



From 2015-19, the evolution of Jean Wang's award-winning thematic exhibit on blood 'brings tears to my eyes,' said long-time philatelic judge Bill Schultz.

Exhibitors focused on importance must ask, 'Is it worth the effort?'

By Jesse Robitaille

This is the final story in a two-part series exploring the measure of 'importance' in a philatelic exhibit.

When it comes to the sometimes muddy waters of judging, there is perhaps no crite-

ria more perplexing than philatelic and subject importance.

It's true for both exhibitors and judges: the former frets over how to justify their exhibit's importance while the latter is burdened with determining "the challenge in creating the exhibit," as it's explained in the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*.

"Importance, in the arena of exhibiting in the points system, is one of the most challenging and confusing, conflicting areas for the exhibitors and the judges as well," said Bill Schultz, of West Chester, Pa., who co-wrote the seventh edition of the venerable manual, which was published by the American Philatelic Society in 2016.

While exhibitors sometimes complain the 65-page manual is "full of rules" – a common misconception about exhibiting in general – it's really more of an inspirational outline than a list of hard and fast regulations, Schultz added.

"There's one rule in the manual – and only one rule – and everything else is a hint or a suggestion. The one rule is you have to own the material, so when you hear people say, 'You have all these rules and regulations,' that's wrong."

Despite the solitary rule, some material is still leased to exhibitors, he added.

Rather than rules, the manual outlines "typical examples" of "how exhibitors have developed and treated specific types of exhibits, and what judges expect to see in such exhibits," as explained in the manual's introduction.

The foreword also touches on the manual's purpose: "It is not a set of rigid rules but rather a set of guidelines by which judges can uniformly assess an exhibit, and by which exhibitors can create various types of exhibits with great flexibility."

"It doesn't say here are the rules," added Schultz, a

Postmarks tell pandemic story

By Jesse Robitaille

This is the final story in a three-part series highlighting COVID-19 philately.

Beyond stamps and covers, which were explored in parts one and two of this series, collectors focusing on a COVID-19 theme are also well-equipped with pandemic-related postmarks.

In recent months, a range of pictorial and slogan cancels has been applied to mail originating from several countries, including Canada, Britain, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Croatia, Malaysia, Singapore and Turkey. The postmarks typically support the World Health Organization's "protective measures," including staying at home and physically distancing, while others offer messages of support.

"A lot of these messages are actually a way for the postal service to disseminate messages to the community," said Toronto philatelist and award-winning exhibitor Jean Wang. "They're trying to encourage people to follow social distancing to try and control the pandemic."

In Canada, however, the postal service's message is one of thanks.

Since May 1, Canada Post has applied a bilingual slogan

cancel – "Personnel soignant, merci / Thanks, healthcare workers" – to all lettermail processed at each of the Crown corporation's 21 mail-processing plants. The French and English text is mechanically applied using the postal service's high-speed automated processing machines.

"I've been dropping letters into my local mailbox almost every day, and they've all been coming back to me with this cancel," said Wang, who added the cancel also includes an eight-digit datestamp and seven-character location code to the right.

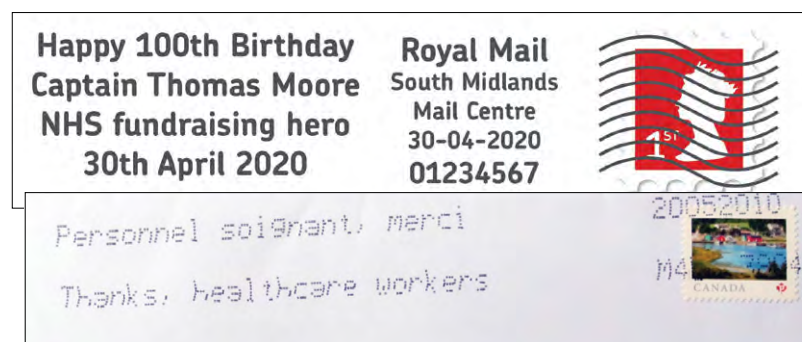
The first two digits note the year; the next two digits note the month; the third pair of digits notes the day; and the last two digits mark the hour of processing according to the 24-hour clock.

In her example, the code "20051222" would indicate the cover was processed on May 12, 2020, at 10 p.m. (or 2200 hours).

Beneath the datestamp is another seven-character code: "M4L," a Toronto-area postal code, is followed by "3808," which notes the processing machine.

"I've been getting these from different machines, and

Continued on page 19



Both the Royal Mail (top) and Canada Post (bottom) have issued slogan cancels with a pandemic theme.

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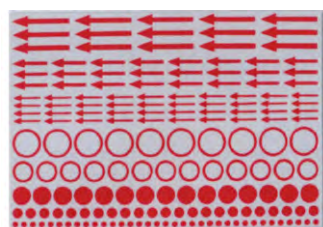
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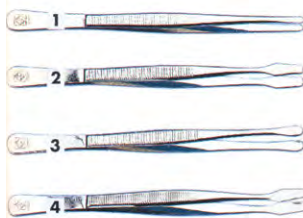
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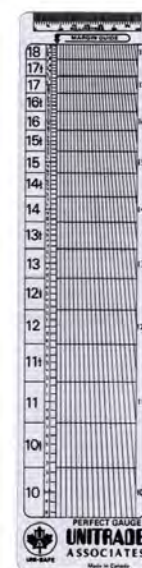
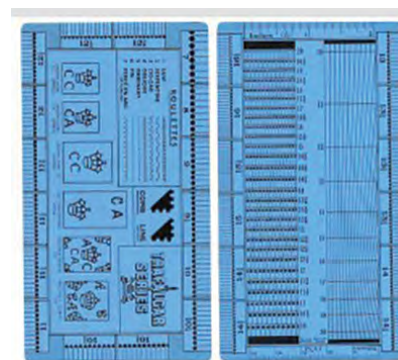
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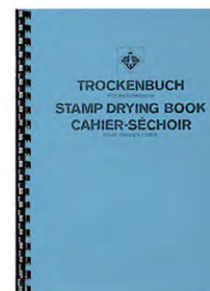
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Philatelic COMMENTARY

By Jesse Robitaille

Our 'new' digital age is changing the course

More than half a century after the concept was conceived, Marshall McLuhan's global village continues to manifest itself in contemporary society.

Coined in the early 1960s by the Edmonton-born University of Toronto professor, the term global village refers to the worldwide societal shift towards interconnectedness as a result of the transition from print to digital media.

"The new electronic interdependence recreates the world in the image of a global village," wrote McLuhan in his 1962 book, *The Gutenberg Galaxy: The Making of Typographic Man*, which even then asserted the "human family now exists under conditions of a global village."

Fast forward 58 years – in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic – and there's an interesting parallel playing out in philatelic circles.

As I've discussed many times in recent columns, the pandemic has pushed us all online – everything from our social interactions to our shopping and even our stamp shows is happening almost exclusively on the Internet these days.

But as philately moves online, into the global village, the role of a local club is understandably altered.

Collectors join local clubs for camaraderie, fellowship and shared knowledge. Many of these clubs have since moved to an online meeting format, which easily allows for out-

of-town speakers and attendees, and many of these virtual meetings are drawing more attention than the clubs' monthly face-to-face gatherings.

Previously, with in-person meetings, one of the drawbacks was the limited pool of local speakers that could be called on to present, according to Garfield Portch, discussion group chair with the West Toronto Stamp Club (WTSC).

Collectors join local clubs for camaraderie, fellowship and shared knowledge. Many of these clubs have since moved to an online meeting format, which easily allows for out-of-town speakers and attendees, and many of these virtual meetings are drawing more attention than the clubs' monthly face-to-face gatherings.

"Some of the really good speakers are out-of-town people," said Portch, who added people "are not going to come in from British Columbia to speak on a on a Tuesday night."

"But now, with this technology, people are quite prepared to do presentations for us at one of our discussion groups on Tuesday night. ...

If we can expand our boundary from West Toronto to West Vancouver, I

think we've really accomplished something, and it really opens up my pool for potential speakers."

And it's not only speakers – collectors from around the world can now tune in to local club meetings regardless of their location.

But this interconnectedness, as well as the seemingly endless competition online, could also affect how local clubs administer their services, according to WTSC President Sid Mensinga.

"As a leader of a club, you're saying, 'What can we do to maintain our membership and to build our membership even physically?' That's the other side of it. That's always a bit of a conundrum to deal with."

As a local club moves beyond its original mandate, when is it no longer deemed local – and what would it become?

"The other thing is are you then competing with already existing or-

ganizations that are doing that, like BNAPS (British North America Philatelic Society), the Postal History Society (of Canada) or other organizations that are beyond our country? Are you then trying to do what they're doing? And are you then getting outside of your mandate as a club?"

Where do you think the future of philately is heading at the local level? 🍁

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LETTERS to the Editor

SNIPING BENEFITS AUCTIONEERS, CONSIGNORS – NOT BIDDERS

Dear Editor,

Some online auctions permit sniping, which was highlighted in a recent editorial (*CSN* Vol. 45 #7, "All's fair in love, war – and auctions?").

The practice can't be justified from a business or an ethical perspective. The aim of the auction house must be to maximize the selling price for its client. This can only be achieved if every active bidder in an online auction has a reasonable opportunity to respond to a prior bid. The client benefits, and so does the auction house,

when the last bid on the table is without question the highest amount any active bidder is willing to pay.

While my main concern is from a business perspective, sniping is also unfair. It benefits bidders who have the technical means to engage in the practice. The playing field is not level.

I participated in a non-philatelic online auction recently where the policy of the auction house was to allow bidders five minutes from the scheduled end of the auction to reply to a bid placed in the last five minutes. Thereafter, bidding continued in

five-minute increments until the last bid remained unchallenged for one five-minute interval. The selling price rose 15 per cent after the scheduled closing. Both seller and auction house clearly benefited.

I have had snipers argue sniping is permissible because non-snipers can enter a proxy bid setting out the highest amount they are willing to pay. Speaking personally, no matter what I think my line in the sand is, I have disregarded it when given an opportunity to bid in "extra time." My behaviour is surely not unique.

– Robert Timberg, Toronto

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PENCE AND CENTS COVERS OFFERED

This July, the U.K. firm Stanley Gibbons listed a hoard of nearly 70 "Pence" and "Cents" issue covers for sale through its online store. Dubbed the Consort Collection of Classic Canadian Postal History, the covers were recently purchased by Stanley Gibbons from a local U.K. collector. Prices range from £75 (about \$130 Cdn.) for an 1868 cover to Québec franked with an 1859 five-cent "Beaver" stamp to £12,000 (about \$20,500 Cdn.) for an 1858 transatlantic cover bearing a unique franking for the 10-pence Cunard Line packet rate. To view the covers that are still available, visit stanleygibbons.com/tailored-lists/canada-list-june-2020.

CHICAGOPEX CANCELLED

Officials with the Chicago Philatelic Society (CPS) have decided to cancel the 2020 Chicagopex show due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On July 7, the club's board of directors voted to cancel the in-person show originally slated for Nov. 20-22 in Itasca, Ill. "That makes 15 major shows cancelled for us," said Roy Houtby, owner of St. Catharines, Ont.'s

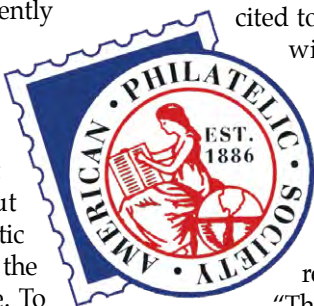


Roy's Stamps, who was slated to be the sole Canadian dealer on the Chicagopex bourse this November. Despite the cancellation, however, Chicagopex literature chair Ken Trettin has arranged to go ahead with the show's 54th annual philatelic literature competition. Prospective exhibitors are invited to submit applications for the show's literature competition to Trettin via revenue@myomnitel.com by the Sept. 15 deadline. The prospectus and application are available online via the Chicagopex website, chicagopex.org. The judges will work remotely using online video conferences to decide on submissions, and judging will take place remotely, with written evaluations sent to all exhibitors after the original show dates. Chicagopex was also slated to be held in conjunction with AmeriStamp Expo, which is hosted by the American Association of Phila-

telic Exhibitors (AAPE) and includes the Single-Frame Champion of Champions competition. The AAPE is planning to host the competition virtually. More details are forthcoming.

APS ANNOUNCES VIRTUAL STAMP SHOW

The American Philatelic Society (APS), American Topical Association (ATA) and American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) will host an online event – dubbed the Virtual Stamp Show – over six days this August. The announcement comes almost two months after officials with the three convening societies decided to cancel the first Great American Stamp Show due to COVID-19. The virtual show, which will run from Aug. 17-22, is free for anyone to attend. Registration is now open via the APS website, stamps.org. "We're excited to continue working



with our great partners to bring you the first-in-the-nation virtual stamp show experience," said APS Executive Director Scott English. "This is another example of how the global pandemic cannot stop philately, only change how we do it." Like a real bourse, the virtual show will connect show-goers directly with APS dealer members to conduct virtual transactions. Two first-day-of-issue celebrations will also be held in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service. Other show highlights include interactive panels, seminars and question-and-answer sessions; a "stamp expert house call," which will allow show-goers to send images of items they need help to identify or value; virtual exhibits displayed by show-goers; and ceremonies for various annual awards handed out by the APS, ATA and AFDCS.

N.Y. POSTAL HISTORY CLUB JOINS FACEBOOK

This July, the U.S.-based Empire State Postal History Society (ESPHS) launched a Facebook page, [facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety](https://www.facebook.com/EmpireStatePostalHistorySociety), which is open to society members and the general public. "Having the society on Facebook complements our website, adds to our overall presence in the digital space, and allows us to augment awareness of our society's mission, which is to share our appreciation of the postal history of New York State," said President Charles DiComo. Already, the ESPHS Facebook page has shared a folded letter sheet ad-



vertising an 1850s Independence Day celebration; an 1839 stampless letter sheet from Ohio to England via New York City; and a list of New York State post offices by county from 1792-1969. "This is a good place for collectors – or even non-collectors – to check in with comments or thoughts about New York postal history," said Jeff Stage, editor of the society's journal, *Excelsior!* "Because New York City is such a major player on the world stage of early postal transportation, we know that collectors and historians from all over have an interest in Empire State postal history." For more information about the ESPHS, visit esphs.us or write to the Empire State Postal History Society, Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482.

USPS SEMI-POSTAL PLANS CHANGING

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) recently proposed several changes to its semi-postal stamp program that would remove restrictions on the duration of semi-postal sales and the number of semi-postal issues offered at one time. "The Postal Service has encountered continued interest in the sale of a previously offered discretionary semi-postal stamp for which the Postal Service possesses unsold inventory," according to a June 10 notice in the U.S. government's *Federal Register*. The current regulations limit semi-postal sales to one issue at a time over two years. "In administering this program it has become clear that there is interest in and demand for a lengthier period of sales for individual offerings from customers, stakeholders and congressional policy makers," reads the notice, which adds the current regula-



tions were based on five semi-postal stamps issued over 10 years – something since "proven impractical." The USPS accepted public comments on the proposed changes until July 10. The postal service's most successful semi-postal stamp was also its first: the 1998 "Breast Cancer Research" stamp (Scott #B1) exceeded one billion units sold and raised more than \$91 million for breast cancer research. The latest U.S. semi-postal issue, the "Healing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" stamp (Scott #B7), has raised \$638,000 US since it was issued last December. Canada was the first North American country to issue semi-postals with a series of four stamps issued between 1974 and 1976 to support the 1976 Summer Olympics held in Montréal.

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Alberta, Saskatchewan featured on anniversary commemoratives



Looking BACK

By Ian Robertson

Located on a vast prairie that stretches towards the horizon in all directions, two central provinces had the 100th anniversary of them joining Confederation commemorated on stamps issued 15 years ago.

To the west, Alberta's border with British Columbia edges into the magnificent Rocky Mountains.

In the centre of the prairies, Saskatchewan is the only province "with entirely artificial boundaries," Norman Ward wrote in the *Canadian Encyclopedia*. "It is bordered by the U.S. to the south, the Northwest Territories to the north, and Manitoba and Alberta to the east and west respectively."

The featured provinces were created from the Northwest Territories in 1905.

My first closeup view was from an eastbound VIA Rail passenger train after a flight to B.C. in 1977.

Later, driving west along the Trans-Canada, twice with

friends, once alone, I thoroughly enjoyed the endless ribbon of highway, often between fields of golden grain rippling with frequent winds, admiring wild ducks flying overhead and sometimes landing on rain-filled ponds.

Before reaching friends in Victoria, B.C., I stayed overnight in motels, and ate at restaurants in small towns or at Husky roadstops.

After taking precautions during a thunderstorm that sent streaks of lightning earthbound with heavy rain challenging my windshield wipers, conditions improved just before Gull Lake, Sask. Stopping briefly to take photographs, I was thrilled at the sight of sunlight piercing black-and-purple clouds, flood-lighting grain storage elevators and grain hopper cars parked on a railway siding.

I stopped at several post offices and was particularly welcomed at the one in Moosomin,



A pair of 2005 commemoratives were issued to mark the 100th anniversary of both Saskatchewan (top) and Alberta (right) joining Canada in 1905.



a town with just under 2,500 residents.

What made that stop particularly memorable was a clerk who recalled the previous visit from "the guy who writes for the stamp paper."

Since my late wife's family lives in Lethbridge, I spent a fair bit of time in Alberta, including several driving and camping trips throughout that province as well as B.C., plus Montana, Oregon and Washington states.

One of my best memories was stopping west of Calgary early one morning as the sun rose above a foothills valley near the distant Rockies.

The mountain range at first looked like low-lying dark grey clouds – until I drove closer. The view was so breathtaking, I had to stop.

TWO ATTRACTIVE STAMPS

Featuring quite different art styles, both 50-cent commemoratives are very attractive.

Designed by Matthias Reinicke, of Lime Design in Edmonton, and issued July 21, 2005, the vertical Alberta stamp (Scott #2116) reproduces three photographs by Harry Palmer, with the province's name in two shades of blue divided by a white background.

A centennial reference "1905-2005" is below "ALBERTA."

"CANADA" and the denomination are at the bottom in red text. Yellow boxes are behind part the country's name, with two letters against a white background.

A Nova Chemicals Corporation plant is in the photo on the left; Calgary skyscrapers and lower buildings are in the centre; and Mount Lawrence Grassi's snow-covered peak is on the right, with railway tracks in the foreground.

Using nine lithographic transfer colours, Lowe-Martin printed three million of the 32-millimetre-by-48-millimetre stamps in 12 panes of eight on Tullis Russell coated paper.

It was the third time Canada Post ordered self-adhesive stamps with die-cut perfs, which are described as "transitional" in the 2020 *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Cana-*

dian Stamps, since the gauges range from 13.1 to 1.3 along the tops and bottoms.

Backing paper included historic photos: the Calgary Stampede; Jasper Avenue in Edmonton in 1963; Lake Minnewanka – "Devil's Lake" – in Banff in the 1880s; and Snowdon Oil Refinery in Calgary around 1912.

Unitrade prices a mint single with a missing "s-shaped" die cut on the backing paper at \$125.

Designed by Bradbury Branding & Design, of Regina, the 48.75-millimetre-by-32-millimetre horizontal Saskatchewan centennial stamp was released Aug. 2, 2005.

The central element is an attractive young woman wearing a sleeveless red top, standing with her arms stretched out beneath a cloud-covered blue sky as a light breeze tousles her long dark hair.

At the upper left are two small photographs. One features two large sunflowers while the second photo shows Saskatchewan's domed legislative building.

The stamp's top has more subtle artwork, with light grey historic photos of farmers with century-old harvesting implements, "100" in shadowy grey type on the right, and small black "1905-2005" text beside "SASKATCHEWAN" in large black letters.

The Canadian Bank Note Company (CBNC) printed three million on panes of eight against a backdrop colour photograph that features massive

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wheat field beneath a dark blue sky. There are six litho colour dots on each pane.

HEART OF THE PRAIRIE

"Saskatchewan is the heart of the Canadian prairie," a Canada Post press release noted.

"Vast open vistas and sunshine frame bountiful farms and crops that feed the nation and the world."

Much of the province "gently rolls away to the horizon," the release continued. "The eye can still see clearly features in villages and landmarks, which may be some 20 km away, but appear to be much closer."

The release quotes Cree legends about Saskatchewan being born out of a great flood, evidence of which are found among ancient rocks.

Water and glaciers receded between 8,000 and 18,000 years ago, leaving numerous lakes, with the northern half of Saskatchewan covered by swamps, muskeg and dense forests, the latter yielding lumber and pulp, Ward wrote. There are also major rivers.



A 1980 commemorative issued for the 75th anniversary of Saskatchewan's entry into Confederation shows wheat fields surrounding the province's Estlin hamlet.

The discovery of gold, copper, zinc, lead, uranium, oil, gas, potash, sodium, sulphate and coal beneath the surface greatly benefited the economy. Wildlife, recreational and commercial fishing plus trapping and hunting in forested areas also contribute.

But the leading way of life on flat or gently rolling fertile land in the lower two-thirds of the province, where farmers rely on crops and raise livestock, is the "grain belt."

The western boundary to the southwest has higher altitudes, with gentle rolling terrain that includes drumlins, eskers and moraines, plus the Cypress Hills that are shared with Alberta.

Derived from the anglicized version of the Cree word *kisiskâciwanisîpiy*, meaning "swiftly

flowing river," Saskatchewan was first settled by nomadic Indigenous hunting people at least 12,000 years ago.

They were followed between the late 1700s and early 1800s by half-Indigenous, half-French people called Métis, plus European beaver fur traders.

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established outposts, where bison once roamed, before hunters almost extinguished them, mainly for their hides.

By 1870, homesteaders built simple sod farm homes and tilled the rich soil on mostly free land. The North-West Mounted Police three years later provided a stability to the largely open territory, after the last of two Métis-led rebellions ended in 1885.

Completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in the early 1880s provided quicker access than by horse-drawn wagons

The 1881 census recorded just over 19,000 residents, and just after the turn of the century, about 145,000 immigrants from as far away as Ukraine were reaching Saskatchewan each year.

By the late 1800s, irrigation projects began, with large dugouts designed to hold spring snowmelt runoff and supply water for farms and residents.

The federal government began selling farmers federal land leased by ranchers and introduced a new Immigration Act that promoted increasing the population. By 1926, there were about 38,000 farms, according to Canada Post's Collections Canada 2005 album.

Once a centre of fur trading, then largely agricultural for more than a century, with large agri-businesses gradually replacing many small farms, Saskatchewan's urban populations grew and the largest cities greatly expanded.

The legislative buildings opened in Regina, the capital, in 1907, followed by construction of roads, hospitals, schools and courts.

Twelve years later, almost 500,000 people lived in the province.

Construction of dams began after 1935, which greatly assisted farmers.

Saskatoon recorded almost 250,000 residents four years ago, and Regina had just over 215,000. Further north, Prince Albert, ranks as the third largest city with 36,000 people.

By 2016, the province's population reached 1,098,352.

Over the past century, Saskatchewan and Alberta's economies have been closely aligned with industries and resources, including cattle ranching and extraction of fossil fuels. Industrial production contributed almost \$16 billion to the central province's economies in 2014, Ward wrote.

Though canola, rye, oats, barley, flax and forage crops are major contributors, wheat farms predominate – covering about five million hectares that produced 13 million tonnes in 2015, he added. Farm incomes totalled more than \$13 billion in 2014, "the highest in the country."

Mining came second, producing 37 per cent of Canada's crude oil, about three per cent of the country's natural gas and, in 2009, uranium worth \$1.26 billion. Mostly exported, potash production reached \$5.7 billion in 2014.

The University of Saskatchewan was founded in Saskatoon in 1907, followed in 1974 by the University of Regina. There are also colleges.

Live theatres are in both cities, including the 25th Street Theatre that in recent years attracted more than 50,000 people each summer to its international fringe productions in Saskatoon.

WILD ROSE COUNTRY

Most of Alberta's prairie is in the south, from Waterton east to Saskatchewan, with gently rolling mostly treeless grassland. Some areas have river valleys less than 300 metres deep in the northeast to more than 1,460 me-

tres deep in the southeastern Cypress Hills.

The province's centre has numerous parks, lakes, trees, grassy terrain and farms. Northern areas are half-covered by various trees plus lakes and rivers.

Northern agriculture is centred in the Peace River region, Robert Stamp wrote in the *Canadian Encyclopedia*.



A 1966 commemorative features the shield and provincial flower of Alberta.

In the late 1700s, most southern residents were Blackfoot, Blood, Peigan and Gros Ventre nomadic bison hunters, followed by Crow tribe members, he noted. The Sarcee-Beaver people were in central and northern Alberta, with Slavey – Assiniboine – families up north.

Groups gradually acquired European trade goods from HBC and North West Company posts and, by the mid-1800s, Christian missionaries were challenging fur traders for the territory, according to Stamp's research. The arrival of Americans trading home-brewed whiskey for buffalo hides resulted in numerous deaths caused by "consumption, poisoning, violence, famine and disease."

With termination of the HBC license ending in 1870, officials wooed settlers. Arrival of the

North-West Mounted Police in 1874 effectively curtailed whiskey peddling and treaties were negotiated with Indigenous leaders.

CPR trains reached Calgary by 1883 and the railroad was completed two years later.

By 1891, 17,500 settlers had arrived. A major influx began five years later after development of hardier spring wheat, improved economic conditions, plus the federal government aiding newcomers.

Alberta's population soared from 73,022 in 1901 to 373,943 within 10 years and reached 584,454 by 1921. Many new residents came from Ontario, other eastern provinces, plus the U.S., Great Britain and continental Europe.

Named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, the province was created on Sept. 1, 1905, by uniting the District of Alberta with parts of Athabasca, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan.

By 1986, 83.5 per cent of the province's residents were urban-dwellers, compared to 1901, when 75 per cent lived rurally. The population was recorded at 4.2 million three years ago.

Alberta's northern and southern borders are the District of Mackenzie in the Northwest Territories and Montana, respectively. Western boundaries include "the natural gems of Jasper National Park and Banff National Park," Canada Post noted.

Natural gas production began in Medicine Hat in 1883. In 1947, the discovery of oil at

Continued on page 9

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Dickinson's latest effort a comprehensive catalogue of Canadian FDCs



Philatelic BOOKSHELF

By David Piercey

Following Gary Dickinson's recent double-header of books on Canada's first-day covers (FDCs), the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) also recently published the Canadian author's new *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers*.

The new 215-page catalogue is a comprehensive listing of all known privately produced FDCs in the 50-year period from 1927-77 for all Canadian issues between Scott #141 and #751, excluding all back of the book issues.

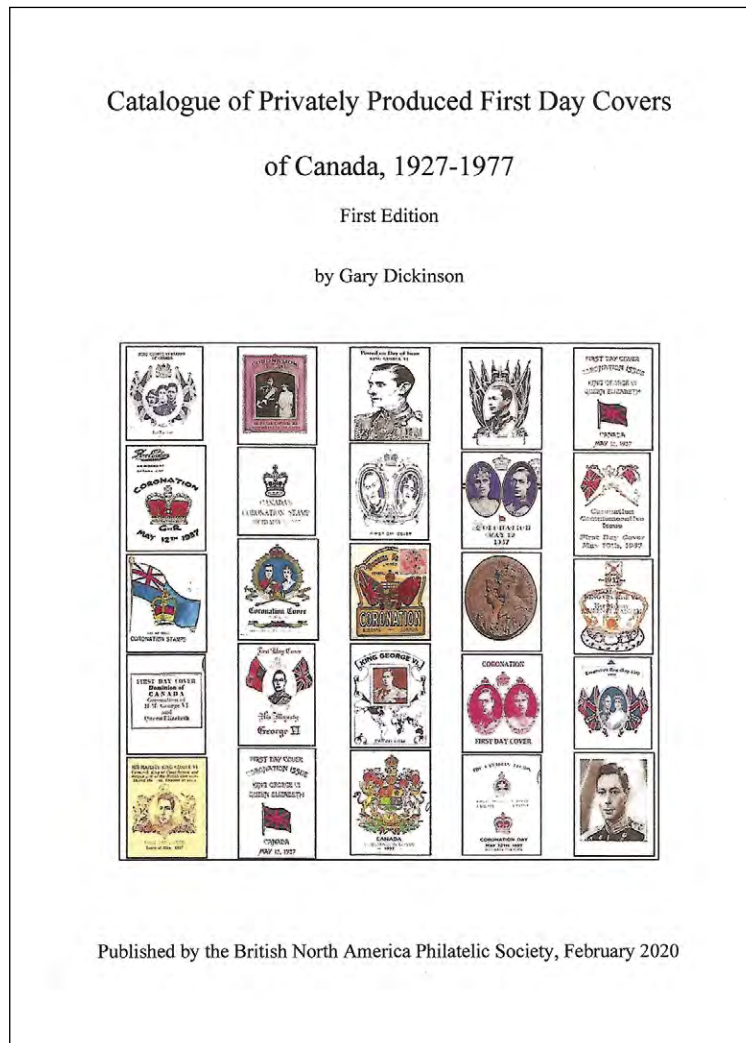
Gary Dickinson, of Kelowna B.C., is our expert for all things Canada FDC and is a prolific and regular contributor to *First Impressions*, the newsletter of the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group. His latest effort is the first such catalogue on Canadian privately produced FDCs now available and demonstrates the scope and variety of what is currently known about the many different cachets and their makers.

Readers may be surprised to learn privately produced FDC cachets did not emerge

in Canada until the Confederation and Historical issues of 1927. Most early cachets through the 1940s were somewhat primitive in comparison to the sort of cachets subsequently produced in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the heyday years of private FDC producers before they were driven out of business by Canada Post's own "official first-day covers," or OFDCs. In fact, of the approximate 8,800 FDCs Dickinson catalogues, 7,000 different cachets were produced from 1950-77, with only about 1,300 produced prior to 1940.

Dickinson's catalogue is thus divided into chapters for each decade within which FDCs were produced and organized by stamp issue and Scott catalogue number. A final chapter is included on "general purpose" cachets used by companies like Art-Craft, Rosecraft, British American Bank Note Company, K. Robertson and van Dahl, among several others, repeatedly over a long period for several different stamp issues.

Within each stamp issue, cachets are arranged alphabetically by cachetmaker.



Each cachet is fully illustrated in colour in a smallish, about commemorative stamp-sized thumbnail, showing its detail sufficiently to identify or differentiate the cachet from any other similarly appearing ones.

As this is a catalogue, pricing has been applied throughout. Here, Dickinson's knowledge and research become particularly evident as not all FDCs of the

same issue but from different cachetmakers are equally valuable, sought after or appreciated to an equal extent.

FACTORS IMPACTING SELLING PRICES

Dickinson provides catalogue pricing based on actual selling prices obtained in the marketplace, and his pricing is routinely based on a single stamp of the issue on an FDC.

No attempt has been made to provide catalogue values for complete sets on cover, though such should always command a premium.

The earliest FDCs, produced as souvenirs by an Ottawa Post Office official T.R. Legault, of the Postage Stamp Division, and only with a type-written "First Day Cover" inscription, command the greatest prices for the covers he produced for both the Scroll issue of 1928 and the Arch and Maple Leaf issues of 1930. In fact, the two high values of each set command prices well into the thousands of dollars, and even any of the lower values command prices in the hundreds of dollars.

Otherwise, all prices quoted are as they have been

Gary Dickinson's *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada 1927-1977* demonstrates the scope and variety of Canadian cachets and their makers over a 50-year period.

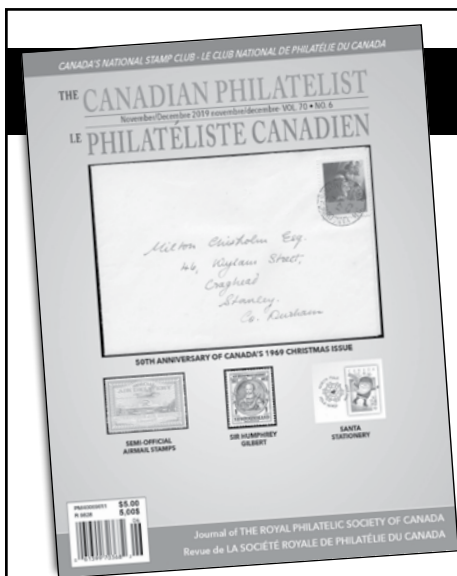
observed in the marketplace. Certain cachets or cachetmakers are in greater demand than others. The more colourful, the finer the detail, the greater the concordance of the cachet with the stamp issue, the popularity of the producer and even the numbers printed (if known) all have a bearing on the sort of price any FDC may attain. Here, a knowledgeable collector armed with Dickinson's catalogue may yet perhaps find a few relative bargains among any dealer's offering of privately produced FDCs.

This is an admirable first attempt at such a catalogue, and any further editions will undoubtedly include additional listings for airmails, special delivery, semi-postals, officials and Newfoundland, all of which have had privately produced FDCs produced too.

As any first edition of a catalogue is often incomplete, collectors may yet discover additional cachets or identify previously unknown cachetmakers lying within their own collections. All such discoveries should be scanned and reported to Dickinson so any subsequent editions can incorporate such new information.

Together with his other recent book on FDCs, *Collecting First Day Covers of Canada*, we now have a much greater appreciation and up-to-date references for this interesting collecting field. Highly recommended. 🍁

BNAPS books are distributed through Longley Auctions, P.O. Box 620, Waterdown ON L0R 2H0, and may be ordered through his website, longleyauctions.com/product-category/bnaps-books/. Dickinson's Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada 1927-1977 sells for \$44 (plus the Canada Post parcel rate chosen on checkout).



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Anniversary...

Continued from page 7

Leduc "produced huge increases in provincial revenue from royalties, brought prosperity to most segments of the population, and transformed the cities of Edmonton and Calgary into prosperous metropolitan centres," Stamp wrote.

The global oil-price crisis in 1973 created a financial boom that deteriorated with a 1980s recession, then rebounded in the 1990s, with Alberta now "Canada's foremost energy-resource province."

Having oil sands that contain the country's largest oil reserves, make it "the third largest in the world," with vast natural gas and coal deposits, Stamp added. "The province also possesses much of the country's farmable land, ranking the agricultural industry high in importance."

Alberta's non-mining industry includes salt, sandstone, limestone, sand, gravel, magnetite, peat moss, clay and some gold, iron ore and uranium.

Oil, gas plus mining production in 2013 totalled almost \$83 billion, Wikipedia notes.

Provincially promoted lumber and pulp business resulted in 22.8 million cubic feet of trees harvested in 2013.

Almost equally divided between sales of cattle, hogs, sheep plus crops including wheat, canola, barley, flax, oats, rye and durum, farm revenues approached \$13 billion in 2014, second only in Canada to Saskatchewan.

Recording 1.336 million residents in 2017, Calgary is Alberta's largest city, with the provincial capital of Edmonton, to the north, recording a population of 981,280.

"Travel brochures describe Alberta as the home of cowboys, cattlemen, the Calgary Stampede, and a wonderland for sightseers with its glaciers, mountains, magnificent parks and dinosaurs," the post office release adds. In the rugged Drumheller badlands, fossils and bones of large and small "dinosaurs" are displayed at the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

Tourism, especially in the Banff, Jasper and Waterton national parks, attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world in recent years.

The earliest schools were founded by missionaries in the

mid-1800s, followed years later by establishment of universities and colleges in several communities.

With training for young professional performers, the Banff Centre School for Continuing Education is known around the world.

Professional theatre is centred in Edmonton and Calgary, with a major summer folk festival in the capital, plus the International Jazz Festival. Both cities have orchestras, and the Alberta Ballet Company is Calgary-based.

OTHER COMMEMORATIVES

Canada has issued other Saskatchewan- and Alberta-related commemoratives.

Several feature symbols and anniversaries.

On June 30, 1955, a stamp celebrated the 50th anniversary of both provinces joining Confederation.

The five-cent blue commemorative (SC #355) was designed by Laurence Hyde and engraved by CBNC veteran Yves Baril, with lettering by John Mash.

A pioneer man and woman are standing among tall wheat sheaves, with three large oil derricks in the distance. "Alberta" and "Saskatchewan" are on the

left, sideways, below "1905-1955," with "5c" on the lower right.

Produced from two plates, 25.2 million stamps were produced, on panes of 50.



A 1955 five-cent commemorative marks the 50th anniversary of Alberta and Saskatchewan joining Canada as the country's 10th and 11th provinces.

Five-cent 1966 commemoratives featuring the provincial shields of Saskatchewan and Alberta (SC #425-426) plus their official flowers were issued on panes of 50 as part of a set introduced two years earlier with depictions of similar symbols of Canadian provinces and territories.

Designed by Harvey Thomas Prosser, the Saskatchewan and Alberta stamps were engraved by Allan Alexander Carswell.

The CBNC used one engraved and two offset colours to print

15,310,000 Saskatchewan commemoratives, which feature the prairie lily, and 16,160,000 Alberta stamps, which feature the wild rose, both on panes of 50. Several varieties are listed.

In 1979, 17-cent commemoratives featuring the flags of Saskatchewan and Alberta (SC #828-829) were issued on 12-stamp panes depicting the flags of each Canadian province and territory. Designed by Raymond Bellemare, Ashton-Potter Limited used six litho colours to print 5,405,000 of each.

Two 17-cent 1980 commemoratives were issued for the 75th anniversary (SC #863-864) of Alberta and Saskatchewan joining Confederation.

Designed by Chris Yanoff Limited, both stamps feature aerial photos of rural communities: the one of Estlin, Sask., taken by George Hunter, shows a large grain storage elevator surrounded by wheat fields; the photo by him shows Cowley, Alta., a mining town, surrounded by fields, with the Rockies in the background.

Ashton-Potter used four litho colours to print 22 million of each commemorative, on panes of 50. 🍁

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With only 150 available worldwide, this stunning 24-carat gold plated souvenir coin features the design of Vardon's medal from his first win at The Open in 1896. The reverse shows Vardon driving off the tee, together with a list of his six wins in The Open and his US Open win. Beautifully presented in an oak presentation box, the coin is accompanied by a numbered certificate of authentication.



These stunning collectables from Jersey Post have been issued to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Jersey born golfing legend, Harry Vardon. A set of six commemorative stamps features portraits of world-renowned golfer, Harry Vardon, throughout his career. A Miniature Sheet features a photograph of Vardon and Ted Ray, a fellow Jerseyman and dual Open winner, who won the US Open 100 years ago, in 1920. The stamps and Miniature Sheet are also available in specially designed Presentation Packs or affixed to First Day Cover Envelopes.

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Jersey Post

Rediscovering some postcard favourites during the downtime



DELTIOLOGY

By Mike Smith

Thank goodness for hobbies. Due to the restrictions on most activities outside the home caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, I can honestly say puttering with my postcards during this stressful period has helped keep me sane. One of the things I did, and often do when the spirit moves me, is go through my postcard albums page by page and “cull the herd,” as it were.

By culling, I certainly don't mean I dispose of cards. I simply move cards I no longer want into my “discount box” and bring them to shows to sell or trade. One of the happier consequences of my page-by-page review this time around is I was reintroduced to some of my favourite cards.

In this column, I'd like to share some of these “faves” with you.

CIRCA 1907 PATRIOTIC POSTCARD

There's an old adage about collecting I first read in *CSN* many years ago – “Buy the book first.”

In other words, arm yourself with information about a hobby before you start spending time

and money. Unfortunately, I was unable to follow this advice when I started collecting antique postcards in 1981.

You see, there were no books on the hobby in Canada until Wally Gutzman's *The Canadian Patriotic Postcard Handbook 1904-1914* was published in 1985. This terrific publication was my postcard bible for many years, and for some reason it took me decades to find one of the nicer postcards illustrated inside (Figure 1).

Once found, at a Kinex stamp show in Kincardine, Ont., by the way, this elusive card instantly became one of my faves.

PRO-NEUTRALITY LITHOGRAPH

One of the best jobs I ever had was helping compile a chemistry textbook at Western University in London, Ont., about 10 years ago.

After relocating to Canada's “forest city” from Mississauga, I quickly became familiar with the antique shops, flea markets and other collector hangouts. One day while browsing through London's popular Attic Books, I came across a beau-



A beautiful First World War postcard started life in 1915 as a ‘pro-neutrality’ lithograph by U.S. artist Wallace Robinson.

tiful First World War colour lithograph signed by American artist Wallace Robinson in 1915.

What excited me about this work of art, aside from its brilliant colours and terrific theme of course, was the postcard version of it (Figure 2) was resting comfortably in one of my albums.

In case you're wondering, the lithograph came home with me that day.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 1908 POSTCARD

One of the most interesting cards in my collection is one I

picked up just in time to include in volume two of my 2014 patriotic postcard handbook.

When I first saw the card, I was intrigued by the French caption, the intermingling of the U.S. flag with Quebec's Carillon Sacré-Cœur (or the “Flag of Carillon,” flown by French General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm's troops during the 1758 Battle of Carillon in present-day New York) and the portraits of three clerics (Figure 3).

All was revealed once the caption was translated and I did some online sleuthing. The card was published as a St. John the Baptist holiday souvenir for the French Canadians living and working in Cohoes, N.Y.

Cohoes, which is just north of Albany, was renowned for its cotton mill industry in the late 19th century. This industry, like

others throughout New England, attracted many French-Canadian workers from Quebec.

It makes perfect sense, then, that these transplanted Quebecers were the impetus for this great 1908 postcard. And just to add to its collectibility on this side of the border, the card also has our ubiquitous Canadian beaver and maple leaves.

ANOTHER LITTLE GEM

What attracted me to this last postcard (Figure 4), aside from the “Canada, The Empire's Larder” theme, was its Raphael Tuck & Sons pedigree.

I picked up this little gem many years ago at the Scarborough Postcard Show,

Continued on page 19



Valentine & Sons, of Dundee, Scotland, published a now-elusive Canadian patriotic postcard around 1907 as part of a six-card transportation series.



French-Canadian cotton mill workers who emigrated from Quebec to Cohoes, N.Y., were the impetus for a 1908 St. John the Baptist souvenir.

Some philatelic links from around the world



STAMPNET

By Randy Heimpel

It is a constant marvel to me how the Internet works.

Not only is it always around us, but it may well be the closest we will ever really get to experiencing infinity. There is an ad on TV implying some folks using it are "done the Internet" – that is, they've browsed the entire world wide web – and are therefore bored with nothing to do. Good one.

The web might be finite if no one ever altered it again, but of course, millions of people are adding and deleting data every day.

There is always something different to look at, some new place to go.

The challenge is to know where to look to locate what appeals to a user in a reasonable amount of time. For fun, to keep things in perspective, I searched on a common search engine for "postage stamps." The result turned up 21.6 million hits in 0.6 seconds.

At a rate of two minutes to scan each hit, pounding for 24 hours a day, it would take more than 80 years to see them all. Hardly anyone has that much time.

So a web site that has already done some sorting for us is a big deal, really. We all need to find more ways to save time.

It must be noted all well-designed sites have a list of links for their users' benefit.

An example of this is the efficient website of the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association (CSDA) at csdaonline.com. It has some links on the homepage that are clearly indicated on a red bar just under the banner. Selecting "Find A Dealer" leads to the contact data of 77 members, most of whom have large, well-designed websites of their own. These links are also included. Choosing "Shows" lists the upcoming events and their website links. Further down the banner, opting for "Links" connects users to nine spots relevant to CSDA members.

This is a typical design format for smaller groups and organizations.

OTHER SITES

There are some websites that could be termed "loaded" with philatelic links.

One of these is at the Stamp Smarter Philatelic Learning



The Stamp Smarter Philatelic Learning Center features nearly 200 links to various online philatelic resources.

philatelic sites without having to use a search engine. It is very well organized and easy to use. It has one of the very best features a website can have in the form of a sitemap, which shows how the site is organized and lets you, the visitor, decide how to proceed.

Love it or not, the Internet is proving to be a very useful tool for helping collectors unite and share. While making the world a bit smaller, it has improved the philatelic world and will continue to do so. Enjoy "linking" your way around it.

Keep well and try to share some stamps with a young person this week. 🍁

Center. Inside it, at stampsmarter.com/features/links_home.html, we learn there are nearly 200 links in their database. These are connected to an internal search engine to help visitors save time. They are sorted into five categories, including commercial, organization, album pages, forum and personal.

Another interesting site belongs to the Virtual Stamp Club. Going to virtualstampclub.com/hotlink.html leads to its internal list of philatelic links. There are about 350 links arranged in 13 categories for our convenience. I only scanned randomly, but everything I saw was functional and updated.

While the philatelic world doesn't appear to change too much from country to country, the people in these other places often view things differently than North Americans. Calling up a webpage from Holland illustrates this point.

This site is maintained by a hobbyist who loves stamps, whiskey labels and light-houses. But he also has organized a listing of stamp links with a brief description of each. Head to langenbergjan.nl/links.html to see the offerings. There are more than 100 links with a distinct flavour for European connectivity.

StampLink, at stampink.com, also must be mentioned. Its sole function is to share



The Virtual Stamp Club offers about 350 links arranged in 13 categories.



Netherlands collector Jan Langenberg managed his comprehensive philatelic site from 1988-2013.



New Zealand collector Roger Pearce offers hundreds of links via his 'Stamp Link' site.



The Canadian Stamp Dealers Association website lists the organization's dealer members, which follow a strict code of ethics, plus other relevant philatelic information.

SUPER SPECIALS LXIX

The imperforate pairs of Canada are a popular and challenging area to collect. Here are thirty different great specials that I think
Stock is limited so please order today! On larger orders payment terms are available to suit

OFFER #CS1541



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Cat. \$1,000.00
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Singles also available Net \$119.00

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Scott #146c-148c
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Cat. \$720.00.....Net \$395.00

OFFER #CS1547



Scott #159c
\$1 Scroll Issue VF NH
Cat. \$1,350.00
Net \$695.00

OFFER #CS1548



Scott #211a-216a
1¢ to 13¢ Silver Jubilee complete set of 6 pairs VF+ NH
Cat. \$3,600.00.....Net \$2,295.00

OFFER #CS1549



Scott #221a
5¢ Pictorial Issue
VF H
Cat. \$300.00
Net \$179.00

OFFER #CS1550

Scott #241b
10c Library, Dark Carmine
VF+ NH
Cat. \$1,125.00
Net \$795.00



OFFER #CS1551



Scott #614a
15¢ Musical Ride VF NH
Cat. \$600.00.....Net \$295.00

OFFER #CS1552



Scott #614a
15¢ Musical Ride,
one double printed
VF NH
Cat. \$900.00
Net \$395.00

OFFER #CS1553

Scott #707i
2¢ Wildflower,
imperf at foot
VF NH
Cat. \$750.00
Net \$395.00



OFFER #CS1554



Scott #926Bii
36¢ Parliament
VF NH
Cat. \$1,000.00
Net \$579.00

OFFER #CS1555



Scott #1155a
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OFFER #CS1561



Scott #2011b
49¢ Flag VF NH
Cat. \$200.00.....Net \$99.00

OFFER #CS1566



Scott #C1b
5¢ Olive Brown Imperf Vertically VF NH
Cat. \$525.00.....Net \$379.00

OFFER #CS1557

Scott #1356i
42¢ Flag
VF+ NH
Cat. \$1,000.00
Net \$495.00
(Block of four \$895.00)



OFFER #CS1562



Scott #2262c
52¢ Flowers VF NH
Cat. \$500.00 Net \$279.00

OFFER #CS1567

Scott #C1c
5¢ Olive Brown Imperf
Horizontally
VF NH
Cat. \$525.00
Net \$379.00



OFFER #CS1558



Scott #1362c
45¢ Flag VF NH
Cat. \$750.00.....Net \$349.00

OFFER #CS1563



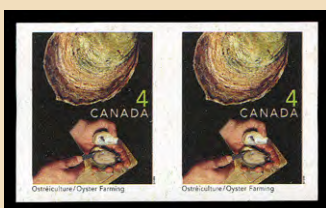
Scott #2239b
'P' Reindeer VF+ NH
Cat. \$675.050 Net \$295.00

OFFER #CS1568

Scott #E3a
20¢ Special
Delivery VF LH
Cat. \$250.00
Net \$149.00



OFFER #CS1559



Scott #1676a
4¢ Oyster Farming
VF NH
Cat. \$1,250.00.....Net \$695.00

OFFER #CS1564

Scott #2265b
2008 Hockey
VF+ NH
Cat. \$400.00
Net \$219.00



OFFER #CS1569

Canada #J10a
10¢ Postage Due
imperf horizontally
VG-F NH
Cat. \$1,500.00.....Net \$595.00



OFFER #CS1560



Scott #1683a
47¢ QEII VF+ NH
Cat. \$900.00 Net \$429.00

OFFER #CS1565



Scott #C1a
5¢ Olive Brown VF NH
Cat. \$525.00.....Net \$379.00

OFFER #CS1570



Scott #MR4b
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Late dad recognized on new U.K. stamp, Vera Lynn stamp promoted



Pot POURRI

By Ian Robertson

Imagine spotting your late father on a stamp for which he isn't the subject!

While the odds are rare, such discoveries have been made from time to time, especially when old crowd scene photographs were featured.

That is exactly what happened recently in southwest England, when a woman saw a second-class-rate commemorative issued in May and recognized a young lad in a 1945 photograph of people waving flags on a street while welcoming a returning Royal Air Force (RAF) sergeant.

In addition, Belinda Shears, 61, from Plymouth, told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Roger Axworthy's younger brother, Brian Axworthy, can be seen behind the sergeant on Oreston Road as he was being welcomed home from his RAF base in Lincolnshire.

The stamp is part of a set the Royal Mail released to mark the 75th anniversary of the Second World War's end in Europe on May 8, 1945, when Germany surrendered.

The commemoratives feature photographs of people celebrating, including a group of shirtless British prisoners of war in Japan.

The original photos, all black-and-white, were colorized for the V-E Day – Victory in Europe Day – stamps, a media release announced.



Laurence Axworthy, Roger's younger brother, made a series of public talks inspired by his sibling's homecoming photo.

Four other stamps on a mini-sheet feature memorials built to remember and honour the fallen, plus Holocaust victims.

When Shears saw the stamp illustrated in a newspaper and recognized her father and uncle, it was a "bit of sunshine in these awful times," the BBC quoted her as saying.

While the colours were new, the image had been widely reproduced in newspapers and magazines, so it was well-known to the family.



Stamp collector Roger Axworthy, who died in 2006 aged 73, is in a photo used for a recent V-E Day stamp issued by Royal Mail.

In addition to her father – who died in 2006 at age 73 – and her uncle, the photo offers a glimpse of another relative, Aunt Tina, who is partly obscured by well-wishers walking beside the sergeant.

"My father was also a stamp collector, so it's amazing that he is going on a stamp," Shears was quoted as saying. "It's



A second-class stamp shows a Royal Air Force sergeant welcomed back to his hometown of Oreston, South Devon. Two brothers were later identified on the stamp by family.

The booklet contained four 25-pence Queen Elizabeth II Machin-design 25-pence definitives.

Released in 1939, one of the famous singer's greatest hits, "We'll Meet Again," written by Ross Parker and Hughie Charles, was an anthem of hope throughout the war.

Living in recent years in Ditchling, East Sussex, a village 65 kilometres south of London, she teamed up with opera singer Katherine Jenkins during this year's coronavirus and released a charity version of that song.

Another recently released version available online features numerous people singing the melody with the wistful words that predict future reunions "some sunny day."

The words Dame Vera Lynn made famous were also spoken by Queen Elizabeth II, who told the British people during the country's recent public lockdown: "We will be with our families again. We will meet again."



British singer Vera Lynn, known as the 'Forces Sweetheart,' died on June 18.

The queen also sent private condolences to Lynn's relatives after she died, "surrounded by her close family," they said in a statement.

Awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 1969 Queen's New Year Honours List, Lynn became a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire six years later, this time in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

fantastic and it's such a good photo."

Her sister, Fiona Yelland, who lives in Ashford, Kent, said learning about their dad on the stamp "has really cheered us up."

World War earned her the title of "Forces Sweetheart."

Retired, but still making occasional public appearances, a campaign to feature her on a set of British stamps began soon after her death on June 18.

The chief promoter, Wayne Huggins, who writes a blog about Commonwealth stamps under the pseudonym of "White Knight," posted an online appeal to support commemoratives he predicted would "capture the national mood."

Using publicly available photographs of Vera Lynn throughout her life, he included simulated stamps made on his laptop computer in the online posting.

Calling Lynn a "remarkable woman," Huggins noted she was for decades "part of the soul of the nation and ... was partly responsible for giving it the will to survive and fight on when all looked lost. If ever such a role was relevant today then the one she played in the past is it.

"I believe the British public would appreciate such an issue especially if for once Royal Mail could think of its target audience – the ordinary British mail sender – and issue a modest set of four 2nd Class rate so that everyone can get the opportunity to use them," he wrote. "I bet The Queen would give her approval for such an issue quickly enough."

Lynn was featured on the front of one of four £1 booklets issued in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. The red-brown and black engraved image included a portrait plus a depiction of her singing beside a piano, standing in front of a large audience of soldiers.

FAN LOBBIES FOR VERA LYNN STAMP

News of Vera Lynn's death at age 103 had special meaning for people in the United Kingdom.

Lynn's down-to-earth, endearing serenades for people in the military during the Second

Born Vera Margaret Welch in the blue-collar East Ham neighbourhood of London in 1917, performing in social clubs and at church concerts at age seven, she adopted her grandmother's maiden name.

"I was somebody that they could associate with," she once told the Associated Press news service of the soldiers Lynn entertained. "I was an ordinary girl."

When the war started, the 21-year-old band singer in a travelling variety show – who dropped out of school 10 years earlier – thought her career was over.

Instead, after servicemen named her their favourite musical artist in a *Daily Express* poll, she began travelling and entertaining the troops in a variety of venues, including to Burma – now Myanmar – often while wearing a uniform or at least a military cap.



The 2017 'Vera Lynn 100' album features the famed Second World War singer alongside spitfire fighter planes flying over the White Cliffs of Dover, recalling one of her hit songs.

"I entertained audiences from 2,000 to 6,000," she once said. "The boys would just come out of the jungle and sit there for hours waiting until we arrived and then slip back in once we'd left."

Lynn also had a wartime BBC radio show, "Sincerely Yours," which featured her singing requests as a letter to troops overseas.

She also visited their wives.

"You hear people go on about unpopular wars, but show me a popular one," the veteran entertainer once said. "Nobody in their right mind wants to go to war, but when it happens you have to get behind your troops."

In addition to singing, Lynn appeared in several films, including as a younger dancer who discovers how to sing in *We'll Meet Again*, released in 1942; *Rhythm Serenade*, in which she organizes a munitions fac-



tory nursery as a member of the Women's Royal Navy, in 1943; and *One Exciting Night*, a 1944 comedy about a singer involved, mistakenly, in a kidnapping.

Her numerous hits were recorded, including *White Cliffs of Dover*, composed in 1941 by Walter Kent to lyrics by Nat Burton.

I got a 78-revolutions-per-minute record of it from a high school teacher when she was clearing out a storeroom in the mid-1960s.

My mum and dad, the latter who the Royal Canadian Air Force sent to England as an accounts officer and paymaster during the war, often spoke fondly of Vera Lynn and were smilingly teary-eyed when I played the prized record for them.

In 1952, her rendition of *Auf Wiedersehen Sweetheart*, which was written about two years earlier by German composer Eberhard Storch, became the American Billboard chart's first top record by an English entertainer.

Twelve years later, *We'll Meet Again* was played near the end of *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*, a dark comedy hit film about a nuclear holocaust, which co-writer Stanley Kubrick directed.

Semi-retired for many years while raising daughter, Virginia Penelope Lewis-Jones, now 74, who Lynn had with husband Harry Lewis (1915-98), a musician who managed her career, she made a comeback hit in 1976.

Titled *Don't You Remember When*, it was written by Lynsey de Paul and Barry Blue.

Lynn was the subject of *Vera*, a song which refers to *We'll Meet Again*, on the concept album "The Wall" by Pink Floyd, which was adapted into a 1982 film, *Pink Floyd: The Wall*. Her 1937 song, "The Little Boy that Santa Claus Forgot," was also featured.

She had a key role in a 1989 campaign to obtain better pen-

A mock-up stamp design produced by a British blogger honours Lynn's legacy.

sions for widows of Second World War servicemen, and until a decade ago was involved in several veterans' charities, including her Dame Vera Lynn Trust and her children's charity.

In 1995, she sang outside Buckingham Palace during a ceremony for the 50th anniversary of the war's end and often appeared briefly at events involving veterans, including last year's D-Day ceremonies.

At that event, her pre-recorded wishes were "played to a ballroom full of veterans on a ship sailing to France to mark the event," Associated Press reporter Danica Kirka wrote recently.

"Tears flowed as Lynn spoke. When she was done, the thunderous applause rattled the windows."

In 2009, 14 years after officially retiring, her greatest hits album, "We'll Meet Again – The Very Best of Vera Lynn," led the U.K. album chart.

Five years later, the 97-year-old put out a new album of songs.

In 2016, Lynn was awarded Companion of Honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to entertainment and charity.

One year later, another album of her re-orchestrated best-known songs, "Vera Lynn 100," was released.

"It's truly humbling that people still enjoy these songs from so many years ago, reliving the emotions of that time," the BBC quoted her as saying.

She received the Outstanding Contribution to Music award at the Classic Brit Awards in 2018.

For those who want to read more about her, Lynn wrote an autobiography, *Vocal Refrain*.

There are also her bestselling war memoirs, aptly titled *We'll Meet Again*.

Following her death, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Dame Vera Lynn's "charm and magical voice entranced and uplifted our country in some of our darkest hours. Her voice will live on to lift the hearts of generations to come."

QUEEN APPEARS ON BRITISH STAMPS

Having the queen on British definitives is a standard begun in 1952.

So a teasing but accurate headline on a *United Press International* news story on June 24 caused a bit of a puzzle: "Queen to appear on British postage stamps."

The Guardian newspaper's headline was more revealing: "Queen – not that one – to appear on postage stamps."

The Queen referred to was the famous British rock band formed in London in 1970, though some sources cite 1971, when two bands of university and art school student members came together.

On June 23, Royal Mail officials unveiled eight commemoratives, a £19.10 prestige booklet, a souvenir sheet with five different stamps, two "Commemorative sheets," plus two "Fan sheets."

The issue, with some denominated as first-class stamps – 76-pence – and others with the 20-gram letter international rate of £1.63, pays tribute to the multiple award-winning group, with original members John Deacon, Brian May, the late Freddie Mercury and Roger Taylor.



Britain issued a Freddie Mercury stamp as part of its 1999 Millennium series.

Their glam rock, heavy metal and campy theatrics performed in a mock-opera style included Mercury on piano and providing lead vocals, May playing a guitar and singing, Taylor on drums and singing, with Deacon playing a bass guitar.

Considered one of the most commercially successful music groups, with *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* and *Bohemian Rhapsody* – the title of a blockbuster 2018 film about them – considered their best-known works, the band has sold more than 300 million albums.

Its list of musical achievements has few rivals, Royal Mail said.

Queen produced numerous platinum, multi-platinum and gold albums, received many

awards, was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement award and, in 2001, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

May was quoted in *The Guardian* as saying "we have become a national institution."

The Chronicle Herald in Halifax, N.S., *The Toronto Sun*, *The National Post* and other Postmedia newspapers quoted him saying: "Since we four precocious boys started out on our quest 50 years ago, our lives have been devoted to making our impossible dream come true."

Counter booklets released on July 9 have four first-class Machin-head definitives featuring Queen Elizabeth II, plus two Queen band first-class commemoratives.

Eight stamps reproduce the band's album covers – "Queen II" and "Sheer Heart Attack" from 1974; "A Night at the Opera" from 1975; "News of the World" in 1977; "The Game" in 1980; "Greatest Hits" in 1981; "The Works" in 1984; and "Innuendo" in 1991.

The other five stamps reproduce photos from live performances, three in London and one in Budapest, Hungary, plus a portrait photo from their first studio photoshoot in 1974.

With an exchange rate of \$1.71 for a pound on July 5, the eight 50th anniversary Queen commemoratives, the mixed-design booklet, five-stamp mini-sheet and the £19.10 prestige booklet will cost the princely sum of £34.30, or \$58.65 Cdn.

The stamps were produced by International Security Printers.

Royal Mail also announced it will release six small-format stamps featuring the band next March.

Related Queen stamp products included first-day covers, two first-day cancels with different lyrics from *Bohemian Rhapsody*, 14 postcards featuring enlargements of the stamps, plus a presentation pack. There are also framed versions of the stamps and postcards.

Most of the 2020 commemoratives were printed by offset lithography, with the small booklet's six stamps reproduced by gravure, which rendered the two band commemoratives different from the others.

Continued on page 17

Postal administrations quick to counterattack coronavirus threat



Commonwealth COMMUNIQUÉ

By Chad Neighbor

As bad as the coronavirus situation is around the globe, just think how much worse it would be if postal service ceased.

People wouldn't be able to add to painfully low supplies by ordering online, and people couldn't send paper greetings cards or picture postcards. They wouldn't be able to send presents to families

and friends. In the stamp world, collectors would lose their one reliable source of obtaining stamps, postal history, postcards and accessories. Governments would lose a cheap and reliable way to get written notices to citizens.

Thankfully, postal administrations have been unrelenting and inventive in their efforts to keep the mail moving.



The U.K.'s Royal Mail produced several special COVID-19 postmarks, including one honouring Capt. Tom Moore (top) that will become a collector's item as it was used for just a few days. Another one marked the 75th anniversary of V-E Day, but by the time it arrived, the 'Stay Home' slogan was dropped in England.

Postal staff have also been courageous in risking their lives to deliver our treasured pieces of post.

Procedures have changed to make handling and delivering mail safer. Post offices in most countries have remained open even if some international postal routes have not.

These efforts are educational, psychological and logistical, with stamps and postmarks issued to honour those battling the pandemic (and encourage the millions who have given up so much to keep themselves and others as safe as possible).

In the United Kingdom, at least three postmarks are spelling out anti-virus precautions on millions of envelopes. One of the postmarks honoured the inspirational 100-year-old Capt. Tom Moore, whose 100 laps of his backyard with his walker created a national sensation and raised more than £33 million (about \$56 million Cdn.) for the U.K.'s National Health Service (NHS).

The Royal Mail quickly altered its procedures for signed-for items, with the deliverer logging the name of the person accepting it rather than handing over a handheld device for a signature. Items too large for letterboxes are being put at the door.

"Having knocked on your door, we will then step aside to a safe distance while you retrieve your item," the U.K. postal service advises.

For those in self-isolation who cannot come to the door, arrangements can be made for family members or friends to collect their mail.

At my house, we have hardly missed a day of mail, and my wife has put a thank-you note just above the mail

slot in our door. All post offices have stayed open as they are considered essential businesses, and our village post office and shop has been a big help in filling gaps in our pantry.

The Royal Mail has also published country-by-country guides about disruptions or temporary halts to bulk deliveries to countries around the globe.

It notes: "Canada has put special measures in place from Monday 16 March, to limit the spread of Coronavirus. Canada Post need to comply and is also likely to have a reduced workforce available, and not be able to deliver all mail to specifications. Signature on delivery is suspended and delays to mail services can be expected."

Britain's *Stamp Collector* magazine reports several countries were quick off the mark in issuing COVID-19-related stamps, with the Isle of Man joining Switzerland, Iran and China in doing so.

The Isle of Man "Carry Us Through" stamps single out the contributions of frontline health and delivery workers.

"We wanted to send a positive message into every home in the Isle of Man and to our friends overseas to say how much we appreciate the people who are working tirelessly for us all and to share the sense of strength and fortitude in our community," said Maxine Cannon, general manager Isle of Man Stamps and Coins.

Ireland's An Post was giving purchasers of "Send Love" stamp booklets two free stamps during the height of the crisis. It is also arranging for the daily delivery of newspapers for people who cannot get out to their newsagents, and the families of elderly and

vulnerable people can request that postmen and women can check in on them.

Postmarks, however, cannot be rivalled in terms of exposure to sheer numbers of people. Malaysia and Singapore are among the Commonwealth nations using COVID-19 postmarks. In the United Kingdom, many millions of cancellations reading, "Stay Home / Protect the NHS / Save Lives," have been put on letters in various formats.

For a few days, these were replaced by postmarks reading, "Happy 100th Birthday / Captain Thomas Moore / NHS Fundraising Hero / 30th April 2020." They were only supposed to be used on his birthday and the day after, but on April 29, I received an example postmarked on April 28. Good strikes of the multiple varieties of these marks could be quite collectable given the short time they were used and the fact many examples are of low quality.

The difficulty of keeping up with the news, however, was shown through this third example, which also marked the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. The same COVID-19 wording was rendered out of date by a change in slogan in England (but not the rest of the United Kingdom) to "Stay Alert / Control the Virus / Save Lives." This postmark, too, was in use for just a few days, but a replacement had not appeared at the time of writing.

HONOURING (SUPER) HEROES

As in many other countries, British people have come to their doors or windows to applaud healthcare workers and

Continued on page 19

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Queen...

Continued from page 15

Other photos of Mercury taken during a performance, with Taylor playing drums in the background, were used on a 19-pence 1999 British commemorative as part of its Millennium series.

Born Farrokh Bulsara in Tanzania in 1946, Mercury died in 1991 at age 45.

As a boy, he collected stamps from Great Britain, Monaco, Aden (now part of Yemen) and Zanzibar (part of Tanzania).

A Royal Mail souvenir sheet issued this July features five commemoratives featuring the rock band Queen.

His album was bought in 1993 by the Postal Museum in London, where it is on display.

Several other postal agencies have released commemoratives featuring Queen's late lead singer, including Chad, Dagestan, Eritrea, Guinée-Bissau, Madagascar, Mordovia, the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Central Africa, São Tomé e Príncipe, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan and Zaire. There are also several unauthorized, ille-



gal Mercury stamps produced to woo collectors.

Deacon retired in 1997, but May and Taylor still tour as

Queen, with Adam Lambert as the lead singer.

Queen is "the third music group to have a dedicated Brit-

ish stamp issue after the Beatles in 2007 and Pink Floyd in 2016," Reuters noted. 🍁

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New ISSUES

Around the World with Robin Harris



JERSEY

The 150th birth anniversary of world-renowned Jersey golfer Harry Vardon is celebrated on a set of six stamps issued by the British Crown dependency on July 9.

Vardon became the Champion Golfer of the Year in the Open Championship (also known as the British Open) in 1896, 1898, 1899, 1903, 1911 and then again in 1914. He was also the U.S. Open Champion in 1900. With this record of wins, Vardon proved himself one of golf's greatest ever players.

Six stamps show photographs of Vardon throughout his career.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of fellow Jersey man Ted Ray's victory at the U.S. Open in 1920.



A miniature sheet shows Vardon and Ray together with their respective British Open and U.S. Open victories.

ALDERNEY

The 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, a major air campaign during the Second World War, is commemorated on six stamps issued by Alderney on July 21.

The Battle of Britain took place over southern England in the summer and autumn of 1940. Following the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and the fall of France, Germany planned to gain air supremacy in preparation for an invasion of Great Britain.

Flying iconic aircraft, including the Hurricane and Spitfire, the British pilots of Royal Air Force (RAF) Fighter Command were supported by a vast network of ground crew during the battle.



The German air force – the Luftwaffe – was eventually defeated by Fighter Command, forcing Nazi leader Adolf Hitler to abandon his invasion plans.

The stamps depict:

- the Royal Observer Corps, a civil defence organization set up to search for enemy aircraft over Great Britain (50 pence);
- the Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane, the two main fighter aircraft used by the RAF during the Battle of Britain (68 pence);
- the Luftwaffe, which systematically bombed London in a campaign known as “the Blitz” (70 pence);
- the Heinkel HE III, a German bomber described as a “wolf in sheep’s clothing” (85 pence);
- an iconic picture, “St Paul’s survives,” taken during the Blitz and capturing the dome of St Paul’s Cathedral untouched among the flames and smoke of surrounding buildings (95 pence); and
- the Focke-Wulf FW-190, the best Second World War German fighter plane, attacking a RAF Lancaster bomber (£1.02).



AUSTRALIA

Mid-century fashion focus is the subject of a set of six stamps issued by Australia on June 16.

With Australia's dramatic economic, urban, technological and social development following the Second World War, photography was well-placed to serve the newly prosperous and aspirational nation. It was a visual medium that lent itself to advertisements, promotions, catalogues, newspapers, magazines and other print media, and it could also document new and significant projects, such as the Snowy River Hydro, Shell Oil Refinery and various other architectural endeavours.

Melbourne was at the heart of Australian fashion during the mid-20th century. Athol Shmith, Helmut Newton, Henry Talbot and Bruno Benini – names synonymous with fashion photography during this period – all had studios in the Victorian capital. Newton and Talbot were in business together for five years.

The stamps showcase not only the work of these four leading fashion photographers, but they also illustrate fashion and stylistic shifts occurring over successive decades from the late 1940s to the 1970s. The stamp designs return the photographs to their original commercial context, referencing fashion illustration through evoking magazine cover art.

The photographs are from the collections of the National Gallery of Victoria.



NORFOLK ISLAND

Norfolk Island released two stamps highlighting ocean oddities on July 14.

Norfolk Island lies some 1,400 kilometres off the New South Wales coast in the Pacific Ocean. It is a small island territory with a landmass of just 34.6 square kilometres and spectacular reefs and beaches.

This stamp issue features two rarely encountered fish species occupying the open ocean around Norfolk (and temperate and subtropical waters elsewhere). Included in each illustration is a graphic device to convey the relative size of these unusual ocean giants.

The bump-head sunfish (\$1.10), also known as the Southern Ocean sunfish, inhabits oceanic waters worldwide, but not polar waters. While it can be found to depths of 5,000 metres, it occasionally ventures into shallow waters.

The Oarfish (\$2.20) is so named because of its long pelvic fins, which resemble oars. It's found in the upper regions of tropical and temperate ocean waters worldwide to a depth of about 1,000 metres. The world's longest bony fish species, it can grow to 11 metres long.



LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg released two stamps on June 9 showcasing old postal routes.

This year, the common theme of the “Europa” stamps issued by the European postal operators (PostEurop) is old postal routes.

Four main postal routes were established under Charles V in 1516 to improve postal connections. One of them, the Wiener route, also ran through Luxembourg.

These new postal services were available not only to rulers but also to private citizens. At the end of 1680, Luxembourg was included as a branch in the Brussels-Vienna route, improving the letter traffic between Luxembourg and Brussels. In 1701, the postal routes were officially established, and Luxembourg received postal connections with all its neighbouring countries.



NEW ZEALAND

July 1 saw the release of 15 stamps from New Zealand celebrating classic baked treats, including favourites found in local bakeries and others lovingly made at home.

The stamps in this issue represent local and regional treats – Afghans, custard squares and pavlova are all familiar to New Zealanders – plus recipes from abroad and some local inventions. Whatever their origins, great recipes can be passed down through generations or from friend to friend.

Featured in the 15-stamp issue are Anzac biscuits, pavlova, Churchill slice, cheese rolls, lolly cake, neenish tarts, lamingtons, cheese scones, custard squares, chocolate crackles, ginger biscuits, melting moments, Louise cake, Afghans and banana cake.

COVID...

Continued from page 1

the font is a little bit different from each one, so it's an interesting little study I'm doing for myself," she added.

FIRST PICTORIAL CANCEL WITH A COVID THEME

Croatian Post was slated to start using a special pictorial cancel in the capital of Zagreb on March 25, two weeks after the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic.

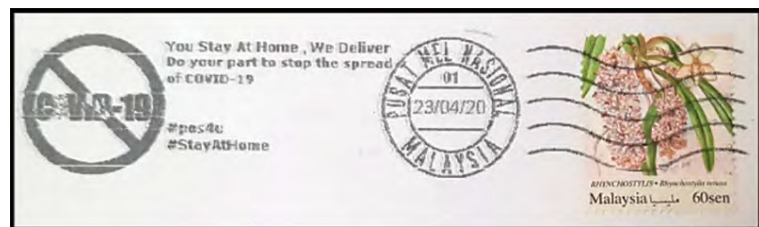
"Unfortunately, three days before the scheduled launch, there was a big earthquake in Zagreb that destroyed a lot of buildings, including the central post office," said Wang, who added the cancel's launch was postponed until April 30 and transferred to a different post office.

Translated to English, the cancel's slogan reads, "Croatia and the world against the coronavirus pandemic." The design also includes a stylized image of the virus.

The cancel is available on different postcards, some of which are offered on Delcampe, an online collectibles market similar to eBay, Wang said.

A few weeks later, Malaysia began using a three-line slogan cancel. It came about a week after the Southeast Asian country implemented a "movement control order" but was only used for two days only, March 24-25. It reads, "You Stay At Home, We Deliver / Do your part to stop the spread of COVID-19 / #StayAtHome."

Beginning March 27, another similar slogan cancel was used. It added another hashtag - "#pos4u" - above "#StayAtHome."



The Malaysian postal service issued an updated slogan cancel (shown) after using a previous design for only two days, March 24-25.

The postal code and date included in the original design were updated to reflect the different post office and new date of issue.

"At the time, when they issued it, there was a lot of limitation on inter-city travel, and a lot of collectors were probably unable to get it on the date of issue because of that limitation," she added.

In nearby Singapore, the country's postal service began using slogan cancels, rotating between pairs of cancels, each used for two weeks at a time, in April.

"Singapore has a nice history recently of using different kinds of pictorial cancels for different occasions," said Wang, who added that country's government refers to its social-distancing measures as a



Three COVID-19 pictorial cancels are being used at their respective United Nations (UN) post offices, including (from left to right) UN headquarters in New York City, the Palais des Nations in Geneva and the Vienna International Centre in Vienna.

"circuit breaker," which was implemented on April 7.

"There are two different machines, 'C1' and 'C2,'" she said, adding they're available on eBay.

BRITAIN, IRELAND, GERMANY & MORE

Britain has also used several relevant slogan cancels encouraging people to "STAY HOME," "PROTECT THE NHS (National Health Service)" and "SAVE LIVES."

With different designs, including one marking the 75th anniversary of V-E Day and another celebrating the 100th birthday of Thomas Moore, who raised more than £32 million for NHS charities, they've been in use since late April.

"This one is a nice little cancel," she said, referencing the Moore cancel used from April 27-May 1.

Other slogans have also been issued by Ireland, Germany and Saxony.

The Irish slogans are believed to have been used at all three mail centres across that country, Wang said.

"It's not too hard to try and collect examples from all three," she added.

After using a meter slogan cancel earlier in the pandemic, Germany began using a pictorial cancel on July 1 at more than 70 of its mail distribution centres.

"There will be a gazillion to collect, but you might want to get one or two examples of that."

For something easier to collect, Australia Post also began using a three-line slogan cancel reading, "Stay safe / & connected / Australia," in April.

"There are a handful of different mail centres in Australia,

so it's more feasible to get it from all the different centres there."

Lastly, PostModern, a private mail carrier based in Dresden, the capital of Saxony, is also using labels with a hashtagged message, "#Eens-FuffzschBidde."

"This letter was originally franked with a stamp issued by PostModern, but they put a label over it," said Wang, who added the label - translated from the Upper Saxon dialect - encourages people to stay 1.5 metres apart. 🍁

Favourites...

Continued from page 10

which sadly is no longer an annual July event in Toronto. The dealer who sold it to me, and many others like it over the years, was John Laing, of Burlington, Ont.

Laing, who passed away in 2016 after a lengthy battle

with cancer, was a fixture in the Canadian postcard trade for decades. He was well known for the quality of his character as well as his cards. You could also never forget his thick Scot's accent.

As for the postcard, England's Raphael Tuck & Sons published it around 1908, and the text printed on the back would make any Canadian proud: "Canada, the Empire's Larder, is a most appropriate title for the oldest and greatest British Dominion, which is at the same time the greatest food-producing unit of the British Empire." 🍁



Canada, the Empire's Larder, is a most appropriate title for the oldest and greatest British Dominion, which is at the same time the greatest food-producing unit of the British Empire." 🍁

Britain's Raphael Tuck & Sons published a Canadian gem around 1908. It is one of the memorable postcards purchased from dealer John Laing.

Heroes...

Continued from page 16

other crucial people on the front lines who are risking their lives to maintain essential services.

Postal workers are routinely mentioned as among these indefatigable workers; however, some Scottish posties have gone a step further by emulating superheroes or dressing up as cartoon characters on their rounds. In Inverurie, in northeast Scotland, they are wearing T-shirts with the Superman emblem in place of the "O" in "Posties."



The Isle of Man issued an eight-stamp set, 'Carry Us Through,' with messages of hope and solidarity.

In Ayrshire, in southwest Scotland, postie Cara Black has dressed up as Batgirl, Do-

natello from the Ninja Turtles and Superwoman, raising smiles and spirits. 🍁

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Exhibiting...

Continued from page 1

mentoring director with the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) who has been exhibiting for about 60 years and judging for the past 20. "I never would've allowed anybody to write, 'Here are the rules.' I grew up in the '60s – sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll – so I don't want any rules."

'FIGURE IT OUT'

For exhibitors, it's crucial to determine what's important and why – for both the subject and the material – and then relay that to the judges through the title page and possibly the synopsis.

"You have to figure it out," said Schultz, who referenced Jean Wang's award-winning thematic exhibit on blood, comparing one of its earlier iterations – from 2015 – with what it has become today.

"The difference between her exhibits brings tears to my eyes, and I don't get emotional too often," he added. "The progression from what it was four years ago to what it is today was rapid, which tells you we can all do it – you just have to get from A to B to C, and you have to want to do it."

As a subject, blood is arguably of foremost importance to everyone; we all rely on the bodily fluid to bring oxygen and nutrients across the body as well as carbon dioxide and

other waste materials to the lungs, kidneys and digestive system for removal. According to the manual, a blood-themed exhibit could be important because it is the "definitive showing" of the subject, because it shows "creativity in treatment" or because the exhibitor provided "unusual or special insights."

As an example of the difficulty in scoring importance, Schultz said if Wang's exhibit scored an eight, "her upside is probably a nine."

"She has to work for that nine, and she has to decide as an exhibitor, 'Is it worth the effort – in the synopsis, or maybe the title page or even in the exhibit somewhere – to convince the judges that it's a nine?'"

While scoring a 10 for importance is possible – he's only seen three in his years of judging – it's unlikely for the overwhelming majority of exhibitors today.

"There's no limit that says you can't get a 10, but it's a difficult chore to acquire."

SUBJECT/EXHIBIT IMPORTANCE

For subject (or exhibit) importance, judges will consider whether an exhibit "covers a minor part of a wider scope" or if it "represents a significant challenge in scope or complexity," according to the manual.

"That gets messy," Schultz said, adding a "great example" he judged at Orapex 2019 was Rob Leigh's five-frame

Grand Award-winning postal history exhibit, "The Western District of Upper Canada: the Development of Postal Communications and Postal Markings, 1800-1850."

"The complexity and difficulty of that exhibit were amazing. He had a couple covers from towns that had four people in 1803. That stuff is scarce and difficult to write about, and he's created a lot of information."

For comparison, Schultz also highlighted his exhibit on Rattlesnake Island, an 85-acre island on the U.S. side of Lake Erie, 18 kilometres northeast of Port Clinton, Ohio.

"How important is Rattlesnake Island? It just sits there, and four people live there. How important can Rattlesnake Island be? I love it, and I love the idea because it's the only airmail local post in the world. It uses a 1929 Ford Trimotor known in the airplane world as a 'tin goose.' It's a great subject – but importance? Not so much. Subject importance? Not so much. Exhibit importance? Not so much. But it's fun, and I know it's never going to get better. I know that I'm not good enough to convince the judges it's better than a silver."

It's crucial, he added, for exhibitors to determine whether they're doing an exhibit for fun or competition.

"Importance is only worth 10 points, but you can lose two or three points if you

don't sell the importance to the judges, and you have to decide if it's worth the effort."

MINOR OR MAJOR PHILATELIC IMPORTANCE?

As for philatelic importance, it all depends on the material and its significance to philately (that is, "how much philatelic depth and diversity is shown in the development of the exhibit").

credibly scarce," he said, adding while assembling this exhibit he learned mail was sent to the northern states from a POW camp housing 53,000 Confederates.

"Why are there letters to the north? These are all southern guys in jail."

After a bit of research, Schultz learned the Union sent northern traitors to the POW camp to languish alongside



Importance is a two-fold measure that includes subject and philatelic importance. Judges will evaluate whether an exhibit 'represents a significant challenge in scope or complexity' and 'how much philatelic depth and diversity is shown,' according to the *Manual of Philatelic Judging and Exhibiting*.

It's also crucial to maintain balance across an exhibit by ensuring each section is sized according to its importance to the overall story.

Judges will consider whether an exhibit touches on minor or major aspects of philately.

"For example, do I think U.S. Scott #1 or the Penny Black from the United Kingdom is important? You bet. Do I think the first airmail issue of Canada and the first airmail issue of the United States are important? You bet."

Schultz also referenced a single-frame exhibit he prepared for a client in recent years.

The exhibit highlights the Fort Delaware prisoner-of-war (POW) camp that operated from 1862-65 during the U.S. Civil War.

"There are only 250 covers known in private hands," he said, adding he divided the exhibit into flags of truce, with southern states, border states, northern states and incoming mail to the POW camp each in different frames.

"They're probably one-of-a-kind items that have never been seen before. Incoming mail to the POW camp is in-

their Confederate counterparts.

"The north sent bad guys to the same prison and put them in with a bunch of Confederates," he said. "I'd love to have been involved in some of those conversations."

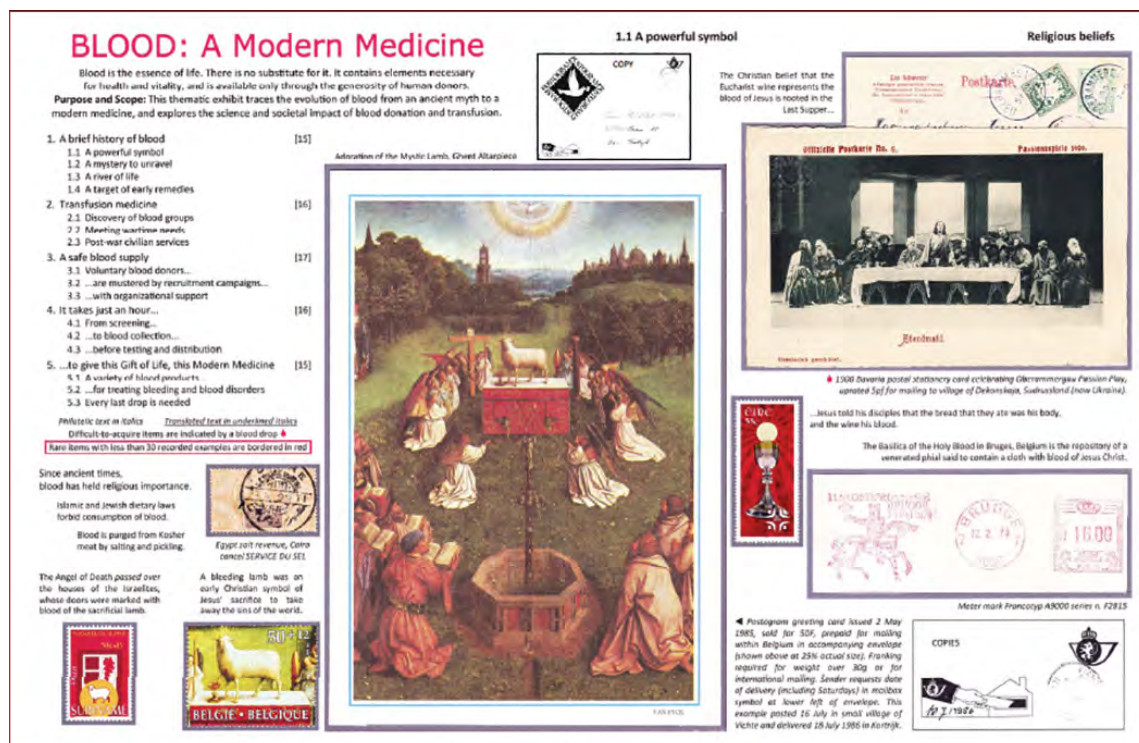
From his perspective, this exhibit would score nine points for importance.

"The Civil War is a five for subject importance," he added, leaving four points for philatelic importance. "This is exhibit will do well."

He estimates replacing those covers for another identical single-frame exhibit would cost \$50,000 US, "not a penny less, and maybe even \$60,000."

"They're scarce, and they're difficult to acquire. This is tough stuff to get, and it ties into scarcity and difficulty of acquisition, but it also somehow overlaps with importance. I could go the next 12 months and only find one or two more if I'm lucky," he said, adding he bought all of the material in December 2018 in a handful of separate lots.

"I'm only missing two states – Texas and Florida – but I don't even know if they exist. I find in the world of exhibiting, the most exciting part is the search." 🍁



The title page (left) from a recent iteration of Wang's blood exhibit outlines the cultural significance – or 'importance' – of blood.

For an enjoyable hobby, have a collecting plan



Collecting 101

By Peter Mosiondz, Jr.

Just as in any endeavour, the collector should have a definite plan – in other words, a course of action – for his or her collecting goals.

The collection should have a theme or purpose. It would do little good, for example, to mount a low priced set of stamps containing mixed used and unused.

I have examined many collections that included mint U.S. “Presidential” issues (known by collectors as “Prexies”) until one took a look at the high values. The \$1, \$2 and \$5 denominations were used. When queried, the collector stated those three values were too expensive in unused condition.

That’s fine. Collect whatever floats your boat, and I would be the last person to tell you how and what to collect. The point of the matter is when the collection comes up for sale, as all collections must sooner or later, the price obtained by you or your heirs for that mixed set will not be in keeping with a nicely centred unused set. If your budget does not permit you to collect unused stamps, then by all means, collect them postally used in fine or better condition, but don’t expect buyers to beat a path to your door.

Many collectors choose to collect the classic U.S. issues in postally used condition. Then, as they get into 20th-century material that does not exhibit a huge price differential between used and unused, they start mounting unused. Most dealers would be extremely interested in purchasing a nice, sound collection of this order, and you or your heirs will be much better off financially.

DOING THE LEGWORK

I remember one collector proudly showing me his collection of first-day covers.

He was quick to point out they were all from a particular cachetmaker and unadressed. After my occasional

“oohs” and “aahs,” I happened to glance upon a couple of empty slots in his album and inquired why these low-priced covers weren’t yet added.

His reply nearly floored me.

“I collect only black engraved cacheted covers, and all I’ve been able to find on those two issues have been a reddish-brown shade.”

I pointed out this particular cachetmaker did not produce black engraved cachets for these issues and that they were available only in the reddish brown he seemingly despised so much. I can still remember how taken aback he became. He couldn’t fathom I might know more about this situation than he did.

The next day I called the cachetmaker and asked why those two issues were not done in the customary black ink. I learned the firm was trying something new and those two issues were a test they were doing at the time to gauge their popularity of the reddish brown versus the standard black. My friend seemingly never bothered to ask anyone or do any research on the matter.

Now, please don’t get the wrong impression. I don’t pretend to know everything – far from it. I have attempted to acquire a certain amount of philatelic knowledge in the 60 years I have been collecting and dealing.

Philately is an ongoing educational process. One can learn something new every day if one is inclined to do so.

HAVE A GOAL

I had another friend and good customer who enjoyed the practice of collecting used plate, zip, copyright and mail-early blocks as well as a single of each issue.

This goes back about 40 years to when I had my store. This was an admirable and challenging plan, to say the least. He contacted several

dealers who were known to handle such material, and they would supply the blocks for about 40 or 50 cents each if I remember correctly. As I received many of these items on my incoming mail, I was glad to save and supply them at no cost when he visited the store each Saturday.

But he began to get impatient. He wanted instant gratification and began buying a sheet of each new issue as it came out and had the postal clerk cancel the required items after he separated them from the sheet. I tried in vain to point out he was missing out on all of the fun associated with the thrill of the chase, but it fell on deaf ears.

These examples are meant to illustrate the point of having a goal in mind. First, examine the country or era you wish to

collect. Take a look at the prices in the Scott or Unitrade catalogues. If they’re unaffordable, try something else.

Or if it’s too costly for only a few specific stamps, then decide to simply enjoy collecting, rest easy and have a great deal of fun knowing well in advance the collection will never be complete. There is no fun in collecting without the fun of hunting down needed items. Most of my friends look forward to the next stamp show to participate in this fashion.

Here’s one final example. I once had the privilege of purchasing a nice collection of used classic U.S. stamps. It wasn’t complete – far from it. But there wasn’t a flaw to be found, and each and every stamp graded no less than fine, with many in loftier grades. It was one of the most

pleasurable philatelic tasks to evaluate the collection and make a very nice offer.

The collector showed obvious pleasure when I handed him the check. He told me he heeded the advice given to him by his mentor, a long-deceased dealer, who admonished him to be consistent when adding to his collection, to always purchase the stamp in the best condition affordable and to never buy a defective stamp no matter how inexpensive.

This collector was proud to inform me he made a sizeable profit. I wonder how the others fared.

With a goal or plan in mind, the collection and pursuit of stamps will always be more enjoyable.

Until next time, stay well and enjoy your hobby. 🍁

SHOW & Bourse

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, many shows, auctions, club meetings and other philatelic events are being cancelled. For the most up-to-date information, visit CSN’s online ‘Events’ listings at canadianstampnews.com/events or contact event organizers.

AUG. 8, FENELON FALLS, ON

36th Annual Fenelon Stamp Club Show & Sale, Fenelon Falls Community Center, 27 Veterans Way The 36th annual Fenelon Stamp Club Show & Sale will be held from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with lots of free parking and 10 dealers from across Ontario. The show also boasts draw prizes, table auctions and a snack bar. Everyone is welcome. For more information, telephone 705-454-9196.

AUG. 8, KINCARDINE, ON

Kinex 2020, Davidson Center Hall, 601 Durham St. This annual stamp show features upwards of 10 dealers on the bourse, exhibits, a youth table and a lunch booth. Admission is free. For more information, email jcortan@hurontel.on.ca, telephone 519-395-5817.

AUG. 20 – 23, HARTFORD, CT

Great American Stamp Show 2020, ****CANCELLED**** For more information. Website: stamps.org/great-american-stamp-show.

SEPT. 4 – 6, DARTMOUTH, NS

BNAPEX 2020, ****CANCELLED**** For more information, email gwsteele57@gmail.com, telephone 902-864-3976. Website: www.bnaps.org

SEPT. 5, MONCTON, NB

Brunpex 2020, Royal Canadian Legion, 100 War Veterans Ave. Sponsored by the Fundy Stamp Collectors Club, Brunpex 2020 will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with seven dealers plus an auction table (the auction will begin at 1:30 p.m.). For more information, email mstevves@nb.sympatico.ca, telephone 506-387-4462. Website: www.fundystampclub.ca/.

SEPT. 12 – 13, MISSISSAUGA, ON

Fall 2020 National Postage Stamp & Coin Show, Hilton Mississauga/Meadowvale hotel, 6750 Mississauga Rd. Presented by Canadian Stamp News and Canadian Coin News, the National Postage Stamp and Coin Show features 50-plus professional coin and stamp dealers from across Canada. Highlights include a two-day live auction by Colonial Acres; various seminars; the Young Collectors discounted sales table and popular free youth auction on Sunday. Admission is \$4 on Saturday and free on Sunday. The show is open on Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Parking is

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free. For show updates, visit stampandcoinshow.com. For more information, email info@trajan.ca, telephone 1-800-408-0352. Website: www.stampandcoinshow.com/.

SEPT. 12, BURNABY, BC

Coins, Stamps & Collectibles Show, Nikkei Centre, 6688 Southoaks Cres. Hosted by the North Shore Numismatic Society, this show is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be 40 tables of coins, stamps, banknotes, tokens, medals, postcards, art, pins and more. Admission is \$2 (or free for children under the age of 16 if accompanied by an adult). Free underground parking. Japanese restaurant at location. For more information, email balmoralnu@shaw.ca, telephone 604-336-1828. Website: northshorenunimaticssociety.org/.

SEPT. 19, ST. CATHARINES, ON

Best Western Stamp Show, Best Western Hotel (Niagara Room), 2 North Service Rd. Held five times a year, the Best Western Stamp Show runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with free admission, free parking and free appraisals. The show is sponsored by dealer Roy’s Stamps, specializing in the stamps and covers of Canada and the British Commonwealth. For more information, email roystamp@cogeco.ca, telephone 905-934-8377.

SEPT. 19, MEDICINE HAT, AB

Medicine Hat Coin & Stamp Club 12th Annual Fall Show, Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede Grounds (Higdon Hall), 2055 21 Ave. S.E. The Medicine Hat Coin and Stamp Club’s Fifth Annual Spring Show will feature more than 40 tables of coins and stamps with vendors from across Alberta and Saskatchewan. Buy, sell or trade, and vendors welcome. The show will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and admission is \$2 (children are free with an adult). Door prizes will also be offered. For more information, email medhatcsc@live.com, telephone 403-526-5158. Website: www.mhcasca.ca/.

SEPT. 19, MERRICKVILLE, ON

Eastern Ontario Postcard and Ephemera Show, Community Centre, 106 Read St. The 25th annual Postcard & Paper Show will feature thousands of vintage postcards and related paper ephemera from about 30 dealer tables. Sponsored by the Eastern Ontario Postcard Club, the show boasts free admission and free parking and is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, email savery611@gmail.com, telephone 613-345-7598.

OLD TIME BARGAINS #991

Welcome once again to the back page. This week look for interesting Canada specials at great prices. Many are completely new offers. Choose those you need and order today by phone, fax, mail or email! There are no additional charges for shipping or sales taxes. Installment terms are available if needed on larger purchases. We have the new 2020 Unitrade catalogue in stock at just \$53.95 postpaid. Have something nice for sale? If you do, please get in touch. We pay the highest prices for specialized collections and individual rarities of not only Canada and Provinces, but U.S.A., British and Foreign material as well.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,982



Few people ever own a genuine twelve penny black. A much more affordable alternative is the plate proof (#3Pi). It is printed in the issued colour and has a red 'SPECIMEN' overprint. List price for a very fine example is \$2,500.00. My price is just \$1,595.00 (or 5 monthly payments of \$319.00 each).

SPECIAL OFFER #18,983



Here's a one of a kind special - lovely plate proof singles of the 1897 Diamond Jubilee Issue complete from the 1/2c to the 50c value (#50P-60P). All are in choice very fine condition. List price is \$2,160.00. My price is just \$995.00 (or five payments of \$199.00 each).

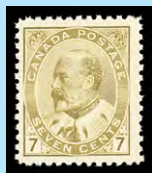
SPECIAL OFFER #18,984



The King Edward VII issue is one of the most difficult to complete in fresh mint condition. A small dealer stock of the 7c value recently came in and as a result I have two specials to offer. First here is the basic shade, Scott #92 in F-VF NH mint condition. List price is \$1,050.00. My price is just \$369.00!

SPECIAL OFFER #18,985

Next here is the scarce straw shade of the 7c King Edward (#92iii). I have a very few fresh mint singles left in stock. List price for a F-VF NH mint single is \$835.00. My price is just \$269.00 while they last.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,986



This is the top value of the Edward VII series, the fifty cent. This one is in the deep purple shade (#95i) and is in VF LH mint condition. Well centered examples are very hard to find. List price is \$1,500.00. My price is most attractive at just \$495.00.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,987

Marginal lathework on the Admiral Issue is a fascinating area to collect. Here is an attractive 5c violet (#112) with full type D lathework. Condition is F-VF NH mint and list price is \$240.00. My price is \$99.00 only.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,988

Here is a good variety on the \$1 Fundy Park (#726), showing both a printing shift and a perforation shift. Condition is VF NH mint and price is just \$69.95.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,989

Here is one you may not have seen before, a major perforation shift on the 32c Christmas stamp (Scott #1040). Price for a VF NH mint single is just \$49.95. I also have a mint block of four at \$195.00.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,990

One of the more difficult modern era perforation varieties to find is this stamp, the 71c American Chestnut (Scott #1370a). List price for a VF NH mint single is \$100.00. My price is just \$49.95.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,991



Next here is a super perforation shift on the 46c Christmas Angel (Scott #1815). Price for a VF NH mint single is just \$59.95.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,992

Three interesting specials featuring Centennial Issue booklets follow. This first one includes #BK61c, the 6c black perf. 10 pane of 25 stamps on medium fluorescent paper. List price for a very fine booklet is \$30.00. My price is \$14.50 only.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,993



Next here are the four types of this 25c Centennial booklet (#BK66a, 66b, 66c, 66d). Each contains a booklet pane with one 1c, one 3c and three 7c. List price for these booklets in very fine condition is \$28.00. My price is just \$12.50.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,994

This special includes BK66d with the scarce 'counter' marking on the cover at left. List price for a very fine example is \$20.00. My price is just \$9.50.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,995

Check out this unusual offer. It includes four first day maximum cards with a design showing a flock of Canada geese at sunset. Each card is franked with the 15c Canada Goose stamp of 1963 (Scott #415). Two cards have the official Ottawa first day cancel while the other two have the scarcer Winnipeg barrel cancel. One card from each city is autographed by the stamp's designer. The cards are in very fine condition and the price is just \$29.95.

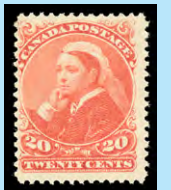


SPECIAL OFFER #18,996

Here is a mint single of the 1c yellow Small Queen Issue (Scott #35). I just purchased a small stock of these at an advantageous price. List price or a F-VF LH single is \$40.00. My price is just \$12.95 while they last.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,997

Next is this 20c vermilion Widow Weeds high value from 1893 (Scott #46). I have a couple of fresh mint singles available. List price for one in fine mint LH condition is \$200.00. My price is \$69.00 only.



SPECIAL OFFER #18,998

Here's a good deal on a fine mint NH single of the popular 2c Map Stamp from 1898 (Scott #85). It is widely regarded as the world's first Christmas stamp. List price is \$50.00. My price is \$9.95.

SPECIAL OFFER #18,999

The Quebec Tercentenary Issue of 1908 marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of Quebec. Here is the 10c value (Scott #101). List price for a F-VF LH mint single is \$200.00. My price is just \$59.00.



SPECIAL OFFER #19,000



Wow, 19,000 specials is a lot of specials, so let's make it a good one! Here is the complete basic set of the Admiral Issue in F-VF LH mint condition (Scott #104-122). List price for the set is \$1,100.00. My price is \$379.00 (or 4 payments of \$95.00 each).

SPECIAL OFFER #19,001

Of all the scarce 50c and \$1 high values of the 20th Century, the \$1.00 Parliament is the one that is hardest to find in nice mint condition. I have some F-VF LH mint singles of #159 available at a super price. List price is \$350.00. My price is \$99.00.



SPECIAL OFFER #19,002



Not far from my hometown in Nova Scotia is the village of Grand Pre. This 50c value from the Arch Issue (Scott #176) depicts the church, an important site in Acadian history. I have some nice mint examples selected for centering and fresh colour. List price for a VF LH mint single is \$300.00. My price is low at just \$99.00.

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