

Discovering stamp relationships

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Are you related to someone on a stamp? Unless there is a famous person in your family history, you wouldn't necessarily know. One way to find out is to study your genealogy.

Through my maternal grandfather, I can claim a relationship with Canadian hockey star Guy Lafleur, who is pictured on a 48¢ stamp issued by Canada in 2002, Scott 1935b.

The grandfather of philatelist Harlan Stone was U.S. Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone, who was commemorated in 1948 on a 3¢ stamp from the United States, Scott 965.

Another collector, Mary Ann Aspinwall Owens, learned of her own stamp subject relationships through genealogical study. While researching her Aspinwall family, she discovered that she was related to U.S. presidents James Monroe and Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose portraits are found on many stamps. Owens applied this research to create her gold-medal display class exhibit, "The Aspinwall Connection."

Figure 1 shows these famous stamp subjects who are related to philatelists.

FAMILY TIES

The next logical question for us to ask is, how many individuals on Canadian stamps are related to each other? It turns out that there are quite a few. Keep in mind that some stamps actually picture individuals, while others commemorate specific people without showing their portrait.

The most evident family links involve members of the British royal family. Many stamps of Canada and British North America show the reigning monarchs of

the day. Some picture their spouses and children, while others show monarchs of the pre-stamp period.

This list of royal family members on stamps is quite extensive. Figure 2 shows an abridged family tree created with stamps from Canada and Newfoundland that feature royal family members.

Relationships come in many forms when it comes to stamp designs. Some of these family members and their specific relationships can be identified; others cannot.

The most famous family of all is the holy family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, who have been pictured on many of Canada's Christmas stamps, either as a family group, as mother and child only, or individually. Figure 3 shows the family on the 30¢ stamp from 1982, Scott 973. Other stamps with a similar theme include the family on Scott 1873 from 2000; the Madonna and Child on the 1978 issues, Scott 773-775; and the Christ child represented on Scott 524 and 529.

There are also families represented on paintings, such as the two unidentified Ukrainian families found on William Kurelek's paintings on Scott 1326 and 1328 from a 1991 set; and Alex Colville's wife Rhoda Wright, their daughter, and one of their three sons in the 1955 painting *Family and Rainstorm*, featured on Scott 960 from the 1982 Canada Day set (Figure 4).

Other unidentified families groupings on Canadian stamps include a Scottish one on Scott 619 from 1973, a Loyalist family on Scott 1028 from 1984, and one keeping the home fires burning on Scott 1298 from the 1990 World War II issue. Several families are featured on the 1994

souvenir sheet issued for the International Year of the Family (Scott 1523, Figure 5).

Sports stamps also have their share of families. In 1974, Canada Post issued two sets of four stamps to promote a "Keep Fit" campaign in preparation for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. The summer set shows a family bicycling in the Gatineau Park (Scott 631) while the winter block shows a family cross-country skiing (Scott 645).

Unidentified husband-and-wife teams shown in Figure 6 are found on a 1962 stamp for Jean Talon (who is depicted presenting gifts to a farm couple on Scott 398), on a 1969 stamp showing a painting by Aurèle de Foy Suzor-Coté (Scott 492) and on a 1973 stamp honoring the Algonquian Indians (Scott 581).

RELATIVES TOGETHER

A different stamp group honors identified relatives featured on the same stamp, starting with Pierre-Esprit Radisson and his brother-in-law Médard Chouart Sieur Des Groseilliers, 17th-century New France explorers commemorated on Scott 1127 from the 1987 Exploration set (Figure 7).

Two sets of husband-and-wife philanthropists were featured on two stamps in the 1999-2000 Millennium series: Dorothy and Isaac Killam (Scott 1830b) and Florimène and Alphonse Desjardins (Scott 1823c). Alphonse Desjardins, who founded the first credit union in North America, had been honored previously on a 1975 stamp, Scott 661.

Painter Frances Ann Hopkins and her husband Edmund Martin Hopkins appear together on Scott 1227, on a 1988 stamp honoring Mrs. Hopkins. This stamp is interesting as it shows a picture of the artist



Figure 1. Some of today's stamp hobbyists can claim stamp subjects Guy Lafleur, Harlan Fiske Stone, James Monroe and Franklin D. Roosevelt as relatives.



Figure 8. Close-up views of five aboriginal crafts appeared on these five 1987 Australian stamps. Shown are details from a spear thrower, a shield, a basket, a bowl and a belt.

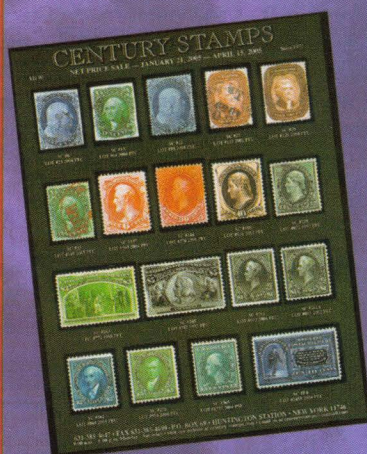
traliens prefer defining themselves by their tribal affiliation, much as American Indians refer to themselves by tribal affiliation, such as Cherokee or Navajo.

The United Nations declared 1993 the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. The artwork of four

contemporary native Australians, Ginger Riley Munduwalawala, Hector Jandany, Fiona Foley and Robert Cole, were selected by Australia Post to represent the goal of improving and relations between Aboriginal people and the greater community (Scott 1336-1339).

The history and culture of native Australians as captured on Australian stamps is a visual treat. Using the stamps as a springboard to find out more about their legends and lifestyles is a great way to enrich one's collecting experience. ■

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taken by William Notman (who himself was honored the following year on Scott 1237), with the photograph superimposed over one of Hopkins' most famous paintings, *Canoe Manned by Voyageurs Passing a Waterfall*, which is owned by Library and Archives Canada. The photograph

nearly obscures the images of Hopkins and her husband sitting in the middle of the canoe. The stamp is pictured in Figure 8 along with an unobstructed image of the entire painting.

The founders of Canadian Tire, brothers J.W. and A.J. Billes, are shown on a 1997

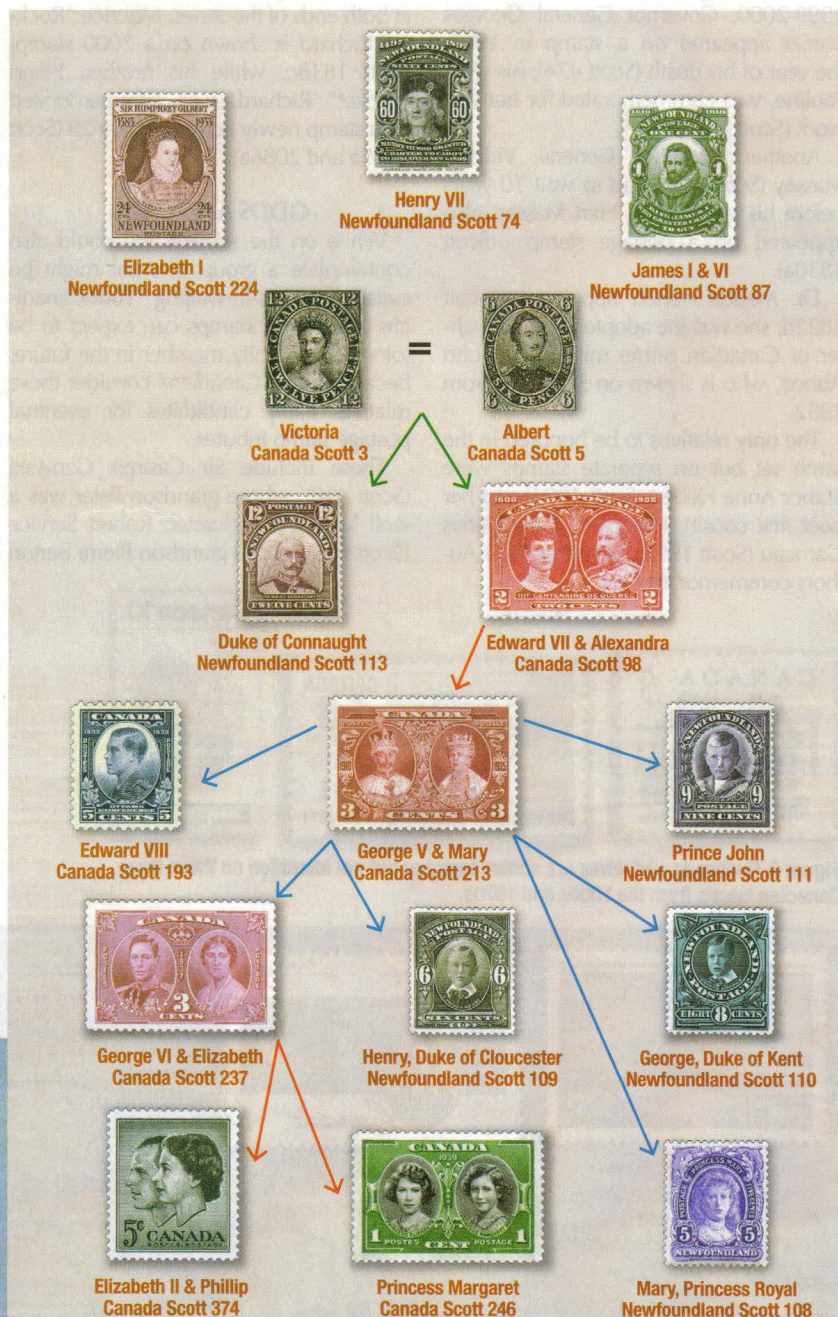


Figure 2. Members of the British Royal family as represented on various stamps of Newfoundland and Canada.



Figure 3. The holy family — Mary, Joseph and infant Jesus — on Canada Scott 973, the 1982 Christmas stamp.

stamp honoring the 75th anniversary of the founding of their company (Scott 1636, at left in Figure 9). One stamp from the 2003 Authors booklet pictures 19th-century writers (and sisters) Susannah Moodie and Catharine Parr Trail on Scott 1997 (at right in Figure 9).

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

There are several issues that picture family members on separate stamps; a few examples are shown in Figure 10.

The earliest issues of this group date back to 1917 (Scott 135) and 1927 (Scott 142). Both stamps show the same painting of the *Fathers of Confederation* by Robert Harris. Somewhere in the painting and on the stamps is Sir Étienne-Paschal Taché. His grandmother was Marie-Anne Jolliet, who was herself the granddaughter of the 17th-century French explorer Louis Jolliet, of Marquette and Jolliet fame (honored on Canada Scott 1128 and United States Scott 1356).

Another pair where the relationship is not evident is the 1837 rebellion leader,



Figure 4. Families in paintings: A Ukrainian family on a stamp from a 1991 set (top), and members of the Colville family in 1955, as they appear in the painting *Family and Rainstorm* on the 1982 Canada Day issue (bottom).

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MARSHALL IS.	MARSHALL IS.	MARSHALL IS.	PALAU
Sc. #	Price	Sc. #	Price
34a.....	1.50	320.....	50
35-49A.....	7.10	321.....	50
36.....	.15	322.....	50
37.....	.15	323.....	1.00
38.....	.15	324.....	.50
39.....	.20	325.....	1.00
39a.....	6.00	326.....	1.00
39a single.....	.15	327.....	.55
40.....	.25	328.....	.55
40a.....	5.65	329.....	.55
41.....	.30	330.....	.55
41a.....	7.50	331.....	.55
41a single.....	.30	332.....	.55
41b.....	6.95	333.....	.55
42.....	.35	334.....	.55
42a.....	7.25	335.....	.55
42b.....	6.50	336.....	.55
43.....	.40	337.....	.55
44.....	.45	338.....	.55
45.....	.50	339.....	.55
46.....	.55	340.....	.55
47.....	.60	341.....	.55
48.....	.75	342.....	.55
49A.....	1.50	343.....	.55
53a.....	1.80	344.....	.55
54-7.....	1.20	345.....	.55
57a.....	1.20	346.....	.55
58.....	1.70	347.....	.55
58e.....	6.75	348.....	.55
62a.....	1.20	349.....	.55
64a, C2a.....	2.25	350.....	.55
69a.....	1.70	351.....	.55
73a.....	1.25	352.....	.55
77a.....	1.35	353.....	.55
81a.....	1.35	354.....	.55
82-85.....	1.80	355.....	.55
85.....	.70	356.....	.55
90a.....	3.75	357.....	.55
94a.....	1.45	358.....	.55
107.....	3.40	359.....	.55
108.....	7.15	360.....	.55
113a.....	1.80	361.....	.55
114.....	2.10	362.....	.55
115.....	2.10	363.....	.55
118a.....	1.45	364.....	.55
123a.....	1.70	365.....	.55
127a.....	1.20	366.....	.55
131a.....	1.90	367.....	.55
136-41.....	3.40	368.....	.55
136, 138, 140.....	1.70	369.....	.55
137a.....	1.05	370.....	.55
141a.....	1.20	371.....	.55
160-3.....	1.50	372.....	.55
170a.....	2.85	373.....	.55
170a single.....	.15	374.....	.55
171a.....	3.50	375.....	.55
173a.....	3.75	376.....	.55
173a single.....	.25	377.....	.55
173b.....	3.75	378.....	.55
174a.....	5.45	379.....	.55
174b.....	5.45	380.....	.55
194a.....	1.50	381.....	.55
212a.....	2.25	382.....	.55
220a.....	1.90	383.....	.55
239.....	.50	384.....	.55
239-337, 467-524.....	130.00	385.....	.55
w/ tabs.....	130.00	386.....	.55
240.....	.80	387.....	.55
241.....	.80	388.....	.55
245a.....	2.60	389.....	.55
247a.....	1.00	390.....	.55
248.....	.40	391.....	.55
251.....	.80	392.....	.55
260a.....	3.60	393.....	.55
274a.....	1.95	394.....	.55
281a.....	3.20	395.....	.55
282.....	.50	396.....	.55
285.....	.50	397.....	.55
287a.....	1.00	398.....	.55
291a.....	3.20	399.....	.55
292.....	.50	400.....	.55
292-307.....	9.30	401.....	.55
293.....	.50	402.....	.55
295a.....	1.60	403.....	.55
296.....	.50	404.....	.55
297.....	.50	405.....	.55
298.....	.80	406.....	.55
299.....	.50	407.....	.55
301.....	.80	408.....	.55
302.....	.50	409.....	.55
304.....	.50	410.....	.55
307.....	.50	411.....	.55
311a.....	3.20	412.....	.55
319a.....	1.00	413.....	.55

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O CANADA

Figure 5. The Year of the Family
souvenir sheet from 1994 is one
of several issues that picture
unidentified families.



Louis-Joseph Papineau (Scott 539), and his grandson, Henri Bourassa, a Quebec nationalist and editor of *Le Devoir* (Scott 485).

Three family members joined their relatives through the Millennium series of 1999-2000. Governor General Georges Vanier appeared on a stamp in 1967, the year of his death (Scott 474); his wife, Pauline, was commemorated for her war work (Scott 1825b).

Another Governor General, Vincent Massey (Scott 491), had to wait 30 years before his grandfather, Hart Massey, also appeared on a postage stamp (Scott 1830a).

Dr. Maude Abbott appears on Scott 1822d; she was the adopted granddaughter of Canadian prime minister Sir John Abbott, who is shown on Scott 318 from 1952.

The only relatives to be honored in the same set but on separate stamps were author Anne Hébert (Scott 1994) and her poet first cousin, Hector de Saint-Denis Garneau (Scott 1995), from the 2003 Authors commemorative set.

The All-Star Hockey stamps series of 2000-05 has produced two brothers, one at both ends of the series. Maurice "Rocket" Richard is shown on a 2000 stamp, Scott 1838c, while his brother, Henri "Pocket" Richard, was commemorated on a stamp newly issued January 29 (Scott 2085a and 2086a).

ODDS AND ENDS

While on the subject, we could also contemplate a group of what might be called "relatives-in-waiting." Four Canadians already on stamps can expect to be joined by a family member in the future, because many Canadians consider those relatives likely candidates for eventual postage stamp tributes.

These include Sir Casimir Gzowski (Scott 410), whose grandson Peter was a well known broadcaster; Robert Service (Scott 695), whose grandson Pierre Berton



Figure 6. Husbands and wives are shown together but not identified on these three Canadian issues from the 1960s and 1970s.



Figure 7. Brothers-in-law
Pierre-Esprit Radisson and
Médard Chouart Sieur Des
Groseilliers are honored together
on Canada Scott 1127.

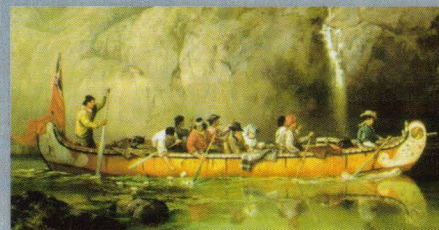


Figure 8. Canada Scott 1227 honors painter Frances Ann Hopkins. Hopkins and her husband appear in the painting *Canoe Manned by Voyageurs*, which is partially obscured by the artist's portrait.



Figure 9. Siblings together on the same stamp: brothers J.W. and A.J. Billes (Scott 1636), and sisters Susannah Moodie and Catharine Parr Trail (Scott 1997).

was an icon of Canadian literature as well as a broadcaster; Governor General Jules Léger (Scott 914), who waits for his brother, His Eminence Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger; and Gilles Villeneuve, Canada's best Formula One driver (Scott 1647-1648) whose son Jacques, also a Formula One driver, may appear one day on a Canadian stamp.

One relationship baffles me as to how it should be classified: that of painters Frederick Varley (Scott 888) and Vera Weatherbie (Scott 1516). Weatherbie was Varley's student, friend and model, but it has been suggested that their personal relationship went further. Varley was 29 years older than Weatherbie, and married.

Do you know of other Canadians who are related and appear on Canadian stamps? If so, please let me know. ■



Figure 10. Relatives who have appeared on separate stamps: Joseph Papineau and his grandson Henri Bourassa; Georges Vanier and his wife Pauline; NHL stars (and brothers) Maurice and Henri Richard.

July 2005

The Year of the Ram

SPECIAL OFFER #S181



In 1997 Canada embarked on an ambitious program. The first of twelve annual issues appeared for the Lunar New Year. The stamp featured the Year of the Ox, and each year in January another stamp has appeared to match the Lunar Calendar.

These stamps have proven immensely popular. Many of the innovative designs are spectacular. Here are the Scott numbers of first eight years -- #1630, 1767-8, 1708, 1836-7, 1883-4, 1933-4, 1969-70 and 2015-6. Take a look and you will be impressed. Souvenir sheets have also been included as part of the program.

Demand comes from collectors of Canada at home and around the world. In fact, Hong Kong and China also produce similar issues. These are sold together with the Canadian stamps in a "lunar pack" each year.

Some interesting varieties have been found on the Canadian releases over the years. Indeed, a major missing colour error has been discovered on the 2003 Year of the Ram stamp (Scott #1969). A few sheets were found that had the gold symbols missing on the left two rows of the sheet. This was caused by improper placement of the gold printing foil when the sheets were die stamped.

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