

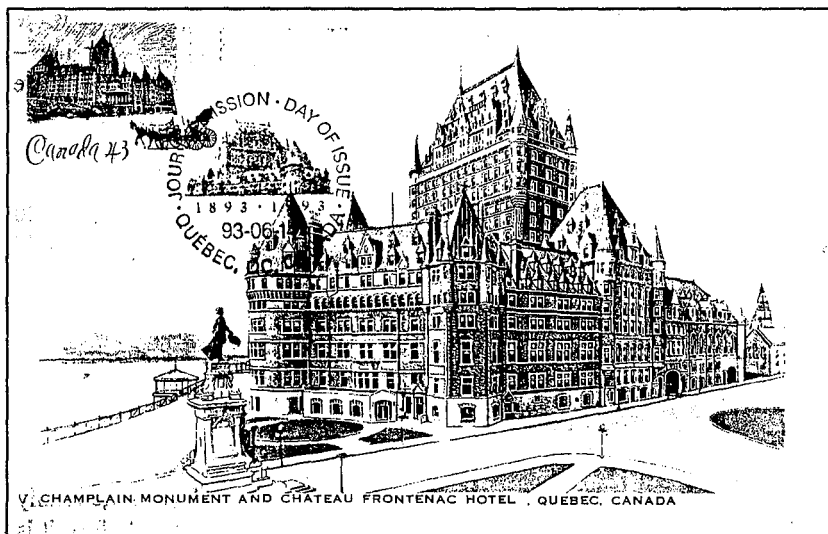
Le Château Frontenac

By: George Constantourakis

On June 14, 1993 Canada Post issued five stamps of Canadian Pacific Railway hotels, to mark the centennial of *Le Château Frontenac* hotel in Quebec City. Quebec, with its old fortified town, narrow twisting streets and French speaking population, held a special appeal to tourists and as such was in need of a major hotel.

In 1892 William Van Horne, general manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, commissioned Bruce Price, a New York architect, to design a new CPR hotel in Quebec. (Price had already designed the Banff Springs hotel in the Rockies and the Windsor Railway Station in Montreal).

The Château Frontenac sits on the heights of Quebec, overlooking the Old Town. The setting is dramatic, with a panoramic view of the St. Lawrence river and the isle of Orléans. This is also an historic site, once occupied by the residence (Château St. Louis) of Count Frontenac (1620-98), governor of New France, and destroyed by fire in 1834.



The design by Price of this massive hotel, with its picturesque composition of circular and polygonal towers, sheetmetal roof, traditional stonework and artistic metalwork, is based on early château architecture of the Loire Valley in France. It represents Price's most original work and his design set the pattern for other château-style hotels in Canada.

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When the Château Frontenac opened in 1893, its elegance so impressed the tourists that within a year it could not meet the demand for accommodation. In the first 20 years, it had to be expanded three times. During World War II, from September 11 to 16, 1944 the Octagon Conference was held in Quebec city for Allied war planning. The Château Frontenac was then the meeting place for Churchill, Roosevelt and leaders of other Allied nations.

The present maximum cards (which are private realisations by the author - *see illustrations on front cover & page 3*) show a view of the hotel, with the similar 43¢ stamp and a special first day cancellation, thus presenting the maximum concordance of the three elements.



PRESS RELEASE BY ENVISION

New Handbook Explains Maximum Card Collecting

The Maximum Card Collectors Handbook, by Gary Denis, published by Envision, is an "everything you ever wanted to know" presentation about one of the more fascinating areas of stamp collecting. From basic definitions in the first chapter to appendices that reprint the International Statutes for Maximaphily and a listing of worldwide maximum card clubs, the 30-page presentation is a complete presentation.

Denis concisely explains the principal parts of a maximum card, how to make your own maximum cards, and exhibiting them in competition. He even offers one chapter as a view of the future of this area of collecting. The book includes 24 illustrations, of which 21 are actual maximum cards. Denis also provides illustrated examples of setting up your album page.

The Maximum Card Collectors Handbook provides the newcomer with solid information on getting into a new aspect of philately, as well as serving as an information benchmark for more experienced collectors.

The 8 and a half x 11-inch, softbound book is available for \$19.95 (plus \$3 shipping to U.S. addresses, \$5 elsewhere) from ENVISION, 10725 John Price Rd., Charlotte, NC 28273, USA.