Canada's 1933 commemoratives for UPU committee and grain exhibition

One 1933 commemorative stamp was purpose designed, the other comprised a definitive stamp with a commemorative overprint.

In 1933, Canada hosted two international conferences that were each commemorated by a single stamp.

The first stamp issued was the 5¢ Government Buildings, Ottawa, internationalrate commemorative stamp (Scott 202),

shown in Figure 1. It was created for the executive committee of the Universal Postal Union, which met in Ottawa, Ontario, from May 18 to June 28, 1933, in preparation for the 10th UPU congress to be held in Cairo, Egypt in 1934.

The committee's mandate was to deal with the international postal service problems arising between UPU congresses and to set agendas for future conferences.

The stamp was issued on May 18, the opening day of the committee's first meeting. The British American Bank Note Co. used two plates, No. 1 and No. 2, to print 5.1 million stamps. The stamps were perforated gauge 11 and printed in sheets of 100, with plate imprint information only in the upper

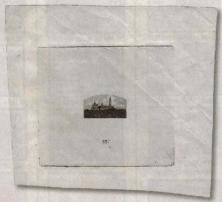


Figure 2. This stock vignette was proposed and rejected for the design of the 5¢ Government Buildings, Ottawa stamp.

left and upper right corners of the sheet. The sheets were cut into post office panes of 50 for distribution and sale.

Please turn to page 28



Figure 1.

On May 18,

1933, Canada

issued this 5¢

Government

Ottawa stamp

(Scott 202) to

commemorate

the opening of

the meetings of

the executive

committee of

the Universal

Postal Union

in Ottawa.

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authorities decided to overprint the 20¢ Harvesting Wheat definitive (Scott 175) that had been issued Dec. 4, 1930. The stamp had an appropriate design for the subject, as it depicted grain harvesting in the Canadian prairie with grain elevators in the background.

The British American Bank Note Co. re-

ceived an order for a new printing of 1.56 million stamps to be overprinted "World's Grain Exhibition & Conference" in three lines at the top and "Regina 1933" at the bottom.

The printer reviewed the die proofs originally prepared in 1929 and approved by the post office in 1930. A new die proof with the overprint was submitted for the approval of Gaboury

on May 29, 1933. On the same day, the printer was informed to order the electros for the overprints and was directed to print it in blue ink rather than the black ink as had been used for the die proof shown in Figure 5.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 200, perforated gauge 11, and cut into post office panes of 50.

A major constant plate variety with the right top arm of the "X" in "Exhibition" broken is Please turn to page 32

WORLD'S GRAIN EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

Figure 6. A constant plate variety on the 20¢ World's Grain Exhibition and Conference stamp has a broken X in the word Exhibition.

Figure 5. A die proof for the 20¢ World's **Grain Exhibition** and Conference stamp (Scott 203). The issued stamp bore the overprint in blue ink instead of the black ink that was used on the die proof.





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Continued from page 26

A stock vignette, shown in Figure 2, was originally proposed for the center part of the





Figure 3. A vertical imperforate pair of 5¢ Government Buildings, Ottawa stamps (Scott 202a).

design, but it was not accepted. A new model prepared for the vignette was approved Feb. 13, 1933,

The stamp was engraved and a die proof approved on March 7 by the Deputy Postmaster General, Louis Joseph Gaboury (in office 1923-35). The approved vignette was based on a photograph of Parliament Hill taken from the north side of the Ottawa River. The buildings of the Parliamentary precinct seen from left to right in the stamp design are the Library of Parliament, the Centre Block, the Victory and Peace Tower, the West Block and the Confederation Building. Also shown are the wooded cliffs of Parliament Hill.

Only one die variety with a horizontal line crossing the bulge of the right "5" is known for this stamp. Seventy-five examples of imperforate pairs (Scott 202a), one of which is shown in Figure 3, are known. Their origin is dubious, as they were likely pilfered from the post office vaults by a senior postal official. Like most other imperforate and partially perforated varieties of the 1929-42 period, they found their way into the hands of four major collectors before being dispersed by dealers when the collections were sold. The Scott Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers 1840-1940 and



Figure 4. A Canadian definitive stamp with commemorative overprint (Scott 203) issued to mark the World Grain Exhibition and Conference held in Regina, Saskatchewan, July 24 to Aug. 5, 1933.

most Canadian specialized catalogs list the imperforate and partially perforated stamps.

The second commemorative of 1933 (Scott 203), shown in Figure 4, marked the World Grain Exhibition and Conference held in Regina, Saskatchewan, July 24 to Aug. 5, 1933.

Although the post office agreed that the event should be commemorated by a postage stamp, it was unable or did not have the time to prepare an entirely new issue. Postal

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65.00

3.00

1.00 565 nh

562 nh

660 nh

664 nh

9.50

9.40 662 nh

1.00

210 ng

211 ng

4.00

12.50

75.00 255 nh

254 ave nh.

37.50

99.00 22.75

90.00

300 nh

301 nh

301

7.50 383 nh

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C8	4.50	C23	50	C73	
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O CANADA

Continued from page 30 known for this stamp. The variety, shown in Figure 6, occurs at position 19 in the sheet.

Charles Bailey, a mid-20th century Toronto. Ontario. collector and dealer. identified another eight minor varieties that specialists can look for. Unfortunately, he was not in a position to plate their positions, as he found these varieties in an accumulation of used stamps.

For the record, the summary of his findings are: commas between the letters "T" and "I", "X" and "H," and be-

tween the "3"s in "1933"; dots over the "E" and "I" and between the "X" and "H"; a stroke on the letter "R"; a broken letter "R" and a low set "Regina 1933" overprint.

For this commemorative, 75 imperforate pairs of stamps (Scott 203a) also exist. Three of these pairs are with the broken "X" variety.

The Grain Show Building that housed the displays of the 1933 Exhibition burned to the ground in 2009.

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Figure 7. Both sides of a QSL card promoting the World Grain Exhibition and Conference held in Regina. Saskatchewan, from July 24 to Aug. 5, 1933.

Exhibition's organizing committee issued a QSL card, shown in Figure 7, to promote the exhibition. QSL cards confirm two-way radio communication between two amateur radio stations or the oneway reception of a signal from an AM radio station, FM radio station, television or shortwave broadcasting station. QSL cards were typically the same size and stock as standard postcards and were designed to be mailed.

The QSL card is from the collection of the author. The illustrations in Figures 2, 3, 5 and 6 are courtesy of the Canadian Postal Archives.

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