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New Canada Post President/CEO

[extracted from *The Canadian Press*, Jan 18/11]

Effective February 1, 2011, Deepak Chopra, an experienced executive who has overseen mail delivery services around the world, becomes President and CEO of Canada Post Corporation.



Chopra lives in Toronto and was formerly the president and CEO of the Canadian and Latin American regions of Pitney Bowes, a global mailing and communications firm.

Chopra will sit on the board of directors and chairs a committee that manages strategies and priorities, as well as the public policy framework targets set by the Government of Canada.

Canada Post is one of the country's largest employers, with some 72,000 employees. The Crown corporation estimates it delivered about 11 billion items to 15 million residential and businesses in 2009. Canada Post has estimated that the average Canadian household buys 45 stamps a year.

Copies mailed: 127

(view this issue in *almost* full-colour on-line)

Olympic Overprinted Souvenir Sheets

For the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games, Canada Post overprinted three Olympic-themed souvenir sheets with bronze, silver and gold Vancouver/2010 logos (Scott 2305f, 2299f and 2366c respectively).

It seems that the Olympic sporting events souvenir sheet (2299f), containing the silver overprint, exists with a gold overprint instead! This would be a major error.

A member of the on-line *Stamp Community Forum* reported in late January 2011 of the discovery of this particular souvenir sheet overprinted in gold instead of silver.

We would certainly be interested in hearing of any other similar varieties on these souvenir sheets.



Hidden Dates/Text
See page 54

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.

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Annual Dues

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

► 2011 / Quarter 1

Details of Canada Post's January–March 2011 quarterly issues were released in their *Details* magazine that was received the week of December 13th.

2011 Quarter 1 issues				
Issue date	Issue	Format	Souvenir sheet?	Postal cards?
Jan 7	Year of the Rabbit (2)	Pane of 25 (59¢)	Yes (\$1.75)	2
Jan 17	Baby Wildlife (4)	Booklet panes of 6, rolls of 50 or 100, uncut press panel of 100, roll of 5,000(?)	Yes (\$4.62)	4
Jan 17	Canadian Pride (5)	Booklet panes of 10 and 30	Yes (\$2.95)	–
Feb 1	Black Heritage (2)	Booklet panes of 10 (two)	–	2
Feb 7	Celebration (1)	Booklet pane of 6	–	–
Feb 21	Art Canada (3)	Pane of 16 (59¢), booklets of 6, uncut press sheet	Yes (\$3.37)	–
Mar 3	Sunflowers (2)	Booklet of 10, roll of 50	Yes (\$1.18)	–
Mar 21	Signs of Zodiac (1)	Booklet of 10	Yes	1

I think we asked this last year ... why does Canada Post have to issue souvenir sheets for so many issues?

Your opinion...

The top of this page says:

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.

Perhaps it should read...

Do we like more stamps being issued by Canada? Not if it means extra collectable varieties that are simply a means to get more money from collectors.

What do you think of Canada Post issuing so many souvenir sheets throughout the year? Are they necessary? We would like to hear from you. Please drop me an e-mail with your opinion (corgi@adminware.ca).

Corgi Times

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Back Issues:

Sample or single issues C\$3.50, US\$3.50 each.

(Six issues per volume) Vol I through V C\$17/vol, US\$17.00/vol; Vol VI C\$21, US\$21; Vol VII C\$18.50, US\$18.50; Vol VIII to XIII C\$20/vol, US\$20/vol

Corgi Times is produced with Adobe InDesign CS4® 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

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.

2011

ROYAL 2011: May 13–15, 2011 in Dorval, QC

BNAPLEX 2011: Sep 2–4, 2011 in North Bay, ON

ESG – Help Wanted

► Treasurer

Our treasurer, Ron Rush, will be *retiring* from this roll at the end of June (or sooner).

Duties include: prepare annual statement; maintain bank accounts; deposit cheques received throughout the year; track funds.

It would be best if you lived in Canada and a proficiency with Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet) would be most useful. An accounting background would also be helpful, but not necessarily required.

If you are interested in taking on this position in our group, please drop me an e-mail (corgi@adminware.ca). If you have any questions of the specific duties I can forward them onto Ron and he can give you a call.

► Articles

Whenever I receive an article or any kind of correspondence for publication in the *Corgi Times* I “jump for joy”.

Please ... (I beg you) ... pass along articles (note the pluralized “s”) to me! It makes my job that much easier and it allows all of our members to read articles from different people. Sorry, we don’t pay for these articles, but I would suspect that writing something about your specialty would be extremely rewarding.

Articles can be as short as a paragraph or two or as long as several pages. Your editor would certainly help you get your thoughts together.

Winter Fun (Tagging), Follow-Up

by: Robin Harris

In the September–October 2009 *Corgi Times* (page 27), I illustrated two large boxes of used Canadian definitives-only stamps “on piece”. These were given to my father through one of his stamp contacts. All of the commemoratives had already been removed, leaving 74lbs (33½kg) of definitives. The bulk of the stamps were from the 45¢ through 48¢ era.

I had put the boxes “aside” for a year and finally began checking the hoard under an ultraviolet light for tagging errors this past December. It took about one hour to check each pound. The stamps were mostly closely cut; I estimate there were about 3,500–4,000 stamps per pound, which equates to nearly 250,000–300,000 stamps that were checked.

Over one hundred tagging errors were found, including many 3-bar tag shifts, a few untagged errors, some double-tag errors, and many constant tag varieties found on the 39¢ through 46¢ Flag coil definitives. An article on these varieties can be found elsewhere in this issue.

This exercise was very worthwhile; all-in-all, an enjoyable 75-plus hours of “lamping”. I pulled out all of the low-value definitives that were found and hope to study these further (particularly the low-value berry stamps for their many constant varieties).

Some of the other “finds” include: an imperf single of the 45¢ Flag coil definitive (Sc. 1396a), untagged pair of the 17¢ Queen Elizabeth II from the booklet of 25 (Unitrade 789aT1), a single of the 3¢ Black Crowberry “poisoned berry” flaw (Unitrade 1351v, a difficult stamp to find used), and a single of the 32¢ Queen Elizabeth II “comet tag flaw” constant variety (Unitrade 792vi, a *very* scarce constant tag variety).

Articles Urgently Needed

Canada Post 2010 Stamp Program (partial)

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#
Oct 2	Commemorative Envelope: St. Thomas University (100th anniversary)	
Oct 4	\$10 Blue Whale (pane of 2) • \$180 uncut press sheet of 9 panes	2405
Oct 19	Beneficial Insects • 4¢ Paper wasp (pane of 50) • 6¢ Assassin bug (pane of 50) • 7¢ Large milkweed bug (pane of 50) • 8¢ Margined leatherwing (pane of 50) • 9¢ Dogbane beetle (pane of 50) • 34¢ souvenir sheet of 5 • \$30 uncut press sheet of 8 panes	2406 2407 2408 2409 2410 2410a
Nov 1	Christmas Ornaments • Permanent™ (57¢) (self-adhesive booklet of 12) • \$1 (self-adhesive booklet of 6) • \$1.70 (self-adhesive booklet of 6) • \$3.27 souvenir sheet of 3 • \$16.20 gutter booklet (\$1 and \$1.70) Christmas Nativity • Permanent™ (57¢) (self-adhesive booklet of 12)	2413 2414 2415 2411 2415b 2412

Canada Post 2011 Stamp Program (partial)

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 7	Year of the Rabbit • Permanent™ (59¢) pane of 25 • \$1.75 souvenir sheet • \$29.95 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design)	
Jan 17	Baby Wildlife rate-change definitives • Permanent™ (59¢) Arctic Hare, self-adhesive roll of 100 • \$1.03 Red Fox, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.25 Canada Geese, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.75 Polar Bear, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.03 Red Fox, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.25 Canada Geese, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.75 Polar Bear, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • Permanent™ (59¢) Arctic Hare, self-adhesive, uncut press panel of 100 • Permanent™ (59¢) Arctic Hare, self-adhesive roll of 5,000 • \$4.62 gummed souvenir sheet of 4 • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design)	
Jan 17	Canadian Pride rate-change definitives (five designs) • Permanent™ (59¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (59¢), self-adhesive booklet of 30 • \$2.95 gummed souvenir sheet of 4	
Feb 1	Black Heritage Month • 59¢ Carrie Best self-adhesive booklet of 10 • 59¢ Fergie Jenkins self-adhesive booklet of 10 • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design)	
Feb 7	Permanent™ (59¢) Celebration, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.14 gummed souvenir sheet of 2	
Feb 21	Art Canada: Daphne Odjig • 59¢ pane of 16 • \$1.03 self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.75 self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$3.37 gummed souvenir sheet of 3 • \$32.36 uncut press sheet (2 panes of 59¢ and 4 panes of souvenir sheet)	
Mar 3	Sunflowers (two designs) • Permanent™ (59¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (59¢), self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.18 gummed souvenir sheet of 2	
Mar 21	Permanent™ (59¢) Signs of the Zodiac • self-adhesive booklet of 10 • \$1.89 postal card	

Corgi Times Mailing

Postal rates in Canada increased January 17, 2011. The standard 0–30g domestic rate increased from 57¢ to 59¢.

Time for our annual look at how this affects the mailing costs for the *Corgi Times*. A typical issue of the *Corgi Times* weighs just a smidgen under 50g. A couple of issues per year require another sheet or two of paper which pushes the weight over the 50g into the 100g rate. In these charts, the \$/year is based on 4 issues mailed at the 50g rate and 2 issues at the 100g rate. In eight years we have seen an overall increase of over 35% in total postage rates for a year.

		2009		2010		2011	
		54¢ era		57¢ era		59¢ era	
	Qty	50g	100g	50g	100g	50g	100g
Canada	99	98¢	\$1.18	\$1.00	\$1.22	\$1.03	\$1.25
USA	25	\$1.18	\$1.96	\$1.22	\$2.00	\$1.25	\$2.06
Int'l	7	\$2.36	\$3.90	\$2.44	\$4.00	\$2.50	\$4.10
\$/issue		\$143.04	\$193.12	\$146.58	\$198.78	\$150.72	\$203.95
\$/year		\$958.40		\$983.88		\$1,010.78	

Based on this, the charts to the right and below compare our approximate postage rates for the last several years (not including GST). The 'Qty' is approximately the number of copies of the *Corgi Times* that we mail out for a *current* issue (it fluctuates slightly but this will give a relative comparison from year to year). The calculated prices, for comparison purposes only, assume that the Qty (99/25/7) was the same for every issue (this particular issue has 98/23/6 copies mailed).

		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
		48¢ era		49¢ era		50¢ era		51¢ era		52¢ era		52¢ era	
	Qty	50g	100g	50g	100g	50g	100g	50g	100g	50g	100g	50g	100g
Canada	99	77¢	96¢	80¢	98¢	85¢	\$1.00	89¢	\$1.05	93¢	\$1.10	96¢	\$1.15
USA	25	90¢	\$1.40	98¢	\$1.60	\$1.00	\$1.70	\$1.05	\$1.78	\$1.10	\$1.86	\$1.15	\$1.92
Int'l	7	\$1.75	\$3.00	\$1.96	\$3.20	\$2.00	\$3.40	\$2.10	\$3.49	\$2.20	\$3.60	\$2.30	\$3.75
\$/issue		\$110.98	\$151.04	\$117.42	\$159.42	\$123.15	\$165.30	\$129.06	\$172.88	\$134.97	\$180.60	\$139.89	\$188.10
\$/year		\$746.00		\$788.52		\$823.20		\$862.00		\$901.08		\$935.76	

Philatelic New Year's Resolutions

by: Robin Harris

Have you made your 2011 New Year's "stampie" resolutions? A year ago I presented my 2010 ones; here are those that were "completed":

- complete the ESG "member's only" website so that you can view all *Corgi Times*
- provide Great Britain Machin album pages via my Machin website
- complete the die cutting mat # 4 of the Lowe-Martin serpentine die cut self-adhesive coils

Here are my new 2011 "New Year's Resolutions", some of which have been made in each of the last several years!

- complete an on-line shopping cart to sell off some excess stamps that have been accumulated over the years
- re-format the Unitrade catalogue to make it even easier to work with certain listings
- update my seven specialized Elizabethan definitive catalogues, and add two more
- provide an on-line database of Canadian stamps with features not yet seen on any stamp-related website
- provide an on-line searchable database of the *Corgi Times* articles
- try to find an imperforate or missing colour error on a newly issued stamp at a local Canada Post outlet

Hidden Dates / Text

by: Robin Harris

The 2011 rate-change definitives include four new stamps featuring Baby Wildlife (a new definitive series!).

As you are aware, Canadian stamps have included a “hidden date” within the design of the stamp for many, many years.

It turns out that these four new definitives have *two* hidden dates. On three of the stamps, one of these dates is relatively easy to spot as it is placed on a light background.

However, the other hidden date on the four values is a bit smaller and a bit trickier to find, especially on the Permanent™ design. This second date on each value is in the colour of the denomination of that respective stamp. So, if you are looking for the date on the Permanent™ stamp, look for a red ©2011 — it is quite difficult to spot!

While speaking with ESG member Andrew Chung recently, he noted that one of the Flower stamps (the Permanent™ design from 2007, Scott 2244) also had *two* hidden dates. I wasn't aware of that. A closer look at this design also revealed some hidden text in one of the petals of the flower. Again, I wasn't aware of that either.



Hidden dates (©2007) on stem and lower part of design, and hidden text (CANADA POST/POSTES CANADA) on petal.



Hidden dates (©2011) on Baby Wildlife definitives.

Elizabethan II Market Place

Classified listings in the Market Place are \$1.00 for 25 words. Additional words are 5¢ each. Camera ready display ads (preferably 300dpi, black and white tiff scans) pertaining primarily to the Elizabethan era will be accepted at the following rates: 1/8 page \$5.00; 1/4 page \$8.00; 1/2 page \$15.00 and a full page at \$30.00. 25% discount for four consecutive insertions of the same ad.

Full payment must accompany ad. Payment in Canadian funds to: Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: Robin Harris, PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0, Canada.

WANTED: Covers bearing stamps from BK88 (#939, #941, #947) or #947c, cancelled between 1985 to 1987. All destinations. Contact David Oldfield. kdoidaho@roadrunner.com

Letters from our Members

e-mail (Jan 3/11) from Ingo Nessel

From the last issue of the *Corgi Times*, in response to your question, “which is your favourite Elizabethan error?” I have a two-part answer.

My very favourite Elizabethan error is the white queen. There is a certain stark beauty to the image of Her Majesty without background colour. The sheet with progressive whitening is also an interesting study. Unfortunately I do not own one of these stamps yet. Since the main thrust of my Elizabethan collection is postal history, it would be ideal to find the White Queen on cover. But to my knowledge there are no examples on cover. So . . .

My favourite Elizabethan error *that I own*, is a variety of the \$2 Banff high value definitive of the 1980's National Park series. The stamp is part of the franking on a registered cover (Figure 1) mailed from Kitchener to West Germany. Total postage on the cover is \$3.35, paying the 72¢ international airmail rate plus \$2.63 registration. Sent on Dec 28, 1987, this rate expired three days later, when a new tariff came into effect on January 1, 1988.

The \$2 Banff stamp is noticeably mis-perforated, with a good portion of the design shifted to the right and up. As a result the “A” in Canada is cut in half, and a portion of it appears in the narrow cut image on the left side. (See enlargement, Figure 2). By the looks of the “\$2 Postes/Postage” it appears to be from the British American Bank Note Company printing issued in October 1986. It is surprising that this flawed stamp made it past Canada Post quality control. The franking was likely done at the post office, as customary for registered mail. Thus it passed numerous hands before being applied to this letter.

So not only do I enjoy this Elizabethan error, but also the postal history that comes along with it being on a commercial cover.



Figure 1



Figure 2

25¢ Olympic Ceremonies

A correspondent has passed along an interesting flaw on the 25¢ Medal Ceremony stamp issued June 18, 1976 for the Montreal Summer Olympics (Scott 683).

I suspect this is *not* constant, but would welcome reports from any of our members.

The flaw consists of a white vertically-oriented “seagull” in the clouds just to the right of the Montreal Olympic logo. There is also some unrelated red-ink splatter in the top left inscription.

XXI Olympiad
Olympiade XXI
Montréal 1976



Tagging Varieties on the 1990–2000 Flag Coil Definitives

by: Robin Harris

A detailed study of over twenty thousand used singles and multiples [1] of the 39¢ through 46¢ Flag coil definitives, used for eleven years from 1990 through 2000, has yielded some very interesting tagging varieties and insights to the usage of tagging “plates” by Canadian Bank Note Company. [No mint rolls were available for study.]

The primary purpose of this article is to discuss and illustrate the **constant tag varieties** found on these six stamp designs. All of these could certainly be listed in the *Unitrade* catalogue.

Six different values share the same design. The only differences are the denomination and colour.

	Sc No	Issued	Length of service
39¢ dark violet	1194B	Feb 8, 1990	11 months
40¢ blue grey	1194C	Dec 28, 1990	1 year
42¢ red	1394	Dec 27, 1991	1 year
43¢ olive green	1395	Dec 30, 1992	2 years, 7 months
45¢ blue green	1396	Jul 31, 1995	4 years, 5 months
46¢ red	1695	Dec 28, 1998	2 years

Cylinder Layout

All CBN produced coils were layed out on the cylinder the same way: two groups of 36 rows by 10 columns. That is, 720 stamp impressions around the cylinder. Narrow and wide spacing varieties of the design are possible at the start/end of the cylinder.

An illustration of the cylinder for the 46¢ red design is shown on the next page [2].

Tagging Cylinder

The tagging cylinder is 18 rows (or half of the engraved cylinder). There was a deliberate overlap of the tagging application every 18 rows. A careful look at single stamps (particularly pairs or larger multiples) will show this overlap of tagging — the tagging is noticeably less opaque due to the two layers of tagging application. These “double tag” varieties will be seen at the top (1 in 9) or bottom (1 in 9) of single stamps.

These “double tag” varieties are *constant*, deliberately produced tagging varieties.

Tagging Width

The tagging on all of these coil stamps was applied around all four sides of the stamp design.

The tagging width is 4mm between stamps along the roll (i.e. over the perforations) and between columns (or rolls) of stamps. The rolls from the extreme left and right of each of the two groups of ten columns stamps had tag widths of 2–2½mm on the outer edge.

If the tagging cylinder shifted slightly or the cutting of the rolls was shifted slightly to the left or right, a narrow edge of the left or right side of the stamps from the extreme left and right of each of the two groups of stamps would not receive any tagging. The table below shows the number of used examples found in the respective quantity of stamps studied [1] from the author’s collection.

Stamps found with extreme left or right edge absent of tagging				
	Sc No	Stamps studied	Found: left side	Found: right side
39¢ dark violet	1194B	1927	4	7
40¢ blue grey	1194C	1188	1	1
42¢ red	1394	1108	2	0
43¢ olive green	1395	2510	13 dull; 8 HB	1 dull; 1 HB
45¢ blue green	1396	8362	42	13
46¢ red	1695	6375	21	23

These are non-constant, non-deliberate tagging varieties that are relatively scarce but of interest to the specialist collector.

Tagging Errors

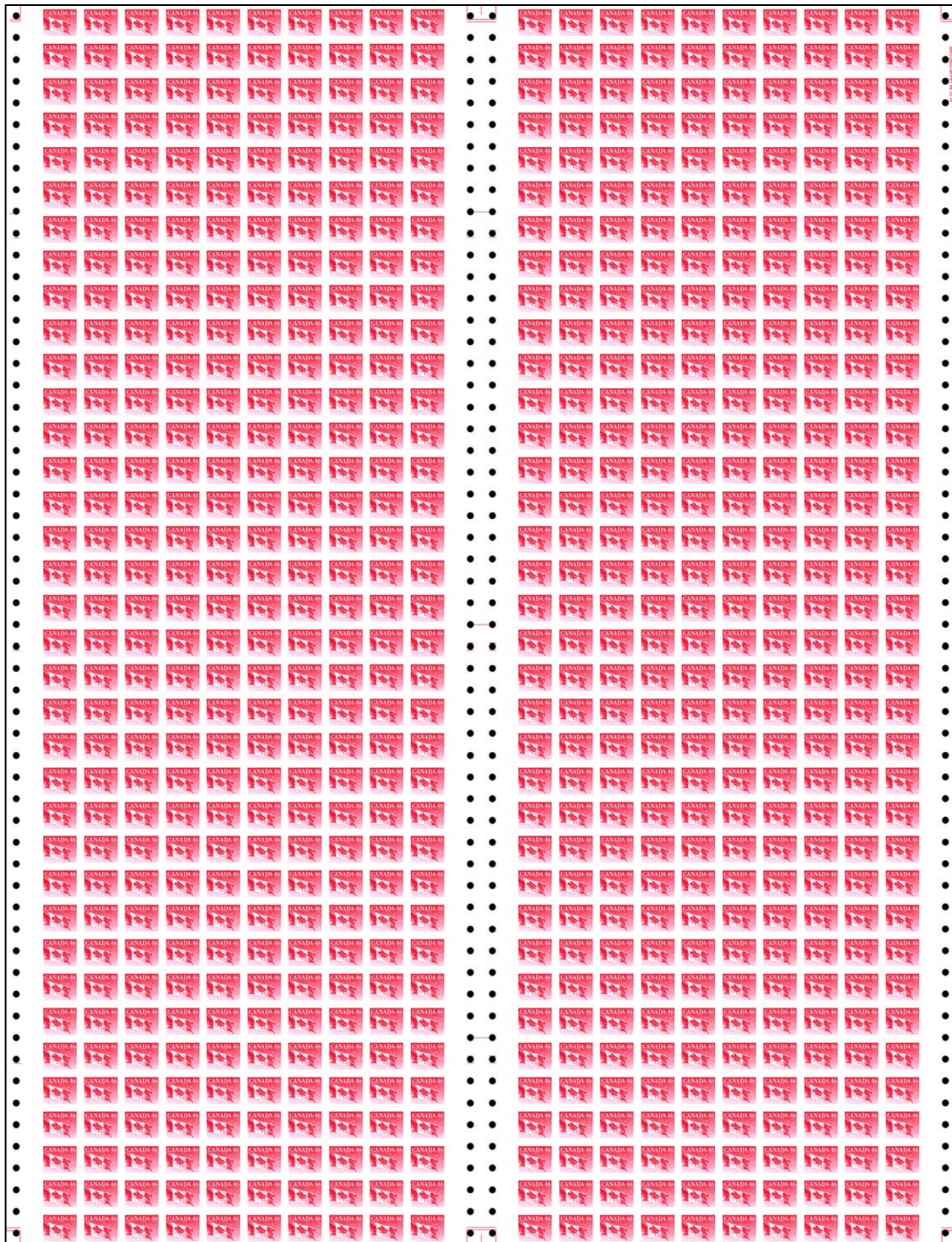
Tagging errors on these stamps will either be untagged or 3-bar. The 3-bar type errors can be the result of either the tagging shifting in one direction or a miscut of the rolls producing off-centre designs.

These errors are non-constant, unintentional varieties that are relatively scarce and highly valued by collectors.

Tagging Errors						
	Untagged	U	Π	[]	H
39¢ dark violet			√ x			
40¢ blue grey	x	√	√			x ¹
42¢ red				x ²		√
43¢ olive green		√ x	√	√ x		x ¹
45¢ blue green		√ x	√ x ¹	x ²	√	√ x ¹
46¢ red	√ ³		√ x			
√ in my collection; x in Del Peters tagging database [3] ¹ due to perf shift; ² due to miscut coil; ³ damaged used single						

Constant Tag Varieties

In theory, a constant tag variety will occur 1 in 360 stamps. This is because the tagging cylinder is 18 rows by 20 columns. However, what if more than one tagging



Press sheet (digitally created) of 46¢ Flag coil definitive (Scott 1695) as observed March 5, 2009 at Library and Archives Canada

cylinder was used on a given stamp? The following charts, discussed with each single stamp design, will aid in this theory.

The “stamps studied” and “# found” are based on my father’s own personal accumulation gathered over the years [1].

The “# found” is just that, a count of the number of that specific variety found in the quantity of “stamps studied”. Some might think that finding a specific variety is “luck”. It is “luck” if you have a very small sample to work with. As the sampling gets larger, the expected number of finds should begin to occur. With that said, if you come across a damaged stamp and discard it *before* it is studied for a particular variety and it turns out that that one damaged stamp had the variety you were looking for, then that would most likely be considered “bad luck”!

Some of these varieties are more difficult to find than others; not necessarily because of their size but because of how the flaw falls on the stamp design. In some cases the tag flaw appears hidden by the stamp design; in other cases the tag flaw may fall behind a cancellation making it quite difficult to spot. As such, it is quite possible that I missed finding one, two or more flaws while searching for these.

When using an ultraviolet light to search for the constant tag varieties illustrated below, most will pop right out at you. The contrast of the tagging colour against the underlying paper is very striking (in most cases). Depending on the overall centering of the tagging to the underlying stamp design, in some cases the tag variety may fall over the design making it a bit more difficult to spot the variety with a casual glance.

Many stamps were found with *random* tag spots, streaks, and other anomalies. However, if only one stamp was found with that specific “flaw”, it must be considered a random occurrence and non-constant. These “varieties” were not included in the following discussions (although *many* were found).

When each group of these stamps was checked for possible constant tag varieties, each group was actually studied twice. The first pass through the stamps was to determine if at least two (and hopefully more than two) of the exact same variety could be spotted. Once the type of varieties was determined, a second pass through the group of stamps was made to ensure that none of the constant varieties was missed.

By the way, with enough time (and patience!) it might actually be possible to *plate* many of the 360 different tag positions for each tagging mat, based on the inside tag edges of each stamp (based on straightness, curves at the corners, etc.). I don’t think it would be possible to plate every position as it is likely not possible to find enough unique characteristics for each position.

39¢ dark violet (Scott # 1194B)

The “type” of tagging on the 39¢ Flag coil seems to consist of at least three qualities (but will not be discussed in detail in this article). Four different constant tag varieties were discovered.

39¢ dark violet (Scott # 1194B)		
Constant tag varieties	Stamps studied: 1,927	
	# found	Ratio
1. light tag spot at UL	2	1 in 964
2. dot at LL	3	1 in 642
3. dot at bottom	5	1 in 385
4. nudge at LR	5	1 in 385



1194B (1)
light tag spot at upper left
(difficult to see on stamp)



1194B (2)
dot at lower left



1194B (3)
dot at bottom



1194B (4)
nudge at lower right

40¢ blue grey (Scott # 1194C)

Two different constant tag varieties were discovered on the 40¢ value. The “asteroid” is the largest tag variety found on these six Flag coil stamps.

40¢ blue grey (Scott # 1194C)		
Constant tag varieties	Stamps studied: 1,188	
	# found	Ratio
1. large “asteroid” at UL	2	1 in 594
2. rounded tag corners at bottom	2	1 in 594



1194C (1)
large "asteroid" at upper left



1194C (2)
rounded tag corners at bottom



1394 (5)
rounded sides at bottom with outdent at lower right

42¢ red (Scott # 1394)

Five different constant tag varieties were discovered on the 42¢ value.

42¢ red (Scott # 1394) Constant tag varieties			Stamps studied: 1,108	
	# found	Ratio		
1. notch in tag at UL	5	1 in 222		
2. tag nib at right	3	1 in 369		
3. nudge in tag at bottom	3	1 in 369		
4. rounded tag corners	4	1 in 277		
5. rounded sides w/outdent	2	1 in 554		

Varieties 4 and 5 (rounded tab corners) occur on the stamp immediately above a tag joint (i.e. there is 'doubled' tag at the bottom of the stamp).



1394 (1)
notch in tag at upper left



1394 (2)
tag nib at right (near bottom)



1394 (3)
nudge in tag at bottom



1394 (4)
rounded tag corner at lower right

43¢ olive green Scott # 1395/ii)

Two different constant tag varieties were discovered on the 43¢ value.

43¢ olive green (Scott # 1395) Constant tag varieties			Dull Stamps studied: 2,250	
	# found	Ratio		
1. tag half-circle at UL	6	1 in 375		
2. tag half-circle near left middle	3	1 in 750		
(Sc 1395ii)			HB Stamps studied: 260	
1. tag half-circle at UL (as 1 above)	1	1 in 260		



1395 (1)
tag half-circle at upper left



1395 (1)
tag half-circle near left middle

As an aside, the tagging on the 43¢ is the nicest and most consistent tagging application on any of the six Flag coil stamps. Its appearance and "brightness" is consistent throughout.

45¢ blue green (Scott # 1396/ii)

Eight different constant tag varieties were discovered on the 45¢ value, four of appear to be exact inverts of others. This suggests that the tagging mat was inverted at some point in its operation.

45¢ blue green (Scott # 1396)		
Constant tag varieties	HB Stamps studied: 8,277	
	# found	Ratio
1. tag nib at top	6	1 in 1380
2. tag nib at bottom (invert of 1?)	7	1 in 1182
3. tag growth at LL	12	1 in 690
4. tag growth at UR (invert of 3?)	7	1 in 1182
5. tag donut at UL	3	1 in 2759
6. tag donut at LR (invert of 5?)	10	1 in 828
7. tag "mouth" at UL	5	1 in 1655
8. tag "mouth" at LR (invert of 7?)	9	1 in 920
9. small tag spot at UL	5	1 in 1655
10. flaw in tag border at UL	7	1 in 1182
11. rounded tag at bottom*	7	1 in 1182
12. tag spot at LR (w/indent of tag)	6	1 in 1380
(Sc 1396ii)	Dull Stamps studied: 85	
(none)	0	—

* at least 2 types (# found is for just one type)

Due to the "ratio" values, I would suggest that at least two different tagging mats were used on the 45¢ value. The number of different varieties found on this value also suggest that multiple tagging mats were used.

The following flaws may also be constant but only one used copy has been seen by the author:

- * tag spots at LR, identical to the 46¢, #5
- * tag half-circle near UL, identical to the 43¢, #1
- * tag half-circle near LR, invert of variety above

Do any of these constant tag varieties exist on the 45¢ stamp with dull paper? Only 85 used copies, compared to 8,300 HB stamps, were available. The odds of finding a variety in only 85 stamps is quite low.



1396 (1)
tag nib at top



1396 (2)
tag nib at bottom



1396 (3)
tag growth at lower left



1396 (4)
tag growth at upper right;
invert of (3)



1396 (5)
tag donut at upper left



1396 (6)
tag donut at lower right;
invert of (5)



1396 (7)
tag "mouth" at upper left



1396 (8)
tag "mouth" at lower right;
invert of (7)



1396 (7)
tag "mouth" at upper left



1396 (8)
tag "mouth" at lower right;
invert of (7)



1396 (9)
small tag spot at upper left



1396 (10)
flaw in tag border at upper left



1695 (1)
tag growth at lower left



1695 (2)
tag growth at upper right



1396 (11)
rounded tag corners at bottom



1396 (12)
tag spot at lower right (with indent of right corners)



1695 (3)
tag donut at upper left

46¢ red (Scott # 1695)

Eight different constant tag varieties were discovered on the 46¢ value. Five of these appear to be identical to those found on the 45¢ value ... thus, the tagging mat was re-used for a different value! Two of the varieties appear to be an invert of others.

46¢ red (Scott # 1695) Constant tag varieties		
	Stamps studied: 6375	
	# found	Ratio
1. tag spot at LL (same as 45¢ #1?)	24	1 in 265
2. tag spot at UR (same as 45¢ #2?)	9	1 in 708
3. tag donut at UL (same as 45¢ #4?)	7	1 in 910
4. tag spots at UL	7	1 in 910
5. tag spots at LR (invert of 5?)	4	1 in 1593
6. tag "hole" indent at LR (45¢ #3?)	19	1 in 335
7. tag "mouth" at LR (45¢ #7?)	17	1 in 375
8. tag "missing" cloud at UL	5	1 in 1275

Due to the "ratio" values and the seemingly identical varieties found on both the 45¢ and 46¢ values, I would suggest that at least two different tagging mats were used on the 46¢ value.



1695 (4)
tag spots at upper left



1695 (5)
tag spots at lower right



1695 (6)
tag "hole" indent at lower right



1695 (7)
tag "mouth" at lower right



1695 (8)
tag "missing" cloud at upper left

Further studies

Where to from here? A study of full mint rolls of all values would certainly be beneficial. This could be useful to determining if the different varieties appeared on different rolls or if some of the varieties fell on the same roll. A mint roll, if it had a constant tag variety, would produce either 5 or 6 examples of that specific variety. I would certainly like to hear from any of our members who have large strips containing any of the varieties illustrated here.

Based on the casual glancing of these stamps while “lamping” (viewing under a UV light), I know that many other identifiable “flaws” could be identified, based on the “curves”, “indents”, “straightness”, etc. of the four inside lines of tagging. There are certain characteristics that could be “plated” in some small way.

If someone is interested in further studying either the 45¢ or 46¢ values, the on-piece stamps I have already lamped are available for sale at postage-costs only (note though that the varieties listed in this article have been removed). There are about 7,500 45¢ and 2,600 46¢ stamps. Send me an e-mail if you are truly interested in these. I would rather pass them along to a “good home” than throw them in the recycling.

Footnotes

[1] These 21,000 + used stamps have been accumulated by the author’s father over the years since the stamps were still current. These are used stamps bought almost exclusively from mission mixtures in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Included in this quantity are thousands of 43¢–46¢ stamps made available from a recent mission mixture hoard studied from December 2010 through January 2011.

[2] 46¢ Flag coil cylinder plate sheet as observed at Library and Archives Canada on March 5, 2009 by the author.

[3] Del Peters on-line tagging database found at: www.adminware.ca/tagging

Two Other Constant Tag Varieties

ESG member Leopold Beaudet first reported in his *Canadian Stamp Varieties* column in *The Canadian Philatelist* (July-August 1982, Vol 33, No 4, page 216) of a “hook” tag flaw on the 50¢ vending machine booklet (Maple Leaf designs).

In the May-Jun 1983 issue he notes the discovery of the same tag flaw on the 15¢ Flower sheet stamp. In the Sep-Oct 1983 issue he adds the 1¢, 3¢ and 5¢ Flower stamps to the list. The Nov-Dec 1984 issue adds the 30¢ Maple Leaf sheet stamp.

A second constant tag flaw, a “comet” (or “exclamation mark”) is reported by Leo in the Nov-Dec 1984 *Canadian Philatelist* on the 32¢ Queen Elizabeth II sheet (plate 2).

Over the years, additional stamp issues were added to each list. Both flaws are fascinating as they appear on different stamp issues and formats.

10 stamps with hook tag flaw:

- 1¢ Bottle Gentian (sc 781)
- 2¢ Western Columbine (782)
- 3¢ Canada Lily (783)
- 5¢ Shooting Star (785)
- 10¢ Lady’s Slipper (786)
- 15¢ Canada Violet (787)
- 17¢ Queen Elizabeth II (sheet/bklt) (789)
- 30¢ Leaf (sheet) (923)
- 50¢ booklet (5¢, 10¢, 30¢ Leaf) (945a)



3 stamps with comet tag flaw:

- 32¢ Queen Elizabeth II (sheet) (sc 792)
- 32¢ Maple Leaf (sheet) (924)
- 32¢ Maple Leaf (bklt) (924b)



8¢ Library Centennial Extra Spire

by: Robin Harris

In last month's *Corgi Times* I noted that the "Extra Spire" variety found on the 8¢ Library Centennial stamp (Scott 544) was my favourite Elizabethan-era variety.

At the time I noted that "After searching through about 15,000 used 8¢ Library stamps I was able to find 3 (or was it 4?) examples." It turns out that I had found 8 of these; 4 untagged and 4 Winnipeg tagged. These are illustrated at right. The SOTN example is dated August 15, 1972.

Michael Painter of British Columbia (now deceased), I believe, was the first person to spot this variety.

Over the years Michael went through 200,000 stamps to find some 13 of this variety (11 untagged and 2 Winnipeg tagged). His odds of finding one were not nearly as good as my odds were.

Michael's examples are illustrated below (thanks to Saskatoon Stamp Centre for passing this along).

One other example of the Extra Spire variety was sold in a Centennial Study Group auction many years ago. Does that mean then that there are a *total* of only 22 examples of this variety? I have not heard of any other examples being reported ... and no mint copies yet!

Untagged



Winnipeg tagged



Extra Spire varieties, ex. Robin Harris

Untagged



Winnipeg tagged



Extra Spire varieties, ex. Michael Painter

Low-Martin Die Cutting Pattern #14

by: Robin Harris

We can finally present the complete die cutting measurements for the Lowe-Martin die cutting Pattern #14.

Upon closer study of these numbers, it can be seen that this particular mat provides several interesting varieties, including many “compound”-type perfs (specifically having a full 1-perf difference between the top and bottom of the stamp).



Extra wide nib at R11/C1



“Bunny slope” at R2/C10

14 2010 Flowers

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
R1	8.30	8.25	8.45	8.35	8.20	8.10	8.40	8.40	8.30	8.30
R2	8.35	8.25	8.40	8.40	8.35	8.45	8.55	8.55	8.60	8.30
R3	8.40	8.40	8.45	8.25	8.35	8.35	8.40	8.50	8.40	8.20
R4	8.70	8.70	8.80	8.65	8.70	8.50	8.60	8.70	8.65	8.70
R5	9.05	8.95	9.20	9.00	8.90	9.15	9.20	9.25	9.00	9.05
R6	8.00	8.20	8.30	8.00	7.90	8.00	7.90	7.95	7.95	8.05
R7	8.10	7.95	7.95	7.90	7.90	7.85	7.85	7.80	7.90	7.80
R8	7.70	7.75	7.85	7.85	7.80	7.70	7.95	8.60	8.80	8.80
R9	8.80	8.85	8.90	8.70	8.75	8.80	8.70	8.65	8.70	8.50
R10	8.65	8.80	8.65	8.70	8.60	8.75	8.65	8.70	8.75	8.80
	8.00 ¹	8.10	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.05	8.20	8.35	8.35	8.45

¹ first “nib” is very large (R11/C1)

Horiz pair (R8) at C7–C8 is a 0.65 perf increase.

“Bunny slope” variety (shaded entry); gauge is 8.30 across entire stamp, but is 8.50 up to the anomaly.

Low-Martin Die Cutting Pattern #16

by: Robin Harris

The 2011 rate-change definitives were issued January 17, 2011¹. The rolls (and corresponding booklets) feature Baby Wildlife, a beginning of a new definitive series.

The die cutting on the four new Baby Wildlife rolls *are now consistent*, with nice “rounded” tips. All of the previous Lowe-Martin produced rolls of 50 and 100 stamps had inconsistent, “sawtooth-shaped” tips.

The new die cutting is more like the die cutting found on all of the Lowe-Martin produced self-adhesive definitive booklets of 6.

- Coil die cut measurement: 8.25 (with 4 or 5 nibs)
- Booklet die cut measurement: 9.20 (without nibs, starting with a valley)
- Horizontal roll of 5,000: (not yet seen)

The new coil die cutting can be found with either 4 or 5 “nibs” per stamp. These small “nibs” help keep adjacent stamps adhered together during the manufacturing and distribution processes. The 4-nibs variety seems to come from the first 5 rolls of the press panel while the 5-nibs variety comes from the rightmost 5 rolls on the press panel.



Coil, perf 9.20 (starts with a valley)



Coil, perf 8.25 with nibs

¹ Actually, the Permanent™ Arctic Hare design was made available as early as the last week of December 2010 due to a shortage of Permanent™ Flower rolls. It seems that post offices who ordered Permanent™ rolls of stamps in late December received the new Arctic Hare design and were able to sell these at \$57 per roll instead of the new rate of \$59 per roll.