

A review of Canadian philately in 2005

CHARLES J.G. VERGE

Canadian philately in the past year included important changes in personnel at Canada Post, some notable stamp auctions, and a few unexpected stamp issues. Let's take a look at some of the significant activity in Canadian philately for 2005.

Any dollar amounts that are quoted in this report refer to Canadian dollars. At press time, the Canadian dollar was equal to approximately U.S. 87¢.

ORGANIZED PHILATELY

There has been a wholesale change of management at Canada Post in the past year, with two of the three most senior posts related to philately newly filled. Moya Greene has replaced Ann Joynt as president and CEO of the corporation, and Robert Waite has been appointed senior vice president of communications and stakeholder relations. Greene and Waite are each pictured in Figure 1.

Jim Phillips has retained his position as director of stamp products and reports to Waite. The board of directors of Canada Post also appointed Waite to chair the Stamp Advisory Committee.

The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance has successfully completed its first national-level show and is looking forward to bigger and better things in the next few years. The group will host Ameristamp Expo 2006 and the annual convention of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors April 7-9 at the Queen Elizabeth Building in Toronto; and Royal-2007-Royale, the 79th convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, in October 2007.

Robin McGrath, a non-philatelist, won the Geldert Medal for the best 2004 article in *The Canadian Philatelist* for her in-depth report on "Simon Solomon: Newfoundland's Postmaster."

Amber O'Reilly became the 13th youngster to be named Young Philatelist of the Year. In 2004, O'Reilly became only the second Canadian to win the prestigious Youth Champion of Champions competition sponsored by the AAPE.

Several of Canada's senior philatelists who made an impact on our hobby passed away in 2005. J. Don Wilson from Newfoundland and Labrador; J.J. MacDonald from Nova Scotia; Allan McKenna, Ed Beaubien and Miet Kamienski from Ontario; Charles Arnold from British Columbia; and John Powell of Alberta were individuals who believed that participating in the stamp hobby meant that they should serve the hobby as well as reap its benefits. As editors, treasurers and committee chairmen they made a difference. It is hoped that others will feel the same way and take on responsibilities in managing our hobby.

For the second year in a row, *Canadian Stamp News*, Canada Post, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and Philatélie Québec organized a stamp poll to find out what were the readers' most and least favorite stamps for 2005.

For favorite stamp issue, the three top choices were Pets (Scott 2057-2060), Victoria Cross (Scott 2065-2066) and Audubon (Scott 2036-2039). For least favorite, collectors chose Urban Transit (Scott 2028-2031), Home Hardware

(Scott 2032) and the Army Cadets (Scott 2025). For the most relevant, D-Day (Scott 2043), Victoria Cross and NHL All-Stars (Scott 2017-2018) were selected. Named as the least relevant were the Year of the Monkey (Scott 2015-2016), Home Hardware and Pets.

The results seem to reflect the demographics of stamp collectors as predominantly older and male, favoring military themes and staid design. The choice of the Army Cadets stamp as third least favorite proves this point, as the design is modern looking and the stamp does not make either the most relevant or least relevant lists. However, it sold out in the first week to its target audience: the young Army Cadets who loved the bold design. The stamp is shown at left in Figure 2.

Sometimes it is hard to analyze what the poll respondents are thinking. An example of this is the Urban Transit issue (shown at right in Figure 2), which the voters placed 10th as most relevant, and also selected as least relevant.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Once again, the British North America Philatelic Society published a slew of new books, too many to list here. Interested collectors can find a list of all BNAPS publications by consulting the distributor's web site at www.kimmerly.com.

Unitrade Associates announced in November 2004 that it had named D. Robin Harris as editor of its specialized catalog. The resulting product — *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps, 2006 Edition* — is a



Figure 1. Moya Greene (left) was named president and CEO of Canada Post in 2005. Robert Waite (right) was named chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee.

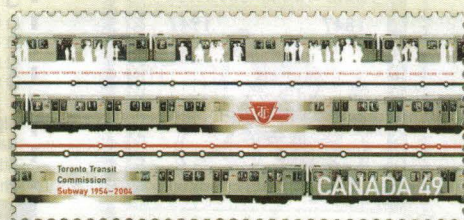
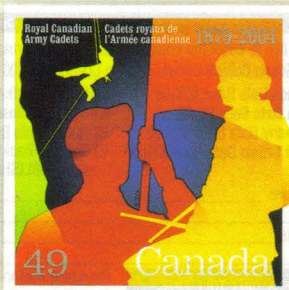


Figure 2. The Army Cadets stamp (left) was a favorite with the cadets, but not with the participants in the 2005 stamp poll. The Urban Transit issue (right) was both relevant and not relevant, according to poll voters.

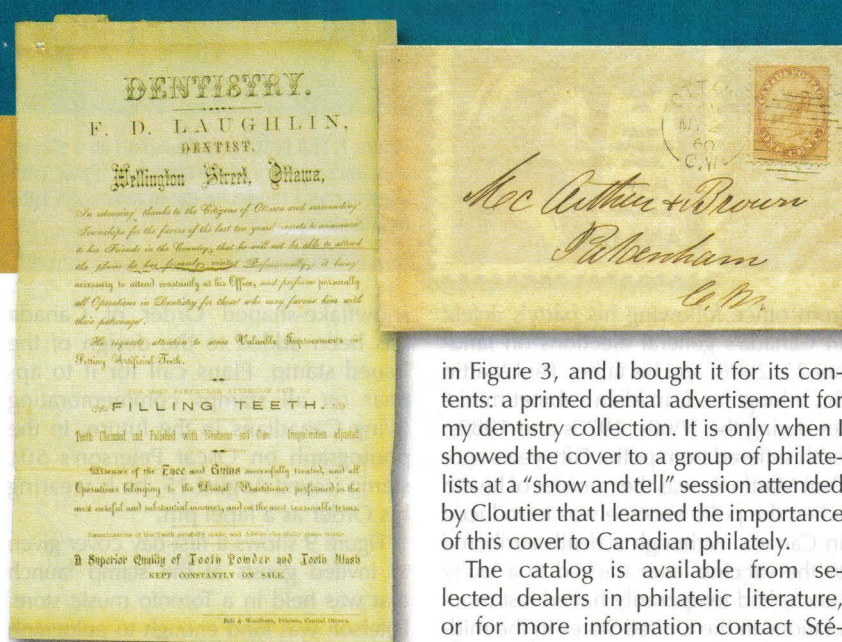


Figure 3. The recently recorded earliest Canadian duplex cancel, and the contents of the cover.

gem that is well worth buying. Reasonably priced at \$49.95, it is available from Unitrade Press, 99 Floral Parkway, Toronto, ON, Canada, M6L 2C4; or by phone at (416) 242-5900.

Conestoga Press published the third edition of the *Catalogue of Canadian Duplex Cancellations* by Stéphane Cloutier, its new compiler and editor. It is a completely revised edition with much new information, including a chapter on the anatomy of a duplex hammer and other chapters illustrating and describing unusual and experimental hammers. Hammers are listed not only by province or geographical area but also by collecting groups such as military, Berri (the very first duplex type used in Canada), transportation and unofficial.

There is an interesting story related to the earliest-known Canadian duplex that is illustrated on the cover of the catalog. The Berri duplexes were received by the Post Office on May 1, and the cover shown is dated Ottawa, May 2, 1860, and cancels the 1¢ rose Queen Victoria stamp of 1859, Scott 14, on a circular.

I happen to own this cover, pictured

in Figure 3, and I bought it for its contents: a printed dental advertisement for my dentistry collection. It is only when I showed the cover to a group of philatelists at a "show and tell" session attended by Cloutier that I learned the importance of this cover to Canadian philately.

The catalog is available from selected dealers in philatelic literature, or for more information contact Stéphane Cloutier, 367 Avenue Lévis, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1L 6G6; or e-mail cloutier1967@sympatico.ca.

The past year also saw the 7th edition of Canada's National Philatelic Literature exhibition. With more than 175 entries it was the largest philatelic literature exhibition in the world this year. The total number of entries over the course of seven exhibitions, starting in 1991, exceeds 1,000.

THE STAMP TRADE

The stamp trade lost two major players in 2005: Kasimir Bileski, a dealer for more than 80 years, and Jim Hennok, who not only dealt in stamps and postal history but was also an auctioneer and a first-class collector.

Bileski had plied the trade in both England and Canada and was world renowned for his marketing strategies and his uncanny ability to discover major errors, including the St. Lawrence Seaway invert (Scott 387a, pictured in Figure 4) and the missing hologram error on the 1992 Canada in Space stamp (Scott 1442b). His daughter is continuing his business.

Hennok was a fixture of the Toronto philatelic scene and not only auctioned stamps, but art as well. Collectors of his stamp auction catalogs found out quickly that if they wanted a full set they also had to include the art catalogs. He did not differentiate between the two and numbered his catalogs sequentially from the beginning. He also served as one of the experts on the Greene Philatelic Expertization Committee. He represented Canada at the Pan-American Games in the 1960s, winning a bronze and a silver medal in small-bore rifle shooting. Hennok had no relatives and left his business and collections to his two faithful employees.

Hennok's personal collections were sold at three named auction sales by his own firm (October 1), Eastern Auctions (October 28) and Matthew Bennett International (December 2). Hennok's main interest was in cancels, and the three firms dispersed his collections of Canadian two- and four-ring numerals, numeral cancels of British Columbia and New Brunswick, and squared circles. Many of the items on sale were unique strikes and some had not been seen on the market for nearly 40 years.

Other name sales in 2005 were Martyn Cusworth's Colonial Prince Edward Island stamps and postal history sold by Firby Auctions on March 25, and the extensive Allan L. Steinhart collection of prestamp and stampless covers to, from and through British North America, 1685-1865. The latter sale was the subject of the O Canada article in the October 2005 *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

On a final note, auctioneer Robert



Figure 4. Discoveries by Canadian stamp dealer Kasimir Bileski included the St. Lawrence Seaway invert error, Scott 387a.

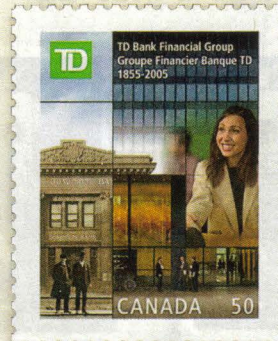


Figure 5. The essay for the TD Bank stamp (left) was substantially revised before the stamp was issued (right). A different woman is pictured in the design.



Figure 6. The 50th anniversary of the polio inoculation program was marked in 2005.

A. Lee called his last sale, No. 113, on November 18-29, 2005. He has retired after 29 years but remains available to do philatelic consulting. Lee's auctions were unusual as he frequently broke down his lots into small individual items identified by areas of collecting that appealed most to the general and specialized collectors of British North America philately. Another unusual step he took was to let some of his consignors with expertise write up their own lot descriptions.

STAMPS

The initial announcement of Canada's 2005 stamp program was augmented by four additional stamps during the course of the year. Single domestic rate (50¢) stamps were issued for the 150th anniversary of the TD Bank, the 50th anniversary of the polio vaccination program, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ellen Fairclough, and the 80th birthday of Oscar Peterson.

Figure 5 shows the original essay for the TD Bank commemorative, which was sent out to journalists with an e-mailed press release, and the image of the issued stamp. There are marked differences between the two designs; most notably, a different woman is pictured on the right side of the issued stamp.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, who announced he would resign

from office following his party's defeat in Canada's general elections on January 23, 2006; and his father, Paul Martin Sr., a longtime Canadian cabinet minister during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s; both suffered from polio. Fifty years ago, Paul Martin Sr. was the minister of health when the polio vaccine was introduced in Canada. Although a death attributed to the vaccine (later tracked to a faulty batch) had temporarily halted test inoculations in the United States in the mid-1950s, Martin insisted that the program continue in Canada. The stamp shown in Figure 6 was issued to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this introduction.

The two other late additions to the stamp program each have a story to tell. Both were intended to honor specific individuals for their own achievements while they were still alive.

Many living Canadians have appeared on stamps since the first in 1958, a model depicted as a nurse on the 5¢ Health stamp (Scott 380, Figure 7).

For individual honors in 2005, the Stamp Advisory Committee chose Ellen Fairclough, Canada's first woman federal cabinet minister, and jazz musician Oscar Peterson. Both would be celebrating important personal milestones during the year, both were members of the Order of Canada, and both were very well known.

Unfortunately, Fairclough passed away in November 2004, a few months short of her 100th birthday. The 50¢ stamp honoring her was issued June 21, 2005.

The images in Figure 8 show the proposed design at left and the issued stamp at right. The difference between them is subtle: The black outline of the

Figure 7. The first living Canadian on a stamp was the secretary of the stamp designer, who used her as a model for the nurse on the 1958 Health stamp.



snowflake-shaped Order of Canada has been added to the design of the issued stamp. Plans call for it to appear on all stamps commemorating living Canadians in the future. In the photograph on Oscar Peterson's 50¢ stamp issued August 15, he is wearing his Order as a lapel pin.

Figure 9 shows a first-day cover given to invited guests at the stamp launch that was held in a Toronto music store. Peterson was kind enough to autograph my cover. Among the guests at the event were philatelists, philanthropists and fans (Figure 10), including celebrities such as singers Diana Krall and Elvis Costello.

Normally this annual review includes information about Canadian stamp varieties and new printings that happened during the year. However, the amount of stamp variety information for 2005 is overwhelming, so I was gratified to see that Scott New Issues Editor Martin J. Frankevicz provided a very well-written article, "Bent out of shape: Canada's variable die cuts," in the January 2006 *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

As usual, D. Robin Harris, the editor of *Corgi Times*, has discovered all kinds of varieties and formats for stamps issued in 2005. All were listed in one or the other of the six 2005 issues of *Corgi Times*, and they are also described on the Elizabethan Study Group website at www.adminware.ca/esg.

Anyone interested in modern Canadian varieties certainly should become a member of the study group. Membership details are posted on the web site.

Sometime in late 2004, the stamp indicia on Postcard Factory postage-paid postcards was changed. The cards now



Figure 8. The Ellen Fairclough stamp essay (left) and issued stamp (right). The issued design shows the Order of Canada insignia.

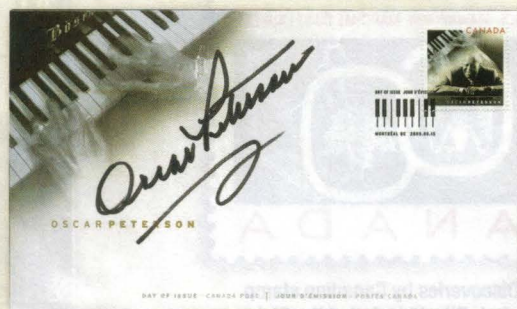


Figure 9. Oscar Peterson autographed first-day cover. Peterson celebrated his 80th birthday at the stamp-issuing ceremony.

Figure 10. Legendary jazz musician Oscar Peterson (left) and Royal Philatelic Society of Canada president Charles J.G. Verge (second from left), joined by Rick Penko (RPSC vice president, third from right) and Gerda Hnatyshyn (wife of the late Ramon J. Hnatyshyn, governor general of Canada, second from right), enjoying a joke by Canadian comedian David Broadfoot (right). Peterson is a director of the Hnatyshyn Foundation for the Arts.



use the same design as the 49¢ stylized Maple Leaf coil issued in December 2003 (Scott 2008). All previous Postcard Factory issues used the Maple Leaf Over Skyscraper design found on the 45¢ stamp issued July 31, 1995 (Scott 1361).

Three special envelopes were issued this year, a decrease of four from both 2003 and 2004. These are envelopes issued for people or events deemed worthy for commemoration, but not important enough for a postage stamp. These envelopes

are pictured in Figure 11.

The production run for each was 10,000 and they sold for \$2.50 each. This is an increase of 50¢ per envelope, and a reduction of 2,000 from the 12,000 printed of each of the 2003 and 2004 special envelopes.

The envelopes were all issued within three days in May. The first (May 26) commemorated the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery. The second (May 27) was

issued for the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of London, Ontario. The third (May 28) commemorates the nearly 44,000 war brides that came to Canada between 1942 and 1948.

And finally, there was no Canada Post-themed Christmas decoration produced in 2005, bringing an apparent end to the holiday ornament series. ■

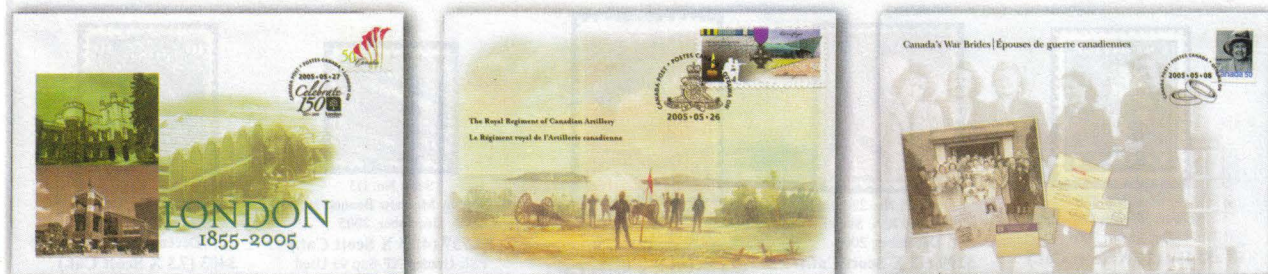


Figure 11. Three special commemorative envelopes were produced in 2005, honoring events or groups not shown on stamps.

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