

A review of Canadian philately in 2009

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It is that time of year again: The annual review of philatelic activity in Canada in the previous year. As usual, the review of 2009 will be divided into four segments: organized philately, philatelic literature, the trade and stamps. All amounts quoted in this article are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

ORGANIZED PHILATELY

The societies seem to be plodding along well in this time of recession, and a new leadership has taken over the management of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. George Peppal and his team were elected at the society's convention in St. Catharines, Ontario, in June 2009. The officers have made a great start, with new bylaws and a new approach to goal-setting. Hopefully, this will result in a better financial and membership situation for the society.

"Her Majesty's Stamps," a spectacular exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, was inaugurated June 19, 2009, and closed January 3. Co-sponsored by Canada Post and the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, it was curated by staff of the Canadian Postal Museum. The exhibition explored the history of postal reform in Great Britain and in British North America. It also featured treasures of BNA that had never been seen on this side of the Atlantic. The layout was

spectacular and the best of the dozen philatelic exhibitions of the Royal Philatelic Collection I have seen.

After my review of 2008 was published in the March 2009 issue of *Scott Stamp Monthly*, Pascal Leblond was promoted to manager of Philatelic Collections at the Library and Archives Canada. He replaces Cimon Morin, the long-time chief of the Canadian Postal Archives, who retired earlier in 2008.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

Books published in 2009 include three new publications from the Vincent Graves Greene Philatelic Research Foundation. The long-awaited second edition of *The Large Queen Stamps of Canada and Their Use* by H.E. and H.W. Duckworth was published in late 2008. The book is more than a reprint of the original. It now includes new color illustrations and updated information on the stamps. The full period of the printing and use of the Large Queens is covered, unlike the first edition, which ended with the issues of 1872. The new edition also includes a chapter on the 5¢ stamp (Scott 26) issued in 1875.

In early 2009, *Canada's Postage Stamps of The Small Queen Era 1870-1897* was published. This is an original work co-authored by J. Edward Nixon of Canada and John Hillson of Scotland; both are acknowl-

edged experts on the Small Queens. The book is a companion to George Arfken's *Canada's Small Queen Era, 1870-1897* that covers the postal history of the issue.

In September, my book, *The 1959 St. Lawrence Seaway Joint Issue and its Invert*, was released for sale. The book is a 208-page accounting of the story of the first United States-Canada joint issue and the issue's famous Canadian invert (Scott 387, 387a). The book is profusely illustrated with archival material, philatelic items and the personal stories of the people who found the inverts in late summer 1959.

More information on prices and how to order these books and the Foundation's other publications can be found at www.greenefoundation.ca.

The British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) and other organizations published many books in 2009. The list is long, and if you're interested in the philately of BNA, I suggest you consult the list of new publications at www.kimmerly.com.

One additional book should be mentioned. It is a rewrite of a 1981 Ed Richardson handbook, *Canada-B.N.A. Philately (an Outline)*. John Burnett, Gray Scrimgeour and Victor Willson's *Canadian Philately — An Outline* is a handbook describing, in summary, the



Figure 1. This nondenominated (54¢) domestic-rate self-adhesive booklet stamp was issued by Canada Post October 17 to honor the Montreal Canadiens NHL hockey team. Also shown is the first-day cover for the \$9 souvenir sheet issued the same day. The souvenir sheet features lenticular technology.



Figure 2. A (54¢)+10¢ Mental Health semipostal stamp was issued September 14. Canada's first Mental Health stamp was issued in 2008.



Figure 3. This 2¢ Monarch Caterpillar definitive stamp was added to the Beneficial Insects stamp series, to close the gap between the previous 52¢ domestic rate and the new 54¢ domestic rate implemented in 2009.

collecting areas and interests of BNA collectors. It is a wonderful work, written to help the seasoned collector and the newcomer to BNA philately select challenging areas of BNA collecting.

I am impressed with how Unitrade manages to keep the cost of its *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* unchanged for the fourth year, when its editor, D. Robin Harris, continues to improve and add to the catalog each year. The 2010 edition was issued last October and was, once again, an instant best-seller.

This edition's new features include summary illustrations of Canadian pre-

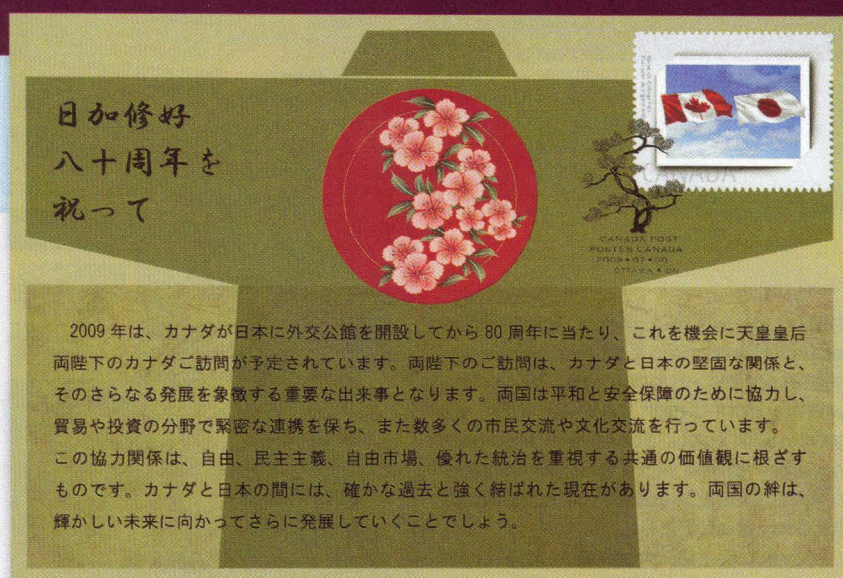


Figure 4. The only special envelope issued in 2009 by Canada Post honors 80 years of Canada-Japan diplomatic relations. The stamp indicium shows the flags of Canada and Japan.

cancels and the United Nations stamps issued in Canadian denominations. In addition, Canada new stamp issues are added, listings are reviewed for consistency, and images have been updated with new scans when they become available. Niggling typos, some of which have been around for far too long, have been corrected. The cata-

log is available by contacting Unitrade Press, 99 Floral Parkway, Toronto, ON, Canada, M6L 2C4; or by phone at 416-242-5900. It is priced at \$42.95.

THE STAMP TRADE

Stamp artist Donald Carleton McDiarmid died April 25, 2009. An inveterate collector of hockey paraphernalia and a professional hockey goal judge, he is best remembered in philatelic circles as the designer of the 1969 6¢ Canada Summer Games stamp (Scott 500).

No new stamp-shop openings or closings in Canada have been brought to my attention.

The great name sale of the year was the British North America holdings of William Gross, U.S. billionaire bond manager. The collection was sold at auction by Spink Shreves Galleries in New York. Before commission and taxes, the sale grossed U.S. \$1,922,650, almost doubling its presale estimate of \$1 million. The proceeds of the sale were donated by Gross and his wife, Sue, to the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. The donation is part of an \$8 million gift that Gross and his wife have pledged to the museum. The gift and other funds will enable the National Postal Museum to build a new visitor's center and gallery that will give the public ground-floor access to the museum and the national stamp collection. The 12,000-square-foot gallery will be named for Gross.

Two new mint examples of the rare
Scott Stamp Monthly | 29

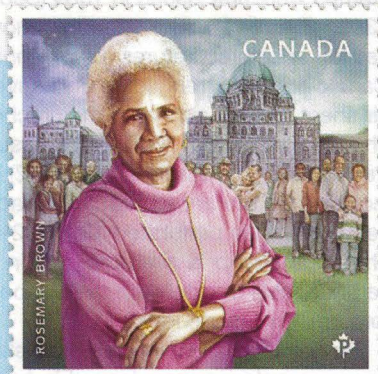
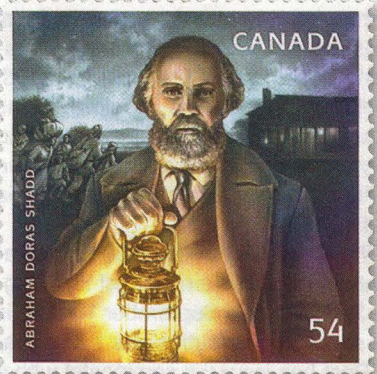
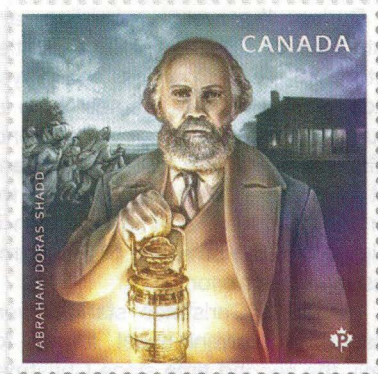


Figure 5. The Abraham Doras Shadd and Rosemary Brown stamps were originally announced as Permanent stamps, as shown in the preliminary drawings of each, but both Black Canadians stamps were issued February 9 as 54¢ stamps, the domestic rate implemented in 2009.

(25¢) London-to-London semiofficial airmail stamp (Scott CLP6) were submitted for expert opinion in 2009. The Greene Foundation certified them as genuine. I wrote about the fascinating story of the flight and the stamps in the O Canada column in the August 2006 issue of *SSM*.

Moya Greene, president and chief executive officer of Canada Post, was awarded a two-year extension to her existing five-year contract. The contract now ends in May 2012.

The National Philatelic Centre (NPC) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2009. As a birthday gift to its customers, Canada Post announced that it would introduce, effective November 1, 2009, a "small handling fee of \$2 for phone, fax and mail orders" from the NPC. A new Canada Post online store can be found at www.canadapost.ca/collectingshop. The service fee does not apply if you order online.

STAMPS

The 2009 program saw an increase of six stamps — four commemoratives, a semipostal and one definitive — and one commemorative envelope from when the program was first announced in November 2008 (O Canada column, *SSM*, February 2009). The four commemoratives were issued October 17 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Montreal Canadiens, the oldest National Hockey League team and the team with the most wins.

The single Permanent (54¢) domestic-rate stamp (Scott 2339) shows the central part of the sweater belonging to the team's most famous player, Maurice Richard. The stamp was issued in self-adhesive booklets, and the 10 stamps in the booklet were laid out in the form of an "H," for "hockey."

Three \$3 commemoratives were issued together in a \$9 souvenir sheet (Scott 2340, Figure 1) and were produced with lenticular technology, also known as Motionstamp technology, by Outer Aspect Ltd. of New Zealand.



Figure 6. Recording artist Bryan Adams attended the unveiling of the 54¢ stamp issued in his honor. Three other Canadian recording artists — Roger Charlebois, Edith Butler and Stompin' Tom Connors — were similarly honored. The stamps were issued in a souvenir sheet.

Not only are they Canada's first lenticular stamps, but they also boast two world firsts. They mark the first time that laser kiss-cutting has been used on stamps.

The lenticular stamps and the lens used in the printing process were specially customized to work with Canada Post's cancellation inks. The stamp images are based on digital clips provided by the Montreal Canadiens of replays of the historic 500th goals of Canadiens hockey icons Maurice Richard, Jean Béliveau and Guy Lafleur. All three are portrayed on earlier stamps (Scott 1838c, 1885a and 1935b).

The (54¢)+10¢ Mental Health Permanent semipostal stamp (Scott B15, Figure 2) was issued September 14. This is the second consecutive year that Canada Post has issued a semipostal with a surtax to promote mental health.

The definitive was a 2¢ low-denomination stamp in the Beneficial Insects series (Scott 2328, Figure 3). The stamp shows a monarch caterpillar. It was issued April 22 to pay the 2¢ increase in the domestic-letter rate, from 52¢ to 54¢.

A special envelope commemorates the 80th anniversary of Canada/Japan diplomatic relations. Ten thousand stamped envelopes were printed July 8 to coincide with the visit to Canada of the emperor and empress of Japan. The domestic postage-paid stamp indicium shows the flags of Canada and Japan (Figure 4). The envelope sold

for \$3, an increase of 50¢ more than the 2008 price, and the first increase since 2005.

The Abraham Doras Shadd and Rosemary Brown stamps were originally announced as Permanent stamps but were issued as 54¢ stamps for the new domestic rate (Scott 2315-2316, Figure 5).

During the year, recording artists Roger Charlebois, Edith Butler, Stompin' Tom Connors and Bryan Adams unveiled 54¢ stamps to be issued as a souvenir sheet in their honor (Scott 2333). Butler also was on hand at the printer Lowe Martin to check the printing process. Adams is shown in Figure 6 at the unveiling of the stamp issued in his honor.

The 2009 Christmas stamps were issued in souvenir-sheet format for only the second time since Christmas stamps were first issued in 1964 (Scott 2343, Figure 7). The stamps show nativity-scene sculptures by Antonio Caruso and are arranged on the souvenir sheet as they appear in the crèche. The design of the 2008 Baby Jesus Permanent (54¢) stamp (Scott 2292) is included on the sheet; the 2009 Baby Jesus stamp is perforated 13 by 12½. The 2008 stamp is available only in a self-adhesive booklet with die-cut perforations that measure 13¼.

Eighteen new Permanent postal stationery envelopes were issued in both No. 8 and No. 10 sizes. The non-denominated envelopes are sold in packs of 10 and can be used anywhere in

Canada, regardless of any future rate increase. They show images similar to previously issued Canadian stamps: orchids, gardens (Scott 2145a-2145d) and fishing flies (Scott 1715-1720 and 2087a-2087d/2088a-2088d). The pack of 10 of the Orchids and Gardens stamps includes one each of the eight varieties produced, with two other randomly selected envelopes.

Postage-paid, nondenominated postal cards were issued in 2009 for the Year of the Ox (two cards), Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics (five cards showing sports, and three cards featuring mascots), rhododendrons (two), Canadian recording artists (four) and roadside attractions (four). Each nondenominated postal card sells for \$1.69 and is valid for mailing anywhere in the world.

I am always amazed by the infor-



Figure 7. The design of Canada Post's 2008 Baby Jesus Permanent stamp is included in the 2009 Christmas souvenir sheet of four Nativity Scene stamps (Scott 2343).

mation D. Robin Harris, the editor of *Corgi Times*, finds about current or Elizabethan stamps issued since 1952.

If you are interested in explanations concerning the varieties of Lowe Martin's serpentine die-cutting "perforations," or want to know if the current definitives have been reprinted or the

layout of the printing sheet, you will find this information in this newsletter of the Elizabethan Study Group.

Information also can be found online at www.adminware.ca/esg. In addition to a wealth of information, the first 12 volumes of *Corgi Times* are available in PDF format. ■



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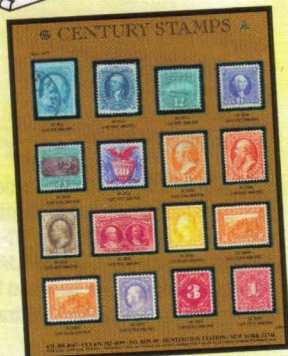
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