

50 YEARS OF CONFEDERATION Newfoundland and Canada

▼ CHARLES J.G. VERGE

In 1999, Newfoundland was part of the Canadian Confederation for 50 years, Halifax, Nova Scotia celebrated its 250th anniversary as a city and Nunavut became Canada's third territory.

Only one of these events was commemorated by a stamp and that was Nunavut's creation on April 1 (Figure 1). Why? For Halifax, Canada Post gave no reason; for Newfoundland it suggested that the Scenic Highways stamps (Figure 2), issued on March 31, 1999, including one for Newfoundland, would serve that purpose.

The problem for most Newfoundlanders and philatelists is that scenic highways stamps have been issued for all provinces and territories and not just for Newfoundland and therefore should not do double duty. Another stamp should have been issued.



Figure 1: Canada Post's commemoration of the creation of Nunavut as Canada's third territory.

Commemorating provinces joining Confederation has been a time-honored philatelic tradition in Canada. All provinces were given a philatelic tribute between 1964 and 1966 in advance of the Centennial of Confederation in 1967 (Canada Scott 418-429, Figure 3).

In addition to the issued stamps, other designs were considered and rejected. Figure 4 shows one of these prepared for Newfoundland. Manitoba's 100th anniversary of joining the Confederation was commemorated by a single stamp (Canada Scott 505) as was British Columbia's in 1971 (Canada Scott 552) and Prince Edward Island in 1973 (Canada Scott 618).

In 1980, two stamps were issued to com-



Figure 2: The third issue of the Scenic Highways stamps showing, in lower left, the stamp for Newfoundland's Discovery Trail. This is the stamp that Canada Post refers to as commemorating Newfoundland's 50th anniversary of joining the Canadian Confederation.

memorate the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta (Canada Scott 863-864).

Then when it came time to celebrate 125th anniversaries, the parade was led by a stamp for Manitoba in 1995 (Canada Scott 1562) and then a second one for British Columbia in 1996 (Canada Scott 1613). These commemorations abruptly stopped and no stamp was issued for Prince Edward Island's 125th in 1998 nor Newfoundland's 50th in 1999.

The story was not the same when

Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949. A postal tribute was definitely the order of the day. The stamp chosen, Canada Scott 282, Figure 5, depicted Cabot's ship *The Matthew*. The four-cent green stamp was issued April 1, 1949 and with it came the end of Newfoundland's 92 year history as a stamp issuing entity.

It is interesting to point out that all cent denominated stamps issued in Newfoundland from 1865 to 1949 have never been demonetized and are still valid for postage in Canada.

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Figure 3: The 12 stamps issued by Canada between 1964 and 1966 to honor Canada's provinces and territories in anticipation of the Centennial of Confederation in 1967.

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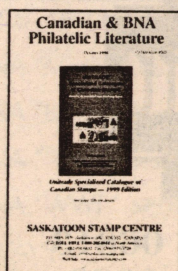
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Figure 4: Unaccepted design, a watercolor essay for Canada Scott 427. (Courtesy the Canadian Postal Museum)



Figure 5: Canada Scott 282, the 1949 commemorative to celebrate Newfoundland joining Canada, shows John Cabot's *The Matthew*.

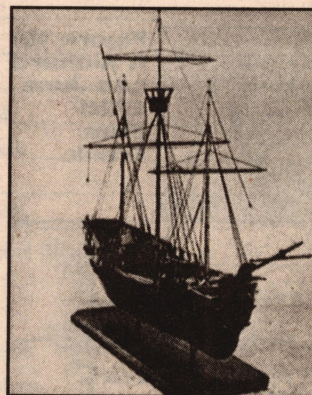


Figure 6: Maunder's original model ship. (Courtesy the Canadian Postal Archives)

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Canadian postal authorities asked for, and received, help from the Newfoundland Post Office to ensure a proper representation of *The Matthew*. They were informed that a scale model of the ship (Figure 6) had been made by Herbert Ernest Maunder (1890-1965) for the Historical Society of St. John's, Newfoundland. Maunder was a master boat modeler and agreed to add sails to the original model he had made so that it would be more representative of the design the Canadian Post Office wanted to use for the stamp.

A set of photographs of the model (Figure 7) was taken in Maunder's yard with the lawn becoming the sea and the wind billowing out the sails. As an aside, Maunder's model was also used by the Royal Canadian Mint for the 1949 \$1 silver coins showing *The Matthew*. The photographs were sent to

Ottawa where they were given to Herman H. Schwartz (1885-1962, Figure 8), a designer at the Canadian Bank Note Co., who rendered them into a usable essay (Figure 9) that was then reduced to stamp size and approved by Walter J. Turnbull, deputy postmaster general of Canada (Figure 10).

The stamp was engraved by Silas R. Allen (1885-1958), an engraver working for the bank note company. Die proofs were prepared from Allen's die in olive, blue and green followed by plate proof sheets of 50 in the color of issue. Some of these sheets are known punch canceled. The Canadian Bank Note Co. printed the stamps in sheets of 200, each pane of 50 being separated by a gutter. Two printing plates were used and 50,850,000 stamps were issued. There are no recorded errors or varieties for this perf. 12 stamp.



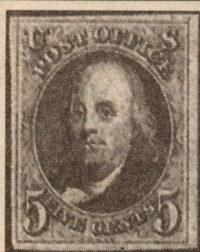
Figure 7: The Maunder model with sails. The photograph was taken on Maunder's lawn. (Courtesy the Canadian Postal Archives)



Figure 8: Herman H. Schwartz (1885-1962), Canadian Bank Note Co. stamp designer responsible for the preliminary essays of Canada Scott 282.

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Figure 9: Schwartz's black-and-white mechanical composite artwork/model/essay. (Courtesy the Canadian Postal Archives)



Figure 10: A stamp size mechanical composite approved by Walter J. Turnbull, deputy postmaster general of Canada. (Courtesy the Canadian Postal Archives)

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