

A review of Canadian philately in 2008

CHARLES J.G. VERGE

It is time again for the annual review of philatelic activity in Canada. As usual, the review will be divided into four segments: organized philately, philatelic literature, the trade and stamps. All dollar amounts mentioned here are in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise stated.

ORGANIZED PHILATELY

Although stamp societies are experiencing reduced memberships, they seem to be keeping their heads above water.

In 2008, Canadian stamp exhibitors participated in international exhibitions in Tel Aviv, Israel; Paris, France; Bucharest, Romania; Prague, Czech Republic; and Los Angeles, California.

Ron Brigham exhibited 20th-century material for the first time in Bucharest. His Edward VII stamp exhibit received a gold award and a special prize.

Another high-caliber exhibit on pence and cents issues appeared on the international scene. The Bytown collection, by an anonymous exhibitor, received large golds at Tel Aviv and Bucharest.

John McEntyre continues to garner gold medals for his one-frame exhibits, building on his stature as one of the most decorated one-frame exhibitors in the world. In addition to gold awards in Bucharest, Prague and Los Angeles, he was the grand-award winner in the

single-frame class at the Bucharest international stamp exhibition and at Sescal in Los Angeles.

Herb McNaught, a stalwart exhibitor at Canadian national stamp shows for many years, who participated in several world stamp exhibitions, died June 19, 2008, just shy of his 90th birthday.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

In 2008, many books were published on the subject of British North America. The list is too long to be presented here, but a list of new publications is at www.kimmerly.com, the web site of stamp dealer Ian Kimmerly.

D. Robin Harris, editor of the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*, continues to add more information to refine the catalog. The 2009 edition was published in October 2008 and was an instant best-seller. This edition's new features include press-sheet position pieces; Christmas seals, listed for the first time (although the listing starts in 1927 rather than with the first Christmas seals issued in 1908); an illustrated guide to extra-fine and gem stamps; and an alphabetical list of individuals other than royalty found on Canadian stamps.

In addition, new Canada Post stamps have been added; listings have been reviewed for consistency; and images have been updated with new scans,

particularly for early Canada and early Newfoundland. The catalog is available from Unitrade Press, 99 Floral Parkway, Toronto, ON, Canada, M6L 2C4; or by phone, 416-242-5900. It is priced at \$42.95, the same as last year.

THE STAMP TRADE

Because the owner of Brigham Auctions suffered a serious illness, the firm closed permanently after eight years of operation.

The Canadian stamp world lost one of its longest-serving auctioneers when William (Bill) H. Maresch of Maresch & Son of Toronto died June 13, 2008. Although he was not actively involved with the firm during the past few years, he was a prominent force in the stamp trade and also had a major impact on the philatelic world. He was a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, a collector and a national judge.

STAMPS

Some of the issue dates for Canada's 2008 stamp program mentioned in the O Canada column in the February 2008 issue of *Scott Stamp Monthly* were changed, and six more stamp issues were added to the program during 2008.

A set of four Canadians in Hollywood stamps honors Canadian film and television stars Marie Dressler (née Leila Marie Koerber, 1868-1934); Ray-

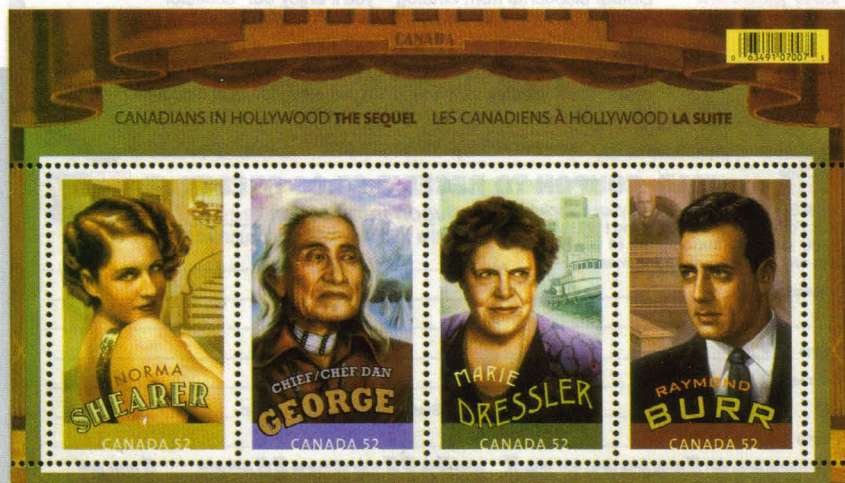


Figure 1. Canada Post issued this *Canadians in Hollywood: The Sequel* souvenir sheet in 2008.



Figure 2. The Beijing Olympics are honored on this 52¢ commemorative stamp issued July 18, 2008.



Figure 3. The two designs prepared for the Mental Health semipostal. The initial design, right, proved unacceptable. The stamp as issued features the design on left.

mond Burr (1917-93); Norma Shearer (1902-83); and Chief Dan George (born Geswanouth Slahoot, also known as Dan Shalot, 1899-1981). The stamps were sold in souvenir sheets of four (Scott 2279, Figure 1) and in booklets of eight (Scott 2280).

The other two stamps added to the program were a 52¢ commemorative issued for the Beijing Olympics (Scott 2281, Figure 2) and a (52¢)+10¢ semipostal permanent stamp to support mental health (Scott B14, Figure 3). The original design for the Mental Health semipostal, announced by Canada Post June 18, 2008, was subsequently changed to a completely different design.

The 52¢ International Ice Hockey Championship stamp (Scott 2265) was issued with two different booklet covers and inside pane illustrations: one for Quebec City, Quebec, and the other for Halifax, Nova Scotia, the cities where the tournament was held. Two different official first-day covers were offered for sale.

The 2008 University stamps (Alberta, Scott 2263, and British Columbia, Scott 2264) were sold in gutter pairs. Tagged images of the respective university logos appear in the top selvage centered



Figure 4. Gutter strips of the Alberta University and British Columbia University stamps were sold by Canada Post. Tagged images of the logos can be seen under UV light.

over the stamps when viewed under ultraviolet light (Figure 4).

The Guide Dogs stamp features the denomination "52" in Braille (Scott 2266). Luke, the yellow Labrador retriever pictured on the stamp, was one of the 60 percent of seeing-eye dog trainees that failed the course.

Two joint issues were produced in 2008. The first, with France, honors the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City. In addition to both countries issuing their own stamps (Canada

Scott 2269, France Scott 3437), France issued the 52¢ Canadian stamp together with the 85-cent French stamp in a souvenir sheet (Figure 5). The Canadian stamp produced by France features pink tagging on all four sides but no hidden



Figure 5. France produced a joint-issue souvenir sheet with French and Canadian stamps for Quebec City's Quadricentennial. The Canadian stamp features pink tagging on all four sides.



Figure 6. Japan issued this souvenir sheet for the Anne of Green Gables joint issue.



Figure 7. The first version of the Pachena Point Lighthouse definitive stamp is shown at top. The stamp with the revised design is shown at bottom.

Château Frontenac tagging is found on the cliff on the upper right corner. The stamp is printed on Hibrite paper with white gum.

The second joint issue was with Japan, to honor the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Anne of Green Gables*, a favorite with the Japanese public (Canada Scott 2276-2278; Japan, not yet listed by Scott). The Japanese souvenir sheet

(Figure 6) contains the two joint-issue stamps and eight additional stamps.

To honor the 150th anniversary of British Columbia, Canada Post issued a 52¢ self-adhesive commemorative stamp with historic photographs on the backing paper (Scott 2283).

Many of the 2008 self-adhesive commemorative stamps were issued in booklet format, and several imperforate stamp errors have been reported for Scott 2261-2262, 2263, 2265, 2277-2278. Some of these booklets also were issued in panes of two gutter strips. As a result, collectors can make gutter pairs, and the die cuts are usually different from one pane to the other.

The stamps in Canada Post's quarterly packs and annual collections differ from the regularly issued self-adhesive stamps in that the die cuts go all the way through the backing paper.

Included in the packs are Scott 2259, 2261-2268, 2275, 2277-2278 and 2281.

On the definitive stamp front, for the convenience of its customers, Canada Post issued new nondenominated Flower permanent stamps in large coil rolls of 3,000 and 5,000 stamps (Scott 2244). The stamps were issued February 1, 2008. Differences between the large and small coil roll stamps are found in the orientation and placement of the stamps.

The Flag Over Lighthouse permanent domestic-rate booklet stamp was issued



Figure 8. The 3c Beneficial Insect design variety (top), with the word "Canada" shifted to the right, is found in four positions in a pane of 50 stamps.

with a revised design May 1, 2008, to correctly situate the Pachena Point, British Columbia, lighthouse (Scott 2253B, Figure 7). When the stamp was first issued in 2007, the lighthouse image was printed backward from the original image, resulting in an inaccurate representation of the location of the lighthouse. The 2008 stamp shows the lighthouse in the correct position.

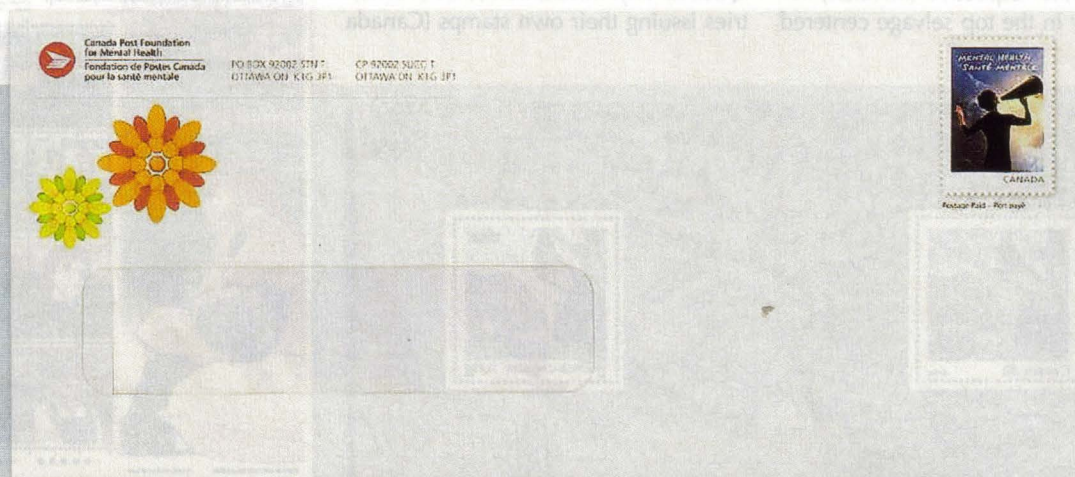


Figure 9. This nondenominated Mental Health postal stationery envelope was issued by Canada Post for its own use in soliciting donations from 80,000 of its suppliers and clients for its Foundation for Mental Health.

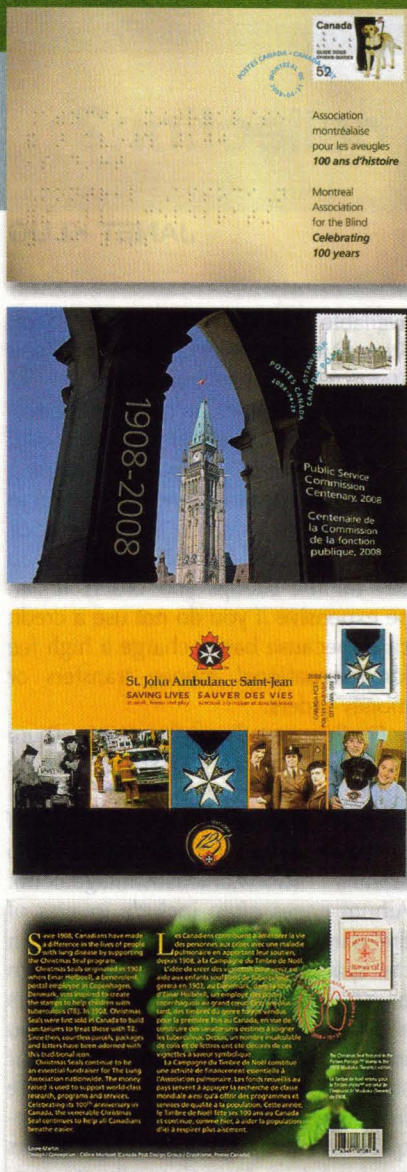


Figure 10. Four cacheted envelopes were issued in 2008 for the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Association for the Blind, the 100th anniversary of the Public Service Commission of Canada, the 125th anniversary of the Canadian division of the Order of St. John, and the 100th anniversary of the use of Christmas Seals in Canada.

The 3¢ Beneficial Insect definitive issued October 18, 2007, was discovered with the word "Canada" shifted to the right (Scott 2235a, Figure 8). This variety occurs four times on each pane of 50, in positions 11-14.

The 2010 Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics definitive stamps announced by Canada Post July 3 were delayed from December 2008 to early 2009. The five Winter Olympics Disciplines permanent stamps will be issued January 12. The five Paralympics stamps depicting logos and mascots of the events will be issued February 12. The 2010 Winter Olympics March 2009

and Winter Paralympics will be held in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia, February 12-28.

The Mental Health semipostal is a non-denominated (52¢) permanent stamp with an additional 10¢ surcharge. Canada Post solicited contributions for its Foundation for Mental Health from 80,000 of its suppliers and clients. The letter sent to the individual companies was mailed in a No. 10 window postal stationery envelope inscribed "Postage Paid — Port payé" (Figure 9). The envelope was not made available to the public for mailing.

Postage paid, nondenominated postal cards were issued in 2008 for the Year of the Rat (two cards), Peonies (two cards), Art Canada (four cards), Anne of Green Gables (two cards), and Canadians in Hollywood: The Sequel (four cards). Each nondenominated postal card sells for \$1.69 and is good for mailing to anywhere in the world.

Four special envelopes were issued in 2008. These are cacheted envelopes issued for people or events deemed worthy of honor but not important enough for a stamp. The production run for each is indicated in parentheses. The envelopes sold for \$2.50 each, the same price as 2007. The envelopes honor the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Association for the Blind (April 21, 11,000 envelopes); the 100th anniversary of the Public Service Commission of Canada, the organization responsible for hiring practices and recruitment of federal bureaucrats (April 29, 13,000); the 125th anniversary of the Canadian division of the Order of St. John, also known as St. John Ambulance (June 20, 10,000); and the 100th anniversary of the use of Christmas Seals in Canada (October 1, 10,000). The four envelopes are shown in Figure 10.

On September 4, 2008, Minister of National Revenue Gordon O'Connor announced that the Canadian Bank Note Co. and SICPA Product Security SA would jointly produce a new tobacco excise stamp. The new stamp will go into use in early 2010.

This review of 2008 just scrapes the surface. If you have a subject you would like covered in O Canada, write to me in care of SSM.

U.S. MINT F-VF, NH SUPER SALE

Scott #	Price	Scott #	Price	Scott #	Price	Scott #	Price
210	132.00	299	220.00	401	36.00	478	1,000.00
211	560.00	300	16.00	402	92.00	479	467.50
212	200.00	301	20.00	403	240.00	480	382.50
213	80.00	302	76.00	404	1,100.00	481	1.35
214	132.00	303	76.00	405	8.80	482	2.30
215	420.00	304	76.00	406	8.80	483	21.20
216	460.00	305	100.00	407	104.00	484	16.00
217	840.00	306	60.00	408	2.00	486	1.35
219	48.00	307	100.00	409	2.00	486 LP	6.80
219D	400.00	308	68.00	410	8.80	487	19.50
220	40.00	309	240.00	410 LP	52.00	487 LP	152.00
221	140.00	310	720.00	411	12.00	488	4.25
222	180.00	311	1,200.00	411 LP	68.00	488 LP	28.00
223	156.00	312	1,840.00	412	32.00	489	7.20
224	140.00	314	32.00	412 LP	145.00	489 LP	44.00
225	108.00	315	510.00	413	64.00	490	.90
226	340.00	319	8.00	413 LP	375.00	490 LP	6.00
227	460.00	320	28.00	414	62.50	492	14.50
228	720.00	323	44.00	415	72.00	492 LP	66.30
229	1,120.00	324	36.00	416	56.00	493	24.00
230	30.00	325	132.00	417	68.00	493 LP	152.00
231	26.00	326	156.00	418	116.00	494	14.50
232	90.00	327	290.00	419	265.00	494 LP	96.00
233	120.00	328	40.00	420	160.00	495	16.00
234	130.00	329	46.00	421	560.00	495 LP	112.00
235	120.00	330	176.00	422	340.00	496	5.00
236	100.00	331	11.00	423	690.00	496 LP	42.00
237	188.00	332	9.00	424	3.80	497	38.00
238	356.00	333	48.00	425	3.50	497 LP	172.00
239	450.00	334	52.00	426	19.00	498	.65
240	940.00	335	64.00	427	48.00	499	.65
246	52.00	336	89.00	428	45.00	500	340.00
247	120.00	337	84.00	429	68.00	501	16.50
248	48.00	338	89.00	430	110.00	502	20.50
249	280.00	339	56.00	431	52.00	503	14.85
250	48.00	340	88.00	432	65.00	504	11.90
251	540.00	341	428.00	433	65.00	505	552.00
252	220.00	342	700.00	434	35.50	506	18.75
253	200.00	343	8.80	435	36.00	507	35.00
254	260.00	344	12.80	437	180.00	508	16.30
255	180.00	345	26.80	438	280.00	509	18.75
256	280.00	346	36.00	439	350.00	510	22.50
257	220.00	347	64.00	440	775.00	511	13.00
258	480.00	348	60.00	441	1.95	512	13.00
259	500.00	349	96.00	441 LP	13.80	513	15.00
260	920.00	350	215.00	442	13.80	514	52.50
261	1,700.00	351	235.00	442 LP	80.00	515	63.75
264	11.00	352	120.00	443	35.00	516	52.50
265	48.00	353	120.00	443 LP	210.00	517	97.50
266	54.00	354	297.50	444	50.00	518	82.50
267	8.80	355	310.00	445	350.00	519	550.00
268	60.00	356	8.00	446	190.00	523	880.00
269	68.00	358	29.95	447	70.00	524	296.00
270	68.00	359	265.00	447 LP	335.00	525	3.50
271	200.00	370	10.80	448	10.50	526	34.00
272	108.00	371	33.00	448 LP	68.00	527	26.50
273	156.00	372	16.80	450	14.50	528	12.00
274	380.00	373	36.00	450 LP	125.00	528A	72.00
275	480.00	374	9.00	452	19.00	528B	29.00
276	1,200.00	375	9.00	452 LP	98.00	529	4.50
276A	2,400.00	376	22.25	453	204.00	530	2.60
277	1,800.00	377	40.00	454	136.00	531	13.50
278	3,800.00	378	40.00	455	15.00	532	67.50
279	16.00	379	52.00	455 LP	72.00	533	268.50
279B	16.00	380	145.00	457	43.00	534	19.95
280	47.00	381	145.00	458	49.50	534A	52.50
281	55.00	382	348.00	458 LP	245.00	535	15.00
282	64.00	383	348.00	460	1,190.00	536	26.00
282C	300.00	384	9.00	461	215.00	537	12.00
283	220.00	385	48.00	462	11.00	538	15.00
284	240.00	386	104.00	463	6.50	540	17.00
285	41.00	387	276.00	464	96.00	541	56.00
286	37.00	390	6.50	465	64.00	542	17.75
287	225.00	390 LP	51.00	466	96.00	543	1.15
288	195.00	391	51.00	467	765.00	545	240.00
289	268.00	392	32.00	468	130.00	546	156.00
290	268.00	393	60.00	469	160.00	547	280.00
291	1,120.00	394	85.00	470	76.00	548	5.75
292	2,200.00	395	85.00	471	84.00	549	8.00
293	3,200.00	396	85.00	472	132.00	550	45.00
294	26.00	397	24.00	473	56.00	551	.25
295	27.00	398	22.00	474	72.00	552	1.85
296	120.00	399	96.00	475	240.00	553	3.20
297	132.00	400	190.00	476	320.00	554	2.10
298	168.00	400A	340.00	477	1,440.00	555	22.50

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