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Copies mailed: 127

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

Titanic Assortment of Items

Canada Post has jumped on the *Titanic* band wagon in titanic fashion. For the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, Canada Post is releasing the following “five” stamps (Canada Post’s count) and related items on April 5:

- self-adhesive booklet of 10 x Permanent™ (2 designs)
- water-activated gum pane of 16 x Permanent™ (4 designs)
- self-adhesive booklet of 6 x \$1.80
- souvenir sheet of 1 x \$1.80
- uncut press sheet of 12 x \$1.80 souvenir sheets (\$26.95)
- 3 pre-paid postal cards (\$1.89 each)
- philatelic numismatic cover (\$26.95)
- *Titanic* collector’s set (book) (\$140.95)
- art poster (*Titanic* 100) (\$12.95)
- *Titanic* bow, with stamp collection framed print (\$69.95)
- RMS *Titanic* framed print (\$159.95)

Total: \$471.83 + taxes. Has Canada Post gone overboard? (no pun intended)



One surprising aspect of this issue was its announcement, which appeared *first* in the United States via *Linn’s Stamp News* (March 19) [why not in Canada first?]. Canada Post’s Media Relations department distributed their e-mail to the media on March 20 (which took three attempts to get it ‘right’). Canada Post’s website had the stamps available for purchase by March 21. The *Details* magazine began to be received by collectors on March 23. As this issue is about to go to press (April 3), the on-line version of *Details* is still not available!

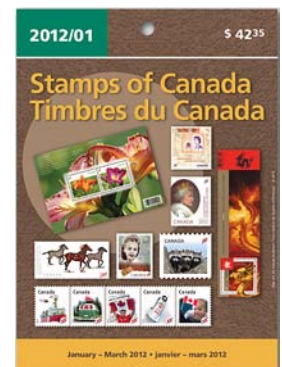


Fake or Genuine?
See page 74

2012 Quarter 1 Pack

We warned you! The number of issues and varieties of stamps issued in the first quarter of 2012 by Canada Post has produced a record-setting price for the respective quarterly pack ... a whopping \$42.35.

The quarterly packs are the one source for all single varieties of Canada Post’s stamps ... which actually produce unique die-cut single stamps not available anywhere else.



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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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

Here is what Canada Post is up to these days...

► April to June 2012 Details

Canada Post's quarterly *Details* magazine announcing the April to June 2012 stamp issues began to appear in collector's mail boxes in the third week of March.

There are some surprises, some very interesting issues and some awful looking stamps as well.

This quarter sees three more Diamond Jubilee mini panes (Apr 10, May 7, Jun 1) as well as a \$2 Diamond Jubilee (panes, souvenir sheet and uncut press sheet on May 7).

The Diamond Jubilee series has turned out to be a very nice commemoration of the event.

A single stamp is being issued for the 200th anniversary of the Red River Settlement (May 3).

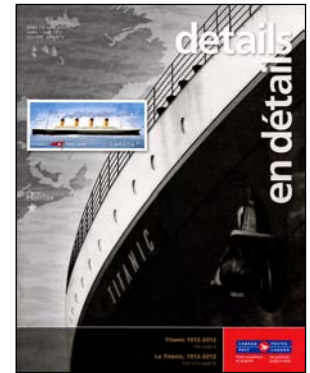
A Franklin the Turtle issue (May 11, with a booklet, souvenir sheet, postal cards, and invitation cards) is the “first in a new occasional series featuring the wonderfully imaginative characters that populate Canadians ‘kids’ lit”.

The Centennial of the Calgary Stampede sees two stamps, souvenir sheet, gutter booklet product and postal cards (May 17).

“Difference makers”, featuring four outstanding and well-known Canadians is the disappointment of the quarter. Very unimaginative designs in individual booklets, and a souvenir sheet.

The War of 1812 is a se-tenant design featuring Sir Isaac Brock on one stamp and Tecumseh on the other (Jun 15). A surprise is that this is a joint issue with Guernsey Post. Brock was born in Guernsey.

The London 2012 Olympics is being honoured with a single stamp and postal card (Jun 27).



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

David Kidd (PE)
Peter Skwarczynski (ON)

Planning Calendar

This is a listing of major exhibitions and bourses with a large content of both Canadian Exhibits and Canadian dealers.

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

2012

ORAPEX 2012: May 5-6 RA Centre Ottawa.

Theme of the show is 'The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II'. John M. Hiller award for best traditional Canadian Elizabethan exhibit. Info from Robert Pinet at pinet.robert@gmail.com.

ROYAL 2012: Jun 1-3, 2011 in Edmonton, AB

BNAPEX 2012: Aug 31-Sep 2, 2012 in Calgary, AB

BNAPS "Talking Exhibit"

via: BNAPS Books March 8 e-mail

At BNAPEX 2011 NORTH BAY Nick Poppenk gave a very interesting talk on the how the Canada Post Office has mechanized its operations, with particular emphasis on what has taken place since the introduction of the postal code system in the early 1970s. Nick first gave this talk at a BNAPS Golden Horseshoe Regional Group meeting. Mike Street sent Charles Livermore a copy of Nick's slides, suggesting it would be a great addition to the BNAPS website. Charles looked at the slides and thought it would be even better if Nick's commentary could be recorded and posted as well. With that in mind Nick was invited to North Bay where he gave his presentation and allowed Charles to record his commentary. After several months of work by Charles setting up the files to accomplish the goal, it is done. Charles says, "I hope Nick's exhibit and talk will be the first of additional "speaking" exhibits on the BNAPS website.

You can reach Nick's exhibit and commentary directly by going to:

<http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/exhibits/mechanization/index.html>

or by clicking 'Online Exhibits', upper left on the Horace Harrison Online Library web page at: <http://bnatopics.org>

ORAPEX 2012

May 5-6, Ottawa

During ORAPEX 2012 in Ottawa, the Elizabethan II Study Group will meet on Saturday, May 5, at 13:00. Leopold Beaudet will give a PowerPoint presentation entitled "My Favourite Elizabethan Varieties," discussing some of the pieces that will be on display in his Court of Honour exhibit. Information on ORAPEX 2012 can be obtained at <http://orapex.ca/>

Postal Rates Books

As an Elizabethan II Study Group member you can pick up these valuable reference books at a much reduced price below retail. The chart notes the various pricing for both Volume I and Volume II. Send your order to: Robin Harris, PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0 Canada.

	Volume I Domestic	Volume II USA & Int'l
ESG members	C \$62.95 US \$62.95	C \$34.95 US \$34.95
Non-members	C \$89.95 US \$89.65	C \$49.95 US \$49.95
Postage:		
Canada	C \$16.00	C \$15.00
USA	US \$22.00	US \$15.00
Int'l (surface)	US \$22.00	US \$17.50
	(502 pages)	(275 pages)
	Nov 2004	Apr 2007

Exchange rate subject to change



Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era In Canada 1952-2002



Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era From Canada 1952-2005

Canada Post 2012 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 10	Year of the Dragon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) pane of 25 • \$1.80, self-adhesive booklet pane of 6 • \$1.80 souvenir sheet • \$1.75 (Rabbit) and \$1.80 (Dragon) “transitional” souvenir sheet • \$29.95 uncut press sheet of 12 souvenir sheets • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design) 	2495 2497 2496 2496a
Jan 16	Permanent™ (61¢) Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee self-adhesive booklet of 10	2519
Jan 16	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (Volume 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) souvenir sheet of 4 • \$5.95 keepsake folder (souvenir sheet, postal card, booklet) 	2513
Jan 16	Baby Wildlife rate-change definitives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) Racoons, self-adhesive roll of 100 • \$1.05 Caribou, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.29 Loons, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.80 Moose, self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.05 Caribou, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.29 Loons, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.80 Moose, self-adhesive booklet of 6 • Permanent™ (61¢) Racoons, self-adhesive roll of 5,000 • \$4.75 gummed souvenir sheet of 4 • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design) 	2506 2507 2508 2509 2510 2511 2512 2505 2504
Jan 16	Canadian Pride rate-change definitives (five designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (61¢), self-adhesive booklet of 30 • \$3.05 gummed souvenir sheet of 4 	2499–03 2498
Feb 1	Black Heritage Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) John Ware self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (61¢) Viola Desmond self-adhesive booklet of 10 • gutter booklet • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design) 	2520 2521 2521b
Feb 6	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (Volume 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) souvenir sheet of 4 • \$5.95 keepsake folder (souvenir sheet, postal card, booklet) 	2514
Feb 23	Art Canada: Joe Fafard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) pane of 16 • \$1.05 self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$1.80 self-adhesive booklet of 6 • \$3.46 gummed souvenir sheet of 3 • \$33.36 uncut press sheet (2 panes of 61¢ and 4 panes of souvenir sheet) 	
Mar 1	Daylillies (two designs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢), self-adhesive booklet of 10 • Permanent™ (61¢), self-adhesive roll of 50 • \$1.22 gummed souvenir sheet of 2 • \$1.89 postal cards (one of each design) 	
Mar 6	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (Volume 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent™ (61¢) souvenir sheet of 4 • \$5.95 keepsake folder (souvenir sheet, postal card, booklet) 	
Apr 5	Titanic (4 x Permanent™ (61¢) + \$1.80 souvenir sheet)	
Apr 6	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (Volume 4)	
May 3	Permanent™ (61¢) Selkirk Settlement	
May 7	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (Volume 5) \$2 pane of 8 and souvenir sheet of 1	
May 16	Children’s Literature: Franklin the Turtle (4 x Permanent™ (61¢))	
May 17	Calgary Stampede (2 x Permanent™ (61¢))	
May 22	Canadians that made a difference (4 x Permanent™ (61¢)): Rick Hansen, Michael J. Fox, Louise Arbour, Sheila Watt-Cloutier	
Jun 1	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee (Volume 6)	
Jun 22	War of 1812: Heroes of the War (2 x Permanent™ (61¢))	
Jun 27	Permanent™ (61¢) London 2012 Summer Olympic Games	
Jun 29	Permanent™ (61¢) Tommy Douglas and the Birth of Medicare	
Jul 23	Signs of the Zodiac (4 x Permanent™ (61¢)): Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio	

Frank Smith's Philatelic Legacy

by: Leopold Beaudet

Frank H. Smith passed away on Tuesday, 20 March 2012, at age 88. His name won't be familiar to most *Corgi Times* readers. He wasn't a member of the Canadian philatelic societies, and didn't exhibit or write philatelic articles. However, he made several major Canadian stamp discoveries, and many Elizabethan collections benefitted from these discoveries.

My first contact with Frank was in 1973 or 1974 when I responded to his offer in *Canadian Stamp News* for plate blocks of the 1973 8¢ QE II Caricature definitive on horizontally ribbed paper. This quickly grew to a regular exchange of information and stamps over many years and a personal friendship as we realized that we shared a keen interest in new issue varieties. We both visited local post offices, me in Ottawa and him in Toronto, on a regular basis to examine new stock for paper varieties and plate flaws. Frank was often a step ahead of me because he also had access to an enormous supply of used stamps from a bulk mail processor. He would go through huge stacks of envelopes looking for varieties. After finding them, he tried to track down the post office from which they came to obtain mint copies. Several dealers offering very fine used commemoratives got their stock from Frank who meticulously selected the best used copies from the bulk supply and soaked them.

My first stamp article was on the paper and perforation varieties of the 1973-1978 Caricature definitives [1]. Frank's discoveries and the stamps he provided were invaluable in preparing that article. Besides the many fluorescent paper varieties he found, he discovered the Canadian Bank Note printing of the 7¢ St. Laurent in post offices almost a year before it was announced by the Philatelic Service, and determined that fluorescent variations on some printings were due to the gum rather than the paper.

His name appears in several of the "Canadian Stamp Varieties" articles I wrote in *Canadian Philatelist* between 1980 and 1986. Two notable discoveries in the articles are the 1973 4¢ Postage Due and the 1983 32¢ Edmonton Games printed on the gum side [2] [3]. Most if not all copies of these two varieties in collections are there because Frank discovered the errors and tracked them down to their source. Frank did not want credit for these two discoveries in the articles, so I'm happy to credit him now.

Frank's greatest philatelic achievement was perhaps his discovery of the initial perforation varieties on the 1988-1991 Mammal definitives. He discovered them while sorting through the 44¢ Walrus and 76¢ Bear stamps, using the perforations to separate the sheet stamps from the booklets. He was doing this some months after they had been rendered obsolete by postal rate increases. I remember his excited phone call when he reported that he had found stamps whose gauge was different from the common sheet and booklet stamps. This discovery was completely unexpected because the Philatelic Service had made no announcement of such a change, and no one had any inkling that such a variety might exist.

Despite the fact that the stamps were obsolete, Frank began searching for the scarce perforation in local post offices. He found copies occasionally because the stamps were languishing in postal clerk stockbooks due to lack of demand. Fortunately the scarce perf came from the later printings so it was typically the variety languishing in the stockbook. Realizing the scarcity of these perf varieties and having found similar varieties in the then current medium values as well as the 39¢ Flag and QE II stamps and some of the low value Mammals, Frank ramped up his search. He eventually obtained a list of all the postal outlets – post offices and franchises – between Hamilton and Barrie, and went hunting for the perf varieties over this entire region. I suspect that a large chunk of the 44¢ Walrus in collections today are stamps that Frank found.

Frank continued to go through bulk supplies of used stamps on envelopes until he passed away. In recent times, he came across the counterfeits of the 2008 Flag Over Lighthouse, 2009 QE II, and 2009 Olympic definitive booklets [4] [5].

Besides his passion for stamps, Frank did house renovations, played with computers and video, and travelled extensively with his wife, Cay. I would like to offer my condolences to Cay and their three sons on their loss.

References

1. Leopold Beaudet, "The 1973 Prime Minister Definitives", *BNA Topics*, Vol. 33, No. 5 Sept.-Oct. 1976, Vol. 33, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1976.
2. Leopold Beaudet, "Canadian Stamp Varieties – 11", *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 34, No. 5, Sept.-Oct. 1983.
3. Leopold Beaudet, "Canadian Stamp Varieties – 13", *Canadian Philatelist*, Vol. 36, No. 2, Mar.-Apr. 1985.
4. Leopold Beaudet, "Counterfeit Lighthouse and QE II Booklets", *Corgi Times*, Vol. XVIII, No. 6, May-June 2010.
5. "Counterfeit Olympic Booklets", *Corgi Times*, Vol. XIX, No. 1, July-Aug. 2010.

What is a Genuine booklet? (or Buyer Beware?)

by: Robin Harris (and correspondence with others who wish to remain anonymous at this time)

Quite a coincidence ... in early 2012 several different auction firms have had auction lots containing imperforate Canadian Bank Note "booklets" from the 51¢-era (early 2006), specifically the 51¢ Flag booklet of 10 (BK317) and the 51¢ Queen Elizabeth II 80th birthday booklet of 10 (BK321).

What do all stamp collectors hope to find on their next purchase at a post office? Dare I say an "error" of some kind? Something that will allow them to "retire" or "send the kids to college"? Such as a missing colour or fully imperforate pane? The feeling that one gets when one comes upon such a find is first of disbelief and then excitement. You have been able to buy over-the-counter, at face value, an error produced by a security printer.

What if you were offered material that appears to be a printer's error but instead was removed from the security printer's building illegally? Put another way, would you buy stolen material? I would suggest that many of us would shy away from this kind of "find".

As this is written, there are at least four current auctions that have the descriptions as noted for the 51¢ Flag booklet:

Vance Auctions Ltd. (Mar 21/12). Lot 5919

BK317ii, Rare IMPERFORATE example of the 51¢ Flag Booklet. VF, NH. A rare item. Has 2011 Gratton Certificate

Sparks Auctions (Feb 21/12). Lot 402

BK317ii 2005 51¢ Flag imperforate booklet, mint never hinged, very fine. [sold for \$550 + 15%]

R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd. (Feb 28/12). Lot 1119

BK317ii: 51¢, Flag over scenes and buildings, COMPLETE BOOKLET with DIE CUTTING OMITTED, n.h. and very fine.(U.C.S. 2000) [sold for \$450 + 15%]

Eastern Auctions Ltd. (Mar 10/12). Lot 921

2005 51¢ Scenes Definitives (CBN, Fasson Paper) Self-adhesive booklet pane of ten, imperforate - die cutting omitted error, scarce, VF NH, 2011 AIEP cert. [sold for \$500 + 15%]



Vance Auctions Ltd. (Lot 5919)



Sparks Auctions (Lot 402)



R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd. (Lot 1119)



Eastern Auctions Ltd. (Lot 921)

And for the 51¢ Queen birthday booklet:

R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd. (Feb 28/12). Lot 1120

BK321var: 51¢, Queen Elizabeth 80th Birthday, COMPLETE BOOKLET, with DIE CUTTING OMITTED, the first such cpl booklet we have seen, n.h. and very fine. Est. 2500+ (unlisted U.C.S.) [sold for \$850 + 15%]

Sparks Auctions (Feb 21/12). Lot 403

BK321 2006 51c QEII 80th Birthday imperforate booklet, mint never hinged and unfolded (missing rouletting to fold). Owner states only 6 are known. Rare and very fine. [sold for \$950 + 15%]



R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd. (Lot 1120)



Sparks Auctions (Lot 403)

Not to be outdone, here are a couple of booklets from the Matthew Bennett International sale of Feb 28/12:

Lot 952. Scott No. 2193b var . Canada, 2006 Permanent letter rate booklet pane of 30, imperforate (2193b var.), without die-cutting, hand cut margins, Extremely Fine and exceedingly rare. Unlisted. Only four panes of 30 are known. Estimate \$3,000 - 4,000 [sold for \$1,600 + 15%]

Lot 953. Scott No. 2193b var. Canada, 2006 Permanent letter rate booklet pane of 10, imperforate (2193b var.), without die-cutting, Extremely Fine and exceedingly rare. Unlisted. Only 12 panes of 10 are known. Estimate \$1,200 - 1,800. [sold for \$950 + 15%]



Matthew Bennett International (Lot 952)



R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd. (Lot 1121)

R. Maresch & Son Auctions Ltd. (Feb 28/12). Lot 1121 BK340var: 2006 Queen Elizabeth "P", complete booklet, ALL STAMPS IMPERFORATE, small wrinkle at top, not affecting stamps, still n.h. and very fine. Unlisted U.C.S. Est. 1500+ [sold for \$500 + 15%]



Matthew Bennett International (Lot 953)

What do all of these “booklets” have in common? They were all printed by Canadian Bank Note. They are all missing the die cutting (i.e. imperforate). And, the key factor that motivated this article, they have all been ‘crudely’ cut with either scissors or a knife without the use of a straight edge. The sides of each booklet are not straight and uniform as one would expect if the final step of the printing process (i.e. separation into individual units) had been completed. The “booklets” must have been cut by hand, rather than by machine.

They were obviously *not* distributed to post offices and sold over-the-counter. They must have been removed illegally from the “back door” of Canadian Bank Note, likely from “printer’s waste” (who knows, they may have even come out the “front door” as an employee left work).

An AIEP certificate signed by Richard Gratton that accompanies at least one of the booklets (Vance Auctions) describes the 51¢ Flag booklet as:

“The booklet is genuine in all respects and is in very fine condition.”

Personally I would not consider these “genuine booklets” but rather an altered (i.e. fake) group of stamps cut from a press sheet to make them look like legitimate booklets. Curiously, Richard Gratton’s own book, *Canadian & BNA Fakes, Facsimiles, Reprints, Forgeries and Postal Counterfeits, Catalog 2008* defines a fake as:

Fake (Falsification in French): A genuine stamp or cover that has been modified or fraudulently altered to make it more attractive to the buyer. The faker can add margins, repair perforations, add gum, re-gum, clean a cancellation, remove a postmark or colour, add a surcharge, fake a cancel, etc...

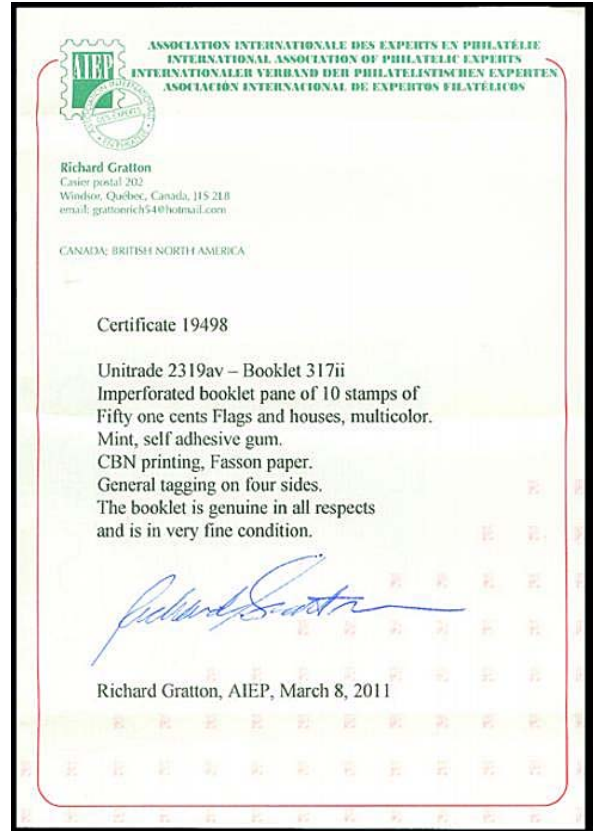
I would suggest that the “genuine booklets” discussed in this article are in fact *fake* booklets. They are ‘genuine imperforate stamps’ that were ‘modified’ (i.e. hand cut from a press sheet) and ‘altered to make it more attractive to the buyer’, as noted in the above definition of “fake”.

Just to make it clear; the stamps themselves were printed by CBN and are certainly genuine and missing the die cutting (i.e. imperforate). The fact that they are imperforate is not in question and is immaterial in this discussion. However, I personally feel that the *format* (i.e. “booklets”) they are being advertised as are *fake*, due to the hand cutting from a press sheet that is clearly apparent. I do not consider these as genuine booklets, but rather a fake group of stamps made to look like a genuine booklet.

Canada Post has sold uncut press sheets of certain issues to collectors over the years. If imperforate uncut press sheets of the stamps noted in this article had been sold by Canada Post to the general public from which any collector could subsequently produce these items we wouldn’t be having this discussion either. Consider the uncut press panel of the Permanent™ coil stamps sold by Canada Post over the last couple of years that have produced “imperf. vertically” pairs and blocks of stamps. These have never been questioned because they were legitimately sold by Canada Post which allowed the stamps to be separated in that manner.

If the booklets illustrated in this article had appeared with *straight* edges around the booklets or as imperforate pairs hand cut from the booklet itself (particularly on the 51¢ QEII 80th Birthday issue), we would not be having this discussion as it would be impossible to determine their true source. I wouldn’t be surprised if the Birthday stamps are subsequently cut into imperforate pairs from the full “booklet” to disguise where they really came from.

By the way, if these items did come from the “back door” of CBN, it wouldn’t be the first time that questionable material has appeared from Canadian Bank Note; errors and unissued values from the 1993 and 1994 Christmas stamps are also highly questionable items. Collectors have long felt that other selected imperforate errors and certain other material has been made available via the back door of Ashton-Potter (eg. 1992 Berry and Flag definitives, 1999 Year of the Rabbit, 2000 47¢ coil, 2002 Year of the Horse essay, 2003 49¢ coil just to name a few).



After several e-mails between Richard and myself, we have “agreed to disagree” on our opinions of these items (his response follows on the next page).

What do you think? Is a genuine booklet one that is sold over-the-counter at a post office outlet or is a genuine booklet any group of stamps that is cut, even by hand, from the original press sheet?

If you consider the items in this article to be fake, what disappoints you more: the items received a “good” cert from an expertizer?; dealers are selling the items without concern of their true source?; back-door material is allowed to leave a high-security printer?; collectors don’t really care about genuine vs. fake and are willing to pay “big bucks” for stolen material?; Canada Post has turned a “blind eye” to the printers allowing this stolen material to be offered to collectors?

References.

All images were gathered from the respective auction firm listings, as listed at the Stamp Auction Network website: <http://stampauctionnetwork.com/auctions.cfm>

Fakes, forgeries, counterfeits, illegal, genuine?

by: *Richard Gratton, FRPSC, AIEP*

Imperforated complete booklets of ten of the 51 cent-stamp were found on the market about a year ago. When these were offered to dealers, I was asked to see if they were genuine or counterfeits and to issue certificates.

The first thing I noticed was that these were not cut straight, but were on genuine paper, had genuine fluorescent tagging, were printed with the same genuine inks and were genuinely offset printed. No doubt, they had been produced by the printer (Canadian Bank Note Company) for Canada Post. A complete sheet of booklets had been cut into single booklets using scissors. If a quality guillotine cutter had been used, nobody would have noticed anything and these booklets would be considered as “missing the die cutting”, same as many recent booklets! I would like to mention that I wrote that these were imperforated booklets and not booklets with missing die cut! Thus, the imperforated booklets were genuine but their origin might be questionable. I have mentioned this fact to everyone who has asked me for certificates on these imperforated booklets.

As an expert, I was asked to see if these could have been produced by another printer like the counterfeit booklets that I had discovered a few years ago (Unitrade BK 239, 281, 283, 385, 394, 395). No, they were produced by the Canadian Bank Note Company. Who has put these on the philatelic market? I do not know and it is clearly not the job of the expert to find this out!

Robin says these should be considered as fakes. We both agreed that we agreed to disagree on this! If someone cuts a complete imperforated sheet of stamps and sells them as pairs or blocks, they are not considered as fakes (see Unitrade 641a, 1179d). As far as I am concerned, these should not be considered any differently from all imperforated stamps found on the recent Canadian market. Would we say that a pair of imperforated stamps is a fake because it was cut using scissors? No, because most of the imperforated stamps listed in Unitrade most probably have the same questionable origin as these imperforated booklets!

These imperforated stamps and booklets have been listed, exhibited and sold for years by reputable houses and dealers and nobody (police, RCMP, Canada Post Security and Enquiries division) has ever made a complaint, a statement or an arrest! Then, these should be considered as legal to possess unless we are told differently from competent and legal authorities. The day this will occur we could then call all or at least most of these imperforated stamps and booklets “illegal issues”.

Then, I would certainly not issue certificates for these “illegal issues” because it would most probably be also “illegal to possess”: just as stolen goods or counterfeit banknotes. This would also apply to most recent Canadian errors (Unitrade 878i), many imperforated stamps (Unitrade 1157 & 1158, 1676 (recent discovery)), essays (Year of the horse, Unitrade 1934), many stamps with missing colors (Unitrade 1933i), etc...

In conclusion, Robin and I will most probably continue to “agree to disagree” ... but with high respect for each other!

[Editor’s note: As I have mentioned to Richard, I believe he is comparing apples to oranges. He is the expertizer, though.]

Which corner is most popular?

The March 10, 2012 Eastern Auctions Ltd. Public Auction included four individual lots featuring the four blank corners of the rare 44¢ Walrus perforation variety (Scott 1171c) as illustrated at right. All were described as VF NH and, thus, are essentially “equal”:

The 2012 Unitrade prices these at \$2,500 per corner. One might think that they would each realize the same price. Not so. There was quite a spread between the four corners:

- Upper left: \$2100
+ 15% buyer's premium = **\$2,415**
- Upper right: \$1500
+ 15% buyer's premium = **\$1,725**
- Lower left: \$3250
+ 15% buyer's premium = **\$3,735**
- Lower right: \$2900
+ 15% buyer's premium = **\$3,335**

The lower left corner is certainly the most popular corner block!



Canada Scott 2500

The most recent announcement of Scott numbers by Scott Publishing for Canada (in the April 16, 2012 *Linn's Stamp News*) includes the assignment of number 2500 to ... (drum rolls please!) ... the Flag in van window Permanent™ self-adhesive stamp from booklets of 10 and 30.



Scott 2500
Flag in van window

This stamp is part of the Canadian Pride definitives issued January 16, 2012 which included five designs issued in a souvenir sheet and booklets of 10 and 30.



Not a Souvenir Sheet?

Canada Post is issuing six “mini panes of 4” in 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (the first three are illustrated at right).

These look very much like any of the other “souvenir sheets” that Canada Post releases for nearly every stamp issue.

In the latest Scott number assignments, Scott Publishing has *not* issued a number for these mini/souvenir sheets (only for the single stamps). Scott must feel these are mini panes, not souvenir sheets. What do you think?



Baby Wildlife Notecard Stationery

Canada Post has released three different sets of notecards already in 2012. The Year of the Dragon and Daylilies notecard sets include 10 matching notecards, 10 blank envelopes and 10 matching postage stamps.

An unannounced set of notecards featuring the eight Baby Wildlife definitives of 2011 and 2012 appeared in post offices the first week of March. This set, though, includes pre-printed, monarch size envelopes (the Red Fox design is shown at actual size in the background on this page). For collectors of “only” postage stamps, these envelopes make a great tie-in for these stamps.

The Baby Wildlife set of 10 cards includes a single example of each of the eight Baby Wildlife stamps plus two copies of the Raccoons and Red Fox designs. The set sells for \$14.95 which works out to about \$1.50 per postage-paid envelope/notecard.

In the last *Corgi Times* we noted the availability of the high-value Wildlife stationery. For collectors of postage “stamp” definitives, both these sets of stationery should find a place in your collection.



[Thanks to ESG member Richard L. Beecher for passing this information along after he spotted the set at his local post office. It made for an interesting week while several stationery specialists across Canada searched for these at their local post offices! Great to have a bit of excitement in the collecting world from time to time.]



It seems like Yesterday – 50 Years ago

Here is a look back at 50 years ago in Canadian philately...

1962 was a fairly quiet year, but a bit busier compared to the previous year of 1961. The five commemoratives that were issued had a total face value of 25¢. A new definitive series – the Cameos – was introduced with a new 5¢ value.

The 1962 Commemoratives



Education
February 28/62

Designed by Helen Roberta Fitzgerald
Picture engraved by Yves Baril
Lettering engraved by Donald J. Mitchell

This postage stamp design is intended to stimulate public awareness of the importance of education to all Canadians. The more Canadians become interested in the quest for higher education, the greater will be the strength of the nation. "The Kingdoms of the future are of the mind." These words were spoken by Winston Churchill at a University Convocation. The stamp depicts as the main element, a young adult couple gazing into the future. On either side of these figures, in the background, are symbolic designs representing the various fields of education. These symbols are: Greek Temple (respect for the achievement of past history), Gravel and Coat-of-Arms (Law and Government), Gear Wheels (Engineering and Industry), E = MC² (a symbol to express Einstein's Theory of Relativity and the resulting atomic age), Typewriter (Business Management), Set Square (Architecture and other forms of structural planning), Violin (Music), Sun with Plant, Earth and Water (the study of life and nature), Moon and Star (the study of outer space and the universe), The Globe (international forces, political, social and geographic), Carpenter's Plumb and Pliers (the skilled trades), Book with Alpha and Omega (litterature and the written language), Flask (Chemistry and allied sciences), Plus, Minus, Multiplication and Division signs (Mathematics, Economics and Banking), Microscope (Scientific Research), Man (the physical, mental and spiritual study of man), Sculptor's Tool, Pencil and Brush (the visual arts and designing), Cross (the Church as a vocation), Officer's Cap (a career in the Armed Services). All the Provincial Ministers of Education concurred in the issue of a special postage stamp featuring "Education". In addition, many national and provincial organizations devoted to the promotion of education added their support. These organizations include museums, libraries, vocational training groups, universities and colleges. The early issue of this stamp supports the many organizations which have designated 1962 to be "Education Year". Among the several events of the year will be the Second Canadian Conference on Education, with seventy-six sponsoring organizations, to be held in Montreal in March and the First Canada-wide Science Fair, to be held in Ottawa in May. There is a great need for better educational opportunities for all Canadians of all ages. Canada must attain higher standards of education because of its present position as a relatively young country striving to hold its place among the leading nations of the world. Great strides have been made in the past few years towards this goal. Large sums of money have been granted by the Federal Government to Universities and for vocational and technological training purposes.



Red River Settlement
May 3/62

Designed by Phillips-Gutkin & Associates
Portrait engraved by Allan Alexander Carswell
Picture engraved by Yves Baril
Lettering engraved by Gordon Mash

The History of the development of Canada's Western Provinces is marked by many significant events, each one playing a vital part in the development of the West. Probably the most outstanding of these events, was the establishment of the Red River Settlement near the present site of Winnipeg in 1812. This project had been in the plans of Thomas George, the Fifth Earl of Selkirk from his early youth when he first realized the importance of the high plains in the economic growth of the new nation. At the beginning of the 19th Century, an economic revolution was in progress in the Scottish Highlands and was causing widespread distress. To relieve this situation, Lord Selkirk proposed immigration of evicted crofters to British North America and the establishment of a colony in the Red River area. The first party of settlers, under the guidance of Miles Macdonald, set out by way of Hudson's Bay in 1811, staying for the winter at the mouth of the Nelson River. In 1812, the party reached the Red River and settled near the mouth of the Assiniboine River. They were soon joined by another party which set out in 1812. Other parties reached the settlement in 1814 and 1815. From the first, the colony has aroused the suspicion of the North West Company which feared that it would prove a threat to the supply of pemmican for the company's lines of communications and its posts in the far west fur bearing regions. This threat seemed to be realized when, in 1814, Macdonald prohibited the export of pemmican from the Assiniboine region. Though this difficulty was adjusted, the company decided to destroy the colony by instigating desertion among the settlers and offering free transportation to Canada. The remainder of the settlers were finally driven from the area in the Seven Oaks Massacre of 1816, which claimed the lives of Governor Robert Semple and 19 of his officers. In 1817, Lord Selkirk led a force of veterans recruited from former regiments from Montreal and re-established the Red River Colony. The colony continued to progress without further trouble from the North West Company and virtually all danger from this source was eliminated with the merger of the two companies in 1821. The new settlers had other difficulties to overcome to make the land propitious to agriculture: poor seeds, inadequate tools, a strange climate, grasshoppers and other pests and the lack of a market for grain and cattle. They did, however, manage to extract from this land the first "bumper" crop of wheat. The yield was some 1500 bushels. This was the beginning of economic stability and growth for the area now known as the Prairie Provinces. The new stamp is designed to recognize the tremendous task accomplished by Canada's western pioneers and it honours the descendants of these pioneers who have made the Canadian West a modern productive segment of the nation's burgeoning economy. The stamp is intended to bring into the foreground the importance of the founding of the Red River Settlement and draw attention to the vast changes and advances made in Canada's Prairie Provinces, changes and advances which have caused this region to become known as the Granary of the World.



Jean Talon
June 13/62

Designed by Ephrum Philip Weiss
Picture engraved by Yves Baril
Lettering engraved by Donald J. Mitchell

Many men contributed to the early development and advancement of Canada. Soldiers, explorers and missionaries, each played a vital role and each played a part in building the nation that is Canada today. Less spectacular, but nonetheless just as important, were the achievement of the administrators and, among these men, the greatest was probably Jean Talon. Talon was born in 1625 at Châlons sur Marne, France. He joined the civil service and in 1655 became intendant of the province of Hainaut. He managed his new duties with such energy and vigour that Louis XIV, on the recommendation of Colbert, then Minister of Finance, named Talon to the intendency of New France. His appointment was effective March 23, 1665, and on May 24 of the same year, he embarked for New France on the Saint-Sébastien, with the Governor of Courcelles and eight companies of the Regiment of Carignan. In three years, Talon did more for the development of the new country that had been done since the arrival of the first colonists. He conducted the first census in Canada and when figures indicated a need for a larger population, he asked for more people to be sent from France. This resulted in the immigration of some 1,000 women who were to become the wives of the men already in the colony. These girls were carefully selected and suitable marriages were made. To help these new families, Talon presented them with animals and new plants. These gifts by the Intendant form the subject of the new stamp. An excerpt from the writings of a young officer of Talon's time reads: "the governor-general bestowed upon the married couple a bull, a cow, a hog, a sow, a cock, a hen, two barrell of salt meat and eleven crowns" and each is represented in the design of the stamp. Talon accomplished a great deal in establishing a sound economy. In order to increase the resources of the country, he imported horses and sheep from France and divided these among farmers. He encouraged animal husbandry and established small industries and a ship building yard on the St-Charles River. He literally re-created the colony on a sound economic basis before returning to France in 1668. It was during Talon's tenure that the new country went through an extraordinary expansion. In the north, Father Albanel claimed James Bay; in the west, Saint-Lusson gathered at Sault-Ste-Marie the representatives of fourteen Indian nations bringing them under the jurisdiction of France. Then Joliet and Father Marquette discovered the Mississippi in the south, followed shortly by the famous discoveries by La Salle. During his administration, Talon transformed the struggling colony, perched precariously on the rock of Quebec, into an economically sound community. He sowed the seeds of permanence, of development, of identification with the land, that were to guide New France and eventually all of Canada to nationhood.



Victoria Centenary
August 22/62

Designed by Helen Roberta Fitzgerald
Portrait and picture engraved by Yves Baril
Lettering engraved by Donald J. Mitchell

From its first settlement as an outpost of the Hudson's Bay Company, strategically located on the south eastern tip of "Vancouver's Island", Victoria has grown into a thriving center of charm and distinction that is probably unique in North America. This year marks Victoria's Centenary as an incorporated city. It was James Douglas, a chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, who selected the location for Fort Victoria which was named in honour of the girl queen who ascended the Throne of England in 1837. The isolated post had to be self supporting and the arable land surrounding the new port provided excellent crops. It was ideally located in a favourable trading district, accessible to the North Pacific mainland. The life of the outpost centered about the operation of the Hudson's Bay post until 1849 when Vancouver's Island was made a crown colony and declared open for colonization. Sparked by the Fraser River Gold Rush of 1858, the trading post exploded almost, overnight into a lively frontier town. Since it was the only seaport in British Columbia, it became the outfitting center for the miners and adventurers seeking the wealth of the goldfields. No sooner had the excitement of the first gold rush subsided than the Cariboo Rush broke, followed by the Klondike gold stampede of 1898. With such limpetus, its growth was rapid and the community was incorporated as the City of Victoria in 1862, just 100 years ago. Today, Victoria is justly proud of the largest dry-dock in Canada, the largest astrophysical telescope in the nation, the largest per capita tourist trade in Canada and the mildest winter climate of any Canadian city. Each year, thousands of tourists throng its streets and find in the restful, unhurried atmosphere the ideal spot for relaxation. Of great interest in Victoria is the solid background of British customs and institutions which have survived more vigourously than in any other Canadian city. Victoria has kept as its basic charm the beauty and dignity of ivied walls, picturesque gardens and imposing Tudor or colonial homes. The new stamp is designed to commemorate the development of the city from its lusty frontier days to its modern role as provincial capital. The new issue follows precedents set in 1908 and in 1949 when stamps honouring the 300th Anniversary of Quebec and the 200th Anniversary of Halifax were produced.



Trans-Canada Highway
August 31/62

Designed by Alan L. Pollock
Picture engraved by Yves Baril
Lettering engraved by Donald J. Mitchell

For years, a first-class, modern highway linking the provinces of Canada was the dream of many Canadians. But areas of sparse population and extremely rough terrain combined with complex financial problems to prevent the completion of the Highway. The Second World War emphasized the necessity of a dependable highway link between east and west and it was obvious that Federal aid would be required to coordinate the route among the provinces, and to help meet the cost in those sections where difficult construction was involved and no previous paved highway existed. It was in December, 1948, that the first Federal-Provincial Conference on the Trans-Canada Highway Act was held and on December 10th, 1949, the Trans-Canada Highway Act became reality. Under the Act, provinces were paid fifty percent of the cost of construction plus forty percent of the cost of ten percent of the mileage in each province. The present Act expires in 1963. By the time construction is completed, the cost is expected to be in the vicinity of \$1,000,000,000. Under the terms of the Act, each province, subject to Federal approval, chose the shortest practical route between its borders and constructed a hard-surfaced, two-lane highway, with pavement widths of 22 and 24 feet with low gradients and gentle curves; elimination of railway grade crossings wherever it was possible; ample shoulder widths; and a load bearing capacity of nine tons for one axle. The official opening ceremonies are planned for September 4th, 1962, at Rogers Pass in Glacier National Park. In conjunction with the opening, the Post Office Department will issue a special stamp to mark the occasion. The stamp will be a tribute to one of the outstanding engineering feats of Canada's history. The Trans-Canada Highway, a dream of highway planners of many years, will provide high-standard highway conditions through some of the most difficult roadbuilding terrain in the world. This in turn has already influenced the building of many additional feeder highways which will continue to contribute to the economic growth of the nation.

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.

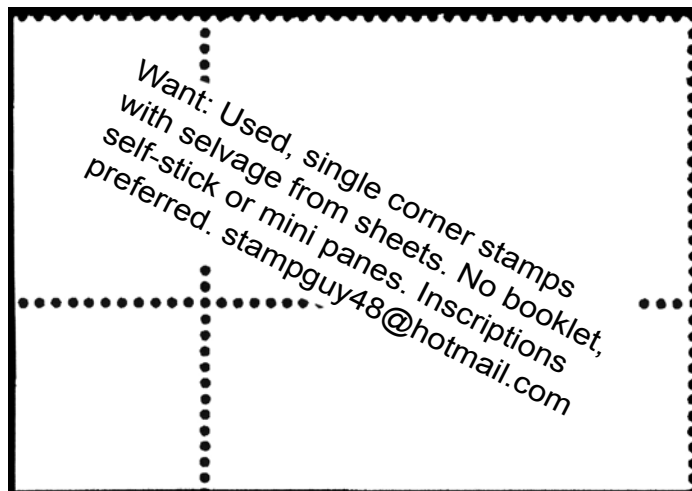
Full payment must accompany ad. Payment in Canadian funds to: Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: Robin Harris, PO Box 104, Seddons Corner, MB R0E 1X0, Canada.



Queen Elizabeth II – Cameo
October 3/62

Designed by Ernst Roch
Picture engraved by Yves Baril
Lettering and symbol engraved by John F. Mash

The new edition of Canada's regular issue postage stamps, the first since 1954 presents a portrait of Her Majesty in a simple, almost classic style. The stamp is based on a drawing of Her Majesty by Ernst Roch of Montreal, completed during two private sittings at Buckingham Palace arranged specifically for this new stamp issue. Traditionally, regular issue stamps such as the series in use since 1954 bear the portrait of the Monarch. The new series continue this tradition but with the addition of various Canadian symbols appearing in the upper left corner of each stamp. The new stamp is also a departure from recent regular issue designs in that it is a horizontal type format, rather than the more common vertical style. The designer of the stamp, Mr. Roch, studied art in Gratz, Austria, and is a member of the Typographical Designers of Canada and of the American Institute of Graphic Art. He has exhibited in Europe, the United States and Canada, and since coming to Canada in 1953, has won 13 awards from the Toronto and Montreal Art Directors Clubs and has received many other honours. The first new stamp, the five cent denomination, portrays a head of wheat as a tribute to Canada's agriculture. The importance of agriculture in the Canadian economy is evidenced by the fact that close to 300,000 square miles, or some 11 percent of the land mass of the provinces is used for the agricultural purposes. Although this area has not increased substantially in recent years agricultural production has increased greatly. This is accomplished by the use of modern methods and equipment. Another major factor in the increasing production rate is the activity of the federal and provincial departments of Agriculture. Over the years, these organizations have assisted Canadian farmers by ensuring price stability, credit provisions, crop insurance, and resource development. They have also provided information and guidance to farmers and made major contributions to the effective marketing of Canadian farm production.

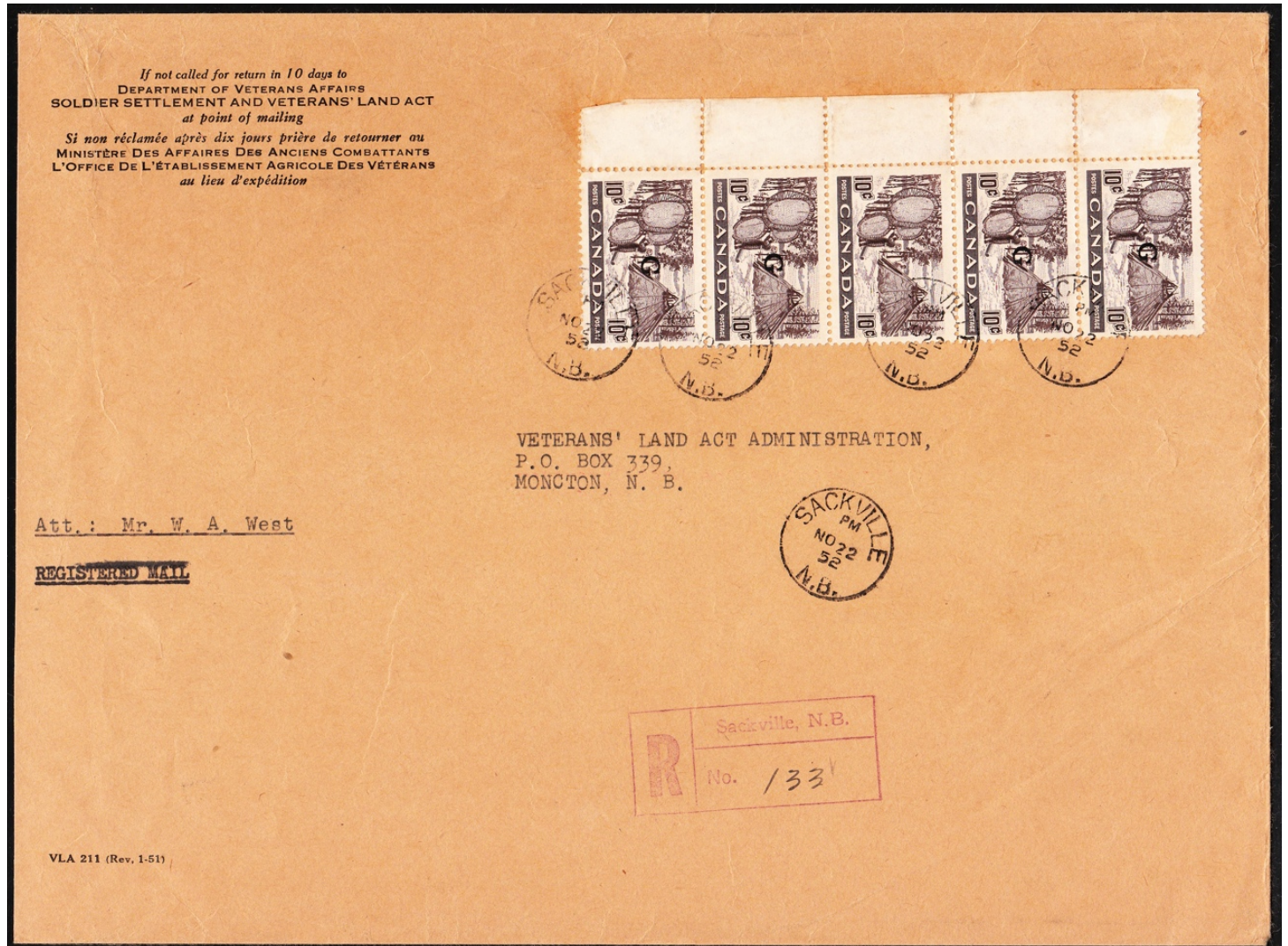


Missing G on Fur Resources

by: C.R. {Ron} McGuire, OTB, FRPS

I recently acquired the cover shown below. To my knowledge it is the only example of O26a, the missing "G", on cover. It is particularly nice in the middle of two normal pairs in a strip of five paying a 50 cent rate — the 20 cent registration fee and 14 times rate at 4 cents, the 1st oz plus 2 cents for each additional oz [2c x 13oz = 26c + 4c + 20c = 50 cents]. The envelope undoubtedly contained documents relating to the Veterans' Land Act.

[Editor: do you consider this item "Elizabethan"? Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne on February 6, 1952 after her father's death. The 10c Fur Resources stamp was issued October 2, 1950, nearly 1½ years prior to Princess Elizabeth becoming Queen. The cover, though, is dated November 22, 1952, several months into Queen Elizabeth's reign. We have included the item here based on its date of usage.]



Articles Urgently Needed

Racoons Large Coil of 5,000

by: *Mirko Zatzka*

A couple days ago I received the strips of 10 of the bulk mailer Raccoons coil (Scott 2505), and found an interesting variety in it – a “jump” strip! It shows in the middle of the attached strip of 6, and consists of a jump in the diecut stamps DOWN from left to right. The stamp image is perfectly aligned (as it should be), but the die-cutting must have been off a bit resulting in different centering of the adjacent stamps AND an actual shift of the stamps down.

This is a first on these coils – I have not seen anything of the type on previous issues. I do not know the frequency, as all I have are strips of 10, but it seems fairly frequent (maybe every 25 – 28 stamps?).



6¢ Centennial – Doubled Right Frame

by: *Mirko Zatzka*

I have come across several blocks of Scott 459bp (6¢ Centennial) with a clearly doubled right frameline, and parts of the right-most vertical or angled elements of the design, on typically three of the four stamps (typically strongest on the left column of stamps). I have them in the LL and UL corners.

I have not found any references to these anywhere, and am curious what their nature may be. Could they be a re-entry of some sorts or an engraved doubling, as the vertical frameline is clearly doubled? It does not appear to be a “plastic flow” variety of the black 6¢ and the large 8¢ and 15¢ values.

by: *Leopold Beaudet*

I’ve examined panes of the 6¢ orange from plates 1, 2, and 3, and found the doubled right frame variety on plate 3 (image below has been cropped) only. Most stamps on the pane show the variety to some extent. On the attached scan, the bottom right stamp in the block has the least amount of doubling. In fact, there is almost none, but with care one can pick out faint signs of the variety.

I’ve also found the variety on the 6c black. My example happens to be a Winnipeg-tagged block, but I fully expect that any block of the 6c black from plate 3 will show the variety. In fact, this might be a good way of identifying stamps from plate 3.

