



In This Issue

Thanks	49
ESG Website	49
2003 Unitrade	49
Auxano Shopping Cart	49
VGG Foundation website	49
Canada Post News	50
Study Group Business	51
Year of the Ram	51
2003 Stamp Program	52
48c Flag bklt of 30	53
Error on BNAPEX ovpt	54
Market Place	55
2002 Canada Post Packs	56
Wilding Paper Texture	58
Covers	61
Trades Barcodes Sizes	62
Environment Tag Flaws	63
Non-denominated	64

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Thanks

A special (and belated) thanks to Arlene Sullivan for putting together the annual *Corgi Times* index that was included with the last issue.

Somehow my paragraph thanking her, and Andrew Chung (for passing along many of the illustrations used in the last issue) ended up in the computer netherworld. My apologies to both for their continued support of our newsletter. ♣

ESG Website

Bob Lane, the webmaster of the BNAPS website (www.bnaps.org), has asked the individual Study Groups to provide specific information about their particular group's collecting interests.

I have started to prepare information that may be relevant to our group. It can be found at:

www.adminware.ca/esg/esg-intro.htm

These pages are still 'under construction' — the terminology page still needs work and appropriate illustrations.

Whether you have internet access or not, I would welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we can better promote our group to other collectors via this medium. ♣

2003 Unitrade

The *2003 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* showed up in early December (just after the last issue of the *Corgi Times* was mailed).

It features the same size as was introduced in the 2002 edition. The colours on several pages are still as poor as they were in the last edition. Although the mistakes from last year were fixed, new ones were introduced! Too bad. ♣

Auxano Shopping Cart

In the last issue of *Corgi Times* I mentioned that the Saskatoon Stamp Centre had sold all of their literature (including the BNAPS book department) to Auxano Philatelic Services.

Auxano has just recently introduced an on-line shopping cart. It uses the same style and format as introduced by Saskatoon Stamp Centre, the previous BNAPS book department. This familiar interface makes it easy for those of us that have ordered BNAPS titles in the past. ♣

Vincent Greene Foundation

We've just received word that the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation, Canada's premiere expertization service, has introduced a website:

www.greenefoundation.ca



Paper Texture of Wilding
Definitives
See page 58

Who are We?

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

Our journal, the *Corgi Times* is published 6 times a year.

With the exception of the 1967–73 *Centennial Definitives*, we study all aspects of Canadian philately during the Elizabethan era.

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Canada Post News

Do we like more stamps being issued by Canada? Sure we do! Every new issue is a part of the Elizabethan era — right up our alley. Here is what Canada Post is up to these days...

Definitive Reprints on the way

Two of the three definitive reprints announced in the last issue of the *Corgi Times*, to be released on December 13th, were to be delayed until February 3rd:

- < \$1 Loon
- < \$2 Polar Bear

We will have full details of these, including any differences from the original printings, after they are released.



Canada Postal Guide On-Line

Here is an interesting reference tool found on Canada Post's website: the *Canada Postal Guide*. I heard about this from a Canada Post employee.

www.canadapost.ca/postalguide

A direct link to the table of contents is:

www.canadapost.ca/business/tools/pg/downloads/down01-e.asp

For the moment, the item of particular interest to me was Section E, Chapter 5 — *Philatelic Products*. This particular section includes the issue dates for most of the remaining stamps to be issued this year (they are included in this issue's Canada Post 2003 Stamp Program, found on page 52).

The *Canada Postal Guide* contains detailed information on products and services offered by Canada Post, including to the USA and International destinations.

You will need Adobe's free *Acrobat Reader* program to view the PDF files. ♣

Corgi Times

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Study Group Business

New members

A warm welcome to the following member:

Jeremy Mierka

E-mail changes/additions

John Arn

JohnDArn@attbi.com

Planning Calendar

This is a listing of major exhibitions and bourses with a large content of both Canadian Exhibits and Canadian dealers. Minimum listing criteria: two day event; 1000 page exhibition; 18 dealer bourse with 50% offering Canadian material.

The goal is to list events far in advance to encourage either exhibiting or attendance and preferably both.

2003

Sep 25–28: BNAPEX 2003. London, Ontario.

Year of the Ram

Canada Post's most interesting stamp issue of the year — at least in terms of *shape* — the Year of the Ram, issued January 3, 2003, has an error on *every* souvenir sheet.

The UPC barcode, sticking out on an attached tab at the lower right corner of the souvenir sheet, is actually the barcode assigned to the *first day cover* for the souvenir sheet.

I found out the hard way — I purchased three souvenir sheets, paid on my Visa card, took them home, then checked the bill. The bill said 'FDC' and I was charged \$2.25 per item, instead of the \$1.25 face value of the souvenir sheet. I *then* heard from Canada Post what the problem was. They noted that a replacement barcode, printed on a slip of paper, would be distributed to all post offices for any future sales. *The souvenir sheet is not being reprinted to correct this error.*



S/S barcode



FDC barcode



Year of the Ram

Top left: S/S and FDC barcodes (actual size)

Lower left: Souvenir sheet, with barcode tab attached by rouletting at lower right corner

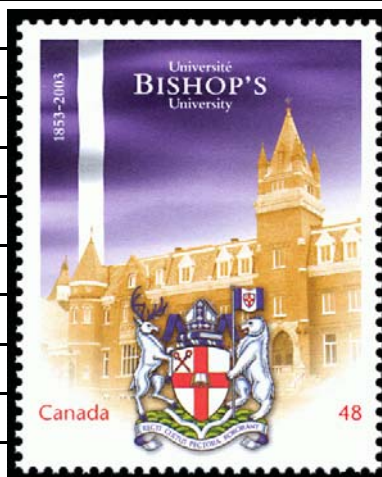
Right: First Day Cover of souvenir sheet (front and back), with barcode at lower right on back

Canada Post 2003 Stamp Program

Issue dates are subject to change by Canada Post. Shaded entries are changed/new from the last time we presented this list.

Issue dates taken from the *Canada Postal Guide — January 2003* via the Canada Post's website

Issued	Description	Scott#
Jan 3	48¢ Year of the Ram \$1.25 Year of the Ram souvenir sheet	
Jan	48¢ Flag over Canada Post Building (booklet of 30) <i>reprint</i> with revised text on back cover (philatelic version)	
Jan 18	48¢ National Hockey League, 6 designs < pane of 6 (water activated) < booklet pane of 6 (self-adhesive)	
Jan 28	48¢ Bishop's University in Lennoxville, Quebec (150th anniversary) - booklet of 8 [two different barcodes on cover]	
Feb 3	\$1 Loon \$2 Polar Bear	Reprints [delayed from Dec 13/02]
Feb 21	John James Audubon < 4x48¢ (pane) < 65¢ Gyrfalcon (booklet panel of 6)	
Mar 3	48¢ Canadian Rangers, military reservists	
Mar 4	48¢ University of Victoria - booklet of 8	
Mar 19	48¢ University of Western Ontario (125th anniversary) - booklet of 8	
Mar 25	48¢ American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association of Canada	
Mar/Apr	48¢ St. Francis Xavier University (150th anniversary) - booklet of 8	
May 5	Jean-Paul Riopelle	
May 30	Volunteer Fire Fighters	
Jun 2	Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II	
Jun 12	Tourist Attractions - booklets of 5 (USA and International rate)	
Jun 20	Macdonald Institute (100th anniversary) - booklet of 8	
Jul 9	Pedro da Silva	
Jul 21	The Lutheran World Federation Tenth Assembly	
Jul 25	Korean War, 1950–1953	
Sep 8	National Library — Authors	
Sep 10	World Road Cycling Championships	
Sep	University of Montréal (125th anniversary)	
Oct 1	Canadian Astronauts	
Oct 4	National Trees	
Nov 4	Christmas	



In light of the events of February 1st, it will be interesting to see if Canada Post sticks with its plans of honouring Canada's Astronauts with an issue on October 1. The preliminary images that I have seen for this issue illustrate the astronauts *and* mention them by name on the stamp. As far as I can recall, this would be the first time that a living Canadian would be so honoured.

Canada Post 2002 Stamp Program

Scott numbers as of the January 2003 *Scott Stamp Monthly* (Jan 13/03)

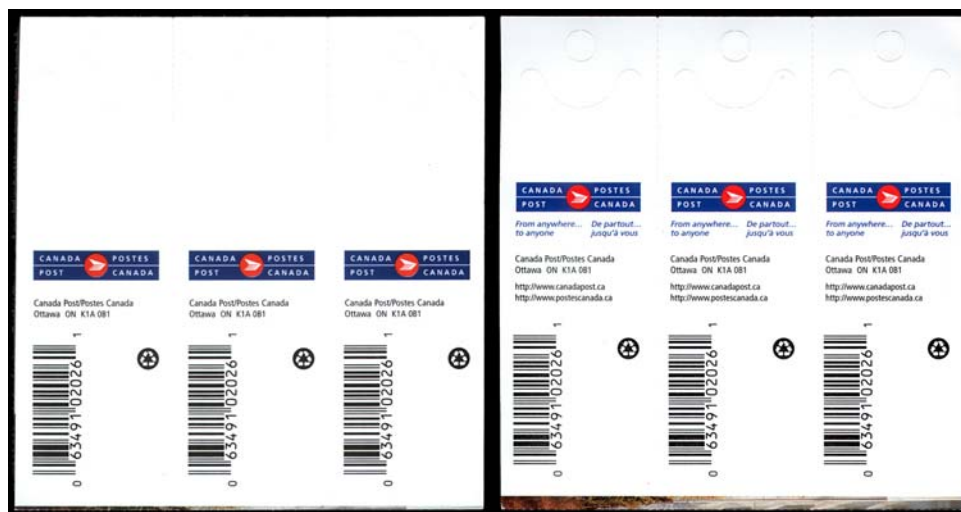
Issued	Description	Scott#
Jul 5	48¢ Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association 100th anniversary, pane of 16	1956
Jul 23	48¢ World Youth Day (self-adhesive booklet of 8) (two different barcodes on cover)	1957
Aug 30	48¢ Tulips (souvenir sheet) — stamps are gummed and perforated	1947
Sep 4	48¢ Public Services International World Congress	1958
Sep 10	48¢ Public Pensions 75th anniversary	1959
Oct 1	48¢ Stamp Collecting Month (Year of the Mountain, set of 8 stamps)	1960a–h
Oct 4	48¢ World Teacher's Day	1961
Oct 24	48¢ Toronto Stock Exchange 150th anniversary	1962
Oct 31	48¢ Communications technology (2 stamps: Guglielmo Marconi & 100th anniversary of the Pacific Cable/Sir Sandford Fleming)	
Nov 4	48¢, 65¢, \$1.25 Christmas: Aboriginal Art < panes of 25 < booklets (48¢ is pane of 10; others are panes of 6) (two different barcodes on cover)	
Nov 7	48¢ Quebec Symphony Orchestra Centennial	
Dec 13	2¢ Traditional Trades (Decorative Ironwork), with barcode in pane selvedge	Reprint

48¢ Flag over Canada Post Building — *philatelic* booklet reprint

It took awhile, but the *philatelic* version of the 48¢ Flag over Canada Post Building booklet of 30 has been reprinted.

This booklet, issued in both field and philatelic versions, was first released Jan 2, 2002. The field stock version was reprinted in Mar 2002. The reprint has a revised back cover which carries a bit more descriptive text featuring a brief advertising slogan and the Canada Post's website URL.

There are two ways to differentiate field vs philatelic stock: field stock is *sealed* whereas philatelic stock is *unsealed*; the barcodes on the back cover are different between field and philatelic.



48¢ Flag Booklet of 30		
	Field Sealed	Philatelic Unsealed
barcode:	... 02025 4	... 02026 1
Original	Jan 2, 2002	Jan 2, 2002
Reprint	Mar 2002	Jan 2003

48¢ Flag booklet of 30 — philatelic version

Left: original printing released Jan 2, 2002

Right: revised printing (philatelic stock) first seen in mid January, 2003

Major Error Discovered on BNAPEX Overprint

by: Joseph Monteiro

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Introduction

The dream of every collector is to find a major error. I have often dreamed about it and several times have asked myself: Am I so unlucky that in my entire career collecting stamps I have not been able to find a major error? My luck is perhaps changing, I discovered a major error. The discovery was purely accidental. I shall describe how I discovered this error.

The Story of the Discovery of the BNAPEX Overprint

I was sitting in my office doing my work and I received an e-mail from the editor of *BNA Topics*. He indicated he liked my recent article on the 'MacDonald Overprint...' in the *Corgi Times* and would like to reprint the article in the *BNA Topics*. He indicated that I could expand the article if I wished. I agreed and decided to expand the article to include a section on Overprints in Australia. However, since the article contained an illustration of the overprint which was not very good, I had to scan a picture of it and send it to the editor.

I scanned the picture and decided to keep a photocopy of the printed set of marginal inscriptions of the BNAPEX overprint which I purchased at the BNAPEX auction for further inspection. I photocopied it as I did not want to handle the stamps due to the fear of damaging it. Further, I thought perhaps I should write an article on varieties of this overprint or further extend my article for the *BNA Topics*. I took the photocopy home and casually examined it and decided that I should include a subsection on varieties for the *BNA Topics* so that readers may get as much new information on the subject as possible. I



BNAPEX overprint on 1¢ Macdonald stamp.

categorized the varieties of the BNAPEX overprint and took the photocopied pictures with me and sat in front of the television with occasional glances at the television. Then my eyes fell on one of the marginal inscriptions and found there was something odd with two stamps. One of the consecutive overprints had the incorrect date. I dismissed my observation, as perhaps my wish to find a major error was getting the better of me, as theoretically there was no logical reason why this should occur. Perhaps, all the inscriptions had alternating dates. This then led to a very close examination of all the overprints of the six strips of twenty marginal inscriptions that I had won at the auction. My initial finding was correct this was a major error. The incorrect overprint was very clear, it was not in an area that made it illegible. This is shown in the illustration. In the remainder of this article, I shall describe this major BNAPEX error and the varieties of the BNAPEX overprint.

Major Error of the BNAPEX Overprint

BNAPEX 2001 overprinted the pre-cancelled 1-cent Sir John A. Macdonald stamp for its philatelic event in Ottawa. Six sheets were printed in total, three of these sheets had a different overprint showing the date of the show, for each of the days it lasted. The overprint appearing on the stamps for the first day of the event was 'BNAPEX 2001/Ottawa, ON/2001-08-31' in three lines. The dates for each of the other days of the show shown on the stamp are: 2001-09-01 or 2001-09-02. Each set of stamps was sold at the show for about six dollars. Only 200 sets exist. One set of the marginal strips of the sheets were auctioned to a collector and the other sold to a pre-cancelled stamp collector, so only 120 sets were available for sale as individual sets of stamps or blocks of four.

One major error occurred of the BNAPEX overprint. The date on one of the overprints was incorrect. Instead of being 2001-09-01 it appears as 2001-09-02. As a result, the overprint on all the stamps in the pane is 2001-09-01 and on one stamp it is 2001-09-02. It appears on the sixth row and on the second column. It is difficult to speculate why this error occurred. The overprints on the other stamps (that I have examined) in the same row appear to be right. This error only has value in conjunction with the other correctly overprinted stamps because other stamps with the date 2001-09-02 exist on another pane.

Varieties of the BNAPEX Overprint

A number of varieties of the BNAPEX overprint exist. The varieties for each of the three overprints will be briefly examined.

The overprint for the first day (i.e., August 31) has four basic varieties: 1) BNAPEX 200 appears on some stamps (with the missing 1 appearing before BNAPEX on the adjacent stamp); 2) The date on the stamp appears as 2001-08-3 (the 1 after 3 has been cut off) ; 3) BNAPEX 2001 appears between the pre-cancelled lines with the rest of the overprint below the pre-cancelled lines; and 4) BNAPEX 2001/Ottawa, ON appears between the pre-cancelled lines with the rest of the overprint below the pre-cancelled lines.

The overprint for the second day (i.e., September 1) has five basic varieties: 1) NAPEX 2001 appears on some stamps; 2) BNAPEX 200 appears on some stamps (with the missing 1 appearing before BNAPEX on the adjacent stamp); 3) The date on the stamp appears as 2001-08-0 (the 1 after 0 does not appear very visible); 4) BNAPEX 2001 appears between the pre-cancelled lines with the rest of the overprint below the pre-cancelled lines; and 5) BNAPEX 2001/Ottawa, ON appears between the pre-cancelled lines with the rest of the overprint below the pre-cancelled lines.

The overprint for the third day (i.e., September 2) has four basic varieties: 1) NAPEX 2001 appears on some stamps; 2) BNAPEX 200 appears on some stamps (with the missing 1 appearing before BNAPEX on the adjacent stamp); 3) BNAPEX 2001 appears between the pre-cancelled lines with the rest of the overprint below the pre-cancelled lines; and 4) BNAPEX 2001/Ottawa, ON appears between the pre-cancelled lines with the rest of the overprint below the pre-cancelled lines.

In none of the above overprints does BNAPEX 2001 appear above the first pre-cancelled line. In some cases (i.e., the third day) the overprint appears on the top pre-cancelled line. In none of the above overprints does the date appear between the pre-cancelled lines. In some cases (i.e., the third day) the overprint appears on the bottom pre-cancelled lines. Perhaps, some varieties exist on stamps that were not examined by me.

Concluding Remarks

Examination of stamps occasionally has its pay-back. The odds of finding a major error are extremely small and while most philatelists dream of such finds, remember nothing is impossible. Keep thinking that Lady Luck will one day come your way and perhaps your dreams may come true! I always dreamt of finding a major error and like W. F. Balcom who discovered the 'Jet surcharge' error that was missing on one stamp another overprint error has been discovered though not quite dramatic.

Bibliography

1. Monteiro, Joseph, "The MacDonald Overprint Adds to the List of Unauthorized Overprints", *Corgi Times*, The Elizabethan II Study Group Newsletter, Volume X, Issue No. 6, May-June 2002, pp. 94-96.
2. Monteiro, Joseph, "The MacDonald Overprint Adds to the List of Unauthorized Overprints", *BNA Topics*, Volume 59, 2002.

Elizabethan II Market Place

Classified listings in the Market Place are \$1.00 for 25 words. Additional words are 5¢ each. Camera ready display ads (preferably 300dpi, black and white TIFF scans) pertaining primarily to the Elizabethan era will be accepted at the following rates: 1/8 page \$5.00; 1/4 page \$8.00; 1/2 page \$15.00 and a full page at \$30.00. 25% discount for four consecutive insertions of the same ad. Full payment must accompany ad. Payment in Canadian funds to: Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: Robin Harris, 770 Inkster Blvd, Winnipeg, MB R2W 0L5, Canada. ♣

Limited Edition Items in the 2002 Canada Post Collection Packs

by: Brian Cannon

Last year I wrote about the different stamp varieties that appeared only in the quarterly pre-packed collections or the annual Collection Canada album (see *Corgi Times*, Mar–Apr 2002, Vol X, #5, page 79). These particular stamps differ in some way from the original releases available at post offices and philatelic counters.

The differences are usually caused by the need to easily and quickly produce single stamp items or booklet panes for the packs or albums, and these days this usually involves self-adhesive stamps

For the year 2002, it was almost identical to 2001. Five different unique collectibles have been identified.

First Quarter

Two of the unique items are found in the first quarter pack. A single **48¢ Flag definitive** stamp from the booklet pane of 10 or 20 or 30, released on Jan 2, 2002 was included. However, the stamp is different from a single taken from the regular post office booklets, as it includes the surrounding paper. This was removed during the printing process of the regular issues. Robin Harris has covered this variety extensively in the July-August and November-December issues of *Corgi Times*.

It is rather odd that the paper was left on for the philatelic version, but perhaps it was to simplify production. The paper was removed on the normal version to allow easier removal from the backing during postal use. Perhaps it was stripped off during the folding process. And likely the philatelic version was created from uncut, unfolded sheets with the backing still intact – it would be a waste of time to attempt to remove it manually.

As in 2001, the other variety to appear in the first quarter pack was the **48¢ non-denominated Picture Postage Issue**. The set of five with accompanying labels was again enclosed in miniature sheet format without the cover or any glue on the back.



Jan-Mar 2002 Quarterly Pack

The first quarter collection cost \$15.20 to get the two varieties – plenty of good postage left over.

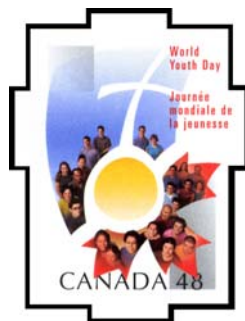
Second Quarter

The second quarter pack does not appear to contain anything over and above the normal. However, the self-adhesive **Tulips booklet** is represented by a cut pane of four from the normal booklet of eight, which was released as single pane of eight, separated by a rouletted gutter and folded along it. It would be interesting to determine if the booklet used for the packet had the rouletted bend guide. All the panes I have seen have the bottom half and do not have any signs of the rouletting. Does anyone have any top halves (or perhaps bottoms) that show it?

The two **Tourist Attractions** self-adhesive booklets were also in the second quarter pack, both being the philatelic unsealed variety.



Apr-Jun 2002 Quarterly Pack



Third Quarter

The third quarter release contained one item of significance. A commemorative booklet of eight self-adhesives stamps was issued for **World Youth Day**. These stamps were die-cut to the shape of a cross over a rectangle. As per the 47¢ Toronto Blue Jays stamp last year, the single stamp included in the pack was cut right through, to the shape of the stamp, making it a distinct collectable variety.

This pack cost only \$3.84, which also included the Tulips souvenir sheet and several other 48c commemorative stamps.



Jul-Sep 2002 Quarterly Pack

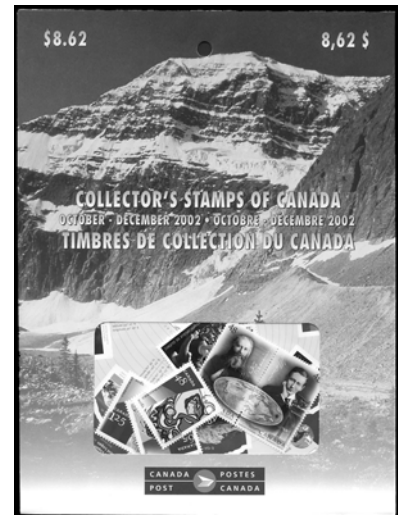
Fourth Quarter

The fourth quarter pack did not contain any unusual items. It does contain the complete **Mountains souvenir sheet**, which is sold out at most post offices across Canada.

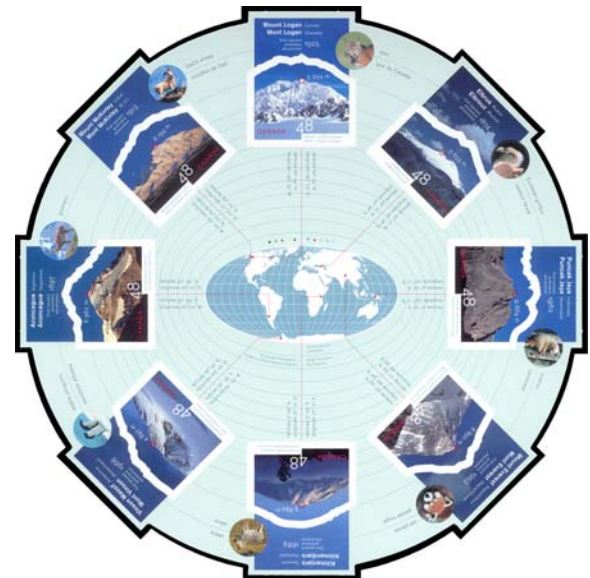
2002 Collection Canada Album

The annual Collection Canada Album contains all three of the above unique varieties, and in addition, it contains unfolded panes of the two self-adhesive **Tourist booklets**, 5 x 65¢ and 5 x \$1.25. Both panes are cut to a smaller size, removing the descriptive text at the top and the margin at the bottom. These of course are major varieties, in that they are unfolded between the top two and bottom three stamps. Remember, the second quarter pack included folded versions of the complete book, so the only way to obtain the unfolded version is by purchasing the complete year album, which costs \$49.95.

As you may recall last year, the 2001 Tourist Attractions were treated in a similar manner.



Oct-Dec 2002 Quarterly Pack



Paper Texture of Wilding Definitives

by: Robert J. Elias

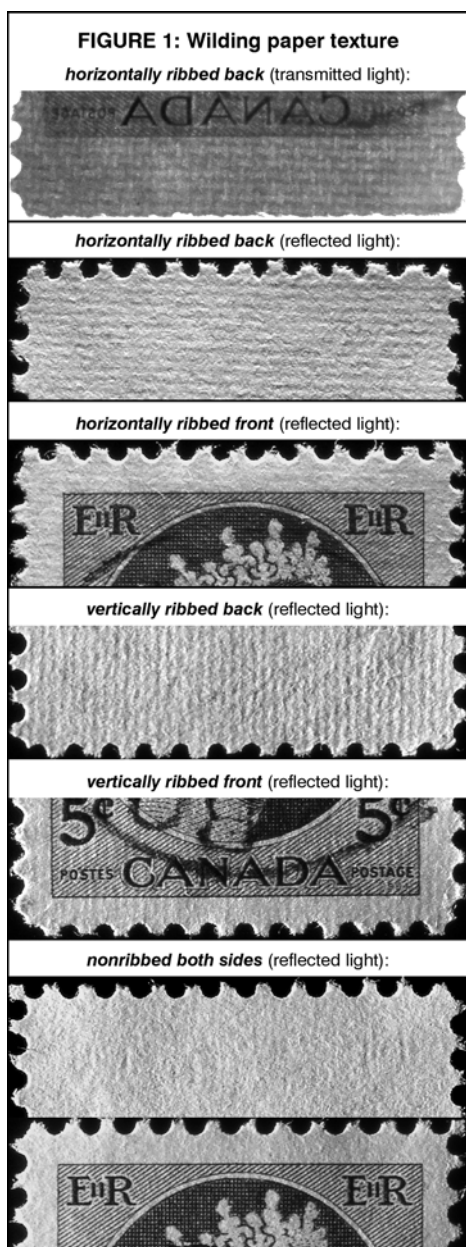


All stamps in the 1¢ to 6¢ Wilding series of 1954 to 1962/63 were printed on wire-weave paper made by E.B. Eddy Company Limited. Wire mesh on the paper-manufacturing press generally left an impression on the product [1]. As shown in Figure 1, the appearance of the wire mesh can be revealed by transmitting light through such paper. When observed in the usual way, using reflected light, the paper appears to have a ribbed texture.

Others have previously recognized that ribbing on these stamps may be horizontal or vertical (see Fig. 1), and that there are differences among the various Wilding formats. For example, stamps from booklet panes are horizontally ribbed, whereas those from coils and miniature panes are vertically ribbed [1,2]. Robin Harris [2] demonstrated a relationship between plate configuration and the direction of ribbing. Stamps from sheets on which post-office panes were printed four per plate (2 columns, 2 rows) are horizontally ribbed. All denominations were produced from such plates, beginning in 1954. Stamps from sheets on which post-office panes were printed six per plate (3 columns, 2 rows) are vertically ribbed. Only the 1¢, 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ denominations were produced from such plates, beginning in or after May 1958.

In order to advance the study of paper texture, I have examined a total of several hundred thousand used stamps (free of gum) from various sources. Cancellations on some stamps indicate that the material originated from across Canada and spanned the entire Wilding era. Ribbing is usually conspicuous, occurring on either the back or front of a stamp (see Fig. 1). The opposite side is typically smooth, although in some cases the grooves on the ribbed side are so deeply impressed that weak corrugation is evident. Ribbing appears to be subtle on some stamps, particularly if it occurs on the front. In a small proportion of cases, ribbing is imperceptible and the paper seems to be nonribbed (smooth on both sides). Thus, I have found that it is possible to distinguish stamps that are ribbed on the back, ribbed on the front, and nonribbed. Does this aspect of paper texture differ among the various Wilding formats and denominations? Were changes made during the Wilding era?

To answer these questions, I identified the paper texture of over 13,000 stamps showing the year of cancellation. The stamps from regular post-office panes will be considered first (Figs. 2A-C). The 1¢, 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ Wildings were found to have similar histories, so data for these denominations are grouped together in Figure 2A. Usage of stamps with a horizontally ribbed front started in 1954 (on the dates of issue). For the initial printings, therefore, paper was fed to the printing press with the ribbed side facing the plate. After 1956, usage of stamps having this texture declined rapidly over a two year period. Wildings with a horizontally ribbed back began to appear in 1955, indicating that paper was being fed to the press with the ribbed side facing away from the plate. Such stamps were initially rare, accounting for just 0.5% of all 1¢, 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ stamps dated 1955. My only examples are a 1¢ (Ontario cancellation), and four 2¢ stamps cancelled in December (two at Carman and one at Beausejour, Manitoba; one in Ontario). Stamps with this texture seem to have been introduced gradually, becoming common in 1957 and dominant in 1958. Their usage then declined rapidly over a two year period.



Wildings with a vertically ribbed back began to appear in 1958 (see Fig. 2A), but account for just 0.1% of all 1¢, 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ stamps used that year. My only two examples represent the 4¢ denomination, one cancelled in Ontario and the other dated December 17 in Vancouver, B.C. This change in the direction of ribbing records the introduction of stamps that were printed from plates having the new configuration, but still with the ribbed side facing away from the plate. Stamps having this texture became dominant in 1959 and remained so thereafter. A small proportion of Wildings have a vertically ribbed front, indicating that paper was sometimes fed to the press with the ribbed side facing the plate. My earliest example is a 5¢ cancelled on July 1, 1960 in Manitoba. Most stamps having this texture date from 1960-61, suggesting limited production during a short time-interval. Usage then declined rapidly over a two year period.

A small proportion of 1¢, 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ Wildings are nonribbed (see Fig. 2A). The overall pattern of usage shows a peak in 1954 and another in 1960-61. These peaks coincide with the introduction of stamps having a horizontally ribbed front and a vertically ribbed front, respectively. Interestingly, the 2¢ denomination shows only the later peak. Nonribbed texture has previously been attributed to pulp of thicker consistency, which did not take on the wire impression during the paper-manufacturing process [1]. Another possibility is that ribbing on the front may in some cases have been obscured by the printing process, resulting in paper that seems to be nonribbed. This is consistent with the discovery that nonribbed stamps appeared at the same times as stamps having a ribbed front, and with the observation that ribbing may be particularly subtle if it occurs on the front of a stamp.

As seen in Figure 2B, usage of 3¢ Wildings having a horizontally ribbed front began in 1954 (on the date of issue) and continued until 1958, when it essentially ended. For the early printings, therefore, paper was fed to the press with the ribbed side facing the plate. Stamps having a horizontally ribbed back began to appear in 1958, but are uncommon in that year. My only example bears a December cancellation. Stamps having this texture appeared in abundance from 1959 on, indicating that all printing was being done with the ribbed side facing away from the plate. A small proportion of 3¢ Wildings are nonribbed. Their usage from 1954-58 coincides with that of stamps having a horizontally ribbed front, supporting the new interpretation of nonribbed texture that was presented above.

Every 6¢ Wilding that I have seen has a horizontally ribbed front (beginning on the date of issue in 1954), indicating that paper was always fed to the printing press with the ribbed side facing the plate. This is the only denomination that was discontinued during the Wilding era. On October 23, 1958 it was announced that the remaining stock would not be replaced following depletion [3]. As seen in Figure 2C, usage declined rapidly over the next two years, essentially ending in 1960.

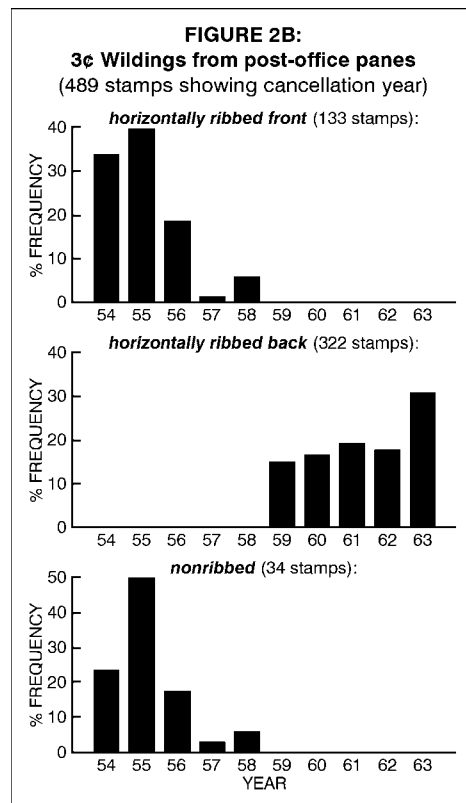
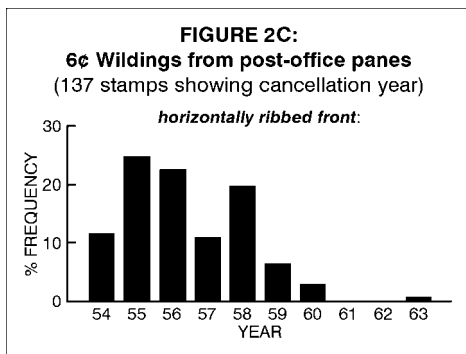
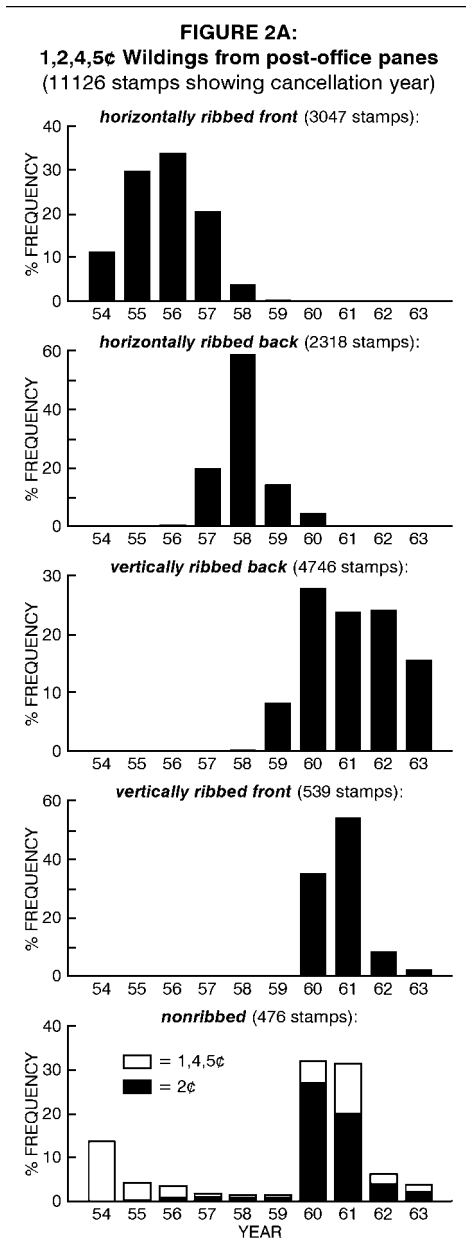
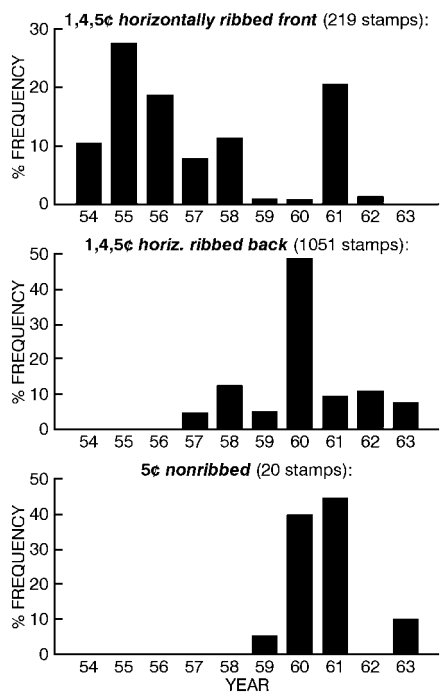


FIGURE 3: Wildings from booklet panes
(1290 stamps showing cancellation year)

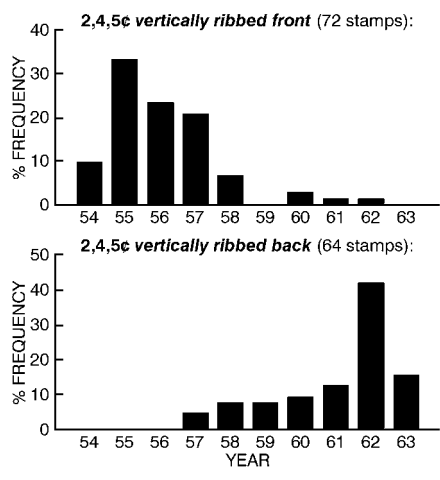


Wildings from 1¢, 4¢ and 5¢ booklet panes will be considered next. As seen in Figure 3, these stamps initially had a horizontally ribbed front (beginning in 1954-56). For the early printings, therefore, paper was fed to the press with the ribbed side facing the plate. Usage of stamps having this texture was generally minimal after 1958. However, a peak in 1961 (which can be attributed to the 5¢ denomination) suggests that there may have been an additional limited production yielding this texture. Stamps with a horizontally ribbed back began to appear in 1957 and are common thereafter. My earliest example is a 5¢ cancelled March 22, 1957 at Rockingham Station, N.S. Stamps having this texture indicate that paper was being fed to the press with the ribbed side facing away from the plate. A very small proportion of 5¢ stamps are nonribbed. Nearly all date from 1960-61, about the time of the late peak in stamps having a horizontally ribbed front.

Every Wilding 2¢, 4¢ and 5¢ coil stamp that I have examined is vertically ribbed. As seen in Figure 4, ribbing was initially on the front (beginning in 1954). For the early printings, therefore, paper was fed to the press with the ribbed side facing the plate. Usage of stamps having this texture was minimal after 1958. My earliest example with a vertically ribbed back is a 5¢ cancelled on March or May 25, 1957. Stamps having this texture subsequently became dominant, indicating that printing was being done with the ribbed side facing away from the plate.

All stamps that I have seen from 2¢ and 5¢ Wilding miniature panes (beginning in 1961) have a vertically ribbed back. This indicates that paper was always fed to the printing press with the ribbed side facing away from the plate.

FIGURE 4: Wildings from coils
(136 stamps showing cancellation year)



In conclusion, this research demonstrates the importance of paper texture in the classification and study of Wilding definitives. The direction of ribbing (horizontal or vertical) and the side on which ribbing occurs (front or back) are both significant. They were determined by the orientation of paper with respect to the plate during the printing process. Stamps showing nonribbed texture seem to be related to those having a ribbed front. The various paper types appeared during distinct periods within the Wilding era, and there are notable differences among certain denominations and formats.

- [1] R.M. Fournier, K. Rose, and M. Milos, 1996. *The Early Elizabethan Era, 1952-1972, Part I*. In M. Milos (ed.), *Canadian Stamp Handbooks*.
- [2] D.R. Harris, 1998. *1952-53 Karsh, 1954-62 Wilding, 1962-66 Cameo Definitives*.
- [3] 1958. *Death of a Stamp* (philatelic cover).



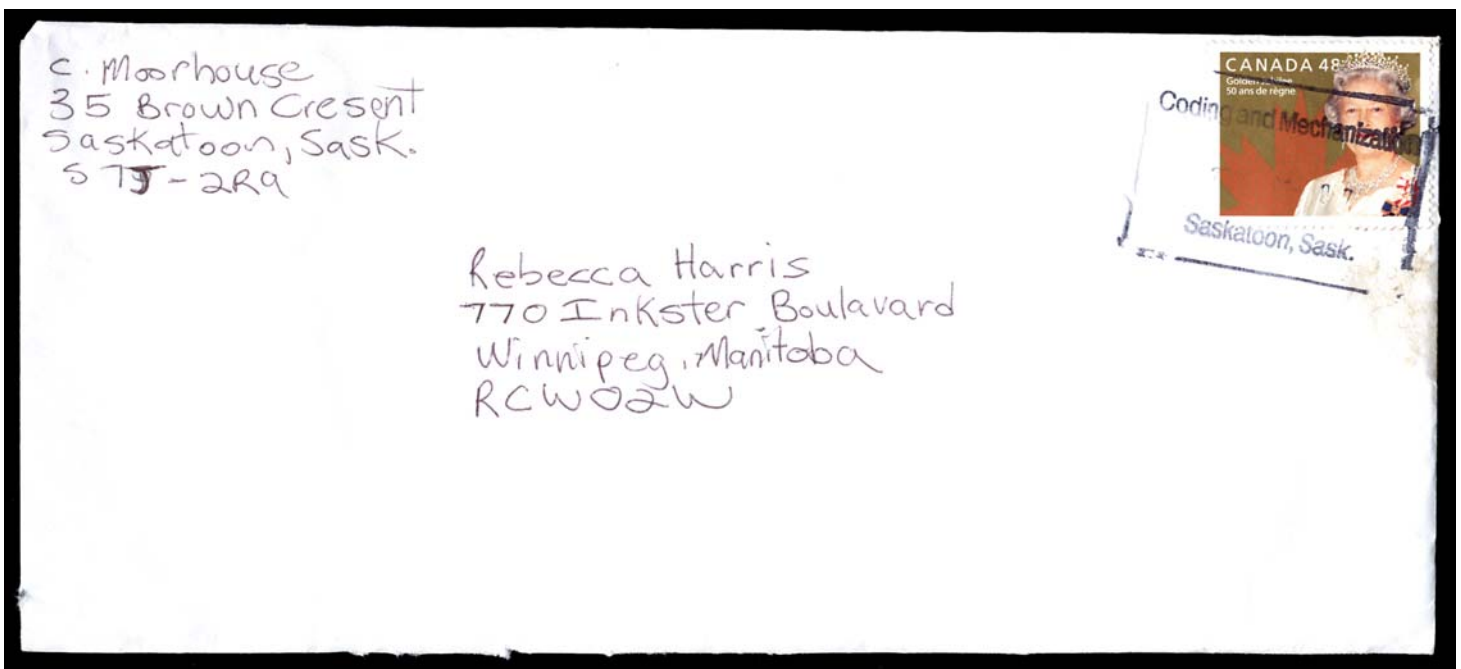
Two Interesting Covers

Here are a couple of covers that have recently passed over my desk.

This first one is courtesy Robert Elias. The sender of the envelope was not aware that the 48¢ Maple Leaves coil was a self-adhesive stamp. The stamp in the upper right corner has *not* been removed from its backing paper. It is surmised that the user tried to lick the stamp, did not find any glue on the back of the stamp, so it was then *taped* to the envelope. The post office does not allow stamps to be taped to the envelope so they applied the rubber stamp with an appropriate message *and* applied a 96¢ postage due tax to the cover.



This second cover was sent to my 8-year old daughter from a former school friend in Saskatoon. An incorrect postal code was written in the mailing address (it should be R2W 0L5, *not* RCW 02W). The post office sorting equipment could not figure this out so it was hand processed and cancelled accordingly by the 'Coding and Mechanization' area of the Saskatoon post office.



Traditional Trades Barcode Sizes

by: Robin Harris

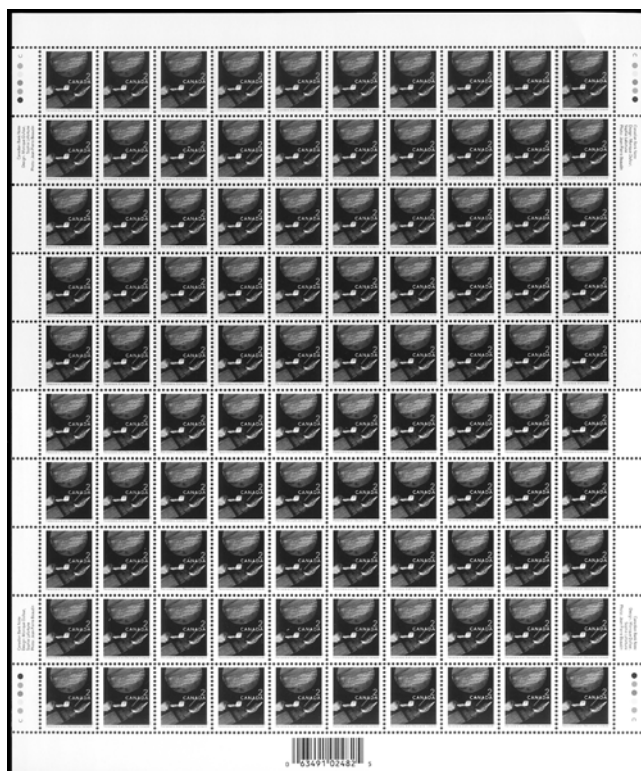
Five values of the low-value Traditional Trades definitives have now been reprinted with UPC barcodes in either the top or bottom selvedge — the 2¢ Decorative Ironwork being the latest value to appear.

Interestingly, these five barcodes come in *three* different sizes! In a previous article on barcodes [May-Jun 2002 *Corgi Times*] I alluded to the idea that Canada Post has not standardized on its placement, orientation, and size of barcodes on stamp issues. It is quite understandable that different sizes of barcodes will exist between different commemorative issues, simply due to the nature of the stamp. However, why are there different barcode sizes on identical-sized stamp panes such as the 100-pane Traditional Trades?

Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining — the more varieties such as this that we can look for, the better.

The illustration to the right shows the barcodes from the *bottom* of the respective panes — all at 100%.

Barcode width (from number to number)	Denomination	Date of Issue
Medium(33.0mm)	1¢ Bookbinding 5¢ Weaving 10¢ Artistic woodworking	Nov 15/01
Large / inverted (36.5mm)	25¢ Leatherworking	Dec 15/01
Small (29.5mm)	2¢ Decorative Ironwork	Dec 13/02



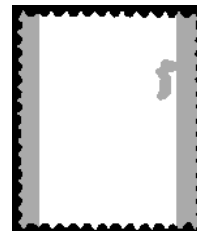
Full pane of 2¢ Decorative Ironwork with barcode in bottom selvedge (released Dec 13/02).



Environment Series Constant Tag Flaws

by: Robin Harris

I particularly enjoy the 1977–1987 Environment Definitive Series. This issue saw a spectacular tag flaw that appears on a number of BABN stamps printed in late 1981/early 1982 — a “hook” extends to the left from the right tag bar. It always occurs on the right most tag bar on the sheet/booklet pane. What also makes this flaw so interesting is that it can be found on at least *nine* different designs.



I first read about this flaw in a series of articles written in the Jul-Aug 1982 *The Canadian Philatelist* by Leopold Beaudet. His series of articles provided fantastic information for a collector wanting to look for constant varieties on a hoard of stamps — right up my alley.

The variety was first found on the 50¢ Maple Leaf vending machine booklet issued March 1, 1982. The location of the flaw is always on the right hand tag bar and falls on every 10.6 booklets (the length of the tag plate is different than the length of the printing plates).

The flaw has also been found on many of the low-value Wildflower definitives printed by BABN. This proves that the same printing plate (ie. tag) was used on *more than one issue*.

both sheet *and* booklet stamps!

Based on the existence of 17¢ and 30¢ specimens, the use of the same tagging plate (ie. the one with the hook flaw) must have been used for a relatively long period of time (perhaps 6 months or more). There was a major postal rate increase (17¢ to 30¢) on January 1, 1982. Since there was no need for the 17¢ stamps after that date, the 17¢ flaw had to have been printed in the late fall of 1981 (but only if low stocks of the 17¢ dictated this). The 30¢ Leaf from the vending machine booklet was issued Mar 1, 1982 and the 30¢ Leaf sheet version was not issued until May 11, 1982! Both of these latter two issues also contain the error.

Issues known with Hook-tag Flaw			
Scott/ Unitrade	Stamp issue	Scott/ Unitrade	Stamp issue
781	1¢ Bottle Gentian	BK81	\$4.25 booklet (17¢ QE II)
783	3¢ Canada Lily	789a	17¢ QE II (booklet single)
785	5¢ Shooting Star	923	30¢ Maple Leaf
786	10¢ Lady's Slipper	BK82	50¢ Booklet (5¢, 10¢, 30¢ Leaf)
787	15¢ Canada Violet	945	30¢ Maple Leaf (bklt single)
789	17¢ QE II		Label (L3a)

A couple of other questions arise:

- 1. Was the BABN version of the “A” stamp printed well *before* the tag flaw arose or while the tag flaw was around? If the former this would explain why no errors have been found on this stamp.
- 2. Was the 30¢ Queen Elizabeth II stamp printed *after* the tagging plate with the flaw was replaced but before its release date of May 11, 1982 (the same date as the 30¢ Leaf)? This too would explain why no errors have been found. However, that would mean the printing of the 30¢ Leaf was completed before the 30¢ Queen design was begun. If this were the case, why was the 30¢ Leaf not released sooner?

A timeline study of the stamps that were current in late 1981/early 1982 being printed by BABN will show that there are four other stamps that *may* have this same tag flaw. Can you find this hook-tag variety on one of the following BABN stamps?

- ~ 2¢ Western Columbine
- ~ 4¢ Hepatica
- ~ A (30¢) Maple Leaf
- ~ 30¢ Queen Elizabeth II

There are *three* interesting observations that can be made from the above list of known specimens:

- 1. the tagging plates prepared by BABN were used on *multiple* issues (at least nine)!
- 2. the tagging plates prepared by BABN were used on

[I published the above information in my *Environment Definitive Series 1977–1987* book back in April 1997 in the hopes that others would come forward with further discoveries — I have not heard of any.]




Sc# 781 Sc# 783 Sc# 785 Sc# 786 Sc# 787 Sc# 789 Sc# 789a Sc# 923 Sc# 945

Canada's Non-denominated Stamps

by: Robin Harris

Ok, I'm guilty. I was in my local sub post office the other day and the customer in front of me asked the clerk if they knew the denomination of a Canadian Christmas stamp that was issued *without* any denomination. I didn't know the answer — I felt so bad (for me). As soon as I got home I prepared the following chart:

1981.12.29	1994.11.03	1995.05.01
<p>Denomination: 30¢</p>  <p>Sc# 907 Sc# 908</p>	<p>Denomination: 38¢</p>  <p>Sc# 1536</p>	<p>Denomination when issued: 43¢</p>  <p>Sc# 1546</p>
1995.05.05		
<p>Denomination when issued: 43¢</p>  <p>Sc# 1551a</p>		
2001.09.01		
<p>Denomination when issued: 47¢</p>  <p>Sc# 1918a Sc# 1918b Sc# 1918c Sc# 1918d Sc# 1918e</p>		