

# Imperforate varieties of Canada's 2¢ Edward VII

Figure 1. A printed engraved die essay from Perkins, Bacon and Co., prepared for a proposed King Edward VII definitive stamp series for Canada.

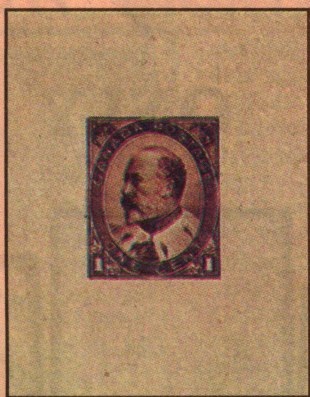


Figure 2. Plate essays were printed by the American Bank Note Co., using the die from Perkins, Bacon and Co. The results were deemed unsatisfactory.

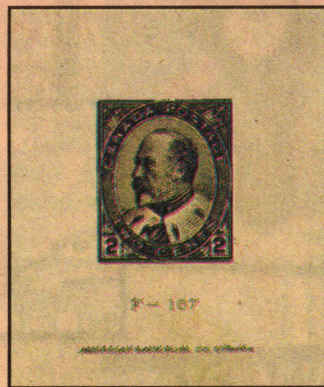


Figure 3. A 2¢ black die proof on card, printed using the die prepared by the American Bank Note Co. A complete series of black die essays exists for all values, prepared after the last stamp in the series, the 50¢, was issued Nov. 19, 1908.

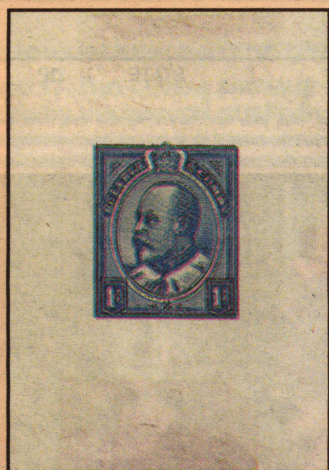


Figure 4. Die essays prepared by De La Rue and Co. for British colonial stamps.



Figure 5. A 2¢ block, Plate 1, from the first imperforate group issued as approval sheets for the postmaster general. Only one sheet of the 2¢ Plates 1 and 2 were prepared.



Figure 6. Imperforate plate block of the 7¢, showing Sir William Mulock's initials as having approved the value.

Figure 7. Pairs from the second series of imperforates, showing the red and black marks identifying these printings.



approve the sheets, as his initials are seen on the margin of a few examples (Figure 6).

CHARLES J.G. VERGE

Sir William Mulock (1844-1944) was still postmaster general of Canada when the Edward VII stamps were first issued in 1903. He had been appointed by the prime minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in 1896, and had gone on to reform the Post Office and bring philately to the forefront by introducing such things as the Queen Victoria Jubilee issue (Scott 50-65) — 16 stamps with denominations ranging from 1/2¢ to \$5 — and the world's first Christmas stamp (Scott 85-86), celebrating the advent of Imperial Penny Post.

Although Queen Victoria had died on Jan. 22, 1901, Sir William decided that before proceeding with the new set of stamps, he would wait until the contract with the American Bank Note Co. (ABN), which still had two years to run, had expired, and a new contract was negotiated.

For the Edward VII issue, Sir William had, for the first time in Canadian stamp history, approached a British firm — Perkins, Bacon and Co. of London — to produce a die for the new definitive series (Figure 1). It was engraved by J.A.C. Harrison (1872-1954), with a vignette based on an etching by Emil Fuchs (1866-1929), an Austrian artist who had arrived in London in 1897.

The original design of the Edward VII series is credited to the Prince of Wales (later King George V, well-known as a stamp collector), and his philatelic curator, J.A. Tilleard.

After making trial plates from the Perkins, Bacon and Co. die (Figure 2), the ABN decided that the die was unsatisfactory for mass production use. Charles Skinner, an ABN engraver, produced a new die. A small black proof of the 2¢ is shown in Figure 3.

The dies from ABN and from Perkins, Bacon and Co. were quite similar; the main difference is found in the numerals. They are colored in Skinner's ABN die and white in the one made by Harrison. Interestingly enough, another stamp printer, De La Rue & Co., used a very similar design to prepare a die for British colonial stamps (Figure 4).

All of the lower values of the Canadian issue exist imperforate: 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢, 7¢ and 10¢. Figure 5 shows an imperforate block of four of the 2¢ value. The exceptions are the 20¢ and 50¢ issues, which were issued later. The 20¢ appeared in 1904, and the 50¢ in 1908.

This article will concentrate on the 2¢ imperforate stamp, because it is the value from which many types of imperforates were prepared, and which was used for the preparation of Canada's first coils.

The first imperforates, all without gum, were one complete sheet of plate proofs from each plate laid down. They were submitted to Sir William for approval in May or June 1903, before the stamps were issued on July 1 of that year.

It is believed that these sheets were kept by R.M. Coulter, the deputy postmaster general, and were disposed of by him after his retirement. Other sources indicate that Sir William may have sold them when he started selling off his holdings of essays, proofs and stamps in 1928. In any event, Sir William did

asked that an unknown number of 2¢ sheets be produced imperforate for him to give away. This second group of imperforates was also ungummed. Before giving them out, Sir William caused them to be defaced. Plate 1 stamps were identified by a small red mark between the stamps, while Plate 2 stamps had a black mark (Figure 7).

The third set of 2¢ imperforates were prepared for the Post Office's experimental gum trials. Two hundred stamps were produced from each of plates 31, 32 and 43. To identify them, Plates 31 and 32 were scored in black with a single continuous horizontal line through each row of stamps. Some authors have called the line blue, but all copies I have seen are definitely black. Plate 43 was similarly scored in red (Figure 8).

The sheets have a Dec. 5 date stamp on the reverse, but there is no mention of a year. A year date of 1906 or later must be considered, as Plate 43 was not engraved until Feb. 15, 1906. Plates 31 and 32 were engraved Sept. 26 and 27, 1905, respectively. It is likely that the Plate 43 sheet was printed first, as it bears the notation "regular," while the sheets from Plates 31 and 32 read "2nd lot of printing."

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Figure 8. Experimental imperforate pairs created for gum trials, showing the red horizontal line through Plate 43 (top) and the black line that was used to deface Plates 31 and 32 (bottom).



Figure 9. The horizontal roulette pairs prepared by the U.S. Auto-Vending Co. for use in vending machines. These were manufactured from the fourth group of imperforates and were printed from new Plates 13 and 14.



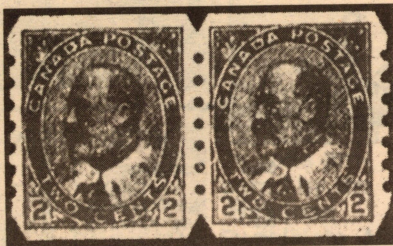


Figure 10. The Heiman and Zorke perforated 8½ coil pair from new Plates 13 and 14 as illustrated in Boggs, p. 360.

Continued from page 20

These gummed sheets did not come to light until 1965, when an unnamed owner offered them for sale through Jim F. Webb of Thornhill, Ontario.

The last imperforate set was produced in 1909 for the production of experimental coils. Plates 13 and 14 were used for this purpose. Until 1973, collectors of this issue agreed with Winthrop S. Boggs (in *The Postage Stamps*

and *Postal History of Canada*, page 359) that these plates had been taken out of retirement.

In the Aug. 23, 1973, issue of *Stamp Collecting* (page 1029), David Sessions states that evidence existed at the time in the Harry Lussey collection that proved that new plates 13 and 14 were laid down in 1909. The comparison is made between perforated stamps from the original plates and the imperforates from the plates with the same numbers. Sessions indicates that the perforated stamps have the "fuzzy" printing characteristics of Plates 1-30 while the imperforates show clearly that they come from the reworked die used after October 1905.

These are the only official imperforate stamps issued in this series. The original reason for the issue of these imperforates was to provide stamps to the U. S. Auto-Vending Co., which wished to introduce to Canada the stamp vending machines that were popular in the United States and Great Britain at the time.

There are two types of experimental coils recorded as used by this vending company.

They were prepared in vertical and horizontal strips with roulette separation (Figure 9). The stamps were sold in pairs (two of the 2¢ for 5¢).

Shortly thereafter, there was an outcry from different sources on the limited use of these imperforates. It is likely that other vending machine companies, believing that the monopoly given to the U.S. AUTO-VENDING CO. was inappropriate, led this criticism. Therefore, in July 1909, 100,000 stamps (1,000 sheets) were offered for sale in Ottawa, ostensibly to "accommodate users of stamp affixers and also for vending machines" (Boggs, page 359).

Only one other company is known to have used the stamps for vending machines: Heiman and Zorke, whose stamps are easily identifiable, as they are horizontal strips perforated 8½ vertically. A pair of the Heiman and Zorke perforated coils is illustrated in Boggs on page 360, shown here in Figure 10.

The general public and philatelists also

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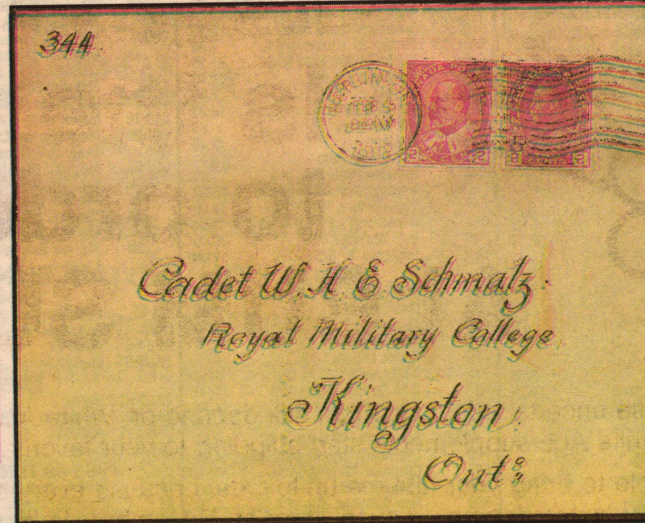


Figure 11. Two covers showing uses of the Plates 13 and 14 imperforates by the general public in 1909 (left) and 1912 (right).

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2003 Untagged Perf. 10 Vert.  
3757 A2866 1c multicolored, Mar. 1 .20 .20  
Pair .40 .40  
P# strip of 5, #S11111 .60 .60  
P# single, #S11111 .30 .30

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2003, Feb. 28 Tagged  
3766 A2875 \$1 multicolored 2.00 .50  
P# block of 4, 5# + P 8.00  
Pane of 20 40.00

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Sheets of 200 in ten panes of 20

##### Serpentine Die Cut 11

2003, Feb. 13 Tagged  
3771 A2879 80c multicolored 1.60 .35  
P# block of 4, 6# + V 6.40  
Pane of 20 32.00

### AMERICAN FILMMAKING: BEHIND THE SCENES



A2880



Block of 10 With Vertical Gutter Between

Designed by Imaginary Forces. Printed by American Packaging Corporation for Sennett Security Products.

Designs: a, Screenwriting (segment of script from *Gone With the Wind*); b, Directing (John Cassavetes); c, Costume design (Edith Head); d, Music (Max Steiner working on score); e, Makeup (Jack Pierce working on Boris Karloff's makeup for *Frankenstein*); f, Art direction (Perry Ferguson working on sketch for *Citizen Kane*); g, Cinematography (Paul Hill, assistant cameraman for *Nagana*); h, Film editing (J. Watson Webb editing *the Razor's Edge*); i, Special effects (Mark Siegel working on model for *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*); j, Sound (Gary Summers works on control panel).

#### PHOTOGRAVURE

Sheets of 60 in six panes of 10

##### Serpentine Die Cut 11 Horiz.

2003, Feb. 25 Tagged  
3772 A2880 Pane of 10 7.00  
a-j, 37c Any single .70 .20  
Sheet of 6 panes 42.00  
Block of 10 with vertical gutter between 9.00

### OHIO STATEHOOD BICENTENNIAL



Aerial View of Farm Near Marietta — A2881

Designed by Phil Jordan. Printed by Banknote Corporation of America.

#### LITHOGRAPHED

Sheets of 120 in six panes of 20

##### Serpentine Die Cut 11½x11½

2003, Mar. 1 Tagged  
3773 A2881 37c multicolored .70 .20  
P# block of 4, 4# + B 2.80  
Pane of 20 14.00

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##### American Design Series

2003 3757 1c Tiffany Lamp Coil, Mar. 1, Biloxi, MS 1.25

##### American Culture Series

2003 3766 \$1 Wisdom, Feb. 28, Biloxi, MS 2.50

2003 3771 80c Special Olympics, Feb. 13, Chicago, IL 1.75

3772 37c American Filmmaking: Behind the Scenes Pane of 10, Feb. 25, Beverly Hills, CA 7.25

3772a-3772j, any single 1.25

3773 37c Ohio Statehood Bicentennial, Mar. 1, Chillicothe, OH 1.25

### UNITED NATIONS OFFICES IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



New Inter-Parliamentary Union Headquarters, Geneva — G68

Printed by House of Questa, UK. Panes of 20. Designed by Cyril Wursten, Switzerland.

2003, Feb. 20 Litho. Perf. 14½x14  
406 G68 90c multicolored (480,000)+ 1.25 .60  
Inscription block of 4 5.00  
First day cover 2.00  
Pane of 20 25.00

#### NUMISMATIC SOUVENIR CARDS

2003 NSC104 FUN 45.00

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CP671 Happy Birthday, #3695 12.00  
CP672 Greetings from America, #3745a 42.50

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### AFGHANISTAN

The stamps shown in the 2004 Catalogue with illustration Nos. A539 to A561 are now deleted entirely. The Taliban government in power at the time UPU Circular 345, dated Aug. 21, 2000, was issued states that "any postage stamps issued since 1989 are illegal." Other stamps produced after the cessation of the listings shown in the Catalogue to the end of the Taliban regime would also be included.

The Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, in power at the time UPU Circular 2, dated Jan. 13, 2003, was issued states that the following items are illegal:

Sheets of nine with various denominations depicting Boats (three different), Horses (two different), Cats (two different), Dogs (two different), Birds (two different), Eagles, Dinosaurs, Owls, Plants, Insects, Princess Diana, Great People of the 20th Century, Fish, English trains;

Sheet of nine 500af stamps depicting

Afghanistan fauna;

Sheet of nine 1,000af stamps depicting

Dogs;

Sheet of nine 3,000af stamps depicting

Cats;

Sheets of nine 10,000af stamps depicting

Afghanistan fauna, Race cars;

Sheets of nine 20,000af stamps depicting

Chess, Afghanistan fauna, Eagles and Owls,

Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Race cars,

Vehicles;

Sheets of nine 40,000af stamps depicting

Chess, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Race

cars, Vehicles;

Sheets of nine 50,000af stamps depicting

Chess, Posters, Elvis Presley, Marilyn

Monroe, Race cars, Vehicles;

Sheets of nine 100,000af stamps depicting

Wanted Poster for Osama bin Laden;

Sheet of six 10,000af stamps depicting

Owls;

Sheets of six 20,000af stamps depicting

Owls, Paintings by Matisse;

Sheets of six 30,000af stamps depicting

Paintings by Toulouse-Lautrec;

Sheets of six 50,000af stamps depicting

Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II (two

different), Paintings by Van Gogh;

Sheet of six 100,000af stamps depicting

Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II;

Block of four stamps depicting Marilyn

Monroe;

Souvenir sheets of one 100,000af stamp

depicting Owls (two different), 2002 World

Cup (two different), Trains (two different),

Painting by Matisse, Painting by Toulouse-

Lautrec, Painting by Van Gogh;

Souvenir sheet depicting an Orchid.





**Figure 12.** Experimental 2¢ coils prepared by the American Bank Note Co., precanceled with the Ottawa parcel roller.

Continued from page 22

bought the stamps and used them on mail. The two covers in Figure 11 show examples of this use. The first uses a block of four to overpay a 7¢ registered letter (2¢ per ounce, plus 5¢ registration fee) in November 1909. The second is definitely a philatelic cover, as Cadet Schmalz's father was a stamp collector and dealer in Berlin, Ontario. The father used a single imperforate to mail a 2-ounce letter to his son, and added one 2¢ King George V "Admiral" stamp (issued Dec. 2, 1911) to pay the second weight step. The cover is postmarked Feb. 5, 1912.

No regular Edward VII coils were issued. The ABN carried out experiments on behalf of the Post Office to produce coils for use in automatic vending machines. These primitive coils were sheet stamps torn into strips of 10 and pasted together. They were then precanceled with the standard precancel device or with the Ottawa parcel roller. Fewer than 15 paste-up pairs survive (Figure 12).

All of the illustrations in this article, with the exception of Figure 10, are provided through the courtesy of the Brigham Collection. **SSM**

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