

by charles j.g. verge

Queen Elizabeth II — Golden Jubilee

The United States' neighbor to the north, Canada, is a democratic monarchy. Since Canadian Confederation, in 1867, two Queens and four Kings have reigned over the country. Of the six, the Queens have sat on the throne of Canada for more than 83 of the 135 years since 1867: Queen Victoria from 1867 to 1901 — in reality she already had been on the throne for 30 years, having succeeded her uncle, William IV, in 1837 — and Queen Elizabeth II who succeeded her father on February 6, 1952.

As we approach the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, June 2002', I thought it would be interesting to look at how Canada and other British North America provinces commemorated Royal jubilees. However, of the Provinces of Canada that have issued stamps



The Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee set includes sixteen stamps, all featuring the same design.

— New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Vancouver Island and Newfoundland — only Newfoundland has issued stamps long enough to have had the opportunity to commemorate Royal anniversaries.

The first jubilee to be celebrated was the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, in 1897. At the time, Canada's Liberal government had been in power for less than a year after more than twenty years of Conservative Party rule. The Liberal Postmaster General, Sir William Mulock (Canada Scott 1722), was probably the most progressive Postmaster General the country has ever had. Mulock, impressed by the United States' long Columbian series of 1893, decided to emulate it. The result: Canada's sixteen-stamp Diamond Jubilee issue (Scott 50–65). The stamps ranged from ½-cent to \$5 in denomination, including all the dollar values up to \$5.

The Diamond Jubilee stamps rank among the most popular Canadian stamps with collectors. Their catalogue values reflect this status, with the set valued at slightly less than \$3,000 in the 2002 Scott Catalogue. The ½-, 1-, 2-, 3-, 5-, and 8-cent were printed in sheets of 100 and usually cut down to post office panes of 50. The other values — 6-, 10-, 15-, 20-, and 50-cent, and \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$5 — were

issued in sheets of 50. Shades are recorded for only certain values: orange and yellow orange exist for the 1-cent, green and deep green for the 2-cent, bright rose and rose for the 3-cent, blue and slate blue for the 5-cent, vermilion and deep vermilion for the 20-cent, and ultramarine and deep ultramarine for the 50-cent.

Remarkably, this long series has few varieties. There are two known copies of the imperforate bottom margin on the 3-cent; the 10-cent has a major re-entry in position 5 (dot in the "I" of "VRI" and the 20-cent in position 15 has the "W-E" variety (a line between the "W" and "E" of TWENTY).

All values also are known bearing the word SPECIMEN. This overprint was applied to stamps for distribution to foreign postal administrations as examples of current Canadian postage stamps. Used blocks of the three highest values (\$3–\$5) are recorded with purple Winnipeg-dated cancels. These record prepayment for bulk mailings of the Winnipeg Free Press.

Newfoundland, meanwhile, also was celebrating the 400th anniversary of its discovery. It did so with a fourteen-stamp set on June 24, 1897. One value of this set, the 1-cent, is inscribed "Our Queen, Sixtieth Year of Her Reign," and was issued for Victoria's Jubilee (Newfoundland Scott 61). There are no shades or varieties for this commemorative.

Perhaps as an afterthought, Newfoundland issued a new "Royal Family" definitive series that might be considered as commemorating the Queen's Jubilee. The basic set, issued in 1897, consisted of four stamps (Newfoundland Scott 78, 79, 81, and 83) that were supplemented by four more between 1898 and 1901 (Newfoundland Scott 80, 82, 84, and 85). The ½-cent King Edward VIII as Child stamp of the series exists imperforate and is very difficult to find, like many Canadian and Newfoundland ½-cent stamps, singly



used in period. The 1-cent Queen Victoria was printed on medium and thick papers. As with the ½-cent, the 1-cent King Edward VII and 3-cent Queen Alexandra exist imperforate. The 3-cent also is found imperforate horizontally.

Of the four Kings who reigned over Canada — Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, and George VI — only George V sat on the throne long enough to receive Jubilee commemoration. His Silver Jubilee in 1935 was the occasion for a six-stamp set (Scott 211–216) showing the King and Queen in Coronation Robes (3-cent); their three direct heirs, the Prince of Wales (5-cent), the Duke of York (2-cent), and the Princess Elizabeth (1-cent); Windsor Castle (10-cent); and the Royal Yacht *Britannia* (13-cent). All values exist imperforate, and interpanneau² pairs and gutter blocks are known.

This Silver Jubilee set also has two of Canada's better-known varieties. A dot below the right eye of Princess Elizabeth on the 1-cent, the so-called "Weeping Princess" variety, is found in position 21 of the upper right pane of Plate 1. The second variety is the "shilling mark" found on the 13-cent. This variety is a stroke between the left "1" and "3", which makes the numbers look like the sterling denomination 1/3.

Newfoundland decided to adopt the colonial omnibus issue of four stamps to commemorate the occasion (Newfoundland Scott 226–229). The common design used by most British Empire colonies was that of King George V in Coronation robes surrounded by the Order of St. Michael and St. George, with a view of Windsor Castle on the left portion of the stamp. The four Newfoundland stamps were available in denominations of 4-, 5-, 7-, and 24-cent. There are no varieties, and shades only exist for the 24-cent where olive green and dark olive are found. Perforated SPECIMEN stamp sets are recorded.

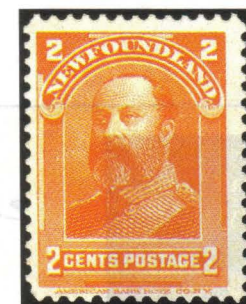
We now come to 2002 and the Golden Jubilee of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Celebrating royalty no longer has the popular appeal it once had in Canada, and stamps showing the monarch are available only in the domestic single-letter-rate denomination. For 2002, this rate goes up to forty-eight cents. The Post Office and its Stamp Advisory Committee, facing the prospect of issuing two stamps — one definitive for the new rate and one commemorative for the Golden Jubilee — came up with a Solomon-like solution. Why not issue a definitive-commemorative for the occasion? Canada Post issued the 48-cent stamp on January 2, 2002, showing the Queen in front of a background of maple leaves. The inscription, in English and French, commemorating the Jubilee makes it a commemorative. Its high printing number (15 million), its availability for sale during the whole year, and the Post Office's commitment to reprint the stamp during the year, should it be required, make this stamp a definitive.



This whole series is recorded overprinted SPECIMEN for distribution to foreign postal administrations. (Courtesy of The Brigham Collection).



Newfoundland's only official commemorative for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



Newfoundland's Royal Family series issued in 1897.



The six Canadian stamps commemorating King George V's Silver Jubilee.



Imperforate gutter blocks exist for the 1-cent, 2-cent, and 5-cent of the King George V Silver Jubilee set of Canada.



One of Newfoundland's omnibus issue for King George V's Silver Jubilee.



A blow up of the "shilling" variety found on the 13c Royal Yacht Britannia stamp of the 1935 Jubilee issue.

Gottschalk+Ash International designed the stamp, and it was printed in panes of sixteen on Tullis Russell paper by Ashton Potter (Canada) Ltd. There are three panes to the press sheet. The stamps were printed in eight colors by the lithography process, and they are tagged on four sides. Metallic inks were used for the gold and bronze colors, and the background of the stamp consists of micro maple leaves.

Endnotes

1. As noted on the official website, <http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk>, the Queen's Golden Jubilee marks the 50th anniversary of her accession to the throne on February 6, 1952. As that date is also the anniversary of the death of King George VI, it is not considered a suitable date for public celebration. As in the past, celebrations will be held in June, with the National Service of Thanksgiving to be held June 4, at St. Paul's Cathedral, and pub-

lic celebrations scheduled May through July. For more on the 2002 Jubilee, visit the official website.

2. Inter-panneau may not be a familiar term. Kenneth A. Wood's *This Is Philately* offers the following explanation: "The term is a truly international philatelic term but seldom encountered nowadays. Inter is Latin for 'between' and panneau is French for 'panel' or 'pane.' So, what the term refers to is a pair or block of stamps comprising stamps from two panes separated by a gutter. It could be used to describe today's gutter pairs and blocks."

The Author

Charles J.G. Verge is president and historian of The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. He is an international judge and exhibitor. His main interests are the stamps and postal history of Ireland, philatelic literature and doing research on Canadian philately and the history of philately of Canada. He is the current president of the AAPE. "Our Northern Neighbor" is scheduled to appear quarterly in the *AP*.



Canada's newest Jubilee stamp. The 48-cent Queen Elizabeth II definitive-commemorative issued on January 2, 2002.

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