

# Canada reaches new heights with Continental Summits stamps

CHARLES J.G. VERGE

It is rare for Canada to issue stamps commemorating foreign subjects that don't have a direct relationship with the country. The 5¢ Winston Churchill memorial issue of 1965 (Scott 440) and the 10¢ Windsor Castle stamp of 1935 (Scott 215) are the only two fitting that category that come quickly to mind.

On Oct. 1, seven new 48¢ (letter-rate) stamps joined that category. They show the tallest peaks on each of the world's continents, while an eighth stamp depicts Canada's highest mountain, Mount Logan. The stamps were issued for the United Nations' International Year of Mountains. In addition, the attractive circular souvenir sheet format (of which 625,000 were printed) and the educational information they convey make the issue ideal

for Stamp Collecting Month (Figure 1).

For thousands of years, mountains have been a source of spiritual inspiration, as well as a gathering place for cultural and recreational activities. With a wealth of natural resources, the mountain environment is essential to the survival of our ecosystem. This is the perfect time to promote conservation and sustainable development of mountain regions and their importance to our planet.

These new stamps also pay tribute to Canadian explorer Bernard Voyer, who has just completed a journey in which he climbed the seven highest continental summits, trekked to the two poles and skied across Greenland and Ellesmere Island. When the International Year of Mountains was launched in the spring of 2002, Canada Post sponsored Voyer's expedition to Mount Logan.

With this issue, Canada Post is also able to pay tribute to photographer Pat Morrow, who in 1986 was the first man to climb "the Seven Summits." This amazing feat made it into *The Guinness Book of World Records*. Photographs by Morrow and Richard Hartmier were used by Q30 Design to illustrate the souvenir sheet. The firm has designed 28 other stamps for Canada Post over the past 10 years, including 45¢ stamps commemorating the History of Housing in Canada (Scott 1755), Ocean Fish (Scott 1641-1644), High Technology (Scott 1595-1598) and the Holocaust (Scott 1590).

Canada's stamps for the "Highest Continental Summits" are custom die-cut and presented on a unique circular self-adhesive sheet. Aimed at a general audience, the information-rich presentation includes photos of animals indigenous to each mountain region

in addition to data on each mountain's geographic location, summit height and descriptive text on the reverse of the pane.

The eight stamps in this collection represent summits located around the world: Mount Logan, the highest peak in Canada; Mount Elbrus in Europe; Puncak Jaya in Oceania; Mount Everest in Asia; Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa; Vinson Massif in Antarctica; Mount Aconcagua in South America; and Mount McKinley in North America.

## MOUNT LOGAN

Canada's tallest peak, Mount Logan, is located in Kluane National Park in the south-west Yukon (Figure 2). Reaching a height of 5,959 meters, this majestic Canadian moun-

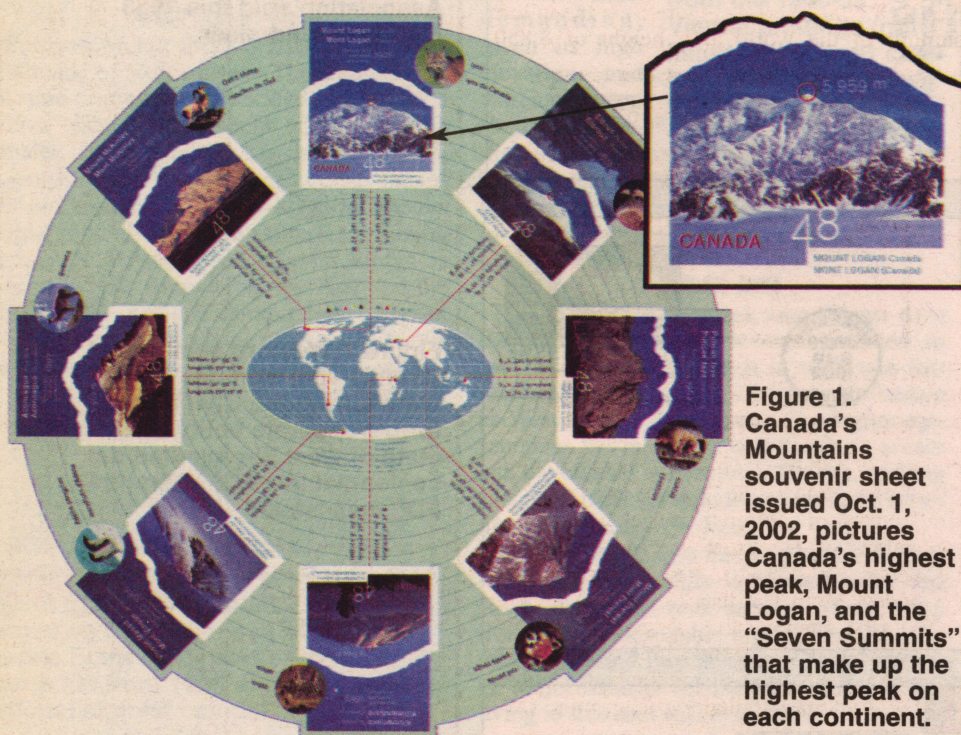


Figure 1. Canada's Mountains souvenir sheet issued Oct. 1, 2002, pictures Canada's highest peak, Mount Logan, and the "Seven Summits" that make up the highest peak on each continent.



Figure 2. The \$2 Kluane National Park stamp of 1979, Canada Scott 727, pictures Mount Logan.

tain is part of the Saint Elias mountain range, which straddles the Yukon/Alaska border. Mostly snow-covered and physically very similar to the Himalayan Mountains, Mount Logan overlooks the largest glaciers outside the polar regions of the Antarctic and Greenland.

Although not part of the seven highest con-

## TWO NEW UN ISSUES

### AIDS AWARENESS

For almost two decades, the United Nations has been at the forefront of the struggle against HIV/AIDS. In 1996, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS UNAIDS was established to serve as the leading advocate for global action against HIV/AIDS. Its mission is to guide, strengthen and support worldwide efforts to turn the tide against the epidemic.

On 24 October 2002, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of three commemorative stamps on the theme AIDS AWARENESS. For the first time in UNPA's history, three semi-postal souvenir sheets will also be issued. The additional amount added to the postage rate will be contributed to the global fund on AIDS and health established by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Stamps (in sheets of 20): 70¢, F.s. 1,30, € 1,53

Semi-Postal Souvenir Sheets: 37¢ + 6¢ = 43¢

F.s. 0,90 + F.s. 0,30 = F.s. 1,20 / € 0,51 + € 0,25 = € 0,76

Photographer: UN/DPI photographs taken by Evan Schneider  
Designer: Rorie Katz (United Nations)



## SWITZERLAND — NEW MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Also on 24 October 2002, the United Nations Postal Administration will issue a F.s. 3,00 definitive stamp designed by Thierry Clauson to honour the admission of Switzerland as a new Member of the United Nations.

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330.5428	M.I. block first day cover set		\$14.22	
330.5429	Semi-postal souvenir sheet F.D.C. set		\$3.26	
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tinental summits' circuit, Mount Logan is still an international-caliber alpine destination. Its level of technical difficulty is very similar to that of Mount McKinley.

Mount Logan is named after the founder of the Geological Survey of Canada, Sir William Edmond Logan. The first trek to Mount Logan's summit was achieved under the supervision of the Alpine Club of Canada in 1925.

In 1992, as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Geological Survey of Canada and Canada's 125th birthday, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society organized the Logan 92 expedition. The purpose of this expedition was to officially measure Mount Logan's elevation using a global positioning system (GPS). The best time to climb Mount Logan is from April to June.

#### MOUNT ELBRUS

Europe's Mount Elbrus (Figure 3) reaches an altitude of 5,633 meters. This mountain of volcanic origin was first scaled in 1874 by a British team with the help of guide Akhia Sottaiev. Located in the Russian Federation, Mount Elbrus is part of the Caucasus mountain range, which stretches 1,300 kilometers (a little more than 800 miles) through Russia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Mount Elbrus is formed by two summits — the East and the West — the western summit being higher, towering over a vast alpine prairie, coniferous



Figure 3. Russia's Mount Elbrus is shown on the 30-kopec 1986 issue, Russia Scott 5485, part of a five-stamp set from 1986 depicting international alpinist camps.

forests and extraordinarily pure mineral water springs.

Technically, Mount Elbrus' steep slopes require a great deal of experience walking on ice with crampons (a spiked metal apparatus attached to boots) and an ice ax. Cold temperatures, strong winds and blizzards at high altitudes can make ascent of this mountain difficult. The uppermost portion of the ascent is by far the most demanding, given its high elevation and extremely steep slope. This former volcano has a plateau a few hundred meters in diameter near the summit from which a final climb toward the sky leads to the summit.

#### PUNCAK JAYA

At 4,884 meters, Puncak Jaya (Figure 4) is the highest point in Oceania. Situated in Indonesia, the mountain is in what was formerly Netherlands New Guinea, also known as West Irian or Irian Barat. The region surrounding the mountain is difficult to access and the climate is atrocious. The fog, melting snow and constant thunderstorms make expeditions especially perilous.

While Puncak Jaya has no glaciers, it does have very steep cliffs, a tapered ridge and sharp, dangerous rock needles. Many tribes live in this inhospitable region. The immediate area around Puncak Jaya is Danis territory. Major rivalries between the various tribes living in this area still exist today.



Figure 4. An airmail stamp inscribed "Repoebluk Indonesia," from the 1949-53 Vienna printings (not listed in the Scott catalog). The stamp shows Puncak Jaya, the highest peak in Oceania.

According to many climbers, the approach to Puncak Jaya is an arduous ordeal: nearly 125km of swampy, boggy, wet territory plagued by constant rain showers spreads out from the base of the mountain. Its location is completely isolated, with no villages or human activity visible for several days.

Once on the mountain, climbing the rock face and the long trek up the summit ridge require a high level of climbing experience. Some fixed ropes have also been installed on the mountain. It is not uncommon for snow and wet cold to roll in and complicate an ascent. Austrian Heinrich Harrer and New Zealander Phil Temple were the first climbers to reach Puncak Jaya's summit in 1962.

#### MOUNT EVEREST

Straddling the border between China and Nepal, Mount Everest (Figure 5) is the tallest summit in the world at a height of 8,850



Figure 5. The world's highest peak, Mount Everest, is pictured on Nepal Scott 253 from 1971.

meters (29,028 feet). This famous mountain is often referred to as the "roof of the world" or the "summit of summits." It is also known by the names of Sagarmatha ("Mother of the Universe" in Nepali), and Chomolangma ("Goddess Mother of the Snows" in Tibetan).

The first attempts to scale Mount Everest took place in 1921 on the Chinese side of the mountain, the North Col and the North Ridge. All these attempts failed. To date, more than

## U.S. CUT SQUARES

The following cut squares are very fine and clean. FC = Full Corner, F = Fine, XF = Extra Fine.				Sc.# Unused	Used	Sc.# Unused	Used				
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U1	15.00	U136	4.25		U324	1.40	95	U438	18.00	1.20	
U2	11.00	U142	4.50	2.25	U324a	—	—	U439	5.00	1.50	
U3	25.00	U143	5.95		U324b	1.75	—	U439a	2.00	0.95	
U5	382	U144	11.90	5.00	U325	2.75	—	U440	2.50	—	
U6	38.00	U146	—	—	U326	4.50	—	U441	2.50	—	
U7	76.00	FC	126.00	—	U327	4.65	—	U443	2.75	—	
U8	93.50	W148	2.70	—	U328 FC	6.30	—	U445	2.25	—	
U9	29.00	2.00	U149	—	U329	4.20	—	U446	9.60	—	
reprint 22.50	—	U152	8.00	3.00	U329a	2.20	—	U447	6.20	—	
U10	12.50	1.00	U153	59.00	—	U330	2.70	2.25	U448	2.00	—
reprint 22.50	—	U154	—	85.00	—	U332	4.00	—	U449	5.25	—
U11	22.00	—	U159	22.00	—	U332 FC 4.45	—	—	U450	13.00	—
reprint 22.50	—	U160	—	8.00	—	U333	8.00	4.50	U451	10.00	—
U12	94.00	—	U163	1.00	20	FC	14.50	—	U458	4.00	30
reprint 22.50	—	U163 FC	1.25	—	U334	—	—	U458a	13.00	—	
U13	93.00	U164	—	50	FC	14.50	—	U459	2.40	—	
U14	175.00	75.00	U165	5.00	3.00	U335	9.60	—	U460	—	75
U14	—	—	U166	5.50	2.75	U336	—	—	U461	3.50	—
reprint 22.50	—	U167	3.60	2.25	U337	44.00	—	U468	—	30	
U15	395	—	U167 FC	4.20	—	U337a	40.00	—	U470 FC	3.80	—
U16	105	42.50	U169	—	93.00	U339	4.00	—	U471	3.50	—
U17a	90.00	FC	12	—	—	U339a	4.00	—	U471a	—	—
U18	65.00	—	U172	—	—	U340 FC	545	FC	159	—	
reprint 22.50	—	FC	10.80	—	—	U342	59.00	—	U471b	130	—
U19	32.50	—	U174	85.00	—	U343	63.00	—	U472	10.00	—
U20	55.00	—	U175	27.50	—	U343 FC	570	—	U472 FC	111	—
W20	55.00	—	U178	7.65	—	U344 FC	776	—	U473	12.80	—
U23	490	330	U180	93.50	—	U345	72.00	—	U481	—	15
U24 FC	290	—	U181	5.75	5.00	U346	76.00	—	U481b	82.00	—
U26	30.00	15.00	U182	9.75	—	U347 FC	581	—	U481b	—	—
U27	20.00	9.50	U183	34.00	10.00	U348	1.00	60	FC	90.00	—
U28	325	199	U184	17.00	—	U349	90	25	U482	60	30
U29 F	150	—	U186	106	—	U350	5.00	4.50	U483	1.35	60
U30	—	1100	U187	32.00	—	U351	20.00	18.00	U484	4.80	—
reprint 90.00	—	—	U188	59.50	—	U352	—	15	W485	50	15
U32	—	325	U189	6.35	—	U352 FC	60	—	U490	4.00	—
reprint 25.00	—	—	U190	6.80	—	U353	4.00	1.20	U506	35	20
U33 cent	—	225	U191	10.00	—	U353 FC 4.25	—	—	U506a	45.00	—
U34	22.00	4.50	FC	13.50	—	U354	8.00	2.20	U508	45.00	—
U35	20.00	3.75	U193	—	—	U355	3.00	2.95	U508	10.95	—
U36	60.00	—	FC	14.50	—	U355 FC	3.00	—	U510	1.90	—
U38	88.00	—	U194	16.00	—	U356 FC	1.90	75	U515	25	15
U39	59.00	55.00	U195	385	—	W357	1.90	60	U518	3.75	—
reprint 25.00	—	—	U196 F	125	—	U357a	1.95	1.30	U521	3.40	—
U40 FC	334	—	U197	—	—	U358 FC	2.50	—	U522	1.00	30
U41 FC	334	—	U198	225	—	U359	11.00	U522a	5.95	—	
U42 F	185	—	U198	—	—	U360	13.50	6.00	U523	2.50	1.80
U42 FC	120	—	FC	42.75	—	U360 FC	19	—	U524	2.25	1.10
U43 FC	275	—	U199	135	—	U362	15	10	U525	25	—
U44	205	—	FC	145	—	U363	—	10	U525a	650	12.00
U45	325	—	U200	510	—	U364	95	15	U526	2.50	30
U45 F	325	—	U200	510	—	U365	90	45	U527	15.00	12.00
U46	36.00	—	U202	161	—	U365 FC	10	—	U528	3.50	30
U47	50.00	—	U204	45.00	—	U366	5.00	—	U529	3.50	2.20
U50	13.50	7.50	FC	52.50	—	U367	4.00	2.10	U530	8.50	6.90
W51	—	135	U207	85.00	—	U368	7.00	5.50	U531	8.50	7.50
U52	11.90	—	U207 FC	95	—	U369	—	10.00	U532	4.00	—
W53	30.00	—	U208	90.00	—	U371	13.00	8.50	U532b	—	40
U54	12.75	7.50	U209	76.00	—	U371 FC	15	—	U533	50	10
U56	12.75	—	U210	149	—	U372	—	—	U534	25	10
U57 horiz	—	—	U211	90.00	—	FC	16.25	—	U535	—	—
laid	16.00	—	U211	—	—	U374	8.00	4.50	U536	55	0
U57 vert	—	—	FC	100	—	U374 FC	10	—	U537	2.25	—
laid	16.00	—	U214	—	—	U375	42.50	—	U538	50	—
U58	5.00	1.35	cert	190	—	W376	12.50	—	U539	13.00	—
U58 FC	6.50	—	U215	162	—	U377	7.50	8.00	U539a	24.00	—
U59	3.50	75	U216	148	—	U377 FC	9.00	—	U540	35	10
U60	34.00	23.00	U217	106	—	U378	13.60	—	U541	60	10
U61	40.00	—	U218	34.00	17.50	U379	55	20	U541a	—	1.00
U62	65.00	—	U218 FC	93	—	U380	10.00	1.60	U542	60	—
U63	30.00	—	U219	29.00	8.00	U381	10.00	1.90	U543	50	20
U64 FC	42.00	—	U221	42.50	12.00	U381 FC	11	—	U544	—	—
U65	35.00	—	U221	—	—	U382	11.00	2.00	U545	120	—
U66	400	—	FC	47.50	—	U383 FC	3.40	75	U546	50	20
U67	106	—	U222	3.60	—	U384	75	30	U547	60	—
U67a	79.00	—	U223	3.80	—	U385	30	10	U548	75	—
U68	275	—	U224	—	—	U386	30	10	U549	60	—
U69	77.50	—	FC	106	—	U388	1.25	20	U550	40	10
U70	85.00	—	U225	59.00	—	U389	40	8.00	U551	40	10
U71	75.00	—	U226	255	—	W389	14.00	6.00	U552	3.00	—
U72	105	—	U227	2.75	1.65	U390	15.00	8.00	U554	30	10
U72a	50.00	—	U228	3.85	2.25	U391	14.00	—	U555	60	—
U73	68.00	—	U229	5.50	—	U391 FC	17	—	U556	30	10
U73 FC sm natural	—	—	U229 FC	6.50	—	U393	14.00	10.60	U557	30	10
inclusion \$75	—	—	U230	—	4.50	U393 FC	15	—	U563	30	10
U74	26.00	23.00	U230 FC	6.00	—	U394	16	—	U564	40	—
U74a	47.00	—	U231	2.50	1.10	U394 FC	16	—	U565	40	—
U75	27.50	—	U231 FC	3.00	—	U396	5.50	15	U566	30	0
U76	—	12.00	U232	—	2.80	U396	5.50	15	U567	30	0
U76 FC	18	—	U233	6.00	—	U396 FC	5.00	—	U568	25	—
W77	37.50	22.50	U234	3.60	3.50	U397	4.25	95	U569	20	10
W77	—	—	U234 FC	4.35	—	U398	2.70	70	U571	20	—
dp bl	37.50	—	U235	14.85	—	U398 FC	3.00	—	U572	30	10
U78	31.00	11.00	U236	—	2.70	U399	9.60	7.60	U573	30	—
U79 FC	18.00	—	U237	10.00	6.80	U400	20	20	U574	25	—
U80	7.00	5.25	U238	17.85	—	U401	1.25	30	U575	25	—
U80 FC	11.00	—	U240	—	—	U402	3.40	80	U576	25	—
W81	18.00	—	FC	76.50	—	U403	7.00	1.35	U577	10	—
U82	6.40	70	U243	69.00	—	U404	2.25	16	U578	20	—
U83	4.25	1.50	U247	—	275	U404a	3.00	2.55	U579	25	—
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U85	21.00	13.50	U250 FC	3.25	—	U406	65	50	U581	30	—
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U88	32.50	—	U257	11.90	—	U408a	115	—	U584	30	—
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U90 tiny	—	—	FC	12.60	—	U409b	0.00	—	U586	30	—
thin	425	—	U259	—	—	W410	32.00	23.00	U587	30	—
U91	6.25	—	FC	12.60	—	U411	20	10	U588	30	—
U92	72.00	—	U260	10.00	3.50	U411a	11.00	—	U589	10	—
U93	85.00	—	U263	11.90	—	U412	25.00	—	U590	15	—
U94	100	—	U264	12.75	—	U413	30	15	U592	—	—
U96	69.00	—	U265	12.00	4.95	U414	30	15	U593	35	—
U97	130	—	U266	—	29.00	W415	3.25	1.50	U594	40	—
U99	100	—	U267	—	—	U416	3.00	1.00	U595	25	—
U99 FC	125	—	FC	15.75	—	U417	4.00	—	U596	50	—
U100	—	—	U270	85.00	—	U418	5.25	—	U597	30	—
FC	180	—	U274	—	—	U419	11.00	—	U598	30	—
U101	—	—	FC	225	—	U420	15	20	U599	20	—
FC	235	—	U277	30	15	U420a	—	49.00	U600	30	—
U102	69.00	—	U277 FC	45	—	U420b	—	—	U601	—	—
U103	212	—	U278	50	20	U421	30	25	U602	40	—
U104	—	—	U279	3.40	1.65	U422	1.30	—	U603	65	—
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900 climbers from more than 20 countries have reached Everest's summit using various routes. George Leigh Mallory spearheaded the first three expeditions to the summit. In 1924, Mallory and Andrew Irvine lost their lives during their last expedition. Even today, there are speculations about whether these two English climbers reached the summit.

Many unsuccessful expeditions continued through 1938. In 1951, expeditions departing from Nepal on the south side drew closer and closer to the summit, but it was not until 1953 that Sir Edmond Hillary, accompanied by Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, reached the much-coveted summit. The final ridge, representing the last 100 meters of the ascent, is preceded by a smooth, vertical rock wall, approximately 9 meters tall, that has been baptized the "Hillary Step" in honor of the first man to touch the "roof of the world." Many climbers abandon their ascent upon seeing the formidable obstacle known as the "Hillary Step."

In 1978, Italian mountain guru Reinhold Messner was the first man to reach Everest's summit in a dangerous climb without oxygen support. In 1980, Messner performed the first solo climb of Everest.

### MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Located approximately 330km (205 miles) south of the equator in northeastern Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro (Figure 6) towers over Africa from a height of 5,894 meters (19,341 feet). Not far from the Indian Ocean, Mount Kilimanjaro's mass and height have a major effect on the surrounding climate, vegetation and wildlife.

Three extinct volcanoes form Mount Kilimanjaro; the highest is Kibo. The highest peak on Kibo is Uhuru. The two lesser peaks, Mawenzi and Shira, reach heights of 5,150 meters and 3,992 meters, respectively.

Although located in the scorching African landscape, this mountain remains eternally snow-covered, providing a sharp contrast to the vast plains that surround it. American writer Ernest Hemingway made this image

come alive in his 1938 short story, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro."

Mount Kilimanjaro's very diverse ecosys-

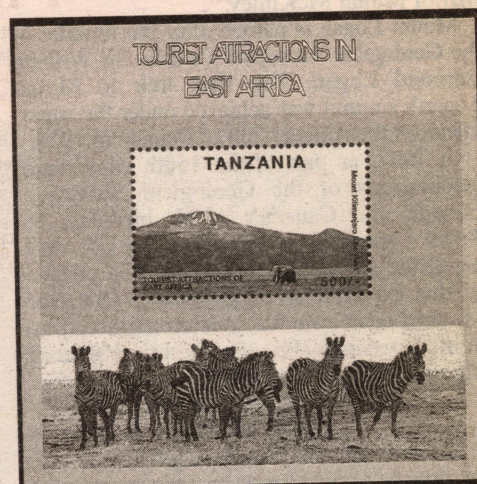


Figure 6. Mount Kilimanjaro's Kibo peak, pictured on a 1997 souvenir sheet from Tanzania, Scott 1617.

tem ranges from lush vegetation at its foot to alpine tundra toward its summit. The first ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro took place in 1889 by climbers Hans Mayer and Ludwig Purtscheller.

### VINSON MASSIF

Located on the isthmus of the Sentinel Range, Vinson Massif (Figure 7) is the highest peak in the Antarctic at a height of 4,897 meters (16,066 feet). In addition to being one of the coldest (temperatures drop to minus 89° C) and windiest (winds speeds up to a velocity of 100 knots) places on earth, this continent is home to 90 percent of the world's ice. Located atop Nimitz Glacier, Vinson Massif is formed by black and striated ridges, as well as large ice walls up to an altitude of nearly

*Continued on page 26*

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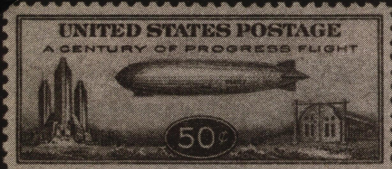
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508	13.50	658	2.00	K8	52.00
509	15.00	659	3.25	K9	52.00
510	19.00	660	3.50	K10	52.00
511	10.40	661	19.00	K11	58.00
512	10.40	662	19.00	K12	70.00
513	13.00	663	12.50	K13	104.00
514	44.00	664	28.00	K14	96.00
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525	2.60	671	3.25	Q4	25.00
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549	6.00	839-51	17.95	J76	175.00
550	38.00	899-51 LP	99.50	J77	33.00
551	20	1030-52	11.50	J78	42.00
552	1.60	1053	55.00	QJ1	8.00
553	3.00	1278-95	16.00	QJ2	70.00
554	2.00	1581-1612	17.95	QJ3	10.95
555	18.50	1633-82	13.95	QJ4	150.00
556	18.90	1686-89SS	12.50	QJ5	92.00
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561	15.00	2286-35	35.00	RW5	195.00
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576	1.65	C6	90.00	RW19	50.00
577	2.10	C7-9	12.00	RW20	50.00
578	98.00	C10-12	17.85	RW21	50.00
579	87.50	C13	310.00	RW22	50.00
581	9.00	C14	585.00	RW23	50.00
582	4.50	C15	900.00	RW24	50.00
583	2.00	C18	70.00	RW25	50.00
584	24.00	C20-2	13.80	RW26	70.00
585	15.75	C24	6.75	RW27	70.00
586	15.75	C25-31	13.95	RW28	65.00
587	7.00	E1	280.00	RW29	75.00
588	10.00	E2	265.00	RW30	75.00
589	23.00	E3	158.00	RW31	75.00
590	5.25	E4	640.00	RW32	68.00
591	52.00	E5	132.00	RW33	68.00
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Continued from page 24

3,000 meters.

Its summit, located 1,190km (740 miles) from the geographic South Pole, provides a breathtaking view of Mount Shinn and Mount Gardner. The Antarctic has attracted sailors, explorers, scientists and more recently climbers. Climbers must ascend in the summer, when they can benefit from 24 hours of daylight. The rest of the year, the continent is plunged into total darkness. In November, at the beginning of the Antarctic spring, temperatures are very cold, often dropping to minus 40° C.

Vinson Massif was named after Carl G. Vinson, a U.S. Senator who convinced the American government to support exploration of the Antarctic. Members of the American Antarctic Mountaineering Expedition first climbed Vinson Massif in 1966.

### MOUNT ACONCAGUA

The highest summit of the Americas, Mount Aconcagua (Figure 8), which is also known as "The Stone Sentinel," towers among the Andes at 6,962 meters (22,834 feet). Located in the province of Mendoza in Argentina, Mount Aconcagua is only 12km (about 7½ miles) from the Chilean border.

Its southern face is considered one of the largest mountain faces in the world. Its sum-

mit is large and flat, and although it is often underestimated because of its easy, accessible approach, this mountain is dangerous. Firms, steep slopes of unstable stones, capricious weather and high altitude are the main challenges. The best time to scale Mount Aconcagua is January. The path normally taken by climbers is free of glaciers. Famous Swiss guide and climber Matthias Zurbriggen



Figure 8. Argentina Scott 1986, a 1.95-peso stamp issued in 1998, commemorates the centennial anniversary of the first ascension of Mount Aconcagua.

was the first to reach the summit of this mountain in 1897, following an unsuccessful attempt in 1896.

### MOUNT MCKINLEY

Mount McKinley (Figure 9) is also known as the Denali, which means "the Great One" in Athabaskan. At a height of 6,194 meters (20,320 feet), Mount McKinley is the highest summit in North America. Located 200km (125 miles) north of Anchorage in the heart of the Alaska Range, Mount McKinley is part of Denali National Park and is preserved through the strict regulations of the American National Parks system.

Flanked by five giant glaciers and numerous ice cascades, the snowy mass of Mount McKinley towers above the horizon from as far away as Cook Inlet, 322km to the south,

and Fairbanks, 241km to the northeast.

Although not recognized as one of the most difficult climbs, Denali still provides a sizeable challenge to those who tackle it. Famous for its ever-changing unpredictable weather conditions, Mount McKinley is the coldest place in North America: temperatures as low as minus 77° C (minus 107° F) were recorded there in 1988.

This mountain is accessed by ski planes that touch down on a slightly sloped and crevassed glacier. From the drop-off point, climbers face many obstacles, from transportation logistics for equipment and supplies to the various techniques required to scale the mountain. Use of snowshoes and cross-country skis is required up until the 3,350-meter point. Beyond this, crampons are necessary to 4,350 meters. A variety of climbing techniques must be used to complete the rest of the ascent.

Mount McKinley attracts hundreds of climbers every year. A growing number of expeditions fail because of insufficient preparation. The first ascent of Mount McKinley, led by Yukon Archdeacon Hudson Stuck and a group of four men, took place in 1913.

This article was written with the help of Daniel Desjardins, a researcher with Canada Post's Stamp Marketing Division, who provided the technical information about each mountain.

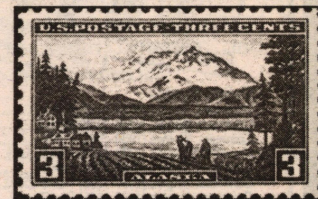


Figure 9. Mount McKinley has been pictured on various stamps from the United States, including Scott 800, a 3c stamp from the 1937 Territorial Issues set.

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Condition: unless otherwise indicated, all stamps are F-VF or better, except for 19th or early 20th century stamps which may be FINE. Hinged stamps may be heavily hinged or have hinge remnants. All stamps are carefully graded and priced according to condition. G = Good (minor flaws), d = defective (space filler), ★NH = never hinged, ★ = hinged, (★) = issued without gum, ★NG = no gum. All stamps listed without ★ are USED! Numbering is per 2002 Scott Catalogue.

Andorra (Fr.)	Andorra (Fr.)	Andorra (Fr.)	France	France	Haiti
Scott #	Price	Scott #	Price	Scott #	Price
1-3 ★NH ea	50	177 ★NH	4.75	298 var.★ NH Souv.	
4 ★NH	1.00	178-80 ★NH	1.75	sheet, stamp	
23-4 ★NH ea	45	181 ★NH	65	Imperf.	40.00
26 ★NH	35	184 ★NH	80	299 ★NH	80
27 ★NH	55	190 ★NH	1.50	300-01 ★NH	1.50
28 ★NH	80	192-4 ★NH	2.00	302-4 ★NH ea	40
29 ★	4.00	195 ★NH	1.30	307-8 ★NH	1.35
29	2.50	196-7 ★	6.00	309 ★NH	90
31 ★	3.25	199-201 ★NH	2.50	319 ★NH	1.00
34 ★NH	60	202 ★NH	1.50	320 ★NH	35
35 ★	3.00	203-4 ★NH	4.00	321 ★NH	55
37 ★	3.25	205-6 ★NH	12.00	328 ★NH	1.30
38A ★	75	207-9 ★NH	2.25	331 ★NH	70
40 ★NH	60	210-11 ★	8.00	332 ★NH	1.00
41 ★	28.00	213 ★NH	1.50	333 ★NH	1.75
43 ★NH	1.25	214-6 ★	1.25	334 ★NH	2.75
44 ★NH	3.50	218A ★NH	2.50	335 ★NH	3.25
49 ★	5.50	219-20 ★	7.00	B1 ★NH	12.50
52 ★	20.00	221 ★NH	1.25	B1	12.00
52B ★	20	222-27 ★NH	2.25	C1 ★	30.00
53 ★	4.50	222-7 ★	1.25	C2-4 ★NH	90.00
53A ★NH	45	234-5 ★NH ea	1.00	C5-8 ★	4.00
56 ★	2.00	238-40 ★NH	1.25	J1-8 ★	13.00
56A ★	75	238-40 ★NH	1.25	J9-15 ★	225.00
58A ★NH	45	241 ★NH	1.00	J16-20 ★NH	21.00
59A ★	75	243 ★NH	70	J21-31 ★	18.00
60 ★	2.00	244 ★	80	J32-41 ★NH	98.00
60A ★NH	40	245 ★NH	60	J42-5 ★NH	24.00
60C ★NH	85	248 ★NH	60	P1 ★NH	70
61 ★NH	50	251-2 ★NH	2.50		
63A ★NH	1.25	253 ★NH	1.20		
64 ★	7.00	256 ★NH	50		
65-9 ★NH ea	25	257 ★	75		
65-9 ★ ea	20	260 ★NH	65		
70 ★NH	70	261 ★NH	35		
71 ★NH	30	264 ★NH	70		
72 ★NH	50	265-6 ★NH ea	45		
72A ★NH	30	267 ★NH	30		
73 ★	20.00	268 ★NH	45		
75-7 ★NH ea	30	269-70 ★NH	1.25		
120 ★NH	1.00	271 ★NH	70		
121 ★NH	6.00	272 ★NH	50		
122 ★NH	15.00	273 ★NH	70		
123 ★NH	22.00	274 ★NH	50		
137 ★NH	8.25	275 ★NH	30		
137	3.00	276 ★NH	65		
140 ★NH	7.00	278 ★NH	30		
143-53 ★NH	45.00	279-80 ★NH	65		
149 ★NH	11.50	281-2 ★NH	70		
151 ★NH	15.25	283 ★NH	30		
152 ★NH	15.25	284 ★NH	60		
154 ★NH	70	285 ★NH	35		
155-7 ★NH	9.00	286-7 ★NH	80		
158 ★NH	80	288-9 ★NH	80		
159-60 ★NH	14.00	290 ★NH	45		
159-60	9.00	291 ★NH	85		
161-4 ★NH	1.00	292 ★NH	35		
167 ★NH	3.00	293 ★NH	55		
169-70 ★	30	294-5 ★NH	100		
171 ★NH	1.00	298 ★NH Souv.	108		
172 ★NH	2.00	Sheet ★NH	1.00		
176 ★NH	70				

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126	17.00	295 ★	1.50	136 ★	90
127 ★	15.00	296-7	2.00	137 ★NH	15.00
128	1.25	299 ★NH	27.00	138 ★	2.25
130	1.00	300 ★	8.00	139 ★	6.00
131	4.00	300a	6.00	140 ★NH	1.70
132	10.00			141 ★	2.50
135	4.00			142 ★NH	7.50
136	5.00	1 ★	5.00	142 ★	5.00
137	2.80	1 ★NG	1.25	143 ★NH	7.00
142	1.65	1	2.00	143 ★	4.00
147 ★NH	7.75	2 ★	5.00	143	3.25
152	2.25	3 ★	8.00	144 ★NH	8.25
153	4.00	4 ★	2.00	144	6.00
155	4.00	4 ★NG	8.00	166-7★ each	35
166 ★	1.50	4 ★	4.00	168 ★	50
168 ★	60	5 ★	1.00	169 ★	9.00
170 ★	5.00	5 G	50	170 ★	28.00
175b	2.00	6	12.00	171 ★NH	32.00
198-201 ★	12.50	6 G	4.00	172-3 ★NH ea	70
198 ★NH	1.50	7 ★	2.50	174 ★NH	95
199 ★NH	1.90	7	1.00	175 ★NH	2.50
200 ★	2.75	8 ★	5.00	182 ★	1.20
200	2.75	8 ★NG	2.00	183 ★NH	3.00
201 ★	8.00	9	1.50	183 ★	2.00
201	1.25	10	50	184 ★NH	3.25
219 ★NH	1.25	11 ★NG	2.50	184 ★	2.75
220-5	3.00	11	70	185 ★NH	4.00
220 ★NH	35	12	1.50	186 ★	3.50
224 ★NH	2.75	13	75	187 ★	1.10
225 ★NH	10.00	13a	1.80	187 ★	1.10
225	4.50	18	75	188 ★	1.35
225	1.50	19	2.75	189 ★NH	3.00
242 ★NH	1.50	20	90	189 ★	2.25
243-4 ★NH	3.50	21 ★NH	50	190 ★NH	2.00
243-4 ★	2.00	21	25	192 ★NH	5.00
		22	10	193 ★NH	6.00