newest Territory (part of NWT)
Apr. 12	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	International Year of Older Persons
Apr. 19	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	Sikh Canadians - 300th Anniv. Baisahka Day
Apr. 27	46¢ - Domestic Rate- 4 Se-tenant	Orchids - Commemoratives
Apr. 29	1¢ - 25¢ Low Values- 8 Varieties	New Low Value Definitive Series featuring crafts and trades requiring use of hands
Jun. 2	46¢ - Domestic Rate -4 Se-tenant	Famous Canadian Horses
Jun. 7	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm. Envelope	Heritage Club 10th Anniversary
June 3	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	Barreau du Quebec - Quebec's bar 150th anniversary
Jun. 24	46¢ - Grain Elevator - Comm.	Envelope 75th Anniv. Sask. Wheat Pool
Jun. 30	46¢ - Capital City - Comm.	Env. 100th Anniv. - National Capital Com.
Jul. 2	95¢ - Int'l Ltr. Post & Post Card	Masterpieces of Canadian Art *
Jul. 12	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 4 Se-tenant	Pan American Games - Winnipeg - Comm.
Aug. 22	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	World Rowing Championships
Aug. 23	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	150th Anniv. - Universal Postal Union
Sep. 3	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Post Card	Francophone Summit - Comm.
Sep. 4	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 4 Se-tenant	Canadian Internat. Air Show - 50th Ann.
Sep. 4	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 16 Varieties	Canadian Air Force 75th Anniv. - Com.
Sep. 15	The Millennium Collection	
Sep. 21	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	68 46¢ Commemorative Stamps(Below-1)
Sep. 24	46¢ - Domestic Rate - Comm.	North Atlantic Treaty Organization - 50th Ann.
Oct. 1	46¢ - Domestic Rate - 4 Se-tenant	Frontier College, Ontario - 100th Anniv.
Oct. 12	The Millennium Keepsake	
Oct. 12	Minature Sheets - 46¢, 55¢, 95¢	Kites - Stamp Collecting Month
Nov. 4	Christmas Issue - 3 Varieties	Three single stamp Souvenir Sheets(Below-2)
		Same subjects as Keepsake SS (Below-2)
		Expected to feature Victorian Angels

* Was issued at Philexfrance 99 stamp show in Paris July 2-11

Housekeeping on above table:

Size 10 font - items have been issued.

Bold - not on original listing - Special notes below

(1 - The Millennium Collection will honor aspects of Canada for past 1000 years. Published in book form - \$59.95. Contact the National Philatelic Centre for additional information. The entire set will be issued as 17 souvenir sheets - 4 stamps per sheet at face value on Jan. 17, 2000.

CANADA 1999 NEW ISSUE PROGRAM CONTINUED

(2 - The Millennium Keepsake is packaged in a metal box containing three single stamp **souvenir sheets**, a Millennium medallion and a "pre-stamped postcard for mailing anywhere" plus a special explanation card and is priced at \$8.99 (the face value of the three Souvenir Sheets is \$1.96). The pricing reflects a "once in a Millennium". The three stamps were also issued in panes of four stamps each at face value and are reported to be generally available. The three values are 46¢, 55¢ and 95¢.

New issues may be ordered from: Canada Post

National Philatelic Centre
Antigonish, NS B2G 2R8

From North America: 1 800 565 4362 - from other countries: (902) 863 6550 or FAX: (902) 863 6796

SECTION I - ELIZABETHAN II MARKET REPORT - by Dean Mario

R. Maresch & Son's June 29-30 sale featured several good Elizabethan lots. Lot 1611 contained mint VF NH 1962-63 2¢- 5¢ Cameo coils in strips of four. Estimated at \$100+, the lot realized \$80.50. A mint NH 1969 6¢ Christmas issue with the black printing omitted was in lot 1613. Although offered with a bit of the gum disturbed, the stamp sold for a fair \$920 (Unitrade 1999 value of \$3000).

Another error was offered in lot 1617, a mint NH 1971 7¢ Autumn Maple Leaf with the grey inscriptions missing. Estimated with a Unitrade value of \$4000, the stamp reached \$862.50. A mint NH 1978 14¢ Red Parliament Coil imperf pair (lot 1619) sold for \$97.75 (Unitrade \$200). Six different 1989 38¢ Regiment inscription blocks were offered and sold from \$120.75 (lot 1623) to \$138 (lot 1621). A mint NH signed 1992 Youth sheet plus a 1987 CAPEX mini-sheet signed by the designer (John Mardon) were offered in lot 1627 at a Unitrade value of \$200+. The lot went to a new home for \$63.25. View the firm's website at: www.maresch.com for more information. Prices above include the 15% buyer's fee.

Ron Leith Philatelic Auctions' February 13, 1999 sale had a few postal history items from the Elizabethan-era. Let's examine a few of them. Rate covers have become very desirable recently. Lot 1272, a 45¢ registered airmail cover to New Zealand realized \$34.50 ~~against a \$40+ estimate~~ (prices include the 15% buyer's fee; reserves set at 50% for postal history). A 1962 50¢ airmail double-rate cover (paid by a single 1953 50¢ Textile Industry stamp) to Lebanon (lot 1273) sold for \$46 (estimated at \$75+) . Lot 1274, a 1957 cover to Puerto Rico franked with three 4¢ Wilding definitives (the 12¢ airmail double-rate) was estimated at \$50+ and sold for \$46.

Lot 1276 was an unusual 1964 registered \$3600 "Money Packet" parcel tag. The \$5.50 franking was paid by five 1963 \$1 Canada Exports stamps and one 50¢ Textile Industry stamp. Estimated at \$75+, it sold for \$ 103.50 ! A similar Money Packet tag from 1972 (lot 1278) with the \$8 rate paid by a block of four

of the 1972 \$2 Quebec issue, sold for \$36.80 with a \$60+ estimate. A 1987 "Request to Hold Mail" card with three 1985 \$2 Banff National Park stamps paying the \$6 fee for three weeks (lot 1280), sold for \$25.30 against a \$25+ estimate.

Ron Leith Philatelic Auctions conducts two sales per year. For more information write to the firm at Box 430, Abbotsford, BC, V2S 5Z5 or telephone (604) 795-2240.

The August 21, 1999 Public Sale #6 conducted by Steveston Stamp Auctions contained a few interesting items from the Elizabethan era. Lot 97 contained three 1975-76 \$1 and \$2 Olympics mini-sheets of 8 in VF mint NH condition (face \$40). Estimated at \$40+, the group sold for \$35 (no buyer's fee was applicable). A VF mint NH 1973 6¢ Christmas single (lot 98) with the black double printed variety sold for \$80 against a \$60+ estimate.

Lot 99 featured a VF mint NH copy of the 1977 2¢ **Western Columbine** variety printed on the gum side. With an estimate of \$200+, it sold for \$170. A 1990 Folklore perf 12.5 x 12 VF mint **NH block of four plus one** on cover in a

Presentation Pack (lot 100) sold for \$27.50 (estimate of \$25+). A 1995 45¢ Flag coil strip of four with three of the stamps imperf between (lot 101) was estimated at \$200+ and sold for \$200. One of the 1997 overprinted Paul Henderson "Series of the Century" booklet panes in mint VFNH condition (in a complete gift pack) in lot 102 sold for \$70 (estimated at \$60+).

Lot 103 contained the 1997-99 Lunar New Year packs with all of the Canadian, Chinese, and Hong Kong issues in mint VFNH condition. Estimated at \$45+ (a retail value of \$60 quoted), the lot sold for \$30. Perhaps the most interesting Elizabethan item of the sale was contained in lot 104 shown below. This 1997 This Victorian Order of Nurses - Centennial mint VFNH full sheet of twenty with a dramatic misperf was found by a non-collector on Vancouver Island. Although mishandled with some finger marks on the gum, the sheet went to a new home for \$900 (estimated at \$1200+).

Steveston Stamp Auctions also conducts frequent mail bid sales. Contact it at: Third Floor, 12211 First Ave., Steveston, BC V7E 3M3, telephone (604) 241-8533, or FAX (604) 241-8580. Email: stevstmp@netcom.ca or view their website: <http://tor-pw1.netcom.caA-stevstmp/small.html>

PAST SALES HISTORY by Scott Traquair

SALE:	1 *	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No. LOTS CONSIGNED	67	88	60	85	66	151	183	185
No. LOTS SOLD	50	57	41	50	44	107	115	89
\$ SALES	\$986	\$1,441	\$1,236	\$1,331	\$917	\$3,947	\$3,728	\$2,703
No. of CONSIGNORS	4	9	7	10	9	7	0	7
No. of BIDDERS	18	26	29	28	30	43	35	30
No. of BUYERS	18	22	20	18	21	31	33	28
\$ PROCEEDS	\$42	(\$14)	(\$58)	(\$67)	(\$53)	\$310	\$271	\$123

* CDSG only

SECTION I - GENERAL - CDSG / QEII JOINT SALE NO. 8

PRICES REALIZED

LOT	SOLD	LOT	SOLD	LOT	SOLD	LOT	SOLD	LOT	SOLD
1		38	\$50.00	75		112	12.00	149	20.00
2		39	\$13.00	76		113	20.00	150	\$70.00
3		40	\$64.00	77	\$15.00	114		151	\$75.00
4	\$16.00	41	\$25.00	78	\$15.00	115		152	
5	\$20.00	42	\$16.00	79		116		153	
6	\$18.00	43		80		117		154	
7	\$18.00	44	\$23.00	81	\$20.00	118	\$20.00	155	
8		45	\$60.00	82		119		156	\$15.00
9	\$36.00	46		83		120		157	
10	\$20.00	47	\$50.00	84	\$25.00	121	\$25.00	158	\$20.00
11		48		85	\$19.00	122		159	\$30.00
12		49	\$53.00	86	\$34.00	123		160	
13		50	\$10.00	87	\$45.00	124	\$20.00	161	
14		51	\$16.00	88		125		162	\$15.00
15		52		89		126		163	
16		53	\$63.00	90	\$16.00	127		164	
17	\$20.00	54	\$41.00	91	\$16.00	128	\$20.00	165	
18		55		92		129		166	\$15.00
19		56	\$20.00	93		130	\$21.00	167	
20		57	\$26.00	94		131	\$21.00	168	\$20.00
21		58		95		132	\$26.00	169	
22	\$20.00	59	\$26.00	96		133	\$21.00	170	\$25.00
23		60	\$175.00	97		134	\$32.00	171	\$10.00
24	\$50.00	61	\$21.00	98		135		172	\$15.00
25	\$21.00	62	\$31.00	99		136	\$23.00	173	
26		63		100		137		174	
27		64		101		138		175	\$30.00
28	\$40.00	65	\$15.00	102		139	\$26.00	176	
29	\$15.00	66		103		140	\$10.00	177	
30		67	\$62.00	104		141	\$10.00	178	
31	\$46.00	68		105		142		179	\$40.00
32		69	\$18.00	106	\$40.00	143		180	\$21.00
33	\$100.00	70		107	\$41.00	144		181	\$10.00
34		71		108	\$23.00	145	w'drawn	182	
35	\$50.00	72		109	\$31.00	146	\$26.00	183	\$20.00
36		73	\$15.00	110	\$20.00	147		184	\$75.00
37	\$31.00	74		111	\$36.00	148		185	34.00
TOTAL:									\$2,703.00

SECTION I - GENERAL - MAIL BOX

Along with the wrap up reports on the last auction Scott Traquair included the following note - Re: CDSG• / QEII JOINT MAIL SAILS

"After eight years of co-ordinating the annual mail sale or auction I regret to advise the membership of both groups that I am resigning as auction co-ordinator.

Thanks to all of the members who participated over the years as both buyers and sellers. Hopefully each and every participant found the experience to be rewarding. I hope that someone else will come forward to take on the task of Sale # 9 - the "Millennium or Y2K Sale".

Over the course of eight sales we only had one person not pay for a lot (valued at less than \$30 CDN) and I can only recall one lot being returned. I am certain that there were occasions where you were being charitable. Everyone was always very patient as to the timing of the sale and the settlement, both of which were always re-scheduled and delayed. Thanks for your patience !

To whomever is interested in taking over the co-ordination of the next sale I am sure that all members would welcome your initiative and I will be glad to pass on any information as to how I organized each sale."

• Centennial Definitive Study Group

Ed Note: Scott, the two Study Groups can never repay you for the tremendous amount of work you put into this project. Perhaps the best indication of our appreciation is interest in continuing the project. Thank you for paving the way.

Shown on the next page is a copy of a Fédération Québécoise de philatélie (FQP) press release prepared by Richard Gratton. I received a copy of the press release from Mr. Gratton along with the following note dated September 1st 99.

"I must tell you I was not very happy when I read the September 96 issue of Corgi Times last week. Could you please make the necessary correction in your next issue and send me a copy. Thank you /s/ R. Gratton"

I must admit to a bit of confusion. The article in the Sept.-Oct. 1996 issue was provided by a member and I will leave it up to him whether or not he feels any part of the article requires clarification. I would point out that pages 26 and 27 of that issue reproduced complete copies of the FQP certificates each of which stated the stamps/stamp were "with yellow gum and yellowish paper color. This is a chemical fake". These were FQP certificates Nos. 2926 & 2928 and I assume are recorded in their official records. My confusion has to do with why the 1 cent blueberry definitive with yellow back (marked FAUX) were attached to the press release. The copies which I received bear no similarity to the *yellow backs* in question. The blueberries were obviously tampered with after release through normal postal channels and are pure fakes. Further, they show **absolutely no** resemblance to yellow paper.

If you care to review the reporting on these issues in the Corgi Times you should also look at page 46 of the Nov.-Dec. 1996 issue which contained an excellent report from Kasimir Bileski and the Editors position that "these "Yellow Backs" are just as valid as the fluorescent paper varieties appearing on any number of Elizabethan II issues".

PRESS RELEASE

Yellow backs - Clever fakes

Windsor, September 1st 1999; Stamps with yellow backs have been known in Canadian philately for over 25 years now, some with catalog status (Scottish settlers).

- Richard Gratton has proven without doubt that these are clever chemical fakes.
- **This information has been published in Philatelic Quebec in November 1995 (issue no. 197).**

Today I am sending you a sample to prove my point!

I recently read a copy of an article published in Corgi Times (September 1996- page 25) where I was very badly quoted. I have analysed 3 yellow back in 1995 and confirmed they were fakes.

I have never said these were made at the paper company or at printer!
The editor of Corgi Times did not check its sources with me !
It is very sad a copy of this article took 3 years to reach me !

EXPLANATION OF YELLOW BACKS:

1. The presence of yellow on the back of the stamps are due to a chemical treatment made after the stamps were out of the printer's doors.
2. Stamp paper has starch as one of its base constituent (nearly 5 %).
3. Starch can also be present in the gum in the case of dextrin type gums.
4. Vapours of iodine in solution can react with the starch in the paper.
5. If the right amount of vapour and the right concentration of iodine is used during a specific time the colour of the paper becomes yellow (or darker if too long exposition).
6. This test is well known in the paper industry and is used to determine the presence of starch in the various papers.

I am sending a few dealers, publishers and expert committees samples of the

1 cent blueberry definitive with yellow backs and marked FAUX.

I will be happy to answer questions.

Richard Gratton

- Pour publication immediate - 1 Septembre 1999

NO. 1197 Date 10-2-918 mode

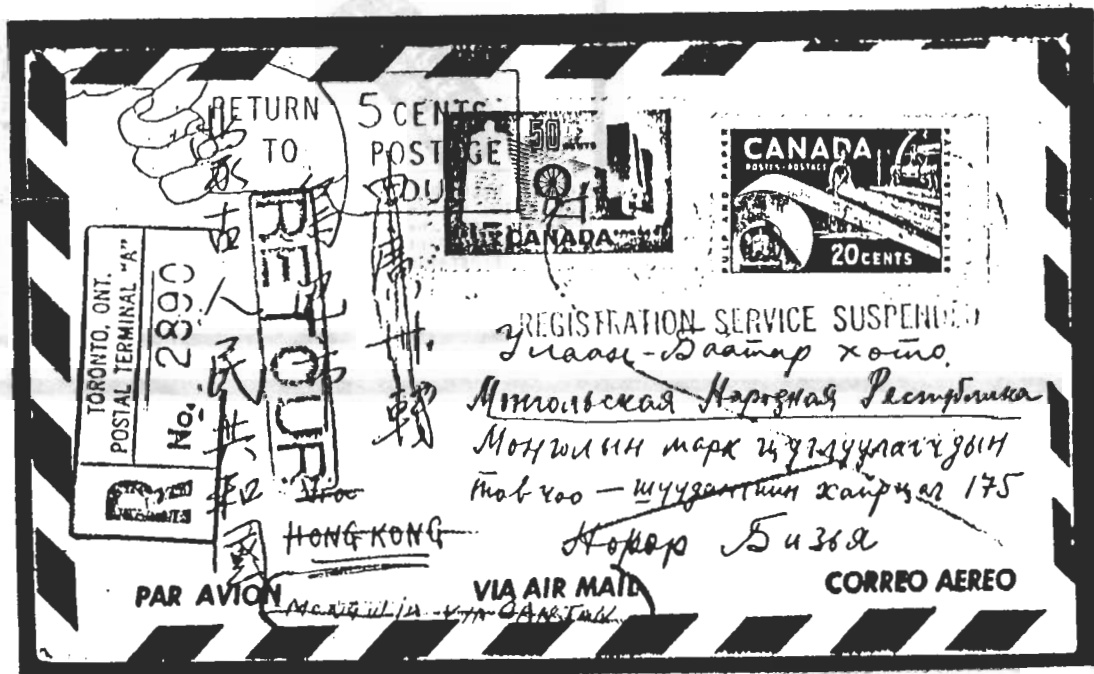
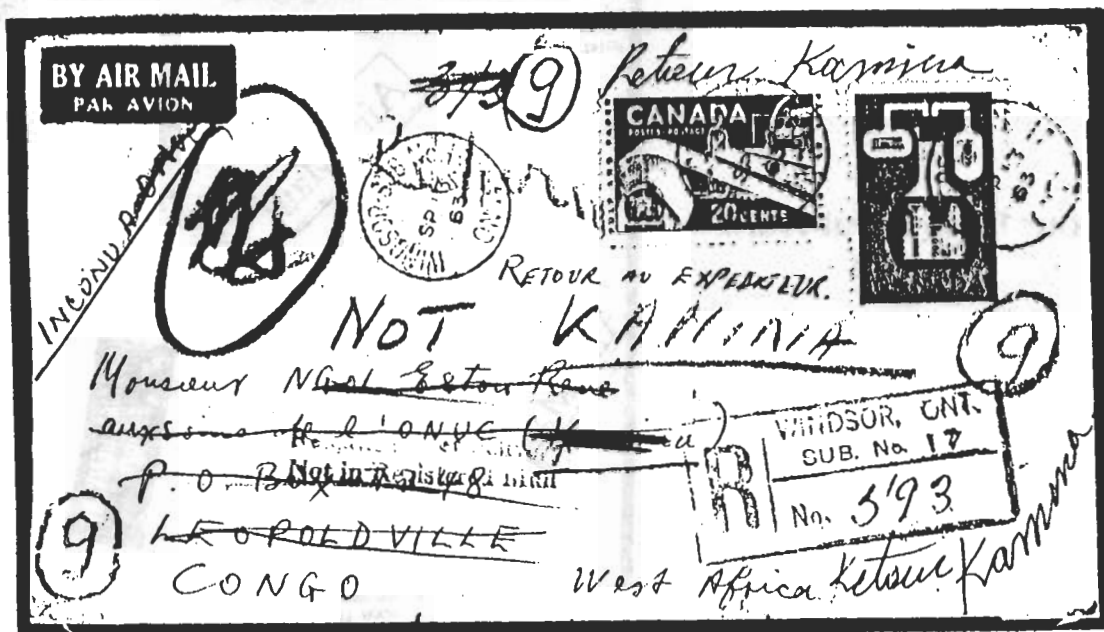


SECTION I - GENERAL - CORNER FOLD-OVERS - by Donald LeBlanc

This is the fourth in the series of outstanding "corner fold-overs" provided by Mr. LeBlanc. The section has been extended a bit to include such items as the George VI Coronation, the Royal Visit and the Responsible Government issue.





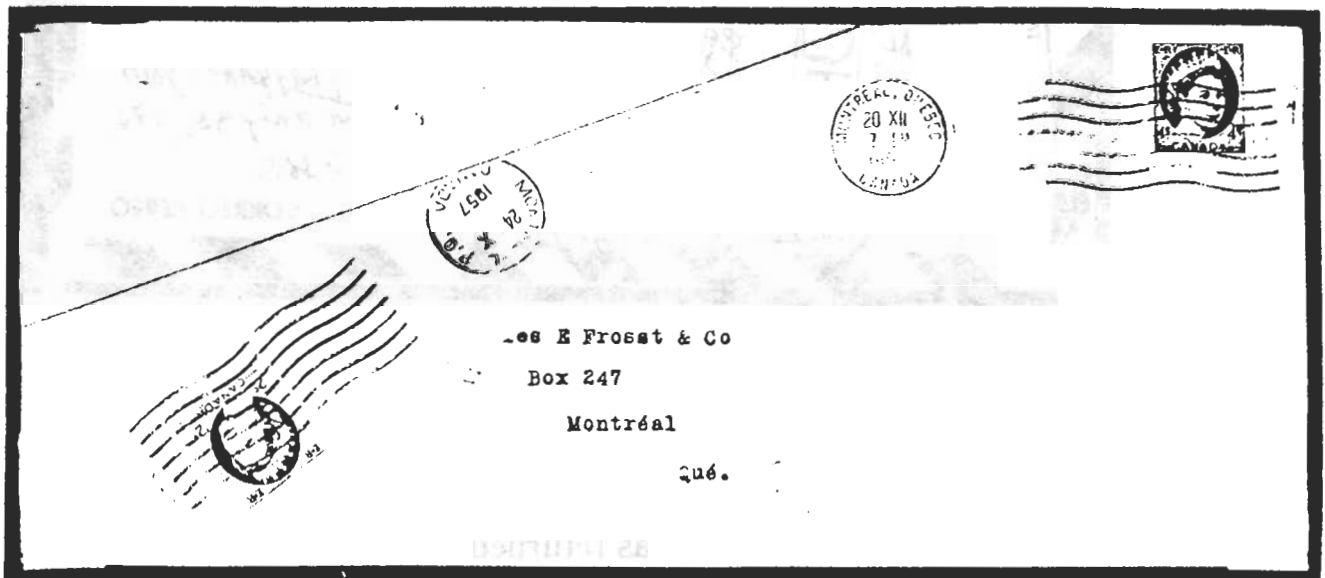
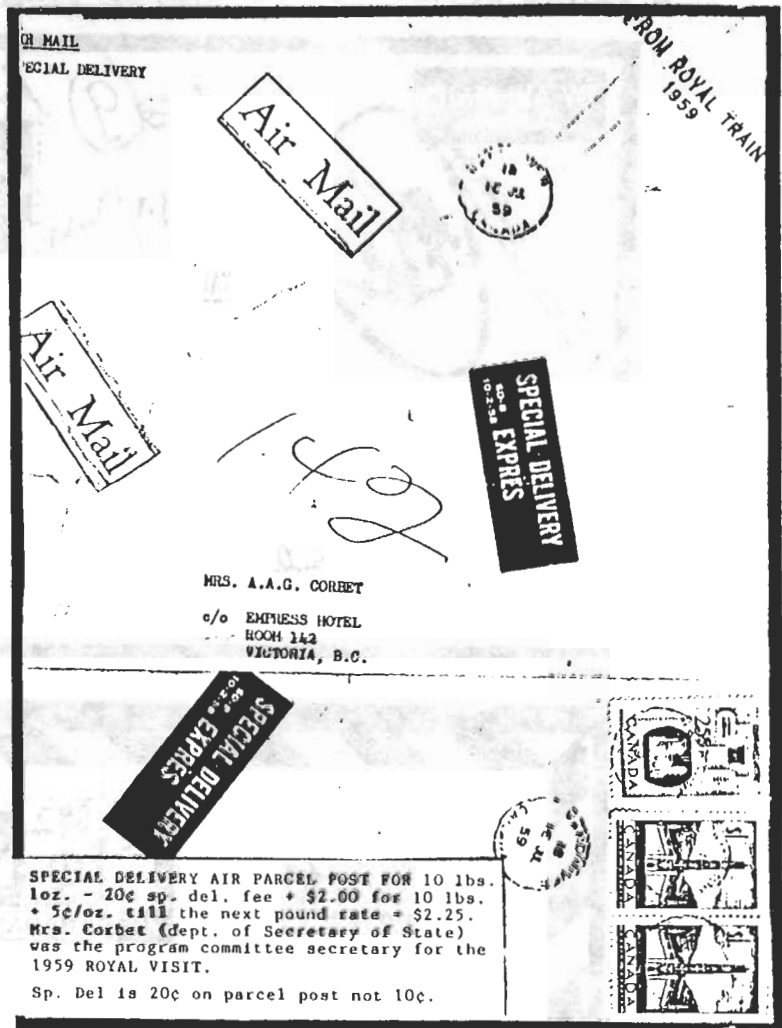


The upper cover was mailed by air mail/registered from Windsor, Ont. 13 Sept. 1963 to Leopoldville, Congo. Air Mail rate was 25¢ per 1/2 Ounce with registration an additional 20¢. Undeliverable and returned.

The lower cover is a double weight air mail registered cover to Tibet mailed from Toronto, Ont. in 1958. Air mail rate was 25¢ per 1/4 Ounce (total 50¢) with registration adding 20¢. The cover was returned as Registration Service was Suspended. With the return the 1 ounce domestic forward letter rate of 5¢ was charged (Postage Due) - returned to sender at a charge equal to the original postage.

SECTION II - WILDING PERIOD CON'T

Note: From Royal Train
1959



A turned cover. Sent printed matter and turned and used as a drop letter.
(Note: The front of this cover was folded in order to show both sides. - Very scarce usage)

The Orchids of Canada stamps *appear* to be 4 basic designs. However, as we will see, there are actually 11 different stamps available from these 4 designs!

The Orchids were released in two different formats:

- booklet pane of 12, issued April 27, 1999
- souvenir sheet of 4, issued August 21, 1999

Why are there 11 different stamps from these 4 basic designs? If you study the full booklet pane and souvenir sheet closely, you will see that those stamps that are adjoining selvedge actually have the design of the stamp *extending into the selvedge*.

It is true that the *selvedge* does not constitute a new stamp - if that were the case, there would be hundreds more collectable varieties in Canada during recent years. However, since the design extends into the selvedge, the same design exists in more than one way: the one where the design stops short of the perforation and another (or more) where the design is larger and passes into the perfs!

Does this constitute *additional* varieties that should be catalogued by Scott (the major numbering system used in North America) and Unitrade (the specialized catalogue in Canada)? Yes! Scott set a precedent back in 1991 that dictates that there should be 11 major catalogue numbers for the Orchids [the 1991 USA Christmas stamp showing Santa Claus in a chimney has 2 major catalogue numbers (sc. 2580-81), based on a subtle design difference (one is missing a brick on the chimney)]. Word received from Scott Publishing is that they will provide a *footnote* that discusses the varieties but *no* catalogue numbers will be assigned to the additional varieties.

Each of the 4 designs is repeated 4 different times throughout the booklet pane and souvenir sheet as illustrated in the images below. The booklet pane contains 3 examples of each design, in a somewhat random placement, while the souvenir sheet contains 1 of each design. I have numbered each position for specific referencing in the tables that follow.

The 4 basic designs feature the following orchids:

- dragon's mouth, *Arethusa bulbosa* (sc. 1787)
- small round-leaved orchid, *Amerorchis rotundifolia* (sc. 1788)
- small purple fringed orchid, *Platanthera psycodes* (sc. 1789)
- greater yellow lady's-slipper, *Cypripedium pubescens* (sc. 1790)

Here are the 4 basic stamps and the various major design varieties that exist (an italicized position indicates the stamp is from the souvenir sheet):

Arethusa bulbosa (sc. 1787)



Position	Variation
1, 9, 13	design <i>stops</i> short of perforations on all 4 sides
11	stems extend through bottom perfs



Amerorchis rotundifolia (sc. 1788)

Position	Variation
2, 6, 14	design <i>stops</i> short of perforations on all 4 sides
10	lower leaf and stem extend through bottom perfs



Platanthera psycodes (sc. 1789)

Position	Variation
4	left leaves extend through left perfs
8	design <i>stops</i> short of perforations on all 4 sides
12	stem extends through bottom perfs
15	left leaves extend extend through left perfs and stem extends through bottom perfs



Cypripedium pubescens (sc. 1790)

Position	Variation
3, 16	right leaves extend through right perfs
5	design stops short of perforations on all 4 sides (background at lower left is also light gray)
7	left leaves extend through left perfs (background is also white without the shading)



A note about selvedge

Philatelists should **not** remove the **selvedge** from a stamp, particularly if the stamp contains some form of text and/or illustration. With that said, most of the general public **will** remove the selvedge before applying the stamp(s) to the envelope.

The illustrations above show the single stamps without any selvedge (if applicable). This was done on purpose to show the 11 different varieties. However, I am not condoning the removal of the selvedge for placement in your album!

Many collectors like to reassemble booklet panes from their *used* stamps. If you are lucky enough to have the orchid stamps with selvedge attached, it is possible to very easily identify each of the 16 different positions noted above! However, since the catalogues do not recognize selvedge when assigning catalogue numbers, and as we have seen above, we are left with 11 design-different orchids.

Scarcity

Recent Canadian commemoratives are **relatively hard** to find in used condition. The more popular commemoratives that one seems to see more often are those from booklets, particularly the recent self-adhesive horses. Orchid stamps from the booklet pane will likely be found with the selvedge attached (where applicable) since the selvedge is quite narrow.

I doubt that many Orchids from the souvenir sheet will be used for postage (except those that are philatelically created). Good luck finding any of these with the selvedge attached. Notice that the *Platanthera psycodes* stamp from the souvenir sheet is *different* from any of the 3 found in the booklet pane.

Happy hunting...

This article with *colour* illustrations can be viewed at the author's web site: www.adminware.ca

The 1994 CHRISTMAS VARIETIES

In September of 1998 we received a letter from a Mr. Holmes from Halifax, NS stating that he had a complete sheet of 50 of the 1994 Christmas Choir stamp. What was remarkable about this sheet was that it was a 52¢ denomination instead of the regularly issued 50¢ value. Apparently Mr. Holmes bought a total of 3 sheets of 50 of this "unissued" denomination from a fellow with a booth at a local flea market, as "discount postage" at below face value. Mr. Holmes began shopping around looking for the best offer and, as time would tell, he had contacted a great many dealers throughout North America to sell his "find".



The 52¢ Variety



Normal 50¢

This discovery became more widely known when Mr. Holmes wrote to the Canadian Philatelist, the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. His letter was published in the November-December 1998 edition of *The Canadian Philatelist* with a large photo of an UR imprint block of 4 appearing on the front cover of that issue. SEE copy of that article and cover photo attached.

Negotiations proceeded but it quickly became apparent that Mr. Holmes had some very lofty ideas of what his treasures were worth. Unfortunately for Mr. Holmes, I became aware that the seller at the flea market had more than just these three sheets. Thus, we were pretty certain that it would be only a matter of time before we managed to track down some of these from closer to the source.

It was October of 1998, at the BNAPS Exhibition in Orlando, Florida that a collector approached us with 3 sheets he had of this very same stamp. We quickly made a deal on these and he promised he would check back with his source to see if there were more. By January we had managed to purchase what we were assured was all there were. We are pretty sure that these came, via a rather circuitous route, from the same source as Mr. Holmes three sheets. We ended up splitting the group with a dealer in the Maritimes.

We are now pretty sure that the flea market seller sold at least 5 sheets to people other than Mr. Holmes that day. Some of these were likely used for postage. After all, 52¢ was the rate to the USA in the fall of 1998. We are eagerly waiting the discovery of a "used" copy. It would have to have a date prior to September 1998 to be certain it was not a philatelic usage. If there were any used they would likely be found somewhere in the USA.

WHY were these stamps ever produced?

In 1994 Canada Post was lobbying the Government in Ottawa for an increase in postal rates. They obviously expected to receive permission to raise the rates from 43¢, 50¢, and 88¢ by Christmas and planned to issue the 1994 Christmas stamps at the new rates being proposed: 45¢, 52¢ and 90¢. The public were not the least bit impressed with this proposal, particularly just before the Christmas Card season. Political pressure was applied and the rate increase was postponed. These rates did finally come into effect on August 1, 1995.

It takes many months lead-time to prepare a new stamp issue. The design for the Christmas stamps for 1994 would have been finalized early in 1994, plates would have been prepared by the end of the



The 90¢ Variety



Normal 88¢

SEC. X - THE 1994 CHRISTMAS VARIETIES CON'T

summer, and the stamps, scheduled for release November 3, 1994, would likely have been printed by the end of August of 1994. Stamps are always shipped to post offices at least a week before the issue date. The sheets of these "52¢" stamps have imprints on the 4 corners of the sheet. This would certainly lead one to assume this was philatelic stock destined for Antigonish for distribution through the Philatelic outlet there. Likely, when the rate increase was turned down, there was a panic re-order for the Christmas series in the old denomination. The original shipment of the "new" values, was thus of no use. They would have been sent off for destruction. Somewhere along the line the surviving stamps found their way into private hands

Thus we have a new stamp and a most unusual occurrence in Canadian Philately. Unissued designs and values are known as both Die Proofs and Plate Proofs. Collectors generally call these Essays. A few "imperforates" have surfaced over the years with denomination or designs that were not "as issued". Generally, these "essays" have been in the form of an issued design with some part of the inscriptions or values different from what was finally issued. This is the first time an apparently "finished stamp" has reached the philatelic market here in Canada.

There is also some other interesting evidence that the rate change proposal was the reason for this variety. The Christmas 1994 "Greet More" booklet (BK171) contained 10 of the non-denominated 38¢ Soloist design. All these booklets had a label applied "over" the "45¢ rate" information printed on the booklet cover (in anticipation of this proposed rate increase from 43¢ to 45¢). Since the stamps in the booklets had no denomination, only the covers had to be corrected and this label was the solution here. If you carefully peel back the label on your booklet you will see the "45¢ rate" information.

There is one other interesting aspect of these stamps. The gum on the 52¢ is "greenish" characteristic of Coated Paper's paper, which is confirmed by the "C" on the imprint blocks. The gum on the regular 50¢ value is "whiter" and the "P" that appears on the imprint blocks confirms that this is Peterborough paper. Canadian Bank Note Company used both papers during 1994. Coated Papers' paper was used on the CBN printings of the Berry definitives released in August of 1994 (and obviously printed well before that date). Peterborough paper was used by CBN on the 43¢ booklets of 10 released in December of 1994. It is apparent that the issued stamps were rushed into production in the fall of 1994 and thus the issued stamps were printed on the Peterborough paper in use at that time. It is safe to assume that the 52¢ value was probably printed in August 1994, or earlier, on the "greenish" Coated Papers' stock.

Regardless, an interesting variety to enhance any Elizabethan collection.

Ed Note: Undoubtedly you have noticed quite a bit of advertising of the 1994 XMAS varieties in the trade journals. Quite obviously their source has less than a sterling background. Nevertheless their presence in the market is unique. Whether or not they ever obtain catalogue listing or even a footnote is not really significant. What struck me about the above release by the Saskatoon Stamp Centre was the straight forward factual reporting of the background of these stamps and the step by step tracing of their arrival in the philatelic market. I felt the story deserved recording in the newsletter.

It is my understanding there are a fairly sizable number of the 52 cent variety whereas the quantity of the 90 cent is quite limited. In fact there are no known multiples of the 90 cent. For whatever reason the 45 cent sheet stamp has not appeared.

SECTION X- OTHER - Can You Rate These Covers? See page 124 of Vol.VII,
No. 6 and page 16 of Vol. VIII, No. 1.

Covers J and K from Volume No. VII proved to be a quite a challenge. We had several members who had parts of the answer. Extending the time period did pay off as John Aitken did provide correct answers to both covers as explained below.

Cover J was a 1980 domestic registered cover to Armdale, N. S. with a total of \$4.01 in postage. First class postage was 17¢ to 30 grams and 26¢ to 50 grams. The registration fee for up to \$100.00 indemnity was \$1.50. Extra insurance (indemnity) was available at 25¢ per \$100.00 of valuation. This produced a rate of \$4.01 as follows: First Class 26¢ + Registration \$1.50 + additional insurance of 25¢ times 9 (total additional indemnity of \$900) or \$2.25 = \$4.01. Note the maximum insurable value was \$1,000.00 - \$100.00 by registration and \$900.00 by added insurance.

Cover K was a 1979 registered cover from Bathurst, N. S. to Dartmouth, N. S. with a total of \$2.17 in postage. Here the registration fee for up to \$300.00 of indemnity (\$1.50 basic + additional \$200.00 at 25¢ x 2 or 50¢) was \$2.00 + 17¢ for first step (30 grams) first class = \$2.17.

The 25¢/\$100.00 indemnity was introduced on Sept. 1, 1976 and lasted until Dec. 31, 1981. From Jan. 1, 1982 until the system was changed in 1989, the additional indemnity could be purchased at 1 basic letter rate per \$100.00. For example: in 1982 @ 30¢ per \$100, 1983 @ 32¢ per \$100.00, 1985 @ 34¢ per \$100.00 and so on.

Registered covers with extra indemnity are very uncommon. These are both excellent covers especially J. An appropriate thank you for untangling these rates is on the way to John.

Cover L was a 1992 mailing of films showing two rates - \$3.60 and \$4.85. Not only was no correct answer received but there were no answers period. (John Aitken did indicate he had no information on the 1992 cover). Consultation with our "expert" source which permits this series to run convinces me we should close out this cover at this time. The best analysis indicates this card should have been sent under conventional Film Rate provisions: (\$5.20/item + 72¢ per kg.) and this would have included postage both ways. What seems to have happened is that it was initially sent as a ground package - the meter tape for #3.60 - 6 Kg. and was returned regular post counter parcel for \$4.85 which would cover 3 Kg. Evidently only part of the original package was returned.

Can You Rate These Covers? will continue in the next issue. In the interim if any member has a cover or covers that he feels offer a good challenge or which they have been unable to rate please send clear photocopies along for use in future issues of this series.

We also anticipate having an excellent report on the latest in the planned availability of Elizabethan II postal rates in the next issue.

ELIZABETHAN II MARKET PLACE

Classified listings in the Market Place are \$1.00 for 25 words. Additional words are 5¢ each. Camera ready display Ads 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 or if U. S. funds at 75% to Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: John D. Arn, N. 17708 Saddle Hill Rd., Colbert, WA 99005.

HELP! HELP! The following needed to complete Caricature & Landscape Series Scott 586-605. Perforated Initials, Horizontal Pairs, Blocks of 4, Corner Blocks (and P. O. sets), Imprint Blocks (and sets), also Landscape 1 bar tags. Will pay premium. Will accept single but prefer above configurations. Need 593 P. O. stock ribbed all four corner blocks. As a fellow collector I need your help. John M. Hillmer, 135 Antibes Drive # 1401, North York, Ont. M2R 2Z1



12/97/1

WANTED: Pre-1970 Canadian military covers: CFPO's; CAPO's; Postal Tracing; registration; unusual auxiliary markings. Priced approvals/photocopies: Dean Mario, 933 Dudley St., Saskatoon, SK S7M 1K8

WANTED: National Parks and Architecture high values on cover paying registered indemnity over \$100, parcel fronts or squares, money packet tags to expand exhibit. Send photocopy or description and price. William Gard, 621 Oakview Cres. Mount Forest, ON NOG 2L2

Need mint precanceled matched set and a lower right block of #591 (Pearson) on **ribbed paper**. John M. Hillmer, 135 Antibes Drive # 1401, North York, Ont. M2R 2Z1

1/99

PLANNING CALENDAR

This is a listing of major exhibitions and bourses with a large content of both Canadian Exhibits and Canadian Dealers. Minimum listing criteria: Two day event; 1000 page exhibition - 18 Dealer Bourse - 50% offering Canadian material. The Goal is to list events far in advance to encourage either exhibiting or attendance and preferably both.

2000

Feb. 18-20 AmeriStamp Expo 2000, Portland, Or. Convention Center (APS Spring Show)
Info: e-mail <stampshow@stamps.org>

Mar. 26-28 EDMONTON SPRING NATIONAL & REGIONAL SHOW, West Edmonton Mall,
Info: Exhibits Chairman, Edmonton Stamp Club, P.O. Box 399, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6

Apr. 28-30 Winnipeg, MB is the site of ROYAL 2000. Info: Rick Penko, 3793 Vialoux Drive, Winnipeg, MB, R3R OAS or fax: 204- 896-3335 or E-Mail: RPENKO@ESCAPE.CA

Apr. 24-25 ORAPEX 1999 - Info: Douglas W. Lingard, 2425 Blackstone Cres., Ottawa, Ont. K1B 4H3. (Plan extra time and visit the Canadian Archives)
4X2 or (506) 453-1792 or Email: rugbyron@nb.sympatico.ca

May 22-28 THE STAMP SHOW 2000 - Earls Court, London, England. Canadian Commissioner: Clifford R. Guile, P. O. Box 180, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3W3

Jul. 7-16 WORLD STAMP EXPO 2000, Anaheim Convention Centre, Anaheim, Calif.
Info: APS, P. O. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803. Tel: 814-237-3803 or Fax: 814-237- 6128 or e-mail: stampshow@stamps.org

Sep. 1-3 BNAPEX 2000 - CHICAGO (SCHLUMBERG) ILL.

2001

Aug. 31- Sept. 2 BNAPEX 2001 - Ottawa, Ontario - Info: Doug Lingard - Tel: 613-737-4864