

Canada Celebrates 150 Years of Postal Independence

▼ CHARLES J.G. VERGE

In October 1997, my very first O Canada article for *Scott Stamp Monthly* provided details of Canada's first stamp, the 1851 3-penny red Beaver, Scott 1. I told the story of how Sir James Morris and Sir Sandford Fleming met to design the first Canadian stamps. Morris did not like the first lithograph printing of the stamp printed by Hugh Scobie in Toronto, and had all but a few copies destroyed.

I also recounted how Morris then went to the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson (RWH&E) in New York to have an engraved version of the stamp prepared and printed. RWH&E were the printers of the first United States stamps as well.

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Canada's postage stamps, it is not my intention to retell this story. Instead I will tell of the history and production of the 150th anniversary stamp issued April 6, 2001. The new 47¢ stamp, issued in panes of eight, is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The new 47¢ stamp from Canada commemorating 150 years of Canada Post. Each pane contains eight stamps, and eight panes (64 stamps) are printed on each sheet.

Some three years ago, the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada approached representatives of Canada Post Corp. and asked them what they intended to do to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the transfer of responsibility for the post office from the Colonial Office in London, England, to the provincial government. That transfer had taken place April 6, 1851.

They were surprised to learn of the forthcoming anniversary. A number of proposals were put forward to Canada Post by the RPSC and the Canadian Postal Museum. About a year ago the idea of a single commemorative showing the 3d Beaver stamp was retained.



Figure 2: The progressive die proof used to prepare the mock-up commemorative stamp. The die proof is the property of the Canadian Postal Archives.

Canada Post originally planned to have the stamp commemorate the 150th anniversary of postage stamps, but the RPSC lobbied for the stamp to represent the official transfer of responsibility of the post office, which it felt was a more important subject than the stamps themselves.

When the idea was brought to Canada's Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC), the members insisted that the reproduction of the 3d Beaver stamp be produced by intaglio — a recess printing process reproducing an engraved image — and that it be as close to the original in style and color. This was more of a challenge than the SAC expected.

Finding an original stamp that could be properly reproduced proved to be virtually impossible. Alain Leduc, Canada Post's design manager in charge of this project, went over to the Canadian Postal Archives to see what material could be used to produce the new stamp. His search through the plate proofs and stamps proved that these could not be used without major improvements.

The CPA owns a progressive die proof (Figure 2), purchased at the American Bank Note Co. (ABN) sale in September 1990. This was used to do preliminary work and design samples as well as the mock-up first presented to the SAC for consideration and approval in principle. This preliminary design, shown in Figure 3, was also illustrated in the Spring issue of *Collections of Canada*, the mail-order catalog distributed by Canada Post.

In the same ABN sale there had been a complete black die proof of the stamp sold to a private collector. Alain Leduc approached the RPSC to find out if this die proof, shown in Figure 4, could be made available to his designer. It had been purchased in 1990 by Ian Bett, who, under the pseudonym "The Lindemann Collection," exhibited it at Singapore 95 and Capex 96 (where he was awarded runner-up grand prix national).

Following Bett's death in 1996 it was purchased by Ron Brigham and is now part of his grand prix-winning collection of Pence and Cents of Canada. Brigham was pleased to make the die available. It was photographed and the image was then digitized for computer design purposes.

One of the main faults of the printed stamps and, to a certain extent, the die proofs was that the engraver's lines making up certain parts of the design had disappeared in printing. This is more evident when one looks at the oval bearing the lettering and the beaver itself.

Larry O'Gorman of the Canadian Bank Note Co., printers of the new stamp, had to spend a



Figure 3: The preliminary mock-up of the stamp prepared for approval purposes. Note the language change in the French text between this essay and the final product.



Figure 4: The complete die proof prepared by Alfred Jones of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson of New York. Courtesy of the Brigham Collection.

fair amount of time recreating the cross-hatching by retouching the original design. He also wanted the clearest design possible, so the engraver's slips and other faults were removed. Finally he cleaned up the lettering, removed the cloud at the upper left of the beaver by extending the hatch lines and reinforced the sun's rays. Figure 5 shows the photo taken from the Brigham die proof and the photo of the final retouched die produced by O'Gorman.

The final product was transferred to a nylo plate: a hard nylon surface and a metal base. This is a technique first used with the \$8 Polar Bear stamp issued in 1997 (Scott 1700). The printing shown in Figure 6 from the nylo plate plays basically the same role as die and plate proofs did in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is used to verify design flaws and imperfections. Once approved, the design is transferred to a film and then replicated eight times for each pane. The pane itself is then replicated eight times to make up the printing sheet of 64 stamps.



Figure 5: On the left, the photo of the Brigham die proof and, on the right, the final retouched die for the 2001 commemorative. Note the many design differences.

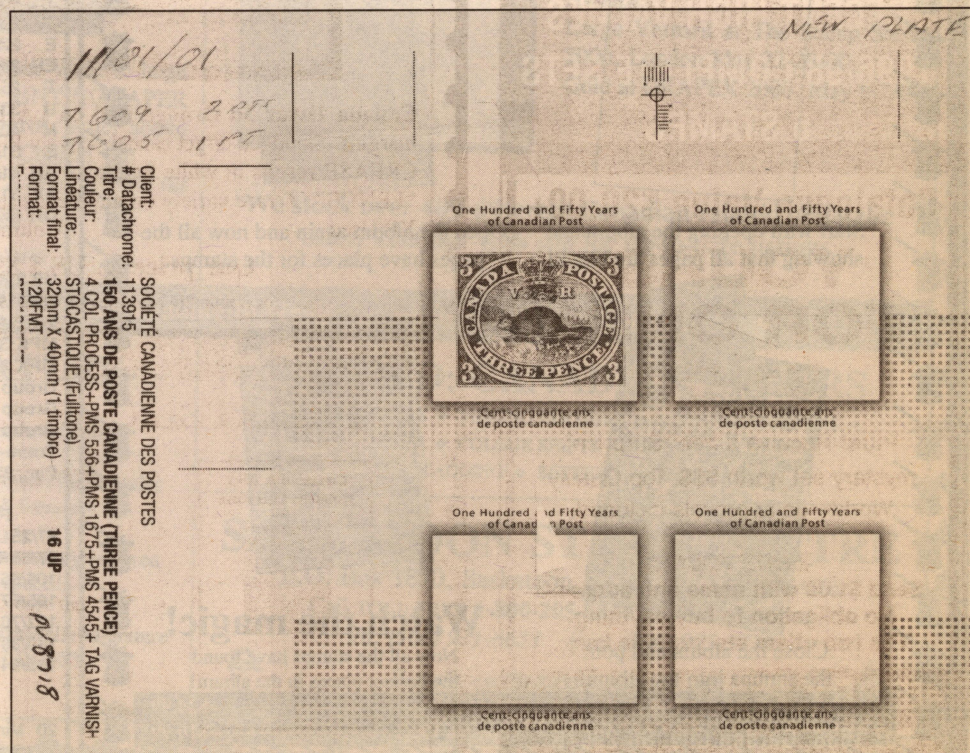


Figure 6: A die proof from the nylo plate in a mock stamp setting.

Even with all the attempts to clean up the original die proof image and to reproduce the result faithfully for all 64 stamps on the sheet, flaws will occur. The intaglio process is known for this. In fact, I had the opportunity to look at several proof sheets, an uncut perforated sheet and several panes when preparing this article. With the naked eye I could distinguish many flaws that we philatelists would characterize as re-entries, short entries or engraver's slips; however, none were constant.

The commemorative stamp is printed in four-color lithography with an additional print pass for the intaglio Beaver. When the sheet passes through the printers to add the intaglio portion, it is pulled in by two grippers. This action can slightly move the sheet up to 1 millimeter from top to bottom. It is therefore likely that the intaglio portion of the design could be found improperly centered. To avoid drastic miscentering, the layout for the engraved stamps was fanned from top to bottom by the same distance. Since the sheet passes twice through the printing process it will be interesting to see if the intaglio 3d Beaver reproduction is found inverted.

Embossing the center part of the design was recommended by the RPSC and the SAC and was considered. The design manager's working image shown in Figure 7 includes the note "flat embossing" just to the left of the Beaver design. The idea was dropped because it added an additional dimension that took away from the design concept, it was too difficult to situate properly and it would require that the sheet go through the press for an additional pass.

Luminescent tagging has been added to the

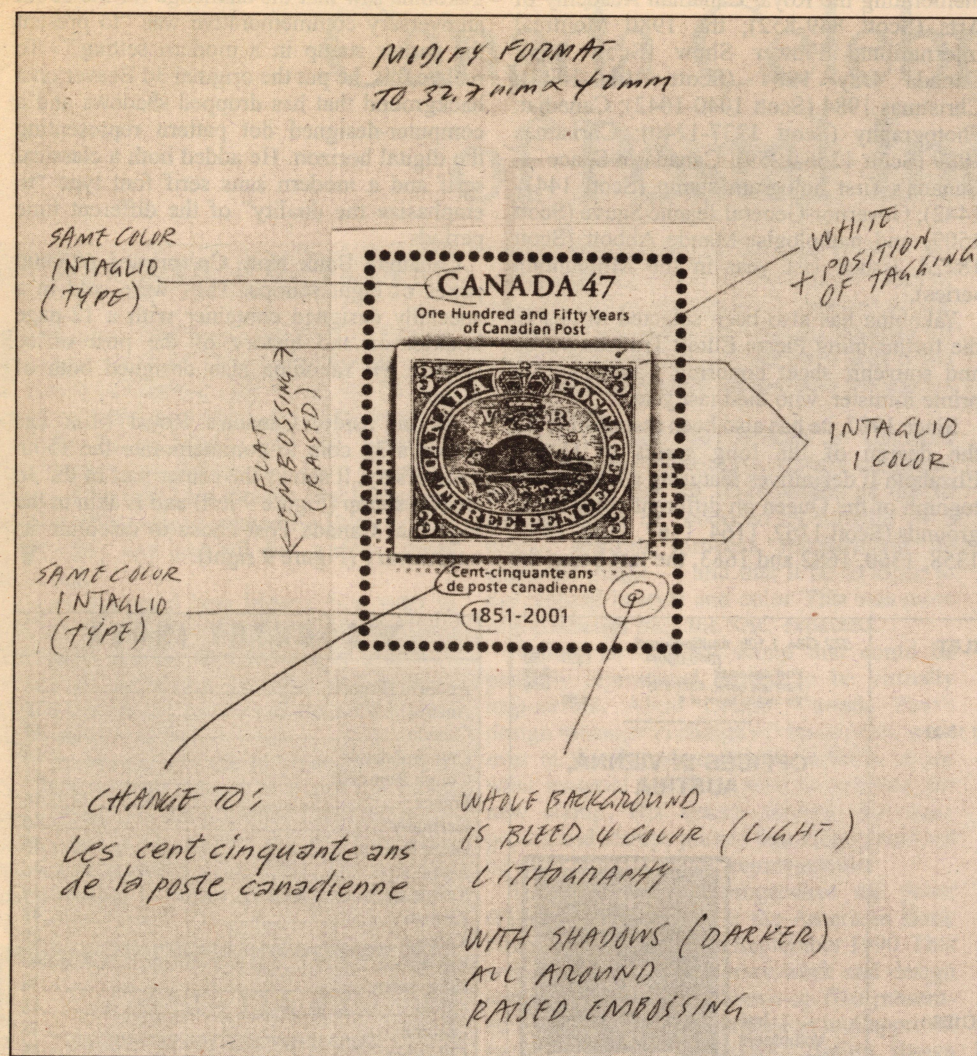


Figure 7: A work-in-progress sheet from the production file, with notes from the design manager, Alain Leduc. Some of the changes written up, such as the flat embossing, were not implemented.

colorless margins around the intaglio beaver stamp. This, along with the "©2001" printed in the lower part of the oval and the fact that the stamp is printed on a yellowish coated paper, will distinguish it from the original should anyone try to pass a cutout from the 2001 commemorative as the 1851 stamp.

Finding the right item to replicate was not the only problem facing the design team.

Finding the right ink color and the right inks were also a challenge. There are many varieties of color on the original stamps, caused by either the inconsistent 19th-century ink recipe that varied with each of the many printings, 150 years of environmental changes, and the different papers on which the original stamps were printed.

The shade chosen was not on the standard

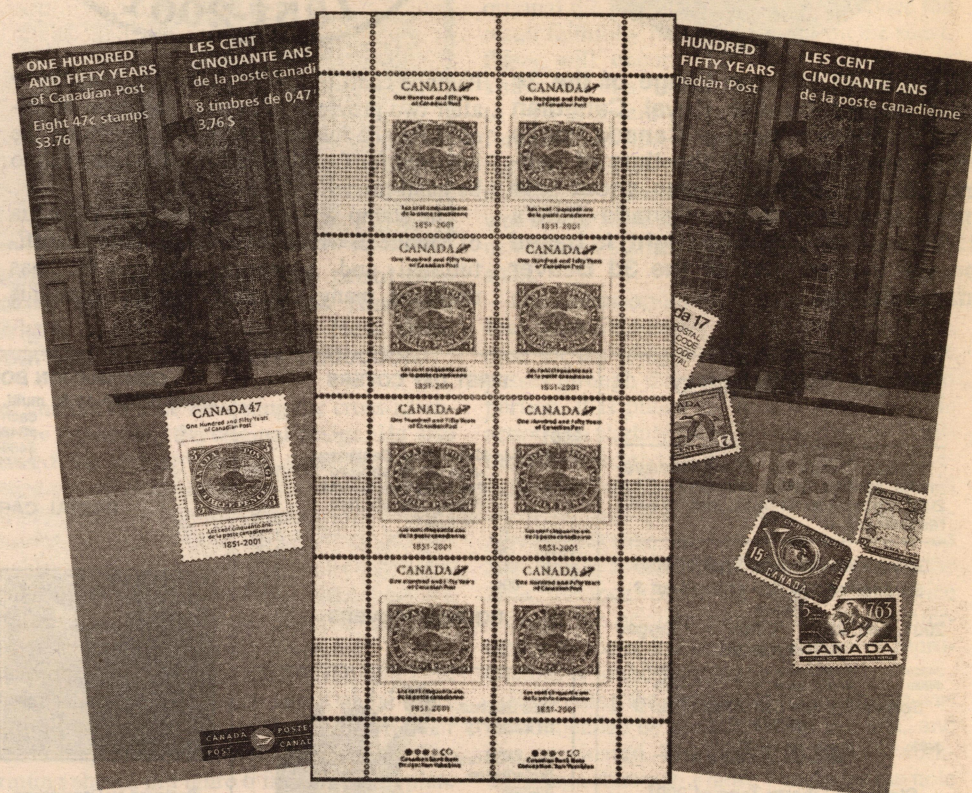


Figure 8: On the left is the cardboard envelope in which the pane of eight stamps was sold. The historical 12-page booklet is pictured on the right.

NORWAY



POSTALLY USED
RECENT HIGH VALUES
1996/98 COMPLETE SETS
6 STAMPS

Catalogue Value \$20.00+

**YOURS
FOR ONLY
\$1.00**

Plus! Receive a free "Surprise"
mystery set worth \$\$\$! Top Quality
Worldwide approvals included.

WRITE TODAY!

Send \$1.00 with name and address.
No obligation to buy anything.
The two offers are yours to keep.

JERRY B. BOURQUE

Box 1688, Garden City, SC 29576
Web site: www.jerrybb.com

CANADA • BNA

Choice Early Classics to Modern Varieties



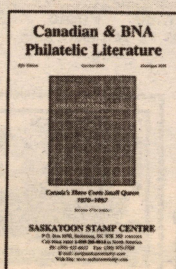
Canada 1i var 3d Orange Red on LAID paper Wide to huge margins. Smudged target cancel. Lovely PRE-PRINTING PAPER CREASE results in white line thru "E." and across water above "PENCE". A rare variety on any Pence stamp. Choice!
XF Used Unitrade CS over \$ 1,400.00

Our price ... US \$ 895.00

(or 3 monthly payments of US \$ 299.00 each)

Internationally Recognized as a Leading Buyer of Canadian Errors and Varieties

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

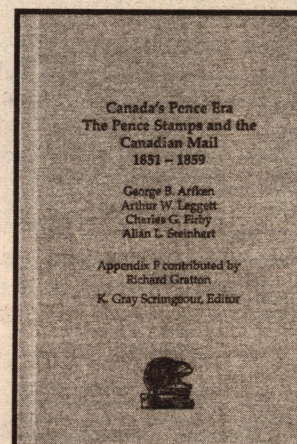


Fifth Edition now available

- We are the world's largest retail dealer in Canadian and BNA literature.
- Visit our web site for recently received titles and other book specials.
- Our 128-page Canadian/BNA Literature price list FREE on REQUEST.

CANADA'S PENCE ERA, THE PENCE STAMPS AND THE CANADIAN MAIL 1851-1859

By George B. Arfken/Arthur W. Leggett/Charles G. Firby/Allan L. Steinhart



Covers all aspects of this Classic Era of Canadian Philately. A Valuable Reference. Published by V.G. Greene Foundation. Only 300 printed.

Postpaid to USA:US \$ 96.75

Awards:

Large Vermeil at The Stamp Show
2000, London May 22-28/00;
Gold at ORAPEX 2000, May 6-7/00

We stock over 400 different Canadian-related philatelic titles. Visit our web site for up-to-date listings.

WANTED: CANADIAN ERRORS

- ♦ IMPERFORATES ♦ MISSING COLOURS ♦ INVERTED COLOURS ♦
- ♦ MISPERFS ♦ COLOUR SHIFTS ♦ PRINTED ON GUM ♦
- ♦ TAGGING ♦ BETTER VARIETIES ♦

SASKATOON STAMP CENTRE

P.O. Box 1870, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S2 CANADA

Call TOLL FREE 1-800-205-8814 in North America

Ph: (306) 931-6633 Fax: (306) 975-3728

E-mail: ssc@saskatoonstamp.com

Web site: www.saskatoonstamp.com



Figure 9: At left, the image of the 3¢ coin issued by the Royal Canadian Mint on the occasion of Canada Post's 150th anniversary. At the time of writing no details were known about sale price and availability. Canada Post's 150th anniversary logo (right) is based on the central part of the 3d Beaver stamp design.

Pantone chart of colors and was selected only after two previous ink mixes had been rejected. Like the ink used in the 19th century, the ink used for the 21st century 3d beaver had to be hand-mixed.

The stamp was designed by Tom Yakobina of Montreal, who has vast experience in institutional and corporate design. He has designed many Canadian stamps since his

first in 1980. These include the stamps commemorating the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (Scott 849-852); the 1980 Montreal International Flower Show (Scott 855); Canada Day 1984 (Scott 1016-1027); Christmas 1984 (Scott 1040-1042); Canadian Photography (Scott 1237-1240); Christmas 1989 (Scott 1256-1259); Canada in Space — Canada's first hologram stamp (Scott 1441-1442); Governor-General Jeanne Sauvé (Scott 1509) and pathologist Maude Abbott (Scott 1822d, issued last year in the Millennium series).

Yakobina has also been selected to design the forthcoming Pierre Elliott Trudeau stamp and souvenir sheet honoring Canada's 15th prime minister, who died last year.

Since 1987, he has also been responsible for the design of the long series of Queen Elizabeth II definitives featuring a Karsh photograph of the Queen on different color backgrounds (Scott 1162, 1164, 1167, 1168, 1357, 1358, 1360, 1682 and 1683, the last being the

47¢ version issued in December 2000). Yakobina saw that the challenge for the 150th anniversary commemorative was "to present the earlier stamp in a modern setting." To realize this, he put the original 3d Beaver on a background that has dropped shadows and a computer-designed dot pattern representing the digital horizon. He added both a classical serif and a modern sans serif font type "to emphasize the duality" of the different time periods.

Canadian Bank Note Co. printed 625,000 panes of eight stamps. They were sold in a specially designed container with a 12-page booklet on the history of the post office (Figure 8). Yakobina also designed both of these.

As an aside, Canada's Royal Mint has issued a 3¢ coin to commemorate the 150th anniversary. It shows the center part of the 3d Beaver stamp (Figure 9 left) and is akin to the logo that Canada Post chose to celebrate its anniversary (Figure 9 right).

U.S. SPECIALIZED

Please change die cutting measurements of Nos. 3482 and 3483 (May 2001 Update) to 11 1/4x11, and 10 1/2x11 respectively.

George Washington Type of 2001
Serpentine Die Cut 11 1/4x11 on 3 Sides

2001, Feb. 22	Litho.	Tagged
3482b	Booklet pane of 4	1.60
3482c	Booklet pane of 6	2.40

Serpentine Die Cut 10 1/2x11 on 3 Sides

3483c	Booklet pane of 10, 5	—
	#3482 at L, 5 #3483 at R	—

Statue of Liberty Type of 2001
Serpentine Die Cut 11 on 2 or 3 Sides

2001, Feb. 7	Photo.	Tagged
3485c	Booklet pane of 4	2.60
	P# single, #V1111	.65
	Booklet pane of 4 with P# single	2.60
3485d	Booklet pane of 6	3.90

NOBEL PRIZE CENTENARY

Alfred Nobel and Obverse of Medals A2706

Designed by Olof Baldursdottir of Sweden. Printed by De La Rue Security Printing.

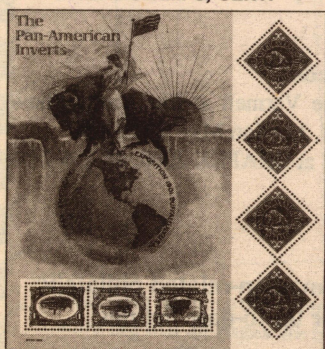
LITHOGRAPHED & ENGRAVED

Sheets of 120 in six panes of 20

2001, Mar. 22	Tagged	Perf.
3504 A2706	34c multicolored	.65 .20
	P# block of 4, 3#S	2.60
	Pane of 20	13.00

See Sweden No. 2415.

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION INVERT STAMPS, CENT.



A2707

Reproductions (dated 2001) of: a, #294a, b, #295a, c, #296a, d, Commemorative "cinderella" stamp depicting a buffalo. Designed by Richard Sheaff. Printed by Banknote Corporation of America.

LITHOGRAPHED (#3505d), ENGRAVED (others)

Sheets of 28 in four panes of 7
Perf. 12 (#3505d), 12 1/2x12 (others)

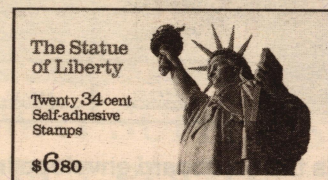
2001, Mar. 29

Tagged (#3505d), Untagged (others)	
3505 A2707	Pane of 7, #3505a-3505d, 4 #3505d
a.	A109 1c green & black
b.	A110 2c carmine & black
c.	A111 4c deep red brown & black
d.	80c red & blue
	Sheet of 4 panes

FIRST DAY COVERS

2001	34c Nobel Prize Centenary, Mar. 22, Washington, DC	1.25
3505	Pan-American Inverts Pane, Mar. 29, New York, NY	6.00
3505a	1c	1.25
3505b	2c	1.25
3505c	4c	1.25
3505d	80c	1.75

BOOKLET COVERS



3485c, 3485d — BC160A

2001
\$6.80 booklet contains 20 self-adhesive 34c stamps

BOOKLET PANES

Please change description of No. 3482a (May 2001 Update) to "Pane of 10, P#P1."

George Washington Type of 2001
Serpentine Die Cut 11 1/4x11 on 3 Sides

2001, Feb. 22		
3482b	A2686 20c pane of 4, P#P2	1.60
3482c	A2686 20c pane of 6, no P#	2.40

COMBINATION BOOKLET
BK281A BC159 \$2 multi, #3482b-3482c, P#P2 4.00

No. BK281A has slightly smaller cover than No. 3482a and lacks self-adhesive panel that covers the rouletting.

George Washington Type of 2001
Serpentine Die Cut 10 1/2x11 on 3 Sides

2001, Feb. 22		
3483c	A2686 20c pane of 10, 5 #3482 at L, 5 #3483 at R, P#P1	—

No. 3483c is a complete booklet (BC159) and includes self-adhesive panel that covers the rouletting. The peelable backing, which is slightly longer than that on No. BK282, serves as a booklet cover.
Nos. 3483a and 3483b have No. 3482 at L and No. 3483 at R.



No. 3485c — A2689

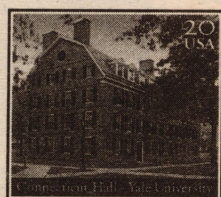
Serpentine Die Cut 11 on 2 or 3 Sides

2001, Feb. 7		
3485c	A2689 34c pane of 4, no P#	2.60
	P# single, #V1111	.65
	Pane of 4 with P#	2.60
3485d	A2689 34c pane of 6, no P#	3.90

COMBINATION BOOKLET

BK283 BC160A \$6.80 multi, 2 each #3485c-3485d, P#V1111 13.00

POSTAL CARD



PC169

Designed by Derry Noyes.

2001, Mar. 30		Litho.
UX361 PC169	20c multicolored	.40 .40
	First day cover, New Haven, CT	1.00

UNITED NATIONS



Intl. Volunteers Year — A325

Printed by Johann Enschedé and Sons, the Netherlands. Panes of 20. Designed by Rorie Katz and Robert Stein, US.
Paintings by: 34c, Jose Zaragoza, Brazil. 80c, John Terry, Australia.

2001, Mar. 29	Litho.	Perf. 13 1/4
793 A325	34c multicolored (390,000)+	.65 .30
	First day cover	1.25
	Inscription block of 4	2.60
794 A325	80c multicolored (360,000)+	1.60 .80
	First day cover	2.40
	First day cover, #793-794	3.00
	Inscription block of 4	6.50

See Offices in Geneva Nos. 371-372; Vienna Nos. 288-289.

SOUVENIR CARD

2001		
SC56	Intl. Volunteers Year, #793-794; Geneva #371-372; Vienna #288-289	3.00

OFFICES IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



Intl. Volunteers Year — G64

Printed by Johann Enschedé and Sons, the Netherlands. Panes of 20. Designed by Rorie Katz and Robert Stein, US.
Paintings by: 90c, Ernest Pignon-Ernest, France. 1.30fr, Paul Siché, France.

2001, Mar. 29	Litho.	Perf. 13 1/4
371 G64	90c multicolored (350,000)+	1.10 .55
	First day cover	1.75
	Inscription block of 4	4.50

372 G64 1.10fr multicolored (340,000)+

First day cover	1.60 .80
First day cover, #371-372	2.40
Inscription block of 4	6.50 3.50

OFFICES IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA



Intl. Volunteers Year — V44

Printed by Johann Enschedé and Sons, the Netherlands. Panes of 20. Designed by Rorie Katz and Robert Stein, US.
Paintings by: 10s, Nguyen Thanh Chuong, Viet Nam. 12s, Ikko Tanaka, Japan.

2001, Mar. 29	Litho.	Perf. 13 1/4
288 V44	10s multicolored (440,000)+	1.40 .70
	First day cover	2.00
	Inscription block of 4	5.75
289 V44	12s multicolored (430,000)+	1.75 .85
	First day cover	2.40
	First day cover, #288-289	3.75
	Inscription block of 4	7.00

ANDORRA

(French Administration)



Pardal Comú — A290

2000, July 7	Litho.	Perf. 13
524 A290	4.40fr multi	1.25 1.25

AUSTRIA

Hunting & Environment Type of 1997

2001, Feb. 16	Photo.	Perf. 14x14 1/4
1835 A1006	7s Ducks	.90 .65

Folklore & Customs Type of 1991

Designs: 8s, Boat Mill, Mureck.
Photo. & Engr.
2001, Mar. 30
1838 A892 8s multi
Issued: 8s, 3/30/01.

Soccer Champions Type of 1997

2001, Mar. 30	Photo.	Perf. 13 1/4
1839 A1005	7s Wustertrot Salzburg	.90 .65



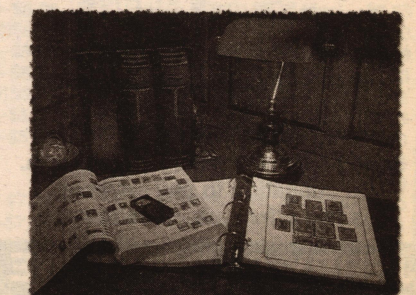
2001, Mar. 30	Photo. & Engr.	Perf. 13 1/4
1840 A1074	7s multi	.90 .65

COUNTRY INDEX

Andorra (French).....	38
Austria.....	38
Canada.....	44
Comoros.....	44
Congo Republic.....	44
France.....	46
Germany.....	46
Great Britain.....	46
Japan.....	46
Kenya.....	48
Kiribati.....	48
Korea.....	48
Kuwait.....	48
Kyrgyzstan.....	48
Latvia.....	48
Lesotho.....	48
Lithuania.....	48
Maldives.....	50
Marshall Islands.....	50
Micronesia.....	50
Moldova.....	52
Monaco.....	52
Mongolia.....	52
Montserrat.....	56
Morocco.....	56
Mozambique.....	58
Nauru.....	58
Nepal.....	58
Netherlands.....	58
Netherlands Antilles.....	58
Nevis.....	58
New Caledonia.....	64
New Zealand.....	64
Ross Dependency.....	64
Nicaragua.....	66
Nigeria.....	66
Norfolk Island.....	66
Norway.....	68
Oman.....	68
Pakistan.....	68
Palau.....	68
Paraguay.....	70
Pitcairn Islands.....	70
Poland.....	70
St. Vincent.....	72
St. Vincent Grenadines.....	72
Saudi Arabia.....	72
Sierra Leone.....	74
Sweden.....	76
Timor.....	76
United States.....	38
United Nations.....	38
Vatican City.....	76

Some stamp valuations are based on currency exchange rates found in *The Wall Street Journal*, Mar. 19, 2001

Specialty Series PAGES



www.scottonline.com