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Feature Article:
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Copies mailed: 142

Dues Notice

A special thanks to all of those members who responded promptly with their dues renewal included with the previous issue of the *Corgi Times*.

A red X here ____ indicates that this will be your last issue of *Corgi Times*. Please take a minute and send in your 2008/09 dues now.



48¢ Cradle "Missing Magenta"
See page 6

Olympics

A Canada Post press release dated July 4, 2008 stated:

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and Canada Post today announced that Canada Post has been named an Official Supplier for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. From iconic sports imagery to the beloved Vancouver 2010 mascots – Sumi, Miga, and Quatchi – 2010 Winter Games-themed stamps will grace Canada's mail starting in December 2008.

A 52¢ stamp was released July 18 to honour the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics. Stamps to commemorate the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver will be released this December.



Beijing Olympics

Mental Health Semi-Postal

The internet stamp newsgroup, The Virtual Stamp Club, included the following Canada Post announcement dated June 18, 2008:

Moya Greene, President of Canada Post, today announced the formation of the Canada Post Foundation for Mental Health. The Foundation, which will be administered by an independent board of experts in the area of mental health, will receive funds raised by Canada Post and its employees, as well as by others, and direct the money to where it will do the most good for those directly affected by mental illness. The Foundation's aim is to raise awareness of the effect mental illness has on the lives of Canadians and work to eliminate the stigma that surrounds it, while supporting patients and their families dealing with mental illness.



Canada Post pre-release image

As a first step in its fundraising efforts, Canada Post also announced a new commemorative PERMANENT™ stamp supporting Mental Health. The stamp will carry a 10-cent donation, with that entire amount being directed to the Canada Post Foundation for Mental Health. The stamp will be issued on October 6, 2008 to coincide with Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW), sponsored by Canada Post.

This will be Canada's 14th semi-postal stamp. Previous semi-postal stamps (twelve) were issued for the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics and a single stamp was issued for Canadian Literacy in 1996. The 10¢ surcharge for this Mental Health surpasses the 5¢ surcharge seen on previous semi-postal stamps.

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.

BNAPS

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Annual Dues

US and Canadian addresses is US\$15.00.
Canadian addresses option of C\$15.00.
All others US\$19.00.

Please make cheques payable to “The Elizabethan II Study Group” and send to Robin Harris, Editor at the address listed to the right.

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Canada Post News

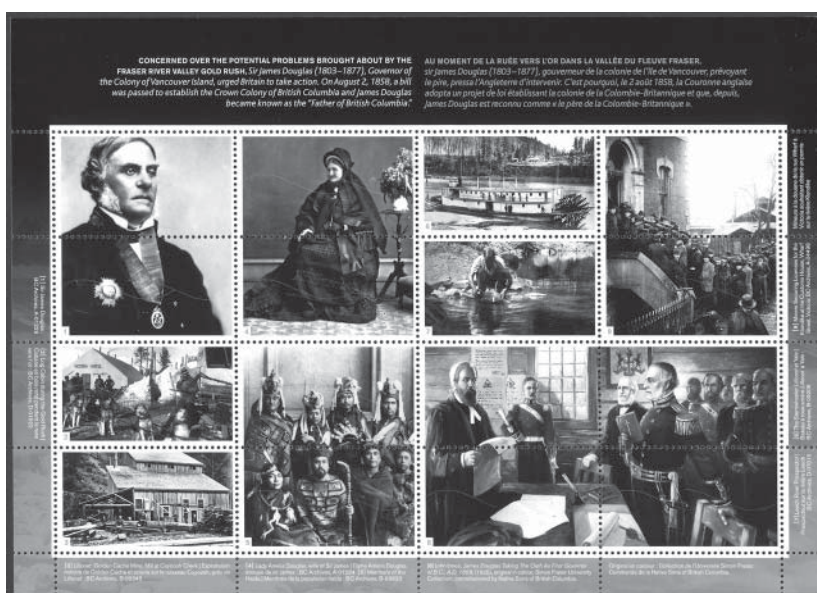
Do we like more stamps being issued by Canada? Sure we do! Every new issue is a part of the Elizabethan era — right up our alley. Here is what Canada Post is up to these days...

► Flipped BC images

August 1st saw the release of a single 52¢ stamp honouring the 150th anniversary of the Province of British Columbia. This is the third time that Canada Post has issued a fully-perforated self-adhesive stamp.



A stamp collector in BC sent an e-mail in late July pointing out two flipped images related to this issue. The first (not illustrated here) is the image of Sir James Douglas on the FDC; the second is another image of Sir James Douglas found on the backing paper on the reverse of the self-adhesive pane (shown below as the image in the upper left corner). The original images are available on the web and clearly show that these two particular images were reversed by the designers for “artistic purposes”. A close look at the images on the FDC and pane’s reverse certainly show that the “flipped image” works better.



British Columbia 150th anniversary: backing paper on reverse of self-adhesive pane of 16.

Corgi Times

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Corgi Times is produced with Adobe InDesign CS3® for Windows. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor at the address above. Electronic format is preferred but not required. Scanned illustrations (300dpi, colour, actual size, JPEG or TIFF, black background) should be sent as separate files from text files. Lower quality images will not be printed and will likely result in the article not being printed.

Study Group Business

❖ New members

Georg Gerlach (AB)
Richard Gratton (QC)
William Greig (ON)
Terence Hache (NB)
Ben Heintzberger (ON)
Norbert Miersch (QC)
Paul E. Smith (ON)
Peter T. Spencer (ON)
Steve Trask (SK)

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.

2008

Aug 29-31 — BNAPEX 2008: Halifax, NS

The Elizabethan II Study Group is scheduled to have a member's Show-and-Tell meeting during BNAPEX. Please bring along an item or two that you would like to share or find more information about. Check the show schedule for time and room location.

Postal Rate Increases

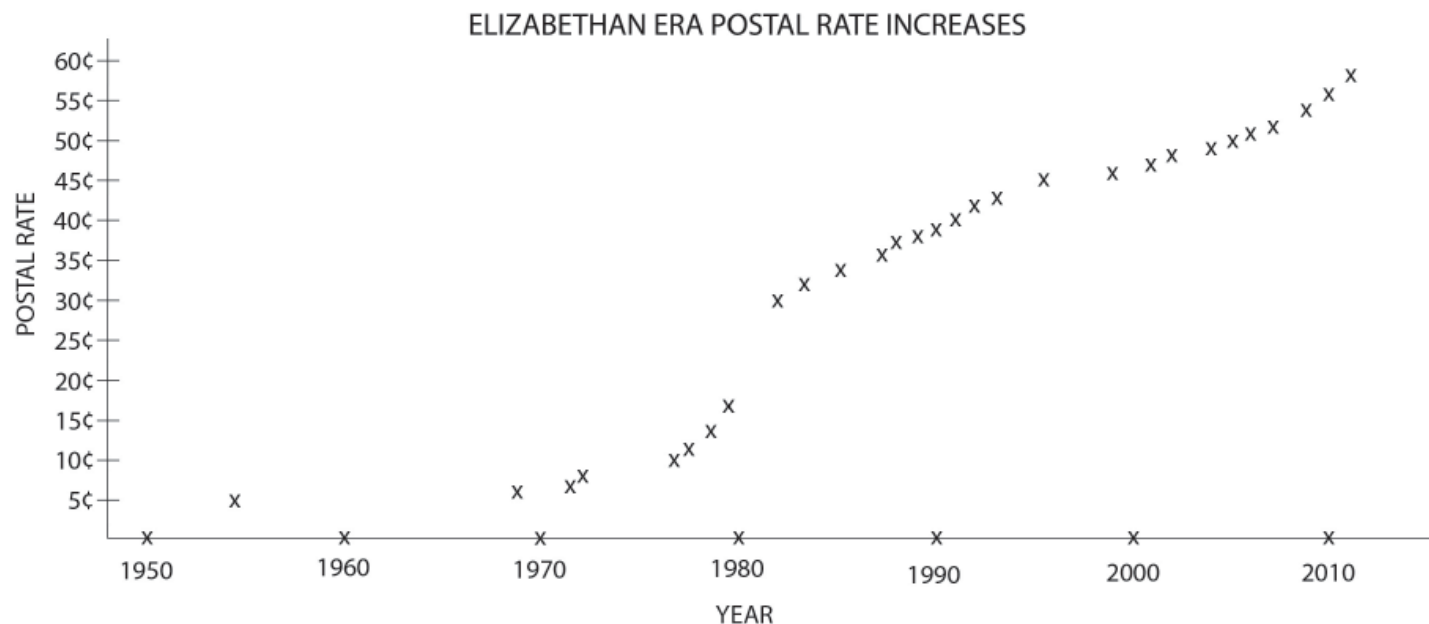
On June 26, 2008 Canada Post issued a press release which included the following:

Canada Post Responds to Cost Pressures with 2009 Pricing Strategy

Ottawa - In response to rising cost pressures, Canada Post is proposing an amendment to the Letter Mail Regulations to establish the rates of postage for domestic Lettermail for the next three years. The domestic Lettermail rate would increase from 52 to 54 cents in January 2009. The rate would rise by two cents per year in the following two years. Even after these rate increases, Canada will continue to enjoy the 3rd lowest rate of postage in the developed world.

Under the current Letter Mail Regulations, increases in the domestic basic letter rate have been restricted by a price-cap formula that limits increases to two-thirds the rate of inflation as reflected by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI has increased 14.5 per cent since 2002, while the price of a basic stamp has gone up only 8.3 per cent or 4 cents. This does not adequately reflect Canada Post's costs in operating the postal service - in particular rising costs for labour, fuel and transportation.

So, we know that in 2009 the rate will increase to 54¢ (from the current 52¢), and to 56¢ in 2010 and to 58¢ in 2011. We have become accustomed to 1¢ rate increases for the past decade or so. As the graph below shows, the next couple of rate increases begin to look like a curve rather than a steady line.



Online database update:

With my work commitments greater than ever, including a new Unitrade catalogue due at the end of the month, the ESG online availability of recent Corgi Times to "members only" is not yet completed. Thanks for your patience.

Canada Post 2008 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 8	Year of the Rat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ single • \$1.60 souvenir sheet • uncut press sheet • two Prepaid postal cards — one for each postage stamp design 	2257 2258
Jan 15	Permanent™ (52¢) Celebration (booklet of 6)	2259
Feb 1	Permanent™ (52¢) Island Red Orchid, coil of 3,000 and 5,000	2244a
Mar 3	Peonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ pair in self-adhesive booklet of 10 • 52¢ pair in gummed souvenir sheet • two Prepaid postal cards — one for each postage stamp design 	2261–62 2260
Mar 7	52¢ University of Alberta (booklet of 8)	2263
Mar 7	52¢ University of British Columbia (booklet of 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and gutter block containing Alberta and British Columbia 	2264
Apr 3	52¢ 2008 IIHF World Championships (booklet of 10; two different covers)	2265
Apr 21	52¢ Guide Dogs (booklet of 10)	2266
May 1	Permanent™ (52¢) Flag over Lighthouses (booklet of 30), with corrected design	
May 2	52¢ Canadian Industries — Oil and Gas (2 stamps in booklet of 10)	2267–68
May 16	52¢ Founding of Quebec City (joint issue with France)	2269
May 21	Arts Canada : Yousuf Karsh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ Karsh self-portrait (pane of 16) • 96¢ Audrey Hepburn (self-adhesive booklet of 8) • \$1.60 Winston Churchill (self-adhesive booklet of 8) • gummed souvenir sheet of 3 • uncut press sheet • gutter booklet • four Prepaid postal cards 	2270 2272 2273 2271
Jun 4	52¢ Royal Canadian Mint	
Jun 16	52¢ Canadian Nurses Association (booklet of 10)	
Jun 20	Anne of Green Gables (joint issue with Japan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ pair in self-adhesive booklet of 10 • 52¢ pair in gummed souvenir sheet • two Prepaid postal cards — one for each postage stamp design 	
Jun 30	Canadians in Hollywood: The Sequel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52¢ Norma Shearer • 52¢ Chief Dan George • 52¢ Marie Dressler • 52¢ Raymond Burr • self-adhesive booklet of 8 (4 different covers) • gummed souvenir sheet of 4 • four Prepaid postal cards — one for each postage stamp design 	
Jul 2	Permanent™ (52¢) Flag over Lighthouses (booklet of 10), with corrected design	
Jul 18	52¢ Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics (booklet of 10)	
Jul 25	52¢ Lifesaving (booklet of 10)	
Aug 1	52¢ British Columbia's 150th Anniversary	
Sep 8	52¢ Sam McLaughlin	
Oct 1	Endangered Species	
Oct 6	Permanent™ (52¢) + 10¢ Mental Health (semi-postal)	
Oct 7	Francophone Summit	
Nov 1	Christmas	
Dec	Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics — Olympic Disciplines (5 stamps)	
Dec	Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics — Olympic Emblems and Mascots (5 stamps)	
Dec	Permanent™ Queen Elizabeth II	

ESG Financial Statements

by: Ron Rush, Treasurer

Elizabethan II Study Group Financial Statements for the Period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

OPERATING FUND

		Amounts in CDN \$
Income:	Membership dues	\$1,995.97
	Operating Fund Contributions - See Note A	\$268.39
	Total Income	\$2,264.36
Expense:	Toner, paper and printer	\$1,725.40
	Postage	\$1,021.54
	Stationery, other	\$75.29
	Printer Depreciation	\$417.38
	Loss on exchange value	\$562.76
	Total Expense	\$3,802.37
	Operating Fund Balance June 30, 2008	-\$1,538.01

RESEARCH RESERVE FUND

Balance June 30, 2007	\$4,708.64
Additions - See Note A	\$731.36
Interest	\$73.73
Publishing & Distributing Postal Rate Book	\$583.09
Donations re Perforation Gauges	\$506.87
Royalty donated by Rate Book Author	\$517.50
Balance June 30, 2008	\$7,121.19

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2008

Assets	Cash In Bank	\$4,810.52
	Prepaid postage	\$782.46
	Investment - Certificate of Deposit	\$3,460.00
	Laser Printer	\$417.38
	Advance to Editor	\$73.74
	Total Assets	\$9,544.10
Liabilities	Memberships paid in advance (PIA)	\$555.00
	Owing to Treasurer	\$3.18
	Total Liabilities	\$558.18
Total Study Group Equity		
	Balance June 30, 2007	\$8,811.38
	Current Period Operating Loss	-\$1,538.01
	Change In Research Reserve Fund	\$2,412.55
	Balance June 30, 2008	\$8,985.92
Total Liabilities and Study Group Equity		\$9,544.10

Notes to Financial Statements

Minimal interest is paid on the bank accounts in exchange for free cheque writing.

\$2000.00 CDN has been set up in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate at 3.85%. \$1,460.00 US has been set up in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate at 3.45%.

Rate books on hand June 30, 2008 valued at Member's price total \$1,307.25.

Our Operating Fund loss is attributed to the write down in value of our US\$ investments and the incurrence of abnormal printing costs. This was the first time that we had to replace some printer components since we purchased the printer in September 2005.

Note A:

Donations of postage, which are always welcomed, reduced our postage expense. The Reserve Fund also continued to benefit from members' generous donations. The Study Group thanks the following members:

Robert Anderson, Richard Beecher, Eppe Bosch, Paul Bourgoin, Brian Cameron, Brian Cannon, John Cooper, Earle Covert, Bruce Elkin, Bob Finlay, Robert Haslewood, John Hillmer, John Jamieson, Eirwyn Jones, Paul MacDonald, Robert McLeish, Ronald Messenger, Michael Nowlan, Fred Ostapchuk, Del Peters, Vernon Richards, Samuel Rock, George Saikaley, Gunther Sawatzki, Arlene Sullivan, Raymond Therrien, Adri Veenstra, Charles Verge, Clarence Wigmore, George Yarkie, Mirko Zatka.

The “Missing Magenta” on the 1983 48¢ Cradle

by: Leopold Beaudet

The 48¢ Cradle definitive was issued on 8 April 1983 as part of the Heritage series. Ashton-Potter printed the stamp by lithography, initially on Abitibi paper and subsequently on Clark paper when Abitibi exited the stamp paper business. The Clark paper reprint was issued on 19 December 1983 with “Plate 2” in the inscription.

There is a well-known variety, the so-called “missing magenta”, listed against the original printing in the catalogues. Stamps with this variety have a brownish background colour. Quite a few examples of the variety have been offered over the years, including inscription blocks.

When I first saw the variety in the mid 1990s, I was doubtful that it was caused by a missing colour. All the Heritage definitives appear to follow the same colour scheme. Four colours (plus phosphor tagging) are used to print the design: the first for the dark lines in the vignette and the inscription identifying it, the second for the lighter shading in the vignette, the third for “Canada” and the denomination, and the fourth for the background. If the fourth colour were missing, the result would be quite dramatic – the background colour would be totally absent so the background would be white.

This colour scheme is certainly borne out by the “traffic lights” that appear on some of the values. Ashton Potter began printing “traffic lights”, small circles of colour arranged in a row or column, beside the inscription in 1986. Each circle of colour corresponds to an ink used in the design. The Ashton-Potter printings of the low value Heritage definitives on Rolland paper and the 42¢, 55¢, and 72¢ medium values all had traffic lights, but the 48¢ Cradle became obsolete in 1985 before the practice began. Did the 48¢ Cradle conform to this colour scheme? For the answer, I examined the plate proofs at Library and Archives Canada (LAC).

Ashton-Potter printed the stamp in sheets of 300 subjects laid out in six panes of 50, three rows by two columns. Figure 1 illustrates the lower right corner of a plate proof from the first printing. The figure shows a LR inscription block of four along with guidelines in the right sheet margin and four solid bars of colour used to print the stamps at the bottom. From the top, the colours are ochre, pink, grey, and black. LAC also has several progressive proofs of one pane (undoubtedly cut down from proofs of six panes) showing the contribution of the individual colours to the overall design. Each proof has one or more colours, the names of which are written on the back of the proof. Figure 2 shows a subject from the ochre, pink, grey, and black proofs. As is evident from the illustrations, ochre was used for the “Canada 48”, pink for the background, grey for the light shading in the cradle, and black for the inscriptions and the dark shading in the cradle. Details of these proofs are given in the table.

The plate and progressive proofs show clearly that the colours on the 48¢ Cradle follow the same scheme as all the Heritage stamps with “traffic lights”. They also show that the background was printed using a single colour, pink. On the “missing magenta” variety listed in the catalogues, the background colour is a shade of brown rather than pink. If this were truly a missing colour variety, there would be no background colour whatsoever. Since this isn’t the case, the 48¢ Cradle is most definitely not a missing colour variety.

If the “missing magenta” isn’t a missing colour, what is it? I can think of five theories:

1. *Error of colour.* This theory supposes that Ashton Potter somehow pours the wrong coloured ink in the ink fountain of the printing press, starts the presses, spots the error before too many sheets are printed, but does not cull all the sheets with the error.
2. *Colour shade.* Theory #2 is a variation on the first. Ashton-Potter (or the ink supplier) mixes a batch of ink but gets the formula wrong or uses the wrong dyes. Ashton-Potter starts the presses, spots the mistake, etc. The difference between #1 and #2 is that #1 is an error of colour whereas #2 is a shade variety, a distinctive one admittedly, but nevertheless just a shade.
3. *Inking accident of some sort.* Theory #3 is that some accident happened to the ink mix during the print run to cause the variety. Some of the “missing magenta” varieties come with the colour “partly” missing. On these specimens, one can see a transition from the normal colour to the brown. Assuming these specimens are legitimate and not fakes, they tend to support theory #3. If the problem happened for a brief period part way through the print run, it might also explain why Ashton Potter didn’t catch and cull the affected sheets.
4. *Colour changeling.* Theories #4 and #5 presume that the variety occurred sometime after the stamps were printed and issued. Theory #4 is that the variety is a colour changeling like the faded colours on the Canadian Bank Note



Figure 1. 48¢ Cradle definitive. Lower right corner of plate proof of 300. Source: Library and Archives Canada, accession no. 1990-033 000929-053. © Canada Post Corporation {1983}. Reproduced with permission.

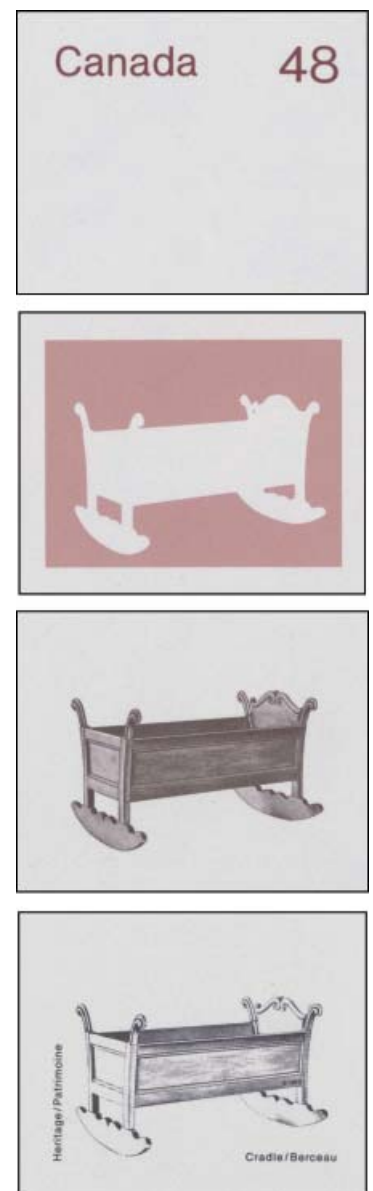


Figure 2. 48¢ Cradle definitive. Single subject from the ochre, pink, grey, and black progressive proofs of 50. Source: Library and Archives Canada, accession no. 1990-033, items 000929-042 to 000929-045. © Canada Post Corporation {1983}. Reproduced with permission.

Co. printings of the 1977 Floral definitives or the blue colour on the 1975 25¢ Marathon Track and Field Olympic stamp.

5. *Fake*. Theory #5 is that all the “missing magenta” specimens are fakes.

Five theories. Which one is correct? A number of copies of the variety have been sold in inscription blocks of four, and there have been reports from several sources that examples were found in cellophane-wrapped matched inscription block sets sold by the Philatelic Bureau (in which case, the top block might have been exposed to excessive sunlight or fluorescent lighting but the other three would have been protected). If one accepts these reports, then the “missing magenta” is a genuine but incorrectly described variety that was produced as a result of theory #1, #2, or #3. On the other hand, it has been shown that the pink colour is susceptible to colour changes. The background on some 48¢ Cradle stamps has been altered to green. There is no question that these are fakes. Even if one accepts that some stamps exhibiting a brownish background

are genuine, there is little doubt, based on the wide variance in the brownish shade, that some stamps were faked to look somewhat like the variety.

Some of the “missing magenta” stamps have been issued certificates of genuineness by recognized Canadian expertisation committees. The certificates explicitly state “missing magenta” in the stamp description. What to make of them? Any certificate is no more than an informed opinion given by experts in the field based on the best available evidence at the time. It is not an infallible statement of fact. The evidence provided by the proof material shown in Figures 1 and 2 demonstrates that the “missing magenta” variety is not a missing colour, but rather an inking variety of some sort that may or may not be genuine.

My personal opinion is that some of the 48¢ Cradle stamps with the brownish background are genuine inking varieties. This opinion is based on the anecdotal reports I mentioned earlier of findings in collections or in stock obtained from the Philatelic Bureau by collectors who were unaware of what they had. However, quite a few specimens in a wide array of

more-or-less brown shades have appeared over the years that are almost certainly fakes produced to cash in on the high catalogue valuations of the “missing colour”. In fact, some of these fakes are the subject of certificates identifying them as such. Given the nature of the variety, the obvious lack of understanding as to its cause (based on the catalogue listings and the mistaken descriptions in the certificates of genuineness), the absence of a sure test to positively identify genuine specimens, and the existence of fakes, I would treat the stamps as curiosities possibly worth a small premium, but certainly not “missing colour” varieties and certainly not worth the prices they have realized in the past.

Item	LAC Accession No.	AP ID	Colours	Comments
1	1990-033. 000929-053	AP 1599-16	All colours plus tagging	Plate proof of 300 (six panes of 50). Annotation in blue ink: SAME AS COLOR – “OK” – 12-1-83-
2	1993-045. 000929	AP 1599-2	All colours plus tagging	Plate proof of 50 (one pane). Annotation in ink: O.K. to Print Wm F. Danard 12-1-83 William F. Danard was a Canada Post stamp design manager who retired several years ago.
3	1993-045.	AP 1599-3	All colours plus tagging	This proof is similar to item 2, and has the same annotation except for the AP ID.
4	1990-033. 000929-042	AP 1599-6	Black	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Shows just the black shading on the cradle and the black lettering.
5	1990-033. 000929-043	AP 1599-7	Warm grey	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Shows just the grey shading on the cradle.
6	1990-033. 000929-044	AP 1599-8	Pink	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Shows just the background.
7	1990-033. 000929-045	AP 1599-9	Ochre	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Shows just the “Canada 48”.
8	1990-033. 000929-046	AP 1599-10	Pink, ochre	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Shows the background and the “Canada 48”
9	1990-033. 000929-047	AP 1599-11	Pink, ochre	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Similar to item 8.
10	1990-033. 000929-048	AP 1599-12	Pink, ochre, grey	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane).
11	1990-033. 000929-049	AP 1599-13	Pink, ochre, grey	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Similar to item 10.
12	1990-033. 000929-050	AP 1599-14	Pink, ochre, grey, black	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). All four colours that were used to print the stamp. No tagging.
13	1990-033. 000929-051	AP 1599-15	Pink, ochre, grey, black	Progressive proof of 50 (one pane). Similar to item 12.

Notes:

1. The “LAC Accession No.” column lists the Library and Archives Canada accession number for the proof.
2. The “AP ID” is written on the proof in black ink. My guess (and it is just a guess) is that “AP” stands for Ashton-Potter”, and that the number was assigned by either Ashton-Potter or Canada Post to identify the proof.
3. The “Colour” column lists the colours on the proof. On the progressive proofs, the names of the colours were written on the back of proof.
4. Figure 1 was taken from the plate proof of 300 (item 1 in the table). Figure 2 consists of one subject taken from the progressive proofs (black – item 4, grey – item 5, pink – item 6, and ochre – item 7).

Unitrade editor comment:

I too have seen the original proofs at the Library and Archives Canada for many of the Heritage Artifact stamps and fully concur with Leopold's results.

The 929i “missing magenta colour” listing will be altered in the forthcoming *Unitrade* catalogue. A footnote, such as the following, will appear:

“The 48¢ Cradle stamp exists with variations in the magenta background colour (described as ‘pink’ by the printers) that were previously thought to be missing colour errors. Examination of the proof sheets in the Library and Archives Canada have conclusively determined that these are NOT missing colour errors but are some anomaly in the ink resulting in variations in the intensity of the inks used by the printer. These are shade varieties and are not a missing colour error.”

Canada – France Joint Issue

by: Robin Harris

Canada and France (La Poste) joined forces to issue a single stamp on May 16, 2008 from each country honouring the Founding of Québec City (Canada Sc. 2269/France Sc. 3437).

As we noted in the last issue of *Corgi Times*, Canada Post's Summer 2008 *Collections* catalogue offered the France stamp for sale. Included in that listing is a France-Canada joint souvenir sheet.

We now have this joint souvenir sheet in our hands (illustrated below) and can provide more details about it.

First and foremost, **a unique Canadian stamp was printed by France on the souvenir sheet.** We repeat, the only way to obtain a “valid in Canada” stamp, printed by a foreign postal administration (France) is to purchase this France-produced souvenir sheet at an above-face price of CDN \$4.99.

Now for more details.

France's participation in the Founding of Québec City joint issue included a set of six different souvenir sheets. Five of these sheets contain only the France denominated stamp. The sixth sheet, however, includes a single of both the France and Canadian denominated stamps. It is this particular Canadian stamp (printed by France in this souvenir sheet format only) that is different from the same stamp printed in Canada by the Canadian Bank Note. As a result, the France-produced stamp is very unique.



Canada – France joint issue



France joint-issue souvenir sheet (scaled at 90% of original)

Although the overall appearance (design) and perforations are the same between the Canada and France-produced stamps, there are major differences between the two. The biggest difference is the colour of the tagging — the France-produced stamp has pink-coloured tagging (Canada's is yellow). In addition the paper used by France is brighter under normal lighting and high-bright under a UV light (Canada's is dull). Also, the France-produced stamp does not contain the “hidden” Château Frontenac seen on the Canadian stamp under a UV light.

How will Scott Publishing handle this issue? We are still awaiting word. Suffice it to say that this is a truly unique stamp that will cost you a pretty penny to obtain.

52¢ Lifesaving

by: Robin Harris

Take a close look at the two stamps at the right ... see anything different above them? (Hint: check the die cutting)

This 52¢ Lifesaving stamp was released July 25 in a self-adhesive booklet of ten stamps, with five stamps on the left panel and five stamps on the right panel (illustrated below).

The die cutting on all five stamps from the left panel of the booklet pane start with a "valley" at the upper left corner of the stamp. This compares to a "peak" found at the upper left corner of the five stamps found on the right panel of the booklet pane.

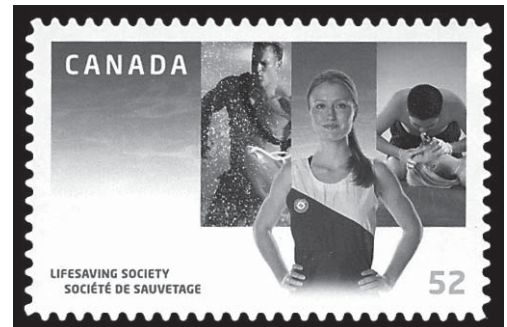
In essence, this is an inverted die cutting.

Only twice before have we seen this kind of inverted die cutting on Canadian stamps. The first was the Petro-Canada single supplied in the Quarterly Pack/Annual Collection (Sc. 1867). The second was the 50¢ Snowman stamp issued in 2005 (Sc. 2124) where stamps in alternating rows had different die cuts.

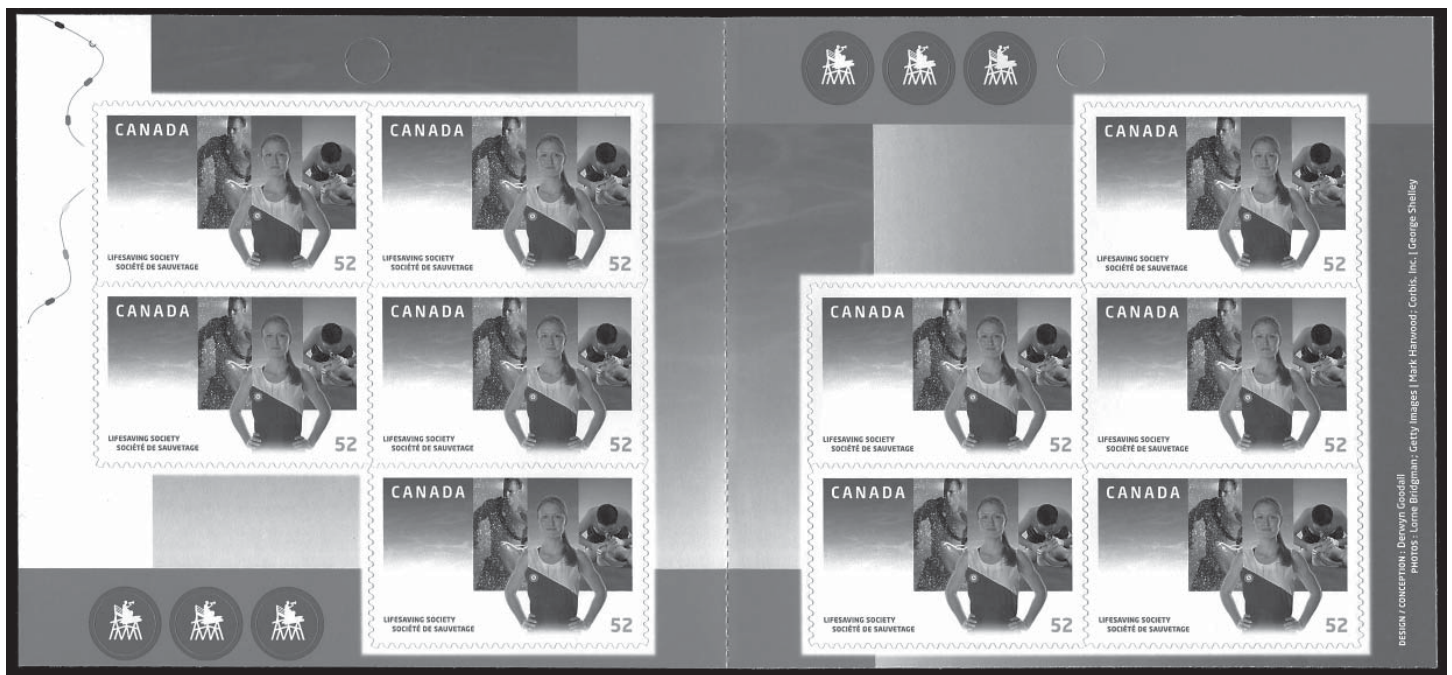
If you collect first day covers, look for two different varieties. Also, I suspect that the Quarterly Pack will contain a single example but that both types will be available — it could be hit and miss as to which die cut you will get in each pack.



"valley" at upper left of die cutting, from left hand panel of booklet pane



"peak" at upper left of die cutting, from right hand panel of booklet pane



Elizabethan II Market Place

ESG member and tagging expert, Del Peters, informs us he is looking for a new home for his *complete* tagging collection. Del's collection is quite likely the *most complete tagging collection ever formed*, having started with the initial formation by Ken Rose some 40+ years ago. The data, and images, that Del has accumulated, is available for viewing on-line at: www.adminware.ca/tagging. We included this on-line searchable database announcement in the Jan-Feb 2006 *Corgi Times*.

If you are interested in taking over Del's tagging collection, please contact him at 306-934-3151 / nsmb@sasktel.net

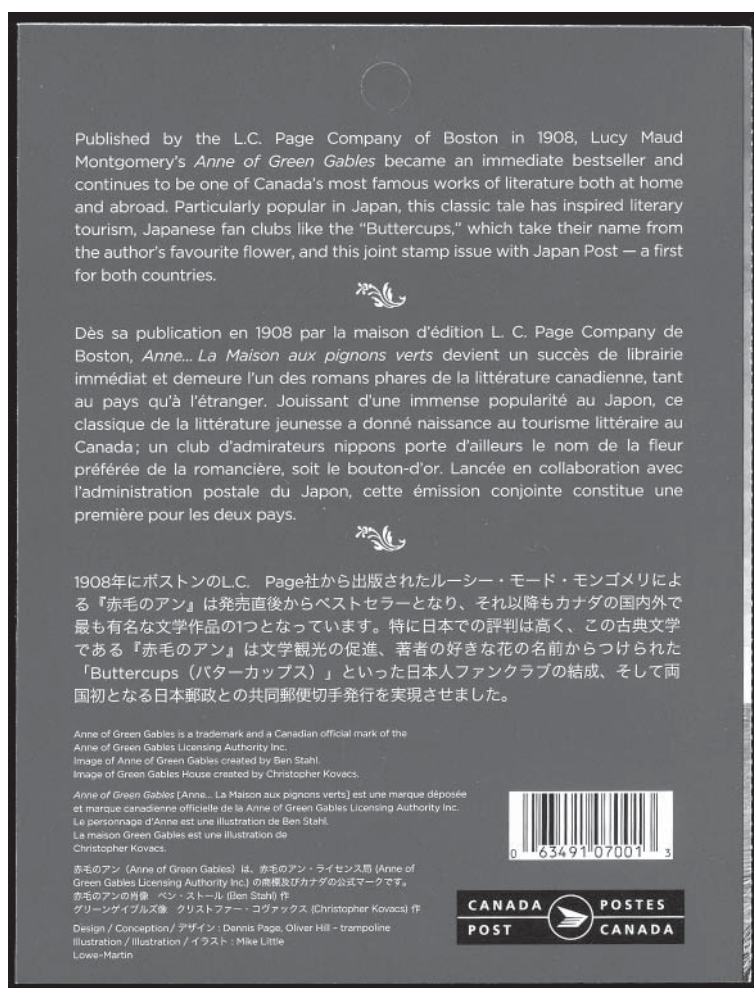
Anne of Green Gables

by: Robin Harris

The *Anne of Green Gables* novel, written by Lucy Maud Montgomery, is very popular in Canada and in Japan.

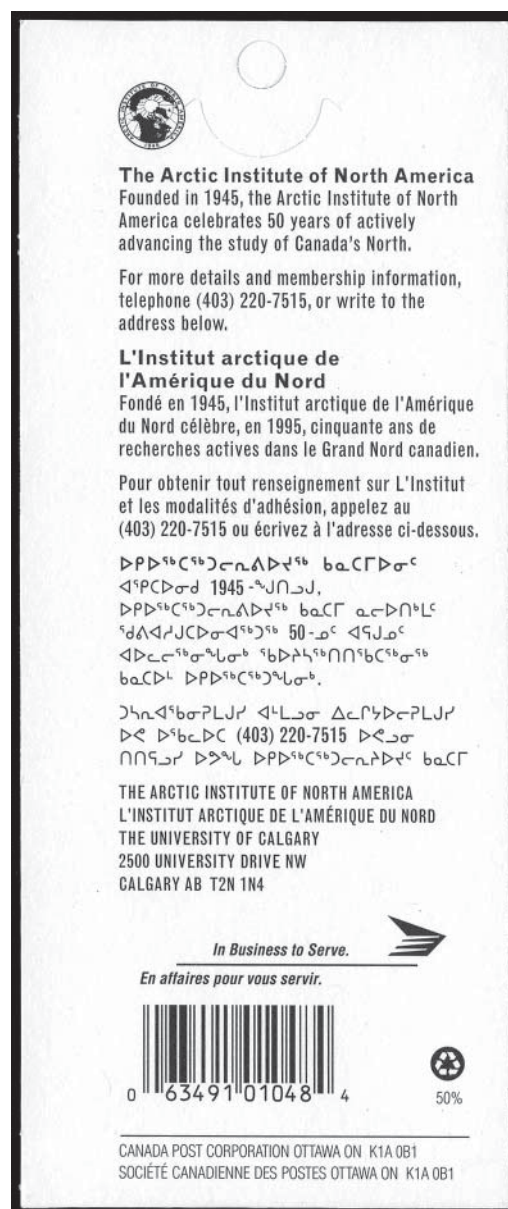
Canada and Japan combined for a joint issue. Canada issued two stamps on June 20, 2008 in both self-adhesive (booklet) and water-activated gum (souvenir sheet) format. Japan issued a pane of ten stamps for *Anne of Green Gables*, two of which are the same design as Canada's (on the web, check out http://www.post.japanpost.jp/kitte_hagaki/stamp/tokusyu/2008/h200620_t.html)

One result of this popularity in Japan is the inclusion of a third language on the back of Canada's booklet (Unitrade BK380) that describes the issue. In addition to English and French (which appear on all Canadian booklets), the description of the stamp issue is also in Japanese.



Above: *Anne of Green Gables* booklet cover (back)

Right: The Arctic booklet cover (back)



We know of one other Canadian stamp issue that included a third language on the booklet cover. *The Arctic* issue of 1995 (Sc. 1574-1578) included five stamps noting the people and items of the Arctic. The booklet cover includes the Inuktitut language in addition to English and French.

Low-Martin Coil Die Cutting

by: Robin Harris

A second¹ die cutting pattern has made its appearance on the current Permanent™ Island Red flower coil (Sc. 2244). Coil boxes containing 10 rolls of 100 stamps each (Figure 2), dated April 30, 2008 (and after), began to appear in post offices in early July.

As we have discussed in the past, these Lowe-Martin produced coils are printed from a long roll of paper with 10 columns of stamps across. Part of the printing process is to apply the die cutting pattern which covers 100 stamps — 10 stamps across by 10 stamps down. The finishing process cuts 10 columns of Permanent™ coils into strips of 100 stamps and wraps these around a cardboard core. Ten rolls are then placed into a cardboard box that has a white adhesive label applied to one end that identifies the product, number of rolls, production date and barcode (Figure 2).

Due to the nature of the die cutting pattern, every stamp from the grid of 10 x 10 (thus 100 stamps) is uniquely different from the others. The trick for the specialist collector is to then reconstruct and “plate” these 100 stamps. This can be done by aligning the 10 rolls (from a single box) to each of its matching neighbours. In most cases, a box of 10 rolls that you see at your local post office will contain the 10 unique rolls; in some cases you may end up with only 8 or 9 rolls that are different within a box, with 1 or 2 duplicate rolls — be careful! Figure 3 shows the 10 rolls that were matched with one another from the box shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1 shows the single stamp taken from the lower left corner of the 100-die cut pattern from each of the two die cut patterns seen so far on the current Permanent™ stamp. That is, these are the first stamps on the roll from the first column (roll). The die cutting has been digitally enhanced to highlight the peaks and valleys. Of interest in this case is that the new die cutting pattern is “taller” than the original (1.0mm compared to 0.8mm high from the top of a peak to the bottom of the next valley).

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the reconstruction and alignment of all 10 columns across the printing sheet and show the first row of 10 stamps from both of the die cutting patterns seen on the current Permanent™ stamp. In addition, Figure 4 shows the same group of stamps (i.e. first row from each of the ten rolls) from the previous Permanent™ stamp (Sc. 2187). By matching the die cutting, and specifically the “nibs” (that join one stamp to the next so that they do not separate during the rolling process), we can prove that the same die cutting pattern was used on both stamps. In other words, the printer (Lowe-Martin) continues to use a die cutting pattern until it wears out. Since 2003, when Lowe-Martin first started printing coils, a die cutting pattern has been used from one series of stamps to the next on a regular basis. My records show that this latest die cutting pattern is at least the 12th different one used by Lowe-Martin over these years.



Figure 1
Permanent™ Island Red flowers coil die cut patterns
Left: initial release; Right: second pattern



Figure 2
Permanent™ Island Red flowers coil (box of 10 rolls dated May 15, 2008 (Roll # 208))



Figure 3
Permanent™ flower coil — set of 10 rolls aligned with matching die cutting from one roll to the next

¹ We are *not* counting the die cut pattern that is used for the single stamps seen in the Quarterly Pack/Annual collection, which is different from these two.

Lowe-Martin Coil Die Cutting on Permanent™ Flower Coils (Sc. 2187 and 2244)

Figure 4 shows that the fourth (and last) die cutting pattern seen on the Spotted Coralroot flower coil (Sc. 2187) [top] which continued in use for the Island Red flowers coil (Sc. 2244) [bottom]. The arrows point to the “nibs” joining adjacent stamps in the roll. The two images are offset to align these “nibs”. That is, the slitters that separate the individual rolls were shifted nearly 2mm between the examples shown here. The location of the “nibs” confirm that the same die cutting pattern was used for both issues.

Figure 5 shows the second die cutting pattern seen on the 2008-version flower coil. It began to appear in boxes dated Apr 30/08.



Figure 4

Common die cut pattern used on two different flower coils — the fourth pattern used on Sc. 2187 (top) and the first pattern used on Sc. 2244 (bottom).



Figure 5

The second die cut pattern used on Sc. 2244

For sale: My local office would not sell me a portion of the stamps to reconstruct the latest die cut pattern — I had to buy the entire box. As such, I have a couple of extra sets of the complete 100-stamp pattern (partially) illustrated in Figure 5. If you are interested in a set (cut from gutter to gutter) let me know (at face value + GST = CDN \$54.60 [Inquire first, at rharris@adminware.ca or PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB ROE 1X0])

CAPEX '96 Historic Vehicles Usages

by: Ingo Nessel

Thanks to John Burnett's "Letters from Home" series in the *Corgi Times*, I have been inspired to write up some Elizabethan covers indicating commercial usage of commemoratives. This article will illustrate some covers with the Historic Vehicles issue. Members will recall that in anticipation of CAPEX '96 Canada Post issued 5 sets of stamps in the form of souvenir sheets, beginning in 1993. As these stamps were not issued in regular sheet format, commercial usage is extremely elusive.

On August 23, 1993 the first issue consisted of 2 each of the 3 most common rates in effect at the time, 43¢ domestic lettermail, 49¢ USA rate, and 86¢ overseas rate. The stamps depicted classic motor cars, called "Land Vehicles." These ranged from an 1867 Taylor Steam Buggy to a 1950 Studebaker.

The second issue was released on August 19, 1994 and denominations reflected the 43¢ domestic lettermail rate, as well as the increased USA rate of 50¢, and overseas 88¢. This set depicted Public Service Vehicles including amongst others a streetcar, fire engine and police wagon.

May 26, 1995 was the third issue date, this time showing Farm and Frontier Vehicles. Rates were unchanged from 1994, and vehicles such as a farm tractor, snowmobile and farm combine were depicted. The margin of this souvenir sheet contained the CAPEX '96 logo.

Finally on June 8, 1996, in time for the opening of CAPEX '96 the fourth and fifth souvenir sheets were issued simultaneously. Number 4 had the same format as 1 – 3 now with 2 each of the 45¢ domestic lettermail rate, 52¢ USA and 90¢ overseas rates. The subtitle of this set was Industrial & Commercial Vehicles ranging from a logging truck to a Labatt's beer tractor trailer.

The fifth souvenir sheet was issued as a pane of 25 stamps with 24 lower value denominations of 5¢, 10¢ and 20¢ using all the previously issued designs, plus one new domestic lettermail 45¢ stamp showing the famous Bricklin sports car.

Because of the unusual rates, as well as the pane configuration not allowing for se-tenant multiples, this last series of stamps was not much used on any mail, never mind commercial.

Figure 1 shows usage of the 50¢ fire engine from the 1994 issue. It is a domestic letter overpaying the 45¢ rate. Mailed from one of the Gulf Islands in British Columbia to Burnaby the addressor is Lasqueti Island Community Co-op and addressee is CRS Workers Co-op. This is most certainly commercial usage, although out of period, and the overpayment is a mystery.

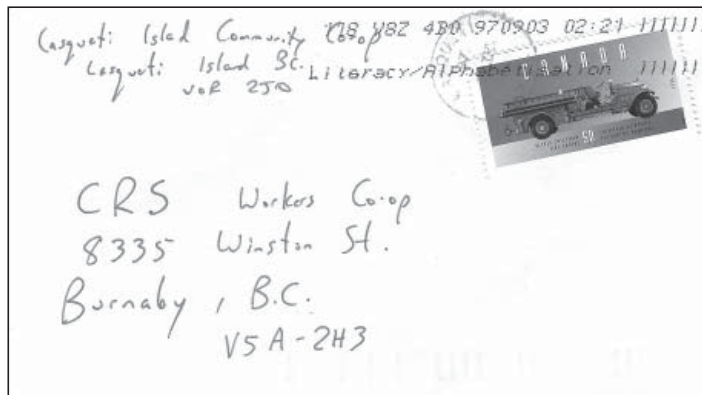


Figure 1: 50¢ overpaying 45¢ rate

Figure 2 is a registered cover mailed from Ottawa on September 27, 1996 to a company in Scarborough, ON. The rate of \$3.60 consists of 45¢ lettermail and \$3.15 registration. It is composed of the 1993-issued 86¢ Buick, 1994-issued 88¢ Ottawa Car Company streetcar and a pair of 88¢ MCI Motor Coach, and a 1996 10¢ low value re-issue of the Labatt's White tractor trailer. These all add up to \$3.60. Mixed usage from different issues is a mystery. It seems likely that the sender was a stamp collector. But commercial usage is indisputable.

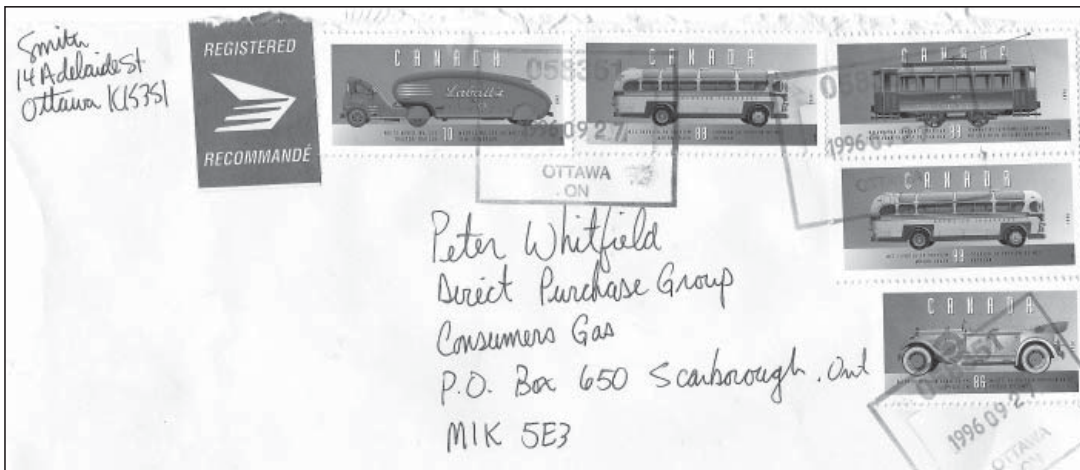


Figure 2: \$3.60 registered correct usage

Figure 3 is a Black & Decker owner registration card of which many abound with wonderful modern postal history. This sender in Gwynne, AB (approximately half way between Edmonton and Red Deer) used two of the 1996 20¢ denominations, a Gray Dort luxury sedan and a Massey Harris combine plus a 5¢ Russell touring car to make up the domestic lettermail rate of 45¢. Dated September 14, 1996, this can be construed as “in period” usage, and is definitely commercial.

Figure 4 shows another 45¢ domestic rate, this time constructed by 9 x 5¢ stamps from the 1996 fifth issue. It is a Nova Scotia Power bill payment from a customer in Malagash, NS, POCON cancelled at the nearby town of Wallace, dated March 3, 1998. Malagash is located on the Northumberland Strait, directly across from PEI, and just a short distance from the New Brunswick border. The sender must have acquired a cache of the last panes as there is multiple use of 3 issues, 2 each of the Champion road grader, International delivery truck and Ford military ambulance. To round out the rate, one each of the Bombardier Ski-Doo, Still Motor electric van and Taylor steam buggy are used. This is a nice way to commercially use stamps that were obviously meant by Canada Post to rest in stamp collections.

As John Burnett says, finding Elizabethan era commemoratives used on cover within their period of use is a worthy pursuit. The above covers are the result of searching for 12+ years since CAPEX '96. I have a few more whose commercial usage is questionable. Finding genuine commercial covers with these stamps is truly a challenge.

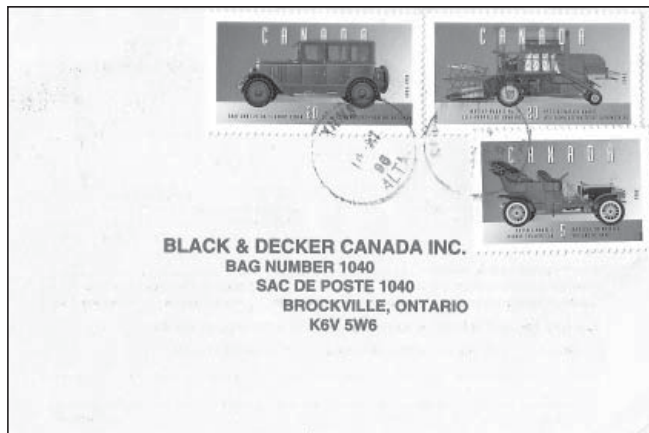
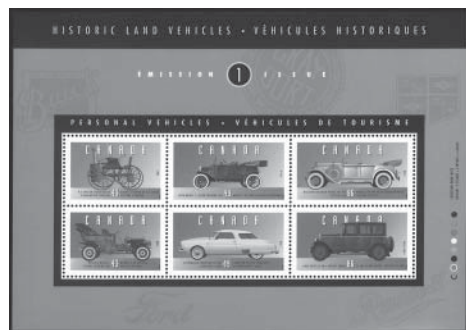


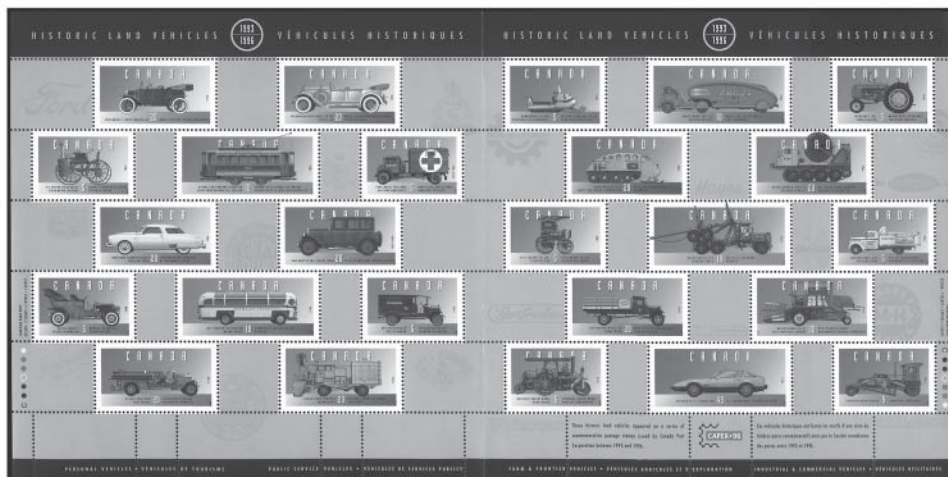
Figure 3: 45¢ domestic letter rate



Figure 4: 45¢ domestic letter rate



CAPEX '96 souvenir sheets



Letters from Home

by: John Burnett, OTB (#10 of a series)

Use of the Olympic Gold Medalists Stamps.

On July 8, 1996 Canada issued another miniature pane of ten stamps, this time to commemorate Canada's Olympic gold medalists (Sc. 1608-1612). The pane contained two each of five stamps issued in a booklet format (Unitrade BK192).

As I mentioned in earlier articles, I had asked my mom to pick up a bunch of Royal Navy adventure books I had found in a local bookstore in Vancouver. At the time I was living in Ohio and my job was taking me around the world on business and a good supply of interesting reading was important. I gave my mom some money and asked her to pick up a couple of books a week and mail them on to me using only current commemorative stamps on her package.

My mom was a coin collector and certainly understood the various aspects of collecting although she never understood those of us who collect little coloured pieces of paper.

On one occasion she sent off a package using the complete booklet pane of the Olympic Gold Medalists commemorative stamps pictured in figure 1.

I have only found one of these stamps used on an envelope to date, so I believe a complete pane of them is really quiet scarce.

I had also persuaded my mom to only use commemorative stamps on all her mail and she had on hand a booklet of the High Technologies commemorative stamps of February 1996 (Sc. 1595-1598). She added two pairs of them to "make up" the \$6.30 "Small Packet" rate for up to 750 grams.

The customs form claimed no value but I must admit these books ended up costing me quite a bit of money as I paid for the books and the postage. I know my mom enjoyed doing this for me because she continued to send items to me right up until her death in 2003. Everything she sent to me or my kids ended up with some really neat modern postage used postally correctly.

I urge each member of the Queen Elizabeth II study group to look for modern postal history. I think you will find this postal history is a lot harder to find than any of you think. I also think we are collecting extremely rare items for future collectors.

For the Record

Have you tried to remove a mint, single self-adhesive Flower stamp (96¢, \$1.15 or \$1.60) from the booklet panel? Wow, is it ever difficult! The stamp is certainly bent in the process. It is better to try and remove the backing paper from the stamp. That is, place the booklet *face down* and peel the backing paper away from the stamp. This way the stamp is not bent in the process.



Figure 1

A complete booklet pane of the Olympic Gold Medalists commemorative stamps used on a package to the United States.

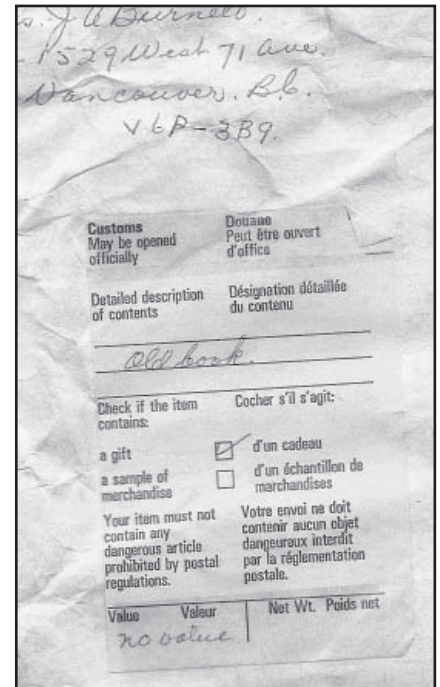


Figure 2

Shows the customs declaration form indicating she was sending an "old book" which had "no value"