

Canada, United States share joint issue history

pairs

CHARLES J.G. VERGE

Washington 2006, the World Philatelic Exhibition taking place May 27 through June 3, will bring forth the fifth joint stamp issue between Canada and the United States since the first was released in 1959. It is the first official joint issue shared by the two nations in more than 20 years.

A joint issue is an officially sanctioned stamp or postal stationery issue by two or more countries to commemorate the same subject. Often, but not always, the stamps share similar designs. In most cases, the participating countries release their joint issue stamps on the same day.

The 2006 joint issue, shown in Figure 1, celebrates the mapping of the Eastern seaboard of North America by Samuel de Champlain, the founder of New France (the French possessions in North America).

For Canada, it is the third stamp in a five-year program that started in 2004 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France. The earlier issues showed Pierre Dugua de Mons, the leader of the first French settlement in Acadia (Scott 2044), and the founding of Port-Royal, Nova Scotia (Scott 2115). These two stamps are shown in Figure 2.

The Canadian set will culminate during the 2008 celebrations of the founding of Quebec City, North America's only walled city. A 1908 Canadian set, Scott 96-103, was issued to commemo-

rate the city's 300th anniversary. The 5¢ stamp from that set, Scott 99 (Figure 3) shows Champlain's home in Quebec.

The first joint issue between the two countries, shown in Figure 4, celebrated the St. Lawrence Seaway upon its opening in 1959 (Canada Scott 387, United States Scott 1131).

The 1959 Seaway joint issue resulted in one of the most famous Canadian stamp errors, the 5¢ Seaway with inverted center, Scott 387a. A close look at the 5¢ error stamp in Figure 5 reveals that the center design is printed upside down in relation to the lettering in the frame. I wrote previously about this remarkable error in the April 2003 *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

On a recent foray into the Canadian Postal Archives, based on a tip received by Cimon Morin, the Chief of the Canadian Postal Archives, I was able to find the December 16, 1959, destruction certificate for finishing room subjects of the St. Lawrence Seaway issue. I learned that Canadian Bank Note Co. destroyed 1,216,000 copies of the regular stamp and 3,800 copies of the inverted error.

In the files there was a terse note dated December 22 accompanying the certificate, initialed by an unknown senior postal official, which reads, "Mr. Macdonald — the quantity of inverts is a surprise. 3,800 is 76 panes of 50 stamps ea." (or 19 full printing sheets of 200 stamps).

In my earlier article on the subject I

stated that a block of 25 inverts "was reportedly given to the Royal Collection." I have since had the opportunity to discuss this with the present Keeper of the Royal Collection, Michael Sefi, who has made a search for it without success. I also was given access to all the Canadian material from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II when I visited the Royal Collection recently and was unable to locate such a block. Still, there are a number of other avenues to check before being able to state categorically that no such block was given to the queen.

John I. Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre has published a 12-page pamphlet on the subject of the inverted Seaway stamps and provides a list of all covers known bearing the error. This important information is reprinted here with his permission.

As it turns out, a cover illustrated in my earlier article, addressed from Regina, Saskatchewan, to Toronto, has since been identified as a fake: the stamp was carefully cut and manipulated to produce what appears to be an inverted example. Therefore, it does not appear on Jamieson's list.

Also not included are three covers from Joliette mentioned in my earlier article that do exist: the finders' agent confirmed them to me in 2002. However, their whereabouts are currently unknown.

Two other error stamps are known used on piece. One is dated Winnipeg, Manitoba, on August 24; the other, from Smith Falls, Ontario, is dated September 3.



Figure 1. A new joint issue from Canada and the United States will commemorate explorer and navigator Samuel de Champlain.

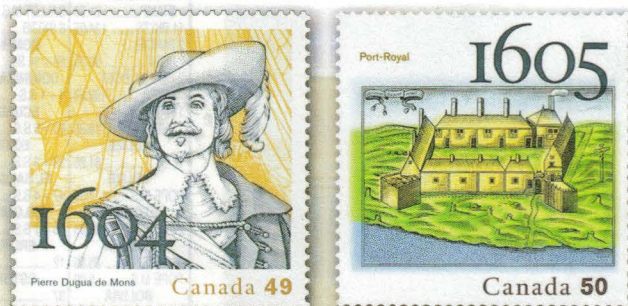


Figure 2. The Canadian stamp is the third annual issue in a five-stamp set marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France. The two previous issues show Pierre Dugua de Mons and the founding of Port-Royal in Nova Scotia.



Figure 3. A 1908 set from Canada marked the tercentenary of Quebec City. The 400th anniversary of the city will be marked with the final stamp in the current Canadian series.

After the 1959 Seaway issue, 17 years passed before a second Canadian-U.S. joint issue was released. Two similar stamps (Figure 6) celebrated the American bicentennial; each stamp featuring, on the right, a marble bust of Benjamin Franklin by an unknown Italian sculptor, based on a terra cotta bust by Jean-Jacques Caffiéri. The design was engraved by Joseph S. Creamer, Jr. On the left of each is a map of British North America from the middle part of the 18th century, when Franklin was deputy postmaster general of all British North America (1753-1774).

The stamps of both countries were designed by Bernie Reilander, a stamp designer later in the employ of Canada Post as a stamp products design manager. The stamps were engraved in one color, with multicolor lithographed elements, and printed in sheets of 200 that were cut into post office panes of 200 issued June 1, 1976. The Cana-



Figure 4. The first joint issue shared by Canada and the United States marked the 1959 opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

dian stamp is denominated 10¢ and perforated gauge 13×13.3, while the U.S. version is 13¢ and measures perf 11. No varieties exist on the Canadian stamp, but the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* lists two for the U.S. stamp: with the light blue color omitted, and with tagging omitted.

The third joint issue commemorated the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Peace Bridge that connects Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York (Canada Scott 737, United States Scott 1721). It is interesting because the two stamps have significantly different designs (Figure 7).

The 12¢ Canadian stamp shows a close



Figure 5. Canada's most famous stamp error is the St. Lawrence Seaway invert. The central design of the stamp was printed upside down.

up of two middle arches of the bridge. The Canadian and U.S. flags are shown where the borderline between the two countries crosses the bridge. The four-color lithographed stamp was designed by Rolf P. Harder and is perf 12.5.

The single-color U.S. 13¢ version shows most of the bridge from a distance, with a very large dove taking up the upper portion of the design. The perf 11×10.5 engraved stamp is based on a woodcut design by Bernard Brusel-Smith. No varieties are known for either stamps.

The St. Lawrence Seaway was again the subject of a joint issue in 1984 to celebrate its 25th anniversary (Canada Scott 1015, United States Scott 2091). Both stamps were designed by Canadian graphic artist Ernst Barends, who also created the typography for both issues. The stamps therefore share some stylistic similarities, but are different in several ways, including size: the 32¢ Canadian issue is slightly taller and considerably wider than the 20¢ U.S. stamp (Figure 8). The Canadian stamp was printed in six-color lithography by

| ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY INVERT COVERS, ALL POSTED IN 1959 | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| | Posting date | From | To | Comments |
| 1 | August 10 | Picton, ON | Belleville, ON | Earliest recorded. |
| 2 | August 11 | Picton, ON | Toronto, ON | No. 1 of 3 on postcard. |
| 3 | August 11? | Ottawa, ON | Vancouver, BC | --- |
| 4 | August 25 | Winnipeg, MB | Swan River, MB | Same correspondent as #11. |
| 5 | August 29 | Winnipeg, MB | Hull, QC | Re-addressed to Flin Flon, MB. |
| 6 | August 31 | Winnipeg, MB | Winnipeg, MB | --- |
| 7 | September 3 | Smith Falls, ON | Granby, QC | --- |
| 8 | September 4 | Ottawa, ON | Weyburn, SK | Same correspondent as #10. |
| 9 | September 5 | Smith Falls, ON | Camborne, ON | APSE #7937. |
| 10 | September 8 | Ottawa, ON | Ellburn, IL | Same correspondent as #8. Only cover addressed to the U.S. |
| 11 | September 8 | Montreal, QC | Winnipeg, MB | Same correspondent as #4. |
| 12 | September 13 | Smith Falls, ON | Calgary, AB | --- |
| 13 | September 16 | Ottawa, ON | London, England | No. 2 of 3 on postcard. Only cover outside N. America. |
| 14 | September 21 | Southampton, ON | Corunna, ON | Same correspondent as #16. |
| 15 | September ? | Southampton, ON | Toronto, ON | --- |
| 16 | September ? | Southampton, ON | Sarnia, ON | No. 3 of 3 on postcard. Same correspondent as #14. |

Census of known covers as of February 6, 2006; courtesy of John I. Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre (www.saskatoonstamp.com)

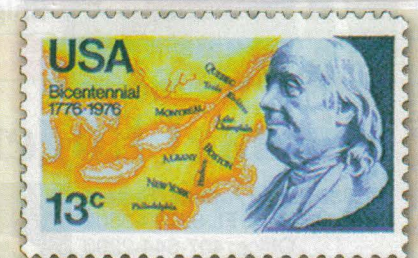
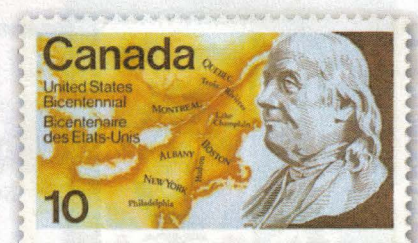


Figure 6. The U.S. bicentennial was the topic for a joint issue between Canada and the United States in 1976.

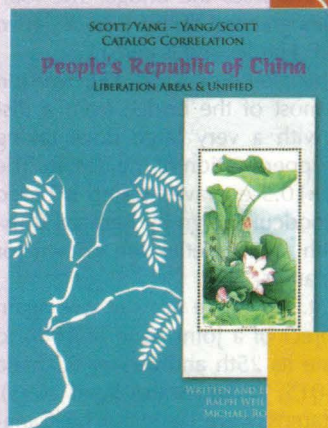
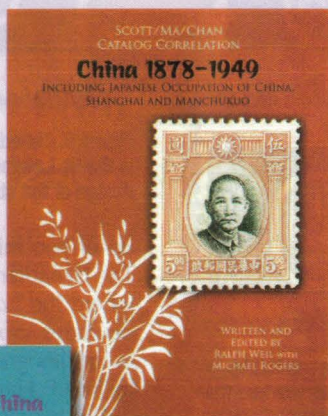
Essential Literature

Catalog Correlations, Second Edition

Michael Rogers Inc. publishes indispensable literature and album pages for the Asia collector. Our catalog correlations reflect our commitment.

\$20.00

China 1878-1949
SCOTT/MA/CHAN



\$20.00

SCOTT/YANG



\$15.00

SCOTT/YANG



\$15.00

SCOTT/YANG

Shipped Postpaid.



Michael Rogers Inc.

336 Grove Avenue, Suite B
Winter Park, FL 32789-3602

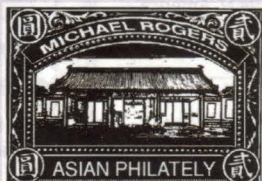
Office: 407-644-2290

Toll-free: 800-843-3751

Fax: 407-645-4434

orders@michaelrogersinc.com

www.michaelrogersinc.com



Member of over thirty professional and collector societies including American Stamp Dealers Association, China Stamp Society, American Air Mail Society, American Philatelic Society, Philatelic Traders' Society.



Figure 7. Two stamps commemorating the Peace Bridge in 1977 were also joint issues, although their designs are quite different.



Figure 8. The same Canadian artist designed both stamps for the 25th anniversary joint issue for the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1984.

Canadian Bank Note Co., and the U.S. stamp was gravure-printed by a contractor for American Bank Note Co.

Although not officially a joint issue, one other stamp pair is worth mentioning in this review of related Canadian and U.S. commemoratives.

In 1992, both Canada and the United States celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway, built during World War II to ensure a land link between Alaska and the 48 lower states. The highway was officially opened November 20, 1942, on Klauke Lake, and covers 1,500 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska.

The road was built in a hurry, and attention to safety in some sections appeared to be minimal. Alongside a treacherous stretch known as "Suicide Hill," someone installed a

Continued on page 94

Designs: 10k, X40 train.
No. 2525: a, Mallet steam locomotive (green), b, Gasoline-powered Rail bus (tan), c, SJ Class D electric locomotive (orange), d, R steam locomotive (black), e, RC electric locomotive (red).

Perf. 12½ Vert. Syncopated
2006, Jan. 26 Litho.
2524 A835 10k multi 2.60 1.90

Litho. & Engr.
Booklet Stamps
Perf. 12½ Horiz.
2525 Vert. strip of 5 7.25 6.25
a-e A835 (5.25k) Any single 1.40 1.25
f. Booklet pane, 2 #2525 14.50
Complete booklet, #2525f 14.50



Hearts — A836

No. 2526: a, Tattooed heart, b, Red heart, c, Heart-shaped leaf, d, Heart carved in tree trunk.

Serpentine Die Cut 10 on 3 Sides
2006, Jan. 26 Litho.

Self-Adhesive
2526 A836 Block of 4, #a-d 5.75
a-d (5.50k) Any single 1.40 1.40
e. Booklet pane, 2 each #2526-2528d, 3 each #2526a-2528b 14.50

VATICAN CITY (10/05)



Dinner at Emmaus, by Primo Conti A384

2005, Nov. 10 Litho. **Perf. 13x13½**
1308 A384 62c multi 1.50 1.50
Ninth General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.



2004 Journeys of Pope John Paul II — A385

Designs: 45c, Bern, Switzerland, June 5-6. 80c, Lourdes, France, Aug. 14-15. €2, Loreto, Italy, Sept. 5.

2005, Nov. 10 Set of 3 7.75 7.75
1309-1311 A385



The Annunciation, by Raphael — A386

Designs: Nos. 1312, 1314a, Drawing of Angel, Painting of Virgin Mary. Nos. 1313, 1314b, Painting of Angel, drawing of Virgin Mary.

Litho. & Engr.
2005, Nov. 10 **Perf. 13x13½**
1312 A386 62c multi 1.50 1.50
1313 A386 €1 multi 2.40 2.40

Souvenir Sheet

1314 A386 €1.40 Sheet of 2, #a-b 6.75 6.75
See France No.



Swiss Papal Guards, 500th Anniv. A387

Designs: 62c, Guard and drummers. 80c, Guards and St. Peter's Basilica.

2005, Nov. 22 Litho. **Perf. 14x14½**
1315-1316 A387 Set of 2 3.50 3.50
Nos. 1315-1316 each issued in sheets of 6. See Switzerland Nos. 1224-1225.

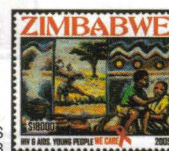


Christmas A388

Details from Adoration of the Shepherds, by François Le Moyne: 45c, Shepherds and sheep. 62c, Angel. 80c, Madonna and Child.

2005, Nov. 22 **Perf. 13½x13**
1317-1319 A388 Set of 3 4.50 4.50
1319a Booklet pane of 4 #1319 7.50
Complete booklet, #1319a 7.50

ZIMBABWE (3/06)



World AIDS Day — A183

Designs: \$18,000. Cooking pot, field tender, care for the ill. \$80,000, Children teaching AIDS prevention.

2005, Dec. 1 Litho. **Perf. 14½x14**
1004-1005 A183 Set of 2 2.60 2.60

O CANADA

Continued from page 36



Figure 9. Although not a joint issue, the 1992 Canadian and U.S. stamps for the Alaskan Highway commemorate the same subject.

foreboding sign that read, "Prepare to Meet Thy God."

The two stamps commemorating the highway show completely different designs (Figure 9) and were issued on separate days. The 42¢ Canadian stamp, Scott 1413, was designed by Jacques Charette, based on an illustration made by Vivian Laliberté, and was issued in Dawson Creek, B.C., on May 15, 1992. The U.S. stamp, Scott 2635, was designed by Byron Birdsall and was released May 30 in Fairbanks. No varieties exist for this stamp.

This year's joint issue celebrates Champlain's mapping of the coast between Port Royal, Nova Scotia, and Cape Cod, Mas-

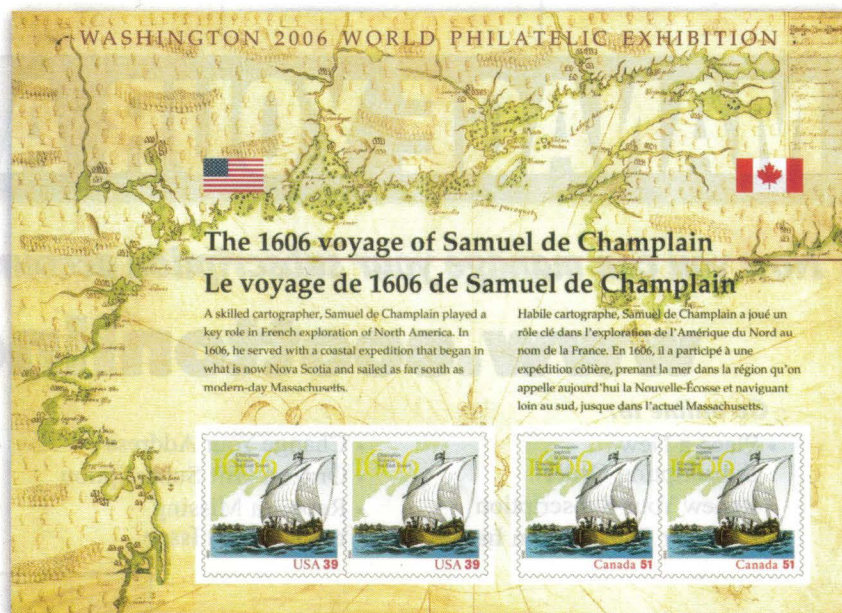


Figure 10. For the first time ever, Canadian and U.S. stamps will appear together on the same souvenir sheet when the Samuel de Champlain joint issue is released May 28.

sachusetts. It is the first time that a joint issue between the two countries will include a souvenir sheet (Figure 10).

The sheet of four stamps will bear two stamps from each country. The two same-design stamps will be issued May 28, on the second day of the Washington 2006 exhibition. The Canadian version is denominated 51¢ while the US stamp is

39¢. These stamps, like all the other joint Canada-U.S. issues, pay the first-class letter rate in the respective countries at the time of issue.

Both the Canadian and U.S. single stamps will be issued individually in panes of 20 self-adhesive stamps as well. The souvenir sheet will contain perforated water-activated stamps.