

Canadian Philately in review: 2004

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Our annual review of Canadian philately will appear in two parts this year. This month we'll take a look at organized philately in Canada, philatelic literature and the stamp trade. Next month's column will focus on Canadian stamps and related products issued during 2004.

Amounts quoted in this article are in Canadian dollars (equaling approximately 82¢ U.S.) unless otherwise noted.

ORGANIZED PHILATELY

The Canadian Postal Museum has a group of very dedicated and active friends. They organize an annual St. Valentine's Day Ball to support the museum's programs. Last year's ball was the fifth held, and it raised a whopping \$140,000, bringing the five-year total of support to just under \$450,000.

Information about the Canadian Postal Museum, which is part of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, is available online at www.civilization.ca/cpm/cpme.asp.

The museum is located at 100 Laurier Street in Gatineau, Quebec, on the banks of the Ottawa River.

The Canadian Postal Archives web site continues to improve; a new Canadian Post Office Publications section added in June 2004 provides online access to about 26,000 pages of official administrative directives concerning the post office.

Published between 1759 and 1900, these directives come primarily from three types of publications: the *Canadian*

Official Postal Guide (1863 to 1900), administrative circulars (1759 to 1900) and a few federal government publications.

These publications, digitized in both official languages when they are available, provide access to more than 675 documents. The database allows users to consult the original documents online and search full-text digital publications by word, phrase and date. This makes it possible to locate a post office, find the postage rate for a specific period, obtain instructions for mailing dangerous goods, and so on.

An integration of the National Archives of Canada and the National Library of Canada as one organization has resulted in the Canadian Postal archives getting a new web address at www.collectionscanada.ca/postal-archives.

Honors awarded to Canada Post during 2004 include third place in the Philatelic Music Circle's 2003 Yehudi Menuhin Award competition for its stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec (Scott 1968). The Year of the Horse stamp (Scott 1933) won first place as the most beautiful stamp in the continent and third place in the world at the eighth World Stamp Cup 2003.

It was also announced that the Canada-Hong Kong 2002 joint stamp issue



Figure 1. Awards for several stamps issued by Canada Post over the past few years were announced in 2004.



Figure 2. André Ouellet, Canada Post Corp. chairman of the board (1997-99), president and CEO (1999-2004), and chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee (1997-2004), retired in 2004.



Figure 3. Part 1 and Part 2 of *The Postal Rates and Fees of the Elizabethan Era in Canada, 1952-2002*.



Figure 4. The unique \$2 vertical pair with inverted center from the Third Bill revenue series, sold by Ivy & Mader in January 2004.

featuring corals, Scott 1948-1951, was awarded third prize by the International Society for Joint Issues in its Best for 2002 competition.

Figure 1 shows these award-winning issues from Canada Post.

However, the most important event at Canada Post in 2004 had nothing to do with stamps. It concerned the retirement of its president and CEO, André Ouellet (Figure 2), following the release of an audit critical of his expenditures, hiring recommendations and other business practices.

Ouellet had a long and distinguished public service career. Since 1972, when he was appointed postmaster general, he showed a keen interest in stamps and philately and supported organized philately at every chance. For example, it is because of him that the National Philatelic Collection is on permanent display.

The beauty of Canadian stamps and the worldwide awards they have received can be traced back to Ouellet assuming the chairmanship of Canada's

Stamp Advisory Committee in 1997. Finally, under his leadership, Canada Post Corporation has posted multimillion-dollar surpluses every year. This profit is turned back to the shareholders of the company: the people of Canada. The profit margin for 2003 was the largest in the history of the company. Collectors and philatelists will miss him.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada reported its second annual net increase in membership for 2003. This is a notable statistic in a time when many clubs and societies have been losing members, some in considerable numbers.

Thanks to a substantial bequest of \$100,000 from the late Horace Harrison, the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) was able to put all issues of its magazine *BNA Topics* from March 1944 to 1999 online at <http://bnatopics.org>. The last five years are available to members through membership.

The Greater Toronto Area Philatelic Alliance has grown by leaps and bounds, and its enthusiastic leadership has accepted some major challenges for the future. GTAPA and the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association will host their first national show in October 2005, followed closely in March 2006 by Ameristamp Expo. In October 2007, they will host the 79th convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Ameristamp Expo normally includes the American Philatelic Society's winter meeting, but the APS will skip the annual winter show in 2006 and hold its

winter meeting during the May 27-June 3 international show, Washington 2006. The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors considers Ameristamp Expo its annual convention and has agreed to hold the show in Toronto. This is the second time it is taking place there: the first was in 1998, the last time the AAPE managed its own show.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

The British North American Philatelic Society is a prolific book publisher, particularly of publications documenting award-winning exhibits. In 2004, BNAPS changed distributors for its book department, appointing Ian Kimmerly Stamps, 112 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5B6, Canada. Kimmerly can be reached by e-mail at kimmerly@cyberus.ca, and a list of the publications available is found online at www.iankimmerly.com.

In the specialized catalog area, both Unitrade and Darnell issued new editions of their specialized Canadian stamp catalogs. This year, Unitrade only produced an English version of its *Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* (\$42.95). As it did last year, Unitrade also released a French-language supplement to its 2003 catalog, available for \$5. These can be purchased from Unitrade Press, 99 Floral Pky., Toronto, ON, M6L 2C4, Canada.

The 11th edition of Darnell's *Stamps of Canada Catalogue* was released in November and is available through its publisher, Rousseau, Inc., 230 St. Jacques Street, Montreal, QC H2Y 1L9,

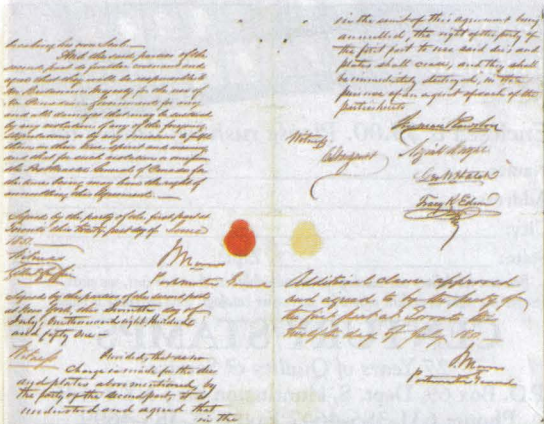


Figure 5. The printer's contract to print Canada's first postage stamp was offered at auction in April but was not sold.



Figure 6. The "Paton" cover bearing a 12-penny black (Canada Scott 3) sold for \$190,000 at the April 23 Matthew Bennett auction.



estimate of \$40,000 to \$50,000, but it failed to sell (Figure 5). This was the printer's copy of the contract, which had been displayed at the 2001 BNAPS convention held in Ottawa, courtesy of William Lea of Spink. The Canadian government's copy is in the hands of the Canadian Postal Archives.

The first of the name sales was "The Dr. John L. Robertson Collection of U.S.-B.N.A. Cross-Border Postal History." Most of the desirable items in the April 23 sale by Matthew Bennett went for substantial increases over estimate, while others frequently went well below. The key BNA item was the "Paton" cover (Figure 6), one of six covers bearing a 12-penny black (Scott 3) and the only one for which there has never been any doubt of its genuineness. Estimated at \$200,000 to 300,000, it sold at a bargain for \$190,000.



The second name sale was "The Edward M. Gilbert Collection Part I — Newfoundland Postage Stamps and Postal History," held by H.R. Harmer, Inc., in New York City on October 22. The keys to this sale were the incredible quality of the stamps and the extensive airmail section, including some rarely seen inverted surcharges (Figure 7).

Finally, a fond goodbye goes to Bill Danard (Figure 8) who retired at the end of 2004 as a design and production manager at Canada Post. Among the many



Figure 8. Retiring design manager Bill Danard was involved in a number of stamp projects during his time with Canada Post.

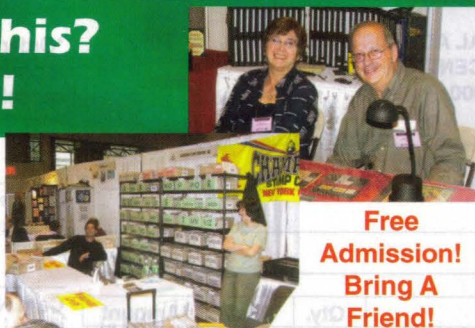


stamps to his credit are all of the Lunar New Year stamps issued since 1997. As a member of the Stamp Advisory Committee I have worked with Bill on many projects, and I was always impressed by his professionalism, his interest in detail and his search for new and innovative practices and technology to make our stamps that more appealing.

Charles J.G. Verge is president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada and a member of the Canadian Stamp Advisory Committee.

Where better for stamp collectors to be in the Spring than this? What a show!

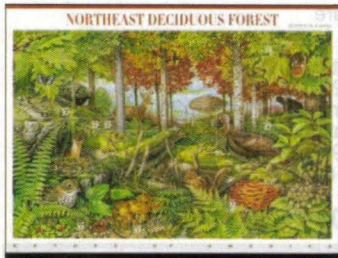
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2003 YEAR COMPLETE

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85 COUNTRIES 1960-2003

Aland (15).....	25.85	Japan (154+3SS).....	199.20
Alderney (18+2SS).....	34.80	Jersey (49+7SS).....	114.25
Andorra, Fr. (16).....	28.80	Kazakhstan (47+SS).....	44.25
Andorra, Sp. (8).....	10.35	Kyrgyzstan (58+4SS).....	52.85
Armenia (12+3SS).....	26.25	Latvia (27+SS).....	41.80
Australia (93+4SS).....	69.65	Liechtenstein (29).....	56.10
Austria (30+SS).....	4.25	Lithuania (24+4SS).....	49.50
Austria (30+SS).....	79.50	Luxembourg (29).....	49.70
Azores/Madeira(10+4SS).....	32.55	Macao (49+SS).....	50.65
Belarus (30+SS).....	40.75	Macedonia (36+SS).....	32.50
Belgium (77+SS).....	118.85	Malta (59+2SS).....	89.60
Bosnia Rep. (25+3SS).....	67.50	Moldova (29+3SS).....	56.65
Brit. Ant. (31+SS).....	77.25	Monaco (49).....	114.15
Bulgaria (66+3SS).....	63.75	Netherlands (118+SS).....	99.50
Cape Verde (27+3SS).....	36.75	New Zealand (86+13SS).....	137.25
Christmas Is. (4+2SS).....	11.45	Norway (44+4SS).....	101.45
Cocos Is. (4).....	2.65	Palestine (13+SS).....	33.50
Croatia (36+3SS).....	43.50	Papua N.G. (63+4SS).....	86.50
Cyprus (22).....	18.30	Pitcairn Is. (21+3SS).....	49.90
Czech Rep. (37+2SS).....	33.95	Poland (74+3SS).....	70.25
Denmark (29+2SS).....	77.80	Portugal (83+16SS).....	179.80
Estonia (30+2SS).....	35.50	Romania (83+3SS).....	119.00
Faroe Is. (36+SS).....	69.85	Ross Depend. (5).....	7.90
Fiji (26+3SS).....	44.55	Russia (75+10SS).....	47.50
Finland (39+2SS).....	79.90	San Marino (69+2SS).....	105.35
France (110+SS).....	154.70	Slovakia (33+2SS).....	34.75
Georgia (43+SS).....	75.75	Slovenia (37+2SS).....	49.90
Germany (62+2SS).....	129.90	Spain (73+18SS).....	162.60
Gibraltar (35+SS).....	89.85	Sweden (56+SS).....	109.85
Gr. Britain (86+3SS).....	145.50	Switzerland (40+2SS).....	66.70
Greece (70+2SS).....	139.85	Tokelau (4+4SS).....	32.40
Greenland (16+2SS).....	62.55	Turk-Cyprus (18+SS).....	19.20
Guernsey (34+3SS).....	73.65	Ukraine (68+4SS).....	37.40
Hong Kong (64+9SS).....	102.95	Uzbekistan (19).....	43.85
Hungary (41+11SS).....	69.95	Vatican (46+SS).....	62.45
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