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Counterfeit Modern Booklets . . . 40

Copies mailed: 115
 Other distributed copies: 30

Season’s Greetings and all the best in the New Year



PERMANENT™ coil
 See page 38

Counterfeits

At least three different Canadian definitives have recently been reported as being counterfeited.

- \$1.05 White-tailed Deer
- \$1.40 Maple Leaf
- 49¢ Queen Elizabeth II



All of the counterfeits were produced in booklet format. All exist in both mint and used condition. The Deer and Leaf designs appear to have been available in large quantities.

The \$1.05 White-tailed Deer counterfeit certainly was “good enough” to fool a lot of collectors, including your editor. One year ago, in the Nov-Dec 2005 edition of the *Corgi Times*, we reported a “new major die cut variety” on this stamp. A follow-up report in the Jan-Feb 2006 *Corgi Times* provided more information on this new variety. It was even given a new listing in the 2007 *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. Needless to say, this listing will be removed in the next *Unitrade* edition.

ESG member Leopold Beudet has done a lot of study of these stamps over the past few weeks and has provided a detailed report that can be found in this issue of the *Corgi Times*, starting on page 40.

Book ‘Rumours’

I understand, from various conversations with different ‘sources’, that the following philatelic books will have new editions shortly:

- *Standard Catalogue of Canadian Booklet Stamps* (1996)
- *Webb’s Postal Stationery Catalogue* (2001)
- *Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials* (1985)

The date in parentheses is the last time that particular book was released.

I believe that all three books are nearing the final editing stages. They are not yet at the printers but that is expected sometime early in the new year.

All three books will certainly be welcomed by many collectors. I for one have been waiting for updates on each of these for quite some time, particularly the *Perfins* book.

Rick Penko, FRPSC

A couple of congratulations are in order for ESG member Rick Penko of Winnipeg, MB.

At the Royal 2006 show in Calgary, AB at the end of September, Rick became the new President of The RPSC, taking over from Charles Verge (another ESG member).

In addition, Rick was named as a Fellow of The RPSC.

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...

PERMANENT™ Stamps

In the last issue of *Corgi Times* we announced that PERMANENT™ stamps were on their way. These were released November 16. Details can be found on page 37 of this issue.

The booklet of 30 Flag Over ... PERMANENT™ stamps that were released consists of three panes of 10 folded together. The UPC barcode is found on the back of the last panel. When the booklet is distributed to post offices from the printer, this barcode is actually hidden inside the folded booklet!

It seems this is causing a lot of problems with postal clerks. A new printing of the booklet of 30, moving the barcode to a more convenient location, is expected to be released in January 2007.

New Stationery

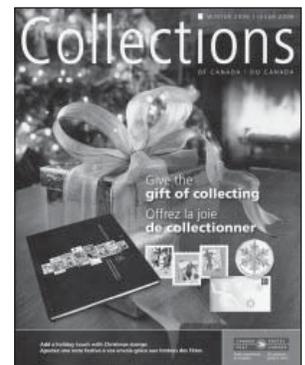
Canada Post's InfoMessage (Vol. 7, No. 47) has announced that new prepaid envelopes are due out January 15, 2007. There will be 10 different designs featuring the Attractions postage stamps issued a couple of years ago and new Flower designs.

The current set of Birds and Tulip envelopes have been around for several years now. Time for a change!

Collections Product Catalogue

Canada Post's *Winter 2006 Collections of Canada* product catalogue from Canada Post arrived in mail boxes around the end of November. The 32-page magazine-format features items available from Canada Post and selected post offices.

If you collect coins and foreign stamps, don't fret. International stamps take up six pages while coins from The Royal Canadian Mint take up another six pages. Philatelic supplies comprise another couple of pages. Canadian stamps take up another fourteen pages of the catalogue.



Corgi Times

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Study Group Business

New members

E-mail changes/additions

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.

2007

Aug 31–Sep 2: **BNAPEX 2007**: Calgary, AB

Oct 12–14: **Royal 2007**: Toronto, ON

2008

BNAPEX 2008: Halifax, NS

Back on schedule

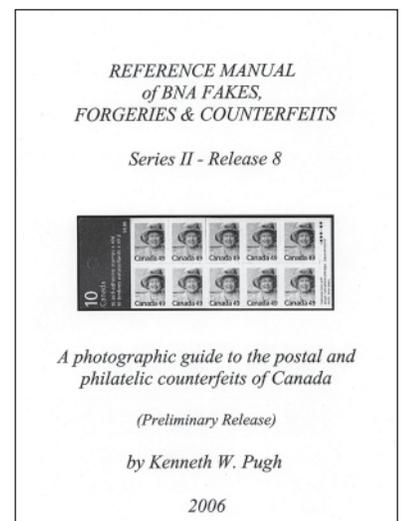
This issue is being started on Saturday, November 25. It appears we may finally be back on track in getting the *Corgi Times* out in a timely manner. In the past our bi-monthly newsletters were started and distributed in the middle of the two-month newsletter date range. That is, this being the November–December issue, it should be started the last weekend in November and mailed during the first week of December. With that in mind, I have about one week to get this issue completed, printed, stuffed into envelopes, postaged, and mailed. I'll continue this note just as I am about to complete this issue and we will see how close we are ...

Saturday, December 9 update: An important story about counterfeited modern Canadian booklets developed over the past couple of weeks. ESG member Leopold Beaudet has prepared an extensive study of these and we felt it was extremely important to include his article in this issue. It was better to print and mail this issue of the *Corgi Times* at this time (about a week later than would have normally been done) rather than wait for the January-February 2007 edition.

So, this issue is being printed and stuffed during this weekend (Dec 9–10) and should be in the mail by mid-week. I suspect that just about all of our membership will receive their copies (Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, and this Nov/Dec) before Christmas. Thanks to everyone for their patience over the past several months. We will ensure that this kind of delay will not happen again.

Ken Pugh, Canada's leading expert on fakes, forgeries and counterfeits, has passed along a note that he has just published a preliminary release of a new book which contains information about the counterfeit booklets that are highlighted in this *Corgi Times*. Ordering details are as follows:

Reference Manual of BNA Fakes Forgeries and Counterfeits Release 8 (Preliminary Release), December, 2006. 32 pages of large images illustrating the genuine and booklet postal counterfeits of 2000–2003. Available directly from Ken Pugh, 45964 Ivy Ave., Chilliwack, BC V2R 2C5, Canada.
Phone: 604-858-0544. E-mail: kpugh@shaw.ca



New Postal Rates Book

Expected delivery in January 2007. Andrew Chung informs us that *The Postal Rates and Fees of The Elizabethan Era From Canada 1952–2005, Volume Two*, is nearing the end. It has been delayed but should be ready for printing by the end of December (with delivery in January?).

You can order your copy(ies) by sending your cheque, payable to “Elizabethan II Study Group” to: Robin Harris, PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0 Canada. Pricing for ESG members is C\$34.95; non-members is C\$49.95.

Please add postage/packaging: within Canada \$10; to USA \$13; International \$16.50 (surface).

Canada Post 2006 Stamp Program

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

Issued	Description	Scott#
May 26	51¢ Canadians in Hollywood (4 designs: Fay Wray, Mary Pickford, Lorne Greene, John Candy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • booklet of 8 • souvenir sheet of 4 • four Prepaid postcards — one for each postage stamp design 	2154a–d 2153
May 28	51¢ Champlain explores the Atlantic Coast (joint issue with USA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pane of 16 • souvenir sheet of 2 + 2 USA * 39¢ 	2155 2156
Jun 15	51¢ Vancouver Aquarium, 50th anniversary (booklet of 10)	2157
Jun 28	51¢ Canadian Forces Snowbirds (2 stamps) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pane of 16 • souvenir sheet of 2 • uncut press sheet • two Prepaid postal cards — one for each postage stamp design 	2158–59 2159b
Jun 30	51¢ Atlas of Canada, 100th anniversary	2160
Jul 6	51¢ World Lacrosse Championship (booklet of 10)	2161
Jul 19	51¢ Mountaineering, booklet of 8	2162
Jul 31	51¢ Flag over ... (5 designs in booklet of 10): reprint by Lowe-Martin	
Aug 3	51¢ Duck Decoys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pane of 16 • souvenir sheet of 4 • four Prepaid postcards — one for each postage stamp design 	2163–66 2166b
Aug 16	51¢ Society of Graphic Designers of Canada, 50th anniversary	2167
Aug 23	51¢ Wine and Cheese (4 stamps) (booklet of 8)	2168–71
Sep 26	51¢ MacDonald College: 100th anniversary (booklet of 8)	2172
Sep 29	51¢ Endangered Species (4 stamps: Swift Fox, Blue Racer Snake, Tiger Salamander, Newfoundland Marten) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pane of 8 (self-adhesive) • souvenir sheet of 4 (water-activated gum) 	
Oct 17	51¢ Opera (5 designs: pane of 10)	
Nov 1	Christmas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51¢ Madonna (booklet of 12) • 51¢ Christmas Cards (booklet of 12) • 89¢ Christmas Cards (booklet of 6) • \$1.49 Christmas Cards (booklet of 6) 	
Nov 16	Permanent™ Stamps (accepted at the current basic domestic letter rate, forever) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (51¢) Spotted Coralroot wildflower (coil of 100) • (51¢) Queen Elizabeth II (booklet of 10) • (51¢) Flag over ...: five designs (booklets of 10 and 30) 	
Dec 19	Rate-change definitives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93¢ Flat-leaved Bladderwort (coil of 50 and booklet of 6) • \$1.10 The Marsh Skullcap (coil of 50) • \$1.55 The Little Larkspur (coil of 50 and booklet of 6) • water-activated souvenir sheet of 4: (P) 51¢, 93¢, \$1.10 and \$1.55 stamps 	

Canada Post 2007 Stamp Program

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

Issued	Description	Scott#
Jan 5	Year of the Pig <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ single • \$1.55 souvenir sheet • uncut press sheet • two Prepaid postal cards — one for each postage stamp design 	
Jan 15	52¢ Celebration (booklet of 6)	
Feb 12	52¢ International Polar Year (pair and souvenir sheet)	
Mar 1	52¢ Lilacs (pair in self-adhesive booklet of 10 and gummed souvenir sheet)	
Mar 12	52¢ HEC Montreal (booklet of 8)	
Mar 15	Art Canada (Mary Pratt) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ <i>Jelly Shelf</i> single • 52¢ and \$1.55 <i>Iceberg in North Atlantic</i> in souvenir sheet 	

PERMANENT™ Stamps

November 16, 2006 saw the release of PERMANENT™ stamps by Canada Post. These stamps contain a letter P within a Maple Leaf logo which signifies that they are accepted at the current basic domestic letter rate, forever.

Seven different “P” designs are available:

- Queen Elizabeth II (booklet of 10)
- Spotted Coralroot wildflower (coil of 100)
- 5 different Flag over... designs (booklet of 10 and 30)



A pamphlet (illustrated at right) is available at post offices across Canada to advertise these new stamps. I have obtained a small quantity for inclusion with this issue of the *Corgi Times* (I will start with our USA and International members, in case I run out).



The Flag over... designs continue the popular theme that began way back in 1989. This is the third year in a row where five different designs have appeared together at the same time.

The Queen Elizabeth II design is a “new look”. The image is based on a photograph taken during Her visit to Saskatchewan in 2005, while on Her 23rd trip to Canada.

The coil stamp featuring the spotted coralroot continues the popular series of Flower definitives, first introduced in 2004. This is the seventh design in this series.



‘P’ QE II booklet of 10



‘P’ Flag booklet of 10

‘P’ Flag booklet of 30

NEW!

PERMANENT™ STAMPS





PERMANENT

Always Worth the Going Rate

Purchase new PERMANENT stamps and they'll always be worth the basic Lettermail rate.

No more having to purchase extra stamps to make up the difference after a rate increase. PERMANENT stamps save you the hassle and money.

You can use PERMANENT stamps to send a letter (up to 30 grams) anywhere in Canada, anytime. And you can use them in combination with other stamps to make up the correct postage for oversized letters, parcels and international mail.

Available everywhere stamps are sold

www.canadapost.ca

™ Trademark of Canada Post Corporation 802952



From anywhere... to anyone



PERMANENT™ Coil

by: Robin Harris

The PERMANENT™ coil stamp released by Canada Post on November 16, 2006 will likely prove to be a very interesting stamp to study as the years go by. If the same design is maintained, in theory “forever”, then the numerous printings alone will produce many different varieties.



For the record, illustrated here is the box that ten rolls are shipped in to the post office outlets across the country. In addition, the label affixed to one end of the box and the UPC sticker that is applied to the start of the roll are illustrated below



PERMANENT™ coil: box of 10



PERMANENT™ coil: label affixed to end of box of 10



PERMANENT™ coil: UPC barcode

Die Cutting

As with all other Lowe-Martin printed self-adhesive coils, there are ten rolls across the printing “plate”. This is based on an illustration that appeared in the Canada Post *Details* magazine (October–December, 2004, page 3).

Based on accounts given by people who have had a tour of Lowe-Martin and seen firsthand the coil printing equipment, the finished rolls fall into a bin at the end of the equipment. By hand, ten rolls are selected from the bin and placed into cardboard boxes which are then distributed to post offices.

Consider the following...

- one could purchase a full box of coils (comprised of ten rolls) and place them side by side, matching up the coil die cutting slits. This is very easy to do.
- if one is lucky enough, you can get a complete set of ten different rolls that all align correctly across, one roll to another.

This is just what I have done on this stamp (and on previous self-adhesive coil stamps printed by Lowe-Martin).

Illustrated at the far right (next page) is the right-hand most roll from the ten rolls that were correctly aligned. Using the Adobe Photoshop graphic editing program, I have then digitally darkened just the die cutting (this takes about three minutes per row per stamp; thus, this particular strip of ten stamps with 11 rows of die cuts took about 33 minutes to ‘enhance’). An enlargement of these die cuts is also illustrated.

The text beside each enlargement identifies the roll number (i.e. column, in this case C10), the stamp number from one gutter to the next (i.e. row, starting from the top of the gutter). As well, the average “perf” (actually, serpentine die cut) measurement and average number of “peaks” (i.e. ‘mountain tops’) across the entire ten columns of rolls. The latter two averages were gathered by counting every peak across the entire ten rolls and then basic math applied.

The die cutting pattern repeats itself between every gutter along the roll. After careful study, it can be proven that each roll has a different set of eleven die cutting patterns between each gutter. Thus, there are 100 unique stamps for this particular stamp ... each of which is plateable!

How do we plate a particular stamp? Two choices:

- take a single stamp and place it over an illustration of each of the 100 different stamps (I am in the process of creating just such a diagram — the first 10 of which are illustrated at right at actual size). Of course, this method would take quite awhile, even for identifying just one stamp. Imagine trying to identifying hundreds (or even thousands of specimens?).
- find the remnants of two (or three) “nibs” that once joined two adjacent stamps together. The black arrows in the diagram identify where the nibs fall on the stamps from this particular roll of stamps.

For a single stamp, with between four and six nibs amongst the top and bottom die cuts, these are like a fingerprint — the location of the nibs is unique to each stamp.

I have devised the nomenclature of identifying the nib in relation to the peaks across the stamp. In the illustration, the first row of die cutting contains three such nibs, at “positions” 2L (left side of the second peak), 3B (right side of the third peak), and 8L (left side of the eighth peak). I am currently developing a database of these peaks so that a quick entry into a query will display the unique stamp.

Two observations for this particular die cutting: 1. the 5th row of die cutting is quite different from the rest — ‘perf’ 7.4 compared to nearly ‘perf’ 9 on the adjacent rows. 2. the 3rd row contains a “ski bump” ‘flaw’ similar to the “ski slope” variety found on the 50¢, 89¢, and \$1.49 Flower coils.

[Stay tuned — in future *Corgi Times* we will present all of the different die cutting patterns on this and previous Lowe-Martin coils.]

C10/R1 — 2L, 3B, 8L
‘perf’ 8.2 [9.8 peaks]



C10/R2 — 4R, 8T
‘perf’ 8.0 [9.6 peaks]



C10/R3 — 3B, 7T
‘perf’ 8.2 [9.8 peaks]
(‘ski bump’)



C10/R4 — 3T, 7R
‘perf’ 8.9 [10.7 peaks]



C10/R5 — 3R, 7L
‘perf’ 7.4 [8.9 peaks]



C10/R6 — 5L, 8R
‘perf’ 8.8 [10.6 peaks]



C10/R7 — 4L, 7R
‘perf’ 7.8 [9.4 peaks]



C10/R8 — 4L, 7R
‘perf’ 8.0 [9.6 peaks]



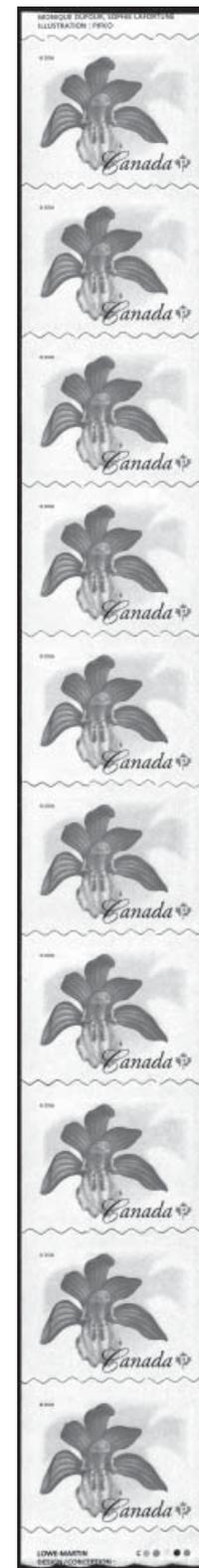
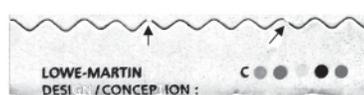
C10/R9 — 4L, 7R
‘perf’ 7.8 [9.4 peaks]



C10/R10 — 3R, 7B
‘perf’ 8.3 [10.0 peaks]



C10/R11 — 5T, 9R
‘perf’ 8.7 [10.4 peaks]



Stop the presses!

Just as we were about to print this issue, word was received from ESG member Mirko Zarka that a new set of die cutting had been found on the P coil! Sure enough, a visit to my favourite post office showed that their second shipment of P stamps (the box is dated in October) were the new die cutting. Each stamp has four “nibs” on the top and bottom and almost every row is about “perf” 8.2 — this is the most consistent die cutting pattern yet seen on Lowe-Martin printed self-adhesive coils. Details to come ...

Counterfeit Modern Booklets

by: Leopold Beaudet

Introduction

Three booklets issued in the past six years have been counterfeited to defraud Canada Post. Richard Gratton revealed the existence of two of them in May [1] [4]. Both booklets were issued on 19 December 2003:

- Booklet of ten 49¢ QE II stamps printed by Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN).
- Booklet of six \$1.40 Maple Leaf stamps printed by Ashton Potter and subsequently reprinted by Lowe-Martin.

In light of Mr. Gratton's article in *Philatélie Québec*, I examined several \$1.40 booklets that matched the characteristics he described. The booklets were printed by lithography on self-adhesive paper, tagged, and die cut in a fashion that is remarkably similar to the genuine booklets. They were so good that I was frankly not convinced they were counterfeit. I thought they might possibly have come from some last minute Ashton Potter printing on a different press made just prior to the switch to Lowe-Martin.

Last September, thanks to John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre, I was able to examine a 49¢ QE II booklet that matched the counterfeit described by Mr. Gratton. This booklet exhibited the same characteristics as the suspect \$1.40 booklet even though the two were ostensibly produced by different printers. This convinced me that the 49¢ and \$1.40 booklets were indeed counterfeits.

When I returned the booklet to Mr. Jamieson, I mentioned that there seemed to be a "watermark" of sorts on the back cover, an image of a green diamond with the letters "DURO" inside that was visible when the booklet was viewed through a strong light. This immediately rang a bell – an alarm bell. Mr. Jamieson pointed out that copies of the \$1.05 Deer booklet issued on 28 December 2000 had been found with the same image. This Deer booklet was first reported in the Jan.-Feb. 2006 issue of *Corgi Times* where it was described as a new printing [5, p 64], and is catalogued in the 2007 edition of the *Unitrade Canada Specialized catalogue* [6].

In November, I was able to examine two of these \$1.05 Deer booklets, one from Saskatoon Stamp Centre and the other from the find of nine booklets reported in *Corgi Times*. The two were very similar to each other, and exhibited many of the same characteristics as the counterfeit 49¢ and \$1.40 booklets. It was evident that these \$1.05 Deer booklets were produced by the same printer as the other two. Richard Gratton describes the counterfeit in the Jan.-Feb. 2007 issue of *Philatélie Québec* [2].



Courtesy Saskatoon Stamp Centre
Front and back of the counterfeit \$1.05 Deer booklet and the "watermark".

What might appear to be one of the most innocuous differences between the counterfeit and genuine booklets is to my mind one of the most damning. The Canada Post logo on the back of all the counterfeits differs from the official one. Corporations are meticulous in specifying the precise layout of their logo, and zealous in ensuring faithful reproduction. The printers of the genuine booklets all used the official logo, furnished to them by Canada Post. The printer of the counterfeit booklets apparently tried to recreate the logo rather than reproduce it from genuine booklets or Canada Post publications.

The next three sections of this article describe the differences between the genuine and counterfeit booklets. Some of these differences were first noted by Richard Gratton, and others were noted by Mirko Zatka, Robin Harris, and Ken Pugh. The most prominent differences are listed first.

\$1.05 Deer Booklet

Ashton Potter (Canada) produced the \$1.05 Deer booklet. The Unitrade catalogue lists the following printings [6]:

Ptg	Date	Printer	Paper	UPC barcode
1	28 Dec. 2000	Ashton Potter Canada	JAC	0 63491 01793 3 Field
2	28 Dec. 2000	Ashton Potter Canada	JAC	0 63491 01794 0 Phil

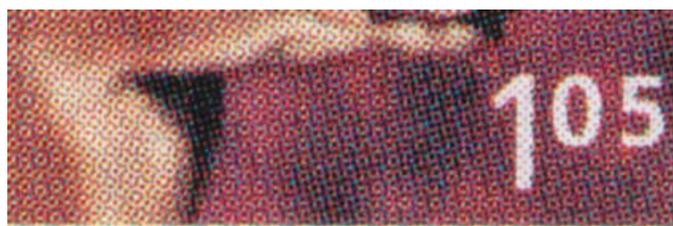
The two printings are identical except for the barcode on the back which was intended to distinguish between post office field stock and philatelic stock. The counterfeit booklet has the philatelic stock barcode. With this barcode, one would have expected the booklet to be stocked by the National Philatelic Centre had it been genuine.

The counterfeit and genuine booklets have the differences described below.

1. **Litho screen.** Up until the mid-1990s, Canadian stamp printers used a half-tone screen consisting of a fine mesh with 200 to 300 lines per inch to produce the shading on lithographic stamps. The individual colours of the stamp design were photographed at different angles through the mesh screen to produce rows of regularly spaced dots of different sizes, readily seen under a 30x magnifier. CBN and Lowe-Martin now use a computer-generated stochastic half-tone screen. A stochastic screen uses tiny, randomly scattered dots all of the same size (10 microns in the case of Lowe-Martin) to achieve the lithographic shading. The dots are best seen under a 30x

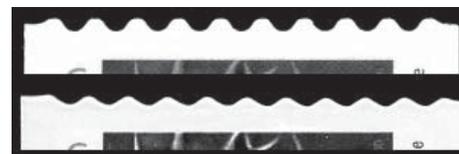


On the genuine (left), the lower right part of the self-adhesive icon has a distinct pattern.



The genuine (left) has dots in the denomination, and under magnification the shading appears very grainy throughout the design.

magnifier or better. Ashton Potter used a mesh screen on the front of the Deer booklet. The rows of dots are quite visible in the bottom right portion of the self-adhesive icon and within the digits of the denomination. In contrast, the printer of the counterfeit used a stochastic screen on the front. Under a 5x to 10x magnifier, the shading in the stamp design appears dramatically smoother on the counterfeit, the bottom right part of the self-adhesive icon is a fairly solid mass of fine dots, and there is no shading in the digits of the denomination. Both Ashton Potter and the counterfeiter used a mesh screen on the back, but the rows of dots are at different angles. For example, the magenta dots run at a 45° angle on the genuine and a 30° angle on the counterfeit.



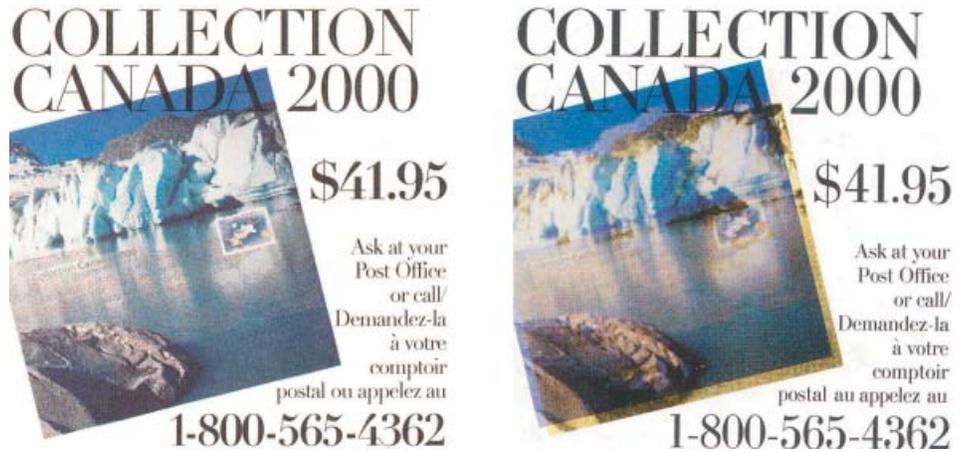
On the genuine (top), the undulations in the serpentine die cut are pronounced, and the gauge is coarser.

2. **Die cut.** One of the most obvious differences between the counterfeit and genuine is the serpentine die cut at the top and bottom of the stamps. The shape of the undulations is much more pronounced on the genuine, and the

gauge is 8.6 versus 9.1 on the counterfeit. Also the wide horizontal die cut in the centre between the two columns of stamps is a peak, whereas on the genuine it is a valley. The vertical die cut and the round die cut for the pegboard hole at the top are identical.

Both counterfeit booklets I examined were about 1 mm shorter in height than the genuine. There was no variation in width.

3. **Booklet design.** The font for the larger characters on the back is noticeably different. There are also subtle differences in the small letters of the “Canada Post” inscription. There are no apparent font differences in the “Ask at your Post Office...” inscription, but there is a spelling error in the last line on the counterfeit (“postal au appelez au” rather than “postal ou appelez au”). On the front, a close examination reveals differences in the font of all the black inscriptions including the one that appears on each stamp (best seen by comparing the letters “C”, “e”, and “g”). There is a second spelling error, in the bottom left inscription: the hyphen in the designer’s name, Pierre-Yves Pelletier, is missing. The spelling errors provide another strong indicator that this booklet is counterfeit. While it is true that spelling snafus have occurred on Canadian stamps (one of the best known is on the 1972 8¢ Cornelius Krieghoff commemorative – the artist’s name is misspelled “Kreighoff” in the four pane margin inscriptions), they are very rare events and the probability of two misspellings on one booklet is practically nil.



The font for the large characters on the back is different (see the “4”s for example). The counterfeit (right) has a spelling error in the last line of the French text. It was also prone to colour shifts.

Ashton Potter
Design : Pierre-Yves Pelletier

Genuine

Ashton Potter
Design : Pierre Yves Pelletier

Counterfeit

White-tailed Deer / Cerf de Virginie

Genuine

White-tailed Deer / Cerf de Virginie

Counterfeit

4. **Traffic lights.** The genuine booklet was printed using five-colour lithography (plus an extra “colour” for the phosphor tagging): cyan, magenta, yellow, black, and purple. The counterfeit was printed using four-colour lithography plus tagging. On the counterfeit, the “purple” traffic light consists of two colours, magenta and a light sprinkling of tiny cyan dots. The cyan dots also occur wherever the purple colour appears in the stamp design (in the self-adhesive icon, for example). On both counterfeit booklets I examined, the cyan traffic light consisted of two cyan dots, the regular dot and a lighter, shifted dot which looks like a kiss print. The light dot was shifted in different directions on the two booklets.

The font for the stamp inscription is different. Compare the “C”, “e”, and “g”.

5. **“Watermark”.** The counterfeits have two “watermarks” or latent lithographic images identifying the paper manufacturer. One consists of a light green diamond with the letters “DURO” inside. The other consists of four boxes arranged in a cross. Each box is filled with the light green colour except for the letters “jac” which are white. The position of the watermarks varies from booklet to booklet. The watermarks are best seen by viewing the back of the booklet through a strong light.
6. **Canada Post logo.** As mentioned above, the Canada Post logo on the back is different. On the counterfeit, the letters “A” and “N” in the logo have pointed tops. In the actual logo, which Canada Post has been using since at least 1998, the top of the letters is flat. There are also subtle differences in the shape of other letters.



On the counterfeit (right), the tips of the A and N are pointy.

7. **Tagging.** The tagging on the two counterfeits I examined is slightly paler than the genuine. On the counterfeit, the vertical bar in the middle is about 0.5 mm wider. The horizontal bars on the top two stamps and the top and bottom bars on the bottom four stamps are about 0.5 mm narrower. The width of the middle horizontal bar on the bottom four stamps is identical.
8. **Paper fluorescence.** On the booklets I examined, the counterfeit is non-fluorescent on the front whereas the genuine is low fluorescent. On the back, the counterfeit is high fluorescent whereas the genuine is medium fluorescent.
9. **Paper characteristics.** As mentioned in the *Corgi Times* article [5], the counterfeit booklet feels a bit thicker and stiffer than the genuine.
10. **Printing quality.** Aside from the shading produced by the stochastic screen, the quality of the lithographic printing on the counterfeits is notably inferior to the genuine when viewed under a magnifier. There are many constant or semi-constant plate flaws, and the booklets I examined had noticeable colour shifts. While plate flaws and colour shifts occur on genuine booklets, they are more prevalent on the counterfeits.
11. **Colour shade.** One of the counterfeit booklets I examined was much redder than the genuine. The second was darker and closer to the genuine in shade. One would expect a difference in shade simply based on the different types of half-tone screens used. Genuine booklets may also exhibit shade variations (although I haven't seen any), so I would use the shade as a corroborating but not a determining factor.

Single used stamps from the counterfeit booklet are readily distinguishable from genuine stamps. The best indicators are the serpentine die cut at top and bottom, the smooth shading achieved with the stochastic screen, and the font for the inscription "White-tailed Deer / Cerf de Virginie".

49¢ QE II Booklet

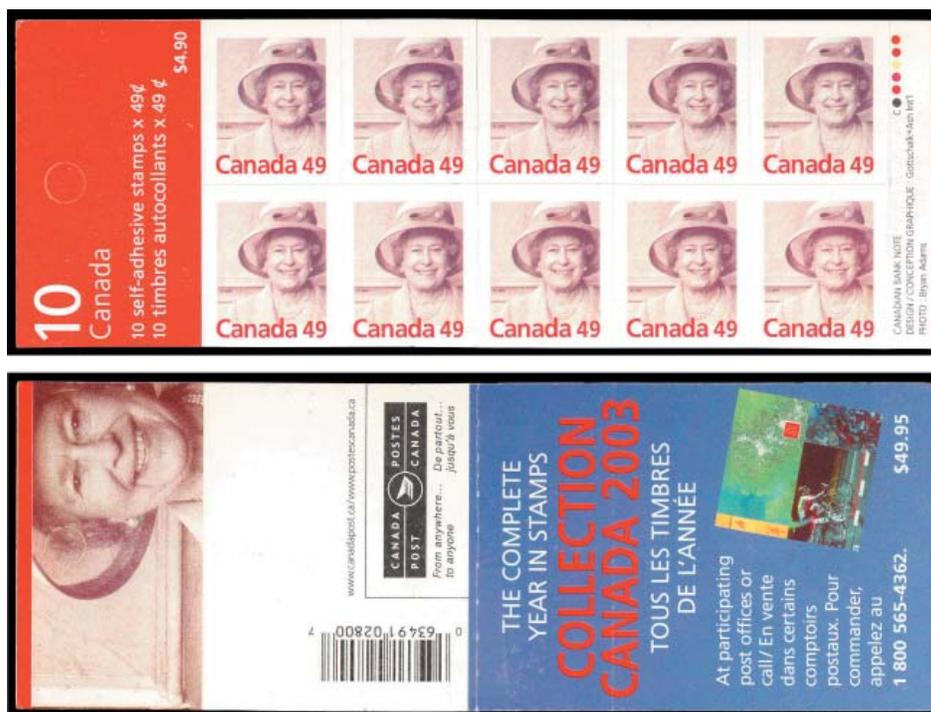
CBN produced the 49¢ QE II booklet. The Unitrade catalogue lists the following printings [6]:

Ptg	Date	Paper	Slits	Back Cover Advertisement	UPC barcode
1	19 Dec. 2003	C	10	"Complete year in stamps"	0 63491 02800 7 Field
2	June 2004	C	23	"Share Canada through our stamps"	0 63491 02800 7 Field
3	July 2004	F	5	"Share Canada through our stamps"	0 63491 03119 9 Phil
4	Dec. 2004	F	5	"Share Canada through our stamps"	0 63491 02800 7 Field

C = Tullis Russell Coatings paper
F = Fasson Canada Inc. paper

The die cutting separating the stamps in columns two and three resembles rouletting in that there are narrow uncut bridges between slits in the paper. Three variations exist: 5 long slits, 10 medium size slits, and 23 short slits. There are two different advertisements on the back cover, both for the 2003 Annual Collection. The ad on the initial printing begins with the phrase "The complete year in stamps". The second ad begins with "Share Canada through our stamps". CBN produced two printings when it switched to Fasson paper, one with a new barcode on the back expressly for philatelic stock and the other with the field stock barcode.

The counterfeit 49¢ booklet corresponds to the first CBN printing in as much as the paper designation is "C", it has 10 slits, and it has the "Complete year in



Courtesy Saskatoon Stamp Centre

Top: Front of counterfeit 49¢ QE II booklet. Note the red sliver at the extreme right.

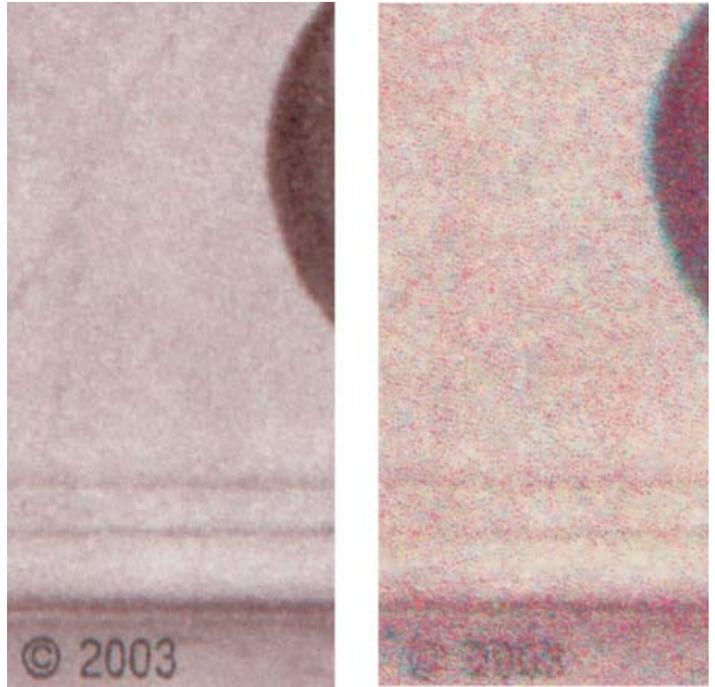
Bottom: Back of counterfeit 49¢ QE II booklet.

stamps" advertisement and field stock barcode on the back.

The following differences between the counterfeit and genuine booklets have been observed.

1. **Printing quality.** On both the genuine and counterfeit booklets, the lithographic shading was achieved using a stochastic half-tone screen. However, on the counterfeit stamps, the shading is comparatively crude, the dots vary in size, and there are many apparent small plate flaws. On genuine booklets, the shading dots are extremely fine, the shading is very smooth, and there are few if any irregularities or plate flaws. Under a 10x magnifier, the difference is quite apparent.

2. **Traffic lights.** The traffic lights indicate that the genuine booklet was printed using six-colour lithography plus phosphor tagging. The six colours, following the traffic light sequence from top to bottom, are: red, red brown, yellow, magenta, red brown (perhaps slightly darker than the second traffic light), and black. I suspect one of the red brown colours was used without a half-tone screen for the "Canada 49" lettering whereas the other was screened and used for shading. On the counterfeit, the fifth traffic light down, corresponding to the second red brown traffic light on the genuine booklet, was not produced from a single colour. It was produced using a combination of three inks: magenta, yellow, and a smattering of tiny cyan dots. This was easy to detect on the specimen I examined because the magenta and yellow were shifted with respect to each other. The first traffic light, the red one, may possibly consist of magenta and yellow superimposed on each other; however, it is difficult to be positive because the two colours (if indeed there are two) are not shifted with respect to each other.

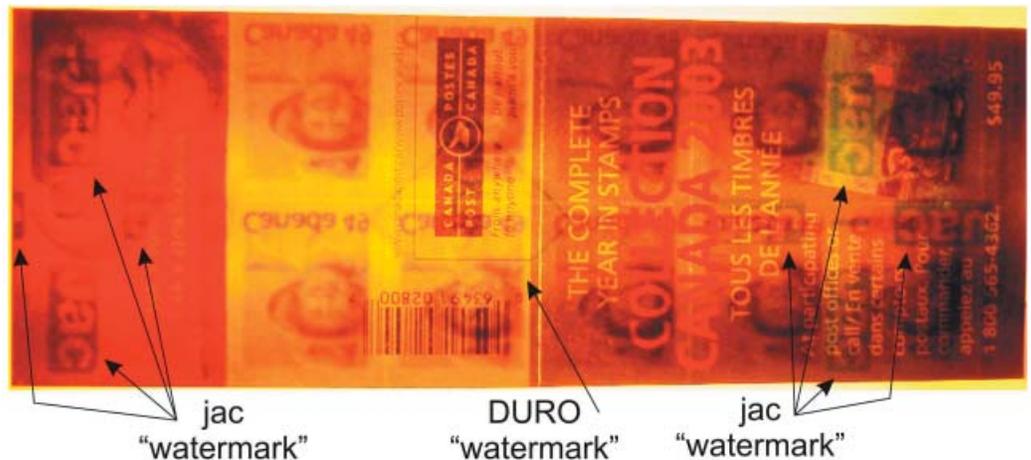


Middle left side of stamp, 20x magnification. The background on the counterfeit (right) is grainy, fine detail such as the "© 2003" is poor, and the cyan colour is visible.

On the counterfeit specimen I examined, cyan was observable in several places. This colour appears in the background shading. It was shifted to the left with respect to the other colours, thus producing a narrow cyan border along the left side of each stamp design. Under a 30x magnifier, cyan shading dots were visible in various parts of the design. There was also a cyan plate or inking flaw to the right of the top traffic light. On the genuine booklet, cyan was not used on the face side although it appears to have been used extensively on the back.

3. **Canada Post logo.** The Canada Post logo on the counterfeit 49¢ booklet has the same characteristics as the one on the \$1.05 counterfeit.

4. **"Watermark".** The counterfeit 49¢ booklet has the same two "watermarks" as the \$1.05 Deer booklet. Possibly because the 49¢ booklet is larger in size, the specimen I examined had two copies of the jac watermark.



"Watermark" on counterfeit 49¢ QE II booklet. The jac "watermark" occurs twice on this booklet.

5. **Paper characteristics.** In the white areas of the design, the paper on the counterfeit has a yellowish tinge. On the genuine, the paper is white. Also, the surface of the paper on the face side appears glossier on the counterfeit than on the genuine. Richard Gratton observed that the stamp paper on the counterfeit is

slightly thicker than on the genuine (0.0044" vs "0.0048"). He also states that the overall booklet is thicker (0.0098" vs 0.0086") [1].

6. **Paper fluorescence.** The paper on front and back is less fluorescent than the genuine booklets.
7. **Booklet design.** On the counterfeit, there is a sliver of red at the right edge of the booklet, presumably part of the red area belonging to the adjacent booklet on the right. This is not due to a shift of the red colour to the left. Instead, it appears that the distance from the red area on the left side of the booklet to the red sliver on the right side is smaller than on genuine booklets. In fact, I have not seen any genuine booklet with a red sliver on the right hand side.
8. **Die cut.** Although the counterfeit has ten slits in the die cut between the stamps in columns 2 and 3, the same as the first CBN printing, the slits are slightly longer. As a result, the two slits in the middle are noticeably smaller. In addition the counterfeit has a second die cut without slits just next to the first. This may be a transient variety on the booklet I examined rather than a characteristic of the counterfeit. All the other die cuts match the die cuts on the genuine booklet.
9. **Colour shade.** On the booklet I examined, the shade of the stamps is quite a bit redder than on the genuine booklet.
10. **Tagging.** The tagging appears to be the same on both genuine and counterfeit booklets. The width of the tag bars is the same.

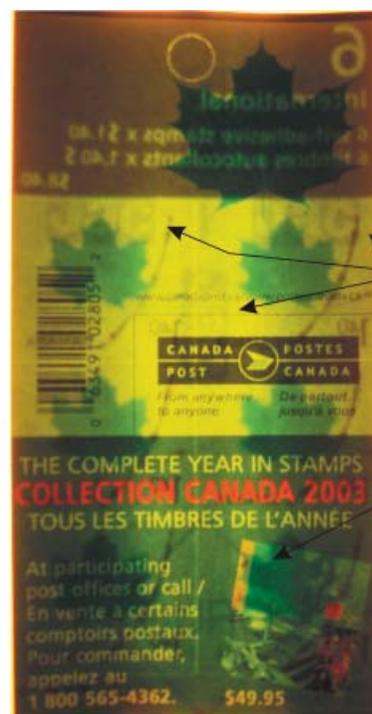
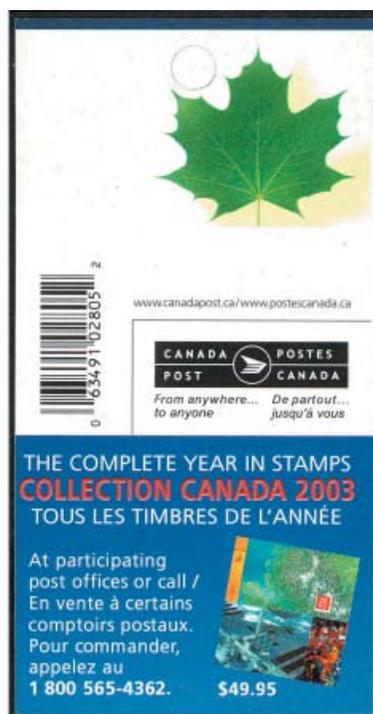
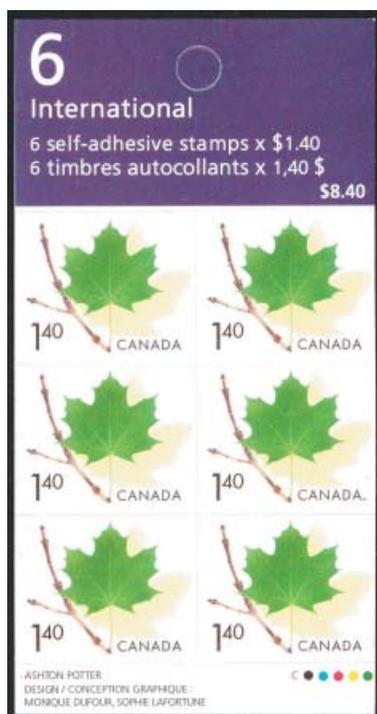
Single used stamps from the counterfeit booklet are best identified by examining the graininess of the shading in the background to the left of the Queen’s head and shoulders. Another good indicator is the presence of any cyan in the design since this colour was not used on the genuine booklet.

\$1.40 Maple Leaf Booklet

Ashton Potter Canada produced the initial printing of the \$1.40 Maple Leaf booklet. The printing contract was subsequently awarded to Lowe-Martin. The following printings are listed in Unitrade [6]:

Ptg	Date	Printer	Paper	UPC barcode
1	19 Dec. 2003	Ashton Potter Canada	C	0 63491 02805 2 Field
2	July 2004	Lowe-Martin	F	0 63491 03106 9 Phil
3	Sept. 2004	Lowe-Martin	F	0 63491 02805 2 Field

C = Tullis Russell Coatings paper
F = Fasson Canada Inc. paper



Courtesy Saskatoon Stamp Centre

Front and back of the counterfeit \$1.40 Maple Leaf booklet and the “watermark”. The background obscures the top of the jac “watermark”.

The characteristics of the Lowe-Martin printing match those of Ashton Potter for the most part; however, there are differences in colour shade and paper fluorescence between the two printers that make it difficult to use these two characteristics to distinguish counterfeit from genuine on single stamps.

The counterfeit \$1.40 booklet corresponds to the Ashton Potter printing. The printer's imprint is Ashton Potter, the paper designation is "C", and the barcode on the back is the field stock barcode.

I've observed the following differences between genuine and counterfeit booklets.

1. **Traffic lights.** The genuine booklets were printed using five-colour lithography (black, cyan, magenta, yellow, and green) plus an extra ink for the tagging. The counterfeit was printed using four colours plus tagging. The green traffic light on the counterfeit is actually composed of cyan and yellow inks. The yellow traffic light is also made up of two colours, yellow itself plus cyan. The cyan appears as a very light sprinkling of tiny dots (need a good magnifying glass to see this), and is best seen when there is a colour shift between the yellow and cyan.



A large colour shift on a counterfeit booklet reveals that the "green" traffic light was produced using cyan and yellow inks.

2. **Printing quality.** A stochastic screen was used on the counterfeit booklets, just like on the genuine ones. However, there are differences between the half-tone screens, especially noticeable on the yellow leaf in the lower right part of the design. On both the counterfeit and the genuine, there is an array of very fine dark dots in the yellow area. On the counterfeit, the dots are cyan, they are spread somewhat sparsely, and the size of the dots varies. On the genuine, there is a thick spray of very fine dots of uniform size and the dots appear to be both cyan and black. Under magnification the appearance is much neater.



On the counterfeit (right), the yellow veins in the green leaf are obscured and there is less shading in the yellow leaf.

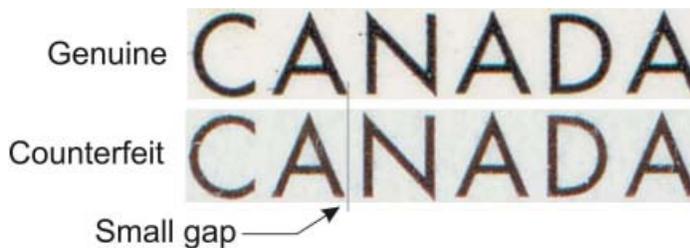
The yellow veins of the green leaf are much less distinct on the counterfeit. Many of the small ones are either not visible or barely so.

The counterfeits have many apparently constant plate flaws, some quite visible without a magnifying glass. They appear to be prone to colour shifts.

3. **Canada Post logo.** The Canada Post logo is the same as on the 49¢ and \$1.05 counterfeits.

4. **"Watermark".** The counterfeit \$1.40 booklet has the same two "watermarks" as the 49¢ and \$1.05 booklets.

5. **Booklet design.** The base of the three "A"s in "CANADA" on the stamp is slightly narrower on the counterfeit. The difference in width is a fraction of a millimetre, and is barely discernable with the naked eye. The narrower width caused a slight displacement in some of the other letters.



On the counterfeit, all three "A"s in "CANADA" are slightly narrower at the base.

6. **Tagging.** The tagging is paler and the horizontal bars at the top and bottom are noticeably thinner than the genuine.

7. **Paper characteristics.** The white area on the stamp side appears to be darker. Under a magnifying glass, the surface of the paper appears rough. In contrast, on the genuine, the paper appears very white, with a smooth finish. There is a marked greenish tinge throughout the white area on the back. On the genuine, the back is as white as the front. The

greenish tinge is very evident on the inner backing paper when a stamp is removed, and makes the watermarks more difficult to see.

Like the 49¢ and \$1.05 counterfeits, the paper seems to be thicker and more rigid.

8. **Paper fluorescence.** The fluorescence on the back cover is darker, but it varies. On some counterfeits, the back cover was very mottled under an ultraviolet light; on others, the fluorescence was uniform.
9. **Colour shade.** On the counterfeit, the green is paler. However, there are shade differences between counterfeit booklets from different sources, and, as noted above, there are also small shade differences between genuine booklets from Ashton Potter and Lowe-Martin.
10. **Die cut.** The die cutting appears to match the genuine perfectly. I could see no difference in how the stamps were cut or in the pegboard hole at the top of the booklet.

Counterfeit singles from the \$1.40 booklet are probably the most difficult of the three counterfeits to detect. The best indicators are the veins on the green leaf, the shading in the yellow area of the design, the shade of green, and the occurrence of any apparent plate flaws or colour shifts.

Concluding Remarks

The three booklets that were counterfeited have been obsolete for some time. When did the counterfeits first appear? Obviously, the counterfeits would be most saleable to a mass market during the period when they paid the right postal rates, and in fact it appears that all three counterfeits were available while the genuine stamps were still current. How many were used for postage? A trickle of used stamps has been reported, but this is still an open question. As the existence of the counterfeits becomes more widespread, I expect collectors will be re-examining their used accumulations of these stamps, and a better picture of the prevalence of the counterfeits will emerge.

Who produced these counterfeits and how did the knowledge of their existence become known? Canada Post and the RCMP approached Richard Gratton, known for his long-standing interest in fakes, forgeries, and counterfeits, with a request to examine copies of the 49¢ and \$1.40 counterfeits. It was as a result of his examination that Mr. Gratton was able to reveal their existence and describe some of their characteristics in *Philatélie Québec*. He says the counterfeits were produced in a Baltic country, but that further details are unavailable because the authorities are actively pursuing their investigation.

In his two articles in *Fakes Forgeries Experts*, Mr. Gratton describes the known counterfeits of Canadian stamps except for the \$1.05 Deer booklet [3] [4]. The counterfeit 49¢, \$1.05, and \$1.40 booklets are by far the most dangerous. I believe the general public would unhesitatingly accept them as genuine and use the stamps for postage. Even experienced collectors would probably do the same, especially if they were unaware that counterfeits existed.

I consider myself a knowledgeable collector with a keen interest in varieties. I first examined a counterfeit \$1.40 Maple Leaf booklet courtesy of Saskatoon Stamp Centre in December 2005, about five months before Richard Gratton's first *Philatélie Québec* article. It was quite evident that the green traffic light on the booklet I examined wasn't printed by a green ink but rather a combination of blue and yellow. I also noted at the time that there was a light speckling of tiny blue dots in the yellow traffic light. Did I immediately conclude these were counterfeits? No, the possibility never crossed my mind! Five months later, I had the benefit of Richard Gratton's article to guide me. Yet, as I indicated above, I was still prepared to ascribe my \$1.40 booklet to a rush printing from Ashton Potter.

When the *Corgi Times* article on the \$1.05 Deer booklet appeared in February 2006, there was no inkling in the philatelic community that counterfeits existed. Given the large number of printing variations that were appearing on recent definitives, it was quite reasonable to conclude that the Deer booklet was yet another, previously unreported, printing variety. It took Richard Gratton's article on the counterfeits and John Jamieson's alert observation that the \$1.05 Deer booklet shared key characteristics with the 49¢ and \$1.40 counterfeits to expose the true nature of the \$1.05 Deer booklet. Note that Mr. Gratton, and presumably the authorities who approached him, were not aware that the \$1.05 booklet had been counterfeited when Mr. Gratton wrote his articles in May.

How can we identify counterfeits more quickly in the future? Obviously, we collectors will be far more diligent now that we know high quality counterfeits of modern Canadian lithographic stamps have been produced. However, I believe the best way to quickly detect new counterfeits is better communications between philatelists and the authorities and Canada Post. The authorities would certainly have benefited in the current situation. As I noted above, dealers and collectors

discovered the \$1.40 counterfeit before Richard Gratton's first article appeared, and it was collectors who informed the authorities of the existence of the \$1.05 counterfeit. Canada Post and collectors would both benefit if Canada Post established an official channel for collectors to submit queries about new printings and suspicious material. It would also be extremely helpful if Canada Post published details of all definitive reprints, even those not stocked by the National Philatelic Centre.

Acknowledgements

The preparation of the article was a collaborative effort of several prominent collectors and dealers. I would like to thank John Jamieson and Don Williams of Saskatoon Stamp Centre for the loan of counterfeit booklets to examine, for some of the illustrations, and for the information they provided. My thanks also to Richard Gratton, Mirko Zatka, Robin Harris, and Ken Pugh who all provided information on these counterfeit booklets.

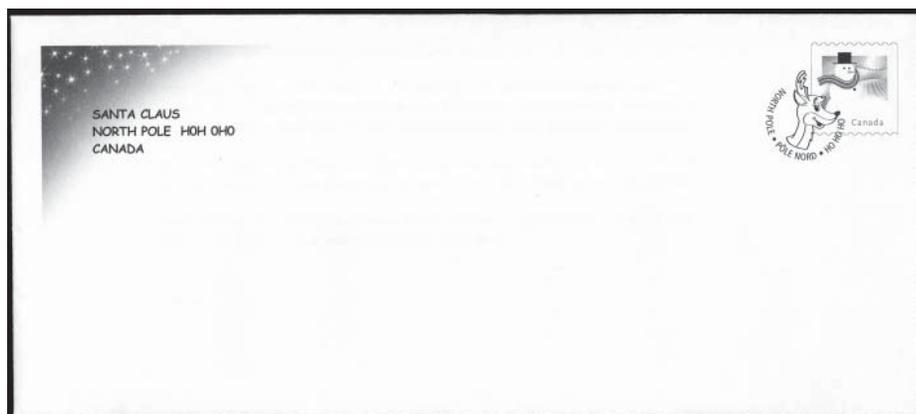
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Santa Claus Letter

Just in from The North Pole!

This year's Santa Claus letter, that is mailed from Santa himself to the many children who write to him at The North Pole, H0H 0H0, is enclosed in a precancelled stationery envelope that features the design of the 50¢ Snowman stamp that was issued November 2, 2005 (Sc. 2124).



This is the first time that Santa has used such an envelope adorned with a previously issued postage stamp. Thanks for the information Santa!

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