

Karsh photos on Canadian, worldwide stamps

CHARLES J.G. VERGE

The timeless photograph of British prime minister Winston Churchill shown in Figure 1 was taken in 1941 by Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002) at the height of World War II. The image epitomizes the "British Bulldog" that Churchill was.

The look of determination and smoldering anger shows not only Churchill's resolve to have his way, but also his intent to get back to the cigar that Karsh had unceremoniously yanked out of his mouth seconds before the photograph was taken.



Figure 1. British prime minister Winston Churchill was photographed in 1941 by Turkish-born Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh.

Image courtesy of the National Archives of Canada.

This Karsh photograph graces dozens of stamps issued by many countries to celebrate the life of Sir Winston. Canada (Scott 440), Great Britain (Scott 420-421) and the United States (Scott 1264) used it when they issued stamps in 1965 shortly after Churchill's death (Figure 2).

Karsh was born Dec. 23, 1908, in Mardin, Turkey. He immigrated to Canada in 1924 as a refugee and lived with, and apprenticed under, his uncle George Nakashian, a photographer in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Karsh furthered his apprenticeship in Boston, working in the studios of John H. Garo from 1928 to 1931 (Figure 3). It is believed that his technique of marked difference between light and dark in his photographs was learned with Garo and further developed when he worked as a lighting director for the Ottawa Little Theatre.

Karsh moved to Ottawa in 1932 to photograph, as he said, "people of consequence." He not only achieved his goal of photographing the notables of Ottawa but he became the photographer of the notables of the world.

His photographs of Georgia O'Keefe, Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, Albert Einstein, Martha Graham, W. Somerset Maugham, Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace, Albert Schweitzer and others are all works of art in their own right. In 1987, his complete collection of negatives, prints and transparencies from 1932 to 1987 were acquired by the National Archives of Canada.

A self-portrait by Karsh is shown in Figure 4.

Karsh closed his Ottawa studio in 1992 and moved to Boston, where he died on July 13, 2002.



Figure 2. Canada, the United States and Great Britain used the Karsh photograph of Churchill for memorial issues honoring the late prime minister in 1965.



Figure 3. Karsh and his teacher John H. Garo of Boston, in a photograph circa 1931. Image courtesy of the National Archives of Canada.



Figure 4. A self-portrait by photographer Yousuf Karsh. Image courtesy of the National Archives of Canada.

LATVIA



Klusa Daba Ar Trisura Linealu, by Romans Suta — A176

2004, Jan. 25 Litho. Perf. 13x14
584 A176 40s multi 1.50 .75

Arms Type of 2002

2004, Feb. 14 Perf. 13x13
585 A153 5s Valka .20 .20
586 A153 15s Cesis .55 .30
587 A153 20s Saldus .75 .40
Nos. 585-587 (3) 1.50 .90



Reinis (1839-1920) and Matiss (1848-1926) Kaudzites, Writers — A177

2004, Mar. 20 Perf. 13x
588 A177 40s multi 1.50 .75

Endangered Plants Type of 2002

Designs: 15s, Gentiana cruciata. 30s, Onobrychis arenaria.

2004, Apr. 3 Set of 2 1.75 .85
589-590 A158

LITHUANIA



Famous People — A212

Designs: No. 759, 1 l, Jonas Aistis (1904-73), poet. No. 760, 1 l, Kazimieras Buga (1879-1924), philologist. No. 761, Adolfas Jucys (1904-74), physicist.

2004, Jan. 24 Litho. Perf. 12
759-761 A212 Set of 3 2.25 1.10

Coat of Arms Type of 1992

Designs: 1 l, Mazeikiai. 1.30 l, Radviliskis. 1.40 l, Ukmerge.

2004, Feb. 14 Set of 3 2.75 1.40
762-764 A82



Vilnius University, 425th Anniv. — A213

2004, Mar. 20 765 A213 1 l multi .70 .35

LUXEMBOURG



European Parliament Elections — A464

2004, May 9 Litho. Perf. 13x13
1139 A464 50c multi 1.25 1.25



2004 Summer Olympics, Athens — A465



2004, May 9 Photo. Perf. 11x11
1140 A465 50c multi 1.25 1.25
1141 A466 60c multi 1.40 1.40



European School, 50th Anniv. — A467

2004, May 9 Litho. Perf. 14x14
1142 A467 70c multi 1.75 1.75



Europa — A468

Designs: 50c, Stone bridge over Schiessen-tuempel. 60c, Bourscheid Beach, Bourscheid Castle.

2004, May 9 Perf. 13x13
1143-1144 A468 Set of 2 2.75 2.75

MAURITIUS



Indian Ocean Commission, 20th Anniv. — A210

2004, Feb. 16 Litho. Perf. 13x
982 A210 10r multi .80 .80



Mountains A211

Designs: 2r, Le Pouce. 7r, Corps de Garde. 8r, Le Chat et La Souris. 25r, Piton du Milieu.

2004, Mar. 11 Perf. 14x14
983-986 A211 Set of 4 3.25 3.25

MAYOTTE



Wadaha — A72

2004, Jan. 3 Litho. Perf. 13
193 A72 50c multi 1.40 1.40

MOROCCO

King Mohammed VI Type of 2001

2002 Litho. Perf. 11x
Granite Paper Size: 24x30mm

934A A472 2.50d multi .50 .25
934B A473 6d multi 1.25 .60



Rabat, 2003 Arab Culture Capital A509

2003, Dec. 19 Litho. Perf. 13x13
956 A509 6.50d multi 1.50 .75



Philately at School — A510

2003, Dec. 29 Perf. 13x
957 A510 6.50d multi 1.50 .75



UN Literacy Decade A511

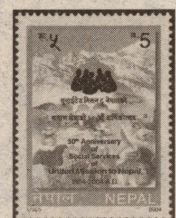
2003, Dec. 29 Perf. 13x13
958 A511 6.50d multi 1.50 .75



Morocco - People's Republic of China Diplomatic Relations, 45th Anniv. — A512

2003, Dec. 31 Perf. 12
959 A512 6.50d multi 1.50 .75

NEPAL



Social Services of United Mission to Nepal, 50th Anniv. — A412

2004, Mar. 5 Litho. Perf. 14
740 A412 5r multi .20 .20



National Society of Comprehensive Eye Care, 25th Anniv. — A413

2004, Mar. 25
741 A413 5r multi .20 .20

Karsh's portrait of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King (1874-1950), shown in Figure 5, was the first of his photographs to be used for a Canadian stamp. In 1951, the Post Office wanted to honor Prime Minister King after his death and create a stamp series com-



Figure 5. Karsh's photograph of Canadian prime minister William Lyon Mackenzie King. Image courtesy of the Canadian Postal Archives.

memorating deceased prime ministers who had not yet appeared on stamps, with King being first in the series (Figure 6).

Shortly thereafter, on Feb. 6, 1952, King George VI died, and Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne. It was necessary for Canada to issue a new series of definitive stamps depicting the new monarch.

The Post Office chose a photograph taken by Karsh of the new queen as a basis for the new lower-value definitives. A proof of the 4¢ definitive issue is pictured in Figure 7. The



Figure 6. The first stamp in Canada's 1951-55 series on prime ministers shows the Karsh portrait of Prime Minister King.



Figure 7. An approved proof of the 4¢ definitive stamp issued in 1953. The image of the queen is based on a Karsh photograph. Image courtesy of the Canadian Postal Archives.

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CAMBODIA		Scott#	Price	LAOS		Scott#	Price	LAOS		Scott#	Price	LIBERIA		Scott#	Price
29	45	785-88	1.35	1520-25	2.50	100/C43-5	1.50	994-7	2.35	351-3/C91-2	.30	850	.35	850	.35
37	5.25	789-95	2.40	1526 S/S	1.50	108	.30	1004 S/S	1.10	351-3/C91-2		851-2	1.40	851-2	1.40
59-61	1.50	796 S/S	2.35	1527-32	2.50	109-11 Imperf.	8.00	Shits/25	3.75	1009-14	9.00	853-7 Singles	15.00	853-7	15.00
59-61	1.80	797-803	2.10	1533 S/S	1.50	115-7	.75	1015 S/S	1.30	354/C97-8	.50	857 (6 Val)	8.25	857 (6 Val)	8.25
62-4	1.70	804 S/S	2.00	1534-47	6.10	126-8	.85	1015A-E	1.95	354/C97-8		864-5	.80	864-5	.80
62-4	1.40	805-11	2.55	1548-50		133-6	1.10	1015A-D	.75	Shits/25	10.00	866	.35	866	.35
71-3	.80	812-8	2.10	(3 Blk/4)	4.95	137-40	1.10	1028-31	2.40	355-7/C100-2	.35	867	.80	867	.80
71-3	1.00	819 S/S	2.00	1551-6	2.50	141-4	1.05	1049-51	2.50	355-7	.30	867-9 Imp	6.00	867-9 Imp	6.00
74-5	3.00	823-9	4.00	1557 S/S	1.50	141-4	.75	1078-81	3.25	358-61/C104-5	.80	900 S/S	1.00	900 S/S	1.00
76-8	1.25	833-9	1.80	1558-63	2.45	145-7	1.00	1113-7	3.15	364-7/C111-2	.85	922 S/S	.70	922 S/S	.70
76-8	1.50	840 S/S	1.70	1564-8	1.95	145-7	.55	1130-4	3.20			958-60	1.70	958-60	1.70
79-81	.85	844-50	2.25	1569-71	1.10	157-6	5.00	1160 S/S	1.35			958-60 Imp	5.00	958-60 Imp	5.00
79-81	1.10	851 S/S	2.20	1572-6	2.30	158-9	5.00	1170-3	5.00			Imp Prs	9.00	Imp Prs	9.00
82a S/S	2.70	852-8	2.25	1577 S/S	1.35	160-2	.85	1174-7	2.50			961 S/S perf.	1.35	961 S/S perf.	1.35
88-90	.90	859 S/S	2.25	1586 S/S	1.75	160-2	.45	1178-82	5.00			962-4	1.70	962-4	1.70
88-90 Imp		860-6	2.35	1590-5	2.50	162a S/S	1.20					962-4 Imp	5.00	962-4 Imp	5.00
Gum Dist.	2.00	868-74	2.10	1604-9	4.25	163-7	1.10					965 S/S	3.00	965 S/S	3.00
90a/b S/S	8.50	875 S/S	3.70	1610 S/S	2.90	167a S/S	3.35					965 S/S Imp	1.35	965 S/S Imp	1.35
90b S/S	4.20	876-82	2.25	1611-16	4.25	174-7	2.00					972 S/S	.75	972 S/S	.75
91-3	1.80	883 S/S	2.00	1617 S/S	2.80	174-7	1.20					972 S/S	1.20	972 S/S	1.20
91-3	2.40	884-90	2.55	1618-20	2.15	184-9/C56-7	4.40					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
93a S/S	2.25	891-7	2.55	1621-3	2.20	192-3/C59-61	2.00					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
93a S/S	3.00	898-904	2.55	1624-9	4.25	207-8/C76	1.60					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
94a	1.70	905-11	3.30	1630 S/S	3.00	215	.70					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
94a Blk/4	5.00	915-7	1.80	1631-6	2.45	223-5/C84	2.10					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
97-8/C15-7	3.05	918-20	2.10	1634 S/S	1.50	228-9/C88	.90					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
99-100	.60	921-7	2.70	1638-43	3.90	234	.40					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
99-100	.80	928 S/S	2.00	1644 S/S	2.70	241/C106-7	1.20					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
101-5	.85	929-35	2.55	1645-7	1.95	244-5/C114-5	2.80					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
101-5	1.00	936 S/S	2.20	1648-53	3.90	244-5/C114						1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
105a S/S	2.20	937	.60	1654 S/S	2.00	Imperf	10.00					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
106-8	.70	946-52	2.55	1655-61	5.00	244-5	.30					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
106-8	.95	954-60	2.25	1662-7	3.90	253-5/C119	2.50					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
111a S/S	2.20	961 S/S	2.00	1668 S/S	2.00	253-5/C119	1.65					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
115	.25	962-8	2.70	1669-74	2.30	258-60	1.80					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
115	.30	969 S/S	2.00	1675 S/S	1.70	260 Var S/S Emboss						1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
116	.25	970-6	1.95	1676-7	1.00	Gold Foil	15.00					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
116	.30	977-83	2.55	1678-83	3.90	264-5	.85					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
117-8	.70	984 S/S	2.20	1684 S/S	2.70	269-9d + Add. Vals						1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
117-8	1.20	989-95	2.70	1686-92	5.00	(10)	30.00					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
123-5	1.65	997-1003	2.70	1693-8	3.90	283-6 Prs S/S						1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
126-8	1.20	1004 S/S	2.35	1699 S/S	2.70	(4)	7.50					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
129-31	1.15	1005-7	2.35	1700-5	3.90	336 S/S	1.35					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
135-7	.70	1010-10	2.10	1706 S/S	2.70	346-51	1.60					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
135-7	.85	1011-7	2.70	1707-12	3.90	355-60	2.50					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
138-40	1.00	1018 S/S	2.00	1713 S/S	2.70	367-72	1.65					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
141-3 Imp		1019-25	2.25	1730-2	3.90	393-8	1.90					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
Gum Dist.	3.00	1026 S/S	1.85	1733 S/S	2.90	405-10	2.15					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
144-5	.70	1027-9	2.10	1734-9	3.90	419-25	3.25					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
224-7	.85	1030-6	2.40	1740 S/S	2.60	436-41	2.40					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
231/1a	5.35	1037 S/S	1.85	1741-6	3.90	442-7	2.75					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
		1038-44	3.15	1747 S/S	2.90	448 S/S	1.30					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
				1748-50	2.50	449-57	3.40					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85
				1797-1802	3.00	458 S/S	1.35					1004 S/S	1.85	1004 S/S	1.85

stamps (Scott 325-329 and 331-333) were engraved and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co., and issued in 1953. They did not prove popular with postal patrons and were quickly replaced, in 1954, with a series based on a portrait by the famed British photographer Dorothy Wilding (Scott 337-342 and 345-348). The 1¢ stamp from the Wilding series, Scott 337, is pictured in Figure 8.

A Karsh photograph from his earlier photo session with the queen was used in 2002 by Australia on a 45¢ stamp to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the queen's coronation (Scott 2031, Figure 9).



Figure 8. The 1¢ stamp from the 1954 Wilding definitive series, which replaced the unpopular 1953 Karsh series.



Figure 9. The 45¢ Australian stamp from 2002 celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Jubilee made use of a Karsh portrait.



Figure 11. The 1967 visit of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip to Canada was commemorated with a 5¢ stamp. The images of the royal couple are based on Karsh photographs.

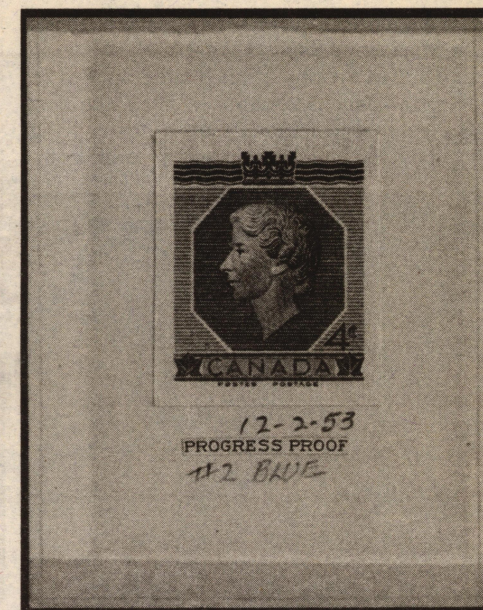


Figure 10. The blue Coronation engraved progressive die proof, based on a Karsh photograph. Image courtesy of the Canadian Postal Archives.



Figure 12. Canada issued a 5¢ stamp in 1967 to commemorate Georges Vanier, governor general of Canada from 1959 to 1967. The image of Vanier on the stamp is modeled after a Karsh photograph.

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Figure 13. A block of four of the 1994 Canadian stamp honoring Governor General Jeanne Sauvé, which made use of a Karsh portrait. Tabs depicting different aspects of Sauvé's life are attached to the individual stamps.

Still another Karsh photograph was chosen in 1953 as the basis for the design of Canada's 4¢ stamp (Scott 330) issued to celebrate the queen's coronation. Figure 10 shows a blue progressive die proof of that Coronation issue, but the 100,127,000 4¢ commemoratives were eventually issued in violet.

On the occasion of Elizabeth's first visit to Canada as queen, Karsh profile photographs of the queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were used for the 5¢ commemorative honoring the occasion (Scott 374, Figure 11).

Tradition dictates that governors-general and prime ministers of Canada are honored on a stamp within one year of their death. Karsh photographs were used for this purpose on two occasions, starting with Governor General Georges Vanier in 1967 (Scott 474, Figure 12). General Vanier was Governor General between 1959 and 1967.

In 1994, Governor General Jeanne Sauvé (1984-1990) was honored on a 43¢ stamp, Scott 1509. Her official photograph, taken by Karsh shortly after her swearing-in, was used for the design. As Sauvé made history in many ways, four different tabs were attached to the stamps to show her many careers as a journalist, member of Parliament, first woman

speaker of the House of Commons and first woman Governor General (Figure 13).

In 1987, 30 years after his last photographs of the queen were used for Canadian stamps, a new Karsh photograph of Her Majesty appeared on postal issues. By that time, stamps showing the queen were only issued for the domestic rate and no longer for all the low values.

The same Karsh photograph was used until 2002, when a special "definitive-commemorative" was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the queen's accession to the throne. As the domestic rate increased, new Queen definitives bearing the Karsh photograph were issued with different denominations and background colors.

These stamps bearing Karsh's image of the queen are the 1987 37¢ blue (Scott 1162), the 1988 38¢ burgundy (Scott 1164), the 1990 39¢ green (Scott 1167), the 1990 40¢ brown red (Scott 1168), the 1991 42¢ violet (Scott 1357), 1992 43¢ silver (Scott 1358), the 1995 45¢ turquoise (Scott 1360), the 1998 46¢ pink red (Scott 1682) and the 2000 47¢ gray-blue (Scott 1683). All are shown in Figure 14.

Pictured in Figure 15 is one of the five British stamps issued for the 50th anniversary of

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Booklets (4).....	38.50	PITCAIRN ISLANDS		MiniSheets (9).....	39.00	TONGA-NIUAFO'OU (8).....	9.75
LEBANON (5+1 S/S).....	24.75	(21+3 S/S).....	45.50	Booklets (4).....	16.75	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	
LESOTHO (92+8 S/S).....	84.00	POLAND (74+3 S/S+BK).....	70.00	SLOVENIA (37+2 S/S).....	49.00	(42+5 S/S).....	52.75
LIECHTENSTEIN (29).....	49.75	MiniSheets (3).....	12.50	Booklets (3).....	18.00	TRISTAN DA CUNHA	
LITHUANIA (24+4 S/S).....	48.00	PORTUGAL (109+11 S/S).....	150.00	SOLOMON ISLANDS		(27+3 S/S).....	59.75
MiniSheets (3).....	49.00	QATAR (9+4 S/S).....	6.00	(23+3 S/S).....	36.00	Prince MiniSheet.....	15.00
Tete-Beche (4).....	9.00					TUNISIA (30).....	23.75
LUXEMBOURG (29).....	42.00					TURKEY (37+1 S/S).....	39.75
Christmas M/S.....	15.50					TURKISH CYPRUS (18+1 S/S).....	25.00
Black Print.....	9.00					TURKMENISTAN (2).....	1.50
MACAO (49+9 S/S).....	45.00					TURKS & CAICOS	
Booklet (1).....	3.00					(73+14 S/S).....	128.00
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MALAWI (28+1 S/S).....	51.50					UKRAINE (72+4 S/S).....	35.00
WWF MiniSheet.....	16.50					MiniSheets (5).....	26.00
MALAYSIA (56+10 S/S).....	23.50					Booklets (2).....	27.00
MALTA (59+2 S/S).....	77.50					UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	
Booklets (2).....	8.25					(46+2 S/S).....	49.00
MARSHALL ISLANDS						UNITED NATIONS (63+1 S/S).....	86.50
(58+1 S/S).....	75.50					Endangered Species	
MAURITIUS (18+S/S).....	8.00					M/S (3).....	42.00
MAYOTTE (10).....	19.50					Prestige Booklets (3).....	Ask
MEXICO (46).....	49.50					UNITED STATES	
MICRONESIA (93+13 S/S).....	147.00					(106+1 M/S).....	124.50
MOLDOVA (29+3 S/S).....	55.00					Booklets (8).....	87.00
Europa MiniSheets.....	48.50					URUGUAY (80+3 S/S).....	115.00
Europa BK (1).....	15.00					UZBEKISTAN (62 Stamps).....	285.00
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Europa MiniSheet.....	19.00					VATICAN CITY (46+2 S/S).....	59.00
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Booklets (4).....	46.00						
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the queen's accession in 2002. This 45-penny stamp (Scott 2020) shows a portion of a photograph taken at the same photograph session as that for the 1987-2000 Canadian stamps.

It was not until 1999 that a non-royal, non-political Karsh photograph appeared on a Canadian stamp. Since then there have been three.

The first two are found in Canada's Millennium series issued in 1999 and 2000. On Dec. 17, 1999, a Karsh photograph of singer Portia White was used on one of the four stamps featuring extraordinary entertainers (Scott 1820a). Karsh's photograph of Father Moses

Coady, an expert on adult education, is found in the series for social progress issued Jan. 17, 2000 (Scott 1823d). The third portrays writer Morley Callaghan (Scott 1996), one of four stamps issued Sept. 8, 2003, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Library of Canada. All three of these stamps are shown in Figure 16.

The Portrait Gallery of Canada is set to open in 2006. The Gallery will prominently feature Karsh and his photographs. Hopefully, for the occasion, Canada Post will see fit to issue additional stamps featuring Karsh photographs. **S&H**



Figure 14. Canada's 1987-2000 series of domestic-rate definitives based on the same Karsh photograph of Queen Elizabeth II.



Figure 15. A Karsh photograph appears on the 2002 45-penny stamp from Great Britain marking the 50th anniversary of the queen's accession to the throne.

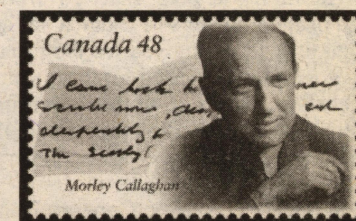


Figure 16. Three recent Canadian stamps that used Karsh photographs depict singer Portia White, educator Moses Coady and writer Morley Callaghan.

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