The CANADIAN PHILATELIST

C.P.S.

26th ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 22nd - 23rd - 24th, 1954

WALPER HOTEL
KITCHENER, ONTARIO

Official Organ of the Canadian Philatelic Society

VOL. 5, No. 4 APRIL, 1954

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

"ON TO KITCHENER" is this month's sloan. Our Annual Convention and Exhibition promises to be one of the best on record. I have heard from Bill Erbach, Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, that he has received over 155 entries, of a very high quality indeed. Over the three days, there will be something for everyone. Even the gastronomically inclined will be catered for, for there will be a "Dutch Dinner" for lunch on the Saturday at the Walper House, and I am told that this is a real treat.

I am looking forward to meeting a lot of old friends and meeting a host of new ones. Don't forget to come and have a chat with me.

See you there on the 22-23-24 April!

"EN ROUTE POUR KITCHENER"! Voilà notre devise pour le mois d'avril. Notre congrès annuel, ainsi que l'exposition qui en fera partie, promettent d'être fort intéressants. Bill Erbach, président du comité de l'exposition, me dit qu'il a reçu au delà de 155 inscriptions, la plupart de haute qualité. Pendant les trois jours du congrès, il y aura quelque chose pour tour les goûts. Même les gourmets pourront en profiter, car l'hôtel Walper mettra au menu du samedi à midi un "Dutch Dinner", et on me dit que c'est quelque chose de vraiment savoureux.

Je m'attends au plaisir de revoir nombre d'anciens amis et d'en faire de nouveaux. N'oubliez pas de venir faire un brin de causette avec moi.

Au plaisir de vous voir à Kitchener les 22, 23 et 24 avril!

L. M. Lamoroux.

DON'T THROW IN THE SPONGE

by Russell T. Waineg

ARE you fed up with stamp collecting? Does the accumulation of stamps no longer afford you pleasure? Filling in the gaps in your sets merely bores you? Since you have the cheaper and the more moderately priced stamps further addition to your collection means a death-struggle between your conscience and your pocket book? If the answer to any of these questions is in the affirmative then, dear reader, you are in grave danger of losing your soul; that is, your philatelic soul.

A stamp collector receives a great deal of pleasure, at first, at any rate, in accumulating stamps and mounting them in an album. If he is the type of collector whose ultimate in a hobby is mere accumulation he is satisfied and content. So be it. However, if he is the more imaginative type, as are the majority of collectors, then, sooner or later, he is bound to become dissatisfied and to start asking himself a few questions: What am I doing? What does it mean? Where does this lead? And the only honest answers he is able to give are, respectively: Nothing. Nothing. Nowhere. A very hopeless outlook.

Having answered himself honestly and thus confirmed his feelings of dissatisfaction the collector buttons up his pocket book, closes his albums and takes his collection to a dealer where he receives, more often than not, a very nasty shock. His collection will not sell at anything near the price he paid for it. Now, (and disabuse your mind at this point), the dealers are not by any means necessarily at fault, neither those who sold to him nor those to whom he would sell.

In the first place, more likely than not, he has purchased common and usual material, low in catalogue value, of which there are quantities available, and at a price which includes a reasonable mark up on cost. However, since it is standard material, the dealers are usually already stocked and they are not in a position to overstock. So it is quite obvious that they are not interested in purchasing.

If, on the other hand, the collector has invested in better material (not a probability), he will, in all liklihood, get his outlay back and even something extra, especially if some considerable interval has elapsed since he purchased.

Dissatisfied with mere accumulation, unable to see any rhyme or reason in stamp collecting and extremely put out, even sore, over his monetary loss, he gives up stamp collecting completely, writes it off to experience and, in the future, looks with amused and cynical tolerance on all stamp collectors. Our stamp collector has now become non est.

It is the writer's opinion that the large turnover in the membership of philatelic societies may be traced, in the main, to similar courses of events. It is to these doubting and dissatisfied collectors whose philatelic souls are in the balance that these remarks are addressed before, it is hoped, it is too late.

There are three expressions which are used in reference to stamp collecting, but generally used incorrectly. These expressions are "stamp collecting", "philately" and "specialisation", and a clarification of their meanings should, even if it does no more, bring the situation into proper perspective. In the Collectors Club Philatelist for last November an editorial on the first two expressions gives respectively as definitions "the accumulation of stamps for pleasure" and "the study of stamps and their postal history". There is thus a distinct difference drawn in the meanings of the two expressions. It is a serious difference which should cause the collector to pause and think.

And now, for the term "specialisation". This expression has suffered from great ignorance as to its true meaning. Quite frequently, even among collectors who know otherwise, it is confused

with "limitation". A collector who studies the plate varieties of a certain stamp is not specialising in the stamp. He is simply limiting himself. A specialised study of the stamp would require far more than a mere study of the plate varieties: essays, proofs, specimens, reprints, printings, papers, watermarks, perforations, shades, gum, and so on, must all be given attention, as well as the method of manufacture and the postal history. This latter involves decrees, orders-in-council, rates of postage, cancellations, and more. In other words, "specialisation" of a stamp involves "completeness of the study. Also, alas, no matter how cheap or common the stamp, or issue, "specialisation" means financial expenditure, generally considerable, on the part of the collector.

In this connection the writer met a gentleman, a few weeks ago, who specialises in Bulgaria because, as he put it, "No one else does which makes it cheaper". Because no one else does (a misstatement) does not help him any and it certainly isn't any cheaper. While I was with him he bought a stamp cataloguing fifteen or twenty cents but carrying a special cancellation (steamship). The price paid was in the neighbourhood of fifty times the catalogue value.

If we give serious thought to this gentleman's purchase we will note two very important facts. It cost a considerable sum of money to purchase a comparatively cheap stamp, because of the cancellation. In the second place, the gentleman had not been able to find this cancellation previously though no doubt he had been on the hunt for it for some considerable time. In specialising there are not enough hours in a lifetime to find all the material oneself. Of necessity one must rely to a great extent on others for both information and material and their efforts in your behalf must be compensated accordingly.

What is needed by the average collector is more "philately" or "study of the stamps and their postal history". This gives stamp collecting a very definite purpose and the answers to questions asked previously are no longer a mere succession of negations. Now we have something positive, useful and even creative in the hobby. It becomes rounded out and developed and no longer is merely a child's affair to be treated patronisingly or even cynically.

The application of "philately" to "specialisation". This is not the solution for most collectors as the financial aspect makes it unattainable. There is, however, a way to study stamps and to obtain a great deal of philatelic lore without mortgaging the homestead or robbing a bank. This way has been mentioned previously and it is, namely, "limiting" one's collecting to a definite field. That is, to study one or more of the many phases which specialised study would require. However, to assure a successful outcome there are several requirements which must be considered carefully before embarking on the venture.

Before discussing these requirements it should be pointed out that, if a limited study is carefully carried out, when the time comes to realise on the stamps, possibly in order to make other limited studies, any dealer who is not merely a merchandiser will welcome the opportunity to purchase the study since he has numerous contacts and, in all likelihood, knows several parties who are interested in the same study. This knowledge on the part of a dealer, aside from the actual selling, is one of the main reasons for his successful existence as a dealer.

Let us turn to some of the requirements which must be considered.

First, the stamps which are to be the object of the limited study must be available in quantities and must be comparatively cheap. If the collector is willing to take his time and build up a collection over a period of years he may, depending upon the amount of money he is willing to spend, indulge in a study of stamps which sets him

back rather more than the cheaper stamps. If he is not going to spend more than a very limited amount he is better advised to go after stamps which are found in mission or kilo mixtures. A word of warning is advisable here. If the collector follows this latter course he will have a great deal of philatelic pleasure but if he decides to sell, the chances are small for recuperating his expenditure. It is all for fun. The stamps costing more are likely to yield a return, on selling, which will pay a fair dividend.

The time-consuming end of the study must not be forgotten either. If the field chosen turns out to be rather large a considerable portion of the collector's leisure is required. So, if there is a limited amount of time available for philatelic study then the subject should be limited correspondingly.

Greater progress may be made too if other collectors with the same field are found, for always two heads are better than one. There are certain collectors who, on the other hand, are fonder of the 'lone wolf' approach and would be irked by any collaboration on the part of another collector.

A collector who has had no experience in philatelic research or study is well advised to choose a subject on which there is some philatelic literature available. There is far more material than is realised by the average collector. Most of the so-called specialised catalogues leave off at the point where the study commences and any literature which points the way is a welcome aid. No matter whether a subject has been written on at some length in the philatelic press new facts are being brought to light every day and previously accepted statements are proved fallacious. Old standard works are being continually outdated, or, if you prefer, dated.

When it comes to the question of what to make the subject of a limited study we find that there is hardly a country which does not offer some opportunity. It is impossible to deal in any detail in a short article with the possibilities which do exist but the writer will be pleased to make more definite and concrete suggestions to any one interested. Also, if the desire is to study the earlier stamps there are still possibilities which have by no means been exhausted and the stamps are not beyond the purse of moderate means, though far removed from the mission or kilo mixture. And now for a few suggestions.

While there are countless subjects for study in the countries covered by Scott's Part I, most collectors are familiar with them and so it is with Part II that the following deals. Austria is a country which is famous for the study of its earlier issues, especially the first issue. However, considerable financial capacity is required here, even to collect a reasonably good representation of the cancellations. For the collector whose means are rather limited it is not advisable. For others it may prove satisfactory.

Belgium has untold possibilities, from the classics, which are expensive to study, down to the most modern stamps. This is a country where you may derive unlimited pleasure and profitable study from mixtures. The writer once listed thirty-seven different possible philatelic studies and even then did not feel that all the possibilities were exhausted.

Czechoslovakia has one of the nicest studies, or series of studies, in Scott's types A1 to A10, but material cannot be obtained just for the asking. It is available to a limited extent but requires hunting.

Denmark has many possibilities and they should all prove quite profitable.

Finland offers much, there being great interest in the Arms type from 1907 on, as well as in the earlier Arms types and also the Russian types. A considerable number of these require digging out but they are well worth while.

In France one can start at the Napoleons and work right down to the Sower types in the cheaper or more moderately priced stamps

and have a lifetime of fun and satisfaction.

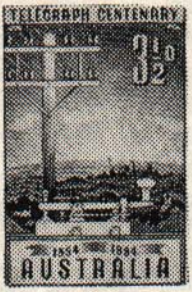
Germany, and the German States, offer many subjects, some being more difficult than others. In the modern issues there are the Hitler heads, the numerals 1946, the workers of 1948, the overprints on the same, and the castles of 1948. The new numeral issue may turn out to be very interesting.

Greece has the classic Hermes type which, for one with patience, perseverance and a goodish amount of pocket money, presents many interesting philatelic problems.

Hungary is loaded with possibilities, but the watermarks are a drawback from a visual point of view, several pages looking the same, but with different watermarks, not helping any. Jugoslavia has the chain-breakers and others. Persia offers excellent sport for those with the urge, even the counterfeits and reprints adding to the fun.

This could go on indefinitely: Memel, Norway, Portugal and Colonies, Russia, Saar, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and others are all excellent subjects.

It is hoped that the above will stir that latent spark to life in the breast of more than one dissatisfied, disgruntled and disheartened collector and, if so - - - Happy Hunting.



The new Australian 3½d. stamp which is being issued on April 7 to commemorate the centenary of the establishment of the telegraph on the Australian continent.

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MAW! BRING ME MY SPECTACLES!

By Don Young

DIE and plate variations have been quite infrequent in Canadian stamps, of recent years. An enthusiastic in this type of variety might feel that the Canadian Banknote Company was unfair to organized philatelists! One has to go back to the 1911-1925 "Admiral" issue to find much of interest. An occasional re-entry has been found, of course, for instance the one in the 7 cent Goose Airmail, Scott's C9. As for plate retouches, I suppose the last noticeable case was in the 2 cent brown of the 1932 "Medallion" issue, where the bottom curve of the portrait oval and the top line of the tablet below it, were retouched on the plates. There are considerable variations in the result.

At last an issue has turned up which shows evidence of retouching, and if you want some fun (if little profit) take a look at the right frame line of the current definitive stamps, the five stamps with Queen Elizabeth's portrait. You will find, on many stamps, distinct doubling of parts of the line, mostly in the centre, some at the bottom, and a check of a couple of hundred of, say, the 2 cent green will soon convince you that these are plate retouches.

As an "Admiral" specialist, I almost automatically examine every stamp I see, for die and plate variations. The first inkling that there was something to look for in the current issue, came when I found quite a strong doubling in the right frame of a 5 cent blue, which I took at first to be a re-entry. The fact that only part of the line was doubled rather eliminated the re-entry theory, and finally I found a 2 cent with one spot where the line separated and extended slightly into the margin, leaving a spur. I also found one where the whole line was definitely strengthened, and those two stamps settled matters.

They are plate retouches; technically, they are recuts, done by a burin, probably when the plate was "in the flat", before it was curved or hardened. My guess is that the transfer was rather light at the right edge, and the line was recut by hand. It was certainly done by an expert, because the cuts are very even indeed.

Actually, this is "much ado about nothing"; I don't consider these important as varieties; they are in most cases very minor indeed, and it takes at least a 5x magnifying glass to spot them. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to die and plate man to find a recurrence of retouching, and it is, of course, quite possible that more obvious examples may turn up. Anyway, it's something to look for, and that's half the fun of stamp collecting.

Speculating Specials

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#227 mint, sheet of 50	85.00
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#C5 mint, sheet of 50	8.00
#C7 mint, sheet of 50	25.00
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C.P.S. CONVENTION PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, APRIL 22.

7.00 P.M.—Registration
7.00 P.M.—Exhibition and Bourse Opens
10.00 P.M.—Exhibition and Bourse Closes

FRIDAY, APRIL 23.

9.30 A.M.—Registration
10.00 A.M.—Exhibition and Bourse Opens
10.00 A.M.—Tour through local Industrial Plant
2.00 P.M.—Presentation of a Philatelic Frame to "Woodside", the Mackenzie King Homestead
2.30 P.M.—Motor Tour of the Grand River Valley. Tour leaves from the Mackenzie King Homestead
7.30 P.M.—C.P.S. Annual Business Meeting (Officers' Mess, 24th Field Ambulance R.C.A.M.C.)
7.30 P.M.—Ladies' Entertainment
10.00 P.M.—Exhibition and Bourse Closes

SATURDAY, APRIL 24.

8.30 A.M.—Visit to Kitchener Market — Shopping
10.00 A.M.—Exhibition and Bourse Opens
10.30 A.M.—C.P.S. Directors' Meeting
12.00 A.M.—"Dutch Dinner" (Walper Hotel Main Dining Room)
4.00 P.M.—Exhibition and Bourse Closes
4.00 P.M.—Exhibitors may start to remove material until 5.30 P.M.
4.00 P.M.—Auction (Officers' Mess)
5.30 P.M.—Reception (Officers' Mess)
6.30 P.M.—Banquet and Entertainment — Crystal Ballroom—Walper House

SUNDAY, APRIL 25.

10.00 A.M.—Stay-Over Breakfast

CONVENTION NEWS

It is later than we think

The ladies will have their way but Philatelists will have their day.

Kitchener says they are out to show that they can put on the "Show of Shows" and that if we don't show up we will miss the time of our Philatelic lives.

They promise lots of stamps, lots of prizes, and (quote) "more fun than you'll ever get with a barrel of monkeys". So make up your mind right now to attend the 26th Annual Convention and Exhibition of the Canadian Philatelic Society.

The dates—Apr. 22 to 24, 1954.

The place—Kitchener, Ont.

The Kitchener hosts hope to have more ladies at their convention than have attended other such events. There are rumours of a surprise that is really "extra special". If you know anything about it, tell us—we don't.

The following items have been received from the Kitchener committee.

Have you seen the list of prizes available in the draw? A generous number of added prizes are received since this list was prepared. These alone would be well worth while trying for. Don't forget to send your stubs filled out properly to Box 542. For more tickets write Box 542 also. Do it now.

The usual quality auction will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Mr. Walter S. Bayley serving as Honorary Auctioneer. Catalogue value must be at least $5.00 and as the sale is limited to one hour the number of lots will be limited to 5 or less per person. The closing date for acceptance is April 5 but the committee may close the application list when sufficient lots are available.

After the convention may be too late, so order now your set of 5 special covers marking stops on the Convention tour of Waterloo County points of interest. The set costs only 50c and is available by advance orders or on the tour if you take it. It is unlikely many extras will be available later.

Have you reserved your hotel room? If not do so early. Write Box 542 or direct to the Walper Hotel and say you are convention visitors.

There will be a dealers Bourse. As only a limited amount of space is available, application should be made at once. First come, first served is the rule. There is no charge but before space is actually used one or more dinner tickets should be purchased. Deadline for guaranteed space is Apr. 1st.

Be sure to come Friday to the convention. At 2 p.m. you will want to be at the W. L. M. King Memorial Home. A frame of interesting philatelic material will be presented to the Memorial Home at that time. You should not miss this special historical event. Pictures of this frame will be available at the convention. The tour of Waterloo County follows at 2.30 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT?

Sure there will be entertainment at the convention dinner Sat. Apr. 24, 6.30 p.m. in the Crystal Room of the Walper Hotel. Were you ever at Kitchener parties before?

Enough said. But please get your order in early for dinner tickets so we may adequately prepare for your party. We will be happy to have you with us. And bring the ladies too. We are planning a good time for everyone but planning isn't enough. You must come to share the programme of surprises. And only $3.00 too. How can we do it? That would be telling.

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VISITORS WELCOME

SOME NOTES ON GEORGE VI COLONIALS

By Frederick Walker

COLLECTORS of King George VI Colonials have plenty of Philatelic varieties to interest them and perforation varieties loom large in some issues. Quite recently I was able to ask Mr. Newman, a high official of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. Ltd., why these different perforations occurred and learned that they are not done purposely, but that, at times, a machine, differently gauged to the customary one, is more readily available for the work, and after all the perforations are only necessary, to make easier, the separation of the stamps for use. They are not concerned with the excitement we philatelists feel when we discover a stamp which is normally of 12½ gauge on all sides, suddenly appears with 2 sides of 12½, and the other 2 sides of 13½. It is just as well, for when Dealers rate two such stamps as worth respectitvely 4d. and £100, unscrupulous Printers could be tempted to make some easy money.

However, during the late war, when Messrs. De La Rue's works were put out of action by bomb damage, other printers had to take over the work, and 9 stamps appeared with perforations 15x14 instead of the normal 14. The footnote in Gibbons Catalogue states that they were printed and perforated by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. from De La Rue plates. These stamps are the 2 cts., 5 cts., 10 cts., 30 cts. and 50 cts. (1941) of Hong Kong and the 2 cts., 5 cts., 10 cts, and 12 cts. (1943) of Mauritius. These stamps have long puzzled me, for quite apart from the perforations, the appearance of the stamps is so entirely different to the De La Rue printings. The lettering and lines of the designs appear thicker and wider and are so easy distinguishable, that I queried whether Bradbury, Wilkinson Co. had had to make new plates. Mr. Newman assured me they had not had to do this but had definitely printed from the De La Rue plates. He then very kindly explained the reason for these coarser printings. The caption in the catalogue reads (Typo. De La Rue & Co.) but the correct name for the process is letter - press printing, and is known as such in Canada. Messrs. De La Rue have been pre-eminent in this method of stamp printing since 1855, and can justly claim that it is the best safeguard against forgery. The engraving of the Die in relief calls for even greater skill and craftsmanship than engraving in recess, but when the plates are completed the printing is much quicker and cheaper, especially when stamps were required in millions instead of the thousands of early days.

What produced, however, the beautiful clear impression of the designs and the fine lines, was the discovery of Messrs. De La Rue of setting the printing machine so delicately, that it can be described as just kissing the paper which receives the impression.

When, during the war, the new Printers had to tackle a job they had not previously done, they applied considerably more pressure, so that the same plates caused the lines of the design to transfer a thicker and wider impression to the paper. As the catalogue quotations for these stamps range from 12 to 90 times greater than the normals, they are worth looking for, and can often be picked up as normals, as the uninitiated don't worry about these differences. The perforations 15x14 establish the right stamp, but there is no need to check your copies unless you have the rough, smudgy appearance to start from.

Now turn to Hong Kong again, and you will find among the stamps I mention, in the catalogue, a 4 cts. orange (1946) with the same perforations 15x14, but this time De La Rue are the printers, and Gibbons remarks, the 4 cts. is smoother. It has the kiss impression and can only be distinguished from the 4 cts. of 1938 by the perforations, and unless you have a well-trained eye for perforations, you need to measure them, and my opinion it is a very scarce stamp.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. C. S. Neville, Vancouver, B.C., a director of the Society

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We welcome our new members coming into the Society and we will be pleased to give you that special Sales Dept. service. All you have to do is drop a line to me.

We hate to bring this matter to your attention. However, during the 3½ years I have operated the Sales Department there has been two complaints of members' stamps being replaced in the sales books. Fortunately the net amounts have been no higher than $1.50. In one case the stamp was marked 15c net. How could a person stoop so low to replace this stamp.

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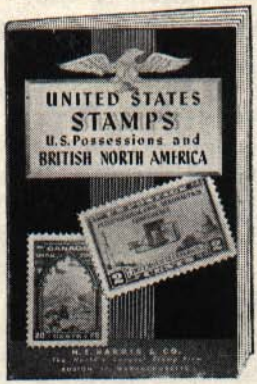

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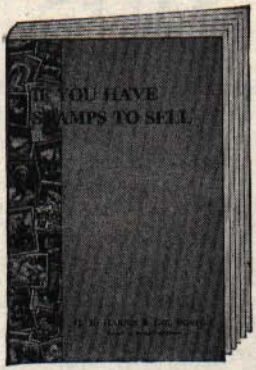

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The Realm of Stamps

By "Monitor"

THERE is today a great deal of interst being shown in cancellations. Not many years ago little attention was paid to these but today philatelists are very conscious of the attractiveness and value of cancellations, which tell a definite story of the postal history of a stamp. Maybe it will show a particular stamp was used abroad, on a mail or on a steamship, or a dated cancellation can often help to positively identify a stamp as the work of particular printer. This of course applies to the stamps of many countries.

To those studying the stamps of Canada, cancellations nowadays play an important part in the building up of any worthwhile collection. To begin with these are the rings cancellations first used on the early classics and which may still be found throughout the years on stamps up to the Georgian period. Then there were the four-ring numerals, followed by the popular two-ring numerals found on the Large Queens and the early Small Queens issues. Each number enabling the collector to identify the particular town where the stamp was used. There are also of course the numerous types of town cancellations, as well as the postal markings that were used in error on the stamps themselves such as Paid, Late Fee, Too Late, Registered, etc. Black ink was generally used but other colours such as red, blue, green and purple are to be found. Another interesting field were the cork cancellations, large collections of which have been made particularly on the stamps of the Small Cents issue.

It is a recognised fact that a stamp with an attractive cancellation or one bearing a dated town cancellation is a much more interesting property than a stamp however nicely cancelled which does not tell the student anything about the stamp's usage. There were the early steamboat cancellations, and the long range of Railway cancellations to be found throughout the issues of Canada. Another interesting field is that of precancels. The collector of Canadian issues would do well to pay particular attention to the cancellations on the stamps he acquires. Cancellations are popular and will undoubtedly increase in popularity and value throughout the years to come.

* * *

Many collectors of British Colonials have no doubt sighed with relief at the slackening off during the past month in the spate of Elizabethan issues that have been making their appearance, as the many long sets have undoubtedly been a severe strain on the pockets of collectors of limited means.

Two Health Stamps were issued on April 1 for Fiji, a 1½d. plus ½d. and a 2½d. plus ½d. printed in sheets of 60 stamps. (See illustrations p.13-14. They will be on sale until June 30, 1954, or when stocks are exhausted whichever is the earlier.

St. Lucia has issued a 1 cent and a 5 cent stamp with Royal Portrait changed also on April 1. The equivalent values were withdrawn from sale at the close of business on the previous day.

The Crown Agents have published a list of their sales of the Coronation Stamps, numbers ranging from 229,984 for the 10 cents Malacca to a high of 663,784 for the ½d. Gibraltar. Figures for local sales will be available when they are received from the territories concerned.

The following sales of Royal Visit stamps were made by the Crown Agents. Bermuda, 6d., 291,531; Fiji, 8d., 284,014; and Jamaica, 2d., 246,000. Figures for local sales are not yet available.

The Crown Agents have also announced that the 20 cents, 30 cents and $2 North Borneo stamps have been ordered with Royal Portrait changed. Internal air letter forms have been ordered for Nigeria. They will be printed on grey paper and bear a reproduction of the 1½d. stamp in green.

* * *

The United States Post Office have announced that the new 8 cents bi-coloured stamp portraying the Statue of Liberty with the wording "In God We Trust", will be placed on first day sale at Washington, D.C., on April 9. It has also been announced that the Kansas and Nebraska Territorial Centennials will be commemorated by the issuance of a 3 cents stamp for each State. The Nebraska stamp will be first placed on sale at Nebraska City on May 7 and the Kansas commemorative at Fort Leavenworth on May 31.

———o———

JEAN DE SPERATI REPRODUCTIONS

The stock of Jean de Sperati, maker of high precision reproductions of rare stamps, together with all his dies and other material has now come under the control of the British Philatelic Association. A profusely illustrated book and complete check list of all of Sperati's dies, finished stamps and cancellations will be published by the B.P.A. in September.

The book will be invaluable to all collectors and dealers interested in the Colonial and Foreign classic issues which were so faithfully reproduced.

The edition will be limited to 500 numbered copies which will be available to members of the British Philatelic Association and to Fellows and Members of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. The B.P.A. have also arranged an exhibition in London from April 28 to May 5 of Sperati reproductions, which will be displayed beside the genuine stamps for comparison.

A full account of the Sperati reproductions will be published in the March-April issue of "Philately" the journal of the British Philatelic Association.

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CANADIAN NEWS

by
U. KNOHU

BECAUSE of a number of conflicting reports about the four new stamps issued April 1st that have appeared as releases in various newspapers I think it might be in order to give some further facts about these new issues.

The new Queen series 5c value stamp and the 15c Gannet stamp are definitely definitives and it is anticipated that they will be reprinted and in use for several years. The 4c walrus and the 5c beaver are short term commemorative stamps.

The 5c booklet, in case you haven't already obtained one, contains a pane of 5 stamps in two rows. A top row of 3 stamps and a bottom row of two stamps and a blank space with Post Office Department publicity printed on it. (This writer had long wondered why the 3c KGVI. booklet had two blank spaces on its stamp panes and why these were not utilized for advertising as these spaces are in the Great Britain booklets.) This is the first occasion that a Canadian Commemorative stamp has been issued in booklet form. Collectors may ask why the definitive new design 5c Queen stamp was not used for these booklets as has been done in previous cases. The 5c beaver stamp was used because when the booklets were ordered it was in a more suitable stage of development to transfer to booklet panes than the 5c Queen stamp. To this columnist's way of thinking, this suggests that this booklet could well be soon replaced by a 5c Queen booklet.

Another surprise about these new issues was the non-overprinting "G" of the definitives 5c and 15c. Immediately collectors began to wonder if this signified the end of Canadian official stamps. However, this is not the case. Apparently there is a sufficient supply of KGVI. overprinted stock to last for many months although it is anticipated that the two new issue values will eventually be overprinted and an announcement will be made when these are ordered.

Collectors may remember the conflict over the official release date of the no-postes KGVI. set but I have been assured that the remaining values of the new Queen design (1c to 4c) plus the new design Queen coil stamps will have an official release date announced.

The official announcement of the new postal rates effective April 1st will readily explain the necessity for continued printing of all the values from 1c to 5c stamps. The first class letter rate for a local postal area is now 4c for the first ounce and 2c for each additional ounce. The rate for beyond a postal area is 5c plus 3c for each additional ounce. Second class mail is 2c for the first 4 ounces and 1c for each additional 4 ounces—so there are the reasons for all the values. However, two other rates I found of decided interest. The surface mail rate to certain foreign countries at 6c for the first ounce and the air rate to Asia, Africa and Oceania at 25c per half ounce. Do not these rates justify stamps of these denominations? One may argue that a combination of existing stamps easily make these totals but likewise this applies to the existing 7c North American air mail and 15c Great Britain air rate.

Two more stamps, the $1 Blue Fish and the 4c Red Cross stamp, are now obsolete at the Philatelic Division. Rumour has it that large stocks of the latter stamp were bought by the Red Cross Society for their own mail. If this is so, the situation is similar to that which happened several years ago to the Bell stamp and a company interest in that stamp.

The 5c original design Queen stamp plain, has now been released in Plate #3. If my understanding of the method of printing of Canadian stamps is correct, then there was very likely a Plate #4 printed also—watch these as they will be the last plate numbers of this stamp and might be a relatively small printing run.

This being the fourth month that **Canadian News** has appeared I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Canadian Philatelic Division for their generous cooperation in answering, what at times must appear to be, idiotic and often "sticky" questions.

DIRECTORS FOR 1954/55

The following directors have been duly proposed and seconded: A. H. Christensen, Montreal; W. V. Crouse, Windsor; R. R. Doxsee, Regina; Wm. Erbach, Kitchener; W. H. Freeman, Niagara-on-the-Lake; F. C. Green, Toronto; Miss M. M. Hanselman, Brantford; L. M. Lamouroux, Toronto; D. Patrick, Toronto; J. P. Rouleau, Montreal; W. A. Teare, Victoria, B.C.; C. Woodhead, Toronto.

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THE PRESIDENT TAKES A TRIP

I had the pleasure recently of making another visit to Montreal and attending a regular meeting of the Union Philatélique de Montréal, Chapter No. 3, in company with Vice-President A. H. Christensen. We had an enjoyable evening, following which we met with Jacques des Forges, President, Nick Lagios, Vice-President and Jean Paul Rouleau, Co-Organiser of the 1955 Convention, when various questions were gone into and settled. Previously, we paid a very short visit to the B.N.A.P.S. of Montreal, Chapter No. 29, to make the acquaintance of Peter Hurst, President, and Mrs. Cook, Secretary. Calls were also made on the well-known dealers, Jack Spier and Bill Griffiths, grand persons both, from whom your President was able to pick up several small but elusive items.

The presidential journey then continued to Ottawa, where I attended regular meetings of the R.A. Stamp Club and the Ottawa Philatelic Society, Chapter No. 16. Both clubs showed plenty of enthusiasm and have two very competent presidents in the person of Miss Elizabeth Spohn and Mr. W. R. McClelland respectively. Vice-President Bill Gladish was kind enough to take me around and make my way easier.

I also called upon Mr. W. R. Carpenter, Superintendent of the Postage Stamp Division, who was kind enough to show me the new stamps. To me they were very pleasing and, I think, will be well received by most of us. Mr. Carpenter arranged a meeting for me with Mr. W. J. Turnbull, with whom I had a most interesting talk, in the course of which I discovered that our Deputy Postmaster General is something of an ornithologist.

My journey was very pleasant indeed and I believe, a fruitful one also. To all who made it so enjoyable for me, my very sincere thanks.

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