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A 1927 Red Lake-to-Sioux Lookout flight cover with a rare handstamp variety (top left) crosses the block as Lot 416 of Eastern Auctions' Nov. 18-20 public auction. In addition to two Admirals (top right), the cover is franked by one of the 'great rarities' of Patricia Airways' airmail stamps (bottom left), according to chief describer Yohann Tanguay.

## Rare pioneer, semi-official airmails to lead November Eastern sale

By Jesse Robitaille  
 Mint examples of most of the pioneer and semi-official airmail stamps, varieties and errors listed in the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* are set to cross the auction block in New Brunswick this November.

Eastern Auctions will offer the D'Arcy Mosher Collection of Canadian pioneer and semi-official airmail material as part of a three-session public auction with 979 lots on Nov. 18-20. The Mosher Collection will open session two (Lots 297-659) on Nov. 19 at 1:30 p.m. (AT). Pioneer airmail stamps run offered from Lots 297-408 followed by semi-official airmail flight covers from Lots 409-422.

"It is a substantial holding for anyone looking for these airmail stamps in mint condition," said Yohann Tanguay, a stamp specialist and chief describer with Eastern Auctions, who added multiples, panes and "a few airmail" covers are also on offer.

"To emphasize, a large percentage of the basic listed mint stamps, varieties and errors currently listed in the *Unitrade* specialized catalogue, as well as in the current Scott 'Classic' catalogue, will be offered in our

*Continued on page 20*

## Canada's top editorial cartoonists 'draw the line' in five-stamp set

By Jesse Robitaille

In a weeklong series of unveilings from Oct. 4-8, Canada Post launched a five-stamp set honouring the country's top editorial cartoonists.

Originally slated for release in September, the set was one of

three issues postponed by Canada Post due to COVID-19 ("Annual semi-postal out Sept. 20, other issues postponed to fall," CSN Vol. 46 #12). The stamps commemorate Serge Chapleau, of *La Presse*, Brian Gable, of the *Globe and Mail*,

Terry Mosher, of the *Montréal Gazette*, Duncan Macpherson, of the *Toronto Star*, and Bruce MacKinnon, of the *Chronicle Herald*.

The artists "communicate their points of view on national and international events and personalities with an abundance of wit and a few adept strokes of a pen," Jim Phillips, Canada Post's director of stamp services, wrote in the latest issue of *Details* magazine.

*Continued on page 26*



SERGE CHAPLEAU CANADA



DUNCAN MACPHERSON CANADA



BRIAN GABLE CANADA



BRUCE MACKINNON CANADA



TERRY MOSHER CANADA

Canada Post unveiled five editorial cartoonist stamps across five days in early October, with the entire set issued on Oct. 8.

## Director of stamp services at virtual CSN Lounge Oct. 20

On Oct. 20, CSN will host its first free virtual CSN Lounge, featuring Canada Post Director of Stamp Services Jim Phillips, who's set to retire the following month.

In the one-hour Zoom session beginning at 7 p.m. (ET), CSN Editor Mike Walsh and reporter Jesse Robitaille will sit down with Phillips and attendees to discuss the stamp program, including this year and next year's issues, plus how stamps are issued in terms of their distribution and release dates. They will also explore the immediate

and long-term impacts the pandemic has had on Canada Post's direction, including with the stamp program.

"We hope all of our readers can tune into this free virtual event, the first of many, featuring the long-time face of the stamp program, Jim Phillips," said Walsh. "While we wait to get back to major shows with speakers and presentations, CSN Lounge is a great opportunity to learn more about the hobby from people in the know while connecting with like-minded collectors."

A question-and-answer period moderated by CSN will follow the interview so guests can also have an opportunity to ask questions.

To tune in for the inaugural CSN Lounge on Oct. 20, visit canadianstampnews.com/CSNlounge for information about the Zoom login details plus a tentative schedule.

Gary Lyon, the New Brunswick-based owner of Gary J. Lyon (Philatelist) and Eastern Auctions, is sponsoring the year-long series of CSN Lounge events, held monthly starting this October. 🍁



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# Stamps that draw on the unique Canadian perspective

## Editorial Cartoonists Stamps and Collectibles

This new Editorial Cartoonists issue features both laugh-out-loud and poignant works by five of Canada's most celebrated editorial cartoonists. Drawing their inspiration from the news and societal trends, their work expresses opinions and perspectives through simple drawings often layered with satire and nuance. Some focus on politics and international relations, others on sports and celebrations, and one focuses on a heart-wrenching tragedy. Add these pieces of Canadiana to your collection today.



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**PUBLISHER / EDITOR:**  
Mike Walsh (Ext. 228) mw@trajan.ca

**CONSULTING EDITOR:** Ian S. Robertson

**CONTRIBUTORS:** John Conrad, Gary Dickinson, Robin Harris, Randy Heimpel, Richard Logan, Peter Mosiondz, Chad Neighbor, Everett Parker, David Piercey, Jesse Robitaille, Tony Shaman, Mike Smith, Lewis E. Tauber

**ADVERTISING:** advertising@trajan.ca  
Mike Walsh (Ext. 228),  
Jim Szeplaki (Ext. 223)

**CIRCULATION:** office@trajan.ca  
(Ext. 225)

**COMPOSITION & DESIGN:** jim@trajan.ca  
Production Co-ordinator – Jim Szeplaki (Ext. 223)  
Mary-Anne Luzba - mluzba@trajan.ca

**OFFICE:** office@trajan.ca  
Accounts Receivable (Ext. 230)

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## Philatelic COMMENTARY

By Jesse Robitaille

### Editorial cartoons a perfect blend of philately, politics, news & art

*“The great thing about a political cartoon is that it sums up the state of play at any moment in politics. It’s clever, funny, amusing, it informs and entertains us. It does all the things in one drawing that a newspaper does throughout all of its pages.”*

– British politician and newspaper editor George Osborne

Speaking in riddled prose has had some collectors scratching their heads about what’s coming next from Canada Post.

Promising an issue that “draws the line” on Sept. 8, Canada Post eventually pushed back its editorial cartoonists set until Oct. 8, with virtual unveilings taking place each day of the week leading up to the rescheduled issue date.

The blame was at least partly placed on – what else – the pandemic, with officials hopeful in-person launches could be held for the stamp’s fall release. Even that couldn’t happen because of the new challenges of bringing together five cartoonists from across the country with family, friends, media and other dignitaries for a face-to-face, germs-and-all unveiling – you know, like old times.

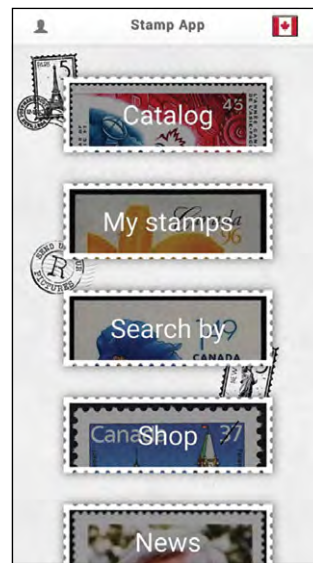
### Pick our BRAIN

*In this corner of each issue, our writers will work with collectors, dealers and other philatelic leaders to uncover practical knowledge for people who are looking to bolster their hobby. To submit an inquiry, email info@trajan.ca or write to ‘Pick Our Brain,’ PO Box 25009, Rose City RO, Welland, ON L3B 6G9.*

**Reader J. Prince writes: “Are there any stamp collecting apps to help with my hobby pursuits?”**

Following in the footsteps of philatelic software of decades past, modern-day stamp collecting apps are a boon for today’s collectors. Dozens of smartphone and tablet apps are available to help with both collecting and dealing pursuits. Canada Post’s official app is mostly focused on mail – with delivery tracking, rate and post office information – but users can

also create Picture Postage stamps and postcards directly from their smartphone or tablet. For collectors, the “Stamps Canada” app (also available in French as “Timbres Canada”) is billed by its creator Roberto Martin as the first virtual catalogue for Canadian stamps. Available for \$5.99, the app allows users to search by year, series, theme, colour, format, printer, face value and more plus a community feature offering news a map with philatelic points of interest, including dealer stores and museums. South of the border, the U.S. Postal Service’s “StampApp” served as the only official app for U.S. stamp collecting after its 2016 launch; however, it has since been discontinued. Along similar lines, the Scott firm allows collectors to read its dig-



**The ‘Stamps Canada’ app is billed as the ‘first virtual catalogue for Canadian stamps’ by its creator Roberto Martin.**

ital catalogues using the free Scott Postage Stamp Catalogue app (although the digital catalogues must be purchased). Other free and popular philatelic apps include “BIT-STAMPS,” a platform for buying, storing and selling digital stamps through the Ethereum public blockchain; “David Feldman

Auctioneers,” an auction-focused app from the Swiss-based firm, which also offers its “Museum of Philately” as a separate app; and “Stanley Gibbons Ltd.,” a British-focused app from the long-running stamp firm, offering information for beginners plus paid access to the company’s digital catalogues.

## LETTERS to the Editor

### CRYPTO STAMPS: NFC, NFT & MORE

Dear Editor,

I received my digital edition of *CSN* and thought I’d drop you a line supplementing Chad Neighbor’s story (“Barcode, cryptocurrency stamps a passing craze or here to stay?” Vol. 46 #12).

Chad writes about crypto stamps. I’m in agreement they are becoming immensely popular, particularly in Europe.

I don’t agree with his remarks that near-field-communication (NFC) chip stamps can only be bought with crypto-

currencies. All the stamps issued with an NFC chip can be bought at the respective post offices in Europe either by paying in euros (or in the case of Gibraltar in British pounds).

Sieger, one of Germany’s largest stamp dealers, is selling this year’s Austrian “crypto stamp 3.0” for 19.90 euros plus registered mail postage, totalling about

**Austria’s ‘crypto stamp 3.0’ (shown) features a whale design in one of five different colours, of which red is the rarest with 1,000 pieces printed.**

Send letters to: info@trajan.ca, fax (905) 646-0995, or by post to *CSN* Letters to the Editor, Trajan Publishing Corp., PO Box 25009 Rose City RO, Welland, ON L3B 6G9

\$45 Cdn. Having a standing order with the Austrian post office doesn’t help since they are special orders.

Continued on page 13



# SIGNED SEALED DELIVERED

## JIM PHILLIPS TO RETIRE

Jim Phillips, Canada Post's long-time director of stamp services, will retire this November after a more than 30-year career with the Crown corporation. "It's very powerful and very rewarding because if you do something they don't like, you hear about it, but at least you know they are interested in what you are doing," Phillips told CSN in 2014.



"You certainly need to develop an attitude that you can't please everyone." He joined Canada Post as a researcher in the summer of 1987 and quickly went to work – wielding his Canadian history degree from Ottawa's Carleton University – to uncover the history of the post office across the country. For the years-long project, he developed a historical timeline of the post office to check facts, "such as when we introduced couriers," he added in 2014. He then moved into communications, working on media relations and as the spokesperson for the stamp program. Phillips moved to the stamp services team in the early 2000s, working in marketing and product development before taking on the director's role about five years later. His final day on the job is Nov. 12. The next issue of CSN (Vol. 46 #15) will feature a full retirement profile of Phillips plus an announcement about his replacement.

## CSN RATES UP DUE TO COVID COSTS

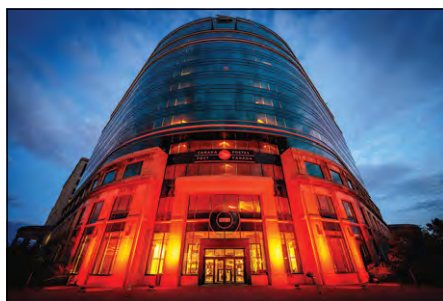
Effective Nov. 1, CSN's print subscriptions are increasing five per cent (to \$54.60 a year within Canada or \$66.95 to the United States) due to ongoing pandemic-driven supply chain challenges, inflation and cost increases. Current subscribers can save the roughly \$2.60 annual increase by renewing their subscriptions this October – before Nov. 1. CSN has mailed "beat the increase" renewal forms to subscribers facing immediate renewals. Annual digital subscriptions remain at \$37.99. All annual subscriptions, whether for the print or digital edition, include 26 biweekly issues. Renewals can be made online at [canadianstampnews.com/subscribe](http://canadianstampnews.com/subscribe) or by calling the office Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm EST at 1-800-408-0352.

## STRONG ATTENDANCE AT OTTAWA STAMP FAIR

The 16th Ottawa Fall Stamp Fair returned to Canada's capital region on



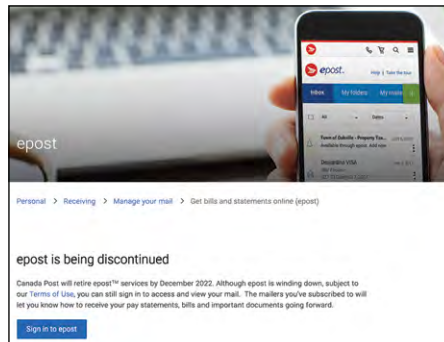
Oct. 2-3 after more than a year of pandemic cancellations. "Attendance was very strong, especially on Saturday," said Roy Houtby, the show's long-time organizer and owner of St. Catharines, Ont.'s Roy's Stamps. To give collectors, dealers and show organizers a sense of the "new normal," Houtby said: "We had to check our counts a few times to make sure we were compliant with the total allowed in the show room at one time. All visitors had to show proof of double vaccination, be masked for their entire visit and register for contact tracing. Chairs at the dealer tables were limited and spaced to allow for social distancing." From his perspective as an organizer, Houtby added there was "lots of extra work dealing with all the protocols – but very worthwhile to see everyone pleased with the final results." The small, five-dealer bourse packed a big punch, with some of the country's top dealers coming in from southern Ontario and Québec. "All in all, there was a very positive vibe, and collectors seemed truly pleased that there was an in-person show."



## TRUTH & RECONCILIATION SERIES STARTS IN 2022

Canada Post will launch an annual series next year as part of its "commitment to the principles of truth and reconciliation," according to a statement from the Crown corporation. A stamp will be issued each year in conjunction with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a new federal day of commemoration held – for the first time this year – on Sept. 30 to honour residential school survivors, their families and their communities. The new annual issue, for which Canada Post's Stamp Advisory Committee will work with Indigenous experts, will help raise awareness about Indigenous truth and reconciliation and "support a spirit of healing," the Crown corporation's statement added. The National Day for

Truth and Reconciliation also coincides with Orange Shirt Day, a national movement launched in 2013 to honour the more than 150,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis children who were sent to residential schools. An estimated 6,000 children died at the schools, where attendance was mandatory for Indigenous children from 1894-1947. "As a national storyteller and a public institution in virtually every community across Canada, we are committed to supporting the principles of truth and reconciliation," said Canada Post President and CEO Doug Ettinger. "As a country, it is part of our collective duty to acknowledge and honour the experiences of Indigenous peoples and to move forward together, in a spirit of healing. We hope this annual stamp series can help facilitate that."



## CANADA POST ENDS 'EPOST' SERVICE

After it began winding down last year, Canada Post's 22-year-old electronic-mail service, "epost," will go offline in December 2022. Until then, customers will still have access to their digital inboxes, which hold emails and allow users to view and pay statements, bills and other documents. "Since epost launched in 2000, the way businesses connect and communicate with their customers has evolved significantly, and other companies are now better suited to meet Canadians' changing needs," reads an FAQ on the Canada Post website. "Each epost mailer will provide instructions on how to receive your important documents going forward. Banks will be withdrawing from epost services during this period as well. These financial institutions will inform epost customers of their departure schedules." Epost was unable to compete with its competition – mainly Apple, Google and Microsoft – according to Ian Lee, an associate professor at Carleton University. "There was no real value added to the service," Lee told *iPolitics*, a digital media website focused on Canadian politics, this September. "I don't have to go to Canada Post to get my water bill." Apple launched its Mail app in 2003, and a year later, Google followed it up with Gmail. Microsoft launched its Hotmail service in 1996 before rebranding it as Outlook in 2012. Each of these major platforms offers similar services as epost.

# WHAT'S INSIDE

Volume 46 • Number 14

October 26, to  
November 8, 2021

## Features

- Rare pioneer, semi-official airmails to lead November Eastern sale..... Page 1
- Canada's top editorial cartoonists 'draw the line' in five-stamp set .. Page 1
- Director of stamp services at virtual CSN Lounge Oct. 20 ..... Page 1
- Souvenir Card Collectors Society celebrates 40 years with special card ..... Page 9
- CSN Cover Contest now up to voters..... Page 10
- Earliest known registered Penny Black cover, Barrie-to-London mail highlight Spink sale..... Page 13
- Remembering my friend, Bob Haslewood..... Page 21

## Regulars

### PICK OUR BRAIN

Do you have a collecting question?..... Page 4

### CSN MARKETPLACE

Are you buying or selling?..... Page 24

### SHOW AND BOURSE

Check out the shows in your area ..... Page 27

## Columns

### PHILATELIC COMMENTARY

Editorial cartoons a perfect blend of philately, politics, news & art.... Page 4

### LOOKING BACK

2001 stamps depict two famous theatres, one with ghostly presence ..... Page 6

### FIRST-DAY COVERS

Iconic icebreaking ferry featured on 1946 \$1 stamp ..... Page 8

### STAMPING GROUNDS

Read catalogue's key sections to avoid any missteps..... Page 16

### PHILATELIC BOOKSHELF

Italian Mutual Aid Society mail offers snapshot in time..... Page 18

### NEW ISSUES

From around the world ..... Page 22

### STAMPNET

Updated Deveney Stamps site an educational e-commerce experience..... Page 23

# 2001 stamps depict two famous theatres, one with ghostly presence



## Looking BACK

By Ian Robertson

Symbolic of the entertaining world of theatres everywhere, two commemoratives issued 20 years ago featured dramatic stage art.

Both are a touch spooky, however, with one literally capturing the spirit of its founder.

They were designed by Graphème Branding & Design, of Montréal, with art direction by Pierre Léonard and Serge Côté plus illustrations by Marc Sere.

The 47-cent stamps feature performances at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (TNM) – New World Theatre – in Montréal (Scott #1919) and the Grand Theatre in London, Ont. (SC #1920).

The 48-millimetre-by-30-millimetre horizontal commemoratives were produced for the 50th anniversary of the Montréal and London theatres' 100th anniversaries.

Canada Post quoted Léonard as saying TNM "is a theatre company and the stamp features the company's founding fathers; while the Grand is a performing venue and showcases the proscenium arch, with founder Ambrose Small and a silhouette of his ghost."

Ashton-Potter Canada used four lithographic transfer colours, silver varnish, pin perforations and moisture-activated gum to print two million of each design in se-tenant pairs on Tullis Russell Coatings paper stock.

The commemoratives went on sale on Sept. 28, 2001, on 16-stamp panes.

The *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* does not list any varieties.

### THÉÂTRE DU NOUVEAU MONDE

Now located in its fourth venue at 86 Sainte-Catherine St., TNM was founded as a repertory house in 1951.

The curtain was raised in what is now the Église du Gesù (Church of Gesù), part of the former Collège Sainte-Marie.

Its members opened with the classic five-act comedic play *L'Avare* ("The Miser") by French

playwright, actor and poet Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622-73). He was best known by his stage name Molière.

Built in 1912, the building first housed the Gayety Theatre with the Columbia Amusement Company providing burlesque troupes.

Until the Great Depression hit in 1929 with the stock market's crash, the Gayety featured U.S. vaudeville acts. Renamed the Théâtre des Arts, it offered French shows for about two years, when it became the Mayfair cinema and began screening U.S. films.

The next transition was particularly popular.

With the economy improved, it again featured burlesque cabaret shows as the Gayety Theatre (Théâtre Gayety) starting in 1941.

The Gayety was especially successful after Minneapolis, Minn.-born dancer and striptease performer Marie Frances Van Schaack (1917-99) started there in 1944, Wikipedia notes.

As "Lili St. Cyr," the blonde beauty earned \$5,000 a week while circumventing laws prohibiting dancers from finishing a stage performance wearing less clothing than when they first appeared. Her top hit involved ap-



pearing to be naked in a transparent bubbles-filled bathtub, then gradually emerging fully clothed, while using humour and sensuality.

A central target in attempts by the Catholic diocese of Québec to rid Montréal of such venues and its red-light district, the Comité de Moralité Publique ("Morality Squad") raided the Gayety, which closed in 1953. St. Cyr was charged with immoral and indecent acts but was acquitted.

She starred in 10 films between 1952 and 1962.

After staging several subsequent entertainment efforts, including under the name Radio City, the site then named La Comédie Canadienne was acquired in 1972 by Jean-Louis Roux, director of the 21-year-old TNM.

"A group of seven theatre-lovers with a vision of creating a truly Canadian theatre joined forces to form a new company," Canada Post noted in its 2001 press release. "All left their mark on the theatre as either actor, director or administrator."

Mostly from Les Compagnons de Saint-Laurent, a theatre company directed by Father Émile Legault, the founders were Roux, Jean Gascon, George Groulx, Guy Hoffman, André Gascon, Éloi de Grandmont and Robert Gadouas.

They were influenced by "the social, cultural and political changes facing the world in the wake of the Second World War" to create a professional Canadian theatre "that would stimulate and educate audiences as well as entertain them," according to the post office's Collections Canada 2001 album.

Considered "daring and controversial," the group spent two

**Striptease artist Lili St. Cyr headlines the marquee at Montréal's Théâtre Gayety.**

Photo courtesy of Ville de Montréal website.

decades travelling, "finding temporary residence on some half a dozen different stages between tours of Canada, the United States, Europe, the USSR and Africa."

Purchase of the Comédie Canadienne finally gave TNM a permanent home.



**The 2007 book *Gilded Lili* features the scantily covered burlesque queen emerging from a bathtub.**

From specializing in Molière works, it presented plays in French by emerging stars of Québec theatre plus presentations of large-cast classics including by Greek playwrights, British dramatist William Shakespeare and occasional new works, Gaetan Charlebois wrote in the *Canadian Theatre Encyclopedia*.

A training facility was also launched.

Performances are "committed to giving the public issues to discuss and elevating theatre-lovers' spirits time and again," the post office 2001 release added. "It is known as the theatre of both yesterday's and tomorrow's classics."

TNM's website notes production and distributions of "major works from international and national repertoires."

**A first-day cover for Canada's 2001 theatre stamps commemorates the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (left stamp) and Grand Theatre (right) in Montréal and London, respectively.**

The building was renovated in 1997. For its 50th season, the 1951 inaugural play, *L'Avare*, was restaged.

As with many artistic endeavours, the theatre has had occasional controversies, including one of its show posters featuring nudity being banned from city bus shelters during the 1998-99 season, Charlebois wrote.

In addition, and perhaps influencing the stamp's art, there are stories of TNM being haunted.

Writing in his 2009 book, *Maisons Hantées* ("Haunted Houses") author and researcher Danielle Goyette describes mysterious creaking sounds and phantom footsteps occasionally heard there.

There is also the tale, from an anonymous box office employee, of him seeing an elderly woman sitting in the auditorium after he began to close up – but when he looked again, she was gone.

Seven plays planned for TNM's 2019-20 season were stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new two-play program was announced in August 2020.

A *Canada News Wire* story quoted the theatre averaging more than 150,000 audience members every season, "including 10,500 members" plus 10,000 high school students and 5,000 college and university students at its matinées. There were also 120,000 customers at its Café du Nouveau Monde.

For this year's 70th anniversary, TNM launched a \$21 million expansion and renewal project. Plans include a refurbished lobby, a second-floor extension for rehearsals and additional shows, a glass fireplace and an outdoor terrace plus technological updates for the main stage and digital equipment.

Lorraine Pintal, artistic and general director since 1992, announced this June that the new second-floor room will focus on artists of diversity and First Nations, Stéphane Morin reported in *La Presse*.

Pintal said various levels of government have invested several million dollars.

She revealed the theatre had raised about half of its \$4 million fundraising campaign goal.

Translating from its French website, TNM recently announced a new lineup of "major theatrical meetings with leading playwrights from here and everywhere," featuring "a large place for women."

The program includes *Embrasse* ("Kiss") by Michel Marc Bouchard; *Les Reines* ("The Queens") by Normand Churette; *Lysis* by Fanny Britt and Alexia Bürger; and *Cher Chekhov* ("Dear Chekhov") by Michel Tremblay.

The international lineup includes *Un Ennemi du Peuple* ("An Enemy of the People"), by Henrik Ibsen and translated by Sarah Berthiaume, and *Les 3 Seours* ("The 3 Sisters") by Anton Chekhov and revised and directed by René Richard Cyr.

Patrons will see "Queens and rebels, volunteers and solidarity, actresses and directors invade the TNM, to our greatest happiness."

#### THE GRAND THEATRE

With its first curtain raised 120 years ago, the Grand Theatre on Richmond Street in London "began life as a reincarnation of the original Grand Opera House," according to the post office's Collections Canada 2001 album.

That performance venue was destroyed by a fire in 1899.

On Sept. 1, 1901, Toronto theatrical entrepreneur Peter Ambrose Joseph Small opened the new theatre, with William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* as the first show.

Other performances were by John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) a Washington, D.C.-born composer and conductor known mostly for military marches, plus a silent vaudeville juggling act. The juggler was William Claude Dukenfield (1880-1946),

a Darby, Pa.-born writer, Ziegfeld Follies revue and radio comedian who became famous in films as W.C. Fields.

The first Grand Theatre survived for 77 years before the building was replaced.



**U.S. movie star W.C. Fields, who's featured on a 1980 U.S. stamp (shown) performed at the Grand Theatre in a 1901 opening act as a juggler.**

Its planned demolition is said to have prompted activity by the spirit of Ambrose Small.

A wealthy entrepreneur who also owned Grand theatres in Toronto and Kingston, Ont., his disappearance almost 102 years ago "remains Canada's oldest unsolved mystery," the stamp album notes.

Small was known to often travel without notifying anyone, so police were not notified about his absence for several weeks, reporter and author Katie Daubs wrote in the *Toronto Star* on Sept. 6, 2019.

**Canadian theatre magnate Ambrose Joseph Small was 53 when he disappeared on Dec. 2, 1919.**



The theatre magnate was born on Feb. 11, 1866, in Newmarket, north of Toronto.

Small's father ran a hotel and saloon beside the Toronto theatre, where his teenage son worked as an assistant treasurer.

Highly motivated, he took ownership of the Grand after several decades, investing in other theatres plus more than 60 unrelated buildings.

On Dec. 1, 1919, Small sold his theatrical holdings for a \$1.7 million profit and deposited the cheque in his bank, Dobbs wrote.

In his Grand Theatre office in Toronto, he met the next day with a lawyer – the last person to see the 53-year-old businessman.

"He was a scoundrel with a jealous wife and a troubled mistress," Dobbs wrote.

Small took no money with him and investigators found no evidence suggesting a kidnapping.

His wife, Teresa, offered a \$50,000 reward. It was never claimed.

Despite occasional clues, including a letter signed "Reuter" – written by someone claiming to have murdered Small – he was declared dead in 1924. His unsolved case was closed in 1960.

The London building was bought by the Trans-Canada Theatre.

After it went bankrupt in 1924, the property was acquired by the Famous Players film show company, which installed projectors but continued to have live touring productions.

In 1934, four local amateur drama guilds rented the building, which was sold in 1945 to London Little Theatre for \$35,000, Canada Post's press release notes.

Six years after becoming a business known as Theatre London in 1971, when the season's program included *Blithe Spirit*, *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Our Town*, *Dracula*, *Luther* and *Forty Carats*, a \$5 million major reconstruction project began following a partial collapse.

Work was completed in 1978. The Grand Theatre name was restored five years later.

As a professional company, it has had 11 artistic directors, Adam Corrigan Holowitz wrote in an article on its website.

It survived "despite some financial ups and downs, including a cash crisis in 1999 that saw the theatre saved by a major fundraising effort," the Canada Post press release noted.

Famous actors featured there include W.C. Fields, Sarah Bernhardt, Donald O'Connor, Michael Redgrave, Sidney Poitier, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Maggie Smith, Michael Burgess, William Ian DeWitt Hutt, Martha Henry, Karen Kain, Victor Garber, Sandra Oh and Leonard Simon Nimoy, Wikipedia notes.

Hutt (1920-2007) was featured on a 46-cent 2000 Canadian commemorative during a performance at the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ont.

Nimoy (1931-2015), as his Star Trek character Spock, is featured on three 2016 Canada Post commemoratives issued for the 50th anniversary of the *Star Trek* TV program.

Described as a "not-for-profit" professional regional theatre, with main auditorium seating for 839 people plus 144 seats for shows presented on another stage, the Grand "is building a bold future with daring new projects, inspiring new programs, and a captivating new direction," its website states.

Based on plans to develop, produce and initiate new and original, diverse stories, "we bring the world to London with diverse, relevant, and original stories from around the globe, and through collaborations with exceptional national and international performing arts organizations."

"In partnership with artists and playwrights from around the world and around the corner, we present relevant, provocative and entertaining stories that remind us of our collective humanity."

The Grand initiated an award-winning community outreach program for its 2017-18 season, involving 100 schools, to demonstrate "our commitment to engage children at all the youngest ages to all aspects of live theatre."



**One of three Star Trek stamps Canada Post issued in 2016 features the Spock character played by Leonard Nimoy, who also performed at the Grand Theatre.**

The theatre faced a devastating loss of more than \$500,000 after programs were cancelled in March 2020 due to COVID-19, leading to 79 fewer productions, Joe Belanger wrote last December in the *London Free Press* after the annual general meeting. But a "timely purchase of insurance" reimbursed the Grand for most of "its first deficit in 21 years."

A \$9 million renovation program was subsequently undertaken, Belanger wrote in May.

Plans for audiences to return this Oct. 13- Nov. 6 for the Grand

*Continued on page 19*

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# Iconic icebreaking ferry featured on 1946 \$1 stamp



## First-Day COVERS

By Gary Dickinson

Canada's first post-Second World War stamp issue, on Sept. 16, 1946, consisted of six medium- and high-value stamps (Scott #268-273) illustrating a variety of domestic scenes marking a return to peace.

The \$1 denomination (Figure 1) shows the ferry MV *Abegweit*, described by Wikipedia as "an icebreaking railway, vehicle and passenger ferry which operated across the Abegweit Passage of Northumberland Strait, connecting Port Borden to Cape Tormentine between 1947 and 1982."



Figure 1. The Motor Vessel *Abegweit* graces Canada's first post-war \$1 stamp, issued in 1946.

The 7,000-ton ship was launched in 1946 at Sorel, Qué., and was about 113 metres long. Canadian National Railways was the owner. It was the most powerful icebreaker in the world at the time of its commissioning, according to a 2019 *Toronto Star* article, and was reported to be the largest ship constructed in Canada.

The print run for the ferry stamp (SC #273) was 15,375,000, and it was the \$1 definitive stamp until the 1951 "Fishing Resources" issue (SC #302). About 15 different first-day cover (FDC) cachets have been documented for the ferry issue, although almost half of them are general-purpose cachets useable with any Canadian stamp. Some noteworthy cachets follow.

The Winnipeg Philatelic Society produced a cachet dubbing the six-stamp set as the "Reconstruction Issue" and re-

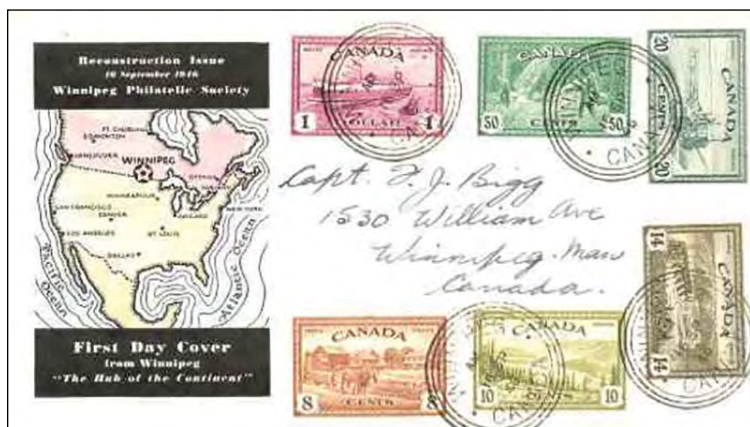


Figure 2. A hand-coloured version of the Winnipeg Philatelic Society cachet refers to the city as the 'Hub of the Continent.'

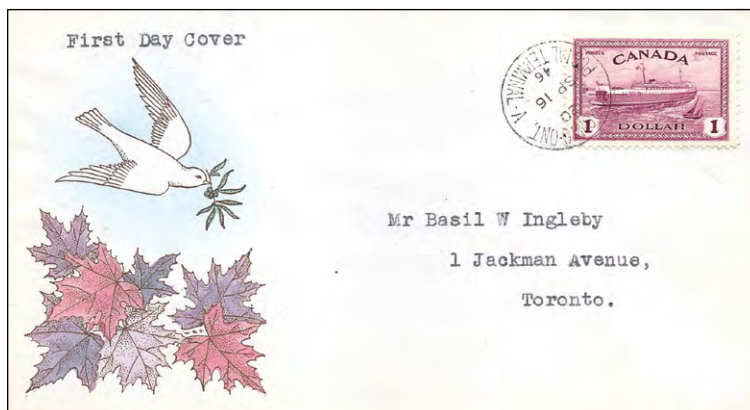


Figure 3. Miss W. R. Smith used hand-colouring and text on all of her first-day covers, including one for the ferry stamp featuring a dove and maple leaf.

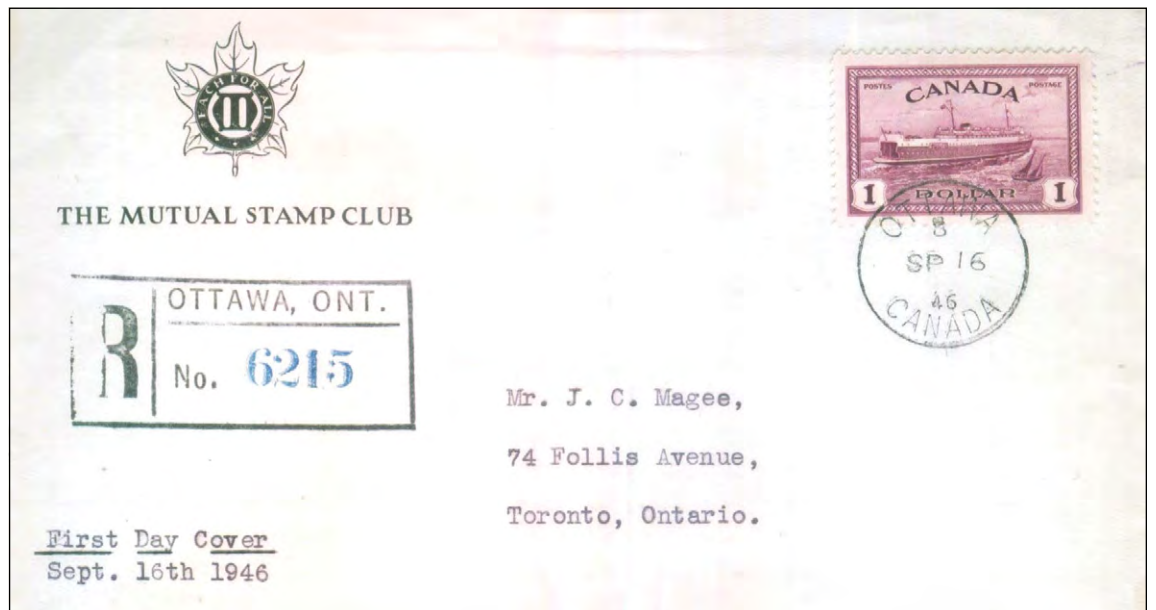


Figure 4. The Mutual Stamp Club added typed text to its club stationery to make its first-day cover for the 1946 \$1 *Abegweit* issue.

ferring to its city as the "Hub of the Continent." The full set was used to frank an example (Figure 2) postmarked in Winnipeg and addressed to a local resident. This cover is hand-coloured but not all of them were.

Toronto cachet maker Miss W. R. Smith made only three basic designs for all her FDCs but individualized them by varying the text and colouring, so each one is unique. One of her efforts for the ferry stamp (Figure 3) includes a dove and maple leaf to symbolize the return to peace.

The Mutual Stamp Club used its logo and name on an envelope supplemented with a typed "First Day Cover" and date of issue for an FDC (Figure 4) addressed to a Toronto resident.

The \$1 ferry stamp is partnered with the 50-cent logging issue (SC #272) on another cover (Figure 5). This was handmade by an unknown maker, addressed to Indianapolis and marked with an Ottawa registration impression as well as an airmail label.

A general-purpose cachet (Figure 6) attributable to "LE" is notable for its trilingual text (in English, French and Latin), with the Latin coming in the motto shown in the banner near the bottom of the design. This cover is addressed to Riverdale, Md.

The final cachet shown for the ferry stamp (Figure 7) is by an unknown maker and has a simple, clean-looking design printed in blue and red. It has a ribbon with text running

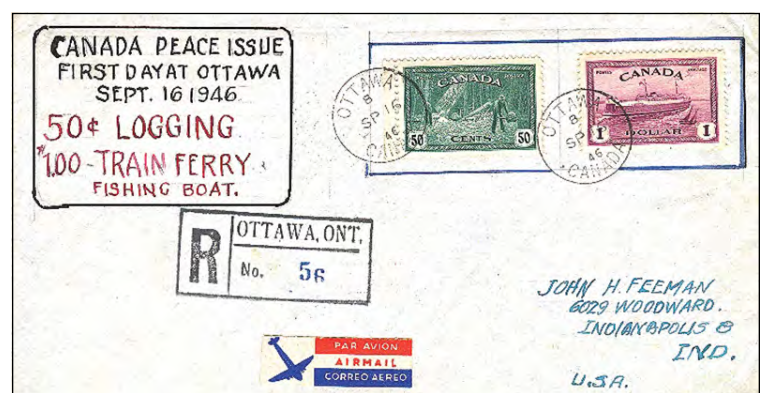


Figure 5. A registered, handmade first-day cover features both the 50-cent and \$1 stamps of the 1946 'Peace' issue.



Figure 6. The letters 'LE' are the only identification of the maker of a general-purpose cachet.

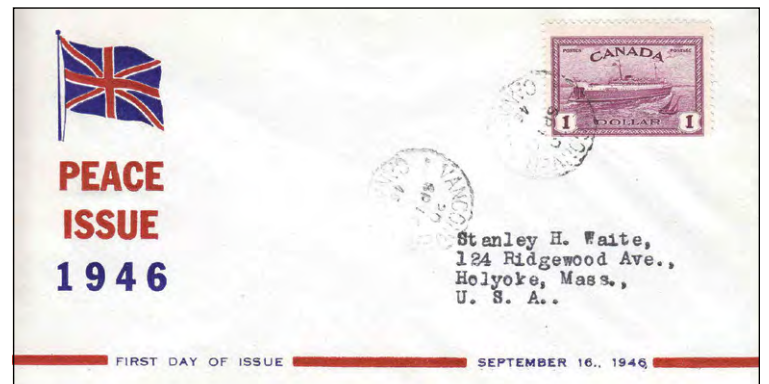


Figure 7. A cachet from an unknown maker features the Royal Union Flag (known as the 'Union Jack') above the phrase 'PEACE ISSUE' and the set's year of issue.

across the bottom of the envelope – an uncommon feature among FDCs. This example is postmarked in Vancouver and addressed to Holyoke, Mass. 🍁

# Souvenir Card Collectors Society celebrates 40 years with special card

The Souvenir Card Collectors Society (SCCS) was founded in 1981 as interest in the hobby steadily gained popularity.

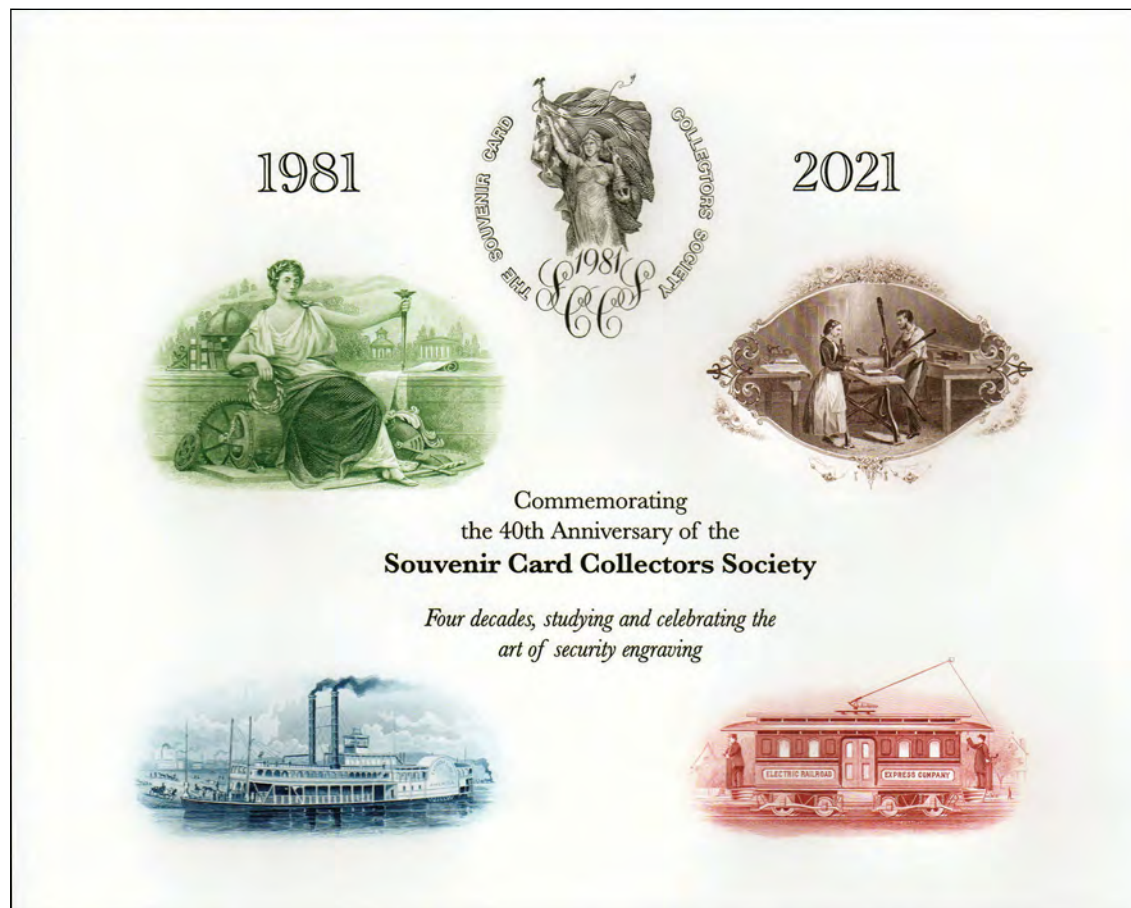
The U.S. Postal Service began consistently issuing cards in about 1972, and Canada Post began putting out exhibition cards in the early 1980s. Semi-official cards entered the scene soon after – these were produced mainly by the American Bank Note Co., its subsidiary Canadian Bank Note Co. and the British-American Bank Note Co. in Ottawa. By 1992, official and semi-official cards hit a peak of 40 different cards issued in a single year.

As the only North American organization dedicated to the hobby of souvenir card collecting, the SCCS took on the task of cataloging the many hundreds of cards in a growing number of categories. Initially, souvenir cards were primarily philatelic, but by the 1990s, cards depicting historic currency captured the interest of numismatic collectors. The hobby is one of the few appealing to both stamp and coin collectors.

Based in Oregon, the society published its *Numbering System for Forerunner and Modern Day Souvenir Cards* catalogue, by founder Curtis Radford, in 1989. A follow-up supplement came in 1992. These books remain foundational references for serious collectors of the material.

The society's quarterly *Souvenir Card Journal* has also published more than 160 issues, following the latest trends and releases with historical background and related articles on security engraving.

In 2018, the SCCS began building a comprehensive online library of image galleries, providing collectors with pictures and data on a wide variety of souvenir cards. Presently,



there are more than 25 categories, including early forerunners; cards from numerous philatelic and paper money organizations; and engraved cards issued by SCCS chapters and private individuals. More than 1,600 images are now viewable at [souvenircards.org/gallery/gallery.html](http://souvenircards.org/gallery/gallery.html), and discoveries are regularly added.

## MORE RESEARCH, MORE GALLERIES

The SCCS is now compiling scans and data for several major card categories, including those issued by American Stamp Dealers Association Chapter 15 (Inpex), the United Nations Postal Administration and the American Philatelic Society.

As these new web galleries go public, the society relies on collector assistance to fill in missing reference images. Needed help was graciously provided when the SCCS re-

cently published galleries for Canada Post, Christmas seal and duck stamp cards.

You can view the SCCS's gallery of Canada Post souvenir cards, which were issued from 1981-98, at [souvenircards.org/gallery/CP/CP.html](http://souvenircards.org/gallery/CP/CP.html).

Since 1991, the SCCS has continued its annual tradition

of creating and distributing limited-edition souvenir cards. The cards are intaglio printed from engraved steel plates and only available to members.

This year, the organization celebrated its four-decade milestone with the most elaborate annual card to date. The five-colour 40th anniversary souve-

The Souvenir Card Collectors Society's limited-edition 40th anniversary souvenir card, a fundraising endeavour, is available to the group's members. Fewer than 250 cards were printed.

nir cards are entirely engraved and required seven passes through a die-stamping press. Fewer than 250 cards were printed.

Four historic vignettes on the card reflect the golden age of the banknote engraver's art. They include an 1870s scene of a pressman and assistant, engraved by the National Bank Note Co. for the Plate Printers Union, a streetcar from the 1890s, a riverboat scene from the 1880s and a seated female figure from the 1920s.

Cards are offered as a free premium to all new members. Dues for a one-year membership are \$25 and will extend to cover 2022. In addition to the card, members receive the *Souvenir Card Journal* and other benefits.

A membership form can be downloaded at [souvenircards.org](http://souvenircards.org), or for more information, contact SCCS Secretary Greg Alexander, 3081 SW River View Dr., Pendleton, OR 97801. 🍁



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Voting for the 2021 CSN Cover Contest is now open through October. The winners will be announced online on Nov. 1 and in CSN Vol. 46 #16.

# CSN Cover Contest now up to voters

By Jesse Robitaille

Voting for the fourth annual CSN Cover Contest is under way.

CSN has invited individuals and organizations at the local, regional and national levels in Canada and abroad to submit covers promoting National Stamp Collecting Month. In response to readers' suggestions, the month-long philatelic celebration, which has fallen by the wayside in recent decades, is now the contest's cornerstone.

In addition to the new "National Stamp Collecting Month" category, the contest's two original competitions – one for individuals (the "Collector" category) and another for clubs (the "Club" category) – are also taking place.

CSN received 12 covers for this year's contest: three covers are competing in the National Stamp Collecting Month category, another three are in the Club category and six are in the Collector category.

People can vote for their favourite submissions in each category online at [canadianstampnews.com/2021covercontest](http://canadianstampnews.com/2021covercontest) through October. The voting deadline is Oct. 30 at 9 p.m. (ET).

On Nov. 1, CSN will announce the winners online with the full results also published in CSN Vol. 46 #16 (dated Nov. 23).

Full contest details, including the prizes, are explained at [canadianstampnews.com/2021covercontest](http://canadianstampnews.com/2021covercontest).

## CATEGORY ONE: STAMP COLLECTING MONTH

The three entries in the National Stamp Collecting Month category include:

- the Calgary Philatelic Society;
- Robert Hadley; and
- Kevin O'Reilly.

The Calgary Philatelic Society (CPS) cover was designed by club director and webmaster Dave Bartlet. The cover is franked by a BNAPEX 2021 Picture Postage stamp – one of two Picture Postage stamps issued for this year's virtual British North America Philatelic Society convention – showing a person at a desktop computer browsing the show's virtual exhibition. It's tied by a special BNAPEX show cancel produced by Canada Post with a location of Calgary, Alta., and a date of Sept. 2-6.

To the left, the cover's cachet shows the title pages of CPS member Jon Noad's exhibit, "Landmark Dinosaurs Discoveries." Below the pages is text explaining, in part, how October is "a great month to get out those stamps and organize them."



"The intent of the cover is to encourage collectors to organize their collections using an exhibit page as a suggestion for the organization," Bartlet wrote in a letter to CSN accompanying his club's submission.

Hadley's cover celebrates National Stamp Collecting Month with a nautical theme. Franked by the left stamp in Canada Post's se-tenant *Bluenose* issue from earlier this year, the cover reads, "Set Your Course to Celebrate National Stamp / Collecting / Month / October 2021," as part of the cachet. An Aug. 16-dated postmark from New Hamburg, Ont., ties the stamp.



The cachet also includes images of another trio of seafaring stamps, including Canada's 1929 *Bluenose* issue (Scott #158). The trio also shows Canada's 1908 Québec tercentenary issue (SC #103), which features three small vessels – the *Grande Hermine*, *Petite Hermine* and *Emerillon* – and Bermuda's 1953 racing dinghy issue.

O'Reilly's cover, which is actually a postcard, features his photograph, "Aurora Over Yellowknife Bay," showing the fluorescent green "northern lights" just north of his hometown of Frame Lake, N.W.T. While his photograph graces the entire front of the postcard, the back is franked with a Picture Postage stamp of a similar scene: also taken by O'Reilly, this photograph shows two people pointing towards the iconic aurora borealis. A Sept. 7-dated green pictorial postmark from Yellowknife ties the customized stamp with another strike of the postmark to the left near the postcard's message.



O'Reilly, who's a Northwest Territories member of the legislative assembly for Frame Lake, writes: "Happy Collecting!"

The back of the postcard also includes a yellow mail-forwarding label affixed by Canada Post during delivery.

While taking his photos, O'Reilly was joined by Joe Buffalo Child, the owner of North Star Adven-



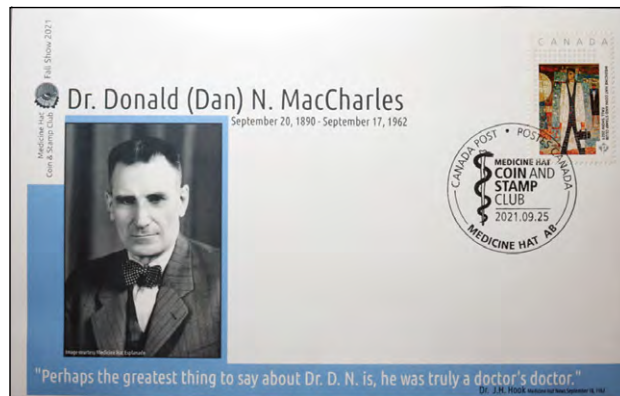
tures, an entirely Indigenous-owned and -operated company offering "aurora hunting tours." Joe is a descendent of Yellowknife's Dene peoples.

## CATEGORY TWO: CLUB COVERS

The three entries in the Club category include:

- the Medicine Hat Coin & Stamp Club;
- the Peace Arch Stamp Club; and
- the Waterloo Region Stamp Club.

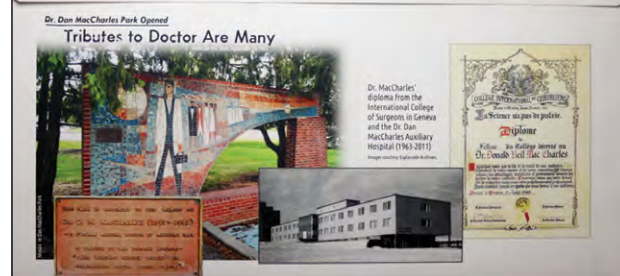
The Medicine Hat Coin & Stamp Club cover, submitted by member Trevor Ashman, promotes the group's fall show, which was unable to go ahead on Sept. 25 due to COVID-19. The cover is franked with a Picture Postage stamp – also promoting the club's fall show – tied by a special Sept. 25-dated Medicine Hat postmark produced by Canada Post for the show.



The cover's cachet honours Dr. Donald N. MacCharles with an undated portrait of the medical practitioner above a quote from fellow doctor J.H. Hook, who said, "Perhaps the greatest thing to say about Dr. D. N. is, he was truly a doctor's doctor."

"The people of Medicine Hat will remember the great service this man provided to their community," reads his 1963 *Alberta Medical Bulletin* obituary, published a year after his death. "A chronic bed hospital has recently been named the Dr. Dan MacCharles Auxiliary Hospital and a park in that City was named in his honour a year prior to his death. His passing marks the end of a distinguished surgical career in Western Canada."

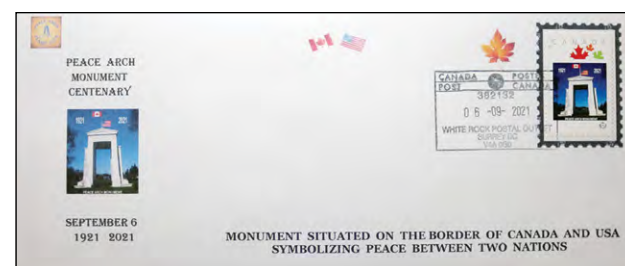
"Senator F.W. Gershaw who was associated with Dr. MacCharles in founding the Medical Arts Clinic in 1927, said: "The medical profession has sustained a severe loss in the death of Dr. D. N. MacCharles. He will be missed by the many people in this part of the province who were his true friends, and who greatly valued the help he gave in their days of sickness and trouble. As the head of the Medical Arts Clinic for a long time he was always ready to help everyone. The doctors with whom he was associated so long always appreciated his help and the advice which was so freely and kindly given"



The back of the cover includes an excerpt from a Sept. 18, 1962, report from the *Medicine Hat News* about MacCharles' death alongside an image of his diploma plus his namesake hospital and park.

The Peace Arch Stamp Club cover promotes the club plus its namesake monument, the Peace Arch monument. The cover is franked with a Picture Postage stamp marking the monument's centennial tied by a Sept. 6-dated postmark from the White Rock Postal Outlet in Surrey, B.C.

The cover's cachet includes the same Peace Arch image as the customized stamp above the date of Sept. 6, when Canadian and U.S. officials dedicated the cross-border structure in 1921. The club's logo is in the top-left corner, crossed Canadian and U.S. flags are in the top centre and the phrase, "MONUMENT SITUATED ON THE BORDER OF CAN-

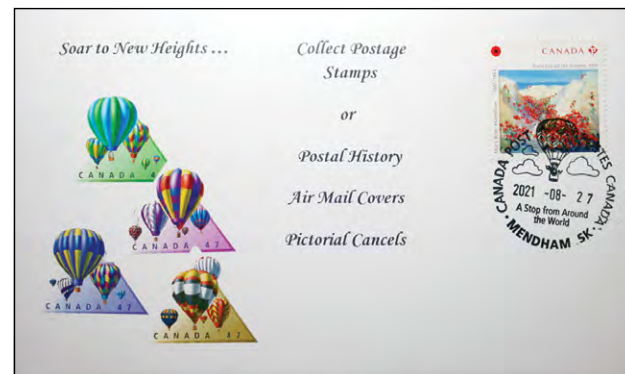


ADA AND USA / SYMBOLIZING PEACE BETWEEN TWO NATIONS," is at the bottom.

"The Peace Arch monument is one of the few landmarks in the world that's listed on the National Historic Registries of two different countries," wrote Peace Arch Stamp Club President Terry Leishman in a letter to CSN accompanying the cover. "It's a symbol of long-standing peace between Canada and the United States. This monument is situated on the third busiest border crossing in Canada, with over 30 million cars crossing each year."

After Leishman and his fellow club members suggested Canada Post feature the Peace Arch on a stamp, the Crown corporation was considering the topic for this year's stamp program. Canada Post has yet to announce if a Peace Arch stamp will be issued in 2021.

The Waterloo Region Stamp Club cover promotes the wide world of philately. It's franked by Canada Post's 2020 stamp featuring Mary River Hamilton's 1919 *Trenches on the Somme* painting (SC #3252), which is tied by an Aug. 27-dated pictorial postmark from Mendham, Sask. With a hot air balloon flying among three clouds, the postmark also includes the local motto, "A Stop from Around the World."



The cover's cachet invites people to "Soar to New Heights..." and "Collect Postage / Stamps / or / Postal History / Air Mail Covers / Pictorial Cancels." Alongside these wise words are images of the four stamps from Canada Post's 2001 "Hot Air Balloons" issue.

"We encourage collectors to 'Soar to New Heights' – join a club and share the enjoyment of our hobby with friends," wrote Robert Hadley, the club member who submitted the cover, in a letter accompanying the submission.

## CATEGORY THREE: COLLECTOR COVERS

The six entries in the Collector category include:

- Shawn Agsalud;
- Trevor Ashman;
- Cheryl Grantham; and
- Derwin Mak, who submitted three covers.

Agsalud's cover centres on him as a young foreign collector who found the B.C.-based Peace Arch Stamp Club online before joining the group's "Youth of the World" program to receive free stamps and postage. A 12-year-old collector from Northern Samar, a province on the island of Samar in the Philippines, Agsalud designed the cover with the help of his father.

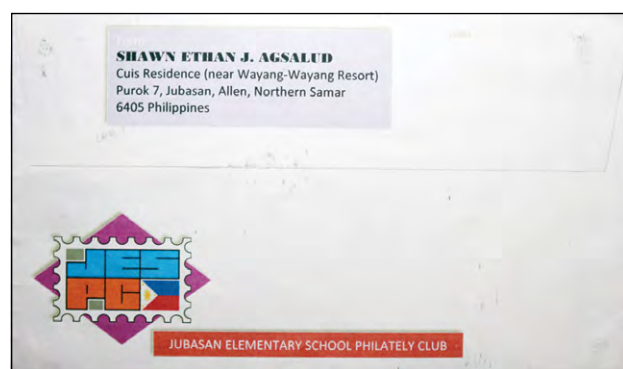
"Our membership has sent 10,000-plus stamps to this young boy, and he has now started an elementary school stamp club with the permission of his school principal," said Leishman, the president of the B.C. club, who submitted the cover on behalf of Agsalud with permission from his family.

The Jubasan Elementary School Philately Club has 84 members, who hold meetings on Saturday mornings "as well as online text meetings when they have electricity and when they have an interweb connection," Leishman added in a letter accompanying Agsalud's submission.

Leishman said Agsalud dries rice on his street's edge and feeds chickens and ducks to support his hobby. He has also handed out hundreds of sticker-style stamps to children in his small town to generate more interest in stamp collecting.

Agsalud's cover is franked with three of the four "Philippines Orchids" stamps issued by the country in 2004 plus another one issued in 2003 to mark the 400th anniversary of a fisherman's discovery of Our Lady of Caysasay, a small wooden statue depicting the Immaculate Conception (one of the oldest examples from that country). One of the orchid stamps is tied by a June 23-dated postmark from the Philippines.

The all-over cachet includes some Philippine stamps in the background with a photograph of a smiling Agsalud to the left alongside the words "PHILIPPINES" and "JUNIOR STAMP COLLECTOR."



The back of the cover includes more details about Agsalud plus the school stamp club's logo.

Ashman's cover marks Queen Elizabeth II's 95th birthday on April 21. Canada Post's latest Queen Elizabeth II definitive (SC #3137), first issued in 2019, franks the cover; it's tied by an official April 21-dated "Philatelic Canada" postmark from Regina, Sask. To the left, the cover's cachet features the queen's new official Canadian portrait, unveiled last year.

In the portrait, she's wearing a white dress adorned with her Canadian insignia as Sovereign of the Order of Canada and the Order of Military Merit. She also dons the Queen's diamond and sapphire tiara plus matching jewels, which she also wore during her 1990 royal visit to Canada.

The portrait is also connected to a row of maple leaves in a red bar in the middle of the cover, which extends around the back. It's also complemented by an



encapsulated 2021-dated 25-cent circulation coin held in place within a cutout. The front of the cover shows the coin's obverse (with the queen's portrait) while the back shows the coin's reverse (its caribou design).



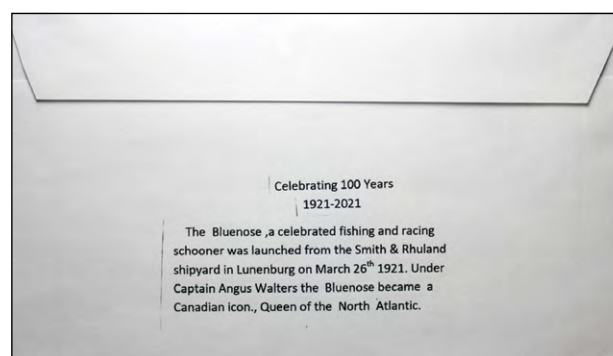
The top half of the back of the cover includes the queen's biographical details alongside Newfoundland's 1932 six-cent stamp featuring then-Princess Elizabeth – the first stamp to feature the current monarch.

Grantham's cover echoes the *Bluenose* theme with a franking feature both of the se-tenant *Bluenose* stamps Canada Post issued this June. The stamps are tied by a July 15-dated pictorial postmark from Lunenburg, N.S., from where the iconic schooner was launched in 1921.



To the left, the cover's cachet features a 1921 black-and-white photo of the *Bluenose* under full sail alongside images of Canada's earlier *Bluenose*-themed issues, including:

- the 50-cent *Bluenose* stamp issued in 1929 (SC #158);

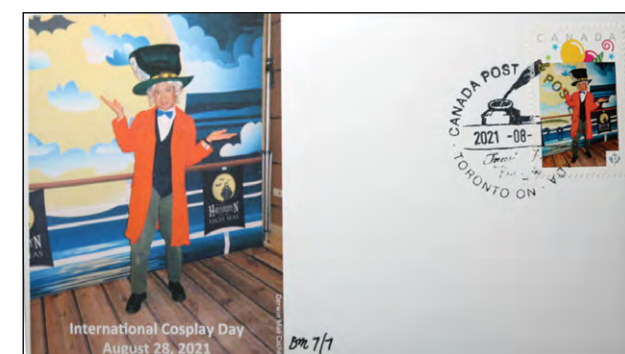


- the 60-cent original *Bluenose* stamp reproduction issued in 1982 (SC #913) for that year's International Philatelic Youth Exhibition in Toronto;
- the 37-cent Captain Angus Walters stamp issued in 1988 (SC #1228); and
- the 45-cent architect William Roué stamp issued in 1998 (SC #1738)

The top of the cachet reads "ENJOY STAMP COLLECTING EVERYDAY" while the bottom reads "October is Stamp Collecting Month."

The back of the cover also includes more details about the original *Bluenose*.

Mak's first cover marks International Cosplay Day (ICD), held on the last Saturday in August. It's franked by a Picture Postage stamp showing Mak cosplaying as the Mad Hatter from *Alice in Wonderland* aboard the cruise ship *Disney Magic*. The stamp is tied by an Aug. 26-dated hand cancel from Toronto's First Post Office.



The photograph of Mak is also shown on the cachet to the left alongside his "DM" initials and a serial number, "7/7."

"Cosplayer Jennifer Alice created ICD on the internet, and cosplayers have commemorated the day ever since. Cosplaying is the hobby of dressing in costume as characters from comic books, anime, science fiction films and TV, and related genres."

Mak's second cover serves as a first-day cover for his National Poodle Skirt Day Picture Postage stamp issued on Oct. 26. The stamp, which franks the cover, celebrates National Poodle Skirt Day, an imaginary holiday he recently declared. It's tied by an Oct. 26-dated mailer's postmark from Toronto. The cachet features the same photograph as the stamp; in it, Mak dons a pink poodle skirt and a big smile.



"In this age, anyone can declare a 'national day' for anything," Mak wrote in a letter to CSN accompanying the cover, adding he chose Oct. 26 because that date is poodle skirt creator Juli Lynne Charlot's birthday. "In 1947, Ms. Charlot, an actress, made a skirt to wear to a Christmas party. It had Christmas-themed appliques on it. She made another skirt with three daschunds applied to it. She soon started the trend of dog-themed skirts, though any subject could be on a 'poodle skirt.'"

Mak's third cover also serves as a first-day cover for one of his Picture Postage creations, a "self-haircut" stamp, issued on March 6. It marks his first self-haircut during the COVID-19 pandemic, when barbershops were forced to close their doors. It's franked with the Picture Postage stamp featuring a

# Earliest known registered Penny Black cover, Barrie-to-London mail highlight Spink sale

Spink offered the Alan Holyoake Grand Prix Collection of British and International Registered Mail in an Oct. 6 sale held at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) headquarters in England.

Holyoake won the Grand Prix at the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition for his exhibit, "The First Line Engraved Postage Stamps." Seven years later, he was appointed to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Britain introduced registered mail on Jan. 6, 1841.

"This service required an additional fee of one shilling to be paid in cash and the address side of the letter was marked accordingly," according to the auction catalogue, which added the rate was reduced to sixpence in 1848 with further reductions were made in later years. "There was no compensation offered for losses until 1878."

Fourteen days after Britain launched registered mail, someone mailed a wrapper franked with Britain's "Penny Black" – the world's first stamp, issued in May 1840 – from London to Bath, about 155 kilometres to the west. This Penny Black originated from plate five (out of 11 plates) with "J" and "G" check

letters in the bottom-left and -right corners, respectively. It's tied by an orange-red Maltese Cross and a faint strike of "Strand W.O." in black.

The cover is also marked with a large manuscript "Registered Letter" across the top, to the left of the franking, and a London Paid despatch datestamp plus a manuscript "1/-" for the registration.



**The earliest known Penny Black-franked registered cover went unsold during Spink's Oct. 6 sale of the Alan Holyoake Grand Prix Collection.**

Offered as Lot 14, it's the earliest known registered cover franked with a Penny Black; however, it went unsold in the recent Holyoake Collection sale. It carried an estimate of £40,000-£60,000 (about \$68,400-\$102,600 Cdn.) with a starting bid of £32,000 (about \$54,700 Cdn.).

The 321-lot sale also featured covers from countries mailed to and from present-day Canada. The top Canadian highlight was an 1858

cover described by auctioneers as "stunning." Mailed to London, England, from Barrie (then a part of the Province of Canada), the cover is franked by an 1857 imperforate 7.5-pence yellow-green stamp (Scott #9) plus an 1852 three-penny "beaver" (SC #4) tied by a circular numeral "1" handstamp. There's also a Barrie despatch circular datestamp

at the left and an unframed red «REGISTERED» handstamp in the top-left corner. A manuscript registration number is in the centre alongside a manuscript "6" while a strike of the London wide crown «REGISTERED» handstamp is at the right. On the reverse are circular datestamps from Toronto and London.

It brought £9,000 (about \$15,400 Cdn.). 🍁

photograph of Mak following his first self-haircut, and the stamp is tied by a March 6-dated mailer's postmark from Toronto.

"Most stamps related to the COVID-19 pandemic depict health care staff, essential workers, safety precautions (e.g., face masks), or the virus itself," Mak added in his letter to CSN. "This stamp is different. It depicts an aspect of life during the pandemic: the self-haircut. Like many people, I could not get my hair cut when barbershops and hair salons were closed."

The cover's cachet also features the same photograph as the Picture Postage stamp.

Like three of his submissions in last year's Cover Contest ("CSN Cover Contest draws record entries," Vol. 45 #14), Mak's National Poodle Skirt Day and self-haircut covers serve as proposals to Canada Post to allow individuals to have mailer's postmarks to cancel their own mail ("Toronto collector proposes 'mailer's postmark,'" Vol. 45 #20).

"The postmark or cancellation on both covers is not from a Canada Post station," Mak told CSN. "Instead, it is a privately-made postmark and is being



used as a proposal to allow Canadians to obtain Mailer's Postmarks. In the United States, individuals may obtain Mailer's Postmark Permits from their local postmasters and use their own cancellations to cancel their mail. I have been campaigning to have Canada Post also allow individuals to use Mailer's Postmarks." 🍁

## Letter...

*Continued from page 4*

This year's stamp, a whale design, comes in five different colours, which can't be determined until it gets unwrapped. The red version has the smallest number produced at 1,000 while the black has the most at 52,333 (in between are yellow at 6,667, blue at 13,333 and green at 26,667).

It helps to have contacts to find out about upcoming issues so one can pre-order them. The 100,000 total "pieces" (as the post office calls them) produced for version 3.0 sold out on the day of release, and eBay sellers now list them at a premium.

As you know, this is the third year Austria has created an NFC stamp – a good money maker since these stamps probably won't be used to mail letters.

On Oct. 21, the Austria post office will also release its "crypto stamp 3.1," consisting of two versions – a cat and a rhino. Of course, it is NFC encoded.

Since this June's whale design sold out, I guess they couldn't resist. The saying "just like printing money" comes to mind.

The cost of version 3.1 is 9.90 euros with a hefty postage fee of 14.94 euros for deliv-

## Perfect blend...

*Continued from page 4*

ther basic or less than endearing (and perhaps not fit for a stamp), but I like seeing Canada Post take a slightly different approach in its role as Canada's storyteller; it's nation-building and myth-making in a different form.

It shouldn't be so self-deprecating to see a beaver drinking a beer on a Muskoka chair (or is it an Adirondack chair?) when you consider not only the art but the message behind these visual expressions of thought and opinion. At their best, they serve as an instantly accessible commentary and analysis on current events, and their caricaturization of people, places and things offers a lighthearted take on political journalism.

While they're not the most controversial cartoons, it does take some consideration to place the Québec referendum and the United States' encroaching economic interests on stamps – even if they are cartoons – and it's nice to see some serious topics shown alongside the usual hockey, beaver and beer motifs.

It's a fresh perspective on Canada's story, and it comes at a time when we could all use some humorous relief from the gloom and doom of politics and beyond. I'm glad the stamp program team, led by the soon-to-be-retired Jim Phillips, was finally able to bring this long-awaited set to light.

Speaking of Phillips, he's retiring on Nov. 12 after more than 30 years with Canada Post (and nearly 20 years as the director of stamp services).

"It's been so much more than just a job, and I'm honoured to have had the chance to tell so many important Canadian stories through the stamp program," he wrote in his latest *Details* column.

For a future issue of CSN, I'll speak with Phillips to discuss his nearly two decades at the helm of Canada's stamp program.

As you've seen on the cover of this issue ("Director of stamp services at virtual CSN Lounge Oct. 20," pg. 1), Phillips will also be sitting down with us for our new CSN Lounge series of virtual interview-style events.

We hope to see you all there. 🍁

ery outside of Europe (or 9.95 euros within Europe). Altogether, that's about \$36 Cdn. As if the value wasn't high enough, the postage adds another 150 per cent to the cost. There is a reduction in postage if one buys three stamps – the maximum order is 25 SS. A total of 70,000 pieces will be printed for each design.

Chad also writes about Gibraltar's £4 stamp. Sieger is also offering a 2018 Gibraltar NFC block of four 50-pence stamps – asking price, 1,498 euros (nearly \$2,200 Cdn.)! A total of 50,000 examples were produced.

The Marshall Islands also released a block – sale price, 249 euros (about \$365 Cdn.).

Even the United Nations Postal Administration, with its three different postal outlets, is getting into the act.

Bottom line – it takes deep pockets and connections to get these stamps at the release date.

– Peter Lepold, of Kelowna, B.C.



# Auction Announcement

November 18-20, 2021 Public Auction

General Sale

British Caribbean, British North America

Specialized Newfoundland & Canada Featuring

D'Arcy Mosher Pioneer & Semi-Official Airmails


Three Pence Beaver, Small Queen Postal History

Diamond Jubilee, Illustrated Mail, King George VI



**Public Auction**

## Eastern Auctions Ltd.



British Caribbean, British North America  
Specialized Newfoundland & Canada Featuring  
D'Arcy Mosher Pioneer & Semi-Official Airmails  
Three Pence Beaver, Small Queen Postal History  
Diamond Jubilee, Illustrated Mail, King George VI

Gary J. Lyon  
Licensed & Bonded Auctioneer

November  
18-20, 2021

The worldwide section shows an abundance of British West Indies, namely Barbados, Nevis, St. Christopher, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks Islands and Virgin Islands with proofs, classic stamps, rare multiples and varieties. Many of the lots emanate from famous collections of the past.

The British North America and Canada sections are impressive and showcase a fascinating array of Newfoundland from several private holdings, emphasizing the unusual in all eras from valuable classics to the 20th century material. Varieties, errors, imperforates and plate multiples abound.

The D'Arcy Mosher collection of Pioneer & Semi-Official Airmails of Canada is featured in a special section of the catalogue. Collectors will appreciate numerous rarities and elusive varieties of various airlines, notably the Patricia Airways and Exploration Company Ltd. The collection includes an unusually high percentage of all known listed stamps and varieties.

Canada features 1851-1859 Three pence Beaver stamps – virtually all plated with printings and plate varieties. Another important offering of Small Queen postal history, focusing on Trans-Atlantic mail to the United Kingdom and Foreign Destinations from Aden to Western Australia.

The Derek Smith exhibit collections of Illustrated Mail of Saint John, New Brunswick with beautiful advertising covers will be sold along with his New Brunswick squared circle cancellations. The Daniel Cantor Collection of the 1897 Diamond Jubilee with proofs, superb mint NH stamps and postal history will also be sold. Numerous high-quality Admirals, including printings and rare shades are offered. Specialized King George VI, Modern errors, Back-of-Book and a large array of valuable and specialized lots and collectors round up this remarkable sale.



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# Read catalogue's key sections to avoid any missteps



## Stamping GROUNDS

By Ian Robertson

Stamp catalogues have come a long way since the first ones were published in the mid-1800s.

While considering that subject, I opened my copy of the *Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*. It was published in 1894 by Henry Gremmel on Nassau Street in New York – once famous for having many stamp dealers.

The 546-page “cat” originally cost 50 cents, half of the used price cited in it for Canada’s first stamp, the 1851 “Three-Pence Beaver.”

In addition to listing “every postage stamp that has ever been issued by any government in the world,” the catalogue has several pages of U.S. courier stamps.

Printed with black ink, there are hundreds of stamp-size illustrations plus enlargements with varieties described.

Strasbourg, France, philatelist and book dealer Oscar François George Berger-Levrault (1826-1903) produced the world’s first stamp catalogue 160 years ago.

His unillustrated 12-page 1861 edition was untitled, with 40-50 copies produced just for friends, according to Wikipedia.

Preserved in the British Museum library in London, England, as *Timbres-poste* (“Postage Stamps”), the lone reported surviving copy lists 973 postage stamps issued around the world.

Enthusiasts in Europe and elsewhere produced updated catalogues, with additional stamps listed plus corrections. Illustrations were included in later editions, which collectors found even more helpful.

Some catalogues have continued to be published since the 1800s, and there were many new ones.

Wikipedia identifies 90 different titles, including the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. It also lists several catalogues no longer published, including the *Holmes’ Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada and British North America* produced from 1935 until 1968.

Titles and descriptions range from editions with stamps by in-

dividual countries to those listing worldwide definitives and commemoratives. There are also catalogues specializing in other issues, including airmails, revenues and topics.

For collectors of non-North American issues, that Wikipedia listing – available at bit.ly/2WfoohL – is a gold mine.

This next observation may seem strange to some hobbyists: not everyone has an up-to-date catalogue.

Some collectors have none, content to acquire stamps appealing to them without worrying about completeness or options. Others, who perhaps do not collect recent issues or buy new editions every few years because of the cost of annual updates, use older volumes.

Other sources, in some communities, are public libraries. I checked worldwide catalogues in reference sections during my early collecting years.

Information varies between catalogues, with some going into more depth on certain subjects. Choosing an edition all depends on how specialized you want to be.

Also worthy of note is the fact some varieties, especially minor ones such as ink smears and minor printing anomalies, are often not included because they are not constant plate varieties.

Some collectors enjoy having stamps with “doughnuts” and “flyspecks,” particularly if they spotted them while sorting through accumulations or a dealer’s stock that didn’t identify their irregularities.

But if all such abnormalities were published, you couldn’t lift the catalogue. It would be too heavy.

For collectors of foreign issues, Scott international catalogues reproduce pronunciation symbols by permission from the *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary* and have several pages at the back with illustrations and descriptions of stamps produced in languages other than English.

Terminologies applying to different stamp styles and formats

For purposes of helping to determine the gum condition and value of an unused stamp, Scott Publishing Co. presents the following chart which details different gum conditions and indicates how the conditions correlate with the Scott values for unused stamps. Used together, the Illustrated Grading Chart on the previous pages and this Illustrated Gum Chart should allow catalogue users to better understand the grade and gum condition of stamps valued in the Scott catalogues.

Gum Categories:	MINT N.H.	ORIGINAL GUM (O.G.)			NO GUM	
	Mint Never Hinged Free from any disturbance	Lightly Hinged Faint impression of a removed hinge over a small area	Hinge Mark or Remnant Prominent hinged spot with part or all of the hinge remaining	Large part o.g. Approximately half or more of the gum intact	Small part o.g. Approximately less than half of the gum intact	No gum Only if issued with gum
Commonly Used Symbol:	★★	★	★	★	★	(★)
Pre-1900 Issues (Pre-1881 for U.S.)	Very fine pre-1900 stamps in these categories trade at a premium over Scott value			Scott Value for “Unused”	Scott “No Gum” listings for selected unused classic stamps	
From 1900 to breakpoints for listings of never-hinged stamps	Scott “Never Hinged” listings for selected stamps	Scott Value for “Unused” (Actual value will be affected by the degree of hinging of the full o.g.)				
From breakpoints noted for many countries	Scott Value for “Unused”					

Never Hinged (NH; ★★): A never-hinged stamp will have full

are at the front. And indexes at the back of each volume are also important guides.

Moving on, I’ve chosen a few examples of helpful information available from several sources.

### COLLECTING TIPS

In addition to chronological lists and prices for mint and used stamps – which should be regarded as guides since some sellers offer discounts especially for more modern issues – catalogues long ago began including suggestions about how to collect.

And therein lies a puzzling quandary.

Believe it or not, many collectors rarely bother to read those sections.

Definitions about conditions and production methods are crucial when looking up particular stamps.

They can be very helpful when trying to determine quality plus differences based on ink shades, perforations and watermarks. In addition, symbols will guide the reader to price differences between a single used stamp compared to one or more on a cover.

The Unitrade catalogue includes a particularly good warning about cancellations.

While prices are quoted for “in-period” postmarks, it notes circular (or “sock-on-the-nose”) postmarks “command a premium.”

Modern circular cancels are uncommon, so “be aware that at least one source has been creating used souvenir sheets and set-tenant multiples by using an out-of-period cancelling device and offering these for sale.”

### CONDITIONS VARY

While some dealers may disagree with a customer’s opinion

about a stamp they are offering, catalogues are good guides.

To start with, examine illustrations of centring.

They range from the low end, described as Very Good, to the top with Very Fine and Extremely Fine. Those terms are often shortened to initials VG, VF and EF, respectively, plus variables in between.

“Grading is a subjective evaluation when appraising a stamp and even seasoned experts may disagree on individual points,” the Unitrade catalogue notes.

Referring to grading early issues, “choice copies with large margins and no hidden flaws command much higher prices than those indicated,” it adds. “Conversely, attractive ‘very fine appearing’ examples with thins or corner creases, no matter how minor these may be, sell for reduced prices.”

Despite the VG term, the illustration of a six-cent 1872 Prince Edward Island definitive featuring a Queen Victoria portrait readily stands out for being less appealing than its nearby VF counterpart.

As the catalogue notes, lower-grade stamps “have designs that are quite off centre, with the perforations cutting the design on at least one side.

“The gum may be slightly disturbed, and

**An 1872 P.E.I. six-cent stamp (left row) and 1851 Canadian three-penny beaver illustrate various centring grades in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps.**

The *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* lists, illustrates and describes various gum qualities on stamps.

the stamp may not have all of its original freshness. If used, the cancellation may be medium to heavy and indistinct.”

The middle-grade P.E.I. stamp looks better, but Fine examples are also off-centre. VF stamps may also be slightly off-centre when compared to EF stamps.

A stamp’s value may increase if it has “exceptionally wide margins, particularly fresh color, the presence of selvage, and plate or die varieties,” the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue* suggests. As a visual aid, it includes colour illustrations of early imperforate U.S. definitives, later perforated ones, plus imperf and perforated stamps from other countries.

The writers also emphasize the value of “unusual cancels on used stamps – particularly those of the 19th century.”

Specialist books describe different handmade obliterator postmarkings and cancels applied by machines since they were introduced in the late 1800s.

The Scott catalogue also urges collectors to be wary of negative elements, including stamps without original gum, re-gumming, a hinge remnant or foreign object on a mint stamp, “natural inclusions, straight edges, and markings or notations applied by collectors or dealers.”

The foreign object reference could include a piece of gummed sheet selvage used to mount a stamp, which was common in the hobby’s early days.



As for markings or notations, some collectors even today continue the age-old practice of writing a catalogue number on a stamp's back, risking an indentation visible from the front or, worse, resulting in ink seeping through the paper if a pen was used.

Unitrade includes a caution about repairs to many early Canadian stamps: "It is important to know your dealer well. Certificates of authenticity can be obtained from several third-party sources."

In that regard, members of the expertizing committee at the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto are constantly reminded of collectors needing to read catalogues, based on often obvious problems with some submitted stamps.

The most common misinterpretation, one which is far from unique, are submissions of two-cent "Small Queen" definitives a buyer hopes is a rare two-cent laid paper "Large Queen," of which only three are known.

Analysis is not required. The larger two-cent stamp measures an average 20 millimetres by 24 millimetres compared to the smaller 17-millimetre-by-21-millimetres two-cent issue, which was printed on distinctively different wove paper.

#### PRINTING METHODS

As most collectors know, various stamp-printing methods have been used.

Most catalogues include descriptions plus illustrations that help explain engraving, typography, lithography, photogravure, embossing, holograms, foil application and thermography.

Some 19th- and early 20th-century stamps that appear different may have been printed legitimately while others may have been made by a forger.

A new member of my club once showed friends an old foreign stamp with several extended ink lines in the design. He happily concluded they were engraved printing varieties.

Instead, as another member explained, it was printed by offset lithography which, at that time, often left such anomalies on issues produced in the country that issued that stamp.

The owner didn't know about different printing methods.

I also remember an important lesson – learned the hard way – from my early days of collecting classic Canadian stamps.

A schoolmate offered me several attractive Queen Victoria definitives in exchange for a couple of similar ones I'd been given. Similar is the key, haunting word.

I hadn't read my catalogue closely enough to know the difference between Large Queens and successive issues of attractive, smaller and much less costly Small Queens.

A more experienced collector later explained the difference. As for the exchange, well, it was my mistake.

Live and learn, as they say.

#### REPRINTS, REISSUES

The Scott catalogue also has an interesting section describing reprints and reissues.

Usually involving obsolete issues, such stamps have often been printed from original plates, or stones, which was the method used for early lithography.

Later lithographic printing was accomplished with aluminum printing plates.

"Most reprints or reissues differ slightly from the original stamp in some characteristic, such as gum, paper, perforation, color or watermark," the catalogue notes. "Sometimes the details are followed so meticulously that only a student of that specific stamp is able to distinguish the reprint or reissue from the original."

#### PAPER VARIETIES

As many catalogues note, in the early days, pulped fibres were worked by hand to produce paper, which often resulted in varying textures and thicknesses.

Pressed against fine metal screens, dry sheets had barely visible indentations described as "wove."

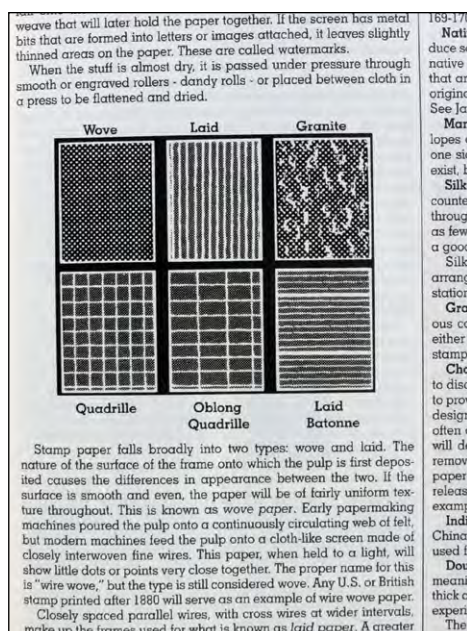
If fitted with horizontal or vertical wires, then there were fine indented lines.

Some companies also incorporated their names, initials and other designs into the mesh, leaving sheets with distinctive watermarks.

"Designs may be in the form of crowns, stars, anchors, letters or other characters or symbols," the Scott catalogue notes.

Often seen when a stamp is backlit by a bright white light, others require a liquid or electric detector, but the catalogue warns "some inks used in the photogravure process dissolve in watermark fluids."

Watermarks were also a common security element some postal administrations required.



#### Different types of paper used in stamp production are described in the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue.

dered from other manufacturers, including Harrison in England.

"Papers have been made specially white in recent years," the Gibbons catalogue notes. To discourage people from re-using unpostmarked stamps and those whose cancels

can be removed, fugitive ink then heavy chalk coatings were applied, with chalk coating likely to dissolve "through immersion in water."

#### MEASURING PERFORATIONS

Catalogues also provide instructions about measuring perforations.

Most stamps were perforated by the application of hollow-point pins that pierced the surface of a sheet. Rows of pins were either mounted on a metal bar lowered by a printing plant operator applying pressure to a lever, or they were on the edges of wheels attached to an electrically driven machine drawing paper across a flat surface as they rotated.

Some perfs were syncopated, resulting in a combination of regular pinholes and wider sections present or absent – the latter being particularly noteworthy on current British definitives with indented gaps on the lower vertical margins.

One cautionary note when checking a catalogue: if it is par-

ticularly specialized, guidance about gauging perforations may be more explicit, with measurements going to 1/10th of a perf.

General descriptions measure to the nearest half perf.

Stamps have also been rouletted, referring to the application of flat metal blades or wheels with gaps leaving the paper partly pierced in rows between the designs.

In recent years, many countries, including Canada, began issuing die-cut stamps instead of ones with perforations, although its souvenir sheets still have old-style pin perfs.

A die "cuts the stamp paper in a stroke motion," one catalogue explains. Normally applied in straight lines, but sometimes in a special pattern influenced by a stamp's design, "this process is primarily used for self-adhesive postage stamps."

#### TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

While many catalogues are still printed, a few are available via the Internet, and some publishers are providing their editions virtually as an option.

The price of published versions has gone up dramatically in recent years due to higher volumes of stamps requiring more and more pages. Shipping costs have also been increased.

In addition, with many people lacking bookshelf space or interest in a high volume of printed works, the use of online references is appealing to more and more readers and collectors.

It is up to you what type of source you consider best.

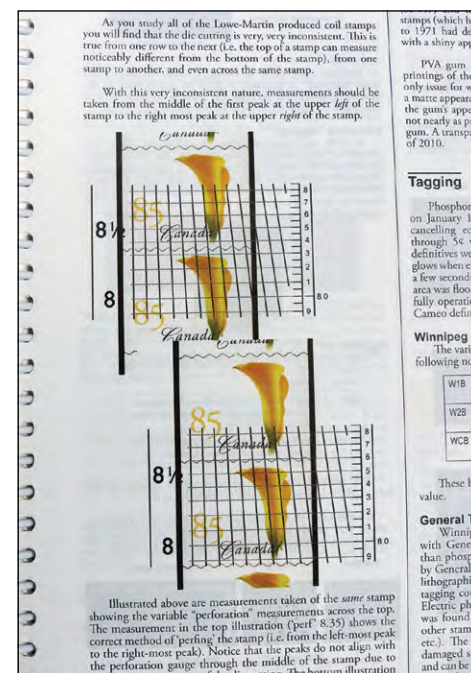
Regardless of your choice, enjoy learning more about your favourite hobby with the latest edition of a worthwhile catalogue, whether it is on printed

pages or a computer screen.

And if you enjoy the look and feel of a long out-of-date edition, well, sit back, relax and turn to a favourite page. Or one you haven't read before.

Who knows what interesting tidbit lies within. 🍁

**Illustrations and text in the Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps offer a guide to measuring perforation gauges.**



# Italian Mutual Aid Society mail offers snapshot in time



## Philatelic BOOKSHELF

By David Piercey

Coleman is a smaller town in southern Alberta's Crowsnest Pass area established as a mining town in 1903 by the International Coal & Coke Company to serve as the community centre for its adjacent mining and coking operations.

Nestled close to the Alberta-British Columbia border, it was one of numerous coal mining communities established along the Canadian Pacific Railway's (CPR) Crowsnest Pass route to exploit the vast coal resources of the region on both sides of the border.

Coleman, for a while, was the largest community along the route and boasted many amenities characteristic of bustling smaller towns. It even had its own opera house. Its rivals included Fernie, B.C., and Blairmore, Alta., and much of its history and commerce relates to these other centres as well as to the myriad of other coal mining towns along the CPR southern route.

The coal mines attracted many southern European immigrants to the region as rock work and mining were trades they could enter that other-

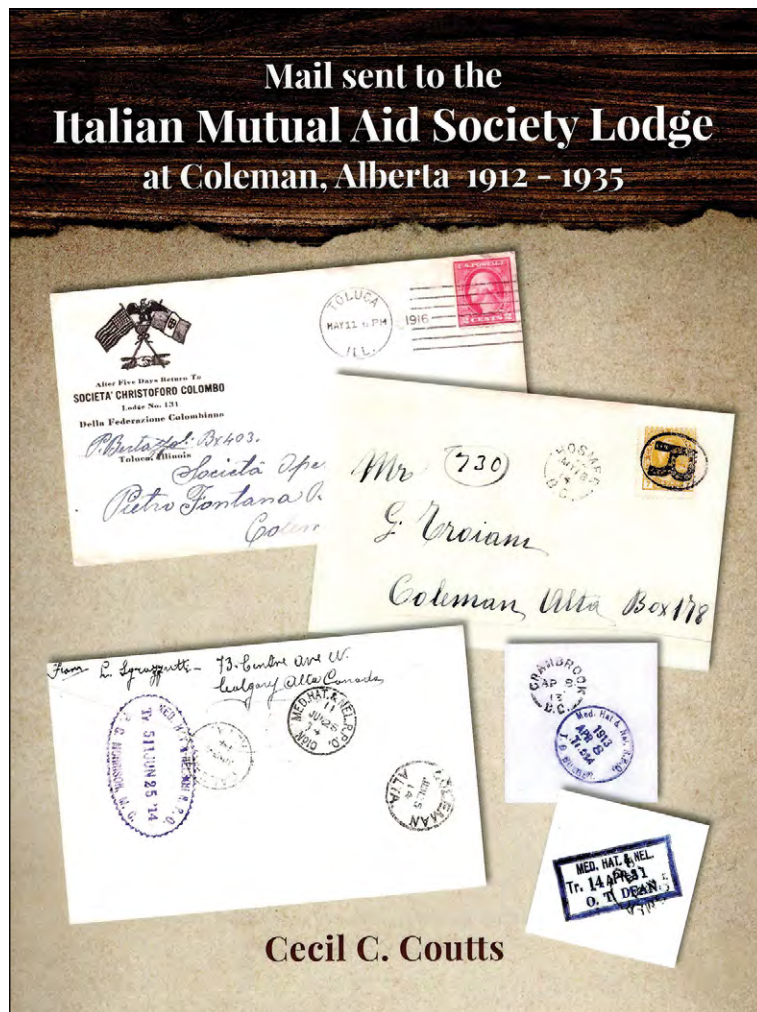
wise were harder to attract workers, too. Immigration was encouraged at the time, and the Italians came, often to escape the feudal and agrarian conditions at home, with otherwise limited prospects for gainful employment. There was such an influx of Italians to the region an Italian consulate was established at Fernie during this time.

### ITALIAN MUTUAL AIDE

Like many other ethnic communities, the Italians formed social and benevolent groups to assist with their community's development and the support of its members.

Such is the reason for the establishment of the Italian Mutual Aid Society lodges, not only at Coleman but also at Fernie and a few smaller coal mining centres in the region. In fact, a primary reason for their establishment was to provide financial support to injured miners and their families and in the case of death to provide relief to their otherwise destitute wives and children.

Cec Coutts had fortuitous access to correspondence sent



Cecil C. Coutts

Cecil C. Coutts authored the 164-page book, *Mail sent to the Italian Mutual Aid Society Lodge*, which was published by the British North America Philatelic Society earlier this year.

attractive covers as they show the lodge's heraldry engraved onto the envelope.

Coutts also gives us chapters on corner cards from local businesses and others on covers with slogan postal markings. The covers he shows, however, are clearly written, often with elegant handwriting, in Italian by Italians.

Coutts has also managed to give us a bit of a history of mining disasters in the region. For example, he lists the names of the people killed in mine disasters at Coal Creek, Carbonado, Hosmer, Michel, Coleman and particularly Hillcrest Mines, where 189 men lost their lives in one particularly disastrous coal gas explosion in 1914. An inspection of these names will note the significant number of miners of Italian origin. He shows a cover, and its contents, from one of the few survivors of the Hillcrest mine explosion.

There is more to tell about the Italian immigrants' experiences in the Crowsnest Pass area, particularly their incarceration in B.C. internment camps as "enemy aliens" with the onset of the First World War. There are also the stories of many other mining disasters that befell these immigrants in subsequent years due to the ongoing primitive working conditions in the mines.

Suffice to say, Coutts' diligence in researching and publishing this archive gives us an informative snapshot of the postal history and daily life of the Italians in the region. 🍁

BNAPS books are distributed through Longley Auctions, P.O. Box 620, Waterdown ON L0R 2H0, and may be ordered through the firm's website, [longleyauctions.com](http://longleyauctions.com). *Mail sent to the Italian Mutual Aid Society Lodge* sells for \$48 (plus shipping and handling).

to the Coleman Lodge after being contacted by the wife of a former lodge member who kept the lodge's correspondence in his subsequent to its closing in 1996. The hoard of about 1,000 covers, mostly from 1908-35, thus gives the postal historian a perspective on the life of the Italian community during this period.


Much of the lodge's correspondence is relatively mundane, relating to the payment of annual dues and the like,

but its postal history is invaluable to the region.

In his new 164-page book, *Mail sent to the Italian Mutual Aid Society Lodge at Coleman, Alberta, 1912-1935*, Coutts shows examples of covers mailed from several of the smaller and relatively harder-to-find coal mining towns in the region. They're often shown with registration markings or with their railway post office – RPO – transit marks.

Alberta and B.C. post office collectors will recognize names like Passburg, Lille, Hillcrest Mines, Frank and Hosmer – some of the scarcer Crowsnest towns to find postmarks from – as well as others further afield, including coal mining town postmarks from the likes of Diamond City, Nordegg, Bankhead and Pochontas. All of these communities have long since passed, with their post offices closed long ago as their mines were closing.

Coutts has organized his book by the sorts of correspondence received. For example, he gives us two chapters on correspondence from other Italian fraternal lodges both in Canada and the United States. These are often



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# Theatres...

Continued from page 7

Re-Opening Festival will proceed once attendance is approved by the theatre's board and health officials, he added.

If staged, the program will feature four concerts, art installations and readings over 16 days by local artists. *Home for the Holidays* would be staged from Dec. 1-Dec. 24.

That would be followed in February by a Black History Month play based on Viola Desmond, a Nova Scotia civil rights defender who Canada Post featured on a 2012 stamp, plus a two-week program featuring

songs and stories and then a music program providing various music programs ending May 5.

On its website, the Grand describes an annual commitment to "commission, write, produce, and premiere original plays that are relevant to our city, our province, and our country."

One new project is *Grand Ghosts*, a play ordered for the 2021-22 season with award-winning Vancouver-based playwright Trina Davies.

When presented, audiences will be invited on a ghost hunt throughout the theatre, including areas previously unseen by the public.

Stories would be told about mysterious incidents – including



**A pair of 2001 se-tenant 'Canadian Theatres' commemoratives feature the centennial anniversaries of Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (left) and the Grand Theatre.**

Small's disappearance, the Grand's website states.

The London theatre was his "favourite" Grand, Wikipedia notes.

For the 100th anniversary of his disappearance, Dobbs combined extensive research plus newly discovered archival mate-

rial for a 2019 book, *The Missing Millionaire: The True Story of Ambrose Small and the City Obsessed with Finding Him*.

Small's ghost is said to have sent a light fixture "crashing from the ceiling" the night before demolition of the Grand in London began in 1977, "causing

the theatre's sound system to "go berserk," according to the Collections Canada 2001 album.

After work got underway, a backhoe almost knocked down an arch featuring a Victorian fresco, "but the machine happened to stall," theatre public relations manager Rob Wellan was quoted as saying.

"Call it luck, but we all knew it was Ambrose watching out for us."

The partial white silhouette of an actor on stage in an old-style costume is partially on both stamps.

On the Grand commemorative, Small is looking towards the audience with a shadowy figure behind him. 🍁

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# Eastern...

Continued from page 1

November sale. The Patricia Airways & Exploration Co. section is notably impressive, loaded with rarities that only surface on the market once in a while."

Mosher has been an "enthusiastic collector" of Canadian pioneer airmail stamps and semi-official airmail stamps for "many years," Tanguay said.

"Special attention and effort were made in trying to acquire the airmails stamps that are considered the rarities and the very elusive varieties. Many of them we do not recall offering previously."

Pioneer airmail refers to the early 20th-century development of postal aviation (specifically the stamps, covers and flights up to about 1918, according to the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie Aerophilately Commission).

Semi-official airmail stamps were applied to airmail between 1924 and 1934, according to the Canadian Aerophilately Society (CAS). The Post Office Department authorized these stamps and sold them from post offices, according to the December 1994 CAS journal, the Canadian Aerophilately, but it "did not assume responsibility for the airmail, nor did it help with the cost of the airmail service."

"There were many navigating the Canadian skies between 1924 and 1932," said Tanguay. "From Laurentide Air Service to Canadian Airways, they had been approved by the Canadian Post Office Department (POD) to carry official post office mail along with supplies and passengers to remote locations. The POD was also in charge of accepting stamp designs – but not the printing – and deciding on postal rates."

## 'GREAT AIRMAIL RARITY'

Among the early Mosher Collection highlights is one of the "very few" never-hinged (NH) examples of what Tanguay called "the iconic Canadian airmail stamp."

The 25-cent green and yellow airmail issue (#CLP6) is one of only 100 stamps printed in 1927 for a flight from London, Ont., to London, England. About 87 examples were affixed to letters, and only one cover and 13 mint original-gum (OG) hinged examples – even fewer with NH status – have survived from the original print run. The attempted transatlantic flight crashed

shortly after take-off from Harbour Grace, Nfld., on Sept. 7 of that year, and pilot Terrance Tully and navigator James Medcalf "lost their lives and were never seen again," Tanguay wrote in the auction catalogue.

Offered as Lot 306 and described by Tanguay as being in Very Fine (VF) NH condition, it's estimated at \$40,000-plus. It's accompanied by 2021 Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation and 1987 Enzo Dena certificates.

## 'UNUSUALLY CHOICE'

The following lot offers an "unusually choice" mint example of the 1928 Moose Jaw Flying Club pioneer airmail stamp (#CLP7), Tanguay said.



The \$1 red-on-white stamp is described by auctioneers as a "brilliant, fresh mint single with full intact perforations on both sides." Of the 200 printed stamps, 161 were reported as used on flight covers, leaving only 39 possible mint examples.

Accompanied by a 2021 Greene Foundation certificate, this VF lightly hinged (LH) example carries a catalogue value of \$3,500 as Lot 307.

## 'UNDERRATED' BOOKLET PANE

What Tanguay called an "elusive, much underrated" booklet pane of four Northern Air Service stamps, including a front booklet cover, crosses the block as Lot 314.

The booklet pane of four 25-cent blue stamps (#CL5e) issued in 1925 also includes an intact tab margin at the top. Three of the stamps have "disturbed gum" while the upper-left piece is NH, Tanguay added.

"We do not recall offering a booklet pane of this (in any condition) in recent years," he wrote in the catalogue.

This VF example is catalogued at \$1,500-plus.

## ELLIOT AIR SERVICE IMPERF PAIR

An imperforate pair of 1926-dated 25-cent Jack V. Elliot Air Service stamps (#CL6a), one a variety, is offered as Lot 317.

Described by Tanguay as "a striking item," the pair's lower stamp "prominently shows

both columns composed of eight holly leaves inverted in relation to (the) corner maple leaves." The top stamp is normal.

In their research, auctioneers, who enlisted the help of collector Alec Globe, of White Rock, B.C., to help confirm only two other examples of this invert offered at auction (both in a 1971 John Cornelius sale.

"We believe this variety will be listed in Unitrade specialized catalogue and deservedly so," Tanguay wrote in the catalogue.

Accompanied by a 2021 Greene Foundation certificate, this VF example is expected to bring \$750-plus.

## PATRICIA AIRWAYS RARITY

The Mosher Collection also offers a "one-of-a-kind double-error sheet that will stand out in anyone's collection," Tanguay wrote in the catalogue.

The imprint pane of eight 1926-dated 25-cent Patricia Airways "Style One" stamps (#CL13a, #CL13c and #CL13d) includes varieties and errors of one of the "great rarities" of Patricia Airways and Exploration, he added. It also features an unlisted inverted route inscription variety.

The imprint pane is vertically imperforate with official blue-black route inscriptions "inverted and dramatically shifted," according to the catalogue. No other vertically imperforate pairs are also known with inverted route inscriptions, auctioneers added. The pane also shows the small "t" (in "TO") variety on the top pair.

Tanguay called it a "spectacular unique sheet with this combination of perforation and route inscription invert errors.

Offered as Lot 329, this VF NH example is expected to bring at least \$10,000.

## MISSING ROUTE INSCRIPTION & RARE HANDSTAMP

Lot 331 offers a pair of 1926-dated 25-cent Patricia Airways "Style One" stamps (#CL13m) with an omitted route inscription.

"This error is listed in the informative C.A. Longworth-Dames *The Pioneer and Semi-Official Air Mails of Canada 1918-1934* handbook as SO13e."

While it's not currently listed in the Unitrade catalogue, the error has its own suffix as #CL13m in the *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue*.



Describing the example on offer this November as "very rare and unique as a pair," Tanguay also called it "a major error that certainly warrants attention from the specialist."

In VF condition, it's estimated at \$4,000-plus.

Eastern sold a mint LH single of this error as Lot 243 of its June 2015 sale, when it hammered down for \$2,600.

Patricia Airways' 1927-dated 25-cent "Style One" issue (#CL16b) is set to cross the block with an inverted handstamp as Lot 340. Rarely seen, according to Tanguay, the descending "RED LAKE" handstamp is inverted in black ink ("Type D").

Accompanied by a 2019 Greene Foundation certificate, this VF hinged example carries a catalogue value of \$3,000.



## UNIQUE ERROR, VARIETY COMBINATION

Another major Patricia Airways error and variety combination is offered as Lot 348.

The 1927-dated 50-cent "Style Two" stamps (#CL19ii) are offered in a mint vertical pair with missing red border inscriptions reading "Woman Lake – Air Mail" that usually surround the frame on both stamps. It also features an ascending "10 cents" overprint in deep red ("Type A").

Another variety, showing a broken "N" in "ROUYN," is also present on the top stamp. While the overprint variety is unlisted on the Patricia Airways "Style

Two" airmail stamp (#CL18), it is currently listed on a "Style One" airmail stamp ("CL14f"), according to auctioneers.

Described by Tanguay as another "great rarity," it's one of only four or five examples of the missing colour error.

Accompanied by a 2012 Greene Foundation certificate, this VF hinged example is catalogued at \$11,000.

## INVERTED AIRPLANE ERROR STAMP

Lot 375 offers the inverted airplane error on the 1927-dated 50-cent Patricia Airways "Style Three" stamp (#CL30di).

Tanguay described it as a "beautiful and striking corner margin single," featuring a series number "1" imprint at the lower left and an ascending "RED LAKE" ("Type D") handstamp in deep purple applied over the invert error.



Described as being in Extremely Fine hinged condition, it carries a catalogue value of \$2,750-plus.

## RARE 'RED LAKE' HANDSTAMP

Rounding out the Mosher Collection highlights is Lot 416, a 1927 Red Lake-to-Sioux Lookout flight cover franked with a pair of one-cent yellow Admiral stamps.

The Admirals are tied by Red Lake split-ring departure cancel, with an additional strike tying the rare 50-cent Patricia Airways "Style Two" stamp, which also features a horizontal "RED LAKE" handstamp in violet. "Very few" examples of the horizontal handstamp are known, Tanguay said. A July 4 Sioux Lookout circular datestamp also ties the airmail stamp at the lower left.

Tanguay called it a "highly desirable handstamp variety on cover and one of the great rarities of the Patricia Airways & Exploration Co. airmails."

Described as VF, it's catalogued at \$4,500. 🍁

In the next issue of CSN (Vol. 46 #15), the two-part auction preview will conclude with highlights from the general sale plus further details about lot viewing and the auction.

# Remembering my friend, Bob Haslewood

By Ray Oldenburg

In July 2008, I received a letter from Bob Haslewood. It began, "It's been a long time since we spoke."

That was true. We hadn't spoken in several years. I had been retired for several years and kept up contact with only two former colleagues. In his letter, he also furnished me with his work telephone number, his home number and his email. It felt strange.

We worked in the same financial services company but in different departments and on different floors. We spoke on occasion, but that was about it; however, feeling I had nothing to lose, I called him at home. We had a cordial talk, and from then on, we called each other on occasion.

A year later, he called me and said that now he had retired. That phone call shifted our relationship from casual acquaintance to deep friendship. During that phone call, we learnt we had something in common – philately major, numismatic minor for Bob; numismatic major, philatelic minor for me.

For Bob, the term "philately major," though accurate, doesn't fully cut it. Philately was in his DNA. He was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada (RPSC), the American Philatelic Society (APS), the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS), the Royal Philatelic Society London and several smaller philatelic organizations. He first joined the RPSC in 1985 followed by the APS later that year and BNAPS the following March.

He told me numerous times that if I had any questions about stamps to ask him (I did several times). He lived for and planned his holidays around the stamp shows and exhibitions the various societies hosted in different parts of the country. When he retired, he told me he had to be more careful at managing money, the reason being that there must be sufficient funds in the Haslewood treasury to attend those shows.

In his words: "It would be unbearable to miss them."

## A 'TRUE BELIEVER' IN PHILATELY

Several times a year, we visited each other to talk about and show our latest acquisitions.

The first time at his home, the religious term "true believer" flashed into my mind instantly. In his dining room was a table with two or three chairs around it. Strewn all around the walls were stacks of journals from different philatelic societies and stamp catalogues.

He began by showing me his old Canada stuff. He owned most of the early stamps of the Province of Canada (Scott #1-20), but no, he did not possess #3, the 12-pence black.

At the time, he also said he had a world collection, some even being from North Korea. Because he had moved several times, some of his collection was still in a locker. Needless to say, I left quite impressed.

through Stamps" at McGill University. On our way out (third floor to main), he did not take the escalator down but walked down the stairs at a turtle's pace holding on tight to the railing. He said he could not properly clasp the escalator's rubber grip and that escalators made him dizzy.

Bob was a lifelong bachelor, and as such, he lived alone in Montréal and did not have a female partner to look after him. Four or five years ago, he called me frantically early in the morning asking if I could take him to the airport as the taxi drivers were on strike.

You don't have to guess: he was off to a stamp conference out west. When I got to his place, he was outside waiting. Once in the car and with his

*The first time at his home, the religious term "true believer" flashed into my mind instantly. In his dining room was a table with two or three chairs around it. Strewn all around the walls were stacks of journals from different philatelic societies and stamp catalogues.*

In addition to visiting each other, we also attended Nuphilex each spring and fall and the postal exhibitions put on by the Lakeshore Stamp Club. When we met at those venues, Bob would always bring me several past issues of CSN he had finished reading.

One thing I never had an inkling about was Bob's poor health. Yes, he was stooped, walked slowly and had a sallow complexion. But so did others. Also, his mind was always sharp on any issue we discussed; however, by 2018, it became apparent something was not quite right.

We were planning to meet at Nuphilex, and the evening before on the phone, we spoke at length about which bus route he would take, his objective being figuring out if it was easier to walk up or down a small hill.

In the winter of 2019, we attended a lecture entitled "The Colonial History of Africa

seatbelt buckled, he asked me out the clear blue sky, "Ray, do I look OK?"

A glance revealed a button was missing from his sport jacket and that he must have wiped his hands on his trousers a multitude of times.

I replied, "Bob, you look fine."

He beamed, and we were off to the airport.

Bob left us on May 26, 2021. Part of his obituary in the *Montréal Gazette* stated, "Robert was an avid stamp collector and made many friends over the years through the numerous philatelic organizations to which he belonged. He spoke fondly of the annual philatelic exhibitions and conventions that he attended both in Canada and the United States."

Yes, a true believer, a person who really loved his hobby. For someone with such passion, it's too bad he was unable to bring his collection over to the other side. 🍁

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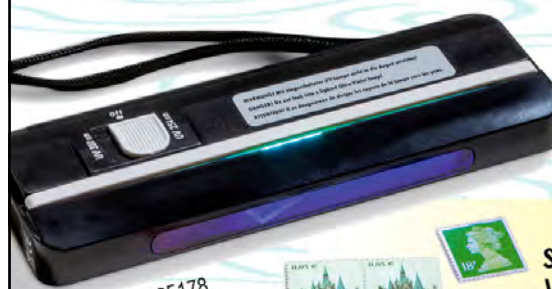


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# New ISSUES

Around the World with Robin Harris



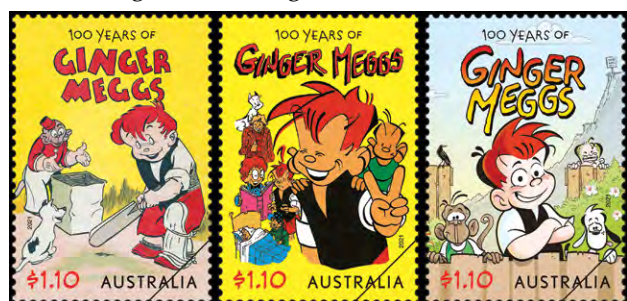
## CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Turtles were the theme of four stamps issued by Christmas Island on Aug. 10.

Marine turtles have a large shell called a carapace, four strong paddle-like flippers and – like all reptiles – lungs for breathing air. Their characteristic beak-like mouth is used to shear or crush food.

All seven marine turtle species, including the two frequenting the waters around Christmas Island, are endangered. Those species are the large herbivorous green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the smaller, critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). Threats to turtles include pollution and habitat destruction, as well as over-harvesting and egg predation.

The green turtle is the only turtle to also nest on Christmas Island; however, a significant percentage of its hatchlings don't survive their first few days of life. Christmas Island is especially prone to plastic pollution and other beach debris impeding the green turtle's nesting and hatching.



## AUSTRALIA

Australia released three stamps on Sept. 7 to showcase 100 years of *Ginger Meggs*, the country's most popular and longest-running comic strip.

This year marks the comic's centenary. The star of Australia's longest-running and most widely syndicated comic strip, *Ginger Meggs* began life in November 1921 as a side character – named Ginger Smith – in a strip titled *Gladsome Gladys*, first published in the *Sydney Sunday Sun*. By April 1922, the character morphed into the leading man, known as Ginger Meggs, a mischievous, quick-witted, waistcoat-wearing, red-headed suburban kid.

Renamed first *Us Fellers* and then, in 1939, *Ginger Meggs*, the comic strip was created by Jimmy Bancks, an Aussie born in 1889. By the time Bancks died unexpectedly of heart failure in 1952, he had been committing to paper the life of *Ginger Meggs* for nearly three decades.

Subsequent *Ginger Meggs* artists were Ron Vivian (1953-73), Lloyd Piper (1973-83) and James Kemsley (1983-2007). Since 2007, *Ginger Meggs* has been illus-

trated by the Perth-born, New York-based cartoonist and comedian Jason Chatfield. In the current incarnation, the young "Ginge" – like many 21st-century children – has a smartphone, and his buddies embody the increasingly diverse nature of modern Australia's social landscape.

The stamps in this issue showcase the work of three of the five cartoonists who have illustrated the beloved Australian character. The shift in style, colour and typography across the stamps' visual elements demonstrate *Ginger Meggs'* development over the century.

The first stamp design features the key pictorial element of an early *Sunbeam Annual* cover (dated 1926), on which Bancks' depicts a happy Ginge at the make-shift wicket, poised with a bat in hand. Tony, a monkey, plays backstop while Mike, a dog, is an eager fielder.

The second design, the work of Kemsley, is featured through the cover art of the kids' book *Wake Up Ginger Meggs*, published in 1989 and detailing the adventures of Ginge and his buddies Bennie and Chubb.

The last design features Chatfield's work as the current *Ginger Meggs* artist, reproducing the key element of the cover artwork for the commemorative book celebrating the comic's centenary, *Bancks' Ginger Meggs*, published this year.



## LIECHTENSTEIN

"Freedom," "Peace" and "Democracy" are the three stamps Liechtenstein issued on Sept. 6 to mark the 100th anniversary of the *Constitution of the Principality of Liechtenstein*.

With high-quality metallic printing plus foil stamping, the stamps have a modern and forward-looking design but also build a bridge to the past as they show an excerpt from the original edition of the constitution of 1921.

The emergence of political parties in Liechtenstein after 1914 brought with it the call for a reform of the monarchical state. Especially after the collapse of the monarchy in Germany and Austria, as well as the Liechtenstein November coup d'état in 1918, the monarchical idea of the state in the form of the constitution of 1862 was no longer viable.

During negotiations in September 1920, the forces of reform agreed with representatives of Prince Johann II on what was known as the "Castle Agreements," which created a basis for a draft constitution. The new constitution of 1921 finally defined the principality as a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis with the powers of the state resting with the prince and the people.



## NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand released four stamps for the 2020 Paralympics, which took place this Aug. 24-Sept. 5 as part of the postponed Tokyo Games.

"I believe that Paralympians, through freedom contained within their minds, produce incredible performances with their bodies, which when watched or listened to by others can inspire them to change their perceptions and thus change the world," said past Paralympian Sir Philip Craven, of England, who's now the International Paralympic Committee president.

Issued on Aug. 4, the stamps include:

- a \$1.50 issue featuring Sophie Pascoe, a below-the-knee amputee, nine-time Paralympic gold medalist and multiple world champion, who's also New Zealand's most decorated Paralympian;
- a \$2.80 issue featuring Cameron Leslie, a para swimmer and wheelchair rugby player born with a quadruple limb deficiency, who's also the world record holder and three-time Paralympic gold medalist in the men's 150-metre individual medley;
- a \$3.60 issue featuring Emma Foy and Hannah van Kampen, a visually impaired para cyclist and her sighted pilot, the former of who won a bronze medal at the 2013 UCI Para Cycling Road World Championships and ranked No. 1 in the world in the Elite Women's Tandem track standings; and
- a \$4.10 issue featuring the "Spirit of Gold," a phrase describing Paralympics New Zealand's dual purpose ("gold" recognizes its high-performance credentials while "spirit" represents caring for and inspiring communities). The term also aptly describes Paralympians and their unique mix of talent, determination and heart.

## GERMANY

Germany issued a single stamp on Sept. 2 to showcase a treasure of philately.

Among the most famous stamps – even among laypeople – is the "Blue Mauritius" issued

by Mauritius, then a British colony, in 1847 (seven years after Britain's first stamp, the "Penny Black," and four years before Canada's first stamp, the three-penny "Beaver").

Its lesser-known sister, the "Red Mauritius," is almost as precious.

Of the 500 copies of the first series, 15 red examples and a dozen blue examples are believed to exist today, but only one cover is franked with both.

The so-called Bordeaux letter was posted on Oct. 4, 1847, by wine merchant Edward Francis in Port Louis, the Mauritius capital. It was addressed to the trading partner Duncan & Lurguie in Bordeaux, France. With stops in England, Boulogne and Paris, the letter reached its destination after 85 days on Dec. 28, 1847, and on the way, it diligently collected cancellations bearing witness to the various stages of its long journey.

After a schoolboy found the envelope in the wine merchant's archive in 1902, it changed hands several times. In 1993, it brought what was then the highest sum for a philatelic object – about \$5.5 million Cdn. Today, it remains one of the world's most valuable collector's items.

## UNITED STATES

Sept. 9 saw the release of a single stamp from the United States.

The "Happy Birthday" issue conveys exuberant greetings by calling to mind the childhood excitement of a birthday party. Each of the five letters in the word "HAPPY" is inspired by a different party decoration in the midst of a flurry of multi-coloured ribbons and confetti.



# Updated Deveney Stamps site an educational e-commerce experience



## STAMPNET

By Randy Heimpele

Shopping for stamps online is as much a part of collecting for many folks these days as organizing and sorting stamps.

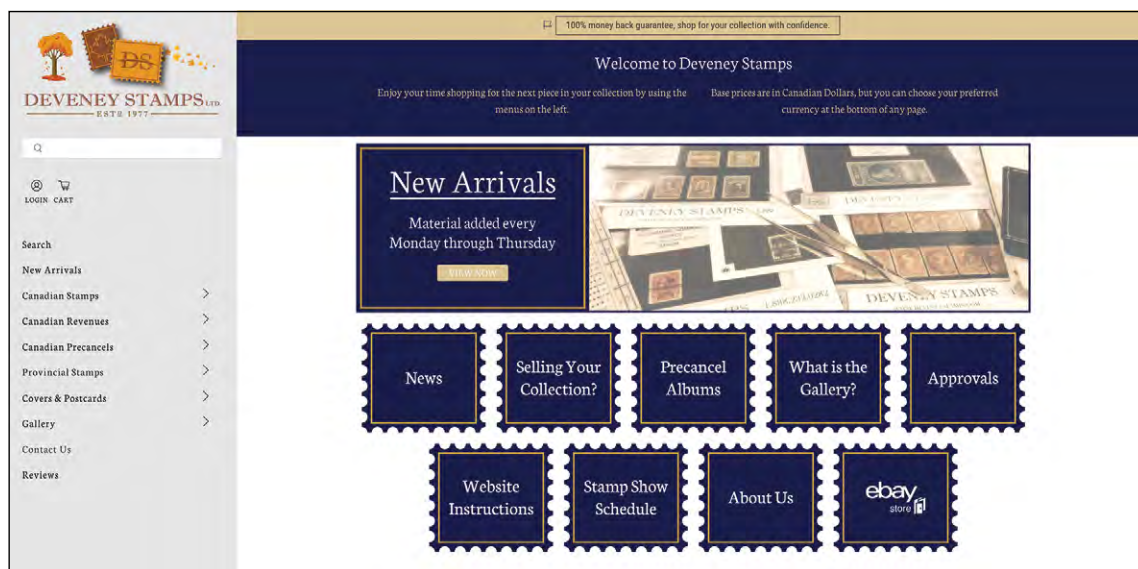
Dealers are more aware of this than ever, but selling online hasn't really changed that much over the last few years; however, top-quality websites always stand out and make doing business fun.

One interesting site I recently encountered online is owned by Deveney Stamps, a Penticton, B.C., dealer. The firm's site is [deveneystamps.com](http://deveneystamps.com), and more of its wares are also available via eBay at [ebay.ca/str/deveneystamps](http://ebay.ca/str/deveneystamps).

dian collecting areas – all self-explanatory – including “Canadian Stamps,” “Canadian Revenues,” “Canadian Precancels,” “Provincial Stamps” and “Covers and Postcards.”

The most outstanding element, however, is the array of nine blue stamp-shaped buttons making up the central portion of the homepage. These buttons are useful because the site has had lots of upgrades this past year, and the owners are determined to ensure visitors are very comfortable with the new layout.

This is why the “Website Instructions” button immediately caught my eye. This is the first



The Deveney Stamps homepage highlights the Penticton, B.C.-based stamp dealer's business with nine stamp-shaped buttons serving as the central design.

Tell us, please, before we start: how do we pay, what is the return policy, who is the manager and who is the owner? When are there discounts? Can we phone in orders? Do you have other sites?

These things are easy to display on a web shopping venue.

Meanwhile, back on the Deveney Stamps homepage, the other blue buttons include “News,” “Selling Your Collection?” “Precancel Albums,” “What is the Gallery?” “Approvals,” “Stamp Show Schedule,” “About Us” and an eBay store link.

### ABOUT DEVENEY

The second thing I always read when visiting a new site, if given the chance, is the “About Us” page.

Here, we learn the Deveney family has operated their company since 1977. They are experienced in selling Canadian philatelic varieties but also deal in worldwide stamps, too. They hail from Penticton, in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley, and have a newly renovated office now open to visitors by appointment only (due to the pandemic). The firm's security system includes a waggy dog named Jackson.

The “News” page includes essays and photo studies about stamps and stamp events. It was a pleasure to read about an outdoor stamp show held this June for the Penticton & District Stamp Club. Of course, COVID rules were strictly followed, and everyone seemed to really appreciate the opportunity to

gather for stamp fun. There are even photos to help us all share the event.

As of the time of printing, the News page featured 14 articles, all written by Kayle Deveney on a wide range of philatelic topics. It is worth a few minutes here for sure.

On the “Approvals” page, the firm highlights its approval service for people who prefer to collect this way, with real stamps in their hands. All the details are clearly laid out if you wish to join this activity.

To look at all their stamps for sale will take a long time; there are many of them listed, and they are all well displayed with high-resolution colour photos. Details of each item are listed, too.

If visitors nose about, they will encounter a list of “Phila-

telic Links” and “References,” the latter a listing of common catalogues, through the website's footer (at the bottom of every page).

The icing on the cake is the site's extensive “Gallery.” Here, there are hundreds of stamps and postal history items on display. They are beautiful, and many of them are rare. There are no values or prices in this area because the gallery items are not for sale “because in most cases these items have already sold,” according to the website.

Do visit this exceptional shop, become a member (for free, of course) and perhaps you can learn more.

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



The Deveney website features an extensive ‘Gallery’ of sold items used for educational purposes. Five sections include an array of information about stamps, covers, postcards and other postal history.

On Deveney's website, the homepage is an impressive display in tan and royal blue, starting with an immediate “Welcome” notice above a directive to view the firm's “New Arrivals” with a large button offering what regular visitors seek. New material is added every Monday through Thursday. At the very top of the homepage is Deveney's money-back guarantee so you can “shop for your collection with confidence.” Perfect.

Down the left side of each page is the site's navigation bar with nine links, the first of which is “Search.” All of the best sites have a prominent search function. The other links lead mainly to specific Cana-


time I can recall seeing this simple but essential feature on a homepage. When it's called up, the Website Instructions page offers visual tutorials of how to open an account, how to navigate the website and how to return to the homepage. The explanations are clear and simple, and even experienced web users will appreciate the efforts here – small reminders of how to save time and energy while shopping.

Oh, how I wish all website designers were so smart and respected their visitors so highly. In fact, all businesses – whether on the web or not – should have instructions on “How to Shop in this Store” posted at the entrance.

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# Cartoonists...

Continued from page 1

Designed by Réjean Myette using the cartoonists' original artwork, the stamps are a mix of colourful and black-and-white drawings, some detailed and others cartoonish, but all of them convey Canadian stories spanning several decades.

Printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company using five-colour lithography, the set has a print run of 1.6 million stamps available in 10-stamp booklets. Each stamp measures 40 millimetres by 32 millimetres (horizontal).

The set also includes five official first-day covers (OFDC), each measuring 190 millimetres by 112 millimetres and with a print run of 1,500 covers. They

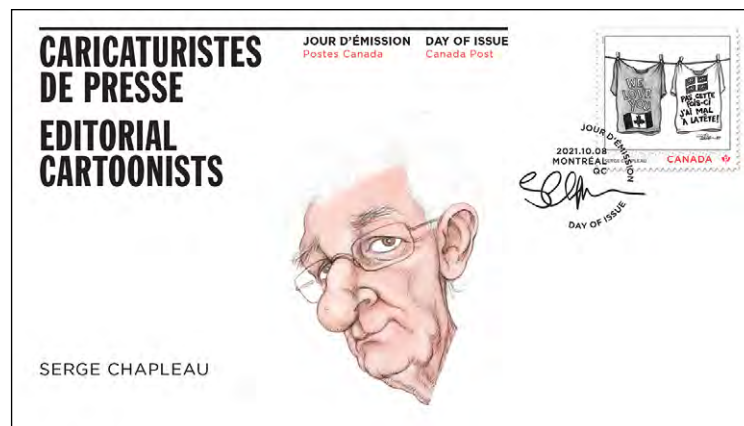
are serviced with cancels from Toronto (Gable and Macpherson), Montréal (Mosher and Chapleau) and Halifax (MacKinnon).

The entire set launched for sale at post offices and online via canadapost.ca on Oct. 8, when the Crown corporation also hosted a live panel discussion with the cartoonists and Ian Macpherson, Duncan's son.

## SERGE CHAPLEAU

On Oct. 4, the first of five stamps honoured Chapleau, the editorial cartoonist at *La Presse*, a French-language newspaper based in Montréal.

Described by Canada Post as "a true pioneer of his profession," Chapleau has drawn inspiration from prominent European cartoonists and is known for his unique style and high-



precision work. From his very first drawing, a portrait of singer Gilles Vigneault published in *Perspectives* magazine in March 1972, Chapleau became an overnight sensation and quickly established himself as one of the top cartoonists in the Montréal press. After working for various publications, including *Le Devoir*, *L'actualité* and *7 jours*, he became the staff cartoonist for the French daily *La Presse* in 1996 – a position he holds to this day.

Through more than 7,000 drawings over the past 50 years, Chapleau has made people laugh and think by conveying the zeitgeist in a single image. In 1982, as a true pioneer of his profession, he became the first cartoonist to bring his characters to life on television. First with rubber puppets and then graphic animations, his famous character Gérard D. Laflaque captivated audiences. Radio-Canada aired nearly 500 episodes of shows *Et Dieu créa... Laflaque* and then *ICI Laflaque*.

The winner of a record eight National Newspaper Awards (in the "Editorial Cartooning" category), Chapleau has published *L'année Chapleau*, a yearly collection of his best press drawings, since 1993. When he was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2015, he was recognized as "one of Canada's most innovative and respected cartoonists" and a pioneer for creating animated cartoons for TV.

The black-and-white Chapleau stamp features his 1995 cartoon, "We love you – Pas cette fois-ci j'ai mal à la tête!"

The French text reads, "Not now, I have a headache!"

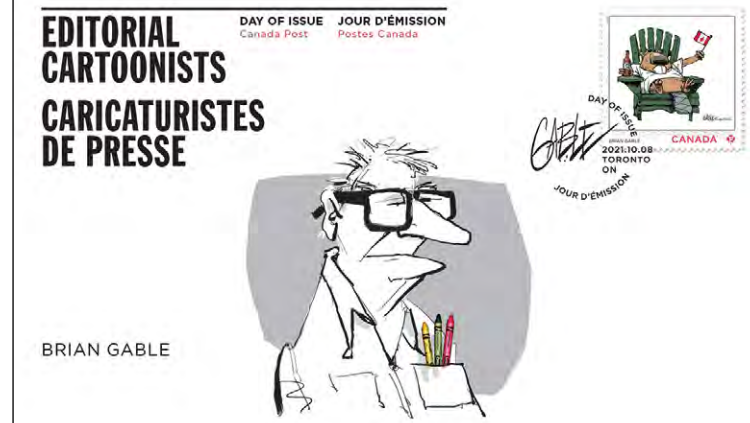
Chapleau drew it in the final days of the 1995 Québec referendum campaign, in which the federalists, who opposed the sovereignists' separatism, organized a huge rally "We love you" rally in Montréal.

"Among those in attendance were Jean Chrétien, Jean Charest and Daniel Johnson," reads the website of the McCord Museum, where the cartoon drawing is held in Montréal. "To ensure that many people from other provinces would be at the Montréal rally, organizers even chartered planes and buses, complete with discounted tickets for those willing to travel to Montréal. That move was bitterly criticized by sovereignists."

## BRIAN GABLE

On Oct. 5, Canada Post honoured Gable, an award-winning editorial cartoonist whose work over several decades with the *Globe and Mail* is widely lauded for making Canadians laugh and reflect.

Gable has been drawing his witty cartoons for daily newspapers for more than 40 years, including more than three decades as the editorial cartoonist for the *Globe and Mail*. He earned degrees in fine art and in education and penned his first published editorial cartoon for a student newspaper while in university. In 1977, he began freelancing editorial cartoons once a week for the *Brockville Recorder and Times* while teaching high school art in Brockville, Ont. In 1980, he became an editorial cartoonist for the *Regina Leader-Post*, where he worked for seven years before joining the *Globe and Mail* in 1987.



Gable captures the voices of average citizens in his cartoons and how they see decisions made by the powers that be. He regularly uses satire and sarcasm to highlight important issues facing our country and the world. He has won seven National Newspaper Awards for editorial cartooning. In 2018, he was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada. His citation stated he's "a legend within the editorial cartooning community," and his work "embodies our national sense of humour, namely our ability to laugh at ourselves and our institutions."

The colourful Gable stamp features a cartoon that Mosher called his favourite Canada Day cartoon "ever."

"It pictures a beaver drinking a beer, seated on his Muskoka chair, waving a flag – but a smallish flag (unlike say the Americans on July 4th)," Mosher tweeted on Canada Day in 2018.

## TERRY MOSHER

On Oct. 6, Canada Post unveiled the set's third stamp, this one featuring Mosher.

The long-time editorial cartoonist for the *Montréal Gazette* known as "Aislin," Mosher began his career drawing portraits and caricatures of tourists in the 1960s. He was one of the founders of Artists' Alley, an open-air gallery on Trésor Street in Québec, Qué. – a popular attraction.

Mosher freelanced editorial cartoons to the *Montréal Star* before being hired there full time in 1967. Five years later, he moved to the *Montréal Gazette*, for which he continues to draw two cartoons a week. His 52nd book – *Aislin's Favourite COVID Cartoons from Around the World* – was released this September.

Believing "no person or no thing is ever perfect," Mosher upholds cartoonists' satirical role despite the controversies

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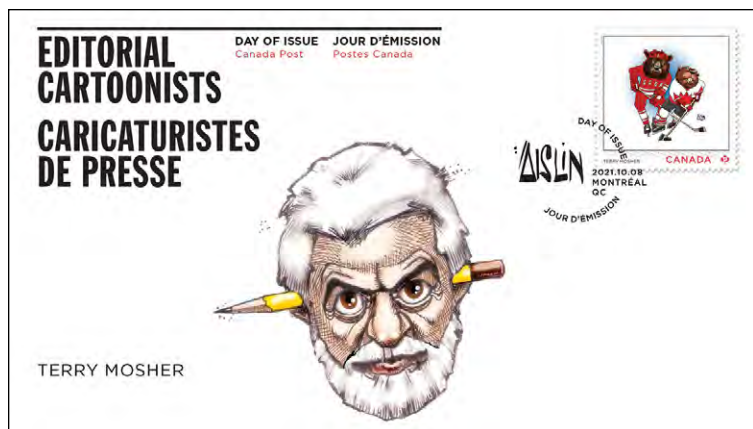
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and criticism cartoons can provoke, Canada Post quoted him as saying.

"We all have faults and weaknesses," according to Mosher. "Can we admit as much by laughing at our frailties?"

Altogether, he has drawn more than 14,000 cartoons; some have appeared in *Time*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *New York Times International Edition*, *Punch* and *National Lampoon*. He also earned two National Newspaper Awards, a gold National Magazine Award and was the youngest person to be inducted into the Canadian News Hall of Fame at age 43.

He was also inducted into the Canadian Cartoonists Hall of Fame, is the president emeritus of the Association of Canadian Cartoonists and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2002.

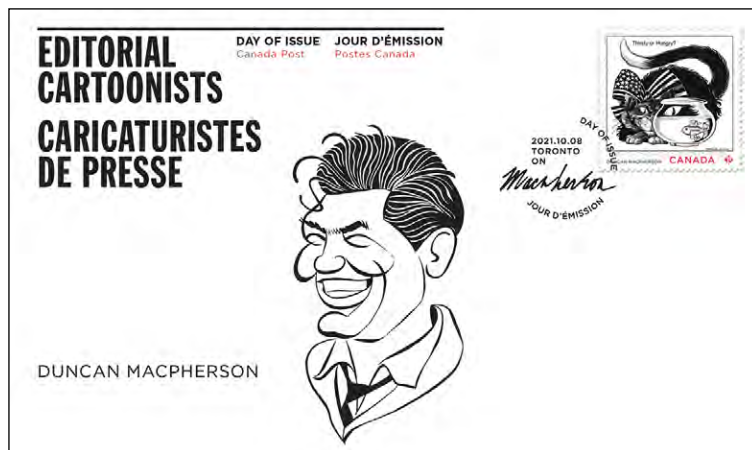
The colourful Mosher stamp features a cartoon from one of his first *Gazette* assignments – a sketchbook for the 1972 Summit Series, an eight-game hockey series between Canada and the USSR. The cartoon and stamp show a Canadian beaver squaring off against a Soviet bear on the ice.

#### DUNCAN MACPHERSON

On Oct. 7, Canada Post honoured late artist Duncan Macpherson, who died in 1993 after a decades-long career as one of the country's most influential cartoonists.

An editorial cartoonist for the *Toronto Star* for more than 30 years, Macpherson drew witty cartoons to challenge what he called "wrongness" on behalf of everyday Canadians. He also helped reshape the profession for a generation of cartoonists by being the first to hire an agent to negotiate his salary and by pushing for editorial independence. Sometimes, his cartoons opposed the editorial stance of his own newspaper.

"Having dad honoured in this way revives his memory and his name," said his son, Ian Macpherson. "I'm so proud of his achievements."



For me personally, this rediscovery of my dad's work and its influence has been a terrific experience."

The first editorial cartoonist to be invested into the Order of Canada, Macpherson received six National Newspaper Awards, the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts medal and the Canada Council for the Arts Molson Prize. He was 69 when he died in 1993.

The Macpherson stamp features his black-and-white "Thirsty or Hungry?" design, highlighting U.S. interests in Canada. It shows a large cat representing the United States sitting behind a fishbowl with the phrase "POWER RESERVOIR" along the waterline and a small fish with "CANADA" across its side.

#### BRUCE MACKINNON

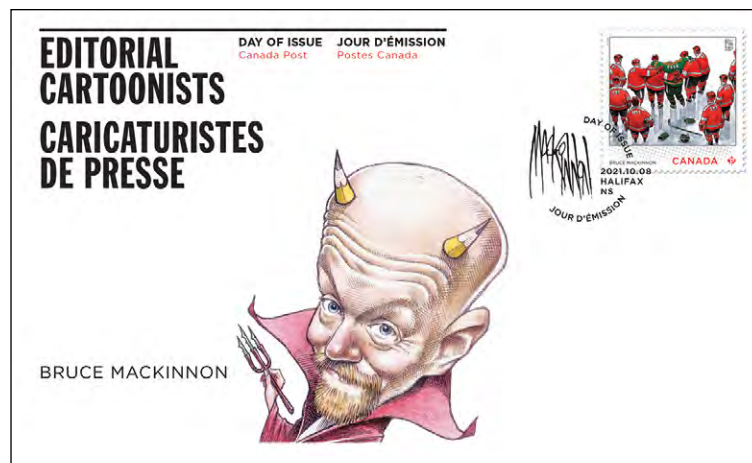
Finally, on Oct. 8, Canada Post honoured Bruce MacKinnon, of Halifax, N.S.'s *Chronicle Herald*.

Considered one of the country's "most thoughtful, talented and respected editorial cartoonists" according to Canada Post, MacKinnon had his first editorial cartoon published in his hometown weekly paper in Antigonish, N.S., when he was just 14. After he drew weekly cartoons

for the *Herald*, the paper hired him full time in 1986. Since then, he has drawn roughly 8,000 cartoons, but it is their quality that has won him numerous accolades.

His deeply touching tribute to a reservist killed at the National War Memorial in 2014 was shared around the country and the world. Four years later, his cartoon following the Humboldt Broncos bus crash also reflected the gravity of the situation in a way he called "subtle and nuanced."

His colourful Broncos-themed design is featured on the stamp.



ing (and a seventh, the inaugural Journalist of the Year Award) and the World Press Freedom International Editorial Cartoon Competition. The citation for his appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2016 describes him as "one of Canada's most skilled, empathetic and provocative editorial cartoonists."

#### COMING UP NEXT...

Canada Post's next issue is an Oct. 14 stamp marking the Crown corporation's 40th anniversary.

The annual Diwali stamp coming on Oct. 19 will be followed by Canada Post's final commemorative envelope of the year, honouring the Royal

Canadian Horse Artillery sesquicentennial, on Oct. 20.

A Valour Road issue, honouring the iconic three-kilometre street in Winnipeg's West End, will be out on Oct. 21 while a poppy stamp is due the following week on Oct. 29.

Looking ahead to November, Canada Post's final issues of the year include:

- four holiday releases featuring a Christmas angel, a reindeer, an elf and a general holiday theme;
- a Hanukkah issue on Nov. 8; one of the postponed September issues, teased as having "universal appeal," on Nov. 19; and
- the final postponed September issue, teased as a "novel topic," on Nov. 25. 🍁

# 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](http://canadianstampnews.com/events) or contact event organizers.

#### OCT. 16, ST. CATHARINES, ON

Best Western Stamp Show, Best Western Hotel, 2 North Service Rd. The Best Western Stamp Show is held in the Niagara Room of St. Catharines, Ont.'s Best Western Hotel at the corner of Lake Street at the QEW. Open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., the show is sponsored by Roy's Stamps and will feature one of the largest Canadian and the British Commonwealth stamp stocks in the country! Lots, collections and supplies are also available. Free admission, free parking and free stamp appraisals! COVID protocols will be in place as required by provincial regulations. Contact organizer Roy Houtby for more information. For more information, email [roystamp@cogeco.ca](mailto:roystamp@cogeco.ca), telephone 905-934-8377.

#### OCT. 16 - 17, CALGARY, AB

Caltapex 2021 **\*\*CANCELLED\*\*** For more information. Website: <http://www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com>.

#### OCT. 23, BARRIE, ON

Barrie Stamp Show **\*\*CANCELLED\*\*** For more information. Website: [www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca](http://www.barriedistrictstampclub.ca)

#### OCT. 23, KINGSTON, ON

Eastern Ontario Stamp Festival, Crossroads United Church, 690 Sir John A. Macdonald Blvd. The Eastern Ontario Stamp Festival, sponsored by the Kingston Stamp Club, will be held on Oct. 23 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission and parking are free, and the

show will feature dealers, door prizes, a youth booth, a consignment table and a food concession. For more information, contact chapter President Bob Gardner by phone or email or visit the club website, [kingstonstampclub.ca](http://kingstonstampclub.ca). For more information, email [bandjgardner@cogeco.ca](mailto:bandjgardner@cogeco.ca), telephone 613-389-9587. Website: [kingstonstampclub.ca](http://kingstonstampclub.ca).

#### NOV. 5 - 7, MONTRÉAL, QC

Fall Nuphilex 2021, **\*\*CANCELLED\*\*** For more information, email [montrealnuphilex@gmail.com](mailto:montrealnuphilex@gmail.com), telephone 514-889-7740. Website: [www.nuphilex.com](http://www.nuphilex.com).

#### NOV. 13, WATERLOO, ON

Stampfun 2021, Royal Canadian Legion, 316 Marsland Dr. The Waterloo Region Stamp Club will host Stampfun 2021 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. in Waterloo on Nov. 13. Visit seven dealers and browse circuit books or a table of attractively priced buy-it-now items. Parking and admission are free. For this event, all participants must complete and sign a COVID-19 declaration before entry, and masks must be worn. Please bring a government photo ID or driver's licence to provide contact tracing information. To share a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, also bring your own stamp tongs and frequently use the hand sanitizer stations. For more information, email [jocstamp@rogers.com](mailto:jocstamp@rogers.com), telephone 519-742-5892. Website: [www.waterlooregionstampclub.weebly.com](http://www.waterlooregionstampclub.weebly.com).

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# OLD TIME BARGAINS #1,023

Welcome back once again to the back page. This week look for a number of mint and used King George VI Canada specials as well as a number of new specials from Newfoundland, including scarce 19th Century proofs and 20th Century varieties. Choose the items you need and order today by phone, fax, mail or email! There are no additional charges for shipping or sales taxes and installment terms are available if needed on larger purchases. We have the new 2021 Unitrade catalogue in stock at just \$59.95 postpaid. The latest Scott catalogues are also available. Have something nice for sale? If you do, please get in touch. We are paying higher prices than ever for specialized collections and individual rarities of not only Canada and Provinces, but U.S.A., British and Foreign material as well.



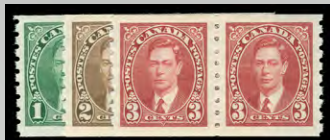
## SPECIAL OFFER #19,643

This little set of six regulars appeared in 1937 when King George VI assumed the throne. It was the first in the entire British Commonwealth

to be issued. Blocks look particularly nice. List price for these (Scott #231-236) in VF NH mint condition is \$100.00. My price is just \$39.95. A set of single stamps is \$9.99.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,644

Next here is the first coil stamp set issued during the reign of King George VI (Scott #238-240). I have some fresh well centered mint examples available. List price for a mint VF NH set of pairs is \$72.00. My price is \$39.50 only. Singles are \$19.95.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,645

Here is a full set of the 1946 Peace Issue (#268-273) in choice VF NH mint condition. The set was released to replace the high values of the War Issue which appeared four years previously. List price is \$150.00. My price is just \$69.95.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,646

The catalogue value of Scott #302, the \$1.00 Fisheries, has been bouncing around in recent years. You can now pick one up at quite a saving. List price for a VF NH mint single is \$60.00. My price is \$24.95 only. I also have a nice block of four available at \$99.00.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,647

I also have some excellent used examples of the \$1 Fisheries in stock (#302). These are VF+ very well centered with nice postmarks. List price is \$15.00+. My price is \$9.50.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,648

A small quantity of the 50¢ Textile stamp was printed on high fluorescent paper (#334i). I have some Very Fine used examples in stock. List price is \$15.00. My price is \$7.95.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,649

Here is an interesting essay from the mid-1950s, depicting an Indian head design printed in four colours – black, green, red and buff. The design was never issued, perhaps because of the high cost of printing a four colour stamp at the time. I can supply a VF NH single at \$119.00.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,650

Collectors of the Cameo Issue will appreciate this variety on the 2¢ green coil stamp. The strip of four shows cutting lines in the right margin which should have been trimmed off during production. List price for a F-VF NH strip of #406ii is \$75.00. My price is \$39.95.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,651

Here is a premium mint single of the 6½p rose (Scott #21) issued in 1861. It is in VF NH mint condition. List price is \$240.00. My price is just \$149.00.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,652

Recently we picked up a nice holding of Newfoundland proofs. These are older issues from the 1800s. First here is the 2¢ Codfish from the 1865 Issue (#24P), printed in the issued colour on india paper. List price for a very fine pair is \$200.00. My price is \$95.00. A single is \$47.50.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,653

Next here is the 12¢ Queen Victoria (#28Pi). This one is in the issued colour on card mounted india paper. List price for a very fine single is \$100.00. My price is \$49.00.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,654

I have always liked the design of the 13¢ value from this set, which depicts a schooner at sail (#30P). I have some nice proofs in the issued colour on india paper. List price for a very fine pair is \$140.00. My price is just \$69.95. A single is \$39.95.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,655

Next here is the 24¢ Queen Victoria proof, printed in the issued colour on india paper (#31P). List price for a pair in VF condition is \$130.00. My price is \$69.95. I can also supply a block of four at \$139.00 or a single for \$34.95.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,656

I also have some proofs of the 24¢ on card (#31Pi). List price for a VF pair is \$180.00. My price is \$99.00. I also have blocks of four at \$195.00 and singles at \$49.50.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,657

The six cent issue of 1870 is a lovely, engraved stamp with a beautifully balanced design. Here is one (#35P) in a rich carmine rose shade, the same colour eventually issued years later in 1894. List price is \$70.00. My price for a choice Very Fine+ example is just \$46.95.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,658

Here is a scarce plate proof pair of the 1908 Map Stamp (#86P), printed in the issued colour on card mounted india paper. List price for the pair in VF condition is \$200.00. My price is just \$99.00. I also have a single at \$49.95 or a block of four at \$195.00.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,659

Here is a seldom seen variety on the 5¢ Caribou Issue from the First Resources Issue (191). It is printed in an unusual pale shade of violet and shows an inverted watermark variety. It is a scarce item and currently unlisted in Unitrade. The Walsh catalogue lists it as #182d at US\$80.00. Old Bileski retail value was \$200.00. My price for a F-VF NH single is just \$49.95.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,660

Also from the First Resources Issue is this 10¢ value (#193). It is printed in black rather than olive black as issued. It is believed that only one sheet was printed, likely as a trial colour. Bileski retail was \$100.00. My price is \$49.95.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,661

Here is another inverted watermark variety, this time on the 4¢ Princess Elizabeth from the 1938 issue (#247iii). List price for a F-VF NH mint single is \$112.50. My price is \$49.95.

## SPECIAL OFFER #19,662

You may need this interesting variety on the 5¢ Caribou from the Second Resources Issue (#257ix). This is printed on the thinner paper normally used by Waterlow but with the 13.5 perforations normally employed at Perkins Bacon. It was only discovered in recent years. List price for a VF NH mint single is \$225.00. My price is \$129.00. I also have a nice block of four in stock at \$495.00.



## SPECIAL OFFER #19,663

Also from the Second Resources Issue is the 15¢ Harp Seal printed in a lovely deep red violet aniline shade (Walsh #245b – US\$225.00). This item appears to have been a colour trial that was rejected owing to the thickness of the ink and the resulting blurry print. My price for a F-VF NH mint single is just \$69.95.

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